

Greenbank Connections



November 2025

Issue 738

Scottish Charity SC011325



Celebration of 80 years of Quest & QII

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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Letter from the Locum



Some PG Tips for Christmas?

This is not an article about chimpanzees in human clothes sporting thick British accents trying to get us all to buy tea. No, those 1960s adverts are no longer the 'in' thing and have been banned after complaints from animal rights groups.

The PG of the title is Patrick Grant of the TV programme 'The Sewing Bee'. He was brought up in Greenbank and was part of the church community here. He returned earlier this year to speak about his book, *Less*, which received positive comment from Claudia Winkleman, "*Utterly brilliant. We all need to read this book.*" Even the Financial Times suggested that the book is, "*a convincing call to end our complacency.*"

I think Christmas might be a good opportunity to bring to mind a few of PG's Tips:

- Buying poor quality clothes does not do us or our planet any favours.
- One path to happiness according to PG is by buying less but better-quality clothes.
- He believes we can reduce waste, and foster a more satisfying relationship with the things we own.
- He also asks us to consider purchasing from local producers.

It struck me that his points extend beyond the clothing industry. Inside one of Edinburgh's large retail establishments in September I spotted four aisles laden with Christmas goods, many of which were cheaply made or involved single use plastic. I spoke to a staff member, "Isn't

September very early for so much Christmas stuff?" She responded, "You would be surprised as to how many people are buying it already!" One of PG's chapter headings struck me, "We love to make things, so why do so few of us make things for a living?"

So, could you make a gift this Christmas – by knitting, writing, painting, woodworking, poetry or baking? Is there a better feeling than to receive a unique gift all crafted with you in mind?

Isn't looking after the planet and putting ourselves into our gifts incredibly useful as we share the message of Christmas?

Ian Gilmour
Locum Minister

Guild

We had a great start to this session when Ian Gilmour had us all thinking about our current theme, *Let us build a House*. Our second meeting was very interesting with Kathleen Patrick taking us to South Africa with her usual amazing photographs of her trip earlier this year which included a safari drive and a visit to Soweto. Next month



we look forward to Karen Young telling us about the Water of Leith on 4th November and the Rev Dr Richard Frazer talking about the Pilgrim Journey to Compostela, on the 7th.

All are welcome to our meetings, come along if you are interested in any of the topics.

As usual we meet at 2.30pm in the Braid Room.

Edith Armit

Thought for the Month

A recent sermon discussed thankfulness and an “attitude of gratitude”. I came across a touching example of this on a recent social media post. It was a letter, an anonymous letter, from a customer to a hairdresser. The hairdresser had cut the hair of a man and also of his wife who had dementia. The husband was thanking the hairdresser as she had treated his wife with thoughtfulness, kindness and grace. As he said ‘as if she had been working with dementia patients all her life’. The small gestures and understanding had made a huge difference to the couple’s day, had brought smiles to his wife’s face and ‘was one of the last best moments of her life’. She had felt pretty and happy and, to her husband, this was priceless. She died shortly afterwards.

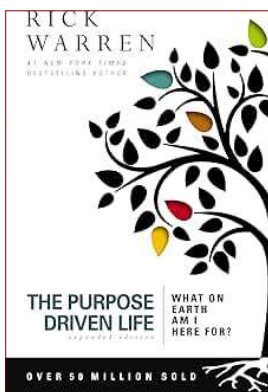
In the last line of the letter he said, ‘I hope you always realise the power of your profession’ and signed off ‘a grateful customer’.

How wonderful that a seemingly routine outing for a haircut turned out to have such a profound and joyful effect that the husband had felt moved to write and thank the hairdresser, who may have been

totally unaware that her gestures that day had made such a difference. And how wonderful for the hairdresser to receive such a letter. Surely that would have made her day and that of the shop staff and would motivate them to continue to care for their dementia customers?

It reminds us of the power of simple acts of gratitude.

Book Groups



The Book Groups are about to start reading ‘*The Purpose Driven Life – What on Earth am I here for?*’ by Rick Warren. There is a short chapter each day for 40 days. There are chapters on Becoming a world class Christian and Cultivating Community. Some of the discussion surrounds

creating a healthy community by treating each other with dignity and honour and bringing joy by becoming less self-centred through small gestures to others, just like the hairdresser and the husband.

There is still time to join the book groups and there is no need to be able to attend every session – just get in touch with the church office.

Anne Kinnear

Remembrance

2025 marks the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The Battle of Britain was fought between July and October 1940, flown in the skies primarily over Southern England to prevent the German Air Force gaining air superiority. If this Battle had been lost then it would have allowed Operation Sealion to take place, the invasion of Britain. A total of 2,945 aircrew flew during this period of which 554 died. The average age of pilots was 20.

