

Greenbank Connections



October 2017

Issue 664

Scottish Charity SCO11325



The YACHT Walk along the Union Canal

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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Locum Minister's Letter

Dear Friends



To open oneself to others unconditionally is to be with them in the presence of God. That is the heart of intercession. To pray for another is to be with another, whether in silence or compassion or in listening.

The poet W H Auden has called this 'paying attention'. *'Whenever a person so concentrates his attention on a subject—be it a landscape, a poem, a geometrical problem, or the Living God – that he completely forgets himself and everything else, he is praying.'* [W. H. Auden: *Culture and Leisure*, 1966]

This is very like the approach of the Spanish priest (and founder of the Jesuits) Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556). Loyola in his early life was a soldier and was converted while recuperating from wounds received in battle. His contemplative approach to life has now become a way of prayer and worship followed and used in many Christian denominations throughout the world. Ignatian spirituality is a spirituality for everyday life and places great emphasis on discerning God's presence

in all the activities of ordinary living. *'The world is charged with the grandeur of God.'* This line from a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins captures a central theme of Ignatian spirituality, namely its insistence that God is at work everywhere – in work, in relationships, in culture, in the arts, in intellectual life and in creation itself. As Ignatius put it, all the things in the world are presented to us *'so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily.'*

The Kirk Session has decided to invite the Rev Scott McKenna to come to a meeting and explain more about this way of worshipping and praying. It would certainly meet the requests made by a number in the *Congregational Survey* that we should be trying out different forms of service and that there should be a place for quietness and meditation.

On another matter related to our worship, the Kirk Session's attention has been drawn to the fact that the short communion services which have been held after morning services on the last Sunday of the month often seem to come immediately before our statutory communion Sundays, and in some cases actually clash with these and other events in the Christian year. It has therefore been decided to move away from the last Sunday for the months of October, November and December and instead, as an experiment, hold short communion services once a month on Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm. Dates for these will be publicised in *Connections* and in the Sunday intimations. You are invited to consider these ventures as meeting our needs in these times of change.

John Stevenson
Locum Minister

Penitent Space

I had opened our first QII night this year exploring 'repentance', in an effort to create a 'penitent space' in our meetings. The New Testament usage of 'repentance' does not borrow as heavily from guilt and shame as many tend to think. Rather, the New Testament usage of repentance has more to do with 'changing your mind' – but to change your mind not about mundane things like what colour of t-shirt you wear, or what to have for lunch, but rather to change your mind about the nature of reality and what constitutes the good life.

Life, I suspect, tears down unbiblical faith, not biblical faith. Further, it is by no means assured, simply because you go to church, that you are inculcating a biblical faith. I would argue further that an integral part of what constitutes the Christian life is training in the discipline of repentance; of unlearning what you have learned, and not assuming from the first that your way is the correct way. And this is part of what we do in QII.

QII, as a penitent space, seeks to promote theological literacy at a level appropriate for teenaged faith. It means deconstructing the mental idols we hold of God in order to apprehend the living God who addresses us out of the bible, and to pursue a life of faith, hope, and charity. In the coming months, I hope also to have members of the congregation coming to QII both to discuss their own ideas but also their own faith. I will warn you though – you might get a crash course in repentance along the way.

Steve Chaffee

Pulpit Diary

Oct 1

10.30am Morning Worship with Guest
Speaker from Eco-
Congregation Scotland

Oct 8

10.30am Morning Worship led by
Springboard

Oct 15

10.30am Morning Worship

Oct 22

10.30am Morning Worship

Oct 25 (Wednesday)

7.00pm Communion

Oct 29

10.30am Morning Worship

Nov 5

10.30am Morning Worship

3pm A Time to Remember
Reflective Service

Recordings

Listen to recordings of our services – this is appreciated by those who find it difficult to get to church. It may also be of interest to those who have missed a service due to illness or being away.

The recording is normally available later that Sunday. A link can be provided for listening to the recording of the sermon or the whole service on a computer, tablet or mobile phone.

