

Greenbank Connections



March 2019

Issue 677

Scottish Charity SCO11325



Cards from prisoners' children, who received some of our Gift Service gifts (see p.8)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

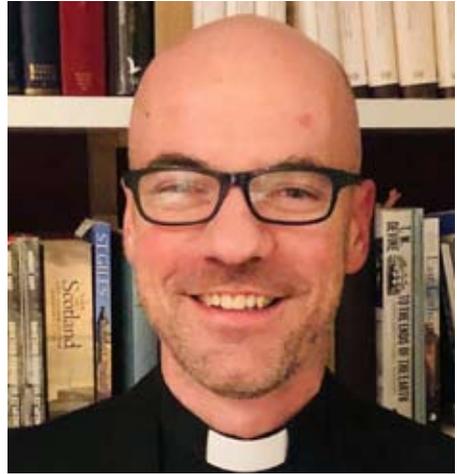
Online version: www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends



Since I last wrote, things have been pretty dramatic in the Ritchie house! As many of you will know, my wife Sarah contracted Guillain-Barré Syndrome after Christmas, which resulted in a ten day hospitalisation. Fortunately her case was not as severe as it might have been, and she is now well on the road to a full recovery. We are both very thankful for all of the care that she has received from medical professionals and for the incredible kindness and generosity of the people of Greenbank Parish Church. From food parcels on the doorstep to flowers, cards and good wishes, and the folk who have provided puppy sitting for Knox, the new manse Hungarian Vizsla, we are truly grateful.

Our autumn *Explore Faith and Life* programme created lots of opportunities to explore different dimensions of faith life together. Building on the momentum, we have pulled together some more for the spring. You'll find a pull-out centrefold leaflet with this issue of *Connections*. Take

a look, and feel free to pass on the details to friends, family, and neighbours.

The **Community Bible Experience** is a chance to dig into the New Testament with the help of user-friendly editions which are presented more like a novel, and extra online resources. Building on the Advent model, we'll have home groups where we have the chance to talk about our perspectives and get to know each other better. There will be home groups led by our ministry team facilitators on Monday to Thursday evenings and Thursday afternoons, giving the chance for folk to change days to visit another group if something else gets in the way.

Our Contemplative strand continues with a bit of a coup. Legends of the Kirk, **Jock and Margaret Stein**, will be leading a **Lent Quiet Day** on **Saturday 6th April**. Don't miss this chance for a calming and inspiring day following the theme

of the Last Supper in words, art, music, and silence in our various spaces here at Greenbank.

Deepening Commitment is our all-embracing title for a spring series that offers the chance to seek Baptism and Confirmation/Profession of Faith. We've put together a series of Sunday night sessions which are open to anyone, whether you're at the beginning of your journey or looking for a refresher after many years of commitment. Themes and dates are in the centrefold, and I'll be very happy to speak to anyone who'd like to discuss potential baptism and/or Confirmation/Profession of Faith with me.

Thank you all for your encouragement and support as we journey together.



Martin Ritchie

Move More

For the past year I've been attending a gentle exercise group for people affected by cancer. It's called *Move More* and is run by MacMillan in conjunction with Edinburgh Leisure. If you are living with cancer in Edinburgh, *Move More* is a free programme of gentle exercise to help you get and stay active. Their activities are suitable for everyone, regardless of where you are in your cancer journey.

I have found *Move More* to be helpful in providing exercise and also a support group to help me through a number of issues related to cancer.

Please contact the *Move More* team on active@edinburghleisure.co.uk if you would like to find out more.

Clare Campbell

Correction

The photograph on the front of the February 2019 issue of Connections (printed version) was in fact of the Watsonian Community Choir, and not of the Greenbank Community Choir as stated. Apologies to our friends in the Watsonian Community Choir.

Edith Armit, Louise Coghill,
Alison Murison (Editors)

Cash in the Attic?

The BBC series *Cash in the Attic* turns hidden treasures into cash. At Greenbank, we were able to go one better, by unearthing and bringing back to use a hidden treasure which marked an important step in our history.

