

Greenbank Connections



May 2019

Issue 680

Scottish Charity SC011325



Brides in a row at the YACHT Brides & Bubbles event (see pages 8 and 9)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

Online version: www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends



I am writing this at the start of Holy Week, but this edition of *Connections* will be published after Easter. A lot will have happened in that gap, and I would like to say a big thank you in advance for all that Greenbankers will have done and been involved with to make the season a special one.

Peter Graham started us off on the Monday of Holy Week by calling us to consider how far, and how, we could follow Jesus. In the passage he chose from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 10, James and John ask if they can sit next to Jesus at his right and left hand in glory – a situation which denotes power and status. Jesus tells them that they have missed the point of what his future will involve. There is sharp suffering and tragedy at the heart of it – clearly not what they had in mind, and Jesus makes it clear that their role as disciples will be as servants, not as the privileged. This story raises the question of just what our

discipleship of Jesus might involve for us. It may involve hugely rewarding spiritual insights, warm fellowship, acts of inspired kindness, but it may also involve sharp suffering for the faith that we follow and the way that we choose to express it. Certainly, in a global context, Christians still suffer persecution to a significant degree. Why is that? At least partly it is precisely because the Christian story is ambivalent towards power. Christianity is fundamentally a subversive faith, challenging entrenched power and privilege, and seeking to raise up those at the bottom whilst humbling those at the top. This is clearly not the favourite mantra of the would-be dictator, or a regime clinging to power, and so Christians become targets.

Whilst we may not suffer persecution here, we know plenty of people who do in other countries. So part of our work is to be open and alert to where our help is needed. **Christian Aid Sunday on 12th May** will give us the opportunity to focus on Sierra Leone, and our World Mission committee is currently engaging with the work of John McCulloch in Jerusalem as our Mission Partner, which plugs us into the fragile situation of Christians in the Middle East.

But closer to home, our support of **Edinburgh Women's Aid** for our Lent and Easter appeal, and our part in an ongoing exploration of how best to create a safe listening space for victims of domestic abuse in a network of south Edinburgh churches, is perhaps taking us in the direction of a demanding but invaluable project that can lead to the liberation of those whose lives have become imprisoned in toxic relationships. I imagine that there will be a fair few challenges ahead. It may be demanding,

even unpleasant for us at times, but even if it is, maybe we find ourselves closer to God in that experience, a faint echo of the road of suffering that Jesus walked.

One of the most potent associations of Easter in the early church was the identification of the escape from Egypt and crossing the Red Sea with the resurrection of Jesus. Liberation from captivity, suffering, and death are at the heart of both the story of Jesus and the bigger story of his Jewish heritage. Our mission is to be the liberators in this time and place, and to help people to break free from anything that is oppressing them or holding them back.

The words of Desmond Tutu come to mind:

*Goodness is stronger than evil
Love is stronger than hate
Light is stronger than darkness
Life is stronger than death
Victory is ours through him
Who loves us!*

This Easter season, may we know the power of the victory of Jesus in the resurrection. May it underpin all that we do in our living, and inspire us to the servant leadership that Jesus held out to James and John.

Happy Easter!



*Have you looked at the
Greenbank website recently?*

www.greenbankchurch.org

Pledge Cards

You will find two **Pledge Cards** and a return envelope enclosed with this month's **Connections**, one card relating to *finance* and one to *time*. You are asked to review your financial and time commitments to Greenbank Parish Church, and then please consider completing the cards and returning them in the envelope (sealed) before the end of May.

If you require a Standing Order form, these are available from me or from the rack in the vestibule.

All Pledge Cards returned by the end of May will be brought into Church by the Treasurer and presented to the Minister during the 10.30am June Communion service.