Other formats are available on a monthly basis – CD or memory stick.

Request these through your elder, or email the church office

greenbankchurch@btconnect.com

or speak to me.

Would elders please consider whether members of their district might appreciate this service.

David Ferguson

Christmas Card Sale

A small number of charities, including CrossReach (Church of Scotland Social Care Council) will be selling Christmas cards after the 10.30am service on Sunday 5th November.

Julia Dunbar



Session Clerk's News

There is not much to say this month about the Vacancy but I thought I would do a general update about current events and matters that the Kirk Session is discussing. As regards the vacancy the Nominating Committee now awaits the closing date of 30th September for applications. Meantime the Kirk Session is giving further thought to some of the suggestions that emerged in the consultation. We aim to put together a plan for the future and maybe try out some of the ideas before we elect the new Minister. This will show that we can live up to our Profile's description of being an active, forward thinking congregation.

Retiral of Clifford Hastings

Clifford Hastings has retired from the Kirk Session. Clifford was ordained to the eldership and admitted to the Kirk Session in Greenbank in 1980. He was soon the District elder for District 39. Later, and until recently, he looked after District 61A. He has been an exceptionally caring District elder and will be much missed. He served Greenbank in many ways but it is in his role as Convener of the Centenary Fundraising Committee that we perhaps owe him our greatest gratitude. In that role he energised the congregation to give generously so we could create our splendid suite of halls behind the sanctuary. At its meeting on 30th May the Kirk Session accepted Clifford's decision to retire with regret, and thanked him for his unfailing kindness and courtesy, humour, energy and dedication.

Retiral of Alan Irvine

Alan has decided that, after 13 years as our organist and choirmaster, he wants to retire in May 2018. There will be opportunities later to say our thanks to Alan for his huge contribution to the worship of Greenbank. Meantime, we are grateful for the long period of notice he has given. The Kirk Session has set up a small group to start the search for his successor.

Flower Convener

Christine Willis has given up as Flower Convener. We are very sorry to see her go. She has quietly and efficiently carried out this role for 6 years. Thank you Christine for all your hard work. Mairi Stevenson has agreed to take over and will be looking after the flowers with a small group of people with an interest in flowers. More help is always appreciated.

Church Library

Is anyone interested in helping with the adult section of the Church Library? If so please speak to Moira Small or to me.

Understanding our Faith Conference

On **4th November** in Perth there will be a conference organised by the Church of Scotland Mission and Discipleship Council to encourage believers to develop a deeper and clearer understanding of Christian faith. Further details on the Church of Scotland website where bookings can be made up to 15th October.

Valerie Macniven
Session Clerk

Vacancy News

The vacancy has now been advertised on the Church of Scotland website. It gives a link to the Parish and Congregational Profile and invites applications by 30th September.

You can find the Profile on the Greenbank website along with the report of the consultation with the congregation. If you want to see a paper copy of either document you should ask at the office or speak to your District elder.

The Nominating Committee was elected on 30th July and is now hard at work. Its Convener is Janet Allan, Vice-convener – Anne Kinnear, Clerk – Joan Ritchie and Minute Secretary – Kirsten Pink. The other members are John Adair, Helen Barnes, Richard Dunbar, John Ferguson, Robin Nimmo, Ann Pirie, Carrie Reid, Neil Ross and me.

Over the next period there will be little, if anything, that I can report to you about the work of the Committee because it has to be given time and space to carry out its task in confidence. Can I ask you to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

We now go into the autumn period at Greenbank in good heart, knowing that all the preliminary stages of the vacancy are complete; the Committee is actively searching for our new Minister; and we have excellent leadership from our Ministerial team and office bearers to sustain our worship, discipleship, pastoral care and administration until our new Minister is found.

As ever, please do not hesitate to speak to your District elder or to me if anything is concerning you.

