

Greenbank Connections



March 2020

Issue 687

Scottish Charity SCO11325



Our Mission Partner, the Rev Dr John McCulloch, with his family: see the article on page 9

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends



Recently I took part in the Founder's Day service at George Watson's College. The school is well connected to Greenbank through generations of pupils, staff, and other ongoing links, and it was lovely to be invited. The guest of honour for 2020 was former pupil and resident of Greenbank Drive, Donald Runnicles, now a world renowned conductor of orchestras and the Music Director of the Deutsche Oper in Berlin, amongst other appointments. Meteoric rises don't get much more spectacular, but Donald's is rooted in musicianship, hard graft and skill. In his talk to the school he spoke of how he owed his passion for and career in music to a particular man, Richard Telfer, a teacher at Watson's who made sure that his students had the chance to experience live music. In particular, Donald remembered trips to see Wagner's Ring cycle in Glasgow. These

performances from Scottish Opera ignited a lifelong passion for this music. It would not have happened without the formative experiences and encouragement of that modest teacher.

We cannot underestimate the impact of our actions for good or ill as we go through our lives. It's a heavy responsibility – we don't always do the right thing. But we are full of potential to make a difference, and it is good to be reminded of how our gentle, loving, and encouraging actions can bear so much fruit, sometimes years later. When Jesus encounters people in the pages of the Gospels, there is a massive theme of transformation. All sorts of people felt changed by the time they spent with Him. On **23rd February** our theme of Transfiguration, based on Matthew's story in chapter 17, verses 1–9, focused on the transfiguration of the lives of girls helped by **Scottish Love in Action** in India. That is a huge example of how the actions of Greenbankers and others brought light to the lives of some of the most vulnerable young people in the world. We are so pleased that SLA has weathered recent storms, and is now into a new and completely positive chapter in its

history. Over the years, the actions of Gillie Davidson and all the staff and volunteers have brought possibilities to girls and boys who thought that their lives would be full of marginalisation and hardship.

We can't be Jesus, but there are things about him that are well worth emulating. His willingness to be present for so many people, and to make them feel valued and empowered, is a mission that carries on with us. So, whether it's within our congregation, or amongst neighbours, friends, family, colleagues and even students, remember that you have the mission to make a difference in encouraging, nurturing, being alongside people in your daily lives. When you think of this as sharing in the mission of God, who loved the world so much that He lived with us as a man, then our lives are suddenly holy ground. The ordinary becomes the extraordinary. That's how much our actions mean. So go to it, transfiguring disciples!

With all my love and best wishes,



Martin Ritchie

Christian Aid Week: 10th to 16th May

House to House Collections

We are looking for a few additional volunteers for our local house to house collections. Last year we raised the magnificent sum of **£4,242**. Please contact me.



Holy Corner Book Sale

The Holy Corner Book Sale starts on Saturday 9th May and is open daily until Saturday 16th. In 2019 the sale raised £17,480. Donations of good quality books would be welcome: please hand in to Morningside United Church (Chamberlain Road entrance) **Weekdays 10am–12noon from now**, or contact me to arrange an uplift.

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

GREENBANK AND MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCHES

Holy Week 2020

We're very happy to be sharing this powerful week of worship with our friends from Morningside Parish Church, whom we're hosting at Greenbank this year. Join us to experience following Jesus towards the suffering of the Cross and the powerful transformation of Easter morning.

All events are at Greenbank Parish Church this year, unless otherwise indicated.

Mon 6th April 7.30pm *Evening Worship in the Braid Room*

Tues 7th April 7.30pm *Evening Worship in the Braid Room*

Wed 8th April 7.30pm *Evening Worship in the Braid Room*

Our Monday to Wednesday services are around 40 minutes long, and include prayers, readings, hymns and a reflection by members of the Greenbank and Morningside teams.

Thur 9th April 7.30pm *Last Supper Meal and Communion in the Main Hall*

We gather round long white-clothed tables to share in some of the experience of a family Passover meal and to embody the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples. Enjoy food together first, as we hear about some of the elements of the Jewish Seder meal, relax in good company, and then share communion together. This event is suitable for all ages.

