

Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES

No 642 April 2015

Pulpit Diary

Mar 30 Monday–Friday

–Apr 3 United Holy Week Services

7.30pm at Morningside Parish Church

Apr 4 Saturday

Readings and Music for Easter

7.30pm at Morningside Parish Church

Apr 5 Easter Sunday

9.30am Communion

10.30am All Age Easter Celebration
followed by egg-rolling in
Braidburn Valley Park

Apr 12

10.30am Morning Worship
(special activity for children)

Apr 19

10.30am Morning Worship
(special activity for children)

Apr 26 Stewardship Sunday

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

May 3

9.30am First Sunday Service
led by World Mission

10.30am Morning Worship

To make contact with any of the organisations referred in this *Leaflet*, please use the tel no given, if there is one. Otherwise please contact the Church Office. Website: www.greenbankchurch.org

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

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

As you may know we have two golden retrievers, Wesley and Calvin. They are great fun, although sometimes a lot of work. Part of the enjoyment comes from watching them interact with one another. Although younger by two years, Calvin is definitely top dog. When we first brought Calvin home he was a very



cute puppy, and he knew it! The vet on first inspection told us that he would take a bit of handling. We had hoped that Wesley would take the puppy under his wing. But at first Wesley ignored this little upstart who was invading his territory. But he did not get away with that for long. Calvin very quickly made his presence felt and can still be seen at times pulling Wesley by the collar round the garden! Despite this, if they are ever separated, Wesley always seems glad to have Calvin back.

The problems arise when Calvin thinks he can stamp his authority on us as well. The other day I was in a hurry and picked up my unfastened handbag from the bedroom floor. It felt heavier than usual. When I opened it, there sitting just inside on the top was one of Calvin's toy bones. Not only had he come into the bedroom which is out-of-bounds. He had also left a tangible reminder of his rebellion! Or perhaps I should give him the benefit of the doubt and look upon it as a gift! Because as well as being a bit of a rebel he is also a very gentle and affectionate dog who loves attention.

This year in our Lent Studies we have been thinking about faith and science. One of the questions that has raised its head in discussion is what distinguishes human beings from animals. I watch the dogs and I look at the world and myself, and I

see that we still have that tendency to compete with one another, to rebel against authority, to push the boundaries. We also have the same capacity to be gentle and affectionate. So what, if anything, differentiates human beings from animals? Is it the human mind or consciousness? Is it our sense of morality?

Is it our self-awareness? No doubt that debate will continue for many years to come as scientific research continues into these questions.

In the meantime Easter is almost upon us. And the Church calls us to worship the God who in Jesus Christ entered our world to show us the full potential of our humanity – a potential that has at its heart the capacity to love with a love that endures all things. On a cross, through a cross Jesus demonstrates God's love for the world. God's grace and forgiveness are poured out upon his creation. And the way is opened for us to live in love, in love for God, in love for one another, in love for God's creation. Our joint Holy Week services this year will be held at Morningside Parish Church and will take a slightly different format. The theme for these services will be *Engaging with Holy Week* and we will be looking at Jesus' engagement with the events of Holy Week. Our Easter Sunday services will begin with communion followed by our All Age Celebration and Egg Rolling in the Braidburn Valley Park. You are welcome at any or all of these services as together we celebrate the mystery that lies at the heart of the Christian faith.

With warmest wishes,

Alison I Swindells
Parish Minister

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING : SUNDAY 15th MARCH 2015

The meeting was constituted with prayer by the Minister, the Rev Alison Swindells. Approximately 130 members of the congregation were present. In his introductory remarks the Preses, Roderick Morrison, stated that the Annual Business Meeting was required by the Church's constitution and allowed the Board to report its workings in the course of 2014 to a broad spectrum of the congregation. He commended the work of the former Property Convenor, Ian Thom, who had stood down in the course of the year after serving 6 years in post, and he thanked and welcomed David Allan who had volunteered to succeed him. He also thanked Robert Young for the quiet and efficient manner in which he had guided the finances of the Church through difficult economic times. Also thanked were Gillian Sweetman and Angus McLachlan (Health, Safety and Security), Alan Armit (Halls Convener), Alan Ramage (Clerk to the Board), Hongsuk Um (Beadle), Mirek Pociask (Church Caretaker/Handyman), Brian Webster (Church Cleaner), Ginny Johnston (Church Administrator) and Charles Black (advice on insurance). The Preses invited any members of the Congregation who were interested in serving on the Board to get in touch with him.