John D Ritchie
Treasurer

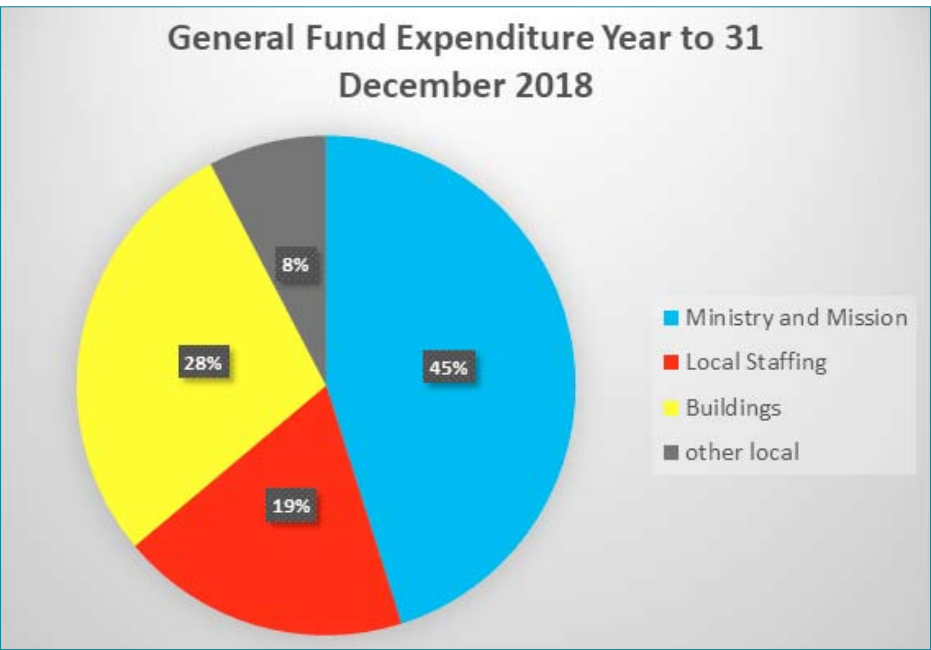
Where the Money Goes

As a congregation of Christ's church we regularly review our giving of time, talents and money. For 2019 the theme is MONEY. Greenbank primarily raises funds from the congregation through regular giving – in freewill offering envelopes, the offering bags or by standing order, cheques and online banking.

In order to maintain the fabric of our buildings to keep them wind and water tight, pay our staff and pay the appropriate sum to Ministry and Mission, we require to raise over **£300,000** per year. The pie chart (below) shows our expenditure for 2018, which totalled **£317,896**.

(Our Youth Associate is paid by the YACHT fund, so is not included in this chart.)

John D Ritchie
Treasurer



Fairtrade Chocolate

The World Mission Team are grateful for the congregation's support of the **One World Stall** in March. As we eat our Chocolate Easter eggs let us consider the plight of the cocoa farmers.

Cocoa farmers working in tough conditions are struggling on as little as 74p per day, well below the world's extreme poverty line, and yet for around £1.86 per day, the average price of a large bar of chocolate, farmers could live a decent life.

The Fairtrade Foundation's new campaign is calling on the UK Government and companies to ensure cocoa farmers earn living incomes by 2030 in line with the UN's *Global Goals to End Poverty*. The chocolate industry is worth £4 billion in the UK.

Despite this many cocoa farmers in West Africa, where 60% of cocoa is grown, are living in poverty and are unable to pay for essentials like food, sending their children to school or buying medicines for them if they fall sick.

We can help by putting Fairtrade chocolate in our shopping baskets.



Moirá Davidson

Retiral of Louise Coghill from Kirk Session

Louise Coghill has indicated her wish to retire from the Kirk Session after 32 years of service. She was ordained as an elder and admitted to the eldership in Greenbank in 1987. Later that year she became the elder for District 68 and so has looked after the members there for over 30 years. Louise served as Roll Keeper for 17 years from 1989 until 2006. She developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Congregation which she used with the utmost discretion. Louise has been a dedicated member of Session, rarely missing a meeting and always contributing sound advice with great sensitivity. She will be much missed in the Session and by her District but, happily for the Congregation, will continue as part of the editorial team for *Connections* and in the Choir.

Valerie Macniven



Louise Coghill

Summer Guests!



