

Greenbank Connections



May 2022

Issue 707

Scottish Charity SC011325



Over thirty members and visitors gathered to celebrate the Risen Christ at 7am on Easter morning

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

Contents

Letter from the Locum	2
Guild	3
Holiday Club	3
Hall and Bookings	4
Braidburn Valley Park Substation	5
Thought for the Month: May	6
Energy Crisis and the Cost of Living	7
'Greenbank Life'	8
Photographic Competition	8
World Church Team	9
Isobel Thom	10
Friendship Club	10
Holy Corner Book Sale	10
Welcome Teams	11
Flower Rota	11
Congregational Register	11
Coffee Rota	11
Contacts and Deadlines	11
Christian Aid Week	12



A recently planted apple tree in full blossom

Letter from the Locum



How must it have felt for the women as they approached the tomb on Easter morning? What thoughts went through their heads? How must it have seemed to them when they were told “Do not be alarmed, you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here... Go and say to his disciples and to Peter ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee...’”? And so it was, Jesus had gone ahead of them.

It is one of the great messages of Easter, that no matter where we travel, Jesus has gone ahead of us. No matter what we face, illness, despair, pain, death, poverty or war – Jesus has gone ahead of us. No matter what we plan or hope for,

no matter what visions or bold adventures we dream of – Jesus has gone before us.

So often, we try to cling to the past and to keep Jesus there too. We come to anoint the body of a dead Lord, only to find that Jesus has gone before us into the new. As we face these next few months of turmoil, we rejoice that we worship a living Saviour, present today as he has been in the past, present in the future as he is today. I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

Rev Dr Anne T Logan

Guild

Overall the Guild has had a surprisingly good year in spite of Covid-19. We have had almost all of our planned meetings, albeit with several changes of date. Our last meeting in April had to be cancelled at short notice due to Covid. Now we are looking forward to a Members' outing visiting Saughton Gardens in June and our usual open Coffee Mornings through the summer.

We have continued to support *Scottish Love in Action* and have sent donations to the *Vine Trust* project 'Kazunzu, Village of Hope' which we have chosen to support this year.



Edith Armit



Holiday Club 2022

Monday 8th – Friday 12th August

From 10.00am to 12.15pm each day

DETAILS SOON
in flyers, the website, the weekly e-letter



Hall and Bookings

Greenbank's halls were built and are maintained through the generosity of generations of congregational members. They are an asset not only to our members but also to the wider local community of which Greenbank is part and which it serves.

Our halls and rooms are suitable for all kinds of business and social meetings, parties and other gatherings. Although their primary purpose is to give Greenbank Church groups a safe, warm and comfortable place to meet and fulfil their mission, they also provide low-cost space for community organisations. Income from appropriate commercial hires is also very valuable in helping maintain the premises, thus reducing calls on Greenbank Church funds.

We are grateful for the fellowship offered by Church groups, such as the Choir, Guild, Work Party, Friendship Club, Babies and Toddlers Group, Ladies' Badminton and Country Dance group, as well as Qll and the Youth Club, and we look forward to their continued success. There is no expectation that these groups should contrib-

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ute to the costs of running the halls unless they feel able to do so. However, in the wake of Covid-19 lockdowns, a Short Life Working Group was convened to consider how best to manage the running of the halls. Its aims were:

- to rationalise income from halls hires to better reflect the increasing costs incurred in running the halls, ie heating, lighting, insurance, cleaning, caretaking, maintenance etc;
- to introduce transparency into the charging regime and to deliver a more predictable income stream to meet rising expenditure;
- to optimise income to ensure that standards are maintained and upgraded to assure the safety and comfort of current and potential users;
- to encourage greater use of the halls as a benefit for the Church and the local community, and to make them more environmentally sound and sustainable in line with Greenbank's Strategic Plan.

A proposal put to the Congregational Board to amend the charging regime was approved in March 2022. This continues the existing practice of charging commercial or-

ganisations a rate set by the Board. This rate has been held for three years since 2019-20 in order to help groups through the pandemic but, because of the considerable increase in halls running costs, the fees for commercial hires for 2022-2023 will be as follows:

- Main and Centenary Halls – £32 per hour
- Lower and Upper Halls, Hermitage and Braid Rooms – £22 per hour
- Pentland Room – £16.50 per hour

In addition, research indicates that the informal system of donations by community groups is not sustainable and is not operated by any other local church.

Therefore, in order to meet the aims above, and to ensure fairness

and consistency, we are offering our community groups, which have their own separate income streams, a very generous 75% discount on the commercial fee for the 2022-23 session. This initial charge should align fairly closely with donations received in recent years, but any community group with concerns should approach the Preses who will consult with a sub-committee of the Property Committee.

Anyone wishing to book the halls, or any regular group with concerns about meeting the hire fees, should contact:

hallsbookings@greenbankchurch.org

in the first instance.