David Allan, Property Convenor, reported that it had been another challenging year for the Property Committee with its needs and desires outstripping its finances. This had led to a discussion on priorities. Most of the property budget was spent on ensuring that the buildings were wind and water tight. In 2014 this had meant spending over £4,000 on roof maintenance and on the repair of crumbling stonework at the entrance side of the church, and on Manse maintenance. The second priority was repairing damaged facilities and broken equipment. This had meant spending around £1,500 on heating issues in the Centenary Hall. Both boilers needed replacement at a cost of £9,000. The next priority was the reduction of energy costs. The Church buildings cost between £10,500 and £13,500 a year for heating and lighting. There is no insulation in the church buildings and it was intended to improve this; also to replace the halogen lights to save on energy costs. The Church Administrator's PC had been replaced and the renovation of the ladies' toilet would be undertaken thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors. He concluded by intimating that a Work Party (currently nine members) had been set up to contribute to the upkeep of the Church's properties.

Gillian Sweetman reported on Health, Safety and Security matters. Alarm key pad instructions had been updated and training given to leaders of groups using the halls when there is no caretaker in attendance. Since these measures had been taken there had been no false activations. However, there needed to be continued vigilance by all groups using Church premises to ensure that buildings are left with lights, heating and taps off and external doors secured. During the year a number of minor accidents occurred and remedial action had been undertaken. Risk assessments had also been undertaken. Monitoring for asbestos fibres in the crypt remained satisfactory and the Board would be asked to support further preventive encapsulation work during 2015. Training for staff had included First Aid, Working at Height, and use of the hedge trimmer. Gillian concluded by thanking Angus McLachlan and Ginny Johnston (Church Administrator) for their support during the past year.

With regard to fire safety, Angus McLachlan reported that Fire Policy and Fire Emergency Procedures had been drafted, reviewed and put in place. The next phase would be to prepare and roll out training material to Church Staff, user group leaders and, eventually, Welcome Teams. Training had been given to the Church Administrator and Handyman so that the routine fire alarm testing could be done and the necessary practice fire evacuations could be held with the Pre-School Nursery and Nile Grove Playgroup. The annual Fire Safety risk self-assessment had been carried out last summer and no major points had emerged.

On financial matters the Treasurer, Robert Young, reported that statutory accounts were prepared annually for the wider Greenbank Church. These included the financial statements for the Church itself as well as the numerous Church-associated organisations, including the Pre-School, the Guild, QII, WAGs, BAGs and others. He further explained that the accounts for 2014 had been approved by the Church's Trustees and by the independent examiner, Anne Dobson of Greenbank Accountants. Copies had been made available in the vestibule. The Treasurer explained that, given that these accounts were in a statutory format and included the wider Church-associated organisations, they did not show a clear position of the finances of Greenbank Church itself. His report at this meeting would relate to the finances of the Church itself and would be based on the accounts for 2014 presented to the Congregational Board meeting on 20th January, copies of which had been issued with the March *Leaflet*.

The Treasurer reported a deficit before one-off items of £11,000. This deficit included the cost of the Youth Minister (approximately £30,000 – salary and oncosts) but excluded any transfers from the monies set aside to fund the Youth Ministry fund. Excluding the Youth Minister costs the Church would have had a surplus of £19,000. In addition, income of £45,000 had been received by the YACHT fund and a further £1,500 had been received in one-off legacy income. Total ordinary general income for 2014 was £277,000 which was broadly in line with the 2013 level, while total ordinary expenditure had been £288,000, £9,000 less than 2013. Total offerings including Gift Aid had amounted to £243,000, an increase of 1% over 2013. Other income (from use of premises, investment income, etc.) had been £34,000. This was £2,000 less than 2013 due to lower interest and lower hall income. The largest item of expenditure was the contribution to the wider work of the Church (£145,000) most of which supports the costs of the Ministry across Scotland. A successful appeal had resulted in the Ministry & Mission contribution being kept at the 2013 level. Salaries and staffing costs had been £88,000, £3,000 higher than 2013 as a result of salary increases and changes in evening and weekend caretaking arrangements. Premises costs had been £42,000, £2,000 lower than 2013, mainly as a result of a VAT rebate on utilities. Fund movements included the transfer of £16,000 from the existing Youth Minister fund to fund the General Fund deficit and the transfer of £50,000 from the Project fund to the YACHT fund. This was in addition to the £45,000 of new funds raised by the YACHT appeal.