*Bill and the children
(Hayley is behind the camera!)*

Late last year, our former Youth Associate, the Rev Bill Stone, contacted me to ask whether I'd be interested in doing a summer pulpit exchange. Sarah and I have known Bill for a few years now, and we thought that it sounded like a good idea. The Kirk Session were also in favour, and so Bill and I are exchanging pulpits during the month of July 2019.

We will head to New Vernon, New Jersey, a beautiful scenic area, and Bill, Hayley and their family will invade lovely Greenbank and stay in the manse! We will both be working during this project, responding to pastoral emergencies, and keeping an eye on the regular parish business as well as preparing for Sunday.

I hope you will give the Stones a really super Greenbank welcome.

Martin

Holy Corner Book Sale for Christian Aid

Saturday 11th to Saturday 18th May

The sale takes place during Christian Aid Week in Morningside United Church, at the corner of Chamberlain Road.



Last year, thousands of books were sold and over £15,000 was raised.

You can help in the following ways:

- Donate books – please get in touch with me and I will collect them from you.
- Volunteer to help – there is a rota of 3-hour shifts. It's interesting and fun and the organisers are always needing new volunteers. Contact holycornerbooksale@gmail.com
- Visit the sale and buy some books. There is also a café on both Saturdays.

Fiona Watt (Email fiona.watt@blueyonder.co.uk)

More information at www.holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com

Another Jumble Sale!

Just an amazing turnout, success and result. Just over **£11,000** (after expenses) raised for Group Funds. We had 623 adults paying at the door and about 150 children. A good turnout, to say the least.

There was lots of support from all the sections of Scouting and from parents and Church members who bravely faced the avalanche of customers heading for their stall when we opened. We had a wonderful and very extensive range of goods to sell and our thanks to everyone who contributed. If you saw a vacant square inch of space in the halls, gardens or street then please let us know – we'll fill it next year.

We are very grateful as always for all the help and support from the Church and the members of the Congregation who joined with the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and their parents with donations of goods, collecting in the district, sorting in the halls, selling on Saturday and assisting in distributing unsold items to charity shops. Many well-kent faces, year in, year out.

The Scout Group has expenditure of over £50,000 and our fund raising is so important as one means of covering costs and supporting all activities and disadvantaged members.

What about problems? Well, and much to our surprise at times, we can sell virtually anything. The unusual and the old and the (very) weird. We can sell the house “clearance”, the grown out of and the no longer used. We can sell – if in decent condition – clothes, shoes, bags, linen. We cannot sell broken or badly damaged goods or torn (or dirty) clothes, and if you do actually know that “someone will be able to do something with it”, please tell me. Surprisingly there was not a lot of demand for a year's issue of the Tesco's food magazine. We had success with distribution to charity shops of unsold decent items and the Barnardo's staff at HMP Edinburgh Prison Visitor Centre (see *Connections*, March 2019) were highly delighted with our contribution of some good quality larger toys. On the other hand, the Council Recycling Depots refused to let us recycle our electrical, metal and cardboard, calling us a commercial concern. We calculate we had to send some 60 cubic metres (in real terms, that is a lot) of rubbish to landfill.

If **18th April 2020** is blank in your diary please put us in !

Stuart Sanders

Friendship Club Outing

Wednesday 8th May

Summer Outing – Afternoon Tea at Bruntsfield Golf Club (£20)

Please note our new meeting time –

Outside the church at 2pm. Buses will leave at 2.10pm.

If you still have to pay or are interested in joining us please contact me.

Val Smart

YACHT News: Brides & Bubbles

“Stunning”, “Wonderful”, “So well done”, “Memorable” – just a few of the comments made about the Brides & Bubbles event held on the 30th March in aid of YACHT.

