

Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES
No 614 February 2012

Pulpit Diary

2012

Feb 5

9.30am First Sunday Service led by
Springboard
10.30am Morning Worship

Feb 12

10.30am Morning Worship

Feb 19

10.30am Morning Worship
5.30pm Worship with young people

Feb 26

10.30 Morning Worship led by Uniformed
Organisations

Mar 2 (Friday)

7.30pm Pre-communion Service

Mar 4

9.00 am Communion
10.30am Communion (Creche, Spectrum and
Springboard meet as usual)
3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

For information about church organisations, please
contact the Church Office

(Mon–Fri, 9.00am–12.00pm, 1.30pm–3.30pm):

Mrs Charlotte McCaulay

tel and fax: 0131 447 9969

e-mail: greenbankchurch@btconnect.com

The pastoral team can be contacted through the
Church Office:

Rev Alison Swindells

tel and fax: 0131 447 4032

email: alisonswindells@blueyonder.co.uk

Rev W. Peter Graham

tel: 0131 445 5763

To make contact with any of the organisations
described in this Leaflet, please use the telephone
number given, if there is one; otherwise contact the
Church Office.

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

Sean and I have just returned from a few days in Prague. This was our first visit to the city and while there is much to see and do there, one morning remains vividly in my memory. On this particular morning we spent some time in the old Jewish quarter of the city.

First of all we went to the Pinkas Synagogue, which dates back to the 15th century. After

WWII this synagogue became a monument to the estimated 80 000 Czech and Moravian victims of the Holocaust. Their names are printed all around the walls of the building to form a moving memorial. Equally as moving was an exhibition in the same building of pictures drawn by children in the Terezin concentration camp.

From the synagogue it is possible to go outside into the old Jewish cemetery. This is the second-oldest surviving Jewish cemetery in Europe and for 300 years it was where all Jews from the ghetto in Prague had to be buried. It is estimated that there could be up to 100 000 graves here - 12 layers deep in some places. Headstones in different styles dating from 15th century to the 18th century vie chaotically with one another for space. The contrast with the uniform list of names marching round the walls inside the Pinkas Synagogue could not be greater. Yet both synagogue and cemetery in their own way bear witness to the terrible evil of which human beings are capable when they turn against those who are different, when fear and discrimination are allowed to dominate.

But the cemetery is testament to more than this. The headstones themselves are fascinating. They bear different symbols representing the occupation of those who lie buried in the cemetery. There are hands raised in blessing for a member of the priestly clan. There are scissors for a tailor, a violin for a musician. All human life is represented here, (even the occasional woman!) and in-



deed the Jewish people call the cemetery Beth-chaim, which means "House of Life".

And the impression that I carried away from this cemetery was not so much of the frailty of human life but rather of the strength of a community with a story to tell, a story that included joy as well as adversity, laughter as well as tears, patience and endurance as well as

defeat and discrimination, faith and hope as well as fear and despair.

As a community of faith we too have a story to tell and that story is of the one whose love and life ultimately triumphs over evil and death. Our own journey through 2012 as individuals and as a community will undoubtedly carry its share of joys and sorrows but in Jesus Christ we can know the presence in all things of the God whose nature is love and whose word is life. And I wish you all the blessings which that promise brings.

With warmest wishes

Alison I Swindells
Minister

PS On a different note you will find elsewhere in this Leaflet a report on the results of last year's stewardship campaign. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all who participated in this campaign. Given the current economic climate, the results are very encouraging indeed, and will feed into the current national stewardship campaign, which is ongoing in the Church of Scotland. In this connection there is accompanying this Leaflet, a letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly addressed to every member of the Church of Scotland affirming the importance of stewardship in the life of the Church. Once again I thank you for your attention to this area of our Christian commitment.

World Day of Prayer

Friday 2nd March 2012

World Day of Prayer 2012 is on Friday 2nd March. At this time Christian people throughout the world will be joining in a service with the theme Let Justice Prevail which has been written by Christian women of Malaysia. Each year, the first service of the day is held on the island of Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean, close to the international dateline, and continues for a period of 36 hours until that same date concludes in Alaska just to the other side of the dateline.