Their bravery and that of the RAF personnel on the ground defending the airfields is something we should never forget. All those who fought and died in World War Two gave us the freedom we have today.

Poppy Scotland continues to support veterans from all conflicts and ex-military personnel who served their country, but the charity can only do this with your help.

I will be outside church on Sundays 2nd and 9th November collecting with the traditional cash tins. However, if you prefer, Greenbank Church now has a dedicated giving link to Poppy Scotland which can also include any Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer. If you do give this way, let me know so you can collect your poppies.

[secure.poppyscotland.org.uk/
greenbank-parish-church](https://secure.poppyscotland.org.uk/greenbank-parish-church)

I look forward to seeing you outside Church.

John Adair
Poppy Scotland Collector



Christmas Gift Service – 14th December



Every Christmas children, young people and members of the congregation are invited to bring presents to the Gift Service. These are subsequently shared between two Edinburgh based projects: **Barnardo's Children's Centre** at the prison for prisoners' children, and **Edinburgh Northwest Kirk** who help children and families in their area.

We would like to have a collection of gifts to pass on and so are asking everyone who feels they can to join in. We regularly receive gifts or donations from Toddlers, Pre School, the Christmas children's event and the Uniformed Organisations. We know how delighted people are to receive the gifts and that they are always really appreciated.

Please bring gifts along to the service, preferably UNWRAPPED in a gift bag. (Donations of sheets or rolls of paper are welcome). It is helpful if you can include a detachable tag saying what age range the gift is suitable for.

The age range is from 2-16 years old. Your child or children might want to choose a gift for their own age group. However, we would like to ask young people or adults to consider choosing a gift suitable for a teenager. Recently, we have had a significant number of gift vouchers donated. These are really appreciated as teenagers can then buy a gift of their own choice or, alternatively, families have used them to choose an appropriate gift for their child.

The following vouchers are most useful for the projects: "One4all" (available at Post Offices, Sainsbury's, Tesco or Morrison's) or store vouchers themselves e.g. Sainsbury's, Argos or Morrison's. Any value is welcome. Please can you write the value on the voucher unless it is already displayed.

If you can't make it along to the service, but would still like to donate a gift, you can either hand it in to the Church Office during office hours or put it into the gift box which will be in the corridor outside the office. The box will be there in the evenings in the weeks beginning 1st and 8th December. Please can you put any gift vouchers into an envelope marked GIFT VOUCHERS and put them through the post box in the office door.



Greenbank Connections

Greenbank *Connections*, with its regular news about Greenbank Church, is provided to members nine times a year.

To enable the Church to cover the costs of this, it is suggested that members might donate a minimum of £10 per household.

Payments can be made by bank transfer to the following account:

Account name: Greenbank Church

Sort code: 80-02-77

Account number: 00371917

Reference: [Your surname]/
Connections

Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque. Please put your cash or cheque, along with your name and reference to Greenbank *Connections*, in an envelope addressed to the Treasurer and hand it in to the Church Office. Cheques should be made payable to Greenbank Church.

Robert Young
Congregational Treasurer

All gifts should be handed in by Friday 12th December or brought along to the Gift Service on Sunday 14th December at 10.30am.

Both projects are so grateful for everything they receive. Thank you for all your support.

Hazel McLachlan
Young Church



Christmas Event
At Greenbank Parish Church
on Saturday 13th December
2pm to 5pm

Only £6



P1 - P7 : Crafts • Drama • Games
Bible Story • Ice Cream • Songs

Register Online at
www.greenbankchurch.org
or contact the Greenbank
Church Office (447 9969)

Singing Group



The Singing Group will meet on Wednesdays 5th November and 19th November at 2pm in the Braid Room. In December our meetings will take place on Wednesdays 3rd and 10th December.

David Allan
Gillian Sweetman

80 years of Quest & QII



On Saturday 27th September, Greenbank Church halls were filled with laughter, chat and smiles as 107 people arrived to celebrate 80 years of Quest and QII. An exciting and enjoyable evening followed with much reminiscing, storytelling, catching up and quizzes! Gratitude was expressed too for the significant role Quest and QII played in so many lives.

The Quest & QII Event team had worked hard to plan and prepare for the celebrations. However, the evening would not have come to fruition without the help of a very willing group of Greenbank

members who, along with our amazing young QII team, took on a multitude of tasks from shifting furniture, to serving the food and performing a revamped 1970s Quest Sketch: then dancing the night away before helping to clear up. They were stars!