Turning to 2015, the Treasurer stated that a £26,000 deficit had been budgeted which was £15,000 more than the actual 2014

deficit as a result of budgeted income being £1,000 less than in 2014 and budgeted costs being £13,000 higher than in 2014. The budgeted cost of the Youth Minister in 2015 (approximately £30,000) was greater than the forecast deficit of £26,000. The YACHT appeal was raising monies to fund the cost of the Youth Ministry going forwards and it was intended to show these costs (and the transfers from the YACHT funds used to pay these costs) separately from the main Church accounts in the future.


The Treasurer concluded by thanking the Assistant Treasurers, Michael Struthers, Kathryn Sangster and Dan Lean, for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

The Preses intimated that the Congregational Board had selected the YACHT appeal and the John McIntyre Scholarship Fund to be the recipients of the 2015 Lent and Easter Appeal. The latter fund provided bursary support for potential ministers in training.

Turning to the Board changes and the election of new Board members, the Preses intimated that Susan Black, Moira Land, Alan Ramage and Carrie Reid had indicated their willingness to serve on the Board for a further 3 year term, subject to the approval of the congregation. After 3 years' service, Ann Andrew, Lorna Htet-Khin and Daniel Lean were stepping down as were, after 6 years' service, Hugh Cowan, Michael Struthers (but retained on the Board as Assistant Treasurer) and Dawn Waitt. Richard Dunbar, Leonard Maguire, John Rutherford, Rona Sommerville (but retained on the Board as IT adviser), Isobel Thom, Christina Morrow and David Jackson were retiring as Board members nominated by the Kirk Session. The Preses thanked all of the above for their contributions to the Board. The Preses intimated three new Board nominations – Ian McWilliam, Bernard Mukwaira and Mark Fergusson. In the absence of further nominations the congregation agreed the re-election of those willing to remain on the Board for a further three years and the new Board nominees.

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

Alan Ramage
Clerk to the Congregational Board



Scouts @ Greenbank

Be prepared for "probably the best..."

JUMBLE sale
...in Edinburgh"

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2015 : 9.30am – 12 noon
GREENBANK CHURCH, BRAIDBURN TERRACE, EH10 6ES

4th Morningside Scout Group is registered as a Charity, number CR43781.

Admission £2

Book Review

The Cost of Discipleship

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, SCM Press, 285 pages
various reprints of English translation from 1959 onwards; still available new & used

Since this book was first published it has been widely read, not just because it is worth reading but because its author had demonstrated in his own life the ultimate costliness of following Jesus. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed seventy years ago on 9th April 1945 in a Nazi concentration camp.

Born in 1906, Bonhoeffer was already a brilliant young theologian when Hitler came to power in 1933. From 1935 to 1937 he helped train pastors for the Confessing Church, set up to call the German church back to the central truths of Christianity. It was during this period that he wrote and published *The Cost of Discipleship*.

Although inevitably reflecting the mood and thinking of that era, nonetheless this book can still speak to our generation. The threat of vocal and often militant ideologies which demand total commitment from their adherents is still with us. Confronted by the extremes of Islamism on the one hand and of secularism on the other, Christians have to work out what it means to follow Christ in daily living.

