

Greenbank Connections



June–August 2019

Issue 681

Scottish Charity SCO11325



Spectrum, 28th April 2019 – St Paul on the Road to Damascus (see page 9)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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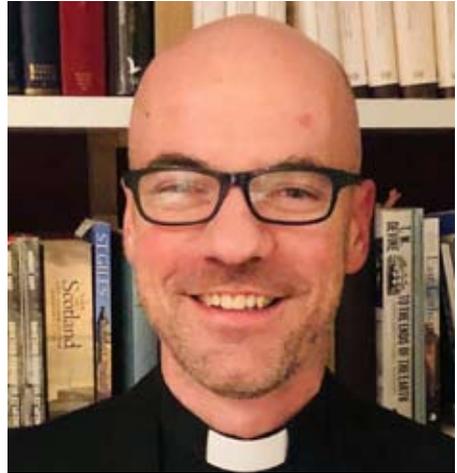
Summer Coffee Mornings

The Guild will be hosting Coffee Mornings on **Tuesdays 4th June, 2nd July, 13th August** and **3rd September** at 10.30am in the Main Hall. Everyone is welcome – come along for coffee or tea, home baking and a leisurely chat with friends.

Edith Armit

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends



It's good to be part of Greenbank, and I count my blessings to be Minister here! In the 2018–19 session I have witnessed so much committed discipleship and sheer hard graft of one kind or another. The Kirk Session and I are so grateful for all that you do to make this congregation a place where God speaks and God's love is felt.

We have much to be grateful for, and a sign of that gratitude is in our commitment to the national church. As we approach the 2019 General Assembly, I am very much aware of our contribution in terms of finance (our Ministry and Mission contributions) and the work of our members on various groups and committees. Greenbank is a major contributor to the Church of Scotland – thanks be to God!

This is an important year for the Assembly as it considers two major reviews of current ways of being the church. It's very hard to get consensus on many issues, so we will expect much debate on the floor of

the Assembly Hall, and hopefully a clear endorsement of plans for the future. At Greenbank we have begun to create a new strategic plan for our own congregation as we grow together in faith. It will be focused on the three headings considered by our Kirk Session during its conference held at Balerno last autumn: *Discipleship*, *Outreach*, and *Pastoral Care*. As well as more recent perspectives, the data from our congregational survey of 2017 will be analysed, looking at where we're at now, and where we might be going in the future. A draft plan will be available for the congregation to consider, and there will be a chance to discuss it in September, when the three themes will be the focus for worship on three Sundays, with breakout discussion groups after the services.

So, there is a lot going on in the background, but I'm very aware that we all need a chance for some down time after a busy year. I hope that you all manage to have some relaxation, whether at home or away, and that in that time you will sit for a bit, and listen for the voice of God both for you personally and our communal life at Greenbank. I know that you'll enjoy having Bill Stone and his family here from New Jersey as he and I swap pulpits and manses for the month of July. Please do as much as you can to make them all welcome and to support Bill as he returns in the role of Minister rather than Youth Minister. Your prayers for me in the adventure of Pastoring at New Vernon, New Jersey would be valued!

We're all looking forward to the summer Holiday Club, running from 5th August and led by Alison Reid, Steve, and the fantastic team. It culminates in the Holiday Club service on Sunday 11th August at

10.30am, which is followed by a barbecue for everyone. Please help to spread the word amongst family, friends, and neighbours about the club to help make it another wonderful week. The following Sunday, 18th August, will be our official "Homecoming Sunday" when we look forward to gathering everyone back from their travels and to celebrating the start of another session in our Greenbank journey. This would be a really good Sunday to invite along a friend, or someone who hasn't been to church in a while and might appreciate the chance to come back.

With my love and best wishes
for the summer,



Easter Morning, 5.30am:
lighting the Paschal Candle (see also page 6)

From the Youth Associate

Reviewing 2018–19

Across Springboard and QII we have accomplished plenty! So much so, that as I sit down to gather it all together I am humbled at all the wonderful opportunities we have had together. And, with a twinge of regret, consider the sheer volume of pizza we have ingested.

We started a Youth Alpha course in September, which took us all the way to Lent! We learned from Jason and Ben (the presenters of Youth Alpha) as much as we disagreed with them, and in those moments we found life together. In questioning the Christian faith, we found it questioning us back – engaging in that great wrestling match with our God.

