

Greenbank Connections



April 2018

Issue 669

Scottish Charity SCO11325



11th March 2018: Greenbank welcomes its new Minister! (see also pages 6–8)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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From the Minister



I am writing this note fresh from the wonderful experience of my ordination and induction service last night. Thank you so much to all of you who came along to be a part of it and who were involved in the organisation both behind the scenes and front of house. It was a tremendous evening, and a very special one for me at the start of our relationship together as Minister and congregation here at Greenbank.

I am very conscious of the great efforts of many people in all sorts of ways during the vacancy. There are too many to note here, but I would particularly like to acknowledge the sensitive and supportive way that the nominating committee, and especially Valerie, Janet and Joan, have undertaken their roles. They have given really considerable amounts of time and energy to this, and I am personally grateful for the assistance that they gave me as I came to discern the call to Greenbank.

Sarah and I already feel at home in the beautifully refurbished manse. David Allan has been a joy to work with as we worked out what to do and how to do it, and I know that he has invested a lot of time in this project. Special thanks also to Charles Black, the work squad, and the band of folks who cleaned the manse after the work was done. The manse feels very much our home after only a few days, and both the dogs and the Minister are delighted with their new garden!

Greenbank feels like a place where the Spirit is moving – that’s an exciting feeling. Let’s allow ourselves to be lifted up in our task of living out the Gospel in our congregation and community, relishing the joys, challenges and opportunities that this will bring.

Yours in Christ,

Martin

Gift for Alan



You may know that Alan Irvine, our Organist and Choirmaster, is retiring at the end of May, after 14 years of service. Should you wish to contribute to a leaving gift for Alan, please put your contribution into the Church Office, marked **Gift for Alan Irvine**.

Valerie Macniven

Pulpit Diary

Apr 1 *Easter Day*

9.30am Communion (Braid Room)
10.30am Easter Day Service
Followed by egg-rolling in Braidburn Park

Apr 8

10.30am Morning Worship

Apr 15

10.30am Morning Worship

Apr 22

Young Church and Springboard – Start of third term
10.30am Morning Worship

Apr 29 *Stewardship Sunday*

10.30am Morning Worship

6 May

9.30am First Sunday Service led by the Kirk Session
10.30am Morning Worship

13 May *Start of Christian Aid Week*

10.30am Morning Worship

Christian Aid

A team of people will be working together this year to organise Christian Aid collecting in Greenbank. The good news is that, in response to my note in the March *Connections* saying we had no co-ordinator, Fiona Watt has agreed to work with us this year, with a view to co-ordinating the collection in future years. We are very grateful to her for coming forward.

David Ferguson

Greenbank YACHT Campaign Photographic Competition 2018 – *Care for Creation*



*Detail from John Knox House, Royal Mile, Edinburgh
(submitted by Jim Young for the 2017 photographic competition)*

This year, to link with Greenbank's Eco Congregation objectives, the theme chosen for the photographic competition to produce the Greenbank Calendar 2019 is ***Care for Creation***. We would like to celebrate the wonder of creation in all its forms and the importance of its preservation. The competition therefore seeks photographic entries for Greenbank Calendar 2019, illustrative of any of the following:

- The Wonder of Creation – be it in flora, fauna, animal or the natural beauty of the world around us in all its moods.
- Care for Creation – examples of people, projects and activities demonstrating care for creation, e.g. sustainable energy projects, measures to allow industrial activity or other developments to co-exist with wildlife, the positive creation of breathing space for animals and wildlife, forms of transport sensitive to the environment.
- Climate Change – be it examples of extreme weather events, or its effects.
- Rural Land Use, including wild and managed landscapes
- Urban Land Use (and Misuse) – examples bringing attention to the good (or bad) use of urban development which take into account (or seemingly ignore) the environment.
- Sustainability – examples of the benefit of recycling or the creative use of recycled materials.

You may submit as many entries as you wish, but only two photographs at most will appear in the 2019 Greenbank calendar from the same photographer. Photographs may be taken anywhere in the world.

So we hope there is enough there to get those creative juices going and for you to get snapping! As in previous years, each photographic entry must be accompanied by a biblical quotation or reference, or a line from a hymn.

Photographs (digital images only) should have a minimum size of 300mm wide x 210mm high, at a good resolution. They should be emailed to

greenbankparish@gmail.com

with a Subject line of 'Photographic Competition 2018'; include the hymn or bible reference in your email, and briefly describe the subject of your photograph. The orientation must be 'Landscape' (like the photograph opposite). **The deadline for entries is Sunday 29th July.**

We will again display the entries in the corridor beside the Braid and Hermitage rooms during the month of August, when you will be able to vote for your favourites. The administrators will select from the most popular entries appropriate images for the cover photograph and for each month of the year.

