

Greenbank Connections



March 2017

Issue 659

Scottish Charity SCO11325

New Elders

Ten new elders were ordained during the
10.30am Service on Sunday 12th February 2017



*John Adair, Christina Black, Ulrike Buchan, Janet Edwards, Carrie Reid,
Lorna Perriss, Lyndsay Kennedy, Jenny Wright, Moira Small, Moira Little*

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends



I've just about recovered from the jet lag caused by my trip to Pittsburgh, but the impressions of that trip remain strong...

- Arriving in the States the day after the Presidential Inauguration...
- Internal flights filled to capacity with people, particularly women, who had been joining marches all over the country...
- Concerns in the Churches about discrimination on the grounds of race or religion...
- A more subdued and uncertain air than last year...
- The supportive environment of Seminary and peer group...
- The daily worship services in the seminary chapel including several passionate sermons by African-American preachers... (I have to confess that I didn't go to the service where the congregation were encouraged to respond to the Word of God by participating in yoga moves – so you don't need to worry too much there!)

And of course there are the personal feelings that accompany this stage of the course...

- A sadness that this was the last teaching block of the DMin and the last time when our peer group will meet together (unless we all manage to complete our projects in time for graduation in Pittsburgh in 2018!) ...
- A sense of anticipation as I look forward to an elective – 10 days in the Netherlands at the beginning of March looking at how congregations there are responding to secularism...
- Gratitude to the Church of Scotland for a generous study leave scheme that not only allows ministers two weeks a year but allows that leave to be accumulated to enable us to participate in a programme like this...
- Appreciation of the willingness of Peter Graham to cover for me so that I know that everything is well taken care of in my absence...
- The interest which many of you have shown in the programme...
- And most of all a sense of blessing and a renewal of calling in the return to academic study after twenty years in ministry...

And then of course there is still the ongoing challenge of ascertaining where the future of that ministry lies...

We live in turbulent times. Sometimes the uncertainties are the big issues over which we seem to have little or no control. At other times the uncertainties we experience come much closer to home and faith is sorely tested. And I'm reminded of the question posed by the BB hymn, "Will your

anchor hold in the storms of life?" And the answer given by the chorus of that hymn:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll
Fastened to the rock which cannot move
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's
love.*

It is my prayer that you may know the blessing of God's love in the midst of the storms that you encounter in this life.

With warmest wishes,

Alison I Swindells
Parish Minister

Pulpit Diary

Mar 3 Friday

10.30am World Day of Prayer (at Greenbank)

Mar 5 First Sunday in Lent

9.00am Communion

10.30am Communion (Young Church meets as usual)

3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

Mar 12 Second Sunday in Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

Mar 19 Third Sunday in Lent

(Lent/Easter Appeal begins)

10.30am Morning Worship with Annual Meeting

Mar 26 Fourth Sunday in Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

Apr 2 Fifth Sunday in Lent

9.30am First Sunday Service led by the House Group

10.30am Morning Worship (End of second Term for Young Church)

Lent Studies 2017

This year's series of four discussions will be on the Gospel of Mark. It will be loosely based on the book by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, called "*Meeting God in Mark*", but it is hoped that the discussion will range widely.

The meetings start on **Monday 13th March at 7.30pm in the Braid Room**, and continue on the three subsequent Mondays, **20th and 27th March and 3rd April**. The Adult Education Committee will welcome you to any or all of these meetings, which will be led by different members of the congregation. Tea and coffee will be available from

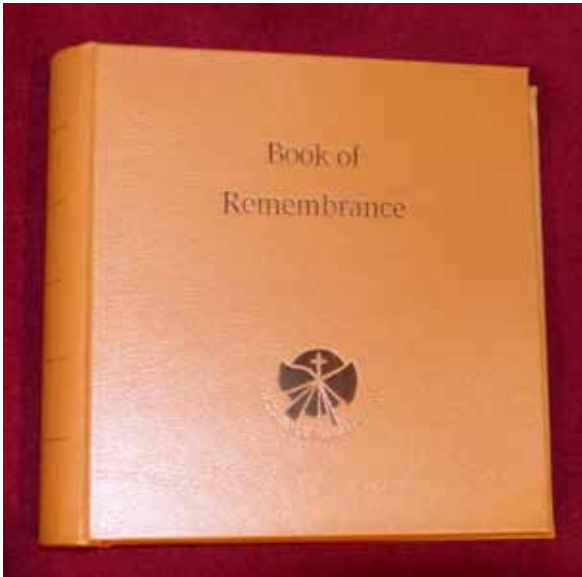
7.15pm. Each session will last for around an hour.