I will not soon forget the sight of Beca, David and James in the gallery, sending parcels zooming down an invisible fishing-wire zip-line during our family friendly Christmas service. Nor the memory of so many youth assembled to help serve for the Burns Supper. A few of us travelled to Lendrick Muir with Scripture Union, and we got to ‘interrogate’ Alison Reid, Vivien

Hutchison, Ian Thom, John Murison, and Hayley Ferguson, hearing their life stories as Christians.

On one cool, calm Easter morning, we gathered together to see some of our number be baptised, and then a week later to see that same number (and more!) make their profession of faith to the whole congregation.

We have talked about difficult subjects – even as I write this we are midway through some time spent talking and thinking about sex, marriage, and intimacy in the Christian tradition. Throughout the year, I have watched, knowing that Beca and Annie will soon be leaving for university. Will we miss them? Undoubtedly. But though they go from us, they will not be far from us.

As the summer approaches, I begin thinking about the schedule for next year, and the promise of new memories we will create. I am very excited.

Steve Chaffee



Christmas Service zip wire operators: Beca, James, David



Outside the Dominion Cinema: outing to see Avengers Endgame



Brunch, October 2018

Images from Easter Sunday: 21st April 2019



At 5.30am on Easter Sunday, three young people – David Gourlay, Rebeca Gourlay, and Graeme Wetherill (see also page 8) – were baptised in a service in Braidburn Valley Park attended by 50 people.

After the 10.30am Easter Service, a number of the congregation went to Braidburn Valley Park to take part in the traditional egg-rolling.



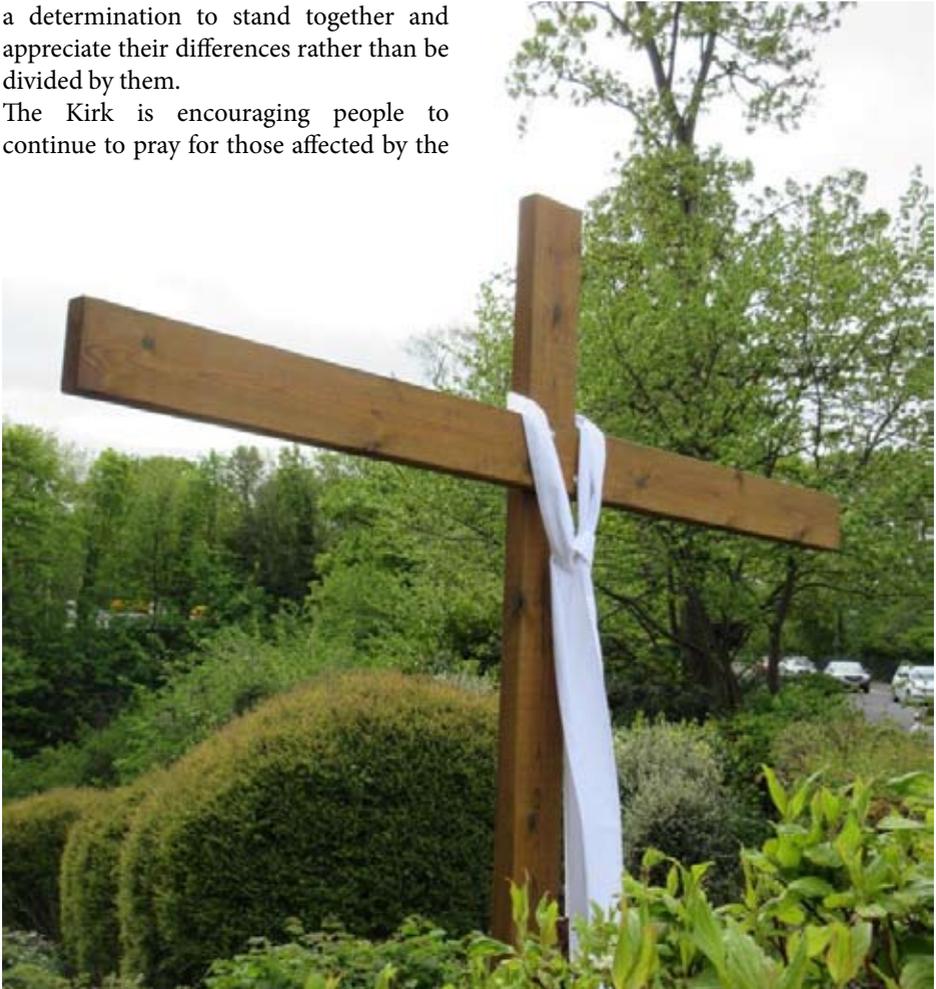
Solidarity with Sri Lanka

Christians in Sri Lanka were devastated to learn that more than 200 people have been killed and 400 injured in a coordinated series of bomb attacks on three churches and four hotels in the country on Easter Sunday. Scottish religious leaders from around ten denominations have come together in solidarity with Christians in the aftermath of the massacre, united by a determination to stand together and appreciate their differences rather than be divided by them.