YACHT Committee

The Church Office



Rhona's last afternoon at the church computer

Ginny Johnston, our church administrator, has thankfully recovered from her painful broken arm, and is back at work. During her absence Rhona Simpson (née Hastings) did an excellent job, with a little assistance. She quickly learned who to

ask if she didn't know what to do next, and Ginny was always at the end of the phone. Rhona's cheerful presence and efficient work were really appreciated.

So welcome back Ginny, and thank you Rhona.

Service of Ordination and Induction

Sunday 11th March, 6.30pm

Dr Martin Ritchie was ordained into the Ministry of the Church of Scotland and inducted to Greenbank at a service at Greenbank Parish Church on 11th March at 6.30pm. This was followed by a time of socialising and hospitality in the Hall for Greenbank members and friends and invited guests.

Please also see the cover photograph, and overleaf.





Members and visitors filled the church for the service



The assembled Presbytery of Edinburgh with Dr Martin Ritchie, before the service



Martin and Sarah Ritchie

Plastic Bottle Tops?

The Greenbank Guild, along with other Church of Scotland Guilds and many other organisations, has been collecting these since 2012, to make money for charities dealing with Palliative Care. **Borders General Hospital Oncology Unit, Macmillan Nurses, Lavender Trust** and **Nolan Trust** have all benefited from the **£12,000** raised so far.

This is an initiative by the 'Rotary' in Galashiels, where St Peters Church sorts and stores the tops prior to collection and



Plastic bottle tops



A splendid supper was provided

recycling by a Border company which makes tiny plastic balls used to create fibre optic covers for phones etc. We earn £200 per tonne – that's only 1.5 million tops!

Those acceptable will have **2, 4, 02, or 04** enclosed in a triangle on the inside of the top. The Guild will be delighted to have any (washed and dried please) which can be put in the box, clearly labelled, on the shelf by the 'Stamps' Pillar Box at the Church Door. I then take them to a city collection point and thence they go to Gala.

So, could you become a collector? Do help us if you can.

Val Smart

World Mission

Thursdays in Black

I first became aware of the *Thursdays in Black* campaign when I attended a conference for Presbyterian women in Africa, in Accra, Ghana in September 2015. We had all been asked to bring clothes suitable to dress in black on the Thursday of the conference.

The driving force for the campaign is the need to defeat gender based violence, an issue that affects men, women and children throughout the world. At least one in every three women around the world has experienced physical violence. It is present in all societies. By wearing something black every Thursday, even just the campaign badge, people all over the world can make clear their solidarity with victims and survivors of violence. The World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland has aligned itself with Thursdays in Black as part of its wider focus on rooting out gender based violence. It has published reports and study materials on



human trafficking and gender based violence to help congregations better understand the issues. Everyone can do something – finding out a bit more, signalling their opposition and speaking out wherever they are aware of an injustice locally or internationally. If you want to learn more just look at the Church of Scotland website at www.churchofscotland.org.uk or at the *Thursdays in Black* website at www.thursdaysinblack.co.za

Vision Aid

It is possible again to send used spectacles to *Vision Aid* for their work to improve eye care throughout the world. Now, instead of sending the actual glasses for reuse overseas, they recycle them for their precious metal content (gold frames). Any retro or vintage glasses are sold on their eBay shop or to specialist buyers. They also recycle plastic glasses. The income generated through the recycling process enables them to deliver sustainable eye care services in our partner countries. The nearest deposit place to Greenbank is *Specsavers* at 302 Morningside Road. Please help this worthy cause if you can.

Valerie Macniven

Life and Work: April 2018

Easter

Reflection from the Moderator of the General Assembly

New Clarence McGonigall story by Ron Ferguson

The Very Rev Albert Bogle explains how the resurrection invites us to prepare to encounter the risen Christ

From Homelessness to Primus

Interview with the Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church of Scotland

On the Rails

The work of the Railway Mission and recently-formed 'Railway Pastors'

Tribute to Billy Graham

By the Rev Jim Stewart, minister of Perth: Letham St Mark's

Home of a Vigorous Congregation

John R Hume reports on the history of a spiritual and physical landmark in an Ayrshire village

The Power of Place

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers highlights the importance of holy places

How are you with God?

