

# Greenbank Connections



May 2017

Issue 661

Scottish Charity SCO11325



*Trainspotting author, Irvine Welsh, launches SLA's Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge (see page 12)*

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends



In my last letter I explained that I had accepted an invitation to preach for the linked congregations of Barthol Chapel and Tarves in Aberdeenshire. I did this on 2nd April and I am pleased to say that all went well. I have now received and accepted the call and Thursday 18th May has now been fixed as a provisional date for the service of induction. The date is provisional because the call still has to be sustained by Gordon Presbytery at their meeting on 2nd May, but as all the usual requirements have now been or are in the process of being met, we are not anticipating any problems. This means that I will be finishing at Greenbank on **Sunday 7th May** to allow time for us to move house and for me to prepare to take up the responsibilities of a new and very different ministry.

It will be good to be together with Sean again and I am looking forward to returning to the north-east and getting to know the congregations of Tarves and Barthol Chapel. However at the same time I am sad to be leaving Greenbank. You have taught me so much. Your vision for the future, your commitment to young people, your energy and enthusiasm for the work of Christ's church are inspiring, and it has been a privilege to be your minister. However even as I believe God is calling me to serve elsewhere, I'm sure that even now someone is being prepared to journey with you into a new stage in your congregational life together.

In some ways it seems very appropriate that I should be writing this letter on this particular weekend. It is Easter and Easter is, after all, about ending and beginning, death and resurrection. From that so final end of Jesus' life on Good Friday, we move on Easter Sunday to the rolling away of the stone and the discovery of an empty tomb. We hear the Easter acclamation of faith. *"He is not here! He is risen! Hallelujah!"* Meanwhile in the darkness of an empty tomb the God of love has worked a miracle of forgiveness, resurrection and new life.

And we are invited to look at this Easter event through the eyes of faith and see that this miracle is not for Jesus' benefit, but rather that it has significance for the whole of creation. As the theologian,

William Willimon writes, *"On Easter morning we stand upon the precipice of a strange and wonderful, although confusing and badly shaken new world."*

And so as I sit in the midst of the sorting and clearing, and the office shredder is red hot, and boxes of books disappear to the Christian Aid Bookstall – all these signs of an ending – I give thanks that for all of us Easter also contains within it God's promise of a new beginning.

With warmest wishes.

**Alison I Swindells**  
**Parish Minister**

## Pulpit Diary

### May 7

- 9.30am First Sunday Service  
led by Kirk Session
- 10.30am Morning Worship  
with Farewell to the Minister,  
Followed by Congregational  
Lunch

### May 14

- 10.30am Morning Worship

### May 21

- 10.30am Morning Worship

### May 28

- 10.30am Morning worship

### Jun 4 Pentecost

- 9.00am Communion
- 10.30am Communion (Springboard and  
Young Church meet as usual)
- 3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

# Annual Business Meeting

## Sunday 19th March 2017

The Minister constituted the meeting with prayer.

Preses of the Congregational Board, Roddy Morrison, chaired the meeting. He thanked all those who work hard for the Board, including Property Convener, David Allan and the Work Squad (volunteers from the Congregation) for all the property improvements during 2016. Also thanked were Gillian Sweetman (Health, Safety and Security Convener), Angus McLachlan (Fire Safety Adviser), Alan Armit (Halls Convener), Alan Ramage (Clerk to the Board), Joshua Manyao (Beadle), Mirek Pociask (Church Caretaker/Handyman), Brian Webster (Church Cleaner) and Ginny Johnston (Church Administrator). The Preses thanked all the members of the Board, and asked for volunteers to serve on the Board or help with the Work Squad.

David Allan reported that the generosity of the congregation for the *Light a Light* appeal had enabled the Church to convert all the lights in the Centenary building to LEDs, well beyond what was thought possible. However replacing lights in the Lower Hall led to its being redecorated by the Work Squad.

The intelligent heating system has been a great success. It took time to iron out the early teething difficulties but it was close to operating at maximum efficiency.



*Roddy Morrison, Preses*

All the emergency lights in the Centenary and Hub buildings had to be replaced at a cost of £6,000 following a complete failure.

The new Eco-Congregation Group had been an excellent innovation. It had identified many opportunities for saving energy.

David Jack wrote a monthly column in Connections and the group had set out a challenging agenda for itself.

