

# Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church  
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES

No 645 September 2015

## Pulpit Diary

### Sept 4 Friday

7.30pm Pre-communion Service

### Sept 6

9.00am Communion

10.30am Communion (Springboard and Spectrum meet as usual)

3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

### Sept 13

10.30am Morning Worship with presentation to elders of Long Service Certificates

### Sept 20

10.30am Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism and Dedication of Harvest Banners

### Sept 27

10.30am All Age Worship for Harvest with Quest 70th anniversary celebration

### Oct 4

9.30am First Sunday Service led by Springboard

10.30am Morning Worship

For information about church organisations, please contact the Church Office (Mon–Fri, 9.00am–12 noon, 1.30pm–3.30pm):

Mrs Virginia Johnston

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

Youth Minister: Rev Bill Stone

tel: 07883 815 598

email: billstoneiii@gmail.com

To make contact with any of the organisations described in this *Leaflet*, please use the telephone number given, if there is one. Otherwise please contact the Church Office (Tel 447 9969).

Website: [www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)

## Minister's Letter

### Dear Friends

I hope that, despite the weather, you have enjoyed the summer and the opportunities it brings for rest and relaxation, as well as the broadening of the mind as we visit new places and see new things.

Our own holiday this year in the south of Wales came to a rather abrupt end. The car broke down as we set



off on our way back north with the caravan in tow. The upshot was that instead of a leisurely drive north with a couple of stopovers on the way, we ended up back in Edinburgh in the “wee small hours” of the morning courtesy of the RAC, whose team of three different outfits transported us and our caravan (and the dogs) all the way home! (Apologies to any in Greenbank who were wakened by the noise or flashing lights that heralded our arrival!)

However it wasn't all bad. From the vantage point of the lorry cab we had a great view of the Welsh scenery. And we didn't have the stress of negotiating a busy motorway with all the heavy lorries (we had joined their ranks!). It was slightly worrying when we drove into a service station for a change of outfits and the driver admitted that he hadn't realised that with the caravan on the back of his transporter he was longer than an HGV!

Our early return left us with a weekend free in Edinburgh so we decided to make the most of it. We visited some of the sights, worshipped in St Giles Cathedral and joined the hordes of tourists in the Royal Mile. And we discovered that it was quite a different and a very enjoyable experience to be in the centre of Edinburgh without having to “watch the clock.” Within a short bus journey of home there is so much on offer. Yet how often do we become so caught up with work responsibilities or family com-

mitments that we fail to appreciate all that there is right on our doorstep?

And that holds good for other aspects of life too. It is all too easy to hurry past “pearls of great price” because we don't recognise them. As we move from summer to autumn may we remember to value the treasures that we have ac-

cess to every day, be they the sights of this city or the basic gifts of food and water that so many in our world lack.

There is a gift to seeing the special in the ordinary. In his poem “The Bright Field”, the Anglican priest R.S. Thomas writes about how people often spend their life searching for that something special when in fact the most special things are those moments of profound connection with God in the present – moments that are all too easily overlooked.

*... Life is not hurrying  
on to a receding future, nor hankering after  
an imagined past. It is the turning  
aside like Moses to the miracle  
of the lit bush, to a brightness  
that seemed as transitory as your youth  
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*

If we can teach our young people this then we will have given them a very precious gift indeed. Greenbank's YACHT project (Youth At CHurch Today), which is aimed at ensuring the long-term provision of a ministry to young people, enters its second year this September, and elsewhere in this *Leaflet* there is news of this. I would like to add my thanks to those who have contributed so generously already and encourage you to continue to back this project, through giving and supporting our fundraising events.

With warmest wishes,

**Alison I Swindells**  
Parish Minister

## The Scouting Movement

What's the enduring appeal of the Scouting movement which explains why, more than 80 years after the Scout Troop started at Greenbank, there are over 125 members in the four sections? Partly, it's hanging out with friends. Partly, it's being active, often outdoors, doing things which are a bit more daring than parents might allow. Whatever, the result is that most of the sections are full and some have waiting lists.



