

Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES

No 636 June–August 2014

Pulpit Diary

May 30 (Friday)

7.30pm Pre-Communion Service

Jun 1

9.00am Communion

10.30am Communion (Springboard and Spectrum meet as usual)

3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

Jun 8 Pentecost

9.30am Pentecost Communion

10.30am All Age Celebration and 'Moving on' Service, followed by Congregational Picnic

Jun 15 – Aug 3 inclusive

9.30am Family Worship

10.30am Morning Worship (Crèche and special activity for children)

Aug 10

10.30am All Age Worship with children from *Mega Makers* Holiday Club

Aug 17

10.30am Morning Worship (Springboard and Spectrum start of 1st term)

Aug 24

10.30am Morning Worship

Aug 31

10.30am Morning Worship

Sept 5 Friday

7.30pm Pre-Communion Service

Sept 7

9.00am Communion

10.30am Communion (Springboard and Spectrum meet as normal)

3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

To make contact with any of the organisations referenced in this *Leaflet*, please use the telephone number given, if there is one. Otherwise please contact the Church Office.

Website: www.greenbankchurch.org

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

June this year marks the centenary of the assassination in Sarajevo of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. It was this murderous act that is generally regarded as the one that tipped the world into the Great War. And in the course of the next few years many people will be making a point of visiting



some of the sites that commemorate the horrific battles that were fought across Europe between 1914 and 1918. There is much to reflect on as we are reminded of the heroism and self-sacrifice of ordinary men who "went over the top", and of women who served as nurses at the front. But of course that is not the whole picture. The war left devastation and carnage and poverty, as well as the disruption of family and community life, in its wake. And the Treaty of Versailles, demanding reparation from Germany, is generally regarded as preparing the way for WWII 20 years later.

War in and of itself, while sometimes necessary, is never the whole solution. As it happens I'm writing this at the beginning of Christian Aid Week, and I was reminded while reading the report of the Church of Scotland's World Mission Committee to this year's General Assembly, of the origins of Christian Aid.

In 1947, in the middle of the worst winter of that century, a young Church of Scotland minister was working as a military chaplain with British forces in Germany. One day he was approached by a man wearing a Luftwaffe jacket. Joseph Makovec, a former bomber pilot, told him about the plight of 80,000 nearby refugees. Could the minister help? Douglas Lister went with him to see the refugees and was horrified by what he saw, babies wrapped in newspapers; the stench of boiling cabbage everywhere. The refugees had very little to eat. He knew

that he had to help these starving people.

High Command refused permission on the grounds that it would be fraternisation with the enemy. Lister appealed and won. Letters were sent to Scotland asking for support to help the German refugees survive the winter hardship – all this only two years af-

ter a war in which many Scots had lost loved ones. The churches responded. Appeals to a war-weary people to do what Jesus asked and love their enemies and do good to those who had hated them, and pray for those who had persecuted them, produced a huge response. Despite rationing and poverty at home vast quantities of top quality food and clothes poured in.

As a result of the campaign the lives of hundreds of so-called "enemies" were saved. From this cooperation the Inter-Church Refugee Service was born. It later became Christian Aid. And it is still the relief arm of the British and Irish Churches. It offers the same practical help to those in need of relief from catastrophe. It still stretches out a helping hand to people seeking to develop a living and build a sustainable future. It still campaigns for political solutions. Christian Aid is rooted in the conviction that costly reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel message.

In our Sunday evening autumn lecture series this year we will be reflecting more on the theme of war and peace. There are details of this series elsewhere in this *Leaflet* and you might want to note these in your diary for September.

In the meantime I hope that whatever you are planning to do this summer it will afford you space for recreation, refreshment and reflection.