As part of changes in the way that Communion is served, Martin Ritchie sought a flagon from which the wine could be poured into the common cup at the Communion table. As he was thinking about asking “121” whether they had any in store, Vivien Hutchison (Convener of the Communion Elements Committee), who knew of Martin’s search, was doing a stocktake of property. At the back of a cupboard in the basement, she found an unassuming cardboard box containing a handsome silver flagon, inscribed “*Greenbank United Free Church 1900*”. It would have been presented as part of Greenbank’s original Communion silver when the congregation was founded that year. It’s now in use every Communion Sunday. Better than cash...

Duncan Macniven



YACHT Burns Supper

Saturday 26th January 2019

Thanks to those who attended and contributed with super speeches, songs and music at the Burns Supper – and to those who very generously donated prizes and auction items. A great evening all round, which has made around **£4,500** for the YACHT campaign.



Mrs Flora Brodie (see article opposite)

New Faces

In Greenbank we try to be a welcoming and friendly church. As part of this, *Connections* will be including brief introductions to some of our new members. If you meet them in church or at coffee on a Sunday please say Hello and have a chat.

Mrs Flora Brodie

Flora moved from Rhu to be closer to her family, and was in various places before settling in Colinton. As she visited several churches she was amazed to find how differently parishes respond to visitors. Some were welcoming, some were not, some preached and demonstrated the core values of Christianity, some did not appear to do so. She finally decided to join Greenbank as she already knew some members and found a friendly, tactful welcome.

She is finding worship here nourishing. She would like to learn more about other faiths and more about the work done by Greenbank organisations, what they do, why they do it and how to help; for example Help the Homeless, the Work Party, and Guild Projects.

Flora has two daughters and a son, and seven grandsons – who keep her busy. They range in age from 22 down to 5. She is a keen Bridge player.

Edith Armit

Fire Evacuations

When considering the subject of fire evacuations, our Minister shared his experience as manager at Theatre Royal Glasgow, where successful fire evacuation procedures depended on the training of the front of house stewards. Following this principle the Congregational Board has endorsed training the Beadle, Welcome Teams and Leaders to manage fire evacuations.

In the event of the fire alarm sounding at Sunday worship, the Welcome Teams will direct you to the fire exits, which are the Main Church and North Transept doors, and then on to the muster point at the Braidburn Valley Park Gates.

The area in front of the Church must be kept clear for the arrival of the Fire Service.

Leaders will take children in Young Church through the west door of the Centenary Hall directly to the muster point.

So if the alarm sounds and the red light above the vestry door flashes, it is NOT a practice. Leave the Church immediately by the Main Church or North Transept door and make your way to Braidburn Valley Park Gates. Children will be brought across by leaders.

Angus McLachlan, Gillian Sweetman



Emergency Appeal for Refugees in Winter Storms

January 2019

This winter is the worst ever for refugees in north Lebanon. Two powerful storms in January have caused widespread flooding and wind damage to the tents of thousands in the Bekaa valley, while above the valley those in the remote town of Arsal have been overwhelmed by deep snow, with night time temperatures remaining below zero.

The storms have been largely unreported in the UK media, but google 'Storm Norma Lebanon' or 'Storm Miriam Lebanon', and you will find plenty about them.

As soon as the seriousness of the situation became apparent, Maggie Tookey of *Edinburgh Direct Aid* flew out to help and co-ordinate relief work in Arsal. She has been reporting increasing numbers of appeals for help from destitute refugees living in remote camps. Many are now having to share cramped tents with their neighbours, as their own have collapsed under

the weight of snow or are leaking in the slow thaw. Travelling to collect or deliver the aid on untreated icy roads is difficult and dangerous.