Moira Land
Halls Manager

Braidburn Valley Park Substation

Chris Rutterford, the artist who decorated the tunnel in Colinton, completed the decoration of the

substation in the valley with the help of S6 pupils from Firrhill High School.



At the Opening, Greenbank Church Eco-Group were thanked for their funding of the ten new fruit trees in the orchard.

Alison Murison
Eco-Group

photo, Charles Black

Thought for the Month: May

I heard Scottish folk singer Dick Gaughan many years ago singing a wonderful song by American singer songwriter and activist Si Khan called “What you do with what you’ve got”. The lyrics I felt were a guide to live your life by. I’ll quote some lines:

*It’s not how big your share is
It’s how much you can share,
It’s not what you’re given
It’s what you do with what you’ve got.*

*What’s the use of two good legs if
you only run away*

*What’s the use of the finest voice if
you’ve nothing good to say*

*What good is strength and muscle
if you only push and shove*

*And what’s the use of two good
ears if you can’t hear those
you love*

I feel that since the late ‘70s in the UK, the political discourse has majored on individual responsibility, freedom of choice, “fend for

yourself”, which has led to much greed, a growing chasm between rich and poor, divided societies and a divided world order.

The great Bhuddist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh uses the expression “interbeing” to describe the interdependence of all things and all beings. The apostle Paul writes much about a similar interbeing, whereby for believers, Jesus suffering on the cross flows into their lives so that they also share in his resurrection to new life. See for example 2 Corinthians 1. I suppose you could say this is the partnership of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the day we are all on this earth together, human, animal, plant, sea and so on, and what one does affects all others; witness the climate crisis.

God does not play favourites, God loves everything and everyone equally and so should we.

As followers of Jesus may we use all the gifts we have received to love all our neighbours as ourselves.

Stephen Hadden

The Energy Crisis and the Cost of Living

Care for Creation and the climate crisis; Social Justice and the plight of the poor and disadvantaged in society, as Greenbank members will be aware, are all integral to Greenbank Church's strategic objectives.

The recent hike in energy costs for domestic consumers and the energy crisis brought into focus by the war in Ukraine brings these themes together in a unique way. While everyone will have to cope with massively increased energy bills, now, and again in the autumn, the effect on low income households will be such that many will have to choose between heating a home and buying sufficient food to sustain families through the winter period. Meantime the energy companies have made vast profits – £32 billion is a recent estimate.

The Government's recently published energy strategy fails to deal with the crisis in the short term and drifts back to the likelihood of consuming more fossil fuels and long term high risk nuclear investment. No significant measures to boost home insulation or mitigate the crippling energy price increases are evident. There is no sense of the burden being shared in society – it is poor households that will suffer most while corporate Britain carries on making money.

So what should be our response?

The **Church of Scotland's** Faith Impact Forum response to Government

is available at:

tinyurl.com/yckzz26x

while other more radical faith-based responses from **Operation Noah** can be found at:

tinyurl.com/2wm2c8we

Options for us as individuals include:

- aligning with petitions to change policy in these areas
- writing to our MP and MSPs to raise our concerns
- and supporting charities who are working to support poor households and those whose focus is upon lobbying for change.

Other actions:

- prayer
- discussion and more awareness-raising about the issues amongst the congregation
- a grouping of members have already exchanged views on this pressing matter

One proposal is to have an Open Meeting after worship on a Sunday in May so that those members wishing to hear more and discuss responses can come together, so look out for the date.

David Jack

Alison Murison, Eco-Group

Hazel Macaulay, Social Justice Group

'Greenbank Life' Photographic Competition

Results for competition ending on Thursday 7th April

This month two photographs were first equal, with five photographs just behind, each receiving the same number of votes. There is only enough space here to show the winning two.

The winners were:

9: Charles Black

As promised - the rejuvenated electricity substation in Braidburn Valley Park (see p 5)

22: Moira Davidson

Origami doves in St Giles Cathedral

The next competition is underway. Please go to

www.greenbankchurch.org

and click on the 'Greenbank Life (photo comp)' button to find out how to enter photographs and to see what has been submitted so far.

The winners of our monthly competitions will be used to create a Greenbank Calendar for 2023. We hope it will be on sale in September!

John Murison



World Church Team



Fairtrade

Following last month's article about the Stall in Fairtrade Fortnight, we held two more, one outside as part of Greenbank's Outreach and the final Sunday stall at the end of March. Thank you to all those who bought goods from us and I can report that we sold £627.60 worth of stock, which is great news for all the different projects that these sales can support.