Forty Explorers (young people of 15–18 years) and leaders have just returned from an international jamboree at Haarlem in the Netherlands. Other activities have included walking the Lairig Ghru, going on a ghost tour – as well as packing bags at Waitrose to raise funds. The Scouts (boys of 10½–14) spent summer camp at Spean Bridge, and other highlights of the year included sailing at Queensferry, a high ropes course at Dunbar, and a couple of weekends ski-ing. The Cubs (boys of 8–10½) and the Beavers (boys of 6–8) run activities which are more hall-based but which include shorter camps at places like Bonaly.

Want to join? The Explorers and Scouts meet on Fridays (7.15pm–9.15pm) – please email [4thmorningsidescouts@gmail.com](mailto:4thmorningsidescouts@gmail.com). Cubs meet on Thursdays (6.30pm–8.00pm) and the best contact is Andy Stanley. Beavers meet on Tuesdays (6.30pm–7.30pm) and the email address is [greenbankbeavers@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankbeavers@gmail.com). But remember there may be a waiting list!

We're fortunate to have an enthusiastic team of leaders. But the Beavers could do with more help. No special experience is needed – just energy, patience and a sense of fun. Do email us if you can help.



## Girlguiding

### 162A/162 Guides (Wed/Thur) Guides

Guide units meet at Greenbank on Wednesday and Thursday evenings during term time and both have enjoyed a wide variety of activities over the past year. We have been lucky enough to have many new guides make the transition from Brownies throughout the year and look forward to welcoming more in the coming term.

We have marked many special dates this year with activities including making our own poppies to commemorate the centenary of World War One, taking part in some fun football games while learning about the women's world cup and even some light-hearted politics during election season!

Both units have strengthened their links with the wider community by visiting the Chamberlain Road care home and 'treating' the residents there to some Christmas carols, inviting our local community police officer for a fun and informative talk, joining our fellow Edinburgh girl guides and scouts at the annual Gang show and being visited by the education outreach team from Edinburgh Zoo who popped in armed with lots of interesting artefacts.

A lot of the programme for each term is based on ideas from the guides themselves. Our perennial favourites include ice skating at Murrayfield and a big Halloween party but we have also

held some educational (and fun) evenings learning about online safety, fair trade and have had some peer education sessions on positive body image.

In May we joined 188 guides to have a weekend under canvas at the nearby Trefoil campsite. The theme for our camp weekend was *The Movies*; whilst the sun was not quite shining we didn't spend too long 'singing in the rain' though it was very nearly 'gone with the wind'! It was the first time camping for many of the girls, who learned some essential camping skills and enjoyed the obligatory campfire complete with marshmallows! It proved to be a big success with lots of tired guides by the time Sunday afternoon came around. We followed this later the same week with another evening at Trefoil, trying our hand at archery and compass skills.

Our long-serving district commissioner and unit leader, Fiona Watt, has stepped down from her position over the summer and we held a farewell treasure hunt in Braidburn Valley Park on the last meeting of this session. We thank Fiona again for all her time and commitment shown to Girlguiding over the years.

We are always keen to hear from adult volunteers with a sense of fun, who would like to join the largest voluntary organisation for girls and women in the UK. If you would like more information on joining us as a guide or a volunteer, please contact us by email: [162aguides@gmail.com](mailto:162aguides@gmail.com); [162edinburghguides@gmail.com](mailto:162edinburghguides@gmail.com)

## Rainbows

Rainbows are the youngest members of Girlguiding and are for girls aged between 5 and 7 years. We meet on Thursdays between 6.30pm and 7.30pm in the Centenary Hall at Greenbank Parish Church.

Our main focus is the Rainbow Roundabout programme. This offers the girls a wide range of games, crafts, and other exciting things to do. Our Rainbows are encouraged, with support, to make their



own choices in learning and developing new skills. This is all done in an atmosphere of fun and friendship, always keeping in mind our Rainbow promise and close links to the other members of our Girlguiding family.