In Scotland, many churches and other Christian Groups will be hosting the service. Apart from some small adaptations to suit local circumstances, the service held in a country kirk in Scotland will be just the same as the one held earlier on Tuvalu.

Migration of people from throughout Asia has made Malaysia a land of many ethnic groups who intermingle and integrate into local communities. It is also home to many temporary refugees fleeing war torn or troubled countries. Accordingly, the theme of the service this year, Let Justice Prevail, seems most appropriate.

(Issued by the World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee for release to the press and use in parish magazines.)

The Morningside district service will be held in St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Falcon Avenue at 10.30am on Friday 2nd March. Bible Studies in preparation for the service will be held in 121 George Street at 10.30am on Friday 27th January and Friday 3rd, 10th and 24th February. Details of these meetings will be in the pew leaflet on the preceding Sunday. Everyone is very welcome to come to any or all of these studies.

Margaret Barrowman

Spectrum and Springboard Offerings

The Offerings taken at Spectrum and Springboard during 2011 totalled £763. As is the custom, the members of Springboard and Spectrum 3 were asked how

they wanted the money to be used. This year, Spectrum 3 again chose to sponsor a child through Plan International and then nominated that the balance go to support Water Aid. Springboard chose to allocate donations to Scottish Love in Action, Help for Heroes and Oxfam.

£12 per month has been paid to Plan International, £269 was donated to Water Aid, £125 to SLA, £70 to Help for Heroes and £155 to Oxfam. In addition, the Spectrum 3 Lunch held in March raised £774 which was donated to Marie Curie.

Thus, in total our young members have raised £1537 for charities during 2011 – a wonderful achievement.

Ian Thomson

Board Notes

At its meeting on 7 December the Congregational Board heard about work that had been carried out on property over the summer and the latest position regarding finances.

Library shelving had been installed in the Pentland Room and it was planned to have the Library in operation by mid-January. The re-laying of slabs at the lower West Emergency Exit would be undertaken early in the New Year. A printer and scanner had been acquired for use in the Church Office. The Board authorised the expenditure required for (a) the replacement of a damaged notice board outside the main office, (b) the replacement of the light unit at the main notice board outside the Church with spotlights in a vandal-proof casing to be fixed to the low wall facing the notice board and (c) the installation of an LCD monitor screen on the wall in the Main Office corridor (this is a busy area and the screen would be used to display church activities). The two cookers in the Main Kitchen were to be replaced with a larger cooker. It was felt that this would encourage more use of the Main Kitchen. The ground level security lighting system to the rear of the Centenary building had been found to be beyond repair. Since there were other sources of lighting in this area this system would not be replaced. The source of electricity had been disconnected and the system made safe.

On the financial side, income received to 31 October was ahead of budget and expenditure was below budget for the same period.

A surplus was forecast for the year to 31 December 2011. The Board acknowledged the kind donation of a pewter quaich to the Church by Miss Kathleen Patrick in memory of her mother. After consultation with the Flower Committee it had been decided to use the Quaich principally for flower arrangements at the Memorial window

Alan Ramage, Clerk to the Board

Christian Aid Collection 2012

Greenbank is well known for its commitment to Christian Aid, and we have again given generously over the festive season to its various causes around the world.

The focus now turns to our important role in operating the Christian Aid house to house collection. Although this seems some time away (12-19 May) preparation work is underway and, as always, we need a team of collectors to cover all the streets in the parish. This has the dual benefit of collecting more funds for Christian Aid, but also demonstrating our practical mission locally to every household.

The scale of the task is considerable but we already have a band of committed collectors who have sustained the collection. However, more new faces are needed as we cover about 58 groups of houses/streets and are looking for at least 10 new collectors.

It always seems a bit daunting to take a collection on for the first time but believe me everyone actually enjoys the experience, which makes new connections in the community and boosts our presence on a wider front in Greenbank.