Fri 10th April 12noon–3pm *The Three Hours, with the Rev Sally Foster Fulton*

*Reflection, prayer, music and silence as we accompany Jesus in his last hours on the Cross. The **Rev Sally Foster Fulton**, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, makes a welcome return to Greenbank to lead us in this poignant devotional time. You will be engaged by her powerful speaking, her beautiful poetic prayers, the readings and hymns, and the chance for silent reflection, woven together in 30 minute segments. Come for as much time as you can, whether thirty minutes or three hours.*

Fri 10th April 7.30pm *Joint Choirs Choral Evening Worship*

*The joint choirs of Morningside and Greenbank parish churches lead us in a devotional service of music and readings for Good Friday, including excerpts from Handel's **Messiah**, readings, prayers, and congregational hymns.*

Sat 11th April 7.30pm *Easter Eve music and readings at Morningside Parish Church*

Fine organ music, readings and prayers as the light fades on Holy Saturday.

Sat 11th April 11pm *Dark Night: the Easter Vigil at Greenbank*

In the early church, the most important service of the year was the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday. We revive this tradition with an atmospheric candlelit service that leads us from the darkness of the tomb to the promise of Easter as we reach midnight.

Sun 12th April 5.30am *Dawn Service on the Braid Hills* (meeting location tbc)

9.30am *Easter Communion in the Braid Room*

10.30am *All Age Celebration for Easter*

followed by rolling eggs in Braidburn Valley Park.

Meals for Parents

New parents, especially ones with older children, toddlers or nursery school siblings on their hands, could do with helping hands. While partners and grandparents may be around at the start, there comes a time when someone has to go back to work and Grandparents get on with their lives. At that point having a meal delivered to the door every day for a week saves having to shop and cook.

The suggestion originated in the Toddler Groups and was received with interest and jealousy – the expectant Mums being very interested and the existing parents wishing it had been done for them. However, the consensus was that being asked just to cook a double dose of whatever was being cooked for the family was not a lot to ask, and so a few were signed up. Many thanks to them.

The arrangements are all made through the website ‘**Take Them a Meal**’:

takethemameal.com

Our Health and Safety guru Gillian Sweetman referred the idea to her colleague at



Church of Scotland Headquarters, and they agree that it is a great idea. All that we must ensure is that full instructions for cooking or reheating the food should be given along with the meal.

If you would like to join the group of providers please contact me. The babies currently expected are not due for a couple of months, but surprises happen.

This would be an act of generosity very much appreciated by harassed parents and their hungry families.

Alison Murison

(alison.murison@gmail.com)

World Day of Prayer



World Day of Prayer is a prayer movement with an annual service held on or near the first Friday in March (**6th March 2020**). It is interdenominational and ecumenical, and for all ages.

The service is written this year by the Christian women of Zimbabwe. In this service we think about God’s invitation to “*Rise, take your mat and walk*”. Are we ready to move towards peace, love

and reconciliation?

You are all invited – the **World Day of Prayer** is for everyone. Will you accept our invitation? A warm welcome awaits you at our local service:

Friday 6th March
Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace
Coffee at 10.30am Service at 11am

June Craig

Gift Aid: A BIG Thank You and a Gentle Reminder

During 2019 Greenbank Church, a registered Charity, recovered more than £50,000 in Gift Aid as a result of donations from our members and supporters. **Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this magnificent achievement!**

This income represents a significant uplift to the Church's finances, and better helps us as a congregation to fulfil our Mission. Gift Aid is good Stewardship and it is important that individually we maximise the value of our donations.

Who is eligible to use Gift Aid?

Anyone who pays Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax (subject to point 2 below).

With the present basic rate of income tax of 20%, the Church can recover tax on donations at the rate of 25% – at no additional cost to the donor!

So: £4 becomes £5; £20 becomes £25; £100 becomes £125 and so on...

Other key features of Gift Aid

- No minimum contribution is required
- No specific amount has to be promised
- There is no fixed term during which contributions must be made
- Tax can be recovered retrospectively (up to four years later): this is done by the Church.