This year our Rainbows have been busy completing a range of activities for their Roundabout badges, which have included a Pampering Evening, Panda Party and a sensory walk in the Hermitage. We have also had fun making edible mud pies, try-



ing some Yoga Bugs moves and Parachute games in Braidburn Valley Park.

In addition our Rainbows have also enjoyed a "Rainbows Got Talent" evening, a trip to the King's Theatre Panto and our annual Division event, which this year was a Mad Hatter's themed Tea Party!

We are currently looking for adult volunteers. If you would like to know any more about this or Rainbows in general please contact:

**Christina Milne  
or Frances Wallace**

## 162Brownies

This has been a busy year for the 162nd Brownies! We have had three sleepovers which included a Great Brownie Bake Off where we baked bread and judged the leaders' cakes. We also baked a cake of the Meadows which was displayed at the Botanics at the CakeFest, and we had a very exciting night at Deep Sea World where we slept under the shark tank with lots of other Brownies. We had a super tour of the aquarium and enjoyed seeing all the fish, and also the sea lions.

We had an enjoyable Guy Fawkes campfire evening in November and for Mothers' Day we had a Body Shop Evening



where our Mums came along for some pampering and nail painting. We also became geologists for the night, doing volcano experiments to see what would happen when we combined different ingredients, and had a few explosions!

Our Division event involved a Mad Hatters Tea Party which was themed on *Alice in Wonderland* and at which we had lots of crafts, games and yummy food.

As you can see we get up to lots of fun activities and we're always looking for helpers, so whether you have a skill you'd like to share with us or you want to get involved more permanently, please get in touch (email [162greenbankbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:162greenbankbrownies@gmail.com)).

## 162B Brownies

Thursday Brownies enjoyed a fun filled year, including a weekend pack holiday to Stanemuir Brownie House, trips to the Royal Observatory and Murrayfield Ice

Rink, and visits from Kim of Hula Honeys for a great hooping workshop and students from the Edinburgh Archaeology Outreach Project. Donations were made to Cancer Research for a chance to take part in a very noisy and enjoyable drumming workshop with Infectious Grooves, and 16 Brownies ran five stalls over the afternoon at the YACHT Funday. We played outside a lot, despite the lack of sun and completed badges including Stargazer and Wildlife Explorer.

Snowy Owl Lynn Davie completed her leadership qualification, we welcomed our lovely new Tawny Owl, Mollie Kerry, who has been a great help, and were ably assisted by excellent Young Leaders Anna, Niamh and Sheena.

We continue to be very popular, with both Brownie packs having a waiting list, and nine new girls starting in the Thursday pack this term.

## Neighbourhood Group

### Volunteer driving

Could you offer a lift to a medical appointment occasionally?

Could you take someone to and from a Wednesday afternoon meeting of the Friendship Club at Greenbank Church?

If you could help in either way please call the Church Office (Tel 447 9969).

## Queen's Chaplain

Congratulations to the Rev Prof David Fergusson on his nomination as Queen's Chaplain – a well-deserved honour. His service of installation followed by a reception, to which all are welcome, will be held in Greenbank Church on **Wednesday 4th November at 7.00pm.**

## Greenbank Buskers

The Greenbank Buskers and friends have been doing what their name suggests and busking throughout the summer at the Farmers' Market in Castle Terrace, raising money for Scottish Love in Action ([www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org)).

They will be playing again at the YACHT Ceilidh on **26th September**. Don't miss it!

## Holiday Club – Polar Explorers

Ninety children from the Greenbank area attended our Holiday Club this year and what joy and excitement was generated as we all met together to be part of God's Great Expedition led by Bare Feet, the expedition scientist, and Sir Random Finds, a seasoned explorer. (You might know them as Bill Stone, our youth minister, and Gregor Hutchison, one of our young adults returning to Greenbank for the summer.)

As we went on our journey we learned that we can

never make too many mistakes  
never be too ordinary  
never be too near or far  
never be too bad  
never be too young  
never be too unlikely

to serve God.