In his final column as Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning highlights the unique selling point of the Church of Scotland

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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



The Guild

Members braved the challenging conditions of snow and ice to attend our meeting on 6th March when we heard an inspirational talk by Liz Wilson, who had travelled from Fife, on the work of *Playlist for Life*, a charity which enriches the lives of people living with dementia by encouraging the playing of music which is personal to those afflicted by the illness; a number of us resolved to compile our own Playlists of favourite music which evoke happy memories.

On 20th February we learned about the life of a nun today when Sister Isabel

Smyth travelled from Glasgow and spoke eloquently about the changes and challenges since she first entered her Order.

The concluding meeting of the winter session is scheduled to take place on 20th March with our ABM and an update on the work of SLA led by Edith Armit, Val Smart and Amy Barnes.

Summer coffee mornings will resume monthly at **10.30am on 5th June** when members and friends will be welcome to join us for a time of fellowship in the Main Hall.

Kathleen Patrick



Morlich House Residential Home for Older People



Further information on page 16.

Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th April 2018

(10am – 12noon)

Garden, Gifts & Goodies Stalls

at Morningside United

Church Hall, Holy Corner

(Enter off Chamberlain Road)

£2.50 entry includes coffee/tea/juice

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland – a charity registered in Scotland No SC011353

Calling all Greenbank *ad hoc* ensemble instrumentalists plus any new players!

On the evening of Saturday 12th May, during *Thank You For the Music*, we are repeating our much appreciated performance at the Carol Party. All existing players should resume scraping and blowing practice in preparation. Regardless of ability, age or time since you last played, all new players are warmly invited to join in the fun. Music will be available shortly and a rehearsal date announced.



Please contact any of the people below to confirm your participation, express an interest in taking part, or for more information.

Clare Wilkinson

jmclare.wilkinson@icloud.com

Elizabeth Htet-Khin

bahtet@hotmail.com

Joan Fraser

joanfraser1612@icloud.com

Alan Irvine

alan_r_irvine@yahoo.co.uk



Scouts @ Greenbank

Be prepared for "probably the best..."

JUMBLE sale

...in Edinburgh"

SATURDAY 7th APRIL 2018 : 9.30am – 12 noon
GREENBANK CHURCH, BRAIDBURN TERRACE, EH10 6ES

4th Braid Scout Group is registered as a Charity number SC015021

Adults £2

Eco Column



At the time of writing, we are well into our Lenten study series looking at climate change and its linkage with faith and action.

The first study period looked closely at whether or not climate change matters. The second considered what God is asking each of us to do in the light of the continuing destruction of the environment and fears for the future of God's creation. The discussions centred on the notion of climate justice, and the greater adverse impact visited on the poor of the world as a result of extreme climate change. Familiar examples include the loss of farmland through floods in river deltas in places like Bangladesh, and severe droughts in Africa affecting subsistence farmers in many areas of that continent.

The challenge is to us as individuals to take action, within our reference of Christian faith and witness, and to campaign for a new world economic framework which focuses less on increasing prosperity for those that are already well off. The emphasis should be more on preserving the Creation, living in ways which do not deplete the world's resources and

preventing the rise in global temperatures.

The sessions have aired lots of ideas on how to respond, and these include

living as carbon neutral a lifestyle as possible, influencing others to change consumption habits, and committing to change

those aspects of our lives which contribute to climate change.

Many of us in the congregation make our contributions to achieving justice for the poor in various ways – supporting Fairtrade, contributing to Christian Aid and so on,

but the message of the Lenten

Studies is that we must 'up our game'. We need to approach the issues on a comprehensive and life changing basis, remembering Micah, 6:8 – "what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

"The message of the Lenten Studies is that we must up our game."

David Jack

Friendship Club Outing

Friday 11th May to Arniston House – **note the change of date!**

We leave from outside Greenbank Church at 1pm. Our tour of the house begins at 2pm and is followed by Afternoon Tea at

3.30pm. We hope to return by 5pm.

The total cost is **£20**.

If you are not a member of the Club and would like to join us please contact me.

Val Smart

Greenbank Children's Library



The Children's Library at Greenbank is being re-launched on **Sunday 15th April** after the 10.30am Service. To mark the re-launch Hazel McLachlan has composed an excellent quiz which will be available on that day. She has also been finding new books to add to the existing collection which she thinks will be of great interest to the children who use the Library. We look forward to seeing more children using this resource after Morning Worship on Sundays.

If you are able to help with the Children's Library, please let me have your name and come onto our Library rota. This involves taking an occasional turn sitting beside the children and reading to them while their parents have coffee on Sunday mornings.

Moira Small

Why did Jesus die?