This year I have taken on the task of co-ordinator for the first time, and so I need new supporters to help me through this experience, and demonstrate that we will sustain the house to house collection. It takes up to about an hour to deliver the envelopes, and about 3 hours collection time through the week which most people do over 2 early evening slots; sometimes couples take on an area between them. I plan to hold a briefing for new collectors nearer the time, which will be social as well, allowing existing collectors to meet new volunteers.

Please contact me if you are able to help. I will contact existing collectors directly to check their availability.

Pam Jack

World Mission

World Aids Day was at the beginning of December and the World Mission Council reminds us that it was 30 years ago "since the discovery/emergence of HIV. Since then, this virus has had a devastating effect on individuals, families, communities and countries all over the world but particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where still two thirds of people living with HIV are to be found." The Church of Scotland HIV programme supports the work of their partner churches as they respond with compassion and commitment to the challenge of HIV in their communities. It is not just in Africa where the Church of Scotland is supporting projects in these communities. In south-west China there is a development programme working with former drug addicts who are doubly discriminated against because of their HIV-positive status.

The project was visited last October by some World Mission Council Staff and the Convenor. They told of one grandfather and grandmother who were given a loan of £300 and were able to buy goats, fatten them up, sell them, buy more goats repay the loan, sell and buy more goats and so on, now enabling them to stand on their own two feet and live well. Another HIV-positive young man, whose 2 brothers died of aids-related illnesses, has been cultivating sugar cane with his loan, has paid back his loan and is now renting more land. He too is living well, taking his medicine and delighting in his little daughter. These stories illustrate the benefits of small amounts of money being able to do huge things in these peoples' lives. For more stories on projects please go to the World Mission link at: http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_media/docs/news/WM44_lo_res.pdf

One World Stall – the next one will be on Sunday 19th February

Thanks to all those who supported Fair-trade by buying from the extra 'Christmas Stall' we ran at the end of November.

Stewardship Campaign

The Church of Scotland is currently running a National Stewardship Programme and enclosed with this month's edition of the Leaflet is a letter from the Rt Rev

David Arnott, the Moderator of the General Assembly, regarding this. Greenbank Church's recent Stewardship Campaign is part of our Church's input to this Programme and I thought it an apt time to give you an update on the monetary outcome of this Campaign which:-

- Increased annual pledges by approximately £18,000.
- Brought in one off receipts of £22,000.

The impact on 2011's income is likely to have been an increase of approximately £31,000 which equates to 16% of donations (before Gift Aid tax rebates) in 2010. The impact on 2012's income is likely to be an increase of approximately £18,000 which is lower than 2011 due to the one off payments received in 2011. This equates to 10% of donations (again before Gift Aid tax rebates) in 2010.

I would like to thank the Congregation for their continued generosity as well as the Stewardship Team, headed by Richard Dunbar and Stuart McMillan, for all their hard efforts in running such a successful Campaign.

Robert Young
Treasurer

Hearing in Church

We are aware that unfortunately some people are experiencing difficulties in hearing in Church, even with hearing aids. We would like to work to resolve this situation as far as possible. In order to address this, please speak to **David Ferguson 445 2838**.

Recordings of the Service

Recording of Church services continues on a monthly basis. CDs can be made available on either an occasional or regular basis. If you, or someone you know, would appreciate being able to listen to a recording of our morning worship, please contact **David Ferguson**

Our Vital Statistics

At the end of 2011, Greenbank had 836 members. That was 35 down on the previous year. We were joined by 3 people professing their faith for the first time,

and 14 people who transferred from other churches. But 23 members died, 16 left for other churches, and we lost touch with 13 people who had moved away. On the other hand, the number of young people in Spectrum, Springboard and Q2 (who are not included in the figures above) rose from 70 to 82.