Donations must be given by a method which adequately identifies the donor. This includes: standing order (the most popular); cash if in offering envelopes; cheques,



payroll giving.

Other digital means are increasingly becoming available. We aim to introduce some of these to make it easier to give in future...

Many of us like to give via “the plate” on Sunday mornings. This involves handling cash, which can be a security risk, and is not tax efficient as the donation is anonymous. If you were willing to switch at least some of your plate giving to a non-cash means such as standing order – and are a taxpayer – this would be most welcome.

Before the tax can be reclaimed, donors must sign a Gift Aid Declaration for the Church to retain. It is in effect the Church's authority to reclaim the tax from HMRC on the donor's behalf.

To help us in this endeavour, and to ensure compliance with the Gift Aid rules, there are two matters we ask you to consider:

1. *If you currently do not give through Gift Aid*, check if you are eligible as a taxpayer, and if so please consider signing a Declaration.
2. *If you do currently Gift Aid your donations*, check that you are paying at least as much tax as the amount of Gift Aid claimed on your donations, to **all** charities, in the corresponding tax year (ends 5th April). If the answer is ‘**no**’ please tell the Gift Aid Administrator.

If you wish more information (including blank Declaration forms for completion) or assistance on any of the above, please get in touch with one of us. For example, if



QII

QII's schedule this year has shifted to include more events to vary our meetings, but it has been pretty busy for the QIIs already. There were exams in January, and holidays taken in February. But it has not kept us from meeting and having some really great conversations.

As I reported earlier, we are beginning a series titled *Reading the Bible with...*. The first night was *with our eyes*, where we learned to read the Bible with our 'literature glasses'. So we spent the evening talking about the Crossing of the Red Sea in Exodus 14, and all the levels involved. Who wrote the story? When did they write it? For what rhetorical purpose? But we also teased out all of the layers which have been placed 'on top' of the story: Was it a miracle how the waters subsided? Is it useful to use the story as a metaphor for baptism? How does Canaan, the land 'flowing with milk and honey', make way for the New Testament's imagery of 'heaven'? The youth were surprised to learn – and I

you're not sure whether the Church holds a valid Declaration from you, or if you would like to cancel because your tax status has changed, please write to

Gift Aid Administrator
c/o the Church Office

or, alternatively, by confidential email to:

[michael.struthers@
greenbankparishchurch.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:michael.struthers@greenbankparishchurch.onmicrosoft.com)

Many thanks again,

John Ritchie (Treasurer)
Kathryn Sangster, Michael Struthers
(Assistant Treasurers)

was as well to remember again – just how much the Bible opens up like a flower to us once we get stuck in.

And that was just one night! We have introduced *Teen-Led Nights* too, where a volunteer gets to sit 'in my seat'. Last term we had a quiz night. Elena volunteered for our first *Teen-Led Night*, and she organised a Ceilidh. It was great fun – even if the guys seemed to prove we had nothing but left feet! Never mind that – we all had good fun laughing at ourselves anyway. It was also to our great pleasure that Annie and Beca could return for the night, so we had a chance to catch up with them. What comes next this term? Another *Reading the Bible with...* night, some Interviews with Greenbankers, and, as usual, some great conversations about the faith and our life together.

Steve Chaffee

Saving a little plastic



If you have thought about reducing the amount of plastic you use, have you considered that bottled soap or body wash? One way to reduce plastic use is to revert to bar soap. There are many lovely soaps to choose from and they are either simply packaged or even loose. It is also possible to get shampoo and cleaning bars.

Alison Murison

New Faces

Sheila Walker

Sheila Walker is a relatively new member. She likes Greenbank Church; she had several friends in the area when she came here. She likes music, although she prefers hymns she knows, used to play golf and likes films. She enjoyed seeing *Roman Holiday* again at the Christian Aid film night.

She has joined the Friendship Club and attended the Intergenerational Tea Parties. She keeps fit by going to an 'activefit' class and walking round the block every day. Sheila's only problem with the Church is the difficulty of parking, shared by us all!