The Cost of Discipleship is in four parts. The first is highly critical of trivialising the Gospel, its offers and its demands,

with what Bonhoeffer calls "cheap grace". It goes on to describe the radical nature of discipleship and its requirement of single-minded obedience to Jesus. Many may find Bonhoeffer's insistence on a literal interpretation of the demands of Jesus disquieting, but a line of a hymn expresses his meaning – 'My will is not my own till thou hast made it thine'. In the second part Bonhoeffer goes through the Sermon on the Mount, spelling out more fully the implications of following Christ. He then comments briefly on the sending out of the disciples by Jesus, before dealing in

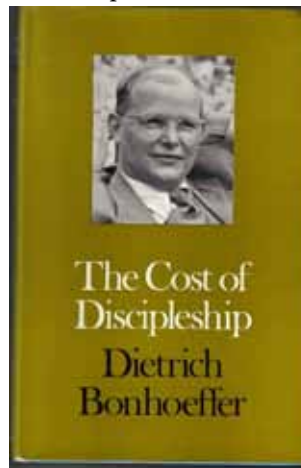
the final part with issues relating to the Church, the visible community of Christ's followers.

This is not a book to be read through quickly, but, as the continuing availability of various study guides based on it indicate, a work requiring and deserving thoughtful consideration. It is unlikely that the readers of this review will be required to die for their beliefs: all, however, are re-

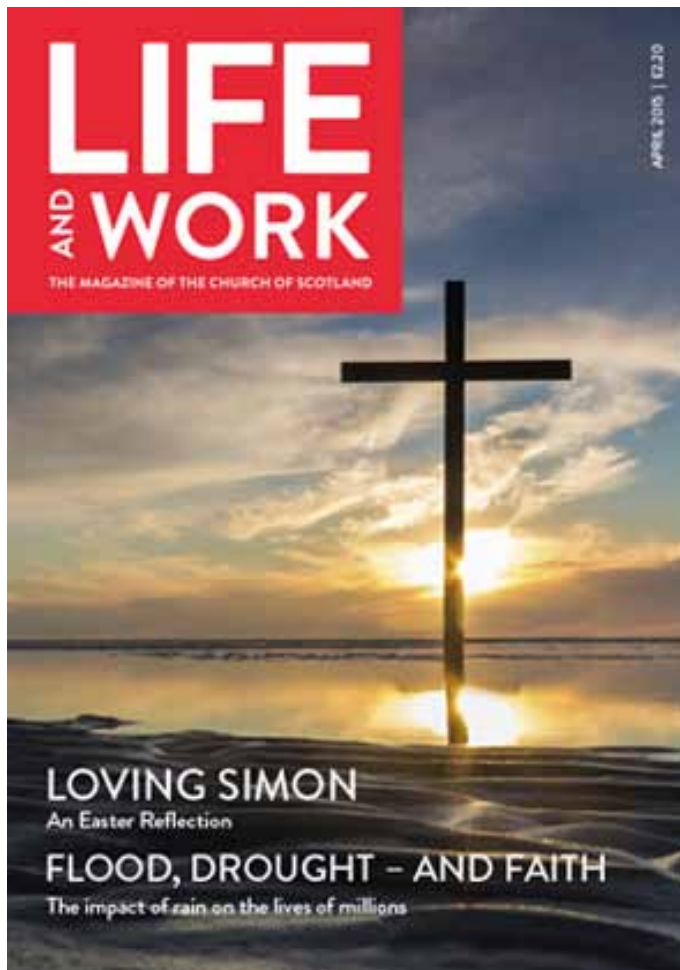
quired to take seriously the radical demands of Jesus and the knowledge that following is costly.

Bonhoeffer eventually became involved in the movement seeking to overthrow Adolf Hitler; he was arrested and imprisoned; and, just a few days before American troops reached the prison where he was held, he was hanged. How prophetic these words from *The Cost of Discipleship* turned out to be: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die".

Peter Graham



April Issue of *Life and Work*



Easter 2015

The Rev Dr Martin Fair considers whether the risen Christ can be encountered when least expected.

Easter reflections from Ron Ferguson and the Very Rev Dr James Simpson.

The Big Question: *Is enough emphasis placed on Easter?*

Easter prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly.

The Water of Life

In the month of April showers, Jackie Macadam considers the impact of water (either too much or too little) on the lives of millions of people – and their faith.