The Kirk is encouraging people to continue to pray for those affected by the

massacre and recently many churches across Scotland, including here at Greenbank, have shown solidarity for Sri Lanka by placing white ribbons around their buildings.

Janet Edwards
World Mission Team



New Face – Graeme Wetherill

Graeme grew up in the East End of Glasgow, the youngest of three. As a child he enjoyed Sunday School, but didn't join the Church. He came to Edinburgh to work and enjoyed life here until relationship problems and loss of his job took him back to his family in Glasgow, who were very supportive.

One time when he was very distressed he picked up his old Bible and started reading it. That changed his life. He is now back in Edinburgh working with CrossReach to support homeless and vulnerable people. He has found that his experiences have made him better able to understand and help others in difficulty.

He had tried another church, but didn't think it was the place for him. After meeting Martin he came to see what Greenbank was like, worried that with his jeans and ear studs he wouldn't fit in, but he has felt welcomed.



Edith Armit

Graeme Wetherill



Wanted – more good quality household goods for Fresh Start

Dates For Your Diary: The next dates for donations to Fresh Start are **Sundays 9th June and 14th July** 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, microwaves, 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.

Susan MacLeod
(smm24@icloud.com)

Spectrum Art

On 28th April 2019 the Spectrum children were learning about St Paul on the road to Damascus. Here is a selection of their drawings and paintings of St Paul. (See also the cover.)

Moira Small



Summer Term at Greenbank Pre School

After a successful BIG DIG at the end of last term, the children are enjoying using the outdoor spaces, especially our upcycled “bus”. Many thanks to all the parents who came along to help on the day. Our Easter service on 26th April focused on the garden, with the children bringing drawings to help tell the Easter story.

Our main focus this term is Summer. We have a range of garden projects and a special project: *Pirates*.

The transition to school programme is based on Julia Donaldson’s book *The Snail and the Whale*. Children have the chance to investigate small world minibeast areas, explore all the spaces using their senses and, most importantly, tend the seedlings in the Pre School garden. Our art work focuses on colour and building ships as part of our ‘pirate’ theme.

The majority of the children attending Pre School move on to South Morningside Primary, and this term they have three visits to their new school. We also have a series of special events in June: Garden Parties on 11th June, our Picnic and Sports Day in the Braidburn Valley Park on 20th June, a visit from Clydebuilt Theatre Company on 26th June, and then we finish the term with ‘Junk to Funk’ parades and Graduation Ceremonies on 27th June.

Planning for next session and the pilot of 1140 hours continues – *there are still a few places available for 600 hours next session*; please contact us on 0131 447 8068 or through our website:

www.greenbankpreschool.org

Joan Ritchie
Chair of the Management Committee



Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, and the DEC Appeal

The DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) is an umbrella group of 14 UK Charities, including Christian Aid, which coordinates and launches collective appeals to raise funds to provide emergency aid and rapid relief to people caught up in disasters and humanitarian crises around the world. Their most recent appeal relates to cyclones Idai and Kenneth which swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in March leaving behind a trail of destruction, killing at least 960 people and leaving around 3 million in need of help.

The aid effort is fully underway and DEC member charities are working closely with national partners to support government-led relief efforts. They are prioritising the delivery of clean water, building toilets and handwashing facilities to tackle the outbreak of cholera. They are also delivering emergency shelter materials and blankets, food such as pulses and maize flour, and urgent health assistance. Focusing on longer-term food security and rehabilitation of livelihoods is paramount and some members are already providing seeds and tools to communities.

UK faith leaders including Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and Abdul Qayyum, Chief Imam of the East London Mosque which serves Britain's largest Muslim community, urged Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths and none to support DEC's Cyclone Idai Appeal which has so far raised £29m and continues to accept donations.