We heard stories of leading characters from Acts, played games together – very loudly, used our creative skills in art and



craft activities, watched a video, enjoyed a daily episode of hilarious drama and made lots of friends. Every morning ladies from the Guild came to serve us juice and biscuits and to provide a very welcome tea and coffee for the leaders.

This was all possible because people of all ages from our congregation gave up their

For more pictures of  
Holiday Club, see our  
video on the  
Greenbank website!



time to lead the children and to help them have fun safely. For the team the reward was the sight of so many happy children in our halls and being part of such a happy group.

Thank you all!

## Monday Bible Study Group

This group restarts on **Monday 21st September at 7.30pm**, meeting at the church. We will continue using "The Four Great Loves" as a basis for the studies. New members are always welcome.

Joan Ritchie, Gillian Sweetman

## 70 Years of Christian Aid

In October 2015 Christian Aid turns 70. *That's 70 years of walking with their partners in solidarity; 70 years of struggle to overcome poverty; 70 years of believing that the mountains of inequality, corruption and injustice can be moved.* Watch their 70 Munros Challenge "What's it all about" video online, or follow the "online pilgrimage on the theme of mountains":

[www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/trekking/70-munro-challenge.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/trekking/70-munro-challenge.aspx)

[www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/reflections/mountaintop-experiences/index.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/reflections/mountaintop-experiences/index.aspx)

Jointly with other local churches we support the work of Christian Aid by organising the house to house collection each May and by organising several fund raising events each year. Recently these have included a fascinating evening with former BBC reporter Allan Little, and we ran a special fundraising event for Nepal to assist after the earthquakes struck. We'll keep you posted on future events and we hope we can count on your support.

May we say a note of thanks to those who attended the Spring Fair in May, helping us to raise **£2,080** for Christian Aid!

We plan to hold a Film Night on **Friday 16th October in the Centenary Hall at 7.30pm**, with proceeds going to Christian Aid; the main film to be "The 39 Steps". Tickets will be available in October from members of the committee or from the Church Office.



## The Open Door

The Open Door presents the return of Fred and Rita Daniels talking about Tibet, Syria and Lebanon with fabulous photographs – on **Saturdays 3rd and 24th October at 7.30pm** in Greenbank Church Centenary Hall.

Tickets, £10 for one talk or £15 for both, are available from the Open Door (Tel 447 9757) or the Church Office (Tel 447 9969) to order. Book now to avoid disappointment!

## Church Choir

Choir practices commence for the new session on **Thursday 17th September at 7.30pm** in the Braid Room. New members for all parts would be made most welcome. In particular the choir would welcome teenagers who would like to gain experience of choral singing.

If you are interested in joining please contact the Organist and Choirmaster, Alan Irvine (email [alan\\_r\\_irvine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alan_r_irvine@yahoo.co.uk)), or come and see him at the console after morning Service on a Sunday.

Alan Irvine

## Nile Grove Playgroup at Greenbank

Childcare for 2 ¼ – 5 year olds; 9.15am – 11.45am every week day during term time; £8.50 for 2 ½ hours.

Nile Grove Playgroup is a great place for your child to take their first steps towards independence, to socialise and play with other children! For more information see our website: [www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk) or telephone 07505 366 580 during playgroup hours.

# Greenbank's Alpha Course

Greenbank ran its first ever Alpha Course for 7 weeks after Easter. Alpha was started in 1977 at **Holy Trinity, Brompton**, a Church of England parish in London. The Alpha website describes the project as running in 169 countries, with over 24 million people having taken the course.

Alpha was started as a course for church members on the basics of the Christian faith but then began to be used as an introduction for those interested in the faith. The Kirk Session saw Greenbank's course doing both of these things. The Kirk Session's retreat at Duddingston in May 2014 prompted many elders to realise that their own faith could be strengthened by the kind of discussions which featured at the retreat. And the Session wanted to find ways to attract people who weren't currently church members. The way was paved for this summer's course by successful use of Alpha material by QII and Springboard.