Engineering a New Future

Angus Armstrong highlights the work of a Christian charity bringing clean water and sanitation to impoverished communities.

A Beadle's Tale

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson sheds light on the history of the Church of Scotland Beadle.

The Money Question

The Rt Rev John Chalmers emphasises the importance of affordable credit.

'An Extraordinary Possibility'

The Rev Professor David Fergusson considers the differences – and links – between science and faith.

Striving for a Fairer Nation

Thomas Baldwin discovers the plans of the Rev Martin Johnstone, new Secretary to the Church and Society Council.

Memorial to a Pioneer

Moves to commemorate the life of Robert Stirling, Church of Scotland minister and groundbreaking engineer and inventor. Plus news, letters, reviews and crosswords, all for just £2.

Online: Visit www.lifeandwork.org, or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

World Mission

The Moderator, the Right Rev John Chalmers, has been in Nigeria, taking part in a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mary Slessor, as part of a series of events in her honour.

Mary Slessor was an extraordinary woman who followed in the footsteps of her hero, David Livingstone, and travelled to Calabar, Nigeria, in 1876. Mary Slessor was not a conventional Victorian missionary but learned the language of the people and lived among them. She is credited with saving the lives of hundreds of people during her time in West Africa by stopping sacrifices, brutal punishments and changing attitudes to the births of twins. She was also passionate about education, particularly of girls, and was keen to develop trade opportunities with a view to stemming the slave trade.

There are still more celebratory events to come in Scotland. Visit the Mary Slessor Foundation website to find out more: www.maryslessor.org.

The World Mission Council prepared materials to help children and young people learn about Mary Slessor. Bill led such a morning recently with Spectrum. The materials challenged the children by asking: "Think about our world today. If you could change one thing to make the world a better place, what would it be? How can you make a difference?"

One World Stall

The next One World Stall, selling fairly traded goods, will be after the 10.30am Service on **24th May**.



The next collection dates are **Sundays 19 April and 31 May**, at the Sunday service (table set up in Main Hall).

Thanks to everyone who has responded to my request for donations to this worthwhile cause. The need for good quality donations to the starter pack scheme is as great as ever. Those of you who use wi-fi on the Lothian Buses will have noticed that Fresh Start is the charity they have chosen for fund-raising this year.

A full list of the items wanted for the starter pack was included in last month's *Leaflet*.

Pick up a leaflet from me, see www.freshstartweb.org.uk or telephone 476 7741, for more information about the work of Fresh Start.

Alison Ambler

Holy Week Services

30th March – 3rd April 2015

Morningside Parish Church 7.30pm

This year the joint services with Morningside will be hosted by Morningside. The theme chosen for this year is “*Engaging with Holy Week*” – looking at the physicality of Jesus’ engagement with the events of Holy Week. On each evening there will be an optional activity so that we in worship might have an opportunity to engage with the things which had such an impact on Jesus and his ministry. These activities are an invitation and those coming to worship will choose the way in which they will participate in these activities – by physical engagement or prayerful presence or a combination of both.

On the Wednesday of Holy Week the theme will be “*Anointing*”. There will be an invitation at some point in the service for those who wish to come forward to have their hands anointed with a little oil. Others may prefer to use this time for quiet reflective prayer.

On Maundy Thursday, along with the sharing of the Lord’s Supper we will also offer foot washing as part of the service. Some might be willing to come forward. Others may prefer to read over the passage from John’s Gospel that tells of this profoundly unsettling but moving moment in Jesus’ ministry. Others may prefer to use this time for reflective prayer. Appropriate music will be played while this activity proceeds. (For those who might come forward, one or both feet will be washed but you should think about what you are wearing on your feet that night. The water for the footwashing will be in flasks or jugs and poured lightly over the foot and then the foot will be dried.)

On Good Friday the traditional passages of Scripture will be read, interspersed with congregational hymns and choral anthems from the joint choirs of Greenbank and Morningside. The theme will be “*The Cross of Christ*”.

There will be a service of traditional music and readings at Morningside on Saturday evening at 7.30pm.