"Rowan Williams at his simplest is a joy" said one reviewer of the book, which besides questions has reflections to stimulate discussion. There is no requirement to have a copy, nor indeed to have read it before coming to a meeting, but copies have been available for purchase on Sunday mornings, and will be available again on **Sunday 12th March**.

The book, which costs £8.99, is also available at the Cornerstone Bookshop next to St John's Church in Lothian Road.

Adult Education Committee

Greenbank Book of Remembrance



Thanks to a generous donation we have been able to place in the Church a **Book of Remembrance**. The background for the vellum pages was designed by one of our own young people, Clare Sommerville. If you know of someone who lived in Greenbank or was a member here before they died and would like to place a page in the Book in memory of them, then please contact the Church Office for further information.

Alison Swindells

Christian Aid Week

14–20 May 2017



For Christian Aid, 2016 was one of the most challenging years in recent history. However, the organisation is happy to report that it responded to the challenges, with the help of its many supporters. In 2017, it will continue vital partnership work in close to 40 countries around the world. The 60th anniversary of Christian Aid Week will be celebrated alongside some fantastic new events. This is where you come in once again. Christian Aid week may seem far away, but preparation work is starting now and we need a team of collectors to cover all the streets in the parish. Thanks again to those who collected last year and I hope that most of you will also collect this year. I shall be contacting you over the next few weeks but for anyone who is thinking of 'retiring' as a collector and/or has already booked a holiday for the above dates I would be very grateful if you could "ask a friend" to take over your houses, preferably before I speak to you!

I know that I will need some new collectors to share the load. Please contact me if

you would like to play a part in this important and rewarding mission, which has always been strong in Greenbank. It takes up to about an hour to deliver the envelopes and about 3 hours collection time through the week. Most people do this over 2 early evening slots and sometimes couples take on an area together. A Collector's Guide with plenty of useful information is provided to each helper.

Last year's total for the house-to-house collection amounted to **£4,265**. Gift Aid, although slightly less than the previous year, still helped to gain extra income over and above what was put into the envelopes. Again, I am very grateful for all the support and help you gave me. I am, as always, looking for administrative help nearer the time to assist me in preparing the bags/envelopes for collectors and also for counting up on the 21st May, after the main service.

My contact details are:

Pam Jack
(Email pamelajack06@gmail.com)



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Please note that the next date for Fresh Start collection is on **19th March** at the Sunday Service (table in Main Hall).

There is a continuing need for good quality items for the starter pack scheme, and cleaning things such as jay cloths, dish cloths and yellow dusters are always useful. See the panel for a full list of household

goods wanted. Thank you to everyone who donated items in good condition or indeed new items, last month.

Many thanks to those who have been donating good quality, and sometimes new, household items.

For more information about Fresh Start, pick up a leaflet from me, see www.fresh-startweb.org.uk or telephone 476 7741.

Alison Ambler



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, dustpans and brushes, pedal bin liners, rubbish bags, all-purpose cleaner, laundry tablets.

Bed Linen, Linen and Towels, etc.

Single, double and king size sheets duvet covers and duvets, pillow cases, blankets, towels, face cloths, curtains.

Small Household Electrical Items (not TVs)

Includes kettles, toasters, lamps, vacuum cleaners, irons, radios, DVD players, microwaves, music systems.

The Guild

We had an excellent evening in February with Margaret Boe who showed us her amazing quilts, colourful, fun and inspiring, and told us about the making of them with great good humour.

We will start March with the **World Day of Prayer** service on **Friday the 3rd**. The Guild will serve coffee from **10.30am** and lead the service at **11am**. All are very welcome to this service, prepared by the women of the Philippines.

On **7th March** Andrew Gibb gives a talk entitled **No Stranger to these Courts** – which sounds intriguing, and we finish our programme of meetings on **21st March** with the **ABM** and a talk by Maggie Shearer on the **Ferrywell Youth Project**.



Edith Armit

ECO news from Greenbank Pre School

Greenbank Pre School flies an ECO flag, awarded for meeting ECO targets. The staff, parents and children continue to develop their ECO policies, under the leadership of Mrs Ahn Uhm and Mrs Kyra Okoth.

The children appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the Greenbank Reverse Advent Calendar and continue to collect for the food bank and used clothing bin – which is just inside the west door. This term they will also be collecting baby clothes.

Parents turned out in March 2016 for a BIG DIG which saw the redevelopment of the garden – they made planters and a bug hotel and planted a willow arch. A second



BIG DIG is planned this March to develop the use of planters to grow vegetables. We are also working to reduce paper and food waste and source more produce from local suppliers – when we cannot grow our own! We use ECO friendly cleaning materials.

