

# Greenbank Connections



March 2024

Issue 723

Scottish Charity SC011325



*Sheila Cannell , Chair of SLA, talking to girls in India. See P10.*

## Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

Online version: [www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/](http://www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/)

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## Minister's Letter



### Bread

The news of war and suffering continues to burden our hearts. We come to the Communion Table next on the Third Sunday in Lent (3rd March), for the bread and wine that will help sustain us through these difficult times. As my son, Max, informed me when he was three years old, "Communion bread feeds our hearts."

The Bread of Life (John 6:35) is not just for Communion Sunday. Remember the manna that fell from the sky and fed the wandering and wondering Israelites as they followed Moses through the wilderness. Would they ever find the Promised Land? In the book of Exodus, Moses told his people that God would provide for them, and God did.



We pray the Lord's Prayer every Sunday, but it, too, is not meant to be kept in the sanctuary, only to be dusted off for Sundays. The line, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11), from the Lord's Prayer is an invitation to pray every day. It speaks of gratitude in the understanding that as living creatures on this earth, we need food to sustain us. As spiritual creatures, we need the Living Bread for our souls. God provides both.

As we bite into our toast, or scone, or bacon roll, let us remember to give thanks for that of the earth which gives us nourishment. Let us also give thanks for the hands

involved in the growing, making, baking, packaging and selling of the bread.

God travels with us through highs and lows and especially through the wilderness. May we never forget that God provides for us, and that God calls on us to help provide for others. As we journey through Lent, let us reflect: Have we broken bread today? Did we give thanks? Whom can we invite to the Lord's Table to break bread with us?

*Julia A Cato*

## Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP)

Following the February *Connections* update by our Interim Moderator there is little further to report for March. Greenbank Session met with representatives from Presbytery's Deployment Committee in January where we were able to exchange views and ask questions. St John's Colinton Mains Church has also been visited and Morningside and Fairmilehead Churches will each have similar opportunities to hold discussions between their Session members and Deployment Committee representatives over the coming weeks.

As noted by Dorothy in February, we must agree a union or unions between two or more of the churches to meet the PMP requirement in this grouping for a reduction from four to three ministers.

All four church buildings will be kept open for worship, but union be-

tween churches will mean a single Kirk Session with the possibility of locally funded ministerial support.

There are various options to be considered – one two-church union, two two-church unions or one three-church union – as well as getting to grips with the nitty-gritty of how any such union(s) would be structured and made able to happen. It is clear that there is much work still to be done as we strive jointly to find the best way forward for all, ensuring the continuation and development of mission in this part of Presbytery.

There will be months when there is little or no progress to report as discussions continue and approvals are sought or waited for. We will keep you informed and as up-to-date as we can over the coming months.

**Rona Sommerville**  
Session Clerk

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## Congratulations to Julia

On Sunday, 18th February, after preaching as sole nominee at Edinburgh Northwest Kirk the congregation there voted to call Julia as their new minister, which call Julia has accepted. I hope you can all join me in wishing Julia all the very best for this

exciting new challenge ahead. Julia will be with us at Greenbank until at least after Easter and possibly into April. Once dates are finalised, I will let you all know.

**Rona Sommerville**  
Session Clerk

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## Lent / Easter Appeal 2024: Recipients

At its January meeting, the Congregational Board selected the undernoted charities to share the monies raised in this year's Lent / Easter appeal. Envelopes will be in the pews from 10th March onwards. It will also be possible to donate on the Church website from the start of March.

### Scripture Union Scotland

SU Scotland run camps for P6 up to S6 children / teenagers all over Scotland at Easter, weekends and in the summer. This gives children and teenagers who have sometimes never had a holiday the chance to go away, do amazing activities and learn about God. There is an SU office in Oxbgangs Path. SU will be asked to use the money in the Edinburgh area.

### Morningside Hope

Morningside Parish Church's *Morningside Hope* takes the form of a musical sing-a-long workshop followed by coffee, cake and a chat for those with a diagnosis of dementia and their partners or other family members who accompany them.

Ian McWilliam  
Joint Clerk to the Board

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## World Day of Prayer

### 10.30am Friday 1st March

As usual, the World Day of Prayer is the first Friday of March. The theme from Palestinian women is: "I Beg You...Bear With One Another In Love". Greenbank is hosting the service this year, welcoming our friends from Morningside Parish and St Peter's.

Richard Dunbar

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## Used Stamps Collection and Ink Cartridges

We have to date recycled 971 used ink cartridges (approximately 13.73 kilos) and as a side benefit we raised £205.95 for the charity, Poverty Child. ([povertychild.org/](http://povertychild.org/)) We take all makes of ink cartridges, but sorry no laser or toner cartridges. We are also happy to take from your neighbours and friends as well.