Christian Aid Week: House to House Collection

10th – 16th May 2015

I still need 6 more people to volunteer for the house to house collection during the above dates. It requires a maximum of an hour to deliver the envelopes, which can be done on the Sunday if that suits you; after that it would only take about 3 hours any time over the next five days. Probably the 5pm to 7pm slot is the best time and by then it will be light in the evening. Please speak to me for more information.

This collection has been taking place in our parish for many years. Some long-serving members feel they are unable to do this any longer and our thanks go to them for all their help over past years. However, we must keep up this outreach, hence the need for new volunteers.

Pam Jack
(pamelajacko6@gmail.com)

YACHT 2015

Date for your diary: an
Auction of Talents, to
take place on Saturday
3rd October 2015



Everyone can take part in this event!

The idea is that you give some skill or talent to be auctioned for the YACHT (Youth At CHurch Today) Appeal. And you need not worry that you do not have any skill or talents worth buying – because you do!

Perhaps you can offer dog walking; or baby sitting; or bake a cake; or create a patchwork quilt; or knit a sweater; or introduce someone to or maximise IT skills; or offer help in the garden; or act as a guide at a museum; or paint a picture; or make marmalade or jam; or put up a week in your holiday home for auction; or arrange a dinner party; or draw up a will. The list is endless!

There will be a flyer in the June *Leaflet* inviting formal entries – but in the meantime please put your thinking caps on as to what you can offer – there will be something!

Also remember the **Photographic Competition for Greenbank’s 2016 Calendar** – the spring weather and the changing of the clocks are now with us, so it’s time to get the cameras into action and submit photos for the calendar competition. The exhibition of photographs will take place at the same time as the **Auction of Talents**. Don’t forget that your entries should be linked to a line of scripture or an extract from a psalm or hymn. There is plenty of scope to think about this through the Easter period and to reflect on the gifts from God in nature and landscape.

Jim Young

Morlich House Residential Home for Older People



COFFEE MORNING

Variety of Stalls

at Morningside United Church Hall

Holy Corner (enter off
Chamberlain Road)



Saturday 25th April 2015

10am – 12 noon

£2 entry includes Coffee/Tea/Juice

Tickets available from Anne Oxbrow
on Sundays after the Service

*CrossReach is the Social Care Arm of the Church of Scotland
A charity registered in Scotland No SC011353*

The Braid Bowling Club

How many of you have driven or walked past the wire netting on the south side of Cluny Gardens near to the western entrance to Blackford Pond and wondered about the interesting old building behind the tennis courts? This is the clubhouse of the Braid Bowling Club.

Situated in the lee of Blackford Hill, the Braid Bowling Club is in a most attractive setting and has one of the best playing surfaces in the City of Edinburgh. The Bowling Club has a long and interesting history. The club, along with the neighbouring Braid Tennis Club, was founded in 1890 by the trustees of the Gordons of Cluny who were in the process of developing what is still known as the Braid Estate.



In August 1908, the club hosted one of the first Home Internationals when the English team was captained by the celebrated Dr W G Grace.

The Club is keen to recruit new members. Qualified coaches are available to help and the Club has shoes and bowls, including junior sets suitable for 10–12 year olds, for those who would like

to try their hand. Although full membership costs £135 for 2015, new members will be asked to pay a reduced amount for their first year. Under-25s pay £10. There is no joining fee. Fuller details concerning membership can be had from the Club Secretary John Thompson (tel 261 4694, email thompsonrj@talktalk.net), or from Men's Match Secretary Eric Melvin (tel 447 5578, email eric.melvin@btinternet.com).

The Club runs a full set of both internal and external competitive fixtures but also enjoys informal play throughout the season, which runs from the third weekend in April to the end of September. In addition there is a programme of activities which runs through the autumn and winter months, including a strollers' group and a whist club.

In the course of 2015 the Club hopes to develop facilities for the playing of *pétanque*, a game which many may have enjoyed when on holiday on the Continent.

More information, which includes details of our very informal mixed-play sessions which are held at 2.00pm on the first Sunday of the month from May until August can be found on the Club's website: www.braidbc.co.uk.

