

Greenbank Connections



February 2022

Issue 704

Scottish Charity SCO11325



Manse Garden Christmas Roses, by the Locum Gardener (Duncan Macniven)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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Letter from the Locum



Dear Friends,

This is my first letter for Connections since taking up the post as your locum minister. I have been immensely grateful to those who have made me feel welcome and helped me to settle in. As locum, I work part time in the areas of worship and pastoral care and leave all the work with the Kirk Session in the capable hands of your Interim Moderator who introduced himself last month.

Each week, my husband Mike and I travel to childmind our grandchildren – a great privilege and joy. At this time of year, we begin to notice the gradual lightening of the mornings, as week by week, the season slips by. It feels good to look forward to the time when our journeys are made in daylight rather than in the dark. We all notice now a gradual easing of the restrictions which have been placed on our lives and on Church life, especially since the start of the Pandemic. It's not that Covid 19 has gone away,

but we are now in a better place to live with it and that too feels like a little bit of light after a long dark couple of years.

On the world stage though, the light is harder to find. International tensions are high and as I write this, there are important meetings between the US and Russia; Iran is developing its nuclear capability; China is active over Hong Kong, Taiwan and the South China Sea; and Kim Jong-un remains his unpredictable self. We're told the Doomsday clock is at 100 seconds to midnight.

But Christmas reminded us that there is light in the world and that no matter how dark things seem, the darkness cannot overcome the light that is God's love. We travel through the season of Epiphany now, quite a long season this year as Easter is late, and we are reminded to look for all the places where we see God and the light of God's love break through the darkness.

With all good wishes.



Rev Dr Anne T Logan

Christian Aid

Advent and Christmas appeal for Christian Aid

Thank you to all who gave so generously to our annual appeal.

The total donated was £8,852. In addition to this, Gift Aid will increase the total by up to £2,153 (subject to confirmation.)

These funds will go towards supporting families in South Sudan and around the world who are coping with the effects of the climate crisis.

Christian Aid Scotland Online Supporter Gathering

Tuesday 22nd February 2022
10am – 12pm

Christian Aid will welcome staff from their South Sudan team to the



virtual Gathering in February. Yitna Tekaligne and Mbaraka Fazal will speak about the impact of climate change and conflict on vulnerable communities. There will also be information about Christian Aid Week and lots more.

This will be an interactive session with opportunities to ask questions of the Scotland team staff and other supporters.

You are invited to join – email to register and receive the joining instructions:

edinburgh@christian-aid.org

Fiona Watt
Christian Aid Coordinator

Edinburgh Presbytery Plan 2022–2025

In September's *Connections*, I updated the congregation on the major reshaping being planned in the Church of Scotland in response to a twin crisis of money and shortage of Ministers. The General Assembly in May 2021 highlighted the scale of the problem – the Church is currently using £11m of its reserves each year to keep going and, clearly, this cannot continue. The Assembly decided that it could in future afford only 600 ministry posts. Each Presbytery was allocated the number it had to reach by 2025 – 48 posts for Edinburgh, down from 78 at present.

Edinburgh Presbytery published in December a draft, for consultation with congregations, of its plan to achieve that very difficult goal. No final decisions have been made and the details in the plan are subject to change. For Greenbank, it proposes union with Fairmilehead and St John's Colinton Mains, served by two full-time ministers and an Ordained Local Minister (OLM) who would serve part-time and unpaid. That is a very different proposal from our original goal of being given authority to replace Martin Ritchie by a new minister, dedicated to continuing and strengthening Greenbank's Christian witness to our parish and beyond. There is, however, a good prospect that each of the churches in the union will retain their buildings.