In the event, all of the (16) people who came along on the 7 Wednesday evenings were Greenbank members, with about half being elders. The format of each evening was the same



and worked very well. As is the custom on Alpha Courses, we started with a meal (cooked by three Alpha males and two Alpha females!) – and we found that the meal was a great ice-breaker. Then we watched a video, featuring Rev Nicky Gumbel who has led the Alpha Courses since 1990. Over a cup of tea/coffee and excellent cakes, we had a discussion prompted by the video, in groups of 6 or 7.

After an introductory session “Is there more to life than this?”, based on Jesus's dictum “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”, we spent two weeks considering who Jesus was and why he died. Our fourth session was about how we can have faith. The next two sessions were about the Holy Spirit and its effect on our lives. We spent our final evening looking at what the church is, and could be. I was surprised by the videos. They were essentially a series of televised sermons by Nicky Gumbel, completely free of jazzy presentation. That suited me fine! I had expected a strongly fundamentalist approach, which I might not have been comfortable with - but I was completely at ease with the doctrinal approach. The videos gave us a good starting-point for our discussions. Our groups worked well. The ice had been broken by the family meal, and because we kept the same groups for all seven weeks we got to know each other well. No-one was under any obligation to say anything in particular but I think we all gained a lot from the others' experiences, which were surprisingly varied.

The attendance week-by-week was interesting. Naturally, some people couldn't manage 7 weeks running. But I think it's a tribute to the success of the course that nobody dropped out, and we always had at least 12 participants. At the end, we jotted down our opinion of the Course and here are some of the things people said: “very helpful and thought inspiring”; “I enjoyed the discussions over coffee and cake”; “I liked the chats/group work best”; “It was good to be exposed to different views”; “I enjoyed it and found it interesting but probably not helpful (for me)”; “We need more people – but not too many more!”; “It probably raised more questions than it resolved”; “It made me more aware of my faith”. The Course had an immediate effect (if a small one!) on Greenbank. Because two of us were gluten-intolerant, the cooks arranged gluten-free meals – but when it came to Communion on the final night of the Course, they could only take the wine. So, at the Communion at the beginning of June, gluten-free bread was served to everyone. But the Course wasn't really intended to alter worship at Greenbank, but rather to strengthen the individual knowledge and faith of those taking part. I'm sure it did so. The Kirk Session meeting in September will be considering a proposal to run the Course again before Easter.



**Duncan Macniven**

## Friendship Club

The Friendship Club is well named, so if you are a senior citizen living in the Greenbank area do come and join us and make some new friends. We meet on alternate Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Lower Hall, where a varied, interesting and entertaining programme of speakers awaits us, always followed by chat over tea and biscuits. We also have a monthly musical afternoon, a Christmas Party and a Summer Outing.

Our new session begins on **Wednesday 7th October** with the welcome return of Bill Barr with another of his fantastic Music and Colour presentations. So join us then, bring your friends and we will welcome you all. The annual subscription is £12 and includes refreshments.

For any further information contact **Val Smart or Margo Fraser**.

## Work Party

Our first meeting of the winter session will be held on **Thursday 1st October at 2.30pm** in the Hermitage Room and fortnightly thereafter.

If you enjoy knitting and want to help charities, come and join us, or, if you cannot come to meetings, why not knit for us at home?

This year we will be producing hats for the homeless, items for the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal, prem baby hats for Simpsons, knee rugs for Morlich House and jumpers, cardigans and baby blankets for the Edinburgh Clothing Store and Children 1st.

We are very grateful to all who generously donated wool to us over the last year. Remember we can always use leftover yarn, especially machine washable Double Knitting. It can be left at the Church Office or handed to me.

**Anne Oxbrow**

# GET GOING!

Are you a young adult?  
Struggling to get going with a career?  
Need some real experience for your CV?  
Some help applying for jobs?  
Or some help with basic IT skills?

**If YES - Greenbank Church's GET GOING programme may be for you**

We're looking to recruit up to 3 volunteers to work for 3-6 months in one of the following roles:

- Pre-school assistant
- Church office admin assistant
- Youth work assistant

We'd expect you to work for 3 days a week, allowing time for you to continue the search for paid employment.

