

Greenbank Connections



April 2022

Issue 706

Scottish Charity SC011325



Remembering Ukraine

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March

St Peter's RC Church, which hosted this year's World Day of Prayer Service, wish to thank all those from Greenbank Parish Church who attended.

June Craig

Letter from the Locum



As Spring gets underway here in Edinburgh, we begin to look forward to Easter. As we journey through these final days of Lent, then Holy Week, life is, for us, beginning to look and feel a little more normal. Our hearts are wrung, though, by the photographs we see and the reports we hear in the media of the horrors facing the people of Ukraine and we feel quite powerless to do anything to help. The people of Ukraine are also journeying through Lent and, being mainly Eastern Orthodox (as are their Russian neighbours), will celebrate Easter on 24th April, a week later than our own celebration. We can only imagine how difficult it will be for Ukrainian Christians to hold their celebrations amidst the devastation caused by the war. I suspect for many Russians too, the celebrations may be difficult.

The Bible Society reports that 'As the Russian invasion began, Yaakov

Bleich, the Chief Rabbi in Ukraine, invited Christians to join Jews in praying Psalm 31.' Anatoliy Raychynets, Deputy General Secretary for the Bible Society in Ukraine said: "For me, as a pastor, that Psalm ... well, I read it differently now, because it's about our current situation in Ukraine. This ancient prayer – written several thousand years ago – now we see is so alive, is living."

Psalm 31 appears in our own services as one of the readings on Passion Sunday. Jesus quotes from v5 as he suffers on the Cross, but the whole Psalm is a fitting backdrop for Holy Week. The Psalm is a

prayer by one who suffers unjustly, but in that suffering still puts complete faith in God.

Whilst we can offer financial help for Ukraine and, in these coming weeks, it will become more apparent what practical help we can offer, we can also offer the great power of prayer, joining with others across the world in using Psalm 31 as a focus.



Rev Dr Anne T Logan

**In you, O Lord, I seek refuge: do not let me ever be put to shame:
In your righteousness deliver me.
Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

**Blessed be the Lord, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
When I was beset as a city under siege.
Psalm 31**

From the Interim Moderator

March 2022

Dear Member,

Presbytery Plan Update

I can now give you an update on the process that Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery are going through to agree their Plan for the next five years. The Plan will set out how Edinburgh and West Lothian churches will deliver ministry and worship across the area. Articles in *Connections*, most recently in February, have explained the current thinking for Greenbank, which is to place us in a new united charge with Fairmilehead and St John's Colinton Mains. This is set out in a Consultation Document which was sent to all churches at the end of last year. There was then a meeting, held online on 15th January, for churches to ask for answers to their questions, some of which had been sent in beforehand. Greenbank was represented at this meeting by Valerie Macniven (Session Clerk), Robert Young and me.

The Presbytery asked for responses to their Consultation Document to reach them by 15th March. After prayer and careful consideration the Kirk Session has decided to oppose the union but to indicate a



willingness to consider the possibility of some form of linkage with these or other churches. Greenbank's full response can be found online:

tinyurl.com/ybzgmuja

We have been advised that the Presbytery will visit churches for detailed discussions between April and June. There will be a meeting of the congregation to give you a chance to offer your views and ask questions before the Session meets the Presbytery on your behalf. The provisional date for the congregational meeting is Sunday 24th April, at the end of worship. If you wish to comment before this

meeting, however, please do so by emailing Valerie Macniven:

sessionclerk@greenbankchurch.org

After the Presbytery have completed their discussions with the churches, they will decide if they are prepared to make any adjustments to the Plan and then have further consultation between July and September. Their aim is to vote on a final version of the Plan in October, to meet the wider Church of Scotland deadline of the end of the year to have an agreed Plan.

Greenbank is grateful to the Rev Dr Anne Logan for serving as our locum, leading worship, providing pastoral support and helping in many other ways. However, despite our representations to Presbytery on the need for us to get approval to call a new minister, it has been made very clear to us that this will not be forthcoming because of the planned reduction of ministries in Edinburgh from 78 to 48. It is proposed that there will be only two full-time ministers plus a part-time ordained local minister to be shared by the three churches in our group. They will work as a team. There is an expectation that congregations will take a more active part in leading worship and

taking on other duties formerly carried out by the Minister. I can say from my recent involvement with Greenbank that you are well served by able office bearers and faithful members who are working hard to keep the congregation in good heart and make sure that the outreach, discipleship, pastoral care and our care for creation keep going and growing. In these testing times it is vital that the whole congregation play their part.

We have been assured that worship will continue in Greenbank Church. The Presbytery are aiming to keep churches open where possible, knowing that closure often leads to loss of active participation in worship.