The Kirk Session debated the proposals at its meeting on 12th January. Together with the Rev Dr Alastair Donald (our Interim Moderator) and Robert Young (a fellow elder and former Treasurer), I represented Greenbank at a Zoom meeting organised by the Presbytery on 15th January for all congregations in the city. It was designed to consider questions from congregations. Over 450 were sent in beforehand. Since similarly radical proposals have been made for every congregation, the meeting was not a happy occasion. The Presbytery team will reflect on the (many) points raised, and also give congregations the chance to send in new ideas. Later they will publish a revised draft and hold meetings with congregations. Our Kirk Session will have at least one special meeting to firm up our response before any meeting is held.

The Presbytery has been set a difficult task (as have the other Presbyteries throughout Scotland). The outcome will not be ideal. The Kirk Session is determined to seek a conclusion which maintains worship at Greenbank and allows the congregation to make the maximum contribution to delivering the Good News. If any member of the congregation wants to comment, please email me

Valerie Macniven
Session Clerk

Thought for the Month: February

I wonder if you have ever been offended by something challenging you heard in a sermon, in Greenbank or elsewhere?

No doubt the preacher did not set out to offend, and you might be too polite to have said much about it, but nonetheless you found that it left you rather rattled. Our Reformed tradition sets great store by preaching as a means of grace. But

what might be less well-known is that the place of impactful and challenging preaching goes right back to the early church fathers.

St John Chrysostom (his second name is Greek for “Golden Mouth”, in recognition of his great eloquence) was one of the most brilliant preachers of the early Church. Both in Antioch and then in the eastern Roman capital of Constantinople, his preaching captivated all who heard him. But his insistence on the need for a living faith rather than a purely nominal one, a faith to be reflected in the lifestyles and priorities of his hearers, got him on occasion into hot water. Those who used their wealth selfishly were publicly challenged. For example, on one occasion some elaborately-coiffed women came

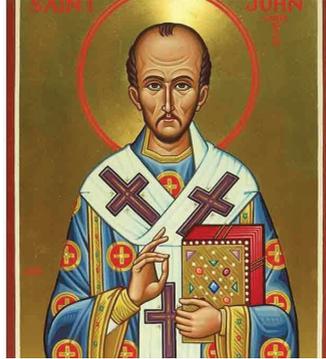
to church looking (he said) more like tarted-up hussies than chaste Christian women! Nor did he tone

things down for Emperors and Empresses, whose shortcomings were many and notorious. For his trouble he was sent into exile, where he died. Yet here’s the thing: on hearing of his death, the same establishment that had condemned him

came to realise that he had not been gratuitously offensive but in fact robustly challenging. They saw that they had been wrong to run him out of town. All Constantinople thronged the streets for his official burial. They recalled the winsomeness of his preaching as well as its challenges, and so accorded him his nickname.

I think it unlikely that Anne would ever wish to challenge the Sunday congregation in quite the terms that he did! But here’s a thought: if we ever take umbrage at something a preacher says, it may be worth checking ourselves to see if there may in fact be some truth in the message, no matter how uncomfortable it makes us feel.

**Alistair Donald,
Interim Moderator**



The Guild

Good News for the Guild... maybe?

We are hoping to resume our meetings on 1st February on the topic of the development of Saughton Gardens, and then on the 15th we will have a speaker from the Vine Trust to tell us how the Kazunu: Village of Hope project in Tanzania is developing. We are supporting this project in the current year.

Watch out for confirmation of these meetings in the weekly Newsletter and in the Sunday Intimations in Church, or phone Edith to check.



Friendship Club

Very best wishes for a happy and more normal new year to all the members of the Friendship Club. Sadly we're back to not being able to meet so it was good that we managed half a session of very happy and successful meetings. Our two speakers so far have been very understanding and are now on the syllabus for 2022/2023!

I will, of course, be in touch the minute I have positive news and until then keep well and keep smiling.

Val Smart

No SLA Book Café

Unfortunately this year, because of the uncertainties, there will not be a traditional Scottish Love in Action Book Café. However, we do know that many people enjoy this event. So, if the regulations permit, there will be a

**Coffee Morning
on Saturday 5th March
at George Watson's College.**

There will be some literary activity associated with this Coffee Morning – a few books on sale, and a SLA Book Quiz for you to enjoy.