With warmest wishes,

Alison I Swindells
Minister

GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH

Programme for Session 2014/2015



2014

3 Aug (Sun)	9.30	Last of Summer Family Services
4 Aug (Mon) – 8 Aug (Fri)	10.00–12 noon	Holiday Club
10 Aug (Sun)	10.30	All Age Worship with Holiday Club
15 Aug (Fri)		Pre-school start of 1st term
17 Aug (Sun)	10.00	Springboard start of 1st term
	10.30	Spectrum start of 1st term
5 Sept (Fri)	9.15–9.45	Pram Praise
5 Sept (Fri)	19.30	Pre-Communion Service
	20.00	Pre-Communion Kirk Session Meeting
7 Sept (Sun)		Communion Services at 9.00, 10.30 and 15.00 Springboard meets at 10.00, Spectrum at 10.30
15 Sept (Mon)		Pre-school closed
16 Sept (Tue)	19.30	Kirk Session Meeting
23 Sept (Tue)	19.30	Congregational Board Meeting
28 Sept (Sun)	10.30	All Age Celebration for Harvest
30 Sept (Tue)	19.30	District Elders meeting 4
3 Oct (Fri)	9.15–9.45	Pram Praise
4 Oct (Sat)	16.00–18.00	Messy Church
5 Oct (Sun)	9.30	First Sunday Service led by Springboard
12 Oct (Sun)		No meeting of Spectrum or Springboard (Special activity for children)
13 Oct (Mon) – 20 Oct (Mon)		Pre-school closed
2 Nov (Sun)	9.30	First Sunday Service led by The Guild
6 Nov (Thurs)	19.30	District Elders meeting 5
7 Nov (Fri)	9.15–9.45	Pram Praise
9 Nov (Sun)	10.45	Remembrance Service (Springboard meets as usual, Spectrum 2 and 3 begin in church at 10.45, Spectrum 1 meets in Upper Hall at 10.45)
15 Nov (Sat)	16.00–18.00	Messy Church
16 Nov (Sun) – 23 Nov (Sun)		Guild Week
25 Nov (Tue)	19.30	Kirk Session Meeting
30 Nov (Sun)		First Sunday in Advent Start of Christmas Offering for Christian Aid
2 Dec (Tue)	19.30	Congregational Board Meeting
5 Dec (Fri)	9.15–9.45	Pram Praise
5 Dec (Fri)	19.30	Pre-Communion Service
	20.00	Pre-Communion Kirk Session Meeting
6 Dec (Sat)		Christmas Event for Children
7 Dec (Sun)		Second Sunday in Advent Communion Services at 9.00, 10.30 and 15.00 Springboard meets at 10.00, Spectrum at 10.30
14 Dec (Sun)	10.30	Third Sunday in Advent All Age Gift Service Springboard and Spectrum end of 1st term
	15.00	Blue Christmas Service
18 Dec (Thurs)		Pre-school end of 1st term
21 Dec (Sun)		Fourth Sunday in Advent Lessons and Carols
24 Dec (Wed)		Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Family Service
	19.00	Christmas Eve Watchnight Service, (Carol Singing from 23.10)
	23.30	
25 Dec (Thurs)		Christmas Day Family Service for Christmas Day
	10.30	

2015

4 Jan (Sun)	10.00	Springboard start of 2nd term
	10.30	Spectrum start of 2nd term
6 Jan (Tue)		Pre-school start of 2nd term
13 Jan (Tue)	19.30	Kirk Session Meeting