I realise that this news will be of concern to many of you because of the uncertainty and extent of change. The Presbytery have stressed that we are still in a consultative stage, but that they have to achieve the required reduction by some means. For now we must be patient and ready to engage in the next stage of the process.

Rev Dr Alistair P. Donald
Interim Moderator,
Greenbank Parish Church

Thought for the Month: April Pessimism, Optimism, and Hope

This is being written at a time when the future of Ukraine hangs in the balance. Even the most perspicacious of political and military commentators cannot predict what the outcome of Vladimir Putin's decision to invade Ukraine will be. Will the Russian forces try to occupy the whole country? Or will Ukraine be divided, with the Russians in the east, and the boundaries redrawn? Can some third party assist in negotiating a settlement? Who knows?

In Ukraine the Orthodox Church follows a slightly different calendar than ours: this year their Easter will be on 24th April. But whatever the timing, there remains a challenge. How are Ukrainian Christians to celebrate Easter in the face of all that has happened to their country since the beginning of March?

This is a question for all Christians, wherever they are. In times like the present, it would be all too easy to yield to pessimism and despair about the future not only of humanity but of the whole planet. In recent years, we have become increasingly aware of the threat to the environment from many different forms of pollution, not least the worldwide presence of plastic waste in oceans, and from climate change. The Cov-

id-19 pandemic has demonstrated the weakness and fragility of what were once considered almost indestructible health care systems. And current events in Ukraine have reminded the world of the dangers posed by a megalomaniacal evil dictator determined to have his way no matter the cost.

Reflecting on what we see happening in the world around us, and perhaps even on events in our own lives, we realise, perhaps as never before, how shallow is the easy, complacent optimism with which we view the future. Always look on the bright side! How can we? It will be all right on the night! Will it? Surely all is not for the best in the best of all possible worlds, as Voltaire's character Candide may have thought. No longer dare we imagine that humanity has the capacity to control its own environment and destiny, or to shape the future. For many, only pessimism and despair remain to fill the space left by the disappearance of optimism. But neither pessimism nor optimism are Christian virtues. At the end of his majestic hymn to love St Paul reminds us that in this life we have three great lasting qualities — faith, hope, and love.

Despite this, hope has all too often been neglected, ignored, or even completely abandoned. Christian hope is much more than optimism. Hope takes seriously the suffering, destruction, devastation, and evil that menace and destroy life and empty it of meaning and purpose. But at the same time hope recognises that there are energies at work within us and around us that are greater than all these negative powers. Hope is the courage that will not be swallowed up by despair or surrender to a resigned and pessimistic acceptance of the way things are. In common with faith and love, our hope is rooted and grounded in God and in what we believe God has done in and through Jesus. Above all, our hope is based on the resurrection of Jesus. However else the first followers of Jesus understood what had happened to their crucified Master and friend, they saw that in the age-long conflict between good and evil, between light and darkness, between life and death, the last word lay with God. The power which had taken Jesus from the grave would yet transform a world gone mad and suicidal. That was their hope. And it can be our hope today.

Peter Graham

Guild

We had two very good meetings in March: the much delayed lecture on Haggis Breeding, an account (supposedly) of a Captive Breeding Programme for a seriously endangered species which was both clever and very funny, and a very interesting and amusing talk about Balmoral in Queen Victoria's times.



We have planned an extra meeting on 5th April when the topic will be Flower Arranging. We also intend to have the usual Coffee Mornings in the summer, and at these there will be information about the Vine Trust Project, Kazunzu, the Village of Hope, which we have been supporting this session. There will be more information about this in the June issue of *Connections*.

Edith Armit

'Greenbank Life' Photographic Competition

Regular readers will know we are currently running a monthly photographic competition 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 third Greenbank Life competition ended on 11th March, and over the next four days you were invited to vote for your favourite photograph. Thanks to those who submitted over 30 photographs this month. Thanks also to those who

voted, although more votes would have been welcome.

Eight photographs tied for second place. Space does not allow so many to be shown, and so only the winning photograph is presented. The winner is:

10: Our cheeky but very beautiful bird feeder raider – Katie Bogie

The closing date for entries for the next Greenbank Life competition is Thursday 8th April 2022 at 10pm, with voting for your favourite photograph open from Friday 9th to Tuesday 13th April, a day longer than previously. (The weekly e-

newsletter on Friday 9th April will encourage readers to vote!)

The result will be announced in the May issue of *Connections*.

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

John Murison



New Mission Partners for Church of Scotland in Israel/Palestine

The Rev Dr John McCulloch, who was our Mission Partner serving in Israel/Palestine and Minister of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias, stood down from that post at the end of last year. The Associate Minister, the Rev Kate McDonald, had already left. Two new appointments have now been made. The



St Andrew's Jerusalem

Rev Muriel Pearson was appointed as Associate Minister back in September 2021 but long delays in the visa process meant she is only now about to take up her new role. Muriel trained for the ministry after a first career in teaching and was the Minister in Cranhill in Glasgow from 2004 until last year. Muriel is looking forward to working with

people of peace across Israel and the occupied Palestine territories.