Ukraine

We continue to remember Ukraine in our prayers. As reported on the Church of Scotland website in March "The Church of Scotland, locally and nationally, has been working to support all those affected by the war through prayer, by reaching out to churches in the region, through supporting our partners in

the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid (HRCA) emergency response along with charities working in neighbouring countries. We are also urging the UK Government to remove all barriers for refugees seeking sanctuary in our country."

reformatus.hu/english/news/emergency-response-for-ukraine/

The HRCA is continuing to support Ukraine with aid and by supporting the refugees with basic supplies as they come daily into Hungary. Donations of money have allowed them to get medical supplies to the hospitals in Hungary to give help to refugees. Their most recent update is that HRCA had provided minibuses to help take aid and supplies directly into Transcarpathia in Ukraine.

Pam Jack

Isobel Thom

On Sunday 10th April Isobel Thom retired as coordinator for Sunday morning coffee, a role she had held for over 15 years. We thank Isobel for all she has done to enable us to enjoy the fellowship of friends and make new ones and wish her a happy retirement.

Valerie Mcniven



Friendship Club

At long last, Paul Greenwood brought us the amazing history and facts about Yew trees growing here in Scotland for many millions of years. Some of us purchased Yew pendants, made by Paul, from wood at least 300 years old.

Our 21/22 Session finished with the story of Fabergé and his eggs, illustrated by her own beautifully created copies made from real goose eggs, by Deonaid Wilson. The history was fascinating but the twenty or so handmade copies were spectacular.

Now we look forward to our summer meetings starting with our outing for Afternoon Tea to Craigie Farm, meeting outside the church at 1.30pm on Wednesday 11th May. Coffee mornings follow on 8th June, 13th July, 10th August and 14th September when we can meet for a good blether! See you then.

Val Smart

Holy Corner Book Sale

Saturday 14th May 2022 10–5pm

Sunday 15th May 2022 1–5pm

Morningside United Church Hall

Coffee and teas available

Please do not donate any books to Morningside United Church – we already have enough!

St Andrews and St George's West Sale

Saturday 14th and Monday to Friday 16th to 20th May

Books, Stamps, Paintings, Records, DVDs, Toys

Donations

Monday 2nd to Wed 11th May

excluding Sunday 8th May

9am to 9pm

except Sat 7th, 9am to 5pm

Hazel Mclachlan

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022

Welcome Teams

May

- 1 **Donald King**, Jan Corbett,
Roderick Morrison, Jim Young,
Elaine McRae, Jane Harkin
- 8 **Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit,
Louise Coghill, Susan Black,
Nora Kellock, Malcolm Watters
- 15 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar,
Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo,
Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small
- 22 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gill
Sweetman, Clare Campbell,
Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden
- 29 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson,
Julia Dunbar, John Murison,
Alison Murison, Rachel Cadell

June

- 5 **Rosemary McCulloch**,
Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan
Ritchie, Rona Ferguson, Fiona
Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara
Middleton



Flower Rota

provided by *delivered by*

May

- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Caroline Kehoe | Katy Ferguson |
| 8 | Flower Fund | Susanna Waller |
| 15 | Land family | Fiona Kelly |
| 22 | Flora Brodie | Susan Black |
| 29 | Diana Hastings | Irene Horne |

June

- | | | |
|---|----------|------------|
| 5 | Ina Weir | Katy Bogie |
|---|----------|------------|

Coffee Rota

May

- 1 Fiona Watt
- 8 Caroline Kehoe (D70)
- 15 Neil Ross (D24)
- 22 Janet Walker
- 29 Jill Powlett Brown (D12B)



June

- 5 Communion

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 June, July and August 2022 issue of **Greenbank Connections**

should be delivered to the Church

Office by Sunday 8th May 2022 or

sent by e-mail by 8pm on

Thursday 12th May 2022 to

greenbankconnections@gmail.com

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.

Greenbank will be holding a special church service to mark the start of Christian Aid Week on **Sunday 15th May** and we hope that you will be able to join us.

We will be distributing delivery-only envelopes to around 1,400 houses in our parish during the week. Thank you to all the volunteers who have agreed to help with this.

The envelopes will include a flyer to say that they have been delivered by a volunteer from Greenbank Church and will invite people to donate:

- To our special fundraising page – tinyurl.com/47jsk7jz
- By posting the envelope through the church letterbox on Braidburn Terrace
- Direct to Christian Aid www.christianaid.org.uk/

I understand that our neighbouring congregations will not be distributing envelopes this year. If you live outside Greenbank Parish and



would like an envelope, there will be some available in the church vestibule or please contact me, I have some extra ones.

Please support Christian Aid Week. There is further information here:

www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week

Book Sales

The Holy Corner Book Sale returns for 2 days only, 14th and 15th May (see separate article p 10). No donations please.

The George Street Sale at St Andrew's and St George's West Church will take place on Saturday 14th May and then from Monday 16th to Friday 20th May. For further details:

www.stagw.org.uk/work/christian-aid-sale/

Fiona Watt

Fiona.watt@blueyonder.co.uk

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