20 Jan (Tue)	19.30	Congregational Board Meeting
1 Feb (Sun)	9.30	First Sunday Service led by the Kirk Session
6 Feb (Fri)	9.15–9.45	Pram Praise
8 Feb (Sun)		Uniformed Organisations Service
15 Feb (Sun)		No meeting of Springboard or Spectrum – special activity for children
16 Feb (Mon) – 23 Feb (Mon)		Pre-school closed
17 Feb (Tue)		Guild Fund-raising event
22 Feb (Sun)		First Sunday in Lent
27 Feb (Fri)	19.30	Pre-Communion Service
	20.00	Pre-Communion Kirk Session Meeting
1 Mar (Sun)		Second Sunday in Lent Communion Services at 9.00, 10.30 and 15.00 (Spectrum and Springboard meet as usual)
6 Mar (Fri)	9.15–9.45	Pram Praise
	10.30	World Day of Prayer
8 Mar (Sun)		Third Sunday in Lent
10 Mar (Tue)	19.00	Trustees Meeting
	19.30	Kirk Session Meeting
15 Mar (Sun)		Fourth Sunday in Lent Start of Lent/Easter offering Annual Business Meeting of Congregation during 10.30 Service Springboard meets at 10.00, Spectrum at 10.30
18 Mar (Wed)	19.30	Congregational Board Meeting
22 Mar (Sun)		Fifth Sunday in Lent
29 Mar (Sun)		Palm Sunday Springboard and Spectrum end of 2nd term
30 Mar (Mon) – 3 Apr (Fri)		19.30 Holy Week Services (Morningside Parish Church)
2 Apr (Thurs)		Pre-school end of 2nd term
5 Apr (Sun)		Easter Day 9.30 Communion 10.30 All Age Celebration (followed by egg rolling in Braidburn Valley Park)
18 Apr (Sat)		Scout Jumble Sale
22 Apr (Wed)		Pre-school start of 3rd term
26 Apr (Sun)		Stewardship Sunday
	10.00	Springboard start of 3rd term
	10.30	Spectrum start of 3rd term
27 Apr (Mon)	19.30	Kirk Session Meeting
1 May (Fri)	9.15–9.45	Pram Praise
3 May (Sun)	9.30	First Sunday Service led by World Mission
4 May (Mon)		Pre-school closed
11–17 May (Mon–Sun)		Christian Aid Week
12 May (Tue)	19.30	District Elders meeting 6
18–19 May (Mon–Tue)		Pre-school closed
24 May (Sun)		Pentecost 9.30 Pentecost Communion Service 10.30 Morning Worship
2 Jun (Tue)	19.30	Congregational Board Meeting
5 Jun (Fri)	9.15–9.45	Pram Praise
	19.30	Pre-Communion Service
	20.00	Pre-Communion Session Meeting
7 Jun (Sun)		Communion Services at 9.00, 10.30 and 15.00 Springboard meets at 10.00, Spectrum at 10.30
9 Jun (Tue)	19.30	Kirk Session Meeting
14 Jun (Sun)	10.30	All Age Moving on Service Springboard and Spectrum end of 3rd term
21 Jun (Sun)	9.30	First of Summer Family Services
25 Jun (Thurs)		Pre-school end of year

Autumn Lecture Series

War and Peace

Every Sunday in September 2014, at 7.00pm in Morningside Parish Church (refreshments from 6.30pm):

- 7 *The Church and WW1* Professor S J Brown
- 14 *Conflict Resolution and Peace-keeping Today*
Dr Theodora Hawksley
- 21 *Chaplaincy in Deployment* Rev Dr Marjory MacLean
- 28 *Craiglockhart Hospital* Rev Professor David Fergusson

Run jointly by Greenbank and Morningside Parish Churches with the University of Edinburgh School of Divinity.

Flat Jesus!



We have an exciting new way for our Greenbank family to stay connected during the summer holidays! Over the past two years we have asked members of our church family to send a postcard from their travels, and have enjoyed receiving notes from places as near as Edinburgh Zoo and as far away as Vietnam.

This year we are introducing “Flat Jesus”, based on the children’s novel *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown. It will help us stay connected over the summer holidays, and remind us that God is with us everywhere we go.

In *Flat Stanley*, the main character in the book is accidentally flattened when a bulletin board falls on him. He finds out that being flat is not such a bad thing because he is able to visit many places that he could not before, and this leads to many exciting adventures. In children’s literacy projects around the world, young people are invited to take a cardboard cutout of Flat Stanley with them and write about their adventures together. These are often shared on blogs and websites where you can see pictures of Flat Stanley travelling all over the world.