Last November, it was discovered that £13,000 worth of unexpected stonework repairs were required urgently. The tower on the Main Hall (the original Church building) is rotten and needs at least temporary demolition at a cost of around £10,000. Replacing it could cost £39,000. The tower function as part of the ventilation system is now redundant, and so the Property Committee was currently in discussion with Presbytery, the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland and Edinburgh City Council Planning and Building Control Departments to see whether it must be rebuilt or not. The spire above the church has been painted to avoid a repeat of the Tower.

The Property Convener thanked the members of his Committee and the Church staff for their help and hard work.

The Treasurer, John Ritchie, spoke to the Management accounts for the year to 31st December 2016 which had been distrib-

uted. The Statutory Accounts which go to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator were with the independent examiner at present. The total *ordinary income* of the Church in 2016 had been £269,531 which was a reduction of £18,120 on the previous year. The Treasurer was concerned, and he drew the congregation's attention to the costs for 2017 which were estimated at £270,000. The tax recovered by gift aid had amounted to £49,643. The gift aid recovery was undertaken by Michael Struthers assisted by Alan Ramage. Other *general income* had amounted to £40,372 and included income from congregational organisations and charges for the use of the halls including the Pre-School and Nile Grove. The largest expense had been £143,545 for *Ministries and Mission* paid to the Church of Scotland and Presbytery dues paid to the Presbytery of Edinburgh. This contribution paid for the minister and contributed to the wider work of the Church. *Local Staffing* was the pay costs of the church administrator, the caretaker/handyman, the church cleaner, the organist, the beadle and the costs of ministerial assistance. This had

amounted to £50,385. The Youth Minister's salary was charged to the YACHT fund.

The Treasurer thanked his predecessor Robert Young for his help and also the Assistant Treasurers, Michael Struthers and Kathryn Sangster, and Alan Ramage for their help.

The Preses announced that after discussion the Board had selected the Open Door for the Lent Appeal. He thanked the Elders retiring from the Board having served their term: Ian Thom, Robert Young, Helen Barnes, Margot Fergusson, and Donald Macleod, and those retiring on becoming elders: Carrie Reid, Ulrike Buchan and Lyndsay Kennedy. David Ferguson, Susan Inch, John Rutherford, Stuart Sanders and Keith Winton had been appointed as Kirk Session representatives on the Board for three years. Tony Foster had been nominated to the Board. The congregation approved.

The Minister expressed warm appreciation to the Preses, Roddy Morrison, for his role in leading the Board. The meeting concluded with a prayer of commitment.

**Alan Ramage**  
*Clerk to the Congregational Board*

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## Friendship Club

We have almost come to the end of this Session when we've been entertained by excellent speakers. However our final meeting is the 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. We will meet at the church at 12 noon and will return before 5pm.

There are a few spaces left so if you would like to join us (you do not need to be a member of the Friendship Club), contact **Val Smart**.

## Tales from the Jumble Sale 2017



Another year and our principal annual fund raiser has again been hugely successful providing almost £9,000 for Scout Group funds. So where does it go? Rather like the Church finances it is, unfortunately, largely spoken for, but with our other fund raising and subscriptions it enables us to meet central levies to the District, Area, Scottish and National Scout Associations (now over £4,000), maintain equipment (tents are replaced every 12 years), fund training (this year the Leaders undertook the outdoor first aid course at a cost of £900) cover administration costs and substantial donations to the Church as a contribution to costs and to Yacht. Outings now need to be self financing but we try and subsidise transport costs.

With the huge input over 7 days from well over 150 people on different days the Jumble Sale is not actually very cost effective but with the involvement of everyone from 6 to 76, the uniformed members, parents, friends of the Group and Church members we also view this as a social event for everyone either involved or a supporter. Our collections were down from previous years

through competition from the increasing number of Charity shops and commercial operators so it was a relief that profits held up. Our thanks to all involved.

Unsold items in saleable condition were collected / delivered direct to charity shops and not sold to commercial operators. Morningside charity stores were largely full!, so we had to look further afield with Bethany, Shelter and (thanks to the efforts of Angus) the Salvation Army taking these.