We are most grateful to Kirsten Pink for preparing a delicious selection of canapés followed by a sit-down dinner in the Main Hall. The hall took on a whole new look with atmospher-





ic lighting. The talented “Greenbank Buskers” ensured a lively ceilidh was enjoyed by all. We will be donating, as agreed with them, to SLA. Hopefully, the photos, and the excerpts from “thank-you” letters we

have received, will give you a flavour of the event. (See next page.) We are also indebted to the Rev Ian Gilmour for leading a special service on the Sunday morning during which Alan Mackay and Kenny Htet-Khin skilfully presented their memories of and reflections on Quest and QII and Gillie Davidson explained Burma Candle so beautifully to the children.

All in all, a memorable weekend!

Quest & QII Event Team



Some Extracts from Thankyou Letters



"I just wanted to say huge congratulations and thanks to you all for a marvellous evening."

"Saturday evening was just superb – the prosecco, canapes and beautiful supper – and not a minute to wonder what to do next, with quizzes, sketches and dancing. It was especially good to see members of the current QII embracing the evening so enthusiastically!"

"It was a real trip down memory lane for me, not just renewing friendships with folk from Quest who I had not seen for a very long

time but also reconnecting with the broader Greenbank congregation."

"It was wonderful – so well planned, excellent catering, professionally MC'd and lots of reminiscing, fun and laughter. The team seemed to think of everything, including the essential 'funny story'!"

"Quest and the Church were such a big part of my life, and it was good to reflect on the positive influence they had on me. As others have already said, Quest provided a safe environment for those tricky teenage years."

"It was so appropriate to give thanks to everyone who had been involved over the years in leading the organisation."

"The Sunday Service was put together so well, and we enjoyed more chat at coffee afterwards."

"Good luck to you all, QII and the Church and thanks again!"



World Church Group

We hope you enjoy reading the regular articles from the Greenbank World Church Group. In them we highlight world church issues that we think will interest *Connections* readers and do updates on our Fair Trade stalls and our Mission Partner in Jerusalem/Palestine. Recently the Group has been thinking about its future direction, coinciding with the handover of the chair role from Janet Edwards to Sheila Cannell and Valerie Macniven. Greenbank Church members have always been interested in and concerned about the worldwide church. We have had a succession of Mission Partners and Youth Group projects overseas, notably India and Peru. We want to maintain and strengthen this interest.

We will be continuing with our Fair Trade stalls, selling goods from the One World Shop and True Origin – the organisation we first got to know when we did the 90 kilo rice challenge to support farmers in

Malawi. We are looking at our remit which is simple and has served us well – “to keep under review in the congregation the issues of World Mission” to see if we might branch out a bit. Can we engage with other churches and likeminded organisations with similar interests? Should we sometimes make representations to our governments on burning issues affecting churches and their members around the world?

The Group is made up of people with an interest in the church beyond Scotland and includes a member from each of the Guild and the Christian Aid Committee. We share some interests with the Greenbank Social Justice Action Group. We would be very pleased to recruit a few more people to widen and deepen our areas of interest and help with our stalls. Are you one such person – maybe someone with work, travel or family links with churches beyond the UK? If so, or if you have information you would like to share

with us, please get in touch, either through the Church Office or at our next stall which is on **Sunday 23rd November** when we will have advent calendars and Christmas goods.

Valerie Macniven
World Church Group



Greening Greenbank Church

While the perennials and bushes in the planters were beginning to wake up this Spring, the children were sowing sunflower seeds at Young Church. In spite of the windy corner, several enormous sunflower heads nodded happily for a very long time. They have been succeeded by the Rudbeckia's yellow flowers provided by Ian Gilmour. Such sunny flowers to illustrate the cheerful aspect of Greenbank Church.



The Pollinator Pocket behind the hedge beside the traffic lights has matured and provided a good crop of apples to grace the produce stall at Harvest Thanksgiving. So far, the pear tree has declined to produce pears, but it blossoms early

in the year providing nectar before the other fruit trees. A variety of shrubs and flowers provides nectar sources throughout the year. A plum tree will join the apple trees next year, although it will be a year or two before we get a crop, but its blossom will be appreciated by the insect life.

The Amelanchier trees in the large planters flowered nicely in Spring and then produced colourful, juicy Service Berries.

The central smaller planter is filled with edible herbs, and alpine strawberries.

Digging days have to be held at least twice yearly to keep everything in trim. Thank you to all the volunteers who have turned up for these.



Service Berries

There has also been a rota all year watering the planters as needed. They all dry out in the wind that never ceases on our exposed corner. Lucky the volunteer who drew a rainy week, where there was no need. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped.