Copies of the Rev Dr John Stevenson's series of four sermons (18 February–11 March) will be available shortly on the Church website, or in paper form from the Church Office (Tel 0131 447 9969).

A Tale of Two Resurrections

The Gospel of Mark, among other things, is famous for its striking language. When Jesus challenges his listeners that 'you must eat my flesh and drink my blood', the verb for 'eat', so we are told, is better rendered 'gnaw'. Roman Catholic spirituality has a fair amount of stock in this as a spiritual principle. That is, that 'those with ears to hear and eyes to see', consider at length, chew over, and interiorise the person and acts of Jesus, and the whole of God's acts in history on behalf of his people.

I gnaw, as it were, on the Resurrection. As in the ancient world, people today hold many different views on the Resurrection. They usually fall into either a literal or metaphorical interpretation of the event. I rather enjoy the company of the Christian tradition to shape my thinking on this crucial event. Listening to the voices of the past, they ask whether we are really so certain that the literal and metaphorical interpretations are mutually exclusive. Does, indeed, a literal resurrection bar us from believing in a metaphorical one? Or a metaphorical one from a literal resurrection?

Often, I find people and churches discussing the resurrection of the body of Christ *in abstracto*, but not resurrection of the Body of Christ. If we believe in the resurrection of Jesus, body and soul – it seems to me that we are theologically committed to the resurrection of his Body as well, not only in the future but here and now. So, just maybe, 'decline in church attendance' (surely an anaesthetised way to describe the death of the church!) is to use the wrong sort of language. Rather, we should be talking

more about the resurrection of the Body of Christ, seeing our own resurrection worked out in the midst of it and the wider community in which it lives and serves and preaches 'Christ and him crucified'.

Steve Chaffee

Congregational Register

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

Welcome Teams

April

- 1 John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Clare Campbell, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, Susan Jackman
- 8 Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker
- 15 Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Catriana Black
- 22 Caroline Kehoe**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Ian Mc William, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 29 Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Sandy Cameron, Carrie Reid, Moira Land, Julia Dunbar

May

- 6 Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster

Flower Rota



Provided by

Delivered by

April

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Jill Powlett Brown | Joan Cameron |
| 8 Margo Fraser | Charlotte Tucker |
| 15 Jennie Johnston | Margaret Mack |
| 22 Janet Walker | Fiona Watt |
| 29 Moira Davidson | Sarah Crawford |

May

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 6 Caroline Kehoe | Catherine Ferguson |
|-------------------------|--------------------|

Coffee Rota

April

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Caroline Kehoe (D70) |  |
| 8 Elizabeth Htet-Khin (D39 & 40) | |
| 15 Katy & Lennie Maguire (D19 & 20) | |
| 22 Donald MacLeod (D46) | |
| 29 Louise Coghill & John Mowat (D68) | |

May

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| 6 Rachel McWilliam (D58) |
|---------------------------------|

Greenbank Calendar: April 2018

April

1 Sun	Easter Day
	9.30 Communion
	10.30 Easter Day Service Followed by egg-rolling in Braidburn Park
7 Sat	9.30 – 12.00 Scout Jumble Sale
8 Sun	10.30 Morning Worship
15 Sun	10.30 Morning Worship
22 Sun	10.30 Morning Worship Young Church & Spring- board: start of 3rd term
24 Tues	19.30 Kirk Session meeting
28 Sat	10.00 – 12.00 Morlich Coffee Morning (at Morningside United Church)
29 Sun	Stewardship Sunday
	10.30 Morning Worship

May

6 Sun	9.30 First Sunday Service led by Kirk Session
	10.30 Morning Worship
11 Fri	13.00 – 17.00 Friendship Club Outing to Arniston House
13 Sun	10.30 Morning Worship

Coffee Morning for Morlich House

Morlich House is run by the Church of Scotland's Crossreach to care for 23 frail elderly ladies. Last year it was a finalist for the Best Care Home in Scotland.

Tickets for the Coffee Morning advertised on page 11 will be on sale at Greenbank after the 10.30am services on **1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd April**.

Donations for the Plant, Bakery and Gifts stalls will be very welcome.

Thank you,

Anne Oxbrow
Friends of Morlich House

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

Rev Dr Martin Ritchie

tel: 07984 466 855

email: mritchie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev W. Peter Graham

tel: 0131 445 5763

email: isabelandpeter@btinternet.com

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 or email address given, if there is one. Otherwise contact the Church Office.

Website: www.greenbankchurch.org

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

Material for the May issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 15th April or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 17th April to

greenbankconnections@gmail.com