

# Greenbank Connections



November 2021

Issue 702

Scottish Charity SCO11325



*Visitors to the Saturday 25th September Open Day on the Big Weekend filled the bike park*

## Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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## Letter from the Locum



Winnie the Pooh described autumn as 'A time of hot chocolately mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!' (*Pooh's Grand Adventure*) Each autumn, as I look



Autumn Colour in Anne Logan's garden

out into our garden, I am thankful for the creativity and planning of previous owners of the house, who have, over the years, planted a number of ornamental maples. In the autumn, their colours are glorious and light up the duller days. Gardens are like that, of course. They evolve and grow over many years and the trees in particular are planted for the future.

This year, we face a difficult decision about one of the maples which has outgrown the space it is in – do we prune it back and risk destroying the shape, or do we take it out and plant a new young tree – the jury is still out!!

As I look forward to being with you all on the next part of your journey, I am conscious that in Churches as in gardens, we reap the benefits of the imagination and faith of those who have gone before us. Just like gardeners, we are only custodians of the Christian story: we care for the past, we plant new things for the future, sometimes we have to make difficult decisions. Whatever we do, it is an act of faith. As Martin Luther said 'Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.' So we go on, planting seeds of faith for the future.

Blessings on you all!

**Anne**  
**Rev Dr Anne T Logan**



## Retiral of an Elder

John Rutherford retired from the eldership at Greenbank at the joint Kirk Session and Congregational Board meeting on 29th September. The Moderator paid tribute to him and thanked him for his long service.

John was our longest serving elder. He was admitted to the Kirk Session at Greenbank in 1977 but had already served on the Session at Fountainbridge since his ordination there in 1968. He looked after District 42 for many years until 2010. John had also been a stalwart of the Congregational Board where he gave Greenbank the benefit of his professional skills over many years and can still be called on at times to help out. He was a key member of the work squad in recent years. The Session and Board wished John well in his retirement.

**Valerie Macniven**

## The Guild

We have had an excellent start to our session. After so long apart it has been great to meet friends and chat. Our first meeting had a quick recap of the projects for the next three years, a catch up about the SLA work in Hyderabad and a very sociable afternoon.

The second meeting was a splendid exploration of our theme for the year *"Lights and Bushels"* by Martin with some intriguing musical accompaniment.



Next month, on 2nd November, we have Val and Alasdair Smart telling us about *"Hats we have known and loved"* (that should be fun!) and on the 16th Susan Inch will be telling us more about the *"Safe Listening Space"*.

New members are always welcome and this session looks as though it should be a good mix of interesting topics and friendly meetings.

**Edith Armit**

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## Welcome to Julia Cato

Julia Cato will be joining us for a six month contract for two days a week working to develop our relationships with young families in and around Greenbank Parish Church. She will work with Kirsten and the team hosting Babies and Toddlers on Thursdays and Fridays and look to build connections with Nile Grove Playgroup, Pre School, and core church families.

Julia is a graduate candidate for ministry in the Church of Scotland and is currently also undertaking locum work within the presbytery, which means that she won't be with us on Sundays. We'll look forward to Julia introducing herself

and her fascinating background in a future newsletter. Welcome, Julia!

**Martin**



## Thought for the Month

November brings us much to think about. It begins with All Saints' Day and our thankfulness for those who have gone before us and taught us much; then there's the fun of Guy Fawkes night before we get to the solemnity and reflection of Remembrance Day. As the month goes on, we come to Prisoners Week; then the beginning of Advent; then of course, St Andrew's Day. This year though, the month is dominated by the COP26 summit and all we hope for from it. The United Nations describes the Global Warming situation as 'Code Red for Humanity' and most of us are all too aware that this Climate Change Summit could be more important than any other meeting of the nations has ever been.



At Remembrance Day we give thanks for the sacrifices of those who gave their lives for our freedom; now it becomes the responsibility of the present generations to work towards making sure that

there is a future not just for the human race, but for all our wonderful and varied species.