As part of the placement, members of the congregation have committed to provide the volunteer with:

- Support updating CVs and completing job application forms
- Coaching in interview technique
- Help with basic IT skills
- General advice, mentoring

**If you'd like to see detailed role descriptions, discuss further, or obtain an application form, please visit [greenbankchurch.org](http://greenbankchurch.org) or email [mike@teall.co.uk](mailto:mike@teall.co.uk)**

## The Guild

The Guild is a church-based organisation for men and women that normally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from October to March. Most of our meetings are held in the Braid Room at 7.30pm. As well as a varied programme of talks we raise funds for one of the projects promoted by the national Church of Scotland Guild of which we are a part. This season we are supporting "Caring for mother earth", a Christian Aid project to assist villagers in Bolivia whose homes have been destroyed by severe floods; our funds will provide solar-powered ovens for cooking and for drying cocoa beans which bring the villagers an income. The use of solar power instead of wood reduces deforestation. We shall learn more about this at our meeting on 2nd February 2016 and our fund-raising event will be held on 16th February.

Our meetings are open to anyone who is interested in one of our topics and we are always delighted if newcomers then decide to join our fellowship as Guild members. Our first meeting this season is on 6th October when the topic is "Laughter is the best medicine". The life and work of Mary Slessor (1848-1915) is the subject of our meeting on 20th October.

Details of our syllabus and other information will be posted regularly on our webpage within the church website and on the Guild part of the notice boards in the Main Hall corridor of the church premises. Further information may also be obtained from the joint co-ordinators:

**Kathleen Patrick and Edith Armit**



Fresh Start is involved with those who move into their own accommodation after having been homeless. It works by providing starter packs of kitchen equipment, curtains and towels as well as small electrical goods, to help make a house a home.

The next collection dates for Fresh Start are on *20th September and 25th October 2015*, in the Main Hall before and after the 10.30am Service. There will be a reminder in the church notices on the Sunday before the collections.

Thanks to everyone who has responded in the past. The need for good quality items for the Starter pack is as great as ever.

A full list of items wanted appeared in the *May Leaflet* and can also be found on the Notice board in the Main Hall corridor. Information about Fresh Start and the services provided can also be found on [www.freshstartweb.org.uk](http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk).

**Alison Ambler**

## World Mission Committee

**Fairtrade.** The Committee has decided, for this coming year, to run only 3 stalls, in September, and at the end of November and February. It's important to keep 'Fair Trade' in our minds, both individually and as a congregation, so that farmers and craft workers will:

- receive a fair price for their work
- have access to good working conditions
- often benefit from a social premium for their community
- not be exploited by their employers.

The One World Shop's website <http://www.oneworldshop.co.uk/> gives more background.

We buy the goods for our stall from this shop, initially set up by George Shand, which has been located under St John's Church at the West end of Princes St for more than 20 years. However, at the beginning of October the shop is having to move out for at least 2 years and will be located under the Methodist Church in Nicolson Square. There is an online shop for those who can't get down there but if you would like specific things on our stall please speak to one of the Committee in advance of the next date - **13th September**.

**Pam Jack**

## Reading Group

The Reading Group meets on Mondays in the Pentland Room from 8pm to 9.30pm, the first meeting being on **28th September**. After a lively discussion of the book chosen for the evening, we have tea and a further chat. Please join us for an interesting evening.

The books selected for 2015-2016 are:

<b>2015</b>	Sept 28	<i>Between the Woods and the Water</i> by Patrick Leigh Fermor
	Nov 9	<i>Unapologetic</i> by Francis Spufford
<b>2016</b>	Jan 18	<i>Blood Brothers</i> by Elias Chacour
	Feb 8	<i>The Children Act</i> by Ian McEwan
	Apr 18	<i>Proof of Heaven</i> by Eben Alexander

For further information please contact

**Margot Fergusson or Vivien Hutchison**

# Welcome Teams

## September

- 6 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 13 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker, Alastair Ross
- 20 **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, David Easton, Susan Jackman
- 27 **John George**, Rhian Ferguson Alastair Hunter, Hazel Macaulay, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Bernard Mukwaira

## October

- 4 **John Rutherford**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones

# Faith Seeking Understanding

## A Series of Sunday Evening Talks

As in previous years, Greenbank is joining up with Morningside Parish Church and the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, in holding a series of talks on topics of current interest. This year, our series is entitled **Faith seeking Understanding** and, as usual, we have a number of speakers eminently qualified to try to bring some light to the issues we may face personally and collectively.