Sheila was a teacher of Domestic Science, now Home Economics, and taught in several Edinburgh schools – Ainslie Park, Royal High and Trinity – as well as a brief period teaching in a College in Swaziland.

Sheila has a son, Forbes, in Tennessee, and two daughters, Judy in Malawi and Ailsa in France, plus seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She likes her flat in Greenbank Village with its view of the Pentlands and is enjoying relaxing in retirement.



Edith Armit

The Guild



In February, after an inspiring talk about *L'Arche*, the charity which supports people with disabilities through communal living – look them up online, their family-like houses are places of love and achievement – and hearing about *Antiques*, the Guild efforts were directed to the Fundraising Concert being given by the *Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society*. You will know by now how much was raised for the *Malawi Fruits Project*.

In March the Guild has two meetings, a talk entitled *Sister Travellers/Sinai* on the *3rd* and the *ABM* on the *17th* when we will also be given advice by a *Community Police Officer* on personal safety and on avoiding scams.

We will then look forward to our Summer Outing and Summer Coffee Mornings.

Edith Armit

The Olive Grove Chapel Project



Daoud Nassar and John McCulloch surveying the structure for the vines to grow around

Did you know olive trees live for an average of 500 years and some as many as 1,500 years? The olive tree is seen as a symbol of peace and in a time of war, because of their slow growth, they do not require cultivation and continue to thrive and bear fruit into peace time.

The Church of Scotland is standing with the Nassar family at the **Tent of Nations**, a farm close to Bethlehem which is a refuge and oasis encircled by the militarised networks of occupation. Through the World Mission Council and our Mission Partner, the Rev Dr John McCulloch, they are asking for help to support the creation of an eco-chapel amidst the olive groves. The Nassar family work the land and grow olives, grapes and almonds as well as hosting work parties, groups and children's summer camps. The family non-violently resist the moves by others to remove them from the land which they have owned for generations. They hope to develop the eco chapel as a place where the sacrament of

communion will be celebrated, and it will become a place of contemplation and worship to be used by many locals and pilgrim groups.

The **World Mission Team at Greenbank** hope to be able to support this project from the small profit we make on our **Fairtrade stalls**. Our next stall will be on **Sunday 8th March 2020** after the morning service when we will have plenty of fairtrade produce including Easter eggs, bamboo toothbrushes, etc. Please come along.

Christina Morrow
World Mission Team

Lent/Easter Appeal 2020

At its January meeting the Congregational Board decided that the recipients of the Lent/Easter Appeal 2020 should be the **Coastguard Association**, with a request that the donation should be directed to its activities in the Lothians.

Alan Ramage

How We Share Communion Matters...

It's amazing how as humans we fall into patterns of doing things which quickly become the norm. Communion celebration in the Church is no different. It may surprise you to discover that our "traditional" quarterly communion service is not very traditional at all!

At the Reformation, the celebration of communion was radically re-imagined. Well, that's how it seemed, but actually there was a move back to the beginnings of Christianity, away from formalised and

sometimes remote ritual to an embodiment of the Last Supper. So, out went altars where the priest celebrated with his back to the people, and in came temporary trestle tables covered in white cloths, around which the congregation sat in relays known as "the tables". These tables were set in front of the pulpit in most churches, in a space that was kept clear of any fixed pews. They were set up for the celebration and

then taken away afterwards, leaving only the central pulpit, with its bracket to hold the baptismal bowl. In this arrangement of space and furniture, the Word in preaching, sacraments and Scripture was in focus every Sunday. The arrangement of a permanent communion table and the use of cubed bread and thimble glasses of wine or juice, like we have nowadays, didn't make an appearance until the 19th cen-

tury, when urban health challenges in the slums of Glasgow made sharing at the tables a matter of high risk in a time of modest medical capability.

By contrast, until the 19th century, Reformed Scots sat round the long tables with the Minister. He passed the loaves to the people on either side, who broke off a piece of bread and in turn passed on the loaf. Then followed the silver or pewter communion cups of wine, often shaped like wide-bowled mazers, similar to one



Haddington Mazer

from Haddington pictured here. The mazers were passed in clan and civic gatherings to symbolise kinship and reconciliation, a potent reminder of reconciliation between ourselves, God, and each other in communion.