Throughout the Bible, we become aware of God's love for the whole of God's creation. The Psalmist reminds us that 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.' When God made the covenant of the rainbow in Genesis, it was a promise, not just to Noah, but 'to every living creature that is on the earth.' When we reach the New Testament, we learn that God hears the suffering of the created world and in Christ, God breaks down not just the barriers between God and Human Beings but the barriers between God and the whole of creation (Romans 8). Jesus was born, God incarnate, the hope, the promise for all of creation.

So, we pray for this summit, that our world leaders may have the courage and vision to make the global changes that are necessary. We pray for ourselves, that we may have the courage and vision to make the everyday changes that the world needs.

**Anne Logan**  
Locum Minister

## Social Justice Group



### Prisoners Week Trust

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE .....  
SCOTTISH PRISON POPULATION  
is around 7,300 ?

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A  
FAMILY MEMBER IN PRISON is  
around 27,000 ?

NUMBER OF WOMEN IN PRISON  
is around 275 ?

### Prisoners Week Scotland 21st – 27th Nov 2021

The Prisoners Week Trust\* was set up in 2012, formalising Prisoners Week activities which have been running since the 1990s. The vision of *Prisoners Week Scotland* is for a just and peaceful society where all people are cared for and supported be they prisoners, the families of prisoners, those released from prison or the victims of crime. Prisoners Week encourages action and support, particularly among communities of faith, for all those affected by crime.

The Kirk Session agreed at the meeting on 29th September that Greenbank would sign the Prisoners Week Charter at the launch on:

Monday 22nd November 2021  
7:00pm – 8:00pm  
St Mary's Catholic Cathedral,  
61 York Place, Edinburgh EH1

and that our congregation would commit to an annual gift of £75 and to get involved.

If you would like to attend the Launch Event please book online or speak to Hazel Macaulay (447 5360).

NB Booking is essential and details can be found at:

[www.prisonersweek.org.uk/](http://www.prisonersweek.org.uk/)

Facebook Page – Prisoners Week Scotland.

Copies of the Prisoners Week Charter can also be found on the church noticeboard.

**Hazel Macaulay**

\*SC043431

## Church Open Day on 25th September 2021

Would we, could we put the Open Day into place on the revised date in September? That was the question we asked ourselves following the delay from August.

At last, with the right precautions and a full risk assessment, the event took place on Saturday 25th.

A team of over 50 helpers took on the tasks of setting things up on Friday night, and operating the programme throughout the day on Saturday. Visitors were treated to a café serving wonderful home baking, stalls and exhibits showing the latest Greenbank projects and activities, tours of the sanctuary including talks on our stained glass, and also a quiet space for reflection and prayer.

Music content included two organ recitals and the ceilidh band in full swing in two sessions. All-day refreshment was provided by a table service café delivering drinks and home bakes of the traditional Greenbank standard!

The church was handsomely decorated for harvest, and that together with the warm welcome at the church door ensured a rewarding experience



*Cakes for the all-day café*



*The Greenbank Ceilidh Band*



*Alberto introducing his and Carlo's organ recital*

for everyone. This was in spite of all participants having to wear masks and observe sensible distancing protocols.

An exciting day for young visitors combined silent disco dancing with art, craft activity, eco planting and the ice lolly sales from Christo Esser's mobile stall.

Visitors could also buy books, home produce and fairly traded rice and pulses, as well as view the Lockdown Life photo exhibition. The focus of many of the stalls was Greenbank's strategic actions in care, outreach, social justice and eco awareness. Visitors remarked on the range of new activity going on, and frequently engaged with stallholders on the issues being addressed.

The day was rounded off with a showing of the Christian Aid film 'Thank you for the Rain', emphasising the climate change agenda from the perspective of a Kenyan farmer turned climate activist.

What of the outcome? Total visitor numbers were probably around 130, a mixture of members and non-church goers. Many were glad to see the church coming back to life again after Covid restrictions,



*The Braid Room was set up for Prayer Stations*



*A £250 cheque was presented to the Treasurer of the Friends of the Braidburn Valley Park for fruit trees*



*The Eco-Group had a seed sowing station*



*Conducted tour of the church and stained glass*



and there was a fresh and massively positive atmosphere present all day. The message of faith in action at Greenbank was evident in all its aspects. Amongst the helpers a new feeling of solidarity and commitment engendered by the very act of preparing and delivering the event bodes well for our energetic return to normal church life.