On a bright, sunny day, 42 dresses shone out on display in the halls along with photographs, memorabilia and information; a further nine were modelled in the Sanctuary. The dresses dated from 1879 to 2014 and covered every decade in between. A number of dresses were made by the bride herself, or the bride’s mother, or by a bridesmaid. Three christening gowns were also on display, either made from, or depicting elements of, the original wedding dress. The team could not help but notice how tiny and slight the waist lines were in the “Vintage Room” and struggled to find mannequins of the correct size, all commenting on how grateful they were that waist bands have relaxed over the years! They also noted the changing necklines, rising and then falling through the decades. After enjoying a glass of “bubbles” and taking in the presentation of dresses, all took their seats in the Sanctuary to some fine wedding music from Martin. The eight “brides” then walked down the aisle, modelling dresses, for a short interview about the dress – with thanks to John Adair (in full RAF uniform) and Martin for accompanying their beautiful brides, Pam and Sarah. Lots of good stories and lots of fun and laughter.

Finally through to the Main Hall for a superb afternoon tea of savouries, sandwiches, scones and cakes, all beautifully set out with the many and varied special tea sets provided. The place was buzzing, there was so much to discuss!

The Brides & Bubbles team are very grateful to everyone who donated a dress

and provided their story – from the heart-warming to the hilarious – without which there would not have been a Brides & Bubbles afternoon; as well as to everyone who sourced mannequins, without which there would not have been a display. Also grateful thanks to the ladies of the *Costume Society Scotland* for very generously donating some of the dresses displayed in the Vintage Room.

Very special thanks go to the models: Christina Black, Catriana Black and her friend Kirsty, Pam Adair, Jenny Wright, Catherine Cameron, Sarah Lane Ritchie and Katie Bogie, and to the Brides & Bubbles team of Clare Campbell (who masterminded the dress display), Miriam Jackson, Caroline Scott, Lorna Htet-Khin and Jenny Wright.

For bringing this very special event together we are again indebted to Kirsten Pink and Carrie Reid, whose fantastic planning and very hard work provided an afternoon tea to live long in the memory and which overall contributed the terrific sum of **£3,000** to the YACHT fund.

Next up – watch out for news on ticket sales for the forthcoming *YACHT Ceilidh* on **30th September 2019**.

YACHT Committee





Digital Streaming of Worship at Greenbank

The Kirk Session has been thinking about the digital streaming of Greenbank's worship to the wider world via the internet. This is an exciting project which will spread the story of our local faith community to a much wider audience, spreading God's word to others, and sharing our regular worship services with those who cannot attend church on a regular basis.

The scheme has been under development for some time but has only recently been costed and approved by the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board. An investment is needed to purchase and install equipment in the Sanctuary, and we need to recruit and train a larger number of operators than we currently have for the existing projection desk.

Equipment

Live video streaming of worship requires the use of TV cameras and sound equipment, with a video mixer, streaming unit and other controls to send live pictures to the internet, where they can be viewed by anyone with a computer, smart TV or tablet/phone.

In the Sanctuary, cameras will be mounted on pillars and under the gallery balcony, all colour-matched to the church's interior décor. A new operating desk will be located in the south transept and the existing projection desk at the front removed. The recorded sound quality will be improved.

Benefits

Apart from the wider opportunities for spreading the gospel that this work represents, it is also useful for our own congre-



Picture selection will require a control desk in the south transept

gation and community. The housebound will be able to view worship live; those away from Greenbank will be able to see current and recent services from anywhere in the world; new enquirers in the district can see what our worship is like; local care homes may benefit from the service; and, further afield, churches without a minister could hook up to Greenbank's services. All of this potential has been demonstrated in churches already streaming their worship. The separate streaming of weddings and funerals to particular groups of users can also be provided.

Privacy

There are issues relating to privacy and the protection of vulnerable people in the congregation when we stream live material to the internet. The Kirk Session has considered the Church of Scotland's guidance on such matters, and believes that all safeguarding requirements can be met. There will be an area of the Sanctuary which will not be covered by the cameras, and any member not wishing to be seen on the worship broadcasts can take a seat in this space.

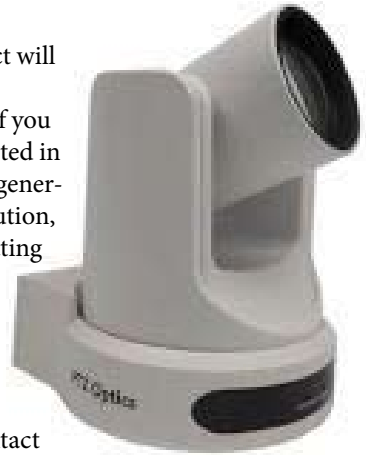
Training

Installation and the build-up of the operating team will be underway soon, and there will be a period of testing and development. More information on the schedule taking us to a launch date will be provided shortly.