We seem to be coming (sadly) to the last of the Spanish souvenirs from the 60s and Pyrex dishes are clearly an endangered species. Bric à Brac continues to astound but glassware was down and sherry glasses have joined the long list, cassette tapes, LPs, videos, cameras (without a phone) whose former purpose (Sherry?) has to be explained to our younger members. Paintings, Prints, Handbags! and Jewellery are all growing items.

All stalls however from electrical to clothing / household to sports and toys, books and baking, outdoor and gardening and all the others all substantially contribute.

**Stuart Sanders**

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*Right – Photos taken in the Main Hall before the furniture was put out on the pavement, and before the public came in.*



## William Wilson in Canada

Readers may know that a 2nd edition of the Rev Donald Mackay's booklet on Greenbank's Stained Glass windows was published in 2012. Three of our windows were designed and executed by the Edinburgh artist William Wilson.

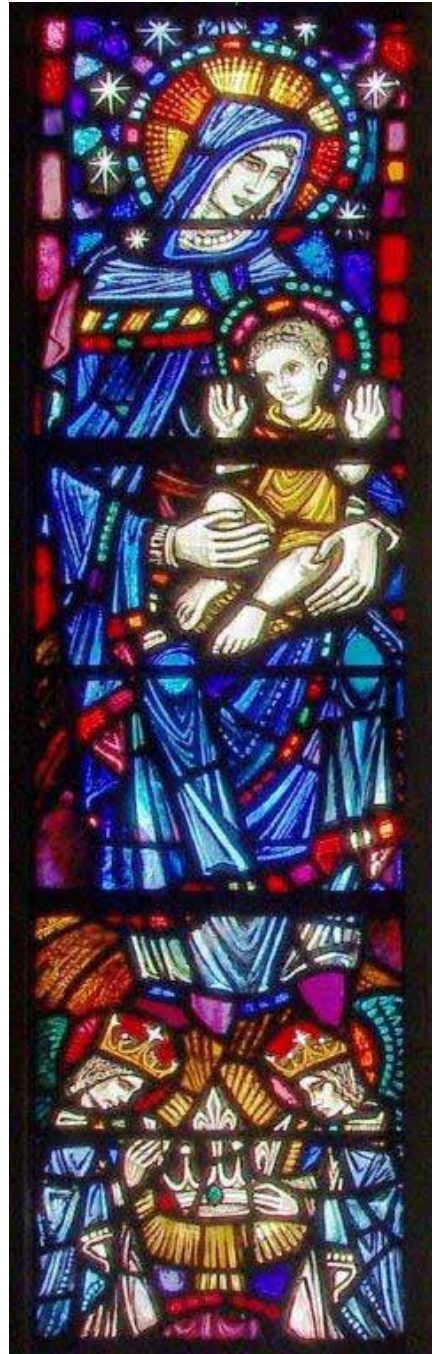
We recently received a request, via the Greenbank website, from a lady in Canada, Mrs Veronica Scrimger. Her church, Knox Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, has a window created by Wilson, and she asked whether she could quote from our booklet as she was writing an article about him. I emailed her giving her permission, and her reply included the following:

*There are many similarities between the panel of your Holy Family at Greenbank and our central light at Knox. I have included the panel for your interest. The photo was taken by Mr. John Schmidt.*

*Thank you again. Hopefully one day I shall return to Edinburgh (I was married there!) and will have an opportunity to visit.*

*Best wishes,  
Veronica Scrimger*

**John Murison**





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## Vacancy News

This is the first regular update (longer than I expect others to be) about our vacancy which will start officially on **18th May** when **Alison Swindells** is inducted into her new charge in Aberdeenshire.

There will be a farewell lunch and presentation for Alison on **Sunday 7th May** when she will preach for the last time as our Minister. If you have not yet signed up for that you can still do so via the website or by contacting the Church Office

I hope some Greenbank members will be able to travel to Aberdeenshire to support Alison at her induction on the evening of 18th May. If you wish more information please get in touch with me.

The Presbytery of Edinburgh has appointed the **Rev Jamie Griggs** of St Anne's Church in Corstorphine to be our Interim Moderator. In this role he is the interface between the congregation and the Presbytery. In preparation for Alison's departure our own Kirk Session has invited the **Rev Dr John Stevenson** to take on the role of locum once again as he did so ably when Ian Scott retired. John will lead most of our worship and carry out pastoral responsibilities. The **Rev Peter Graham** will continue as our Associate. He, too, will visit members and take some services – as he does now. **Steve Chaffee** completes the team as Youth Associate.

