

Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES
No 616 April 2012

Pulpit Diary

Apr 1 Palm Sunday

9.30am First Sunday Service led by World Mission
10.30am All Age Worship for Palm Sunday (Special Activity for Children)

Apr 2-6

Monday – Friday United Holy Week Services
7.30pm Greenbank Parish Church

Apr 7

Saturday Readings and Music for Easter
7.30pm Morningside Parish Church

Apr 8 Easter Day

9.30am Easter Communion
10.30am All Age Easter Celebration followed by egg-rolling event in Braidburn Park

Apr 15

10.30am Morning Worship (Special Activity for Children)

Apr 22

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

Apr 29 Stewardship Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship

May 6

9.30am First Sunday Service led by WAGs
10.30am Morning Worship

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

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

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

“There will be no miracles here!” Some of you may have seen the piece of artwork which broadcasts that message in lights six metres high across the city of Edinburgh. It is a sculpture by Nathan Coley which a few years ago gained its creator a nomination for the Turner prize. That sculpture has been on tour around the country and



is currently standing in the grounds of the Dean Art Gallery. You certainly can't miss it if you are visiting the Gallery. And so it was with the message, “There will be no miracles here” imprinted on our minds that we went in to see the exhibition of the work of the Scottish colourist, F C B Cadell.

But as we wandered round the exhibition, admiring the work of the artist, it struck me that the gift which Cadell had for painting ordinary everyday items like chairs, and sofas, hats and fans, teapots and bowls, and making them the subject of such extraordinary masterpieces was, despite the message outside the gallery, nothing short of a miracle.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter we reflect on the death of Jesus on the cross and his subsequent resurrection. These events lie at the heart of the Christian faith. In the cross, we see the length, breadth, height and depth of God's love for the world. We encounter the God who meets us in our suffering and shares our human death that we might share his risen life. In the resurrection we see the victory of God's love over the power of sin and evil that led to the cross. All the self-seeking agendas in the world, all the tyranny and the cruelty and the betrayal that culminated in the crucifixion of God's Son, could not prevent, or spoil or destroy the love of God. In the face of that love even death itself has no power.

Surely the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the greatest and most wonderful miracle

the world has ever witnessed. And that miracle is repeated on an infinitely smaller, yet still wonderful, way every day when God's Spirit of love at work in our hearts breathes forgiveness and new life and hope into the lives of ordinary people like you and I. The creative Spirit of God takes the ordinary, raises it up and trans-

forms it into the extraordinary.

The following words form part of a prayer written by George MacLeod, who was instrumental in the rebuilding of Iona Abbey and the founding of the Iona Community:

“Lord Jesus

*It is such anguish to know of Your cross;
That you came to defeat the dirt in all the pressures
To set at nought the harshness of our daily contacts,
To obliterate our treacheries and our rawness
- by Your love.
It is so wonderful to know of your resurrection
So that the cross is empty
And all the dirt and harshness and rawness of today
Has been done away.*

Lord Jesus

*It is so wonderful to know of the Spirit which you sent
And which even now invades our hearts.
By whose invading even now we know
That our thinking, feeling and willing are made new”.*

It is my hope and prayer that this Easter as we celebrate God's gift of life and love, we will be aware of the miracle of God's grace raising us up, making us new, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary.

With warmest wishes

**Alison I Swindells
Minister**

The Church of Scotland

Ministries and Mission Contributions 2012

Every congregation contributes to the cost of the ministries and mission work of the Church of Scotland. Figures have been released to show how our contribution of £137,081, which represents about 48% of our church income, will be spent in 2012. This shows how we are enabling the sharing of the gospel and supporting other congregations.



Greenbank contribution **£137,081**

Ministries (86%) **£117,890**

This provides over 1,000 ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and in the Presbytery of England and supports the cost of recruitment and training. The 2012 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is £39,895 (stipend plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions).

Mission (14%) **£19,191**

This supports the church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the most vulnerable in society, in partnership with churches in some the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today. It also provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other services for congregations and committees, and supports the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.

Brownies

Hello! The 162 Brownies are holding a Community Engagement Evening on Wednesday 25th April at 6.45pm in the church halls and everyone is invited!