Valerie Macniven
Session Clerk

LUNCH
for
Scottish Love in Action
on
Sunday
29th October
12 noon
in
Greenbank Church Hall



**Bread, Cheese, Salad,
Tea, Coffee, Cake
Book and Baking Stalls**

**Adults-£5
Children-£3
Family-£15
Under 2's free**

**Tickets for Sale:
After Church/ On the
door / Tel 447 5360**

Gift Aid: A Reminder

The 2016 Accounts for Greenbank Church (a registered Charity) disclose that the aggregate amount of Gift Aid reclaimed from HMRC last year was in excess of £50,000. Grateful thanks are due to all who have helped to contribute to this significant sum which greatly augments the Church's finances.

Going forward it is important that, individually, we continue to maximise the value of our donations. The key elements of Gift Aid are:

- It increases our giving by 25% – at no additional cost to the donor
- No minimum contribution is required
- No particular amount has to be promised
- There is no fixed term during which contributions must be made
- Tax may be recovered retrospectively

All that is required is that the donor must pay UK income tax or capital gains tax, at any rate, at least equal to the amount of tax being reclaimed, and give their donation through offering envelopes or by bank standing order or by cheque, to establish the necessary audit trail.

Donors must also sign a Gift Aid declaration form, which gives the name of the congregation and the donor's name and address (including postcode).

There are therefore two matters to consider:

1. If you currently do not give through Gift Aid, check if you are eligible as a taxpayer, and if so please consider

giving by this means.

2. If you do currently Gift Aid your donations, check that you are still paying as much or more tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on your donations (to ALL charities) in the corresponding tax year. If the answer is "no", please inform the Treasurer or one of the Assistant Treasurers.

If you wish more information or assistance on any of the above, please get in touch with one of the following:

John Ritchie (Treasurer)

*Kathryn Sangster, Michael Struthers
(Assistant Treasurers)*



Christian Aid Film Night

There will be a Film Night on **Friday 20th October** in the Centenary Hall at 7.30pm, with proceeds going to Christian Aid; the main film will be *Out of Africa*. Tickets are available from members of the committee and from the Church Office.

David Ferguson



Friendship Club

If you fancy joining the Friendship Club, where friendship does play an important part, come along on Wednesday 4th

October at 2.30pm in the Lower Hall. What better way to start the new session than by enjoying a relaxing afternoon when beauty, colour and music are blended so skilfully by our good friend Bill Barr?



On the Summer Outing

Kathleen, on the 11th, will be giving us a Lucky Dip selection of music from her wonderful and varied collection, then on the 18th we will discover the history and mystery of “Soutra Aisle” from Dr Brian Moffat. The first meeting of November, on the 1st, will take us into the workings of a forge. We look forward to seeing you on the 4th. For any further information contact:

Val Smart

Mums, Dads, Grandparents and nannies
bring along your little ones (birth to 3 years) to

Greenbank Baby & Toddler Group

Greenbank Parish Church (Main Hall – buzz the Office)
Thursday and Friday 9.45 to 11.15am

Toys and Refreshments £2

Email: greenbankchurch@btconnect.com
Tel: 0131 447 9969 (church office)

Annual Subscription for Life & Work and Donations for Greenbank Connections

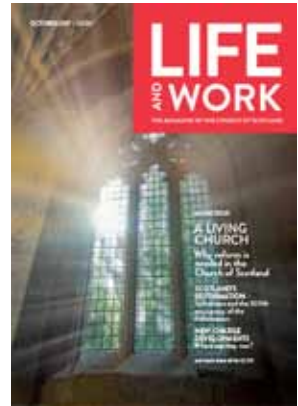
You are invited to subscribe for 12 editions of the Church of Scotland's *Life & Work* magazine for the 2018 calendar year. The annual subscription is £28 payable by 15th November 2017 to enable us to submit the Church's bulk order in time. We will order *Life & Work* only for those who have made the payment by that date.



Greenbank Connections, with its up to date news about Greenbank Church, is provided to all members free of charge for nine editions during 2017. In order to defray the printing and production costs, a suggested donation of **£10 or more per household**, also payable preferably by 15th November 2017, would be welcome.