At Greenbank until relatively recently every pew was dressed with white linen for communion, hinting at the entire church being like a table. We don't do this anymore,

but maybe we should think about the symbolism of passing the bread and the cups from hand to hand, sharing in the vulnerability of a collective communion that involves the carefulness of passing and taking a cup of wine and acknowledging each other in the doing of it. In welcoming each other in this way, we honour the presence of the Christ who became vulnerable for us.

Martin

Greenbank Children's Library

The Children's Library has just acquired some new books which I do hope you will enjoy. They will be on the shelves next Sunday morning, so please have a look and a read after the Morning Service.

There is a story for small children called *The Not-so-very Lost Lamb* by Antonia Woodward. The little lamb wanders off and finds a butterfly, some flowers, bees and a river before he realises he is lost. He doesn't know how to get back to the other



lambs so he bleats in despair. In no time he sees the shepherd coming towards him and is overjoyed to be scooped up and taken safely home to the flock. A very comforting story, beautifully illustrated.

The Good Stranger by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen is a delightful interpretation of the Good Samaritan, where the man on his donkey is attacked and left lying injured on the ground. The bishop and the judge pass by pretending they have not noticed the poor injured man and then a stranger appears and immediately helps him. He bandages his wound and looks after him and carefully takes him to be looked after at the inn in a nearby town. This is a charming version of this old story and one the youngest children should enjoy.

For older children there is a book called *Who is Jesus?* which tells about where Jesus lived and lots about the things he did. It's by Christina Goodings, illustrated by Maria Royse, and has a lot of detail for curious children of around eight or nine. Other new books you might enjoy are *Moses and the Exodus Express* by Paul Kerensa, *Bible Stories gone even more crazy* by Josh Edwards and *The Precious Pearl* by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen.

If you would like to borrow a book, please write your name in the book on the top of the bookcase and take it to finish at home. I do hope you will enjoy looking at the library books, but **PLEASE PLEASE BRING THE BOOK BACK THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY!**

Moira Small

Christmas Gifts

We have received thank you letters for the many wonderful presents which were donated at our Gift Service. Additionally, the Work Party gifted a tremendous collection of their beautiful knitting.

From a Church in Edinburgh

*“To all at Greenbank Church and those in the knitting group,
Thank you very much for all your gifts and jumpers etc. The recipients very much appreciated it and the parents were overjoyed!
Thanks again...”*

From the Prison Service letter

*“Thank you for your continued support for the Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Collection. It is difficult to measure in words the difference your gifts make. Your support for the gift collection over the years has helped thousands of families and children in this area. Many of these children would not have had any presents to open on Christmas Day if not for your kindness and generosity. Some of you have been supporting the prison gift collection for thirty-four years. The gifts were distributed through the visitors’ centre managed by Barnardo’s. Included in this number were several Christmas parties arranged through the prison family officers and the Barnardo’s staff. These parties were held in the visit room in the prison and were attended by the fathers and mothers that were in the prison.
Once again I would like to personally thank you.
Kindest Regards...”*

Janet Ferguson

Scottish Love in Action



CARING FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA

Scottish Love in Action is delighted to have been selected to present the BBC Radio 4 Appeal on International Women’s Day, **Sunday**

8th March. The Appeal is on behalf of one of our partners in India, **VOICE 4 Girls**.

The Appeal will be made by Konnie Huq, of Blue Peter fame. Michelle Davitt (SLA’s CEO) and I recently went to the BBC in London for the recording. Konnie was wonderful, interested in SLA’s work, calm and a great presenter. While at the BBC, we saw several other BBC personalities coming and going.

The Appeal has 402 words – but the application form to the BBC was about 10,000 words! The Appeal tells the story of Meheshwari and how her life, and the life of her sister, have been transformed by the knowledge she learnt from **VOICE 4 Girls**. £12 pays for one girl from an impoverished background to go to **VOICE** where they learn the life-changing information which enables them to stay in education and avoid early marriage, pregnancy, and the abuse and violence endemic for girls in Indian society.