In a similar spirit we invite all of you to take a cutout of Jesus with you, and to send a picture and note back to the church so that we can hear about your adventures. Remember that no trip is too near or far!

Our hope is that this simple practice will help us remember that God is with us wherever we go, and Jesus does not simply stay in the church during the week. It may even spark interesting conversations with your fellow travellers!

You can pick up a figure to colour in from our church office, and once you’ve snapped a photo, email it – along with a wee note – to greenbankchurch@btconnect.com. If you don’t have email, please still send the Church a postcard!

Marathon

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me. I ran the marathon in 5 hours 2mins and had a truly wonderful day. Thanks to your amazing generosity, I raised £4,000 (£1,000 over my target). This is enough to pay for a building in Iraq, so a whole community can grow nutritious vegetables to eat and sell despite the harsh climate.

Thanks again, Helen Barnes

Congratulations Helen!

Thanks

To all those who supported the Coffee Morning run by the Friends of Morlich, a huge vote of thanks. We raised just over £1,000, which will be used to replace the garden furniture for the ladies at Morlich House.

Hopefully we will have a great summer and the new chairs will be well used.

Anne Oxbrow

Congregational Board Notes

At its most recent meeting the Board was briefed on recent work which had been undertaken on Church property, on progress with Health & Safety issues and on the latest position as regards finance.

In respect of property it was reported that the damp problem at the Church flat had been resolved and arrangements were in hand for the consequent redecoration which was required. The annual Presbytery inspection of Church property and the Manse had taken place. The possibility of getting a grant from the Scottish Government’s Climate Challenge Fund to improve the Church’s energy consumption continued to be pursued although it was uncertain if the Church could meet the criteria required.

The Health and Safety Group had prepared a series of policies which would be submitted to the Preses for approval. A fire safety policy had been issued and a fire safety plan prepared.

The accounts for the first two months of 2014 showed a deficit close to the deficit which had been budgeted. The Convenor of the Joint Stewardship Committee, Jim Young, presented a report on how the Church might fund future deficits. This report, which had already been presented to the Session, would form the basis of the 2014 Stewardship Campaign.

For information about church organisations, please contact the Church Office (Mon–Fri, 9.00am–12.00 noon, 1.30pm–3.30pm):

Mrs Virginia Johnston

tel and fax: 0131 447 9969

e-mail: greenbankchurch@btconnect.com

The pastoral team can be contacted through the Church Office:

Rev Alison Swindells

tel and fax: 0131 447 4032

email: alisonswindells@blueyonder.co.uk

Rev W. Peter Graham

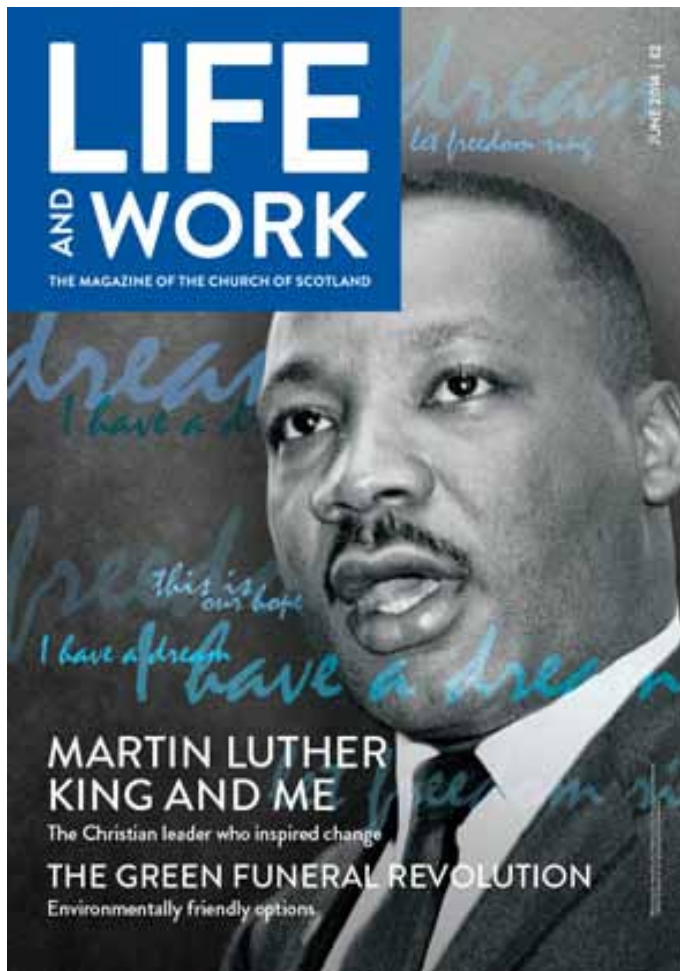
tel: 0131 445 5763

Youth Minister: Rev Bill Stone

tel: 07883 815 598

email: billstoneiii@gmail.com

June Issue of *Life and Work*



Date for your Diary

Thank you to everyone who donated items in good condition or indeed new items, last month. The last collection for Fresh Start before the autumn will be on **15th June** at the 10.30am Service (table in Main Hall).

See below for a full list of household goods wanted for the starter packs scheme.

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, pedal bin liners, rubbish bags, all purpose cleaner, laundry tablets.

Bed Linen and Towels

Single flat sheets, double flat sheets, single duvet covers, double duvet covers, pillow cases, blankets, duvets, bed covers, towels, face cloths, bath mats, curtains, rugs.

Small household electrical items – not TVs

Martin Luther King and Me

A Church of Scotland minister's experiences of the American civil rights campaign.

'A Beautiful Perspective'

Astronaut Jim Dutton describes how seeing the Earth from space impacted on his faith.

The Green Funeral Revolution

Jackie Macadam learns about environmental funerals and how new options are being offered in death.

'I am Going to be Myself'

Lynne McNeil meets the Rt Rev John Chalmers, Moderator of the 2014 General Assembly.

General Assembly

Summaries of reports to the Assembly

The Silenced Ghosts

As the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War approaches, Ron Ferguson reflects on those forgotten by the history books.

Question Time at the Kirk

William Clarke describes how Scotland's political future was debated at a London church.

A New Ministry

The development of a new centre of excellence for ministry at Aberdeen University

'Who Do You Say That I Am?'

Lynsey Martin, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, offers a personal insight into her year in office.

Plus news, letters, reviews and crosswords, all for just £2.

Online: Visit www.lifeandwork.org for the latest news and exclusive features.

To find out more about Fresh Start, pick up a leaflet on a Fresh Start Sunday, see www.freshstartweb.org.uk or telephone 476 7741.

Alison Ambler

Scout Jumble Sale

Again a hugely successful event raising just over £8,000 for the Scout funds. The Scout Group would like to thank the congregation for their support and donations, and in particular those volunteers manning stalls on the day who helped make up numbers in this holiday period and who showed talents which I am sure would surprise some of their fellow Church members.

From 16 year old Explorers through Scouts and Cubs to 6 year old Beavers, the Group members put in a very considerable effort over the week and on the day. This complemented the input of the leaders and committee members over the previous 5 months in organisation. All are to be congratulated.

Sadly Scouting is increasingly expensive but the funds raised go a long way to supporting a wide range of activities: all the better for them being raised through the Group's own efforts.

As always there was little waste with a number of charities benefiting from the goods not sold.

Stuart Sanders, Group Secretary

Christian Aid Week

At the time of writing, our parish collection is well underway, with over 40 volunteers out distributing and collecting donation envelopes in every street of the parish.