A single payment of £38 can be made to cover both *Greenbank Connections* and *Life & Work*.

Payments, stating whether you are subscribing to *Life & Work* and/or contributing to *Greenbank Connections* and, importantly, giving details of your name and address, should be put in an envelope addressed to '*The Treasurer*' and delivered to the Church Office (by post or hand) or through the Sunday offering bags. Cheques should be made payable to '*Greenbank Church*'.



John Ritchie
Congregational Treasurer

Cornerstone Bookshop

The Cornerstone has moved to new premises under St John's church at the foot of Lothian Road. They are open for business and soon there will be a café next door and lift access. The staff would love to see anyone who is looking for material of a religious nature, and they are very happy to offer advice or suggestions.

Joan Ritchie



The Guild

A successful season of Summer Coffee Mornings finished in September with many people enjoying coffee, cake and lots of chat.

Two of our Guild members went to the Annual Gathering

success of the current projects (the Guild in Scotland has raised over £500,000 in the past two years for these), the work being done to combat Human Trafficking and of course the inimitable Heart and Soul Swing Band encouraging both song and dance (not that there's much room for that in the Caird Hall!).

We are looking forward to starting our



Photo of the Wojtek statue by John Mowat

in Dundee and had a great day. Many thoroughly enjoyed watching it live online courtesy of Craiglockhart Guild. It was a lively day with The Moderator, Dr Derek Browning inspiring as the main speaker, lots of joyful singing, news of the

session on Tuesday October 3rd at 7.30pm with news of the development of the new Edinburgh Children's Hospital. On the 17th the Rev John Stevenson will be looking at this year's theme for the Guild – ***Go in Love.***

World Mission

On the 31st the subject will be the story of Wojtek the Polish Soldier Bear and the campaign to fund the statue of him which now stands in Princes Street Gardens.

Anyone can come to our meetings: always interesting, some thought provoking, some fun, and there's always a warm welcome for newcomers as well as old friends.

There will be more about the Guild and the Projects in next month's *Connections*.

Edith Armit



Fresh Start

The next dates for Fresh Start collections are **8th October** and **3rd December**, 2017 (table in the Main Hall).

A full list of items needed by Fresh Start is on the Fresh Start website:

www.freshstartweb.org.uk

For further information, see me on a Fresh Start Sunday in the Main Hall, email me, or telephone the number below.

Alison Ambler
alison@ambler.me.uk

The *World Mission Council* and *Interfaith Scotland* are taking an interfaith group comprising five Muslims and five Christians to Rwanda to engage with the work of our partner, the *Programme of Christian Muslim Relations in Africa*. This trip aims to build the capacity of young people to become interfaith leaders both locally and internationally. It will allow participants to explore their and other people's faith, issues facing young people, religion and international relations.

To help them, *Interfaith Scotland* will support them to run events during Scottish Interfaith Week in November this year and there will also be a Conference for young people in 2018.

What have faith and money got to do with Climate Change? If you are interested, there is an event on Thursday, **12th October** 2017 from 9.45am – 1.45pm in St Andrew's & St George's West Church, Edinburgh. This event is free but you need to register to attend:

fmcc17.eventbrite.co.uk



Our next *One World Shop* will be held on **Sunday 8th October** after the 10.30am service.

Christina Morrow

Summer Walks

The YACHT summer walks proved a big hit, raising money but also contributing to our Eco Congregation objectives to celebrate creation, use less fossil fuel (all were by bus and foot

travel!) and enjoy the simple pleasures of walking and talking together. £310 was raised. Around 25 members took part.

If any other groups or individuals would like to experience the trips, please contact **David Jack**



above: Sundials Walk, below: High Street Walk



Messy Church

The Messy Church Team, led by Gillian Sweetman, helped more than 90 children ice biscuits at T in the (Braidburn Valley) Park. On a glorious sunny day, crowds of people enjoyed a splendid afternoon.