We do not know how long it will be until we have a new Minister. However, with a strong Ministerial team and the full support of the Kirk Session, all aspects of the life of the congregation will continue.

There will be opportunities for members to help out and I hope you will respond as requests come up.

I will now outline a few of the early stages in the vacancy procedure. Quite soon the Congregation will be involved in appointing a **Nominating Committee** from our membership to look for someone to recommend as our next Minister. That may involve an election so we will need to create an electoral register of all our existing members and other people who worship regularly and are not members of other congregations. There will be formal announcements about that on two Sundays in the near future – but if you're not already a member and want to be included on the list you should contact the church office now and ask for the form to fill in.

The Kirk Session will soon be preparing a profile of the parish and congregation. This will give a full statement of the life, work and witness of the congregation and parish and our vision and plans for the future to help prospective candidates get a "feel" for our situation. If you would like more information about any of these processes or other matters about the vacancy I suggest you contact your District elder or come directly to me.

I know you will all want to join me in wishing Alison every blessing as she moves to her new charge and to thank her for her leadership, love and devotion at Greenbank over the last 10 years.

**Valerie Macniven**  
*Session Clerk*

## Life and Work: May 2017

### ***Sowing the Seeds of Peace in South Sudan***

Thomas Baldwin reports on the man-made crisis which has led to famine in the world's newest country – and the peace-building work being led by the Church of Scotland

### ***General Assembly 2017***

Interview with the Moderator-Designate

### ***Assembly reports***

Business and fringe timetables; *Heart and Soul* preview; An invitation to visit the historic library collections of New College

### ***'Behind Every Number is a Name'***

Ahead of Christian Aid Week, why the work of the charity is more vital than ever

### ***Pilgrimage Through Life***

New columnist the Rev Lezley Stewart introduces herself

### ***A Place of Renewal***

John R Hume considers the history of Motherwell with a focus on Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church

### ***Life on a Food Parcel***

How a deacon and her husband raised funds for a local foodbank

### ***Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords***

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or find us on Facebook and Twitter @cofslifeandwork.

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## Thank You (for our Christmas gifts)

### *Extracts of letters from HMP Edinburgh and Barnardo's*

“Thank you all for supporting the Gift Collection and for making a difference to so many families. As the Visitor Centre recently passed to Barnardo's, they were asked if they could help wrap the gifts. Leonee Moorhead and her staff were very happy to help. Without their help the gift collection might have been cancelled



A total of 140 children received gifts. My thanks go to Leonee, Ruby, Mark, Shona and Tressa.

A small number of gifts were also given to The Friends of Chernobyl's Children [www.foccforthvalley.com](http://www.foccforthvalley.com)”

“Dear All Christmas Gift Donors,  
We really can't thank you enough for your generous gifts. Your kindness meant that no child who attends the Visitor Centre went without a gift on Christmas Day. By the time the last gift had been wrapped and the elves in the wrapping department had finally tidied away the tape and bows we had given gifts to 140 children. We had so many gifts we were able to share them with another Barnardo's Service, Craigmillar Family Centre and three large families we are working with; we provided them with food hampers from ourselves and lovely gifts from all of you.

I have been fortunate to hear back from many of the families and know that it makes a massive difference to the families – not just to the children who receive them,

but also the joy that the parent has because they are able to give them. Without the wonderful donations this would not be possible.

You are welcome to pop in to the Visitor Centre anytime, you would be warmly welcomed and we have tea and

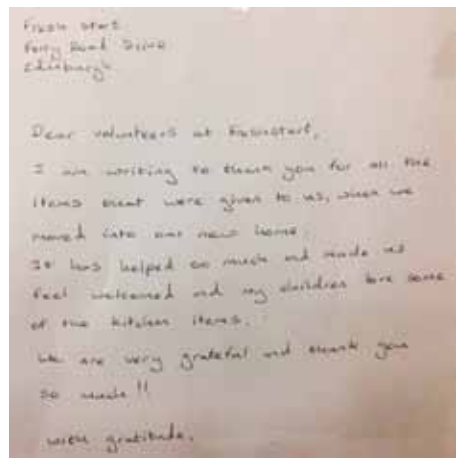
coffee available at all times!