The unit was recently awarded a grant from Cashback for Communities and this is our chance to let the community know what we've been getting up to – including badge work and going on a residential event. Refreshments will be available at the end of the night.

We would love to see you there! If you have any questions, please get in touch on 162greenbankbrownies@gmail.co.uk

Heather Anderson

World Mission

George Shand is our Missionary Partner. He tells in his latest Blog that he travelled to meet with Nava Heflet, a Rabbi from Rabbis for Human Rights, at Tel Sheva (a major Bedouin town with a population of about 25,000), and to meet with a group of female Bedouin students from Sapir College, Sderot, who are participating in a programme called 'Sisters for Peace'. This project is run by the College and 'Rabbis for Human Rights', part of it funded by the Church of Scotland Guild.

He had last visited the Sapir College project a year ago, to meet the students – twenty young women, half of them Bedouin, half of them Jewish, who have been learning about each other's cultures, and also working together on projects in their own communities. This was the first time he had visited one of the community projects.

"Nava led us to an open space where we met three young female students who started to explain their project to us. We listened to these educated and articulate young women explaining (in English) how their group is working to improve their own community.

One of the young women, Sonia, told us about her dream for her community. She lived close to one of the primary schools in the town, which is situated behind the large open area we were standing in. In season it has a stream running through it, but most of the time it is a large barren area.

Sonia remembers when she was a young child that her family went on picnics. But they always had to go out of the town to find a suitable space. Her dream was that this open space could be transformed into a green area, which local people could use for recreation.

In our short time in and travelling into the town we had become very aware that people have great pride in their own homes and garden areas, but community space is not developed. There is not much care for areas which don't belong to anyone. There was lots of rubbish lying around in front of us. To be fair, the previous two evenings



had been very windy, so rubbish was circulating from everywhere. One of our party noted that most of the rubbish was plastic bottles and packaging – the detritus of a modern culture.

The three young women told us that the project they have been working on for the last year is to make Sonia's dream a reality by transforming the open area we were standing in into an 'environmental park' – a communal green space. They told how they had approached the local Council with their ideas, and how it had taken them a few months to convince the Council to listen to them and to give support. Once the Council understood their vision, and could see how well planned and supported the project was, they gave it their wholehearted support. That includes financial support from the Council budget and also from the State of Israel, and an agreement that once the project was completed there would be resources to maintain it over the long term.

We were impressed with the depth of thought which had gone into this. The group approached this as a community development project, not just an initiative to transform an empty space. The young women were clear that the project will only succeed if they can educate people about waste and recycling, and then develop a sense of ownership of the project.

Their strategy was to start working with the youngsters at the primary schools, and they had developed a programme of education about waste and recycling. The group took us to the nearby Primary School to meet the Head Teacher, who explained how 25 school children had volunteered for the programme which included learning about recycling and environmental issues, visiting other communities to see what happens there, and exploring responsibilities and possibilities within the community. Their intention is that these volunteers will then cascade that learning to other children in the schools and also into the community – particularly ‘educating’ the parents and older generations.

It was energising to sit with these young women and listen to their vision for their own community. And it was good to feel that, in a small way, we were a part of this positive development. The project at Sapir College gives them support and inspiration, and draws in all the experience and insight of the project leaders to help the students with problem solving. In fact, it gives them all they need to make ideas become actuality.”

Stewardship Sunday

In response to the National Stewardship Campaign which is underway within the Church of Scotland, the Session at its last meeting agreed that we would designate the last Sunday in April as Stewardship Sunday. In a three year cycle we will be providing an opportunity to reflect on how we use our time and talents and money in the service of Christ’s Kingdom. This will begin on Sunday 29th April 2012 with the subject of time.

In addition following on our own very encouraging stewardship campaign it was agreed that people be invited to review their financial contribution to the work of the Church annually, bearing in mind that incomes go down as well as up. For this purpose pledge cards will be distributed with the May leaflet and dedicated at the 10.30am Communion Service in June.

In the meantime we are grateful to all of you for your continued and generous support as together we seek to share the good news of God’s love in our own community and the wider world.



Be prepared for “probably the best...”