Since February 2023 we have collected a further four shoe boxes of stamps partly due to a large dona-

tion from a collection. An excellent result given that the use of stamps continues to fall.

The monies raised will go to support community based agroforestry initiatives in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Again if your friends and neighbours have any used stamps please collect.

The recycling and used stamp boxes are in the vestibule.

Stuart Sanders

## The Guild

We are coming to the end of our programme for the 2023 – 2024 session with two meetings to come; on 5th March we will be watching an audio visual presentation on one of the current Guild Projects and on the 19th we have our ABM which is for members only, and to liven it up there will be some games and quizzes.

In the past year we have had some excellent speakers, in particular a speaker from Edinburgh Zoo on their amazing work in conservation of endangered animals, a prison Chaplain from Edinburgh Prison on the support available to prisoners



and their families, Renegade Monk and Runaway Nun which enlightened us about that pillar of the Reformation Martin Luther and his wife Katharina von Bora Luther, and our own Greenbank Pre School head showing us the level

of detail and effort which goes into planning the individual development of each child.

There will be no more regular meetings until October, but we can look forward to the Summer Coffee Mornings and an Outing, and we will be busy planning the syllabus for the next session.

**Edith Armit**

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## Friendship Club

As usual our two speakers in February did not disappoint; Benedict Bate with his illustrated talk on the “Woodland Trust” and Mike Bullock talking on “Scottish Lighthouses”.

This month, on 13th March, Gordon Hughes will be transporting us to the Japanese Garden with his talk “Hello Dollar” and at our final meeting of the session, which has flown by, on the 27th, Gillian Peterson will give us the “History of the Bank of Scotland”.

The Club members and I wish to take this opportunity to thank our team of helpers without which the Friendship Club would not function so a big THANK YOU.

On 10th April we begin our summer coffee mornings when anyone who wants a good blether over a cup of coffee and a biscuit is very welcome — the Hermitage room, 10.30am.

**Val Smart**



## Thought for the Month

### Holy Saturday

At Easter we rejoice that, as the Apostles' Creed sums it up, "on the third day he rose again".

If the first day was when Jesus was executed and was buried, Good Friday, and if the third day was the day of resurrection, Easter, what has happened to the second day, to Saturday?

Too often we treat Holy Saturday simply as the day before Easter Sunday. Because we know how the story continues, it is easy to anticipate the resurrection, with its renewal of life and restoration of light. We forget that Holy Saturday is the day after Good Friday, and so a time of numbness, grief, and mourning.

Between the Creed's affirmation of crucifixion, death, and burial and its triumphant "on the third day he rose again", are the words "he descended into hell".

In the Bible's view, hell is nothingness and emptiness. It is the absence of life, of light, even of God. Is it, then, too much to claim that the "descent into hell" is a pictorial way of saying that Jesus experienced godlessness, total estrangement from his Father, spiritual sufferings beyond bodily death? This means that Jesus experienced the depths of inhuman cruelty, meaninglessness, and despair

which are all too common a part of most people's lives.

However, it is not enough to say that Jesus sympathises with us in our extremity. His descent into hell is not simply a visit to console those who are experiencing Holy Saturday, leaving them there. Christians have always believed that in ways beyond our understanding Jesus's suffering and death achieved something. Jesus descended into hell to bring its prisoners back with him — into life, into light, into the saving presence of God.

On Holy Saturday we are between death and resurrection, between the undeniable and inconceivable. All who have suffered the death of a loved one have experienced Holy Saturday. All who take seriously the suffering and tragedy that seems an intrinsic part of the human condition know we live in a Holy Saturday world.

None of us can avoid the troubles we see or experience, including suffering, tragedy, and death, both in our personal lives and in our world. That we can face up to them is because Jesus descended to the dead and because the calendar does not stop on Holy Saturday, but continues on to the third day when he rose again.

**Peter Graham**

## Christian Aid News



I am delighted to let you know that our Advent and Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid raised the amazing sum of £10,561. The funds will go towards Christian Aid's work in support of young women in rural Bangladesh, to help them support their families and communities. Thank you for your generosity.

Christian Aid Week this year will run from 12th to 18th May. There will be more information soon about our fundraising and local coffee morning. Please also support the Holy Corner book sale – donations of books are now being accepted.

