

Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES
No 643 May 2015

Pulpit Diary

May 3

- 9.30am First Sunday Service led by World Mission
- 10.30am Morning Worship

May 10

- 10.30am Morning Worship

May 17

- 10.30am Morning Worship

May 24

- 9.30 Pentecost Communion
- 10.30am Morning Worship for Pentecost

May 31

- 10.30am Morning Worship

Jun 5 (Friday)

- 7.30pm Pre-Communion Service

Jun 7

- 9.00am Communion
- 10.30am Communion (Springboard and Spectrum meet as usual)
- 3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

To make contact with any of the organisations referenced 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

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The pastoral team can be contacted through the Church Office:

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Rev W. Peter Graham

tel: 0131 445 5763

Youth Minister: Rev Bill Stone

tel: 07883 815 598

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

A couple of weeks ago the BBC showed a television programme called "In the footsteps of St Peter". It was a repeat of a two-part documentary, filmed in the Holy Land and presented by the actor David Suchet. I don't remember seeing it before. And this time round I only saw the first part, which took you through the life of the apostle Simon



Peter from his early days until the death of Jesus. I would have liked to see the second part of the programme which charts the transformation of Peter from impetuous, bewildered and grieving disciple into respected leader of the early Church, and who tradition has it eventually died a martyr's death in Rome. But that will have to wait until the programme is repeated again, as it no doubt will be!

However In the first part of that programme there is a particularly memorable scene where David Suchet is at Baniyas (Caesarea Philippi). Baniyas was a centre of pagan worship and the programme showed the huge rock face in which we can still see today the remains of numerous ancient shrines to many different gods. Tradition has it that it is here that Simon Peter first recognises Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God. And that Jesus responds to Peter saying, "And I tell you, you are Cephas" (Cephas is Greek for rock). Jesus then goes on to say, "And on this rock I will build my church" (Mt 16:18).

Suchet, with the ability of actors to place themselves into the scene, wonders just what Jesus meant by this. He wishes he could see where Jesus' hands were pointing when he said it. Were they pointing to Peter – whose name means the rock? Or were they pointing to the rock-face that formed the backdrop to the conversation between Jesus and Peter – and by implication to all the gentiles for whom this was a centre of worship, and who would certainly comprise the majority of the

early church? Or was Jesus pointing to himself as the rock? Or perhaps it was Peter's faith in him that was the rock? At first glance this looks like a multiple choice question in an exam paper.

But we will never know in which direction Jesus was looking or pointing when he spoke these words. And it could be that Jesus or even the Gospel writer was us-

ing a piece of inspired word-play here and more than one of the above options was intended. This question, like many others that arise as we explore the Christian faith, cannot be treated like a multiple choice question in an exam paper. Rather each possible answer invites us to work out its significance for ourselves and to consider how that option corresponds to other biblical narratives. This takes reason and imagination, study and prayer.

At this time of year when we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Church at Pentecost, we could do worse than reflect on that question posed by David Suchet against the background of the Temple at Baniyas. Because the answers we arrive at help shape our understanding and vision of the Church and the part each one of us has to play in its present and its future. I leave you to work that one out for yourselves!

As I leave you too, to work out for yourselves what to do with a ballot paper that again looks a bit like a multiple choice exam paper. For here also the options require to be tackled with reason and imagination, study and prayer that would seek a vision for the present and the future of our country and our nation in which all have a part to play.

All I would say is please use your vote and please do come along to share our Pentecost celebrations.

With warmest wishes

Alison I Swindells
Parish Minister

Stewardship Sunday

26th April 2015

As you may recall Greenbank, following the request of the General Assembly that all congregations operate a stewardship programme, has designated the last Sunday of April as our Stewardship Sunday. This year that falls on 26th April and in accordance with a three year cycle of stewardship of time, talents and money, we will be focussing on time. We are very grateful for the generosity shown by all our members in the giving of all three. But many changes can take place within a three year period and so we also encourage you to review annually your financial support of the work of Christ's Church. Pledge cards to assist with this accompany this Leaflet. They should be completed and returned to the Treasurer by the beginning of June when they will be brought into Church and dedicated at the 10.30am communion service.

A separate article explains how our contribution to the work of the Church of Scotland is used.