JUMBLE sale

...in Edinburgh”

SATURDAY 14TH APRIL 2012 : 9.30am – 12 noon
GREENBANK CHURCH, BRAIDBURN TERRACE, EH10 6ES

4th Morningside Scout Group is registered as a Charity, number CR43781. **Admission £2**

4th Morningside Scout Group Annual Jumble Sale

During the week Monday 9th - Friday 13th April (evenings only 6.30 - 8.30pm) our Scouts will be calling on houses in this area to collect items to sell such as: Books and toys; Clothing; Crockery; Working electrical goods; Small items of furniture; Glassware; Hardware; Pictures and mirrors; Records, DVDs and CDs; Soft furnishings; and any other saleable items. Unsold items will be offered to charities before disposal.

Prior to our collection week, if necessary, contact can be made by leaving a message on 452 9019 or email greenbankjumble-sale@yahoo.co.uk

If you would like to donate Home Baking for our stall then we would like contributions dropped off on Friday 13th April either at the church or at Joanna Paine’s house at 8 Midmar Gardens as that would allow time to package everything, wrap and label.

Do come along on Saturday 14th April 9.30 am - 12 noon. Tea/coffee and Home Baking on sale.

MORLICH HOUSE RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR OLDER PEOPLE

COFFEE MORNING

BAKERY, GARDEN & GIFT STALLS

MORNINGSIDE UNITED CHURCH HALL

HOLY CORNER
(enter off Chamberlain Road)

SATURDAY 28th APRIL 2012

10 a.m. – 12 noon

£2.00 entry includes coffee/tea/juice

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ANNE OXBROW

Annual Business Meeting 11th March 2012

In his introductory remarks the Preses, Jim Young, stated that the Annual Business Meeting was required by the Church's constitution and was an opportunity for the Congregational Board to report on its management of the congregation's property, finance and employees during 2011. He commended the work of the Property Convenor, Mr Ian Thom who had been vigilant, attentive and busy with the many issues which had arisen in the course of the year. He noted that the halls and meeting rooms had been very heavily used and he commended the Halls Convenor, Alan Armit, who performed an impressive juggling act in meeting the requirements of the many users. The Treasurer, Robert Young, in his first year in this post had kept the Board regularly updated on the financial position and had met the accounting requirements of the Charity regulator with care and application. In the course of the year Alan Ramage succeeded Kathleen Patrick as Clerk to the Congregational Board. The Clerk was responsible for organising the Board and its meetings and the Sunday Welcome Teams (formerly Duty Teams). The Preses thanked all office bearers for their contributions. The Preses intimated that the Church Administrator, Charlotte Macaulay and the Church Caretaker/Handyman, James Milligan were to leave at the end of March and the end of April respectively. Both had served the Church well and the Preses thanked them for their service. Envelopes would be made available by the Treasurer at the end of the services on 11th and 18th March for those members of the congregation who wished to make a more tangible expression of their appreciation. Regarding the filling of both positions the Preses thanked David Allan for organising the advertisements and interviews. Charlotte was to be succeeded by Virginia (Ginny) Johnstone. Interviews for the Caretaker/Handyman would take place on 22nd March. The Preses concluded his introductory remarks by thanking the Beadle, Mr Hong-suk Um and the Church Cleaner, Brian Webster for their contributions.

On property matters it was reported that a large amount of work had been undertaken in the course of the year. The most visible works were the complete overhaul of the organ, the completion of work to upgrade the Church flat, the redecoration of the vestibule to match the Sanctuary, the improvement of the surrounds to the Communion Table, Elders' chairs and font cover (thanks to a kind donation from a member) and the upgrading of the signage within the Church buildings by the Communications Committee. The Library had



been re-situated to the Pentland Room and a new system of lights to illuminate the main Church notice board had been installed. In 2012 it was intended to replace the main fuse box, to repair the West Door and to upgrade the kitchen with a larger cooker. It was also intended to renew the damaged Manse driveway and to draw up a schedule of annual Manse redecoration to ensure its maintenance to a high standard.