Duncan Macniven
Roll Keeper

"BAGS" social event

9th February 2011 at 8pm

BAGS (Blokes at Greenbank) have organised a "Pie and Ale Tasting" evening aimed at men aged 18 - 100 for Thursday 9th February 2011 in the Centenary Hall at 8pm. We're hoping that this might be the first of many and would welcome any ideas for future events! If you're interested please add your name to the list on the Church Notice Board to assist with catering arrangements or contact Kenny Htet-Khin (khk_13@yahoo.com). £5 donation at the door.

Advent Vigil

The gentle lighting during the Advent Vigil set the scene for contemplation.



Book of the Month

Jesus – Nativity, Passion, Resurrection

Geza Vermes, published 2011, Penguin, £12.99, ISBN 978-0-141-04622-8

(Published originally as three separate books, over a period of four years.)

Geza Vermes was born in Hungary in 1924 to Jewish parents; the family were baptised as Roman Catholics when he was seven. After the Second World War he became a Roman Catholic priest, and in 1953 obtained a doctorate with a dissertation on the Dead Sea Scrolls. He left the Catholic Church in 1957 and, reasserting his Jewish identity, came to Britain and took up a teaching post at Newcastle University. In 1965 he joined the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Oxford University, rising to become its first professor of Jewish Studies, before his retirement in 1991. He has written at length about the historical Jesus. He has been variously described as ‘the foremost world authority on the Dead Sea Scrolls’, ‘the world’s most respected Biblical historian’, and ‘the greatest Jesus scholar of his generation’.

The ‘historical Jesus’: what are we to make of this phrase? The religious writer Rupert Shortt explains it like this: “Our loss of innocence about the New Testament dates back to the mid 19th century, when Protestant pioneers in Germany published lives of Jesus sharply at odds with the gospel record. ... Their core message was disarming. Scripture reveals both more and less than Christians had previously supposed – more about its cloudy historical setting and the tangled process of its composition; but much less about what it actually purports to tell us, given that so much of the text is mythological. Take the story of Jesus’s nativity. The narrative familiar to us is a conflation of two accounts, from Matthew and Luke, which differ at just about every turn. ... The genealogies at the start of either gospel are contradictory. Luke’s story knows nothing of the wise men, the slaughter of the innocents or the flight into Egypt. Matthew is silent about the shepherds and the tale of Zechariah and Elizabeth.”

Vermes’s approach follows this tradition. He examines the contents of gospel pas-

sages in minute detail and relates them to the society and culture from which they emerged, often quoting from contemporary Jewish documents. His learning appears to be extraordinarily wide. But his writing is simple and approachable, and his conclusions, for example on the virgin birth, can be fascinating.

I should add that there are critics of the ‘historical Jesus’ approach: for example, some see in the historical reconstruction of Jesus an unwarranted rejection of all supernatural elements in his identity. I am not qualified to comment. However I do believe that Christians should read what has been written about Jesus, even if we finally disagree. We should never be afraid of scholarship.

John Murison

Friendship Club

So far, in marked contrast to last winter’s weather, the Festive Season has been wet, windy and mild. Our Christmas Party with Cathie Browne is now but a memory as is our illustrated visit to India with Val Smart. This presentation was enlivened by the addition of an unexpected second speaker, Edith Armit, another of the ‘February 2011 Tuni Group’, and by the colourful Indian dress and music. At the time of writing we still have, in January, Kathleen’s Baroque gems and a talk by Rosemary Pipes on ‘The Colonies’ a fascinating part of local history.

Our speaker on February 8th, George Sutherland C.A. and former Army Officer, is involved in and has done so many things that they can not all be mentioned here. His subject ‘Missing in Borneo’ relates to the discovery and investigation of a war-time aircraft wreck. Kathleen’s ‘Musical Images’ on February 15th will as usual delight us I’m sure and this will be followed on the 22nd by a talk from Winnie Stevenson entitled ‘Roslin Glen Powder Mill’ - another part of local history. Since moving to Roslin 40 years ago, Winnie has had an interest in Roslin Glen and has been a member of the Roslin Heritage Society. If you are interested in any of these topics, please just come along at 2.30 and join us. You will be most welcome.