Edinburgh Direct Aid has set up an emergency appeal fund that is being spent on the most immediate needs – oil for stoves, food, and wood and tarpaulin to mend or rebuild damaged tents. All contributions will be used at once to provide life-saving support. **We need your help.**

You can pay online at

www.edinburghdirectaid.org

where you can also read more about the situation, and some of Maggie's stories of her recent work there; or you can write a cheque to '*Edinburgh Direct Aid / Storm*' and post it to

Edinburgh Direct Aid,
29 Starbank Road,
Edinburgh EH5 3BY

Thank you!



Arsal after Storm Norma, before Storm Miriam



Plans are well underway for *Heart and Soul* on **Sunday 19th May**. We would love your congregation to be a part of the event. This year brings a number of new and exciting developments that we will be sharing with you over the coming weeks. There are a few aspects I would like to draw to your attention:

- The *Heart and Soul* Board are asking church choirs, community choirs and individuals to join our new Massed Choir to play a part in closing worship. Rehearsals will be held remotely throughout Scotland, so why not get your choir involved? To register interest visit www.heartandsoul.org.uk/signup/choir
- The Board would also like to offer the chance for acts from your church to play a part in Heart and Soul. If you have a band, or know an individual who might play well in the middle of an event for 4,500 people, then the Project Board would love them to get in touch. Individuals and groups can register online and we ask that they supply a link to a video of a performance at www.heartandsoul.org.uk/signup/stage in order to be considered to play on the Main Stage.

- As always, there is the opportunity for congregations like yours to showcase some of the work in which they are engaged within the community. With this year's theme being '*Follow Me*', I hope there will be a number of new congregations and projects that can inspire those who come along to try something new and '*step into the community, step into discipleship*' within the umbrella of the Church. You can find out more and register your interest in exhibiting at www.heartandsoul.org.uk/signup/notice

In 2018 we introduced the *In Conversation Tent* and it's back in 2019! I can already confirm that Kezia Dugdale MSP and the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood OBE will be hosting a conversation on *Remembering Srebrenica*. More programme announcements will follow.

Please consider bringing a group from your church, and please tell people about the event and that there will be many things for them to enjoy.

Keep in touch with announcements at www.heartandsoul.org.uk

and help us make this year's *Heart and Soul* the biggest yet.

Rev Bryan Kerr
Convener, Heart and Soul Project Board

Thank You for the Presents

Greenbank received an invitation to the HMP Edinburgh Prison Visitor Centre for a coffee morning on Saturday 9th February. This was the first time that they had tried this as a way of thanking everyone involved in the Christmas gift collection. Angus and I were pleased to go along as we have had a long standing connection with this project. Other churches were also well represented.

The children had made a great effort with thank-you cards (*see front cover*). One of the most poignant was from a mother of a nine year old boy who had written to his mum, telling her how excited he was to take his presents home and put them under his tree.

The Visitor Centre is external to the main

prison; it is a very bright, open and welcoming space. There is room to play with a good variety of toys set out, as well as a quiet room and craft room.

The prison service now works closely with Barnardo's, whose staff run the Centre. They explained the importance of it being a welcoming place, so that the children and their family members can de-stress ahead of any prison visit.

Many children are well known to the staff and are happy to stay and play while their adults go into the prison itself. Consequently, one of the staff said they were able to personalise the Christmas gifts which they received from the gift collections. Popular items were Lego, dolls, craft kits, books, board games but clearly the staff



Children's play area, HMP Edinburgh Prison Visitor Centre

were delighted with all the contributions, as were the children.

Over one hundred children on average use the Centre each week. (Some of these are repeat visits.) The age range is 0–16, mostly younger children. Bonding Visits play a part in Barnardo’s work where prisoners are able to play on the floor with their young children in an informal environment. (By contrast, a Social Visit means that the prisoner must stay seated all the time.) These visits are really appreciated by the children and their parents.

The large toys in the play area are well used but in very good condition. If anyone is clearing out larger toys such as play kitchens or Fisher Price forts or garages, they would be very welcome in the Centre. Children’s clothing is welcome too.

The Centre is open nearly every day in the year, and Leonée and Shona from Barnardo’s would give you a warm welcome.