It is always important to sustain our effort in this practical action – bringing in resources for all Christian Aid projects around the world, but also emphasising Greenbank’s presence in the local area. As this year’s Christian Aid Project Card reminds us with its quote from James 2:17 “Faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead”.

Our picture shows Christian Aid bags being collected at the start of the week. Thank you to all the helpers who have assisted in the administration and counting of the collection, as well as our volunteer collectors. The Christian Aid total will be announced in due course.

Pam Jack

Guild Outing

The Guild Outing to Hopetoun House made a very enjoyable day out. We had good weather, a very good lunch and an excellent tour of the house with an extremely knowledgeable guide from whom we learned a great deal in a lively and enthusiastic way. Some of us even managed the many steps to the viewpoint on the roof, with its amazing views up the river and down – including the growing structure of the new bridge. The house is beautiful, interesting and of great historic importance, and the bluebells along the Lime Avenue gave the final touch to a great day out.

Edith Armit



World Mission

The past winter took us by storm, alerting us to the devastating effects of climate change which impact on each one of us. Scientists are now 95% certain that it is the result of human activity. Those who suffer most from the changes in our climate are people whose lives are already fragile and insecure: it has the potential to push even more people into poverty. Our increasing dependence on fossil fuels prompts the question, has the earth the capacity to cope?

What should our response be as Christians? The following examples show how some of our partner churches are playing a key role. In Ghana, the Christian and Muslim faith communities have established a wide network of religious bodies, hosted by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) – one of our partner churches. The EPC has been extensively involved in social development work for over five decades. Having launched an environmental-protection project in Northern Ghana in 2002, they reforested 100 acres of woodland, which provided alternative livelihoods for farmers.

In Bangladesh the per-person emissions of greenhouse gases are probably one of the lowest in the world, so its ‘carbon footprint’ is extremely low. Bangladesh was once densely forested but this has been cleared for timber, converted to agriculture or cut for firewood. Forest cover has shrunk from 18% in 1927 to 6% today. While its industrial contribution to global warming is minimal, the contribution through deforestation has been considerable. The Church of Bangladesh is committed to taking action to combat climate change by encouraging tree planting, building brick kilns, using energy efficient stoves and only using air-conditioning on the very hottest days!

The Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh says: “Faith in God helps us to understand our responsibility to take care of the creation and the people of this wonderful earth as stewards.”



Friendship Club Outing

All the members present had a great afternoon. The sun shone, the model railway was fascinating, watching the 'engine' fill up with water and later coal was interesting, the trees along the trackside were laden with spring green and blossom, bluebells and wild garlic beneath, our afternoon tea was scrumptious and the whole experience was a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Our driver, Matthew, when requested, detoured not once but twice to let us see the Kelpies – an exciting end to a memorable outing.

Val Smart



Holiday at Home

Wednesday 9th July 2.00pm

The first visit for the Holiday at Home this Summer is to Liberton Kirk. We will be taken round the Church by John Rennie and learn more of its history and that of the local area. This will be followed by a cup of tea and then a lift back to Greenbank. Meet at Greenbank Church at 2.00pm. If you would like to come please give your name and telephone number to the Church Office.

Gillian Sweetman

Welcome Teams

June

- 1 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 8 **Roger Bland**, Eileen Campbell, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo, Keith Winton
- 15 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker, Alastair Ross
- 22 **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 29 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Jenny Wright, Sandy Cameron, Carrie Reid, Moira Land

July

- 6 **John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Hazel Macaulay, Kathleen Patrick, Jill Powlett Brown, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster
- 13 **John Rutherford**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones
- 20 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 27 **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Stewart Coghill, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, David Easton, Susan Jackman

August

- 3 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker, Alastair Ross
- 10 **Keith Winton**, Eileen Campbell, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 17 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Greig Scott
- 24 **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Stewart Coghill, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, David Easton, Susan Jackman
- 31 **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster

September

- 7 **John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Hazel Macaulay, Kathleen Patrick, Jill Powlett Brown, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster

Material for the October *Leaflet* should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by **Sunday 14th September**, or sent by e-mail by **9am on Tuesday 16th September** to greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com

Congregational Register

Omitted from the online version of the Leaflet

Coffee Rota

June

- 1 Communion – no coffee
- 8 Moira Davidson
- 15 Caroline Kehoe
- 22 Julia Dunbar, Rona Sommerville
- 29 Elizabeth Htet-Khin

July

- 6 Louise Coghill
- 13 Jill Powlett Brown
- 20 Janet Allan
- 27 Neil Ross

August

- 3 Isabel Graham
- 10 Rona Sommerville, Margot Fergusson, Vivien Hutchison, Roddy Morrison
- 17 Liz Shiel
- 24 Rosemary McCulloch
- 31 Janet Ferguson



Crèche Rota

June

- 1 Lorna Htet-Khin
- 8 Eileen McKinnon
- 15 Hazel McLachlan
- 22 Shona Murray
- 29 Isobel Thom

July

- 6 Jenny Wright
- 13 Lucy Teall
- 20 Rosemary Collier
- 27 Liz Foster

August

- 3 Carrie Reid
- 10 Vivien Hutchison
- 17 Alison Ambler
- 24 Lorna Htet-Khin
- 31 Hazel McLachlan

September

- 7 Shona Murray



Flower Rota

June

- 1 Ina Weir
- 8 Anne Mason
- 15 Dorothy Whitehead
- 22 Anne Mason
- 29 Janet Ferguson

July

- 6 Jennie Johnston
- 13 Kathleen Patrick
- 20 Morrow/Harvey wedding
- 27 Rutherford Family

August

- 3 Margo Fraser
- 10 Betty Hutson & Family
- 17 Gillian Sweetman
- 24 Rhian Ferguson
- 31 Hutchison Family

September

- 7 Ritchie Family

Provided by

Delivered by

- Charlotte Tucker
- Irene Horne
- Doris Laing
- Dorothy Whitehead
- Anne Morham

- Alison Murison
- Margo Fraser
- Moira Davidson
- Cathie MacLennan

- Kay Ellis
- Ishbel Clark
- Anne Mason
- Janet Walker
- Anne Mainland

- Alison Berrill



Guild Notes

During the summer we shall have monthly coffee mornings in the Main Hall of the Church at 10.30am. The dates are Tuesday 3 June, Tuesday 1 July, Tuesday 12 August and Tuesday 2 September. Contributions to our SLA box can be made at these meetings. Non-members as well as Guild members are welcome to attend.

Kathleen Patrick

International Students Hospitality Scheme

Could you provide an Overseas Student with a welcome to Edinburgh? This can be as simple as meeting for a coffee and a chat once or twice or more regularly and perhaps offer some hospitality during their stay. The scheme has proved very popular with Students and The University of Edinburgh is looking for further volunteers to act as Hosts. If you would be interested in supporting this excellent scheme please look at the University Web Site www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/student-life/hospitality for further information.

Mission & Service Committee

Some Prayers of the Old Testament

Many a child, tired of waiting for a birthday or weary with sitting in the back of a car on a long journey, has been encouraged, exhorted, urged and even ordered to be patient.

Perhaps an adult will quote the old ditty:

Patience is a virtue;
possess it if you can.
It's rarely found in women —
and never in a man!

The phrase 'patience is a virtue' simply means that the ability to wait for something or someone without being angry or upset is a good and valuable quality. According to St Paul patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit. And the Letter of James speaks of the patience of Job.