Worship With Young People

Worship With Young People happens one Sunday evening each month in the Centenary Hall. It is an hour-long alternative worship experience that explores Bible stories and church festivals in a variety of different ways.

From journaling, and creating artwork, to small group discussions, a lot of the things we do together are informed by contemplative spirituality. That isn’t to say we sit around and meditate in silence for an hour, but that we do our best to be open to experiencing God’s presence in a variety of different ways.

Our first WWYP evening centred around the creation narratives in Genesis and explored how God’s creation of the world and all things in it as “very good” might inform our own self-image. More recently, we’ve also discussed Advent and Epiphany, and the different ways we might see God in the world and each other.

Sometimes, the best experiences of the evening happen after worship, when we continue our time together over dinner. It’s a great chance for people to catch up, meet new friends and talk about their faith.

We would love for you to come and worship with us one Sunday evening. **WWYP** is **WITH** young people, which means that all ages are welcome. Coming to an evening service is a great way to connect with people from different generations. And in this connection we can all share and learn from each others’ experience of faith and life.

We hope to see you on February 19th and March 18th at 5:30pm in the Centenary Hall.

Bill Stone

Lent Studies

In preparation for Easter, this year’s Lent Studies will be focusing on the First and Second Letters to Timothy. There will be a series of five Sunday evening discussions, starting on Sunday 26th February and running until 25th March, from 7.30–9.00pm in the Braid Room. Coffee will be served from 7.00pm.

The next collection dates are 18th March and 22nd April, at the Sunday service (table set up in main hall).

We are grateful to all who have donated items to Fresh Start and would like to appeal for more items to be given, as the response has slipped recently. The problem of homelessness is as great as ever. So is the need for good quality donations to the starter pack scheme, for people moving into their own accommodation.

Pick up a leaflet from me, see www.freshstartweb.org.uk or phone 476 7741, for more information about the work of Fresh Start.

Fresh Start List

Below is a full list of household goods wanted. Please refer to it, to avoid giving unwanted items.

Dishes and Crockery

Dinner plates, side plates, bowls, cutlery, mugs, glass tumblers, tea-towels.

Pots and Pans etc

Pots with lids, milk pans, frying pans, plastic boxes, cooking utensils, can openers, potato peelers, wooden spoons.

Cleaning Things

Washing up basins, washing-up liquid, toilet cleaner, toilet rolls, hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dust pans and brushes, pedal bin liners, rubbish bags, all purpose cleaner, laundry tablets.

Bed linen and towels

Single flat sheets, double flat sheets, single duvet covers, double duvet covers, pillow cases, blankets, duvets, bed covers, towels, face cloths, bath mats, curtains, rugs.

Also wanted are small household electrical items - not T.V.s

Pick up a leaflet from me, see www.freshstartweb.org.uk or phone 476 7741, to find out more about Fresh Start.

Alison Ambler



The Guild

Here we are already well into the second half of our session with some more interesting meetings coming up. On Tuesday 31st January we have an afternoon meeting at 2.30pm at which Paddy Scott will talk about Scotland's Gardens Scheme. Our fund raising event on 14th February is a Night at the Movies when Ian Rintoul will be showing two films. The B film is



about Edinburgh's Empire Theatre and the feature is a compilation of Sigmund Romberg's Musicals. As usual we are raising money for our Guild Project which this year is an Ecumenical programme in Israel/Palestine to help bring about fairness for the Palestinian people. Tickets are price £8, including refreshments, and can be had from members of the Guild Committee. Do come and join us for what promises to be a fun evening and help us raise a large sum for the Project. Our second meeting in February is on the 28th when Ivor Clarke will talk about "The Open Door" in Morningside. We look forward to welcoming you to some or all of these meetings.

Ann Pirie

Apologies

Computer gremlins confused the last edition when a photo was misplaced. The correct version follows.