More recently the Rev Dr Stewart Gillan, Minister of St John's Renfield, Glasgow and formerly of St Michael's Linlithgow, has been appointed to succeed John McCulloch as the Minister in St Andrew's and Tiberias. He and his family will move there once all the procedures have been completed. As yet we don't know if it will be possible for us to connect with either Muriel or Stewart as a Mission Partner but, meantime, we should give thanks for their offers to serve the church in this way and pray for safe travels and a warm welcome on arrival.

Valerie Macniven
World Church Group



St Andrew's Tiberias

Eco Group Apples and Pears

The Greenbank Eco Group has been planting. We would like to encourage members to consider planting fruit in their gardens by showing an example.

As a start it has planted three fruit trees beside the wooden cross and funded ten fruit trees in Braidburn Valley Park.

Planting fruit is a way of ensuring our own health and the health of the planet. By growing our own fruit, we no longer purchase fruit that has travelled many miles, and we benefit from seriously fresh produce. There is nothing better than the sun-warmed crunch of a fresh apple.

There is such a choice of apple and pear varieties that choosing two

apples for our starter orchard was demanding. I decided that a reliable cooker was essential, but chose to go for the Howgate Wonder: it is Scottish-bred, a good cropper and its warm flush makes a change from the ubiquitous green Bramley.

The second apple tree is a sentimental choice: James Grieve had an orchard near where my mother grew up, and she played with his



Howgate Wonder



James Grieve

daughter in the orchard. The apple “James Grieve” is what I think of as the “Edinburgh Apple”. It is used either as a dessert or cooker. We have a Discovery dessert apple tree in the garden which has to be eaten because it does not store, we



Beth

use the James Grieve as a cooking apple. It cooks and keeps very well. The pear I chose, Pear Beth, came from John Hancox's list of Scottish Heritage Fruit Trees Chosen because it crops well in Scotland and makes a change from the usual pear trees planted in the UK.

www.scottishfruittrees.com

Too often fruit trees are chosen which grow well in the Vale of Evesham, but which do not do so well here: Cox's Orange Pippin is a great dessert apple, but needs a warmer climate than Scotland's.

All three trees are on semi-dwarfing root stock. This means that they will make compact small trees which will still crop well. For a very small garden it might be better to get dwarfing root stock so that it does not dominate the space

but will still provide fruit. Pruning should be done lightly at first, then in about February each year.

If you ever want to learn how to prune your fruit trees, The Caley (Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society) run Winter Pruning Workshops every year, with George Anderson of Beechgrove and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

thecaley.org.uk/

The ten trees that the Eco Group funded in the Braidburn Valley Park orchard were:

Pear: Beth, Longueville
Plum: Victoria, Opal
Damson: Merryweather
Cherry: Morello, Colney, Lapins
Apple: Ribston Pippin, Discovery



Discovery

Alison Murison
Convener, Eco Group

Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Team is available to support the Minister, District Elders and District Visitors where extra pastoral help is felt to be needed. Such care could be general befriending for those who are lonely, hospital and care home visits, visiting those who are ill or caring for someone who is very ill or dependent.

The team is led by Vivien Hutchison (Elder) and Pauline Macdonald (District Visitor) with the support of four volunteers.

We recognise that loneliness and isolation are issues which have been made worse by the restrictions that the Covid-19 policy has placed upon us as individuals, and on opportunities to gather in Church.

The team would welcome members to get in touch if they would like additional contact with or support from the Church and can offer phone calls and visits to supplement those from Elders and District Visitors.

Please contact, in the first instance, the Church Office on:

0131 447 9969
Vivien Hutchison

Ukraine

Faith communities in Scotland have donated, prayed and advocated for those affected by the war in #Ukraine over the past week. For ideas of what your faith community can do, check out our most recent blog.

bit.ly/3tCpass



Help Ukraine Scotland, Edinburgh

Fifty Ukrainian orphans aged 4-18 are coming from Dnipro, Ukraine to Edinburgh with the help of the Hibernian Football Club. On arrival, they might be feeling quite lost and in need of a few comforting words. Dnipro is a Russian speaking area and it is likely they will understand both Russian and Ukrainian.

If you might be able to offer linguistic assistance, please get in touch with Fraser Barr (University of Edinburgh Russian Studies graduate) on 07733 111813 or Margaret McPherson 07968 764953.

Hazel Macaulay
Social Justice Group

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022

The Christian Aid Week appeal this year focuses on rural Zimbabwe and the hunger faced by many due to drought caused by the climate crisis.