Elders Retiring from the Kirk Session

Four of our long serving elders have intimated their desire to retire from the Kirk Session. We are sorry to be losing the experience and fellowship of **Keith Clark, John Mowat, Enid Mowat and Jean Denison**.

John Mowat was ordained to the eldership at Greenbank in 1991 and became the District Elder for District 67 in the same year. Enid was ordained two years later and has been the District elder for District 43 since 1996. John and Enid served for many years as District Visitor coordinators. Keith Clark was also ordained to the eldership in Greenbank in 1991. He has been one of the elders looking after District 89. Jean Denison was ordained to the eldership in Greenbank in 2000 and soon took on responsibility for District 24. All four elders have served on Kirk Session Committees and the Congregational Board.

These resignations were accepted with regret at the March meeting of the Kirk Session and the four elders were thanked for their energetic and skilful contributions to the work of the Session and the congregation.

Valerie Macniven

Friendship Club Reminder

Outing Wednesday 6th May

We meet at the Church at 11.15am and will return around 5pm.

Val Smart

Holy Corner Booksale
 Saturday 9 to Saturday 16 May
 Morningside United Church

Opening Saturday: 10am to 5pm with café
 Monday to Friday: 11am to 6pm
 Closing Saturday: 10am to 5pm with café

Donations welcome: books, CDs, scores ...
www.holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com

Congregational Register

Omitted from the Online

version of the Leaflet

Welcome Teams

April

- 5 **John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Hazel Macaulay, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster
- 12 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Greig Scott
- 19 **John Rutherford**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones
- 26 **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster

May

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

Coffee Rota

April

- 5 David Jack (D72)
- 12 Hazel Macaulay (D89)
- 19 Janet & David Ferguson (D26, D28, D13)
- 26 Rachel McWilliam (D58)

May

- 3 Alison & John Murison (D60, D62)



Flower Rota



Provided by

Delivered by

April

- 5 Rona Sommerville
- 12 Jill Powlett Brown
- 19 Moira Davidson
- 26 Clare Campbell

- Doris Laing
- Margaret Mack
- Janet McAinsh
- Fiona Watt

May

- 3 Caroline Kehoe

- Catherine Ferguson

Crèche Rota



April

- 5 Shona Murray
- 12 Isobel Thom
- 19 Janet Ferguson
- 26 Eileen McKinnon

- Jenny Wright
- Rosemary Collier
- Carrie Reid
- Liz Foster

May

- 3 Sharon Hamilton

- Lorna Htet-Khin

Bookstall

After the 10.30am Service on **19th May**, the Bookstall will be open with a selection of books from The Cornerstone bookshop with a special focus on Christian history, and other titles that might help you on your faith journey or expand your knowledge of Christian doctrine or the Bible.

If you would like to order a copy of *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (see page 3) or any other books that have been reviewed recently in the *Leaflet*, please contact us by 26th April.

John and Joan Ritchie

The Guild

Thank you very much to all who supported the fundraising event on 17th February for *Mary's Meals*; £766 has been raised for that project.

At our first meeting in March, *Gasmasks and Lipsticks*, Dr Margaret Collinson gave a revealing insight into the work of the nurses who served in the first Gulf War in 1990/91.

By the time this *Leaflet* has been published we shall have held our annual business meeting and embarked upon planning our session for 2015-16. Details of our summer activities will be intimated in the May *Leaflet*.

Kathleen Patrick

Material for the May *Leaflet* should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by **Sunday 12th April** or sent by e-mail by **9am on Tuesday 14th April** to greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com

TEARS AT EASTER?

At the heart of the Christian belief and experience is the astounding claim: Jesus lives! His story did not end at the cross. Death did not have the last word. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu's frequently quoted words remind us: "Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours, through him who loves us." Jesus is alive! He is not dead. He has been raised. This is the shocking, breath-taking, revolutionary message of Easter. But many find it hard to believe. If so, they are certainly not the first.

Right from the very beginning, even on the first Easter morning, people have struggled to believe that Jesus can be a vital, living presence. Mary Magdalene has come to the tomb of Jesus. And she has come believing him to be dead, to anoint his dead body, but has found the tomb to be empty. According to John's Gospel, she runs away, finds the followers of Jesus, tells them of her discovery and returns to the tomb. After they have looked inside the tomb and left the scene, Mary remains, weeping. Turning away from the tomb, she is confronted by someone whom she assumes to be the gardener responsible for the graveyard.