With regard to Finance, the Treasurer reported that the Management Report and Financial Commentary for 2011 had been issued with the March Leaflet. The full set of statutory accounts, covering both

the Church and Church associated organisations and prepared in the format required by charities legislation, had been approved by the Congregation's Trustees, comprising all members of the Kirk Session and Board at a special meeting held on 7th March 2012. The accounts had also been signed off by the independent examiner. Copies of the full accounts which also contained narrative information about the congregation had been made available in the vestibule. With regard to the Church accounts for 2011, the Treasurer reported a surplus of £31,000. Total ordinary general income was £298,000 an increase of £41,000 over 2010 and total ordinary expenditure was £267,000 an increase of £2000 over 2010. Offerings, including Gift Aid, amounted to £270,000 an increase of £37,000 over 2010 mainly as a result of the positive impact of the Stewardship Campaign. Significant movement in Funds had occurred as a result of the refurbishment of the organ and the creation of a Reserves Fund, a Youth Minister Fund and a Project Fund. While 2011 had been a good year financially a £14,000 deficit in 2012 was forecast mainly as a result of the impact of the one-off receipts from the Stewardship Campaign not being repeated in 2012 and of the full year impact of the cost of the Youth Minister. The deficit would be covered by transferring monies from the Youth Minister Fund. The Treasurer advised that discretionary spending in 2012 would have to be closely monitored. He concluded by thanking the Assistant Treasurers, Tom Inglis, Elizabeth Mackay and Kathryn Sangster for their dedication and hard work throughout the year and by welcoming Michael Struthers who was taking over from Tom Inglis.

The Preses intimated that the Congregational Board had selected the Edinburgh Headway Group (from other charities nominated by the Congregation) to be the recipients of the Lent and Easter Appeal. The Group was an independent charity founded in 1982 to support adults who had suffered head and brain injury and their families.

Helen Aitken, Charles Black, Rosemary Collier and Pam Jack were retiring from the Congregational Board after six years service. Alison Ambler, Ralph Clark, Hugh Cowan, Michael Struthers, Dawn Waitt and Maree Winchester were retiring

after three years but could choose to be re-elected. Moira Davidson, David Ferguson, Donald King, Valerie Macniven, Kathleen Patrick, John Ritchie and Ian Thomson were retiring as Board members nominated by the Kirk Session. The Preses thanked all those retiring for their contribution to the work of the Board and its committees. The Preses intimated that, of those who had served for three years on the Board, Ralph Clark, Hugh Cowan, Michael Struthers, Dawn Waitt and Maree Winchester had agreed to offer themselves for re-election for a further three year period. It was also intimated that Ray Dely, Richard Dunbar, Leonard Maguire, Michael Pearson, John Rutherford, Rona Sommerville and Isobel Thom had been nominated by

the Session to serve on the Board for the next 3 years. Ann Andrew, Susan Black, Lorna Htet-Khin, Moira Land, Daniel Lean, Donald Milne, Alan Ramage and Carolyn Reid had indicated that they were willing to be considered for election to the Board for an initial three year period. The Preses asked if there were any further nominations. In the absence of any other nominations, the Congregation agreed the election of the nominees to the Board. The Minister expressed warm appreciation to the Preses, Jim Young who was standing down after eight years in post. She thanked him particularly for his leading role in the re-furbishment of the Sanctuary and presented him with a token of the Congregation's appreciation.

Greenbank's "Lamb and Flag"

The poster seen in the church and around Morningside, which gives details of our Holy Week and Easter services, contains a detail from the Revelation Window situated at the front of the church, above the red curtain and cross. This detail is of the Sacred Lamb which was slain (Revelation 5,6); it appears high up in the central light of the window, just below the figure of the Redeemer.

As in our Revelation Window, the Sacred Lamb is often portrayed with a flag, symbolic of Christ's victory over death in his Resurrection.



Photograph by Tony Gorzkowski

Book Café for SLA



Saturday 25th February brought proof, if it was needed, that there is certainly no imminent danger of the Kindle replacing the book in our affections.



Over a hundred people attended our Book Café and raised over £1000 for Scottish Love in Action. It was evident that the participants all enjoyed their soup pot lunch, tea/coffee and a blether as well as a chance to browse through the large selection of donated books. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to this effort, especially the helpers on the day.



Hazel Macaulay

Material for the May leaflet should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 15th April or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 17th April to greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com



News about an electrical re-use service, and dates for your diary:

Please note that the next dates for Fresh Start collections are April 22nd and June 10th, at the Sunday service (table in main hall).