**Alison Murison
Eco-Group**



Rudbeckia



The herb planter



The Autumn Digging Day

Prisoners Week 16-23rd November 2025

In 2021 Greenbank Church was one of the first churches to become a signatory of the **Prisoners Week Charter**. In doing so we, as a congregation, made a commitment to support those affected by imprisonment and help raise awareness of the impact of the justice system on individuals, victims, prisoners, families, and communities. The **Prisoners Week Charter** is on display on the church notice boards inside the main door to the Hall.

Life at the Crossroads

This year's **Prisoners Week** theme invites us all to consider our paths.

We are standing at the Crossroads – what is the right way to turn?

Save The Date

Greenbank Church
7.30pm 21st November
Braid Room

This year we are hosting a funny emotional hopeful tale by *Bethany Christian Trust* on Friday 21st November at 7.30pm in the Braid Room, Greenbank Church, followed by questions and discussion with refreshments. All are welcome.

Tickets free from Eventbrite

[tinyurl.com/
Bethany-Christian-Trust](https://tinyurl.com/Bethany-Christian-Trust)

and the church office. See also the QR code on the poster.

Bethany Trust's very successful play 'Insiders' received much praise during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

[www.bethanychristiantrust.com/
insiders-what-our-audiences-say/](http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/insiders-what-our-audiences-say/)

Prisoners Week Launch

Church Service is on Sunday 16th November at Letham St Marks, Rannoch Rd, Letham, Perth, PH1 2HH

Hazel Macaulay



the ballad
of jack and
stacey

★★★★★
"THE STORY IS
EXCELLENT."
Audience Member
/IMP Grampian

TICKETS
FREE – Book online through the QR code
or on eventbrite.co.uk

Jack's always gone his own path, that's why Stacey has a soft spot
for him. But after he lands a jail sentence, what will the future hold?

Funny, emotional and hopeful,
The Ballad of Jack and Stacey is a powerful tale
of prison and addiction, told with music from
Supergrass, Johnny Cash, John Lennon and more...

This performance will include the chance to
discuss and imagine how church communities
can best support prison leavers.

WHERE
Greenbank Church, Morningside
Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 6ES

WHEN
Friday 21 November 2025
7.30pm – 9pm

Content warning Strong language and themes of addiction.
Recommended ages 15+

Bethany
Christian
Trust

Welcome Teams

November

- 2 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Muri-son
- 9 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small
- 16 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Mid-dleton
- 23 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden, Catherine Cameron
- 30 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black

December

- 7 **Communion**
Caroline Kehoe, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy

Flower Rota

provided by *delivered by*

November

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 2 Louise Coghill | Isabel Graham |
| 9 Leslie Macfarlane | Pam Adair |
| 16 Irene Horne | Julie Nimmo |
| 23 Janet Ferguson | Miriam Jackson |
| 30 Dunbar Family | Caroline Kehoe |

December

Advent and Christmas

Coffee Rota

November

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Rachel McWilliam | D58 |
| 9 Ian & Isobel Thom | D53, 54 & 56 |
| 16 Hazel & Angus McLachlan | D43 |
| 23 Caroline Kehoe | D70 |
| 30 Susan Inch & Chris Horne | D37, 48, 66, 67 & 89 |

December

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 7 Communion | |
| Christina Morrow | D40 & 41 |

The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Locum Minister: Rev Ian Gilmour
phone: 07794 149852
email: IGilmour@churchofscotland.org.uk

Administrator: Jackie Wilson-Tagoe
phone: 0131 447 9969
email: office@greenbankchurch.org

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

Items for the *Weekly Newsletter* should be sent by **Thursdays** to:

greenbankweekly@gmail.com

Material for the December/January issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by **Sunday 18th November**, or sent by e-mail by 8pm on Thursday 20th November to:

greenbankconnections@gmail.com





The Church of Scotland



Violence against Women Charter

This Church:

- Believes that violence against women, girls and children in all of its many forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with our Christian faith and our Christian way of life
- Accepts that such violence is a serious and common problem and affects those in the life of the Church as well as in wider society
- Condemns all gender based violence and teaches that such abuse is a sin
- Teaches that men and women are equally made in God's image and reflects on what this means for our lives
- Understands violence against women, girls and children to be rooted in gender inequality and an abuse of power and privilege
- Undertakes to listen to, and, where appropriate, provide pastoral support to those affected by violence against women, girls and children
- Will always prioritise the safety of those affected by violence against women, girls and children
- Will seek to create links with local support services, work with them, support them, refer survivors to them and publicise their work when appropriate