**David Jack**



*Christo Esser ran an ice lolly trolley*



*An Eco-Group stall with free fruit and veg, with jams and chutneys for sale*



*Young Church had a Silent Disco*



*Pavement Art*



*The film show "Thank You For The Rain"*

## 100 Years Of The Poppy



This year marks 100 years of the Poppy Appeal.

In 1921 Earl Haig noticed some French widows selling silk poppies to raise funds for disabled servicemen. They were inspired by Lt Col John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields". The Poppy was one of the few plants that survived the churned-up battlefields of Flanders growing by the thousands amidst the chaos and destruction.



An early collection box

In November 1921, the first cloth poppies were sold in Britain. More than nine million had been made but such was the nation's desire to remember those lost during the Great War that they sold out almost immediately. That first Poppy Appeal raised more than £106,000 – a huge amount at the time.

### In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you with failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

### Lt Col John McCrae

I will be selling poppies outside church this year for Poppy Scotland on Sunday 7th and Remembrance Sunday 14th November. I hope to see you then. If you are not able to be at church on those days then you could donate online at

[www.poppyscotland.co.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.co.uk)

**John Adair**

## World Church Group

World Church Group is the new name for the World Mission Team, with a remit to keep the congregation informed of church matters around the world. One of our activities has been to highlight the importance of Fair Trade which is about better prices, safe working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. Thank you to all who supported farmers in Malawi and India by purchasing rice and pulses at the two recent Greenbank events. Our next Fair Trade stall, with seasonal items, is planned for Sunday 28th November. Many of the organisations we follow speak up on "Climate Justice", recognising that climate change can exacerbate inequitable social conditions around the world. As COP26 commences

in Glasgow, Interfaith Scotland is holding a [COP26 Vigil](#) from 2pm to 3pm on Sunday 31st October at the start of Scottish Interfaith Week. All participants, whether joining in person or online, are invited to pray or hold in their thoughts the COP26 negotiators; that they may have the courage and wisdom to work together and to make the commitments necessary to safeguard the future of humanity and all life on our planet. On Saturday 6th November Christian Aid invites us to join a Global Day of Action. They believe that "COP26 is a huge moment for the world to stand together against climate change. Churches can speak up with a strong moral voice. Together, we can mobilise members to challenge the abuse of creation and insist on

the value and dignity of every human being. Churches can offer powerful witness, in words and actions, for a future where everyone can flourish."

**Janet Edwards,  
World Church  
Group**



*Pam Jack at the World Church stall at the Open Day*

## Help the Homeless Group

### Care Shelter

A team from Greenbank regularly participated in the rota for the Bethany night shelter for many years. During lockdown that rota ended, but the team donated all of its funds to help Bethany in their task of providing a meal and a bed for the night through the pandemic.

### Buy a Bed this Christmas!

For the fourth year, Bethany are launching their Buy a Bed campaign, where you have the opportunity to help provide one person – who would otherwise be sleeping rough this Christmas or winter – with access to the support of the Welcome Centre.

For every £21 you donate through this campaign, the Welcome Centre will provide a person with a warm bed, hot food and individualised support to move on into more permanent accommodation.

In return, you will receive a physical or e-card that you can gift to your friends or family members as an ethical Christmas present or as a keepsake for yourself.

To buy a bed, please go to:

[tinyurl.com/y2t57cnu](https://tinyurl.com/y2t57cnu)



**Our Care Shelter team is active again** (in Gorgie and the Grassmarket).

Financial donations are invited to enable the work to go on:

**Online bank transfer** (using the new account for special collections):

Account Name:

**Greenbank Church Collections**

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

Account Number: **10786266**

Reference: Your surname **Bethany**

**Cheque via the Church Office:**

Made payable to 'Greenbank Church Collections'

With the envelope marked Treasurer – Bethany

If you are considering joining the Greenbank team, please contact:

**Abi Moran**

[abi.hunter1@gmail.com](mailto:abi.hunter1@gmail.com)



*The Church was decorated for Harvest*

## Chief Scout's Gold Award



Congratulations and very well done to Ronin Clark, Lucas Correa Allan, Ben Grigor, Jonny Robertson, Stan Entwistle, Samuel Donvito, the Patrol Leaders in the 4th Braid Scout Group, on their being awarded the Chief Scout's Gold Award, the highest award in Scouts, before moving on to the Explorers. This was no easy task and among other things required the completion of

nine challenge awards and six activity badges.