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/cyclone#/>

Janet Edwards

Global Prayer Initiative

Thy Kingdom Come – From Ascension Day to Pentecost

Greenbank is taking part in a global prayer initiative, joining with Christians all over the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It started in 2016 with an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. The Moderator of the General Assembly has commended it to congregations. It lasts from Ascension Day, 30th May, to Pentecost, 9th June. So far 114 countries are involved from 65 denominations.

The Kirk Session agreed that Greenbank should sign up for the initiative and we now appear as a light on the world map along with all the other churches taking part. You can find the map at

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

We have set aside a special time of prayer **from 7.30am until 9am on Sunday 9th June**, just before our Pentecost Communion Service. Please come along and be a living part of this great global movement. There will be some words and music as prompts to prayer or you can just sit in silence. To reward your early rise there will be a bacon or veggie roll breakfast at 9am.

Valerie Macniven

Friendship Club

We ended our session with a splendid Afternoon Tea at the Bruntsfield Links Golf Club. Luckily no-one kept count of how many scones, cakes and savouries were demolished! We will be back with a great new programme after the summer break.

Val Smart

Eco Column – Summer 2019

A Plastic Ocean

The Eco Group's film night on 12th May showed ***A Plastic Ocean***, a disturbing film of the impact of plastic debris throughout the world's oceans.

The levels of pollution are now such that plastic, often in very small pieces, is spread throughout the marine environment, adversely affecting all life in the sea, and the food chain. Human life is therefore threatened by plastic toxins as well. It is estimated that 80% of plastic waste ends up in the sea, often washed out of rivers in highly populated areas of the developing world.

The message was stark – all discharge of plastic to the seas must stop immediately and drastic and worldwide solutions to its safe disposal must be found. We are inevitably left with thinking about our personal response to yet another environmental crisis, on top of the overwhelming issues of

climate change and the need for social justice and the eradication of poverty.

Action includes reducing the amount of plastic we use, such as buying loose vegetables in the supermarket and not single use prepacks, making use of reusable items, especially substitutes for plastic bottles, and less obvious changes, such as substituting foil for cling wrap and plastic bags in food wrapping.

Those of us at the film, some 20 Greenbankers, will also be spreading its message and considering lobbying and campaigning to bring about change.

Do think about this a bit more, and consider it in your prayers and personal actions. The DVD can be borrowed from the church library after Sunday services. More information can be obtained at

plasticoceans.org

David Jack

Summer Walks – Again?

There are no fundraising summer walks this year, but one or two of last year's participants have asked me if there can be walking opportunities for social and recreational benefit.

I am very happy to organise and host walks to suit any 'age and stage' again. I have in mind three options – one is to do the next section of the Union Canal, Slateford to Ratho, which is about two and a bit hours duration. The other two are Pentlands based. The first is to leave our own church door and follow Robert Louis Stevenson's route to Swanston Cottage, and then along the base of the hills to

Dreghorn or Bonaly. This is easy walking with very little climbing – again about two plus hours. A third route is to start from Flotterstone and walk back to Edinburgh to either Bonaly or Balerno – this is more like three hours, but not a taxing walk, on good paths.

Since we are an Eco Congregation, all trips will start and finish using foot or bus travel! If you would like to join a walk please contact me on davidinnesjack@gmail.com, and we can see if there is sufficient interest and also settle on dates.

David Jack

Welcome Teams

June

- 2 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 9 **Ian Thomson**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett-Brown
- 16 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Susan Jackman, Clare Campbell, Catherine Cameron, Ishbel Emery, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden
- 23 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 30 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Charles Black, Kay Ellis, David Gourlay

July

- 7 **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 14 **Caroline Kehoe**, Richard Denison, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 21 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton

July (continued)

- 28 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Sandy Cameron, Moira Land, Jenny Wright, Carrie Reid, Amy Barnes

August

- 4 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 11 **Ian Thomson**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett-Brown
- 18 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Susan Jackman, Clare Campbell, Catherine Cameron, Ishbel Emery, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden
- 25 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay

September

- 1 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Sandy Cameron, Moira Land, Jenny Wright, Carrie Reid, Amy Barnes

Have you looked at the
Greenbank website recently?

www.greenbankchurch.org

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online
version of Connections*

BACKPACKERS



A Holiday Club at Greenbank
for all children of Primary
School age. 10am-12.15pm

Mon 5th - Fri 9th August 2019

Where? At Greenbank Church, Braidburn
Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 6ES

Cost? £20 for the week (£4 per morning)