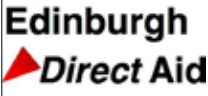
Please listen to the Appeal, which will be broadcast on **Sunday 8th March at 7.54am and 9.25pm**, and again on the following **Thursday at 3.27pm**, or on BBC Sounds by searching for Radio 4 Appeal.

And, if anyone would like to discuss how to apply to the BBC for another charity, please do get in touch.

Sheila Cannell, SLA Trustee

Emergency Appeal by Edinburgh Direct Aid

Winter storms worst yet for homeless Syrians



While we cope with miserable travelling, floods, colds and flu in the British winter, severe storms are creating

unimaginable hardship for Syrians already enduring dire conditions, as the war drags on into its 10th year. So many are living in tents and makeshift shelters which are now enveloped in snow in sub-zero temperatures, with access to vital supplies of heating oil, food and medicines under threat.

In north west Syria, hundreds of thousands of civilians recently displaced by intense fighting in Idlib gather in such conditions around the closed Turkish border. On the other side of the border with Lebanon, tens of thousands of refugees in Aarsal, which lies at an altitude higher than Ben Nevis, contend with rising prices, road closures, and diminishing access to aid.



EDA volunteer delivers heating oil

Edinburgh Direct Aid (www.edinburghdirectaid.org, Tel 552 1545) is a small Scottish charity of volunteers doing what they can to help those in desperate need as a result of war or natural disaster. We urgently appeal for financial donations to support the refugees through their worst winter yet.

Ann Thanisch, Edinburgh Direct Aid

Friendship Club

After a fabulous lunch on a very blustery and snowy afternoon we were dazzled by the magic of being high up in our own snow-covered mountains and those of the Lofoten islands in Norway, in moonlight and looking up at the star-covered sky or the dancing Aurora Borealis. In contrast, at our next meeting we were challenged by one man's horrific experiences on the other side of the world during WW2.

Yet to come, on **11th March**, we will be reminiscing about life for our younger selves during the 1950s, and on the **18th** we'll mix banter with brainpower at the **DIY Games afternoon**.

At our last meeting of the session on the **25th** – goodness is it that time already? – we will be entertained with music played and sung by **Raymond Williams**.

Our experiment of a lunch before the first meeting of each month has proved very delicious and popular and we thank Donald MacLeod and the team of helpers from the Kirk Session for making it so successful.

So far we have no venue for our Outing in May but watch this space!

Val Smart

Greenbank Calendar: March 2020

March

1 Sun	9.30	Family Friendly Communion
	10.30	Traditional Communion
	15.00	Afternoon Communion
	19.00	QII
3 Tues	19.30	Guild Meeting
4 Wed	9.30	Ladies Badminton
	13.00	Mid-week Prayers
	19.30	Country Dance Club
5 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	14.30	Work Party
	19.30	Choir Practice
6 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	11.00	World Day of Prayer Service at Greenbank Coffee from 10.30am
8 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
	19.00	QII
10 Tues	19.30	Kirk Session
11 Wed	9.30	Ladies Badminton
	13.00	Mid-week Prayers
	13.00	Friendship Club Lunch
	14.30	Friendship Club
	19.30	Country Dance Club
12 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
13 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
15 Sun	9.30	Quiet Communion
	10.30	Morning Worship
17 Tues	19.30	Guild ABM
18 Wed	9.30	Ladies Badminton
	13.00	Mid-week Prayers
	14.30	Friendship Club
	19.30	Country Dance Club
19 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
20 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
21 Sat	16.00	Messy Church and Challenge Church
22 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
	19.00	QII
24 Tues	19.30	Congregational Board

25 Wed	9.30	Ladies Badminton
	13.00	Mid-week Prayers
	14.30	Friendship Club
	19.30	Country Dance Club
26 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
27 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
29 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
	19.00	QII