There is a continuing need for good quality items for the starter pack scheme. Refer to February's 'Leaflet', contact me, or see the notice on the wall on the right of the church office, for a full list of household goods wanted. Thank you to everyone who donated items in good condition or indeed new items, last month.

Some of you may know that Fresh Start operates a Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) service to businesses and charities, but a new venture is the Fresh Start electrical re-use service, which provides people who have been homeless, with small electrical appliances, like kettles, toasters, lamps and irons. The appliances are tested by trainees, so as well as helping people who have been homeless in Edinburgh, the re-use service creates opportunities for the training initiative. There is an environmental benefit too. Every year, goods are being diverted from landfill.

Pick up a leaflet on a Fresh Start Sunday, see www.freshstartweb.org.uk or phone 476 7741, to find out more about Fresh Start.

Alison Ambler

Book Review

The Greatest Prayer:

Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer

John Dominic Crossan, SPCK 2011, £10.99 ISBN 9780281064175

Many books have been written about the Lord's Prayer. This latest contribution encourages us to see it as a prayer from the heart of Judaism on the lips of Christian-

ity for the conscience of the world. In eight closely argued chapters Crossan sheds new light on the Lord's Prayer, demonstrating the Old Testament background to the familiar words and making a strong case for a fresh understanding of their meaning and intention.

The author's concern is with justice, not as retributive justice, as punishment, but in its more positive Biblical sense of distributive justice, the sharing of everything fairly. Do all God's children have enough? If not, how must things change so that all God's people have a fair, equitable and just proportion of God's world?

Although he has lived and worked in the United States since the late 1960s, Crossan's Irish roots shine through not only in his use of Irish history to illuminate the plight of Roman-occupied Palestine in the time of Jesus but also in his pithy comments:

Reminding us that humans may not be the crown of creation:

We are the work of a late Friday afternoon. And maybe not even God's best work is done on a late Friday afternoon.

Herod the Great often makes Henry VIII appear both magnanimous and monogamous.

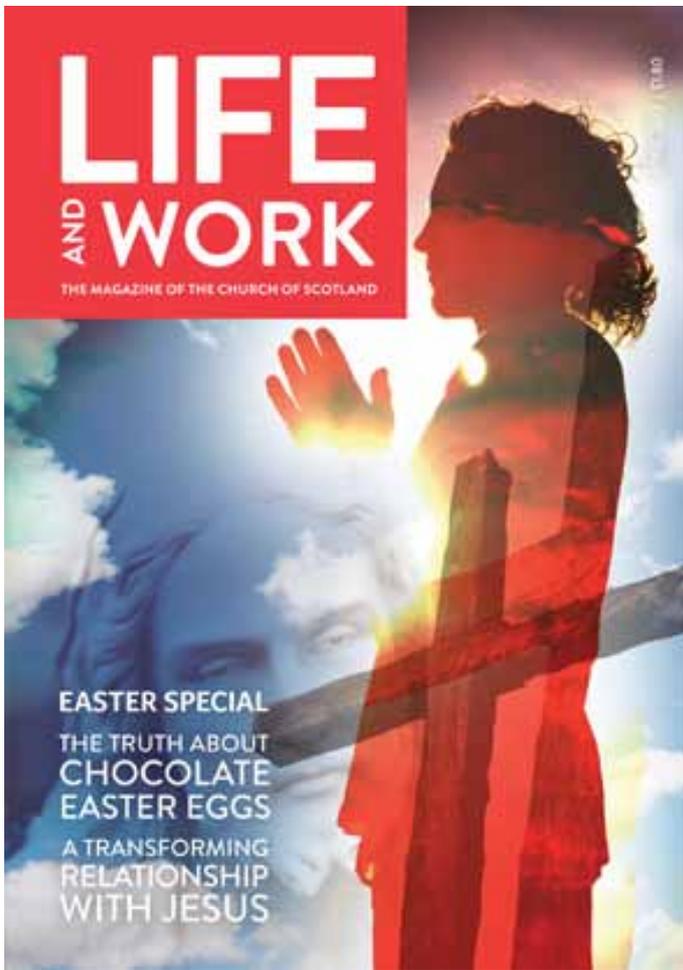
Commenting on the opening word, "Our", *You may certainly pray it alone, but you are never alone when you pray it.*

And on "as in heaven so on earth", *Heaven's in great shape: earth is where the problems are.*

Even if one does not accept every detail of Crossan's interpretation of the Lord's Prayer, this book is packed with rich insights both into the overall Biblical narrative and into the Prayer itself. Particularly illuminating are his reflections on the meaning of the Creation story in Genesis 1, on the Sabbath and on the Feeding of the Five Thousand.