Hazel McLachlan

Children’s Literature for Children

Thank you for helping send so many books to Kenya for the establishment of the *Small Family Library* at King’ong’o, Nyeri, Kenya. Early childhood educator, Moira Small, and the Small family have done an excellent job of leading this charity project.

Mary Hollowell
Trustee, Children’s Literature for Children (childrensliterature.org)

For photographs of the *Small Family Library* under development at King’ong’o Primary School, see: <http://tinyurl.com/y2ehiltt>

Insurance Specialist Required

After 40 years of advising Greenbank on all matters of insurance, Charles Black has intimated his intention to retire at the Annual Business Meeting in June this year.

Firstly, many thanks to Charles for overseeing this important aspect of behind the scenes work at Greenbank.

We obviously now need to seek a replacement to Charles and would ask anyone with experience in the insurance markets to contact me. The main areas covered include Buildings and Contents, Services, Public and Personal Liabilities and Charities insurances.

Please contact me if you can help (Email: moreduk@yahoo.co.uk).

Roddy Morrison



First shipment of children’s books sent by Moira Small and friends

Photographs from the Uniformed Organisations Service 3rd February 2019



Food Box/Reverse Advent Calendar

This is just a quick note to thank everyone for your continued support for the Food Box and for your support of *Reverse Advent Calendar* throughout Advent.

The food that you leave in the *Food Box* goes to the following organisations, all doing great work to help some of the most vulnerable in our community:

- *St Catharine's Convent Homeless Project* offers friendship and practical support to homeless and disadvantaged people, providing morning and evening meals, toilet and shower facilities, and, perhaps more importantly, a warm welcome, a listening ear and a place to call 'Home'. The project supports up to 200 homeless people a day.
- *Four Square* provides crisis accommodation for young women aged 16-25 at Stopover, where there are 4 self-contained flats that can accommodate up to 16 young, vulnerable people.

- *The Streetwork Crisis Centre*, Holyrood Road, which supports homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

To these three, a fourth beneficiary of your generous food donations at Christmas was added:

- *The Richmond Craigmillar Food Co-op*, which runs on a Thursday morning, offering a great deal to their community. Food donations received from various supermarkets and other donors are available during their Food Co-op. The food is free and anyone is welcome to share it.

All of these organisations are extremely grateful for your support. Thank you again – please keep the donations of food coming, all non-perishable please.

Richard Dunbar,
Help the Homeless Group
Julia Dunbar,
Mission and Service Committee

Friendship Club

March already and nearly at the end of our year, when once again our speakers have been excellent.

On **6th March** we are fortunate to have Michael O'Kane to talk about his work as an optician, followed on the **13th** by a selection of seasonal music from Kathleen Patrick. This is to be her final afternoon for us. We are hugely indebted to her for her expert knowledge put into the many hours of preparation for each programme, and therefore the many hours of pleasure which she has given us over the years. Many heartfelt thanks, Kathleen.

Our final meeting on the **20th** brings a welcome return of Andy Johnson with his usual stunning photographs, this time of the Hebrides.

We will round off the year with our **Outing on 8th May**. Details will appear later.

Val Smart

**Book Café for Scottish
Love in Action
Saturday 2nd March 2019,
10.30am – 2.30pm
at George Watson's College
Colinton Road**

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019

This is an annual event, in which the principles and products of Fairtrade are promoted and the links between consumers and producers highlighted. *Fairtrade Fortnight* is an action-packed highlight of the year when campaigners, schools, businesses and places of worship show their support for the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries.

Fairtrade Fortnight celebrates these farmers and workers, promoting a living wage and fair trade. For example, the price the farmers receive for their cocoa is too low and keeps them in poverty. Choosing Fairtrade is making a difference, and together we can make even more of a difference.

This year, *Fairtrade Fortnight* will run from **25th February until 10th March**. With this in mind, the World Mission Team will run the next *One World Stall* on **10th March 2019**, when Easter eggs of different sizes will be on sale. As a Fairtrade Church we look forward to your support once again by purchasing the Fairtrade products which will be on sale that day after the 10.30am Sunday Service, marking the end of this year's *Fairtrade Fortnight*.