**Leonee Moorhead**  
**Children's Services Manager**  
**Barnardo's Scotland”**



### *From the Fresh Start Office*

Here is a wee letter we received from a grateful client. It is always nice when people take the time to tell us how much of a difference we make.



## SLA – Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge

Scottish Love in Action have launched the **Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge** and it is now open for registration.

Help SLA virtually to walk the 5,000 miles, 8,000km or 12,106,000 steps from Scotland to Hyderabad in India and raise money for their **GIRLS' LIVES MATTER** Appeal.

During the month of June 2017 SLA hopes you will walk, run or cycle a minimum of 10km or 15,133 steps which will contribute towards their aim to walk the equivalent distance from Scotland to Hyderabad.

The joy of this is that it is up to you how you want to challenge yourself, there is no set date or set place; you set the place, the distance and the pace and have the chance to exercise that Fitbit. **Every step counts, every step gets us a step closer.**

HOOF IT TO  
HYDERABAD  
CHALLENGE

EVERY STEP COUNTS...  
Help us to walk the 8000km or 12,106,000  
steps from Scotland to Hyderabad

TAKE PART FOR A CHANCE TO  
WIN TWO FLIGHTS TO INDIA 



Visit the **Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge** information page on the SLA website at [www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org) find out more and register. Registration costs only £5; don't wait until June, sign up now!

### **Win two flights to India**

All participants will be entered into a prize draw and one lucky winner will receive two return flights to India generously donated by Virgin Atlantic.

On Easter Monday Irvine Welsh, a long-standing ambassador for SLA, kicked off our challenge by walking the first mile of our 5,000 mile target down the royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace, accompanied by young SLA Supporters. (*see front cover*)

## Eco-Column

Just a short piece this month on eco matters.

First, the Kirk Session is leading the early service on Sunday 7th May, themed on our mission as an Eco Congregation. This will be of interest to all ages, so do attend and learn more about the spiritual content and practical Christian action now before us.

Second, remember that we are now well into the planting and growing season. If you have a garden, or even just a window box, think about the glory of God's

creation as you sow, plant and nurture green things, and consider the contribution they make to the environment. The reminder bible text is from Genesis 2:15 – *'Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden, to cultivate and keep it.'* We thus have a responsibility to care for creation through our ordinary gardening activity!



**David Jack**

## QII Reunion in Copenhagen



***Email dated 2nd Mar 2017***

Hello,

As a few of us ex QIIers got together for a reunion in Copenhagen over the past few days, we thought we'd send a few photos. We visited a beautiful church called the Marble Cathedral in Copenhagen, and it was just like old times.

We were over to visit our friend who now studies in Denmark, Kirsty Dunbar, a keen QIIer and regular churchgoer.

**Alex Gillon, Sarah Middleton, Clare Sommerville & Kirsty Dunbar**

## Remember the people of Alexandria and Tanta

On Palm Sunday, we heard the terrible news of bombings targeting Coptic Christians in Alexandria and Tanta, Egypt.

In Tanta, about 60 miles North of Cairo, during the church service a man walked in and placed a heavy bag under a seat near the altar and walked out. Soon after a bomb exploded. 29 were killed including the priest and the choir, 75 were wounded. Hours later in Alexandria, a suicide bomber exploded himself outside a church, killing 16 and wounding 33.

Rev Ian Alexander, Secretary to the Church of Scotland World Mission

Council, has sent messages of condolence to Protestant Churches in Egypt and to Pope Tawadros II of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt, in the wake of the attacks. Pope Tawadros II was in the cathedral conducting a service at the time of the attack.

Coptic Christians make up about 10% of Egypt's population and have suffered other bombings in December 2016. Coptic churches and homes have been set on fire, members of the Coptic minority have been physically attacked, and their property has been looted according to *Amnesty International*.

***Christina Morrow  
World Mission Team***

## Pilgrimage

In 2015, my brother John had hiked *almost* all of the Appalachian Trail. He met the final mountain, called Katahdin, on the last day of the hiking season, and it greeted him with a blizzard. He vowed to return. In June 2016, I flew back to the US and we ascended Katahdin. After the better part of a six hour hike we reached the summit. For John, the summit represented many things – the culmination of a 2,200 mile trek to find himself, the end of his pilgrimage, and the start of a new chapter of his life.