Greenbank Pre School is a partner provider offering morning or afternoon places for 3–5 year olds. We

currently have some afternoon spaces: further information and application forms can be found on our website: www.greenbankpreschool.org.uk

Joan Ritchie, Chair of the Management Committee

Friendship Club

Sadly, following the death of her husband Tam, Kathleen Dalyell will no longer be speaking to us on **8th March**. We hope that Charlotte Fleming of the Scottish Wildlife Trust will give her talk on '*Operation Osprey*', postponed from 16th October last year. On **15th March** Kathleen has a seasonal choice of music for us to listen to, and we end our session with a talk on '*Sundials Old and New*' by Alastair Hunter, a long-

time member of Greenbank.

We then look forward to our Outing on **Wednesday 10th May** when we hope to see '*Sinbad the Sailor*' as performed by the Purves Puppets in their delightful little Victorian Theatre in Biggar. There will be more information about this in next month's *Connections*, but please put the date in your diaries now.

Val Smart

Burns Supper

in aid of the YACHT Campaign



Saturday the 28th January decided to be truly dreich, however this didn't stop a full house of 100 guests attending the Greenbank Church Burns Supper in aid of the ongoing YACHT Campaign.

The evening commenced with a drinks reception before Niall Morrison piped everyone into dinner, and what a dinner it was! Chris and Rachel Rowley of Ballintaggart Farm cooked the most exquisite food with many people comparing it to a five star restaurant. We dined on home-cured salmon, gourmet haggis and delicious desserts, all served by our own enormously

talented and capable young people from Young Church.

Before the meal Steven Chaffee showed us that he has acclimatised quickly by giving us a faultless Selkirk Grace.

Donald MacLeod addressed the haggis with true verve and passion before Richard Dunbar executed a humorous and most thought-provoking Immortal Memory.

Kenny Htet-Khin toasted the lassies with panache and Charlotte Tucker graciously replied on behalf of the gals!

Music interspersed the speeches with performances. Lindsay Kennedy sang



Ae Fond Kiss beautifully. Tom Inglis sang and played the concertina in a moving *Afton Water*. The entertainment ended with the stunning voice and talent of Lorna Htet-Khin playing the clar-sach and singing



John Anderson, My Jo and *Scots Wha Hae*. The night concluded with a keenly contested auction to raise funds for the YACHT campaign, skilfully auctioneered by Malcolm Reid. Thanks are given to all those

who kindly and generously donated prizes for the draw and auction items.

Thanks are also due to David Henderson who provided the wines and refreshments and to everyone who made it such a fun and memo-

orable evening. Over the evening £4,200 was raised for the YACHT Campaign.

Shall we do it all again next year?

Kirsten Pink and Carrie Reid

World Day of Prayer

11am on Friday 3rd March 2017 at Greenbank Parish Church

On Friday 3rd March over 600 services will be held in Scotland on the theme of *Am I being unfair to you?* The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service, based on the Bible passage Matthew 20 v 1-16, and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects to be used throughout the whole world on 3rd March.

This Day of Prayer is for everyone and there will be a service for the Morningside churches at Greenbank Parish Church. The service will be held in the Braid Room at 11.00am with coffee served from 10.30am in the Hermitage room. Everyone will be most welcome at the service.

Margaret Barrowman

“Before the Flood”



Greenbank's World Mission Team has been watching excerpts from this recently made film (September 2016). In it, actor Leonardo DiCaprio meets with scientists, activists and world leaders to discuss the dangers of climate change and possible solutions. It is a documentary offering crucial, current information, as well as a measure of hope. We would commend it. (Perhaps a congregational viewing can be organised.)

David Ferguson

Life and Work: March 2017

Church and Play

Jackie Macadam learns about *Godly Play*, a different approach to working with children in the Church

A Life of Service

Jackie Macadam meets writer and storyteller Irene Howat

'You Feel More Dead than Alive'

Thomas Baldwin meets a young minister aiming to end the stigma around mental illness

'I Know How You Feel'

Three contributors explain why offering sympathy to those suffering chronic or long-term illness is better than trying to empathise with their condition

A Time for Reflection

Ron Ferguson considers the place of Lent in today's turbulent world.

A Changed and Changing Environment

The Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr highlights the lessons to be learned from the innovative farming communities of Perthshire.