If you would like to become one of the trained operators on the rota, please make yourself known – age is no restraint, at either end of the spectrum!

Funding

The project will cost about **£13,000**. If you are interested in making a general contribution, or in donating towards a specific piece of equipment, please contact the Minister or David Jack.



About 6 inches tall, two of these small cameras mounted on pillars would blend in with the décor

For guidance, three cameras will be purchased: two of the 'pan and zoom' type (see photograph above) which cost about £1,500 each; and a fixed one at about £500. Other items of equipment range in price from small sums to some hundreds of pounds.

A list of the items and their costs will be published shortly, and you are encouraged to think about what level of support you would like to give.

Conclusion

This is an important outreach project for Greenbank. It allows us to take up our mission in a new way, and is a challenge which we feel we must respond to. The use of new media in the digital age has been likened to the massive impact of the printing press on the wider distribution of the Bible in medieval times. Let us seize the opportunity of spreading the Word in this expansive medium!

David Jack
Convenor, Kirk Session
Communications Committee

New Faces



Cherry and Alan Tinniswood

When Cherry and Alan Tinniswood were looking for a church, they tried some and heard about others. They were pleased with the welcome they got here. They particularly like the buzz of chat before the service and enjoy the preaching.

They are interested in music: Cherry has sung in choirs for many years and Alan plays Bass. Both of them were teachers, Alan in a Junior School and Cherry in a school providing a supportive learning environment for learners with additional support needs – a challenging post.

In their first full year of retirement they are pleased to find so many things going on in Greenbank: the Lent Activities, Fairtrade work and the Eco congregation development.

They have three sons, with one small grand-daughter and another on the way – they are kept busy.

Edith Armit



See article opposite

CROSS REACH

Care you can put your faith in

150 years ago the Life and Work Committee of the Church of Scotland, led by the Rev Professor Archibald Charteris, worked to establish a social care system with a church wide focus. Churches had always helped people in need on an ad hoc basis, but this new system has led to a social care organisation which has grown and changed over the years as society's needs have changed, always caring for the most vulnerable. From WW1 soldiers to orphans, to homeless people, to the frail elderly, to those seeking counselling, all the work has been and is done in Christ's name. It was in 2005 that the organisation took its present name of the Social Care Council with the trading name of CrossReach.

CrossReach is now one of the largest providers of social care in Scotland with some 70 services run by our 2,000 dedicated members of staff plus numerous volunteers.

Guild members know about some of the work undertaken through the projects they have supported, including *Heart for Art*, supporting those with dementia and their carers, and *Join the Dots*, working to help relieve loneliness. Many of you will know someone who has spent time in Morlich House or the Elms in Whitehouse Loan as these are the closest Crossreach services to Greenbank Church.

This year, to celebrate the 150 year anniversary, an exhibition has been arranged which will be launched at the *Heart and Soul* event in Princes Street Gardens on Sunday 19th May, 1pm–6pm. If you are there make sure you visit the CrossReach marquee.

For more information go to

www.crossreach.org.uk

Anne Oxbrow

Thanks from the Church of Scotland

The Treasurer's separate article (on page 4) explains the various uses of the money given at Greenbank. It shows that the largest amount goes to the Ministry and Mission Fund of the Church of Scotland – **£143,147** in 2019.

I have received recently a letter from the Stewardship and Finance Department of the Church to thank us for this support and let us know how our money is used. It provides 720 Ministers and parish workers across Scotland and further afield, which includes help for many churches in priority urban areas and elsewhere that can't support a Minister from their own resources. It also helps with the running of *Cross-Reach*, the Church's care organisation; with the partners who go to help Churches overseas; and with Christian education, mission and outreach by congregations so that the Gospel of Christ is shared widely; as well as with the administration of the central offices of the Church. In other words, our generosity makes a huge contribution to the wider work of the Church of Scotland at home and abroad.