Greenbank's Ministries and Mission Contribution to the Work of the Church of Scotland

The General Treasurer of the Church of Scotland has written to thank Greenbank for our support to the worship, mission and service of the Church through our offerings. His letter explains how our contribution of £141,747 will be used in 2015.

£121,902 (86%) will go towards the costs of over 1000 ministers and other parish workers, for salaries, recruitment and training. This includes the cost of our own Minister. The current cost - stipend and employer's contributions - of a Minister at the top of the stipend scale is £41,048 so you can see how much our generous givings are supporting other congregations who cannot afford the full costs themselves.

The remaining amount - £19,845 (14%) - is used for a wide range of purposes such as Christian education and outreach, social

care, partnerships with churches around the world, the Moderator and General Assembly and the central administration of the Church.

The Open Door Presents

Ian Rankin

in conversation with Nigel Griffiths

on Tuesday 26th May

at 7 pm for 7.30pm

Morningside Parish Church Hall, Braid Road

Tickets £15, including a glass of wine, available from the Open Door

Mission and Service Church and Society April Newsletter

Among many interesting articles, this month's issue of the newsletter notes the meeting between the Rt Rev John Chalmers and Pope Francis where the issue of climate change was discussed. The Moderator commented:

"Climate change is perhaps the most pressing issue in human history, its effects are most keenly experienced by the poorest of the world's poor; so, it is also a matter of social justice and it needs to be tackled with great urgency."

Visit the Church of Scotland website to find out more about this meeting.

Closer to home, in Glasgow, towards the end of February, the Church of Scotland, Faith in Community Scotland, and the Centre for Human Ecology joined forces to explore how sustainable food equality can be achieved.

The impact of welfare reform has had most impact on the poorest in society. The number of individuals and families relying on food banks and other forms of emergency food aid has increased.

Food banks are an immediate response to the crisis and the volunteers working in them make an important contribution to their communities; however the conference discussed the reasons behind the increase in food banking and how to try to prevent normalising emergency food aid as a voluntary safety net. How can immediate need be met but also how can the systems that created them be changed?

In conclusion, good examples of how to achieve the move towards food justice, in

which the human right to food and health is combined with sustainable food production, education and employment, were discussed.

Further information on the work of the Church of Scotland in relation to food justice can be found at http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak_out/social_issues/food_justice

Spectrum Update

Over the last few months, our Spectrum classes have been very busy, and we'd like to share with you a few highlights from our winter term.

You probably know that this January marked the 100th anniversary of the death



of Scottish Missionary Mary Slessor. The Church of Scotland sent representatives to Nigeria to meet with local churches and attend memorial services. *Life and Work* published an article on her, and the World Mission council launched a post card competition, inviting children throughout Scotland to participate.

On 22nd February our Spectrum classes met all together to learn more about who Mary Slessor was, and how she had worked hard to help people in Nigeria. After hearing about Mary, we talked with Rev Bill about things that we could do to share God's love with other people and make the world a better place. We then drew these ideas on postcards and submitted them to the World Mission Council's postcard competition - which received over 2,600 entries!

Also in February, we had a special lesson on the Lord's Prayer. We all gathered in the Centenary Hall and heard four members of Greenbank share the Lord's Prayer with us in different languages: Korean, Afrikaans, and Swahili. Joshua and Grace talked to us about Christianity in Kenya. Irene told us a little about South Africa. And Hongsuk spoke to us about South Korea, and also taught us a song about prayer that we all enjoyed singing.

Our time all together went so well, that we have decided Spectrum 2 and 3 should continue meeting together for the rest of the term. It has been good to have a bigger group, and to share our resources. Some of the older children have even become "junior leaders", helping out in many ways from technology, and crafts, to judging games. We've also enjoyed contributing to the all age worship services, doing readings, and sharing our Palm Leaves and Easter Garden with you. We want to say a big thank you to all of our Spectrum leaders for their help, and to especially thank the planning group: Janet A, Janet F, Moira S, and Alison R for all of the work they've put into planning these special activities!

Friendship Club Reminder

Outing on Wednesday 6th May

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

Val Smart

QII and Nitekirk

In March our QII youth group joined Fairmilehead's Pathfinders to help organise and lead a time of worship for Nitekirk at St Columba's by the Castle. Our two youth groups met with Katie Munnik, who is one of Nitekirk's coordinators, and talked about how worship at Nitekirk is different than a traditional Sunday morning service. Katie then led us all in a brainstorming exercise, and the teens selected "Acceptance" as their theme for the worship.