We will confirm further details in the March *Connections* and in the Greenbank weekly Newsletter.

The SLA Book Quiz will also be available on the SLA website after 14th February

[www.sla-india.org/news/
literary-quiz-2022](http://www.sla-india.org/news/literary-quiz-2022)

This year's quiz is on the subject of Love and will be launched on 14th February. It will have several quiz rounds on great romantic novels, quotations about love, love of animals etc, with a focus on books about Scotland and India. And it will have a prize of a bottle of gin!

**Venetia Thomson and
Sheila Cannell**



Fresh Start offers services to provide support for those who have been homeless and their mission is to “help turn a house into a home”. Most household items are gratefully received: please see the Fresh Start website.

Many thanks to all who have contacted me recently to donate items. Contact me if you have items to donate.

Eileen MacKinnon

www.freshstartweb.org.uk

Recycling Ink Cartridges (update)

We have now reached nearly 250 ink cartridges saved from landfill (apparently 3.61 kilos) and £57 so far for the charity, Poverty Child.

Happy to take ink cartridges (sorry no laser or toner cartridges) and also **used stamps** from your neighbours and friends as well. The recycling and used stamp boxes are in the vestibule.

Morrisons at Hunters Tryst also take ink cartridges if more con-

Thoughts from the Coffee Group

Greenbank Session has made a decision to purchase Fair Trade and ethical goods where possible.

The Coffee Group has been using Fair Trade coffee since we bought the coffee machines.

When we start to serve coffee after the 10.30 Service in the future, when the infection rate of Covid has reduced, we plan to serve Fair Trade/ethical biscuits. They can cost more than the ones we have served in the past. We would be grateful if you could maybe donate a little more to cover the cost. In the past the Congregation were very generous; once the expenses were covered, we were delighted to pass on the excess to charity.

We hope to be able to continue to help charities in the future.

**Isobel Thom, Pauline Walker
and Fiona Grant**

venient for you (but no Charity benefits). Morrisons also take used coffee pods and crinkly plastic.

Oxgangs Library have a box to take old spectacles but that is currently suspended while the Library is being used as a Covid Test Centre.

Stuart Sanders

Social Justice

Moderator and Charities

urge action for Afghan Refugees

For those of you who missed Thomas Baldwin's report in the October 2021 edition of *Life and Work*, he outlines the call that the Church of Scotland and Christian charities have made to the UK Government urging them to take immediate action to establish safe routes to the resettlement of Afghan refugees. Since pulling out of the country last August there has been a mass exodus of people.

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland said,

“The Bible makes it clear that we must care for and support those who are oppressed and seeking sanctuary.... we urge the UK Government to establish an extended resettlement programme. We must allow more people to make use of family reunion rights so they can join their relatives who have settled in the UK. The government should also ensure that Afghans will not be penalised for seeking refuge in the UK via “irregular routes” which is being proposed under the Nationality and Borders Bill.”

The full article can be read in the October 2021 edition of *Life and Work* or obtain a copy from me

You can donate to the hunger appeal here:

www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/global-hunger-emergency-appeal

Or donate to Tearfund Appeal here:

www.tearfund.org/campaigns/Afghanistan-emergency-appeal

Welcoming Refugees Workshop

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees is excited to be hosting an event on community sponsorship for churches and faith communities in Scotland with their friends at Citizens UK.

Community sponsorship is a refugee resettlement programme with local people at its heart. It provides a safe route for refugees at risk to reach Scotland and build a life here as part of a supportive community.

Join the conversation on Thursday 3rd February at 5:30pm to find out how your church could welcome a refugee family to your community. There will also be an opportunity to consider possible next steps for community sponsorship in your context.