Swords into Ploughshares

At our first Meeting this session Rev. Stephen McCauley spoke of the work of an Army Padre in Afghanistan. He showed us the Cross he uses at services - it is made from bullet cases.



Information Display Monitor in Hall Corridor

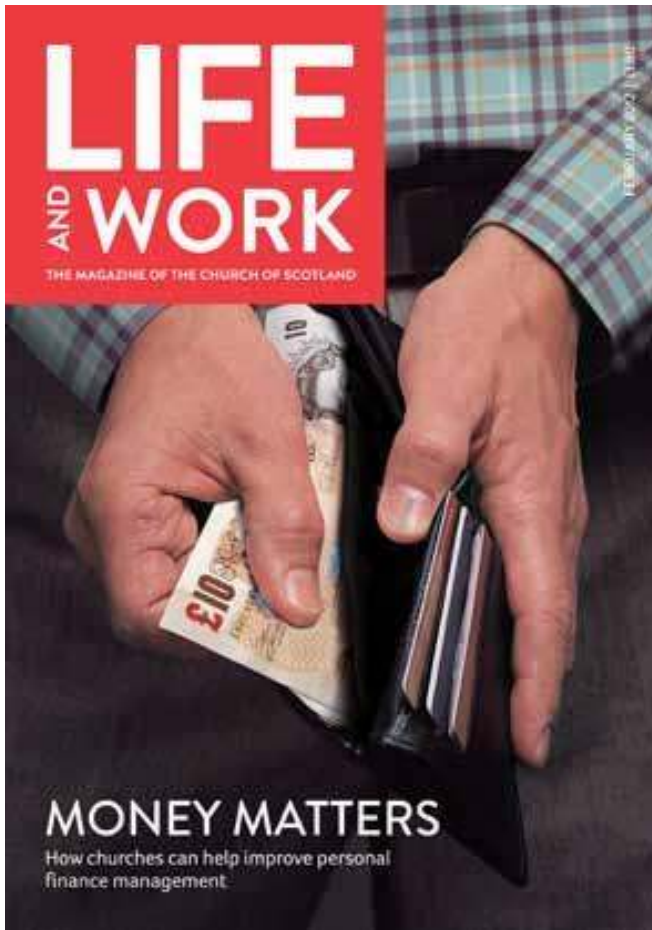
In the next month or so an information monitor will appear in the hall corridor. It will be used to present news about what's going on at Greenbank, with photographs. The Hall Corridor is a major thoroughfare in the church buildings. It is also a resting place - many parents know it well as they wait for Cubs or Brownies etc. to finish, resulting in the usual stampede of children. The monitor will give them something to look at and to consider while they wait!

The Kirk Session's Communications Committee hopes that all church organisations will contribute to making this new resource a great success, by supplying up-to-the-minute information, and photographs if possible. (Photographs of children must have been cleared by parents or guardians before submission.)

If you are an organisation office-bearer and have material which you would like to have displayed on the monitor, please contact Rona Sommerville for further details.

Material for display is best sent to the standard Church Office email address: greenbankchurch@btconnect.com

John Murison



Life and Work

FEBRUARY EDITION

Money Matters

Jackie Macadam finds out how churches and charities are helping people manage their money.

A group from Glasgow learn financial lessons from an Indian model.

Dr Murdo Macdonald reflects on our relationship with money.

The church's Director of Stewardship introduces the new national stewardship programme.

The Big Question: What's the best piece of financial advice you have received?

Justice for the Poor

Jo Mummery explains the importance of Tearfund's One Voice week of prayer and highlights how congregations can be involved. Plus, the campaign to have Scotland recognised as a Fair Trade Nation.

A Manse Family Lifeline

The work of the Glasgow Society of the Sons and Daughters of Ministers of the Church of Scotland.

A Common Thread

Thomas Baldwin meets an Imam and a Rabbi with striking similarities in their view of the world.

Changing Church

A project reaching out to young people in Glenrothes.

An Estate Church

John R Hume visits Thornhill Church in Dumfriesshire.