And the title itself? How is the Lord's Prayer the "greatest" prayer? It is the greatest prayer within Christianity itself. Crossan believes that the greatest prayer in every religion should speak to all the world and for all the earth. And in this book he has made a strong case for the universal application of the Lord's Prayer.

Peter Graham



April edition

A Transforming Experience

The Rev Denis Duncan offers an Easter reflection.

The Real Cost of Easter Eggs

Thomas Baldwin looks at the ethical implications of chocolate Easter eggs.

Philanthropy and Public Service

Jackie Macadam meets Lord Selkirk, Lord High Commissioner to the 2012 General Assembly.

A Welcome Return

Ron Ferguson returns to the pages of Life and Work

Making a Difference

A new report highlighting the role of churches in tackling homelessness

Biblical Botanicals

Muriel Armstrong reflects on the symbolism of the 'flag' iris

A Church Without Walls

The Rev John Paterson highlights worship outreach in Cumnock

Genesis in the New Testament

The Rev Marion Dodd explores the themes of Genesis, as reflected in the New Testament.

Stripped of the Royal Purple

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson takes a fresh look at the central character of the centuries

Plus all the regular columnists, letters, reviews and crosswords – all for just £1.80

Coffee Rota

April

1st	Lennie and Katy Maguire D20/D19
8th	Catherine Hardie and Stuart Macmillan D66A/B
15th	Hazel Macaulay D89
22nd	Scouts
29th	Charles and Susan Black
May	
6th	Susan Inch D48



Creche Rota

April

1st	Rosemary Collier	Grace Pollock
8th	Elaine Crummey	Fenella Murray
15th	Valerie Macniven	Charlotte Tucker
22nd	Lucy Teall	Grace Pollock
29th	Jill Mundy	Fenella Murray



Flower Rota

provided by / delivered by

April

1st	Margot Fergusson	Isobel Brown
8th	Rona Sommerville	Janet McAinsh
15th	Jill Powlett-Brown	Margaret Mack
22nd	Moira Davidson	Fiona Watt
29th	WAGs	Catherine Ferguson
May		
6th	Allan-Johnson wedding	Joan/Sandy Cameron



Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online
version of the Leaflet*

Welcome Teams

April

1st	Ian Thom , Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Charles Black, Kay Ellis, Greig Scott
8th	Stuart Sanders , Moira Davidson, Stuart Macmillan, John Murison, Sandy Cameron, Sally Stephen
15th	John Rutherford , David Allan, Richard Denison, Kenneth Htet-Khin, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Colin Winchester
22nd	John Ritchie , Eric Brown, Stewart Coghill, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, David Easton, Susan Jackman
29th	Donald King , Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald McLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
May	
6th	Rosemary McCulloch , Frank Hutson, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant

PEOPLE WHO PRAYED: PERCY DEARMER

Seven of Percy Dearmer's hymns appeared in the Church Hymnary: Third Edition. Tastes in hymns change over the years, with the result that only two of these survived into CH4, where they were joined by one of his translations of an old hymn. If he had still been around, Dearmer himself would have recognised what was happening, for he had been the editor of various collections of hymns. Working with the renowned composer Ralph Vaughan Williams as musical editor, Dearmer published The English Hymnal in 1906. He again collaborated with Vaughan Williams and Martin Shaw to produce Songs of Praise (1926) and The Oxford Book of Carols (1928). These hymnals have been credited with reintroducing many elements of traditional and medieval English music into the worship of the Church, not only in England, but throughout the English-speaking world, including Scotland.