She does not recognise who he really is. How can she know that it is Jesus? He is not where he is supposed to be. When we see acquaintances in the wrong context, we do not recognise them. Mary sees a living man, but the Teacher should have been dead. Consider how often we do not recognise him: in the face of a needy stranger, in the Word of a sermon, in bread and wine. True to form, Jesus asks a question, in fact two questions: *Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?*

Can Mary do anything other than weep bitterly? After all, someone to whom she was deeply devoted has died. Worse still, she was there when he was executed. She has seen Jesus suffer a cruel, lingering and humiliating death before a callous crowd. Now it seems that even the Lord's body has been taken away. She cannot say good-bye to that broken body or feel that there is a place on earth where his body lies for her to express her love, a shrine. The whole enterprise which Jesus has led now seems to have been wiped out. All that has given real meaning to her life has disappeared. She grieves, she yearns, she weeps. But although her grief is understandable, she misunderstands what is happening before her very eyes.

Jesus has asked the second question before. His first recorded words in John's Gospel are *What are you looking for?* At the very beginning of the discipleship journey Jesus posed this fundamental question about our deepest desires and most basic longings. At the end, when Judas turned up in the Garden of Gethsemane with a detachment of soldiers to arrest him, he asked them, *Whom are you looking for?* Jesus of Nazareth, they answer. I am he, he says. Notice how Jesus makes his own the divine name first spoken from the burning bush to Moses.

Why do we seek Jesus? Is it because we want to use Jesus, to take whatever benefits we can get from appearing to follow him, while all the time rejecting and betraying him by the way we live our

lives and order our society? Or do we seek Jesus because we want to grow in faith, hope, love and peace, to take his Gospel to heart? Because we have had enough of lies and illusions, emptiness and meaninglessness, death and destruction and see in him a better way of living and loving?

Now he asks this question again. Mary almost brushes aside his enquiry. She is still obsessed with finding the body of her dead Lord. Then Jesus speaks again, this time saying only one word: *Mary!* Sight may not bring recognition: it is the voice which reveals Jesus, no longer dead, as the Good Shepherd who calls his own by name. He calls her by name, she recognises him and he sends her back to his friends to announce the good news of the Resurrection. The questions, though spoken by that voice, cannot revive the old relationship. The sound of her name, spoken by the one she loves, reaches her heart. Beyond a shadow of doubt Mary knows that Jesus is with her, that his power continues to operate the power of healing, the power to change lives, the power to create new forms of community.

The risen Jesus continues to question us. *Why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?* If we answer, like Mary, that we weep because of his crucifixion and for today's crucified peoples, and that we are looking for his resurrection among the poor and the marginalised, he will call us by name, we will "see" him, and he will send us out with a new mission to announce the good news of the Resurrection.

We need weep no more. We need only recognise the risen Christ in our midst and hear him send us forth to announce the good news of Resurrection. For he comes to us, not as a vague general idea or as an imagined ghostly figure, but as a presence that reaches beyond our minds' powers of knowing and touches our lives in ways we cannot see. He meets us, calls us by name, calms our anxious worries and reminds us again and again that Resurrection is not a doctrine to be studied or a theory to be discussed but a gift to be lived.

But how can we grasp this? Part of the Christian journey of faith is re-training our senses so that we can see truly and hear fully the living Jesus, not only in our midst but in the world around us. Jesus once asked his friends: Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? Our answer is all too often, Yes. Too often we have eyes but no insight; we have ears but do not listen; we do not remember.

Like Mary, we may discover the Lord of life right next to us. Then, also like Mary, we have to heed his command not to cling to him but to go to a world desperately in need of his transforming love and power. We have to look for the risen Lord in that world and build bridges of love that will enable others, too, to hear Jesus' voice and recognise in him the vast, free, unchanging and faithful love of God.

For further reading

The Easter story with Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene is found in St John 20, verses 1-18.