Nitekirk meets twice a month at one of three city-centre churches: Greyfriars, Augustine United, and St Columba's by the Castle. Each time of worship is organised around a theme such as Light, Turning, Closing, or Water. After beginning with a brief reflection and some singing, worshippers are invited to explore several prayer stations that have been set up throughout the church. The church is open from 8 - 11pm, and people are free to come and go as they please.



Planning this service was a great way for our two youth groups to come together and think about what acceptance means to us, where we see that in the scriptures, and where we have felt acceptance, or longed for it in our own lives. From these discussions, and after a few follow up meetings, we developed five different prayer stations. These were used both at Nitekirk, and again at an evening worship service at Greenbank.



The next Fresh Start collection is **31st May** at the Sunday service (table in Main Hall).

The Starter Packs Service provides new tenants who have been homeless with essential items to set up home. The packs help relieve the financial burden that many new tenants face. Over 8,000 packs are distributed each year allowing around 2,000 new tenants across Edinburgh to benefit from the service.

Here is a list of the items needed. They should be in very good condition, such that you might like to receive.

Dishes and Crockery

Dinner plates, side plates, bowls, cutlery, mugs, glass tumblers, tea-towels and cleaning cloths.

Pots and Pans etc.

Pots with lids, milk pans, frying pans, plastic boxes, cooking utensils, can openers, potato peelers, wooden spoons.

Cleaning Things

Washing up basins, washing-up liquid, toilet cleaner, toilet rolls, hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dust pans and brushes, pedal bin liners, rubbish bags, all purpose cleaner, laundry tablets.

Bed Linen and Towels

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

Small Household Electrical Items (Not TVs)

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



Morningside & Fairmilehead
Christian Aid Committee.

POVERTY

Spring Fair

Morningside Parish Church Halls
(Foot of Braid Road)

Saturday 23rd May 2015
10am-2pm.

Stalls: Home Baking & preserves;
New & Nearly New Goods;
Books, DVDs, CDs & Jigsaws;
Indoor, Outdoor, & Bedding Plants;
Morningside Heritage Association;
Raffle with excellent prizes;
Craft Stalls: Jewellery, Breadshare, Phoenix Trader, Rain Forest protection,



10-45-11.30 - Aileen Paterson, reading a 'Maisie of Morningside' story
11.30-12.00 - Bill McGillivray performing 'A Display of Magic'
11.00-12.30 - Plant Forum by Ian Service, member of Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. Bring along your problem plants!
12.20-1.00- Morley Whitehead leading an organ/choral session with the Morningside Parish Church Choral Scholars
10.00-2.00 -Morningside Heritage Association present 'Photos of Morningside by Bill Smith'

Refreshments: Coffee, Tea, Juice & Biscuits all day with Soup & crusty bread at lunch time.
Donations for the Home Baking and preserves, New & nearly New and the Book Stall will be gratefully received.

Admission free!

Please come to the Fair and support the work of Christian Aid

www.caweek.org

All Money Taken to a bank account of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid December 2004
125, Southside, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6PU
Scottish Charity number SC040255 Company number 1992754. Records of Ireland charity number 2017 0046. Company number 02586

The Congregation at War

1939-1945

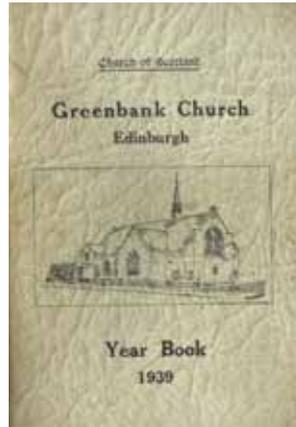
Last November's *Leaflet* included an article on the three men commemorated on the Church's War Memorial who died in the First World War. This article tells the story of the six Second World War casualties, and the congregation's wider contribution to the war effort.

The outbreak of war in August 1939 had an immediate effect on Greenbank. The 29-year-old newly-elected Minister, David Read, was a chaplain in the Territorial Army and was immediately called up. Posted to the 51st Highland Division, he was taken prisoner (with over 10,000 other soldiers) when the Division was encircled by the Germans at St Valery-en-Caux in Normandy. He spent the rest of the War in prisoner-of-war camps, serving as prison padre and keeping in touch with his congregation by regular (if censored) letters home. Back in Greenbank, the pulpit was filled by retired ministers, and the ladies of the Work Party turned out thousands of warm garments for the troops.