Book in:

tinyurl.com/hwcfjx9c

Hazel Macaulay
Social Justice Group

Gardening for Wildlife

Many organisations highlight the importance of diversity of wildlife and publish articles with ideas to create our own diverse environment. I have picked some ideas highlighted by RSPB and Scottish Wildlife Trust. Materials can be purchased at garden centres or DIY stores or, for DIY enthusiasts, the internet is a great resource for bird feeder patterns and instructions.

or hung on balconies. Regularly wash feeders and bird baths. In autumn and winter, birds need high energy foods (e.g. fat balls) and in spring and summer, they need high protein foods (e.g. sunflower seeds, cheese, oatmeal).

- ✿ Grow a hedge instead of a boundary wall, or add a trellis with a wooden spacer between trellis and wall to allow the plants



- ✿ Feed the birds. Choose a location where birds are least likely to be disturbed and sheltered from sun and wind and open so that they get notice of predators. Feeders can be stuck onto windows

to twine up; both provide good cover for birds. Depending on available space, plant trees, providing food and homes for insects and birds.



- ☼ Install a bee hotel. Bees and other pollinating insects are essential for flowers and fruit and these insects are suffering from loss of habitat.

www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-bee-hotel.html
friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/make-a-bee-house

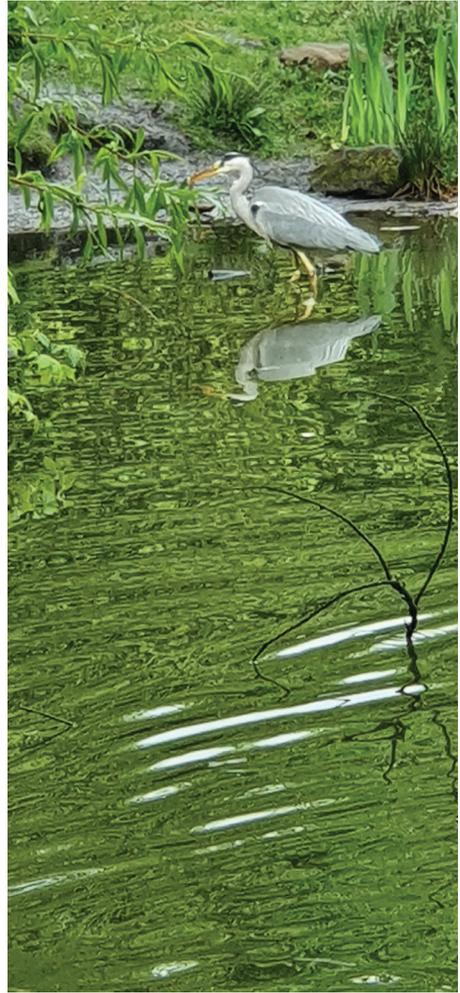
- ☼ Build a hedgehog home. Hedgehogs are shy and love cover, e.g. hedge and low bushes, pile of wood.

www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/diy/how-to-make-a-hedgehog-house/

- ☼ Build a pond or a bog garden. Can be as small or large as your space allows. Will attract a wide range of different species of wildlife that like wet areas. Best ponds have shallow sides and tall plants to provide cover. Scottish Wildlife Trust have a good leaflet with guidance.

- ☼ Leave a wild corner: don't cut the grass and in autumn scatter some wild flower seeds, just let them settle in amongst the grass and come up naturally. The wildflowers will provide pollen for the insects and the deeper grass will shelter wildlife. Don't mow until the flowers have died down.

- ☼ Add plants to attract pollinating insects: spring – primrose, sweet rocket, aubrieta, honesty; summer – buddleia, honeysuckle, lavender, red valerian, hebe;



Hérons visit even the smallest ponds

autumn – ivy, hyssop, ice plant, sweet scabious, michaelmas daisy.

- ☼ Plant wildlife friendly herbs: rosemary, caraway, hyssop, English lavender, common sage, wild thyme, fennel, chives, common mint, marjoram.