**Fiona Watt**  
Christian Aid Coordinator



**Scouts @ Greenbank**

Be prepared for *"probably the best..."*

**JUMBLE** sale  
*...in Edinburgh"*

**SATURDAY 13th APRIL 2024 : 9.30am – 12 noon**  
**GREENBANK CHURCH, BRAIDBURN TERRACE, EH10 6ES**

4th Braid Scout Group is registered as a Charity number SCO15021

**No Cards – CASH only please**

**Adults £2**





# Holy Corner Booksale

Sat May 11 & Sun May 12 2024

# WANTED

## Book Donations

- We will be accepting book donations from Wednesday, January 17 until the end of March, 2024
- No home pick-ups, drop-off only, to:  
Morningside United Church, Chamberlain Road entrance, at the following times:  
Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon  
Saturdays 10 am - 12 noon

## We Want

- Non-fiction
- Scottish books
- Paperback fiction
- Children's books



## We Cannot Accept

- Encyclopaedias
  - Academic journals
  - Reader's Digest
  - Books in poor condition, due to mould, water-damage
  - CDs, DVDs
- (These won't sell, and would incur disposal costs.)

Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, EH10 4DJ

In aid of Christian Aid: Charity No. SC039150

Booksale website: <https://holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com>

## Scottish Love in Action

Four of us from Scottish Love in Action recently visited India and met our partners – the first visit since Covid times. SLA now supports three projects in Hyderabad, all supporting vulnerable children and young people. We were impressed by what we saw – it seemed that Covid had caused difficulties for our partners but they have used this as a challenge to accelerate and expand the work they do.

**ASRITHA Home** now looks after 75 girls. They also now support countless boys and girls in Community Hubs, helping children who live in slums with food, education, advice on their future...and fun.

**Livelihoods** supports young men and women into adulthood, helping them find jobs, and navigate life – with advice on accommodation,

managing money, cookery, and even – important in India – getting married.

**Voice 4 Girls** now works with girls and boys aged 13-14 and young adults aged 18, telling them about health, safety, and their rights not to be married young or enter the labour market early. When they delivered this programme to young people at home during Covid (using What's App and mobile phones) they found that what the young people had learnt was immediately shared with friends. Building on this, VOICE is supporting young women to go into villages and communities to directly share this information.

Scottish Love in Action is grateful for all the support over the years from Greenbank Church – the girls and boys, young women and men in India say “thank you”.

**Sheila Cannell**  
Chair,  
Scottish Love in  
Action



## Planters and Plants

The paving around the church is almost complete so that the Eco-Group will be able to plant up the planters that the Council are able to give us. Their budget constraints mean that we will not be getting as many as we had hoped for. It may be possible for us to buy more in the future.

The Eco-Group are also going to be running the Plant Stall at the Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th May in Morningside Parish Halls.

For these purposes, we ask for donations. Plants or cash (cheques made out to Greenbank Parish Church, marked on envelope Eco-Group, or Bank Transfer\*) would be most welcome.

As your perennials spring to life, please do lift and divide them into pots for us. Label with names if you know them, but otherwise don't worry. We are especially interested in culinary herbs, plants that can endure shade and wind, and saleable perennials.

Contact me if you need further information or advice.

**Alison Murison**  
**Eco-Group**

\*To donate by Bank Transfer:

Account Name: **Greenbank Church**

Sort Code: **80-02-27**

Account Number: **10786266**

Reference: **Your-surname ECO**

## Sunday Flowers

We are very fortunate to be able to adorn our sanctuary with beautiful flowers each Sunday. This is due to the generosity of donors, who pay for the flowers and arrange for them to be put into the church – either by themselves or by someone else on their behalf. Arrangement of the church flowers takes many forms – from a simple bunch of flowers in a vase, to more formal arrangements. Many people take this as an opportunity to remember a loved one, or to mark an important date.

There are still a few dates listed below where we do not yet have a

named donor. If you are interested in donating and/or arranging flowers, please contact me and we can discuss how you might like to support this important and appreciated part of our church life.

**Julia Dunbar**

Dates:

10 March  
11 August  
18 August  
22 September  
13 October  
10 November  
(Remembrance Sunday)

## Eco Domesticity – What it's Really Like!

Last month, John Ferguson described how his household is operating more sustainably and this article tells of our similar efforts.

For years we have recycled, reduced car travel and grown organic vegetables for maximum composting and reduced landfill. Some years back we made the big step of installing solar panels and laying a green driveway (using mesh and grass seedlings), and more recently an electric car charging point.



Eighteen months ago, like the Fergusons, we went the whole hog and installed a heat pump, removing gas entirely from the house. We installed under-floor heating with insulation in the ground floor public

areas. Radiators replaced an old and inefficient 1960s gas warm air system. Inevitably, this was traumatic! We were out of our house for two months and still had to lay a new hardwood floor over the heating pipes, and partially redecorate. The physical work was one thing but there were long waits and complications getting certification for our scheme with Home Energy Scotland ([www.homeenergyscotland.org/](http://www.homeenergyscotland.org/))

and clearing our lines on loans and grants. In removing gas, a new induction hob has the mega benefit of an easy-clean cooking area!

Recently we reduced to one car – a hybrid, charging it using surplus energy from the roof panels. Surprisingly this works well even in winter when the sun is low and the days gloomy.