The Shepherd Boy King

The Very Rev Gilleasbuig Macmillan examines the life of David, the forebear of Jesus.

Month in a Life

Ida and Keith Waddell, Church of Scotland mission partners in Zambia.

Plus all the regular columnists, letters, reviews and crosswords – all for just £1.80

Life and Work needs you

Please send submissions for parish news, View from the Pew and The Big Picture to Life and Work, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN or magazine@lifeandwork.org

SLA Dates for your Diary.....



BOOK CAFE

Please come along to our BOOK CAFE Saturday 25th February, 11-2pm on in the main hall at Greenbank Church.

On a cold, wet February morning why not warm up with a bowl of nutritious, homemade soup and enjoy a chance to browse through our collection of new and used books.

£5 ticket entitles the bearer to soup with bread and two books of your choice. Additional books and tea & coffee can be purchased as desired.

Make sure you don't miss this wonderful bargain by putting the date in your diary now or better still by buying a ticket from the church office (447 9969) or Hazel Macaulay

Literary Breakfasts

Please come along to the first in what we hope will be a series of literary breakfasts in Morningside Glory on Sunday 4th March at 10.30am. Our first author, Robert Mullen will be talking about his book 'Call of the Camino'.

Why is the Camino Santiago so popular?

Bob discovers why as he walks along the Camino Francés to the shrine of Saint James at Santiago de Compostela. He uncovers the history of the Camino, as well as several of the myths, legends, and miracle stories that have given special meaning to this journey. Personal myths are an essential part of this and Bob includes stories from the pilgrims, people from all corners of the world who visit this walk for many reasons, but all of whom leave having experienced the same miracle—that this pilgrimage will change their lives forever.

Tickets £8 to include breakfast (limited to 22)

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online
version of the Leaflet*

Duty Teams

February

- 5th** John Rutherford, David Allan, Richard Denison, Kenneth Htet-Khin, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Colin Winchester
- 12th** John Ritchie, Eric Brown, Stewart Coghill, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, David Easton, Susan Jackman
- 19th** Stuart Sanders, Moira Davidson, Stuart Macmillan, John Murison, Sandy Cameron, Sally Stephen
- 26th** Donald King, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald McLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster

March

- 4th** Roger Bland, Eileen Campbell, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robert Nimmo, Keith Winton

Coffee Rota

February

- 5th** World Mission
12th The Friendship Club
19th David Ferguson D26/28
26th John Mowat and Louise Coghill D67 & D68



Creche Rota

February

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| 5th | Hazel McLachlan | Fenella Murray |
| 12th | Alison Ambler | Charlotte Tucker |
| 19th | Christina Morrow | Grace Pollock |
| 26th | Janet Ferguson | Fenella Murray |

March

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|------------|
| 4th | Eileen McKinnon | Liz Foster |
|------------|-----------------|------------|



Flower Rota

provided by / delivered by

February

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 5th | Anne Innes | Diana Hastings |
| 12th | Janet McAinsh | Katy Maguire |
| 19th | Ishbel Emery | Caroline Kehoe |
| 26th | Jean Dely | Helen Aitken |

March

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| 4th | Isobel Aitchison | Fiona Connal |
|------------|------------------|--------------|



A Different View?

Psalm 23 translated from Japanese

The Lord is my Pacesetter - I shall not rush,
 He makes me stop for quiet intervals;
 He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity.
 He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind,
 and his guidance is peace.
 For though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I
 will not fret.
 For his Presence is here;
 His timelessness, His all importance, will keep me in balance.
 He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity.
 By anointing my mind with his oils of tranquillity
 My cup of joyous energy overflows;
 Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my life
 For I shall walk in the peace of the Lord and dwell in His house
 for ever.

from Margo Fraser

Material for the March Leaflet should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 12th February or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 14th to greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com

PEOPLE WHO PRAYED: JOHN WESLEY (1703-91)

John Wesley first rode into Scotland in the spring of 1751. He came at the invitation of Captain Gallatin, a Swiss army officer commanding a regiment of dragoons stationed at Musselburgh, and so a man unlikely to be familiar with local attitudes. On his arrival, Wesley was warned by a local preacher, *You might as well preach to the stones as to the Scotch*. This cynical comment proved true. By the time of Wesley's death, forty years later, there were still only eight Methodist chapels in Scotland to show for over twenty visits north of the border. If the Scots were not enthusiastic about Wesley, Wesley was not favourably impressed with what he saw of their Church, despite the effectiveness of the Scottish ministry in preaching and evangelism.