- ✿ Put up nestboxes for birds. They should be facing somewhere between North and East.
www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/build-a-birdbox/
- ✿ Allow dead wood to lie or dig into the ground to provide habitat for beetles, bees and a host of other insects. Woodpiles also support small mammals, amphibians and

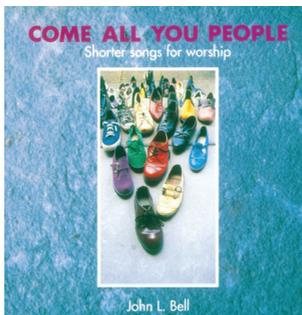
reptiles. Piles of leaves left under bushes or in a corner also provide shelter for many animals.

- ✿ Avoid using pesticides, weedkillers and slug pellets. Soapy water, coffee grounds, chestnuts, marigolds and alliums are all deterrents of some pest or other. Ladybirds eat aphids, frogs like slugs, birds eat insects.

**Jane Harkin
Eco-Group**

CD to Borrow

'Come all You People' - 'Shorter songs for worship' is a CD I came upon when doing a tidy up in my house recently. It is one of several CDs which definitely warrant more listening and interest.



worship songs, but also readings and prayers.

As a way of connecting with God through song, I recommend listening to this, expecting to be touched by it and inspired by it. I'm happy to lend 'Come all you people' to anyone. Just get in touch.

Alison Ambler

I was surprised by the content as it not only contains some lovely

World Church

We're delighted to announce that the next Fair Trade Stall will be on Sunday 27th February after the morning service. Here you will be able to stock up on the usual supplies of chocolate, tea, rice, and sundries, as well as some Easter goodies. If you are unable to attend in person you can visit the One World Shop's website:

www.oneworldshop.co.uk/

where you will also find a huge range of Fairtrade items helping producers from across the world get a fair price for their products.

Over on the Church of Scotland Faith Impact Forum Facebook page details of live services from Jerusalem are being shared. The Rev Muriel Pearson was commissioned as the new Associate Minister for St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias, in the Holy Land, in a special service that took place at the end of October in Glasgow. Due to ar-

rive at her new post in November, her travel has been delayed and she continues to await a visa and for Israel to lift Covid restrictions, which must be very frustrating for her. In the meantime Muriel is inviting worshippers to join the service from St Andrew's Jerusalem via zoom on Sunday evenings at 4pm GMT. Details of the zoom link and service details can be found on the Church of Scotland Faith Impact Forum Facebook page and below. This will be a fantastic opportunity to be able to join in the worship and support the congregation of St Andrew's Jerusalem whilst they await the arrival of their new Associate Minister.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83885163717...>

Meeting ID: 838 8516 3717

Passcode: 187535

Clare Campbell
World Church Group

Safe Disposal

One week, walking home from church, I counted five disposable masks lying on the pavement. If you must use one of these instead of a washable reusable one, please make sure you cut the strings before throwing it away. Wildlife get entangled!

Alison Murison
Eco-Group



Building Classrooms for an ActionAid Project in a School in Northern Rwanda



Kyra first visited Rwanda in 2016 and was very affected by this visit. She has pledged to fundraise at least £3,300 for Action Aid in order to take part. This will cover the cost of travel from London and basic accommodation in Rwanda, and provide funds for the local workforce and materials for the build.

Kyra Okoth, teacher/manager of Greenbank Pre School, has signed up with ActionAid to work for a week in August 2022 at Group Scolaire school Muko, northern Rwanda. There are over 2000 pupils in the primary school and not enough classroom space, making it very difficult for students to concentrate and learn.

Due to the pandemic, children have also missed out on much of their education over the past 18 months. With few opportunities to learn from home, many children have fallen behind, making a productive learning environment more important than ever. ActonAid is an international humanitarian charity.

Over the next few months she will be doing various stalls to support fund raising.

In the meantime, any donations for this amazing cause and opportunity would be very much appreciated no matter how little. Your support will enable more children to access a quality education.

You can donate to Kyra's JustGiving page by clicking here:

[tinyurl.com/3satbtck](https://www.justgiving.com/kyra-okoth)

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to ActionAid, so it's the most efficient way to give.