The next Messy Church will be held on **7th October** from 2 to 4pm. The next after that will be on **Saturday 18th November**.

Register at

www.greenbankchurch.org

Families at Four
Greenbank's



Christian Aid

Good Money Conference – you are welcome to register.



Sally Foster Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, will be the keynote speaker.

Thursday 12th October 2017 9.45am to 1.45pm. Saint Andrew's and Saint George's West Church, George Street, Edinburgh.

The *Church of Scotland* and partners

Christian Aid Scotland and *Eco-Congregation Scotland* come together to mark **Good**



Money Week 2017. This event explores key issues around how we can invest our money ethically to have a positive impact

on Climate Change individually, as part of your congregation and in your community. Find out more and register here:

fmcc17.eventbrite.co.uk

Edinburgh World Justice Festival

Christian Aid has two events during this festival running from **30th September to 15th October 2017**.

1 A Christian Aid event will be held on **Sunday 8th October** at 4.00 pm at Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.

This will include transformative stories from three partner organisations – *Side by Side* (Brazil), *Voice to the People* (Nigeria) and a global network – *16 days*.

2 Christian Aid are also part of the main event on **Saturday 14th October** – look out for the Christian Aid workshop on climate change.

GREENBANK CALENDAR 2018



on sale now for only £6 (or four for £20)
from the Church Office or in the Main Hall
after the 10.30am Sunday Service.



Buy your copies (or place orders)
while stocks last!

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online
version of Connections*

Coffee Rota



October

- 1 Scouts
- 8 Monday Bible Study Group
- 15 The Country Dance Club
- 22 Mission & Service
- 29 WAGs

November

- 5 Wednesday Badminton Club

Crèche Rota

October

- 1 Isobel Thom
- 8 Ailsa Cameron
- 15 Hazel McLachlan
Anne Kinnear
- 22 Lorna Htet-Khin
- 29 Janet Ferguson



November

- 5 Eileen McKinnon

Flower Rota



Provided by

Delivered by

October

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 Rhian Ferguson | Alison Ambler |
| 8 Grace Maweu | Rachel Cadell |
| 15 The Flower Group | Moira Little |
| 22 Eleanor Winton | Ishbel Emery |
| 29 Joan Ritchie | Enid Mowat |

November

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 5 Helen Aitken | Janet Inglis |
|----------------|--------------|

*Don't forget the Greenbank website
www.greenbankchurch.org*

Greenbank Calendar: October 2017

October

NB There will *not* be a 9.30am Service

- 1 Sun 10.30am Morning Worship
with Speaker from Eco-
Congregation Scotland
- 3 Tues 7.30pm Guild Meeting
- 4 Wed 7.30pm Country Dance Club
- 7 Sat 4.00pm Messy Church
- 8 Sun 10.30am Morning Worship
Conducted by
Springboard
- 11 Wed 7.30pm Country Dance Club
- 12 Thurs 2.30pm Work Party
- 15 Sun 10.30am Morning Worship

- 17 Tues 7.30pm Guild Meeting
- 18 Wed 7.30pm Communion
- 7.30pm Country Dance Club
- 22 Sun 10.30am Morning Worship
- 25 Wed 7.30pm Country Dance Club
- 26 Thurs 2.30pm Work Party
- 29 Sun 10.30am Morning Worship
- 31 Tues 7.30pm Guild Meeting

November

- 1 Wed 7.30pm Country dance Club
- 5 Sun 9.30am First Sunday Service
- 10.30am Morning Worship
- Christmas Card Sale
- 7 Tues 7.30pm Guild Meeting

Welcome Teams

October

- 1 **John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett-Brown
- 8 **Caroline Kehoe**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 15 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 22 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker
- 29 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Catriana Black

November

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

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

Rev Dr John Stevenson

tel: 0131 445 3960

email: john.stevenson27@btinternet.com

Rev W. Peter Graham

tel: 0131 445 5763

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 November issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 15th October or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 17th October to greenbankconnections@gmail.com