The programme for the series is:

- 6th September: **Jesus** – Professor Paul Nimmo
- 13th September: **God the Creator** – Professor David Fergusson
- 20th September: **The Bible in the Church – Mark's Gospel**  
– Professor Helen Bond
- 27th September: **Holy Communion** – Professor Susan Hardman-Moore

Talks are held in the halls at Morningside Parish Church (which sits at the corner of Cluny Gardens and Braid Road) at 7.00pm with refreshments being served from 6.30pm.

The strong line-up of speakers and the topics being considered should make this a fascinating series for thought and discussion. All are welcome to join us, whether for just a single evening or for the whole series.

# Greenbank Toddlers Group

This is a friendly group with lots of great toys and a large safe hall to play in. Come along with your child (age from birth to 3 years).

We meet on Thursday mornings (9.45am to 11.15am) and Friday mornings (10am to 11.30am) during school term-time. Come to one or both mornings! Coffee, tea and biscuits are provided for parents and some fruit for the children. There is a drop-in fee of £1.50 per session, or a subscription of £10 per term. Please contact

**Charis Walsh for the Thursday Group**  
**or Chloe Tervit for the Friday Group**

# Coffee Rota

## September

- 6 Communion – *no coffee*
- 13 Dorothy Whitehead (D89)
- 20 Rosemary McCulloch (D49 & D50)
- 27 (Harvest) Scouts

## October

- 4 Explorer Scouts



# Flower Rota



*Provided by*

*Delivered by*

## September

- |    |                          |                |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|
| 6  | Hazel Macaulay           | Janet Walker   |
| 13 | Armstrong/Clarke Wedding | Eleanor Winton |
| 20 | Christina Black          | Julia Dunbar   |
| 27 | (Harvest) Katy Maguire   | Pamela Jack    |

## October

- |   |                |               |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| 4 | Chrissie Munro | Alison Ambler |
|---|----------------|---------------|

# House Group

There is a house group for people who are interested in education and the Christian nurture of young people. Though the group is called the "Teachers' Group" it warmly welcomes anyone who shares its belief in the importance of the contribution children and young people make to the worship and life of the Church, and sees them as an integral and vibrant part of the church community.

The programme covers a wide range of topics which are usually introduced by guest speakers from the congregation.

Meetings are lively, friendly and informal and are held every six weeks. If you want more information, please contact Jim Thomson.

# Ladies' Badminton Club

The Ladies' Badminton Club meets every Wednesday morning in the Main Hall from 9.30am to 11.30am when we play doubles in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

If you enjoy playing badminton or even if it's a while since you last used a racquet you will be made most welcome.

The session begins on Wednesday 16th September so do please consider joining us for a morning of exercise and fun in equal measure.

What to bring? A racquet (if you have one) and a sense of humour!

For more information please contact

**Susan Black or Diana Hastings**

Material for the October *Leaflet* should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 13th September, or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 15th September to [greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com](mailto:greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com)

## Country Dance Club

The Country Dance Club meets on Wednesday evenings in the Centenary Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. During the evening we learn or revise eight dances, which are taught by a qualified teacher, with a break for a cup of tea and a chat. It is advisable for new members to have some knowledge of basic Country Dance steps.

We shall be delighted to welcome new members at our first meeting on **Wednesday 23rd September**.

For further information please contact

**June Craig or Linda MacDonald**

## Bookstall

There is a Bookstall in the Main Hall after the 10.30am Service four times a year. The next Bookstall will be on **Sunday 4th October**. We bring a selection of books on a variety of religious topics and for all ages from the Cornerstone Bookshop for you to browse through and purchase if you wish.