Joan Ritchie
Chair,
Management Committee,
Greenbank Pre School

Life and Work

January 2022

Introducing the Five Marks of Mission

A six-part series looking at the history and vision of the Five Marks of Mission

Following Jesus together

The life and work of Jen Robertson, Children's Resources Manager at the Scottish Bible Society.

Faith in Action

Update from the Faith Action Programme

The Bard and the Church

As Burns Day approaches, the Very Rev Dr James Simpson reflects on the relationship between the poet and the Church of Scotland

'Prepared for Anything'

Michael Macaulay describes how the BB adapted to the Covid-19 pandemic.

'Humbling and Wonderful'

The Work of Crossreach.

'Thy Kingdom Come'

David Searle continues his study

Congregational Register

SLA are Hiring

Greenbank Church regularly supports local charity **Scottish Love in Action** which is recruiting for a Communications Co-ordinator. To find out more about this job, visit

www.sla-india.org/news/scotland/we-are-hiring/

Closing date is Monday 7th February.

Jamie McIntosh

Chief Executive

Scottish Love in Action

Tel: 0131 629 9112

Email: jamie@sla-india.org

www.sla-india.org



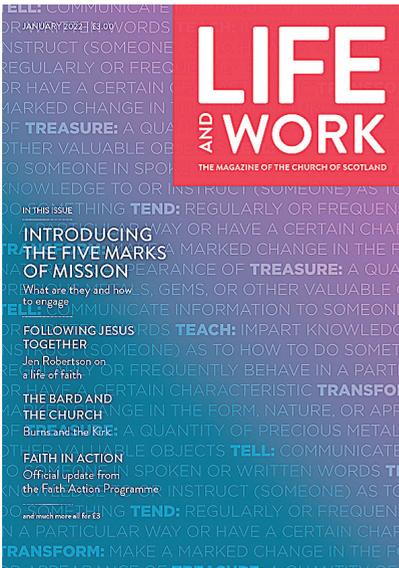
Welcome Teams

February

- 6 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black
- 13 **Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 20 **Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, David Bogie, Karen Young
- 27 **Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Malcolm Watters

March

- 6 **Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Elaine McRae, Jane Harkin



Flower Rota

provided by delivered by

Feb

- 6 Louise Coghill Katy Maguire
- 13 Eleanor Winton Caroline Kehoe
- 20 Ishbel Emery Helen Aitken
- 27 Chrissie Munro Pauline Walker

March

- 6  Jill Mundy

The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Rev Dr Anne Logan (Locum Minister)

phone: 0131 663 9550

email: annetlogan@sky.com

Administrator: Mrs Virginia Johnston

phone 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 March 2022 issue of **Greenbank Connections** should be delivered to the Church Office by Sunday 13th February 2022 or sent by e-mail by 8pm on

Thursday 18th February 2022 to greenbankconnections@gmail.com

'Greenbank Life' – photographic competition

As noted in the last issue of *Connections*, we are currently holding a photographic competition each month called 'Greenbank Life'. The competition details can be seen by clicking on the Greenbank Life button on the home page of the Greenbank website:

www.greenbankchurch.org

The first Greenbank Life competition ended on 14th January, and you were then invited to vote (during 15th–18th January) for your favourite photograph from those submitted.

The results are as follows:

Favourite photograph:

8: Rosslyn Chapel one night –
Margo Fraser

Joint second favourite photographs:

6: Angels from the Realms of Glory –
Janet Edwards

17: Rum and Eigg at sunrise –
Margo Fraser

The closing date for entries for the second Greenbank Life competition is **Friday 11th February 2022 at 10pm**, with voting for your favourite photograph open from Saturday 12th to Tuesday 15th February. The result will be announced in the March issue of *Connections*.

Please take part – by submitting photographs, by voting, or both. **John Murison**



Rosslyn Chapel one night – Margo Fraser



Angels from the Realms of Glory – Janet Edwards



Rum and Eigg at sunrise – Margo Fraser