Valerie Macniven

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online
version of Connections*

Coffee Rota

May

- 5 Rachel McWilliam (D58)
- 12 Neil Ross (D24)
- 19 Diana Hastings & Clare
Campbell (D31A, D32, D33)
- 26 Springboard



Heart and Soul

Heart and Soul takes place in Princes Street Gardens from 1pm to 6pm on Sunday 19th May. We would love your congregation to be a part of the event.

Please consider bringing a group from your church, and please tell people about the event – there will be many things for them to enjoy.

Keep in touch with the latest news at www.heartandsoul.org.uk and help make this year's Heart and Soul the biggest yet.

Rev Bryan Kerr, Convener,
Heart and Soul Project Board

Welcome Teams

May

- 5 **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 12 **Caroline Kehoe**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 19 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 26 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Sandy Cameron, Moira Land, Jenny Wright, Carrie Reid, Amy Barnes

June

- 2 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo

Flower Rota

Provided by

Delivered by

May

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | Caroline Kehoe | Catherine Ferguson |
| 12 | Margo Fraser | Liz Foster |
| 19 | Julie Nimmo | Fiona Kelly |
| 26 | Rosemary McCulloch | Susan Black |

June

- | | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| 2 | Ina Weir | Irene Horne |
|---|----------|-------------|

Greenbank Calendar: May 2019

May

1 Wed	13.00	Midweek Prayers
2 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
3 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
5 Sun		Stewardship Sunday
	9.30	First Sunday Service
	10.30	Morning Worship
	19.00	QII
8 Wed	13.00	Midweek Prayers

The ministry team can be contacted through the Church Office or directly:

Rev Dr Martin Ritchie

tel: 07984 466 855

email: MRitchie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mr Steven Chaffee (Youth Associate)

tel: 07729 000 788

email: stevechaffee@greenbankchurch.org

*For information about church organisations, please contact the Church Office:
(Mon–Fri, 8.30am–12.00 noon, 1.30pm–3.00pm)*

Mrs Virginia Johnston

tel and fax: 0131 447 9969

email: greenbankchurch@btconnect.com

To make contact with any organisation featured in Greenbank Connections, please use the telephone number or email address given, if there is one. Otherwise contact the Church Office.

Website: www.greenbankchurch.org

*Postal address: Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 6ES*

*Material for the June–August issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by
Sunday 12th May or sent by e-mail by
9am on Tuesday 14th May to
greenbankconnections@gmail.com*

9 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
10 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
12 Sun		Christian Aid Sunday
	10.30	Morning Worship
	19.00	QII
13 Mon	18.30	Pub Theology*
	19.30	Bible Study Group
15 Wed	13.00	Midweek Prayers
16 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
17 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
19 Sun	9.30	Quiet Communion
	10.30	Morning Worship
	19.00	QII
22 Wed	13.00	Midweek Prayers
23 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
24 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
26 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
	19.00	QII
27 Mon	19.30	Bible Study Group
29 Wed	13.00	Midweek Prayers
30 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
31 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers

June

2 Sun	9.30	Family Friendly Communion
	10.30	Traditional Communion
	15.00	Afternoon Communion
	19.00	QII

* For details, see the leaflet *Explore Faith and Life at Greenbank (Spring 2019)*.

Crèche for children under
3 is in the Hermitage Room
at every 10.30am service
(10am in the summer)





Organ loft in Amalfi Cathedral, Italy: Greenbank treats its organist better than this!
(Photograph courtesy Rev Peter Graham)

Spring Fair Saturday 25th May 10am–1pm



Morningside Parish Church Halls (foot of Braid Road)

Free admission

**Coffee, plants, baking, books, raffle, Fair Trade
Choral recital 11am – Morningside Heritage exhibition
Donations of baking, jam, books, tombola items, etc.
would be gratefully received in advance: contact
Fiona Watt (Email fiona.watt@blueyonder.co.uk)**