Sign up? You can register and pay online at:
www.greenbankchurch.org
or contact the Greenbank Church
Office (Tel 447 9969)

For more information contact
Mrs Alison Reid (Tel 477 6537)

Greenbank Calendar: June–August 2019

June

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| 2 Sun | 9.30 | Family Friendly Communion |
| | 10.30 | Traditional Communion |
| | 15.00 | Afternoon Communion |
| | 19.00 | QII |
| 4 Tues | 10.30 | Guild Coffee Morning |
| 5 Wed | 13.00 | Midweek Prayers |
| 6 Thurs | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 7 Fri | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 9 Sun | | Pentecost |
| | 7.30 | Global Prayer Initiative Service |
| | 9.30 | Communion |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| | 19.00 | QII |
| 11 Tues | 19.00 | Kirk Session and Trustees meeting |
| 12 Wed | 13.00 | Midweek Prayers |
| 13 Thurs | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 14 Fri | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 16 Sun | 10.30 | Morning Worship and Annual Business Meeting of Congregation |
| | 19.00 | QII |
| 19 Wed | 13.00 | Midweek Prayers |
| | 19.30 | Congregational Board meeting |
| 20 Thurs | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 21 Fri | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 23 Sun | 10.30 | All Age Celebration for end of term followed by picnic in the park |
| | 19.00 | QII |
| 27 Thurs | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 28 Fri | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 30 Sun | 10.00 | Summer Service |

July

The Rev Bill Stone and family on exchange

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Tues | 10.30 | Guild Coffee Morning |
| 7 Sun | 10.00 | Summer Service |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 14 Sun | 10.00 | Summer Service |
| 21 Sun | 10.00 | Summer Service |
| 28 Sun | 10.00 | Summer Service |

August

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| 4 Sun | 10.00 | Summer Service |
| 5 Mon to 9 Fri | | Holiday Club |
| 11 Sun | 10.30 | All Age Worship with Holiday Club followed by Congregational Barbecue |
| 13 Tues | 10.30 | Guild Coffee morning |
| 15 Thurs | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 16 Fri | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 18 Sun | 9.30 | Quiet Communion |
| | 10.30 | Homecoming Sunday, Young Church term begins |
| 21 Wed | 13.00 | Midweek Prayers |
| 22 Thurs | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 23 Fri | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 25 Sun | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| | 19.00 | QII |
| 28 Wed | 13.00 | Midweek Prayers |
| 29 Thurs | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 30 Fri | 9.45 | Babies and Toddlers |
| 31 Sat | 14.00 | T in the (Braidburn Valley) Park |

September

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Sun | 9.30 | Family Friendly Communion |
| | 10.30 | Traditional Communion |
| | 15.00 | Afternoon Communion |
| | 19.00 | QII |
| 3 Tues | 10.30 | Guild Coffee Morning |
| 4 Wed | 13.00 | Midweek Prayers |

Crèche for children under 3 in the Hermitage Room at every 10.00 and 10.30 Service

Summer Coffee Rota

June

- 2 Communion – *no coffee*
- 9 Rosemary McCulloch
- 16 Joan Ritchie
- 23 David Jack
- *30 Hazel Macaulay

July

- *7 Clare Campbell
- *14 Ian & Isobel Thom

July (continued)

- *21 Edith Armit
- *28 Anne Kinnear

August

- *4 Jill Powlett-Brown
- 11 Rona Sommerville
- 18 SLA
- 25 Helen Aitken

* **Service at 10.00am**



Flower Rota

Provided by

Delivered by

June

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Ina Weir | Irene Horne |
| 9 Rhiann Ferguson | Katie Bogie |
| 16 Eleanor Winton | Dorothy Whitehead |
| 23 Jenni Johnston | Sheena Marshall |
| 30 Dorothy Whitehead | Alison Murison |

July

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 7 Sheila Walker | Diana Teasdale |
| 14 Kathleen Patrick | Moira Davidson |
| 21 Margaret Pitkeathly | Cathie MacLennan |
| 28 Alison Murison | Isobel Brown |

August

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 4 Pauline Macdonald | Kay Ellis |
| 11 Morna Morrison | Ishbel Clark |
| 18 Isabel Hunter | Pam Adair |
| 25 Gillian Sweetman | Janet Walker |

September

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1 Hutchison Family | Fiona Connal |
|--------------------|--------------|

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 September issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 11th August or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 13th August to

greenbankconnections@gmail.com