Grace Maweu, World Mission Team

The Guild

In February we had two very good meetings with musical themes: in '*Slavery and Song*' the Rev Ian Gil-mour gave us a very wide ranging view of how powerful song can be, ranging from the music of the African slaves in America and the Caribbean, to the place national songs had in the Baltic states as they gained independence from Russia. Then in '*A Gift of Music in Song*' Mairi Leach sang and played for us while her husband linked the items with poems.

On **Friday 1st March** we have the *World Day of Prayer* at Morningside Parish Church, **10.30am** for coffee and the service



at **11am**. On **5th March** we conclude our programme of open meetings with Dr Duncan Brown speaking about *Palliative Care*.

Our final meeting is our ABM on the **19th** when Kathleen Patrick will brighten the business with a talk and display of photos on the *Ant-arctic and the Sub-Antarctic Islands*.

During the summer the Guild holds Coffee Mornings in the Main Hall – watch out for details in the June/July/August issue of *Connections*. They are a good chance to meet up with friends old and new and catch up on their news.

Edith Armit



Wanted – more good quality household goods for Fresh Start

Dates For Your Diary: The next dates for donations to Fresh Start are **Sundays 10th March & 28th April** at the Sunday service. **J cloths and cleaning materials** are in short supply and always welcome, should you not have bedding, towels, etc. Please refer to the list below to avoid giving unwanted goods.

Dishes and Crockery

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

Pots and Pans etc.

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

Cleaning Things

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

Bed Linen and Towels

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

Small Household Electrical Items (not TVs)

Kettles, toasters, lamps, vacuum cleaners, irons, radios, DVD players, micro-waves, music systems.

Pick up a leaflet on a Fresh Start Sunday, see www.freshstartweb.org.uk under 'donate goods', or telephone 0131 476 7741 to find out more about Fresh Start.

Alison Ambler
(alison@ambler.me.uk)

Welcome Teams

March

- 3 Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 10 Caroline Kehoe**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 17 Rosemary McCulloch**, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 24 Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Sandy Cameron, Moira Land, Jenny Wright, Carrie Reid, Amy Barnes
- 31 John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett-Brown

April

- 7 Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo

Have you looked at the Greenbank website recently?

www.greenbankchurch.org

Lent / Easter Appeal 2019

At its January meeting the Congregational Board decided that the recipients of this year's Lent / Easter Appeal would be *Edinburgh Women's Aid*, a charity which provides services for women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

Alan Ramage

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

Rev Dr Martin Ritchie

tel: 07984 466 855

email: MRitchie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mr Steven Chaffee (Youth Associate)

tel: 07729 000 788

email: stevechaffee@greenbankchurch.org

*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 April issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 17th March or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 19th March to

greenbankconnections@gmail.com

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online
version of Connections*

Flower Rota

Provided by

Delivered by

March

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------------------|
| 3 | Isobel Thom | Rosemarie Crawford |
| 10 | Ray Dely | Jill Mundy |
| 17 | Margot Fergusson | Ann Pirie |
| 24 | Susan Macleod | Pauline Walker |
| 31 | Jill Powlett-Brown | Joan Cameron |

April

- | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| 7 | Rona Sommerville | Charlotte Tucker |
|---|------------------|------------------|

Coffee Rota

March

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|
| 3 | <i>Communion – no coffee</i> | |
| 10 | Jill Powlett-Brown (D12B) | |
| 17 | World Mission Group | |
| 24 | Robin Nimmo (D8) | |
| 31 | David Jack (D72) | |