Each year of the War, the *Leaflet* published a cumulative list of those "connected with Greenbank Church" who had "been on service" and of those who had died. The "connection" was undefined, and the lists were not restricted to people whose names (or whose parents' names) appear among the 735 members on the Congregational Roll in the 1939 Year Book. In May 1940, 41 members were serving - including David Read and his wife, who worked for Church of Scotland Huts. By the end of the War, 136 people had served, including such familiar names as "Signalman E R Brown" and "Pte Sheila Logie". Seven men had been killed, of whom six appear on the War Memorial.

The first name on the War Memorial is **Captain Alexander McArthur Slater Brown**. Youngest son of chartered accountant William Slater Brown of 71 Comiston Drive and his wife Agnes (who were members of Greenbank), Sandy Slater Brown was born at 10 Cluny Terrace on 22nd July 1921. Educated at Watson's from 1927 to 1939, he was a keen cadet and leading drummer in the band. He was a member of the 4th Edinburgh Scouts, based at Greenbank. Enlisting in the Territorials early in the War, he was rapidly promoted. He was a Lance-Sergeant in May 1940, commissioned in the 2nd Battalion Royal Scots in December 1940 and was acting Captain at the time of his death.

His Battalion was part of the defence force of Hong Kong. The colony was attacked by the Japanese on 8th December 1941, a few hours after the attack on Pearl Harbour. Following bitter fighting, the garrison surrendered on Christmas Day. By that time, Sandy Slater Brown was dead. He was killed on 19th December, in an unsuccessful defence of the strategically-important Wong Nai Chung Gap, the capture of which allowed the Japanese to drive a wedge in the defending forces, splitting Hong Kong Island in two. There were 451 fatalities amongst the defenders. The



survivors of the Battalion, including James Allan Ford (later Registrar General and the author of *Brave White Flag* about his experiences) became prisoners of war.

Initially, Sandy Slater Brown was reported missing, and his death was not confirmed until January 1943. He is commemorated in the Sai Wan Memorial, in the north-east of Hong Kong Island, which bears the names of more than 2,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in the Battle of Hong Kong or subsequently in captivity, who have no known grave. Three other members of his family served in the forces, but survived the War.

Second Lieutenant Robert

Brydon was the youngest son of Robert and Mary Brydon of 47 Falcon Gardens, who were members of Greenbank. Born in May 1922, he was educated at the Royal High School, where he was in the same form as Walter Crosby - who remembers him as "slightly devil-may-care". He started an Arts course at Edinburgh University in 1941



but later that year joined the army as a Private. He was commissioned in the Liverpool Scottish Battalion of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, and that is the regiment which appears against his name on the War Memorial. But the Liverpool Scottish provided reinforcements for the Camerons and other units, and Robert Brydon was posted to the 6th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment. The Battalion was employed on home defence until January 1943, when it left for the final stages of the Tunisian Campaign. Robert Brydon was killed in action on 8th March 1943 and lies in the Tabarka Ras Rajel War Cemetery, on the coast of Tunisia not far from the Algerian border. He is also commemorated on the War Memorial in Old College.

Lance Bombardier Kenneth McAlpine was the son of Mr and Mrs A M McAlpine, who were not members of Greenbank. Born about 1919, he joined the Royal Artillery early in the war, serving with 129 (Lowland) Field Regiment, the local Gunner Territorial Army unit.

The Regiment, equipped with 25-pounder field guns, from January 1943 formed part of the 17th Indian Infantry Division. The Division had the distinction of being continually in combat during the three-year-long Burma Campaign (except for brief periods of refit). In early March 1944, the Japanese opened their main offensive against India. Their plan was to surround and destroy the Indian IV Corps (of which 17th Division formed part) at the city of Imphal. When the attack came, the 17th Division was taken completely by surprise. Fighting desperate rearguard actions, the Division withdrew from the Chin Hills, through Tid-dim, Singgel and back across the Indian border until they finally reached the high Imphal Plain. In July, the Japanese, broken by heavy casualties and starvation, retreated.