Sacred Space on Your Desktop

The Very Rev Albert Bogle explains why the internet can be a touching place for the presence of God

Opening Doors

In the final part of his series, the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan considers an unlikely escape from prison

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.20

Online, visit us at www.lifeandwork.org for regular news and exclusive features, or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

The **Gaelic Supplement for March** is available as a free download from our website: www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/gaelic-supplement

If you would like an email notification when it becomes available, please email us: magazine@lifeandwork.org



Christian Aid Event with Ian Rankin

**Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm
Fairmilehead Parish Church**

Ian Rankin is perhaps one of the world's best known crime authors. His books have been translated into 22 languages and it's difficult to walk past a bar in Edinburgh without wondering if Rebus is lurking inside mulling over clues from his latest unsolved case.

To help understand how Ian Rankin moved from being a grape-picker to dominating the UK literary scene, come to our local Christian Aid Committee's latest "conversation" event, when Ian Rankin is interviewed by the entertaining Eleanor Updale.

The event will take place on **Wednesday 19th April, at 7.30pm in Fairmilehead Parish Church**. The vote of thanks will be given by Ian Murray MP. Tickets are **£8 each**, with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.

David Ferguson

One World Shop Certificate of Achievement

Extract of email sent to Pam Jack:

“Congratulations!

We are delighted to be sending your annual *One World Shop Certificate of Achievement* which highlights the total value of Fair Trade products you have bought from us during 2016. Thanks a million to all of you for your continued support of the marginalised workers and farmers in developing countries that we trade with. Your contribution really makes a difference. Fairtrade Fortnight is just around the corner (27th February–12th March) and the theme is *It's Time to Put Fairtrade in your Break*. Why not join us and thousands of campaigners, schools, businesses and places of worship across the UK and put on an event to do just that.”

There will be a **One World Stall on Sunday 2nd April** which will include Easter Eggs and other Easter items.

Pam Jack

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

THIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO

GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH

**FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO FAIR TRADE IN 2016
AND RAISING SALES OF**

£848.37



ONE WORLD SHOP
25 Nicolson Square
Edinburgh
EH8 9BX

www.oneworldshop.co.uk

Lorna Kelly
SIGNATURE

17th January 2017
DATE

Open Door Fundraising Talk

*The Inspirational FRED DANIELS
Member of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society
shares his Golden America Adventure:*

From Chicago to Yellowstone



**on Saturday April 1st 2017
at Greenbank Parish Church, 7.30pm–9pm
Tickets £6 or 2 for £10**

Fred has travelled to more than 80 countries over 30 years sharing his adventures with you through fantastic photography and his hugely entertaining account

Ticket prices include wine and nibbles

Tickets can be purchased at **The Open Door**

420 Morningside Road

or call 0131 447 9757 or email

dolina.gorman@thependoor-morningside.org.uk



Scouts @ Greenbank

Be prepared for "probably the best..."

JUMBLE

sale

...in Edinburgh"

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017 : 9.30am – 12 noon
GREENBANK CHURCH, BRAIDBURN TERRACE, EH10 6ES

- ★ clothes - adults & children
- ★ small furniture
- ★ toys
- ★ books - adults & children
- ★ electricals
- ★ jewellery
- ★ bric a brac
- ★ dvds, cds & lps
- ★ sports gear
- ★ garden furniture
- ★ lighting
- ★ home baking, teas & coffees

4th Morningside Scout Group is registered as a Charity, number CR43781.

Adults £2

What are you *taking up* for Lent?

A few days after you receive this edition of Greenbank Connections we'll be in the season of the Christian year called Lent. This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is on 1st March. But what is Lent about?

Most of us will have heard people talking about what they are giving up for Lent – normally something they relish, like milk chocolate or a glass of wine, or something they really enjoy doing. But Lent isn't a killjoy thing that is all about taking the champagne bubbles out of life. No, we give up something we enjoy so that we can concentrate on God, on glorifying him, on enjoying him for ever and on finding out how enjoying God works in our lives. So it's about getting our priorities back in focus and clearing the dross out of our thoughts, words and deeds.

So if we are to give up something we really enjoy so that we can really enjoy God, how does that work? This brings us back to the second vow of Church membership: "I promise to be faithful in reading the Bible and in prayer." If we're really to enjoy God, then we have to spend, not the odd

5 minutes here and there, but quality time with him every day – listening to what he is saying to us through the Bible and sharing with him what's on our minds and in our hearts. And the more we discover about who God is and what he is like, the greater our enjoyment of him will be.

I've already suggested that Lent is about giving something enjoyable up so that we can take something more enjoyable up. It was John Bell of the Iona Community who took this idea further, saying that in Lent we need to move away from the "giving up" idea to the "taking up" idea. Taking up care and concern, not only for the huge international, national, political and social issues facing us, but for the people who are caught up in them and sometimes damaged by them. Taking up compassion so that care and concern is translated into action to make a different, better and more just and peaceful world and nation. Taking up working with others to achieve this different world.