Pilgrimage is, of course, an ancient Christian practice. It engages the whole pilgrim and confers many spiritual benefits – but it is also a spiritual *discipline*. Greenbank Parish Church, as you well know, is returning to this ancient practice. Alison is heading to her next charge, and we remain. And we may begin in the next months to undergo a ‘spiritual inventory’ – to reflect upon where

we have been, where we are, and where we are headed.

We forget all too easily that the Church is, in itself, a *pilgrimage body*. We are searching the world for God, calling for God and announcing his kingdom. But it is not without significant risk – we are weary pilgrims, and we too often stop for a cuppa or a wee dram and forget to get back on the trail. But it is on the trail we must go.

Katahdin was not *my* hike. It was John’s, through and through. It simply could not carry the same spiritual weight for me as it did for John. But Greenbank Parish Church’s upcoming hike is *ours*. May we walk together, and contemplate prayerfully how we may best love our neighbour, what parts of our individual and corporate lives require repentance, and what kind of church we want to be *today*.

**Steve Chaffee**

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## The Guild

At our Annual Business Meeting in May Hazel White was elected as Treasurer following the retiral of Pauline Macdonald. After the business element, Maggie Shearer gave an excellent talk about the work of the Ferryfield Project.

An outing for members only has been arranged for a date in May. The first of our monthly summer coffee mornings (open to members of the congregation as well as the

Guild) will be held on Tuesday 6th June in the Main Hall at 10.30am; the proceeds of donations on that day will be given to the Work Party to assist it in the purchase of yarn for the garments that its members knit for charities.



**Kathleen Patrick**

## Congregational Register

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

## Welcome Teams

### May

- 7 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 14 **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, Susan Jackman
- 21 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 28 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Jenny Wright, Sandy Cameron, Carrie Reid, Moira Land, Julia Dunbar

### June

- 4 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker

## Coffee Rota

### May

- 7 Rachel McWilliam (D58)
- 14 Neil Ross (D24)
- 21 Diana Hastings & Clare Campbell (D31A, D32 & D33)
- 28 Jean & Richard Denison (D59 A)



### June

- 4 Communion – *no coffee*

## Flower Rota

*Provided by*      *Delivered by*

### May

- 7 Margo Fraser      Catherine Ferguson
- 14 Caroline Kehoe      Liz Foster
- 21 Marjorie Thomson      Fiona Kelly
- 28 Ruth Johnston & Rosemary McCulloch      Susan Black



### June

- 4 Ina Weir      Irene Horne

## Crèche Rota

### May

- 7 Janet Ferguson      Nora Kellock
- 14 Vivien Hutchison      Ailsa Cameron
- 21 Jenny Wright      Lorna Perriss
- 28 Ailsa Cameron      Rachel McWilliam



## Greenbank Calendar: May 2017

### April

30 Sun 10.30 Morning Worship  
followed by Informal  
Communion

### May

3 Wed 12.30 Mid-Week Prayer Group\*  
7 Sun 9.30 First Sunday Service,  
led by Kirk Session  
10.30 Morning Worship  
followed by  
Congregational Lunch  
10 Wed 12.00 Friendship Club outing  
14 Sun 10.30 Morning Worship  
21 Sun 10.30 Morning Worship  
28 Sun 10.30 Morning Worship  
followed by Informal  
Communion

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

### June

4 Sun 9.00 Communion  
10.30 Communion  
15.00 Communion  
6 Tues 10.30 Guild Coffee Morning  
11 Sun 10.30 Morning Worship

*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](mailto:alisonswindells@blueyonder.co.uk)*

**Rev W. Peter Graham**

*tel: 0131 445 5763*

*For information about church organisa-  
tions, 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](mailto: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](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)**

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

*Material for the June–August issue of  
Greenbank Connections should be  
delivered to the Church Office or to  
the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main  
Hall by Sunday 14th May, or emailed  
by 9am on Tuesday 16th May to  
[greenbankconnections@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankconnections@gmail.com)*

## Bookstall

We intimated to the Kirk Session recently that we no longer feel the Bookstall is supported sufficiently by the congregation to merit its continuing on a regular basis. Our last Bookstall will be on **14th May**. We will have a selection of books on a range of religious topics from *The Cornerstone* shop.

If you wish to see a wider range of religious books, cards, CDs and gifts please visit *The Cornerstone* where the staff will be pleased to help you.

**John and Joan Ritchie**