In the Old Testament the Book of Job tells of a good and pious man who turns out to be anything but patient. Following a series of cruel and inexplicable misfortunes Job embarks on an extended argument with three of his friends (the so-called Job's comforters) and, ultimately, with God. Job challenges the facile — but at the time orthodox — views of his friends that if a man suffered disaster or misfortune it must be the result of his own sins, known or unknown, admitted or concealed. The Book of Job does not offer any satisfactory solution to the age-long problem of pain and suffering. However, it does serve as a warning against the danger of equating the religious orthodoxy of our time or any time with the mind and purpose of God. This imaginative work reaches its spiritual climax with Job acknowledging that in the end God's ways are an inscrutable mystery and that all he can do is admit his dependence on God.

This admission is made by Job in a brief prayer almost at the end of the book. It is as if Job's eyes are opened to the truth about God and about himself. Immediately prior to this prayer God has appeared in person to Job, just as he had made himself known to other ancient heroes like Abraham and Moses. In a whirlwind God has been both audibly and visibly present. God answers Job "out of the whirlwind", pointing to the infinite variety of life on earth and to the unimaginable skill and craftsmanship which is everywhere displayed. Now Job makes his response, humbly submitting himself, his thoughts and his entire life to God in reverent awe, admitting that he knows so little of anything at all in comparison with the limitless wisdom and majesty of God. Confronted by the vast and unimaginable array of wonders and mysteries God has created, how can Job hope to understand more than a tiny fragment of the Creator's mind and purpose? This admission of human frailty and ignorance allows Job to cease his endless striving and offers a release from his frustration and resentment against life and against God. He still does not know why he has undergone such suffering, but at least he is now able to live with it without it distorting all of life. Simply to know that God is there is enough.

The prayer itself is short and simple. It contains three statements from Job and two quotations from God's earlier statements. *Then Job answered the Lord: I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.* When Job

speaks of God being able to do all things, he is neither making a trite theological point nor is he cringingly confessing that he himself can do nothing and only God can save him. Instead he is realistically concluding that only God can make justice prevail throughout his creation. And the reason he can do this is because God has opened his eyes to the massive presence of evil in that creation.

Job quotes God: *'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'* This quotation from God's lips is dismissive of questioners who prattle without competence, who thereby obscure what everyone should know. By quoting God's words Job admits that he himself has been a "hider" of what is known and that he has overstepped the boundary between God and God's creatures. This question (Who?) and its implied answer (me) leads to Job's second statement. *Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.* Now in wonder and gratitude he concludes that his probing of the hiddenness of God was inappropriate and he did not know what he was doing.

A second time Job quotes God: *'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.'* Previously, Job had been the one who had been asking all the questions, but now the roles are reversed. In God's long speech, it is the creator who asks all the questions, designed to put Job in his place as the creature who must submit to his creator. Job's reply to this question amounts to an admission of his all too human limitations. *I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear...* To this point his knowledge of God had all been from hearsay, from old traditions, from the testimony of others: ... *but now my eye sees you.* What Job has been so desperately seeking is at last given to him. Seeking has become finding and Job's search for God comes to an end with the realisation that it need never have begun, since God had in fact been present and responsive all the time.

The Book of Job has reached its climax with God confronting Job. Job comes face to face with the living God. Job battered at heaven's door until it opened. God spoke to him and gave him a few answers; and God showed himself to Job for a few moments. The gulf between God and humanity was briefly crossed and the awful silence of heaven briefly broken — and that was enough for Job. In the Book of Job all the problems which arise from the presence in God's creation of evil things, especially the suffering of a good man like Job, are thoroughly aired, but none is solved. However, Job does receive a vision which enables him to soldier on in a bleak and fearful world. As a 20th century scholar concludes his commentary on the Book of Job, "Is the ultimate message of Job that the vision of God comes not to the pious but to the desperate, not to the assured but to the drowning man, not to the defenders of the faith once delivered to the saints, but to the man at the end of his tether?" [John C L Gibson, Daily Study Bible]

For further reading

Job's prayer may be found in *Job 42, verses 1-6.*

The magnificent speeches of God occupy *Job chapters 38 to 41.*