Born in Kilburn, Middlesex, in 1867, Percy Dearmer was a Church of England priest. In common with many late Victorian Anglican clergymen he wanted to revive traditions dating from before the Reformation. In addition, he called for a greater emphasis to be placed on art and beauty in worship. In The Parson's Handbook, first published when he was 32, Dearmer offered advice to his fellow churchmen about the correct way to conduct proper and fitting worship. His aim, he wrote, was "to help, in however humble a way, towards remedying the lamentable confusion, lawlessness, and vulgarity which are conspicuous in the Church at this time"

In his personal life Dearmer knew great tragedy. In the year that he was ordained (1892) he married the nineteen year old Mabel Pritchard White. She was to become a well-known author of children's books, novels and plays, being highly regarded by Bernard Shaw, among others, for her stage productions. They had two sons, both of whom served in World War I. The elder, Geoffrey, lived to the age of 103, one of the oldest surviving war poets. The younger, Christopher, died in 1915 at Gallipoli when a Turkish shell hit his tent. In the spring of 1915 Dearmer had left his parish of St Mary-the-Virgin, Primrose Hill, in north London, where he had been vicar since 1901, to serve as chaplain to the British Red Cross ambulance unit in Serbia. Within three months Mabel, who had accompanied him, had died of enteric fever in the appalling conditions.

Dearmer went on to work with the YMCA in France and, in 1916 and 1917, with the Mission of Help in India. He married his second wife, Nancy Knowles, in 1916. They had two daughters and a son, Anthony, who died serving with the RAF in 1943 and was buried in Greenock Cemetery. After the Great War Dearmer served in no official ecclesiastical posts, preferring instead to focus on his writing and, as an avowed socialist, effecting social change. After being appointed a canon of Westminster Abbey in 1931 he ran a canteen for the unemployed out of it. In addition, Dearmer served as Professor of Ecclesiastical Art at King's College London from 1919 until his sudden death of coronary thrombosis on May 29, 1936.

Despite his loyalty to the best traditions of the Church, Dearmer knew that they required fresh expression. This is evident in a prayer he composed for the renewal of the Church. (Unfortunately

it has proved impossible to find out when or in what circumstances he first used it.):

*God, our Shepherd, give to the Church
a new vision and a new charity,
new wisdom and fresh understanding,
the revival of her brightness
and the renewal of her unity;
that the eternal message of thy Son,
undefiled by the traditions of men,
may be hailed as the good news of the age;
through him who maketh all things new.*

Here is a prayer to be offered to God for the Church on earth that it may experience Easter renewal. Not just on Easter Day but through the following weeks the Church recalls the stories about Jesus's resurrection appearances. They are stories about new creation and renewal. When the Gospels tell us that Jesus emerged, transformed, from the tomb on Easter morning, their accounts are packed with significant details: it was the first day of God's new week, the moment of sunrise after the long night, the time of new meetings, new meals, an occasion for reconciliation. These stories tell how Jesus, dead, buried and transformed through resurrection, himself transformed his friends into the Church. Despite his attempts to prepare them for what lay ahead, after their Master had been executed the disciples were utterly bewildered, totally lost, completely helpless. And yet within weeks they were fired with a passion to share the good news of their risen Lord's resurrection and its significance with everybody everywhere.

The Church has always been committed to proclaim this good news. It has also been committed to the renewal of human life, not only for each person as an individual but also for people living together in community, for society as a whole. There have to be fresh expressions of resurrection life, both within and beyond the Church. With St Paul, the Church affirms that when anyone is united to Christ, there is a new world; the old order has gone, and a new order has already begun. But if the Church is to be effective in passing on the message it has received, it requires precisely what Dearmer's prayer requests.

In every generation the Church has to have a clear vision of what the world would be like if God ruled the world. Such a world will become a reality not by violence and force but the power of love at its truest and best. To embody such love the Church must be renewed, reformed, reinvigorated and reunited. Many years ago a slogan popular in the ecumenical movement was "One Church Renewed for Mission". While the desire for organic Christian unity seems to have evaporated, there is still a desperate need for Christians to understand each other so that they can speak with one voice and act as one whenever possible. Only so may they enable people to hear "the eternal message of the Son" and to welcome it as the good news of the new age.

For further reading:

Hymns by Percy Dearmer:

193 *God is love, his care*

209 *Father, we praise thee, now the night is over*

331 *Unto us a boy is born!*