If there are any titles you would like to see on the Bookstall, please contact us.

**John and Joan Ritchie**

## YACHT Campaign

As this campaign enters its second year we continue our fund raising efforts. We are determined to raise sufficient money to secure the employment of a Youth Minister over the long term.



This year the dedicated YACHT events kick off with an all age **Ceilidh** in the Church hall on the evening of **26th September**. All are welcome to enjoy some exhilarating music from the Ceilidh Band and individual performers; an “early or late” buffet; and refreshments. Some of our former members of Quest/QII will be coming back to see us then and so you may see some old friends. And all this for just £15 per adult and £1 per child under 12. Tickets are still available after Church Services or from the Church Office (Tel 447 9969, email [greenbankchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:greenbankchurch@btconnect.com)).

Then on the afternoon of **3rd October, 2pm–5pm**, we hold our silent **Auction**

and **Sale of Skills and Talents**; and display of Photographs received to feature in the 2016 Greenbank Calendar.

Catalogues for the Auction will be available after Church Services from 20th September; can also be viewed from then on-line on the Greenbank website; and will be available at the door on the day. Also see if you agree with the judges in their selection of the photographs for the 2016 Church Calendar – and make some early Christmas purchases by buying the calendar.

**Jim Young**

## QII at Taizé

This summer both our Springboard and QII Youth groups went on trips to visit sacred destinations. Springboard spent six days on the Isle of Iona, and QII travelled to Taizé, France. We'd like to tell you about our time in Taizé this month, and will look forward to telling you about our trip to Iona very soon.

The Taizé community was founded in 1940 by a Swiss Christian named Roger Schütz, better known as Brother Roger.



Concerned for those being affected by the war, Roger travelled by bicycle from Lausanne, Switzerland (where he had been attending university) towards the demarcation line in the Burgundy region of France. After searching for a suitable location, he bought a home in Taizé with the intention of looking after refugees. Many people came to Roger's door looking for help, and none were turned away. Even in these early days, Brother Roger kept to a routine of prayer three times a day alongside his chores.

In 1942 Brother Roger's house was raided by the Gestapo, and he was forced to flee to Geneva until France was liberated in 1944. While in Geneva, however, he was able to recruit three additional men to join his community. As soon as they were able, they returned to Taizé to look after those affected by the war. This included reconciliation work between the Germans and French living in the surrounding area, and caring for orphans. Brother Roger and his colleagues visited the German POW camps and even had

the prisoners as guests at their house for dinner—much to the dismay of the local community.

As time went on, the small community of Taizé grew. New members joined, and the number of visitors increased. Taizé began to attract more and more young people who came to spend time with the community in prayer and silent reflection. Today Taizé welcomes tens of thousands of young people from all around the world.

In July, seven of us travelled down from Greenbank to spend a week with the community. We were joined by almost three thousand teenagers and young adults from Germany, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Sweden, and the United States.

Once we arrived in Taizé—after a journey that took us by train from London to Paris and on to Mâcon, followed by a bus ride through the countryside—we quickly settled into a slower rhythm of life. A normal day was structured around morning, afternoon, and evening prayers in the chapel. These were between 20 and 30 minutes long, and included lots of singing, and about ten minutes of silence. We also had morning and afternoon meetings with small groups of eight to ten people to discuss our faith and look more closely at the day's Bible passages.

In the afternoons and evenings there were optional workshops that featured speakers on a variety of topics like the debt crisis in the Eurozone, or the music of Africa. Our group would either go along to these, or hang out with new friends at Oyak, the Taizé cafe, where you could get ice cream for 25p.



Coming home, our group was sad to leave behind this special place, and the new friends that we'd made. One QIIer said, “One thing I will never forget is the sense of belonging you develop so quickly when you're there.” Our week at Taizé went very quickly, and we have come home full of memories, and hopes. One of those is to find a way to bring some of the magic of Taizé back to Greenbank, and we'll be thinking about how to do that in the weeks and months ahead.

**Bill Stone**