The main reflections are that going green this way is a pretty tough ticket. You must be ready for big changes and a lot of hassle. The increased energy prices have not helped and our energy costs are pretty stiff. The heat pump is four times more efficient than gas but currently gas is a quarter of the price of electricity, resulting in about the same monthly outlay. The heat exchanger/boiler and heat pump are quite big, the former taking up a lot of garage space. Heat pump installations can





*Heat exchanger / Boiler and heat pump*

cost more than £15,000, but grant schemes can cover up to £9,000 of the outlay, depending on the particulars of each case.

On the plus side our house is continuously comfortable and the

under-floor heating gives luxury never previously experienced by the Jacks!

What have we still to do? Investing in a big domestic battery would capture more solar energy for our use, but it's quite a big outlay. We also need to look at our carbon footprint on holiday travel and move more convincingly to a greater plant-based diet.

Given our heat pump experience, as an act of faith we need to lobby government to invest in more rapid national renewable energy infrastructure programmes. This includes support to assist domestic conversions, more creative installation methods for flats, massive insulation programmes for low-income households and pushing for societal change in all these areas!

**David Jack**

## Greenbank Singing



*The Greenbank Singing Group entertained at after-church coffee*

## Beds Wanted

Bethany Christian Trust is urgently looking for single or double (no larger) beds and / or mattresses. These require to be in reasonable condition with no damage or stains. If you are able to donate please call **0131 561 8904** or **0131 561 8903** and leave details, and they will get back to you.

**Stuart Sanders**

## Church Office Email Address

The Church Office email address is  
[office@greenbankchurch.org](mailto:office@greenbankchurch.org)  
and has been for some time.

However, the previous Church  
Office email address:

[greenbankchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:greenbankchurch@btconnect.com)  
is still being used by some people;  
this can lead to messages being lost.  
Please **remove** this old address from  
your email **address book**, if it is still  
there, and ensure that you have the  
current one included instead.

Jackie Wilson-Tagoe  
Church Administrator

## Congregational Register

### Deaths

#### January

- 24 Mrs Elizabeth Telfer, 102  
Crosshill Street, Lennoxton,  
Glasgow (D99)  
24 Mrs Winifred (Winnie) Milne,  
5/9 Morham Gait (D72)

#### Changes of Address

#### January

- 12 Mr Neil and Mrs Alison Ross,  
8 West Caiystane Road (D14),  
from D31

#### February

- 7 Rev Donald and Mrs Ann Pirie,  
144/20 Comiston Road (D28),  
from D14

# Greenbank Forest Church



Saturday  
9th March  
2-4pm



## Meet in the Church

### Springtime nature outdoor fun and activities

Dress for the weather

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

## All welcome!

No church background needed



## Welcome Teams

### March

- 3 Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black, John Kalu
- 10 Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 17 Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay
- 24 Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison, Rachel Cadell
- 31 Easter**  
**Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Elaine McRae, Jane Harkin

### April

- 7 Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Margot Gillon

## Flower Rota

*provided by*                      *delivered by*

### March

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 3 Alan Ramage   | Jill Mundy       |
| 10 Flower Fund  | Margot Gillon    |
| 17 Ishbel Clark | Gail Beveridge   |
| 24 Anne Oxbrow  | Valerie Macniven |

### 31 Easter

Alison Hamilton Charlotte Tucker

### April

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 7 Jill Powlett Brown | Margaret Mack |
|----------------------|---------------|

## The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Rev Julia Cato (Associate Minister)

e-mail: [jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Administrator: Ms Jackie Wilson-Tagoe

phone: 0131 447 9969

email: [office@greenbankchurch.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:greenbankweekly@gmail.com)

Material for the April 2024 issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by Sunday 10th March or sent by e-mail by 8pm on **Thursday 14th March** to:

[greenbankconnections@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankconnections@gmail.com)

## Coffee Rota

### March

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 03 Helen & Phil Barnes | D42 & 49           |
| 10 John Ferguson       | D60                |
| 17 Janet Edwards       | World Church Group |
| 24 Niall Morrison      | Scouts             |
| 31 Diana Hastings      | D31, 31B, 32 & 35  |

### April

- |                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| 7 Caroline Kehoe | D70 |
|------------------|-----|



## **Join our Day Services – we have places across the week:**

- **Our Day Services are here to help you or your loved one by bringing older people together to keep active and stay connected**
- **Join one of our Day Services and enjoy stimulating activities, a cooked meal, and a fantastic group of new friends**



**For more information please contact:**

**0131-447-9757**

**email: [lynnette@theopendoor.org.uk](mailto:lynnette@theopendoor.org.uk)**

**[www.theopendoor.org.uk](http://www.theopendoor.org.uk)**