April

1 Wed	9.30	Ladies Badminton
	13.00	Mid-week Prayers
	14.30	Friendship Club
	19.30	Country Dance Club
2 Thurs	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
	19.30	Choir Practice
3 Fri	9.45	Babies and Toddlers
5 Sun		Palm Sunday
	9.30	First Sunday Service by Help the Homeless Group
	10.30	All Age Worship for Palm Sunday

Holy Week Services: Mon 6th to Thurs 9th at 19.30 in Greenbank Parish Church

10 Fri	12.00 to 15.00	'The Three Hours' with Rev Sally Foster Fulton
	19.30	Joint Choirs: Good Friday Music and Readings
11 Sat	19.30	Easter Eve Readings and Organ Music at Morning-side Parish Church
	23.00	Dark Night: the Easter Vigil with Baptism and Profession of Faith
12 Sun		Easter Day
	5.30	Dawn Service in the Braid Hills
	9.30	Easter Communion in the Braid Room
	10.30	All Age Easter Celebration followed by rolling eggs in Braidburn Valley Park

Welcome Teams

March

- 1 **Rosemary McCulloch**,
Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid,
Joan Ritchie, Rona Ferguson,
Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow,
Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 8 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit,
Louise Coghill, Hugh Cowan,
Susan Black, Neil Patrick,
Anne Patrick, Nora Kellock,
Elizabeth Mackay, Malcolm Watters
- 15 **Stuart Sanders**, Amy Barnes,
Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar,
John Murison, Rachel Cadell,
Sandy Cameron, Moira Land,
Jenny Wright, Carrie Reid
- 22 **Donald King**, Brian Barron,
Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod,
Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson,
Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 29 **Caroline Kehoe**, Richard Denison,
Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear,
John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones,
Lyndsay Kennedy, Jane Harkin

April

- 5 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely,
Catherine Hardie, Kay Ellis,
Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow,
Isobel Thom, Charles Black,
David Gourlay

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



Coffee Rota

March

- 1 *Communion – no coffee*
- 8 Robin Nimmo (D8)
- 15 Susan Inch (D48, 49)
& Chris Horne (D37, 66, 67)
- 22 World Mission Team
- 29 David Jack (D72)



April

- 5 Edith Armit (D12A)

Flower Rota

Provided by

Delivered by

March

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Alison Murison | Rosemarie
Crawford |
| 8 | Ishbel Emery | Jill Mundy |
| 15 | Jenni Johnston | Marjory Smith |
| 22 | <i>Wedding:</i>
Fountain/Dewar | Pauline Walker |
| 29 | <i>Wedding:</i>
Morrison/Wilson | Joan Cameron |

April

- 5 Jill Powlett Brown Charlotte Tucker

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online
version of Connections*

Thought for the Month

As I write, the snow is falling and winter promises to linger for a while. And I am leaving for a brief visit to Oslo where it is likely to be much colder.

Yet snowdrops are in bloom and crocuses will soon follow. These are the lengthening days between midwinter and the spring equinox. As one season still grips, another is promised. Wordsworth reflected on this in his address to the snowdrop.

*Chaste snowdrop, venturesome harbinger
of spring
And pensive monitor of fleeting years.*

Its sudden bloom is a foretaste for the poet of new life, but also a signal of the steady passing of time.

**It is that time of year when
one can rightly dream of
sun and soil and seed**

Each year is both linear and cyclical. We never pass the same way twice; our lives have a relentless forward trajectory since time's arrow points only one way. And yet the seasons bestow a rhythm and regularity on our days. Spring follows winter with a steadfastness that is a token of God's faithfulness to us. At times of uncertainty when we lose our bearings or when we suffer anxiety in face of an unpredictable future, God's constancy is evident in both nature and grace.

Archie Craig, a leading and much loved ecumenical figure of a previous genera-

tion, spoke of the month of February as a time that awakened the spirit of every gardener. He viewed this as a parable of faith. It is that time of year in Scotland, he wrote, when one can rightly dream of sun and soil and seed.

David Fergusson

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Material for the April 2020 issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeonhole in the Main Hall by **Sunday 15th March, or emailed by 9am on Friday 20th March to greenbankconnections@gmail.com**