So what are you giving up for Lent?... and, even more important, what are you taking up for Lent?

John Fraser

Lent/Easter Appeal 2017



Three nominations for our Lent/Easter Appeal charity were received from members. After discussion at the January Congregational Board meeting it was agreed that *The Open Door* in Morningside Road will be this year's recipient.

Alan Ramage

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the
on-line version of
Greenbank Connections*

Coffee Rota

March

- 5 Communion
- 12 Wednesday Badminton Club
- 19 World Mission Group
- 26 Clifford Hastings (D61A)

April

- 2 Janet & David Ferguson
(D26, D28 & D13)



Flower Rota

Provided by  *Delivered by*

March

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 | Jean Denison | Rosemarie
Crawford |
| 12 | Doreen Milliken | Jill Mundy |
| 19 | Rona Sommerville | Ann Pirie |
| 26 | Anne Morham
& Isobel Brown | Pauline Walker |

April

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| 2 | Janet Ferguson | Joan Cameron |
|---|----------------|--------------|

Crèche Rota



March

- | | | |
|----|---------------|--------------------|
| 5 | Anne Kinnear | Jenny Wright |
| 12 | Ailsa Cameron | Janet Ferguson |
| 19 | Lorna Perriss | Eileen
McKinnon |
| 26 | Isobel Thom | Ailsa Cameron |

April

- | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| 2 | Ailsa Cameron | Jenny Wright |
|---|---------------|--------------|

Welcome Teams

March

- 5 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Catriona Black
- 12 **Keith Winton**, Eileen Campbell, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 19 **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, Susan Jackman
- 26 **John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Diana Teasdale, Mark Fergusson

April

- 2 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay

Greenbank Calendar: March 2017

March

1 Wed	12.30	Mid-Week Prayer Group*
3 Fri	11.00	World Day of Prayer Service
5 Sun		First Sunday in Lent
5 Sun	9.00	Communion
5 Sun	10.30	Communion
5 Sun	15.00	Communion
7 Tues	19.30	Guild
8 Wed	12.30	Mid-Week Prayer Group*
8 Wed	14.30	Friendship Club
8 Wed	19.30	Country Dance Club
9 Thurs	14.30	Work Party
12 Sun		Second Sunday in Lent
12 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
12 Sun	12.00	Connections deadline
13 Mon	19.30	Lent Studies
15 Tues	9.00	Connections email deadline
14 Tues	19.00	Trustees Meeting
14 Tues	19.30	Kirk Session Meeting
15 Wed	12.30	Mid-Week Prayer Group*
15 Wed	14.30	Friendship Club (Music)
15 Wed	19.30	Country Dance Club
19 Sun		Third Sunday in Lent
19 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship (Annual Business Meeting during Service)
20 Mon	19.30	Lent Studies
21 Tues	19.30	Guild, ABM
22 Wed	12.30	Mid-Week Prayer Group*
22 Wed	14.30	Friendship Club
22 Wed	19.30	Country Dance Club
23 Thurs	14.30	Work Party
25 Sat	16.00	Messy Church
26 Sun		Fourth Sunday in Lent
26 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
27 Mon	19.30	Lent Studies
29 Wed	12.30	Mid-Week Prayer Group*
29 Wed	19.30	Country Dance Club

*Check previous Sunday's Order of Service to confirm that the event is running

April

2 Sun		Fifth Sunday in Lent
2 Sun	9.30	First Sunday Service, led by the House Group
2 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
3 Mon	19.30	Lent Studies
5 Wed	12.30	Mid-Week Prayer Group*
8 Sat	9.30	Scout Jumble Sale

The pastoral team can be contacted through the Church Office or directly:

Rev Alison Swindells

tel and fax: 0131 447 4032

email: alisonswindells@blueyonder.co.uk

Rev W. Peter Graham

tel: 0131 445 5763

For information about church organisations, please contact the Church Office:

*(Mon–Fri, 8.30am–12.00 noon,
1.30pm–3.00pm)*

Mrs Virginia Johnston

tel and fax: 0131 447 9969

email: greenbankchurch@btconnect.com

To make contact with any organisation featured in Greenbank Connections, please use the telephone number given, if there is one. Otherwise please contact the Church Office.

Website: www.greenbankchurch.org

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

Material for the April issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 12th March, or emailed by 9am on Tuesday 14th March to greenbankconnections@gmail.com