The Troop is currently quite stretched at 54 members, a testimony to the success of the Troop through the efforts of the Scout Leader, Assistant Leaders and young leaders.

**Stuart Sanders**



*L to R: Ronin, Lucas, Ben, Jonny, Stan and Samuel: the team of PLs heading out on their overnight hike at Summer Camp at Killin in July this year.*

## Life and Work

### COP26 Special Supplement

Life and Work have produced a FREE four-page COP26 Special Supplement available now at

[www.lifeandwork.org/resources/  
cop26-special-supplement](http://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/cop26-special-supplement)

to enable congregations to engage before, during and after COP26.

Also, the November issue of the magazine has a focus on COP26 and Remembrance. Anyone can purchase a single print or digital copy at:

[www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe)

**Life and Work Team**



Cards for Good Causes will be open again from Monday 18th October, selling charity Christmas cards from over 30 charities, national and local, at St John's Church, Princes St, Edinburgh.

Opening hours are 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday.

(Closed 11-11.30am on Wednesdays for church service.)

We will be open until 18th December, unless church services are taking place. Christmas cards are also available from the Cards for Good Causes website.

<https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk>

**Hazel McLachlan**

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## Changing Seasons

The Scottish soft fruit grown in plastic tunnels is over now, and strawberries are being trucked from Spain again. I'm still picking Autumn raspberries from the garden, but no more strawberries for us until the local earlies come in in early summer next year.



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Thankfully apples and pears are in plentiful supply and excellent quality, and later we will get oranges in all varieties.

It helps lower your individual carbon footprint if you eat seasonally and locally.

**Alison Murison**



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, including glassware, dishes, bed linen and towels, but note that duvets and pillows are no longer accepted. Small electrical items such as kettles, toasters, microwave ovens are always needed. For more information and a list of required items, please see the Fresh Start website.

Those who have a reasonable quantity of items for Fresh Start should take them to the 22-24 Ferry Road Drive address provided on the website, but if that is not possible, please contact me to arrange a drop off or collection.

**Eileen Mackinnon**

[emackinnon2010@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emackinnon2010@hotmail.co.uk)

## Flower Rota

*provided by*      *delivered by*

### November

- |    |                  |                |
|----|------------------|----------------|
| 7  | Louise Coghill   | Gail Beveridge |
| 14 | Morna Morrison   | Miriam Jackson |
| 21 | Valerie Macniven | Juliet Nimmo   |
| 28 | Christine Buist  | Enid Mowat     |

### December

- |   |              |                |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| 5 | Julia Dunbar | Diana Hastings |
|---|--------------|----------------|



## Welcome Teams

### November

- 7 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small
- 14 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden
- 21 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 28 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison, Rachel Cadell

### December

- 5 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black

## Congregational Register

## Coffee Rota

### November

- 7 Rona Somerville (D69)
- 14 Moira Davidson (D31B)
- 21 Guild
- 28 Katy Maguire (D19)



### December

- 5 No Coffee, Communion

### The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Rev Dr Anne Logan (Locum Minister)  
 phone: 0131 663 9550  
 email: [annetlogan@sky.com](mailto:annetlogan@sky.com)

Administrator: Mrs Virginia Johnston  
 phone and fax: 0131 447 9969  
 email: [greenbankchurch@btconnect.com](mailto: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](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)

Postal address:  
 Greenbank Parish Church  
 Braidburn Terrace,  
 Edinburgh EH10 6ES

Material for the December and January 2022 issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office by Sunday 14th November 2021, or sent by e-mail by 8pm on Thursday 18th November 2021 to [greenbankconnections@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankconnections@gmail.com)

# Christmas Event

*At Greenbank Parish Church  
on Saturday 4th December  
2pm to 5pm*



An afternoon of **FUN** for  
Primary School Children

Register Online at  
[www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)

or contact the Greenbank  
Church Office (447 9969)