Last year we distributed delivery-only envelopes in the parish and we set up a Just Giving page for online donations. We were pleased with the results and raised over £6,000 between the fundraising page and envelopes returned to the church.

We are intending to do this again for 2022 and I am in the process of

contacting volunteers from previous years so that I can organise envelope delivery. It would be very helpful to have additional volunteers. This would involve delivering envelopes to between 30 and 50 houses during Christian Aid Week 15-21 May. There would be no need to return to collect the envelopes or ask for donations.

Please contact me if you can help.

Fiona Watt

Fiona.watt@blueyonder.co.uk

447 3489

Lent / Easter Appeal

The recipient of our Lent / Easter appeal this year is the Eric Liddell Centre. If you'd like to contribute you can do so in one of the following ways:

1 Envelopes

There will be envelopes in the pews

2 Online bank transfer

Account Name: Greenbank Church Collections
Sort Code: 80-02-27
Account Number: 10786266
Reference: Your-Surname LENT

3 Cheque via the Church Office:

Made payable to Greenbank Church Collections
With the envelope marked
Treasurer - LENT

4 PayPal

(if you have a PayPal account)

Use the link:

paypal.me/greenbankchurch

Press Send and then log in to your PayPal account.

Include **Lent** in the notes section.

Alan Ramage



Janet Allan



At its meeting on 9th March the Kirk Session paid tribute to Janet Allan who died on Friday 25th February.

Janet was a member at Greenbank from 1976 and was ordained and admitted as an elder in 2006. Her contribution to the life of the congregation was enormous, and much focused on the Christian education and welfare of young people. She was the inspiration for the Youth Education Support Group (YES) which guided our provision for young people from 2007 and led it for many years. She had the vision to guide our plans for youth ministry which led to the appointments of Bill Stone and later Steve Chaffee. She was chair of the Pre School Management Committee.

Janet was in the forefront of safeguarding arrangements, both at Greenbank where she was the

Safeguarding Coordinator, and as a Trainer for the Church of Scotland. She was a member of the Nominating Committees for our vacancies in 2006 and 2017, serving as convener in 2017.

More recently she inspired the relaunch of the Babies and Toddlers group, and was once President of the Young Woman's Group. She was closely involved in setting up the Safe Listening Place initiative and interested in making Greenbank more Dementia Friendly.

Beyond Greenbank Janet was a key member of the team that selected candidates for ministry in the Church of Scotland. The Session gave thanks for her long and inspiring service and prayed for David, Simon, Rachel and Neil in their loss.

Valerie Macniven

Welcome Teams

April

- 3 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson,
Julia Dunbar, John Murison,
Alison Murison, Rachel Cadell
- 10 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely,
Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel
Thom, Charles Black
- 17 **Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam,
Anne Kinnear, John Mowat,
Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay
Kennedy
- 24 **Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick,
Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett
Brown, David Bogie, Karen Young

May

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

Coffee Rota

April

- 3 Edith Armit (D12A)
- 10 Rosemary McCulloch (D49 & D50)
- 17 Ian & Isobel Thom (D53, D54 & D56)
- 24 Anne Kinnear (D9)

May

- 1 Fiona Watt

Flower Rota

provided by

delivered by

April

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|------------------|
| 3 | Flower Fund | Charlotte Tucker |
| 10 | Jill Powlett Brown | Margaret Mack |
| 17 | Alison Murison | Fiona Watt |
| 24 | Janet Walker | Sarah Crawford |

May

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| 1 | Caroline Kehoe | Katy Ferguson |
|---|----------------|---------------|

Congregational Register



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 April 2022 issue of **Greenbank Connections** should be delivered to the Church Office by Sunday 10th April 2022 or sent by e-mail by 8pm on

Thursday 14th April 2022 to
greenbankconnections@gmail.com

Scout Jumble Sale is Back 23rd April!



Please put Saturday 23rd April, 9.30am to 12.30pm, in your diaries! After a two-year absence, the Greenbank Scout Jumble Sale is going ahead this year – with Covid precautions such as ventilation and strongly encouraging mask-wearing. We'll have the usual variety of stalls including clothing, soft furnishing, bric-a-brac, jewellery and loads of toys, bikes and more. We'll be selling home baking – so, if you can contribute any, please bring it on the morning or the night before.

We'll be collecting jumble house-to-house in the area but, if you want to be sure, you could deliver it to church Monday to Friday eve-

nings before the Sale or phone 07718 836683 or email:

greenbankjumble@gmail.com



Best of all, come along on the Saturday morning with your sisters and your cousins and your aunts, for only £2 each admission (and children – who get in free). We never quite manage to sell everything and offer the

saleable leftovers to charity shops – and we'll have boxes for people to take away after church on Sunday 24th April, if you can deliver them to charity shops at your leisure. Many thanks for your support (again!).

Duncan Macniven
Assistant Scout Leader