April

- | | |
|---|------|
| 7 | BAGs |
|---|------|



Greenbank Calendar: March 2019

March

1 Fri	9.45 Babies and Toddlers	21 Thurs	19.30 Country Dance Club
	10.30 Coffee (Morningside PC)		9.45 Babies and Toddlers
	<i>before</i>		14.00 Community Bible Experience*
	11.00 World Day of Prayer Service (Morningside PC)		14.30 Work Party ABM
2 Sat	10.30–14.30 SLA Book Café, GWC	22 Fri	19.30 Choir Practice
3 Sun	9.30 Family Friendly Communion	23 Sat	9.45 Babies and Toddlers
	10.30 Traditional Communion		16.00 Messy Church and Challenge Church
	15.00 Afternoon Communion	24 Sun	10.30 Morning Worship
	19.00 QII Youth Alpha		18.00 Deepening Commitment*
5 Tues	19.30 Guild	25 Mon	19.00 QII
6 Wed	13.00 Midweek Prayers	26 Tues	19.30 Bible Study Group
	14.30 Friendship Club		19.30 Board
	19.30 Country Dance Club	27 Wed	13.00 Midweek Prayers
7 Thurs	9.45 Babies and Toddlers	28 Thurs	9.45 Babies and Toddlers
	14.30 Work Party		14.00 Community Bible Experience*
	19.30 Choir Practice		19.30 Choir Practice
8 Fri	9.45 Babies and Toddlers	29 Fri	9.45 Babies and Toddlers
10 Sun	10.30 Morning Worship	30 Sat	14.30 Bridal and Bubbly Event
	19.00 QII	31 Sun	10.30 Morning Worship
11 Mon	18.30 (for 19.30) Pub Theology at the Hermitage Bar		18.00 Deepening Commitment*
	19.30 Bible Study Group		19.00 QII
12 Tues	19.30 Kirk Session	April	
13 Wed	13.00 Midweek Prayers	3 Wed	13.00 Midweek Prayers
	14.30 Friendship Club Musical Afternoon	4 Thurs	9.45 Babies and Toddlers
	19.30 Country Dance Club		14.00 Community Bible Experience*
14 Thurs	9.45 Babies and Toddlers		19.30 Choir Practice
	14.00 Community Bible Experience*	5 Fri	Pre-School end of term
	19.30 Choir Practice		9.45 Babies and Toddlers
15 Fri	9.45 Babies and Toddlers	6 Sat	10.00–16.00 Lenten Quiet Day*
17 Sun	9.30 Quiet Communion	7 Sun	9.30 First Sunday Service
	10.30 Morning Worship		10.30 Morning Worship
	18.00 Deepening Commitment*		18.00 Deepening Commitment*
	19.00 QII		19.00 QII
19 Tues	19.30 Guild ABM	* For details, see the leaflet <i>Explore Faith and Life at Greenbank (Spring 2019)</i> .	
20 Wed	13.00 Midweek Prayers	Crèche for children under 3 in the Hermitage Room at every 10.30 Service	
	14.30 Friendship Club		



Greenbank Scout Group Annual Jumble Sale

Saturday 13th April: 9.30am–12 noon

During the week **Monday 8th–Friday 12th April** (evenings only, 6.30pm–8.30pm), our Scouts will be calling on houses in this area to collect items to sell, such as: Books and Toys; Clothing; Crockery; Working Electrical Goods; Small items of Furniture; Glassware; Hardware; Pictures and Mirrors; Records, DVDs and CDs; Soft furnishings; and any other saleable items.

All offers of help collecting or displaying items and on the day will be gratefully received. Unsold items will be offered to charities before disposal.

Admission £2

Holy Corner Book Sale for Christian Aid

Saturday 11th to Saturday 18th May



The sale takes place during Christian Aid Week in Morningside United Church, at the corner of Chamberlain Road.

Last year, thousands of books were sold and over £15,000 was raised.

You can help in the following ways:

- Donate books – please get in touch with me and I will collect them from you.
- Volunteer to help – there is a rota of 3-hour shifts. It's interesting and fun and the organisers are always needing new volunteers. Contact holycornerbooksale@gmail.com
- Visit the sale and buy some books. There is also a café on both Saturdays.

Fiona Watt (Email fiona.watt@blueyonder.co.uk)

More information at www.holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com