John was the fifteenth child of the Reverend Samuel Wesley, rector of Epworth, Lincolnshire, and his wife Susanna. At the age of six John, along with the rest of the rectory household, was rescued from a fire which destroyed their home. This traumatic event affected the whole family. In particular it convinced his pious mother that her son had been spared in order that he should do great work for God and that she had a special part to play in his religious upbringing.

After five years at Charterhouse School, John Wesley entered Christ Church, Oxford. When he graduated, his mother encouraged him to return to Epworth to serve as his father's curate. He was then awarded a Fellowship at Lincoln College, Oxford. There John took over as leader of a group of devout Christians known as the "Holy Club", a small religious society formed by his younger brother Charles. Members committed themselves to have regular private devotions and to meet every evening to read the Bible and pray. They were obsessed with self-examination of their conduct and consciences, constantly confessing their own sins and shortcomings and expecting to ensure that everything they did was at least an attempt to become a reflection of Almighty God. What Charles would describe as *the harmless nickname of Methodist* was originally applied to this group in 1729. Several labels were invented for them by jeering undergraduates — Enthusiasts, Bible Moths, Sacramentarians — but "Methodist" was the one that stuck.

In 1738, within the space of a few days, both brothers had life-changing Christian experiences. Charles found himself *at peace with God and rejoicing in the hope of Christ*. In his account of 24 May 1738, John records that just before 10 p.m. *I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine*. Modern scholars do not agree as to the exact nature of his experience, but history attests to the fact that nothing in John Wesley was left untouched by it.

The Wesleys were now convinced that at all costs the people of Britain must hear the good news of salvation. They were determined to devote their life to evangelistic work. At the heart of their preaching was love: the love of God for all persons and the grace of God available through faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. John Wesley's understanding of the Christian life stressed a joyful personal relationship with a loving Father. This relationship found

expression through worship towards God and loving action towards others. Love for the lost meant offering them Christ in evangelism. Love for the poor meant social concern: homes for widows and orphans, free health clinics, help with food and clothing. Love for the newly converted meant provision for discipleship, including adult Christian literature, books of hymns and books of prayers. Love for others in the Christian community meant honest attempts to put aside prejudice along with an ecumenical willingness to appropriate genuine spiritual contributions from every tradition. And love for all nations caused John Wesley to *look on all the world as my parish*. During his fifty two years as an itinerant preacher he averaged 4,000 miles of travel each year and preached more than 40,000 sermons.

This often-used prayer by John Wesley reflects his conviction that Jesus offers to every person the chance of a living faith and a personal relationship. His belief finds overwhelming expression here, in words that burn with love. The prayer uses the Biblical idea of a covenant: and the point of a covenant is commitment. While for use in public worship on special occasions, particularly at the beginning of a new year or session, or on an anniversary, this prayer can be used at any time by individuals wishing to affirm or to renew their loving commitment to God, trusting that God is already committed to us in lasting reliable love.

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put us with what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty;
let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly
yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are ours, and I am yours.
May this covenant, now made on earth,
be ratified in heaven,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

For further reading:

Translations of two German hymns by John Wesley,

188 *Thou hidden love of God*

270 *Put all your trust in God*

There are 14 hymns by Charles Wesley in CH4.

Roy Hattersley's biography of John Wesley, *A Brand from the Burning*, looks back over the life and amazing influence of this man. (In Edinburgh City Libraries)