Some units of the Division had suffered nearly 100% casualties, including Kenneth McAlpine, killed on 14th March 1944. He is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial, along with almost



27,000 others who died in the Burma Campaign and who have no known grave.

Captain Stanley Macleod Mackintosh was born in Inverness on 21st April 1918. His connection with Greenbank is unclear. His parents, Major Stanley Mackintosh DSO OBE and Isabella Mackintosh, do not seem to have lived in Edinburgh - his father served in the Northumberland Fusiliers and after leaving the army worked for the Ministry of Labour in England. Stanley was educated at Clifton College, Bristol from 1930 to 1937 (where he was head boy) and won a scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford. Having graduated with second-class honours in Classical Mods, he joined the army in 1941 as a Cadet Officer and was commissioned into the Indian Army. The War Memorial records his parent unit, 16th Punjab Regiment, but at the time of his death he was attached to the Special Operations Executive in Burma. The SOE was used for reconnaissance missions behind enemy lines (to gather intelligence, carry out ambushes and destroy supply dumps) as well as training and assisting local guerrilla groups. It played a significant part in the liberation of Burma by building up a national organization which was used to great effect in 1945. It was dangerous work and Stanley Mackintosh appears to have been captured by the Japanese.

As a prisoner of war, he worked on the notorious Burma-Siam railway, built to improve communications to support the large Japanese army in Burma. During its construction, approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died and were buried along the railway. The graves of those who died during the construction and maintenance of the railway were transferred from camp burial grounds and isolated sites along the railway into three cemeteries - two in Siam and one in Burma. Chungkai, in modern-day Thailand, was one of the base camps on the railway and contained a hospital and church built by Allied prisoners of war. The war cemetery is the original burial ground started by the prisoners themselves, and the burials are mostly of men who died at the hospital. These include Stanley Mackintosh, who died of typhoid on 16th June 1945, aged 27. He is also commemorated at his college in Oxford.

Sapper Herbert Ramsey Watson was born on 20th September 1917, the younger son of Greenbank members Mr and Mrs Herbert Watson of 54 Morningside Drive. At Watson's from 1922 to 1934, he went to Edinburgh University in 1934 to study engineering, although he does not seem to have graduated. In 1939, he volunteered for the Royal Engineers and served for four years as a private soldier.

He fought in North Africa and then, after the Allied invasion, on the Italian mainland. Progress through southern Italy was rapid despite stiff resistance but, by the end of October, the Allies were facing the German winter defensive position known as the Gustav Line. Initial attempts to breach the western end of the line were unsuccessful. It took four major offensives between January and May 1944 before the line was eventually broken. During these early months of 1944, Cassino saw some of the fiercest fighting of the Italian campaign, the town itself and the dominating Monastery Hill proving the most stubborn obstacles encountered in the advance towards Rome. Herbert Watson was killed there on 10th February 1944, aged 26.

He is buried at Cassino War Cemetery and commemorated also



on memorials at Watson's, at Old College and at West Kilbride, Ayrshire, where his parents lived at the time of his death.

The final name on the War Memorial is **Cadet Stephen Moncrieff White**, the son of Greenbank members Moncrieff and Elizabeth White of 29 Pentland Terrace. Stephen went to Watson's from 1930 to 1940, and Eric and Isobel Brown knew him during their schooldays. He was a member of the Scout Troop at Fairmilehead Church, where the "Stephen White Shield", presented in his honour, is displayed in a showcase.



Stephen trained for the Merchant Navy at Leith Nautical College, where he gained a First Class Certificate of Merit in 1942 along with the Bronze Medal and certificates in swimming and life-saving. He was immediately accepted by the Royal Mail Line as a cadet and left home on 16th July 1942



to join the MV Lochkatrine which left Liverpool in ballast on 23rd July in a convoy bound for New York. Early on 3rd August 1942, the ship was struck by two torpedoes from German submarine U-552 and sank rapidly. All but 9 of the 90 people on board were rescued but Stephen was drowned. The captain reported: "This young man was in his cabin at the time of the explosion. He was later seen in the water. Mr Williams, one of the passengers, called to him to come over and share his floating wreckage but White, who was swimming strongly, called out that he was alright "cheerio Australia". That was the last seen of him."

Born at 8 Nile Grove on 17th November 1925, Stephen was 16 years old when he died. He is commemorated on the Merchant Navy memorial at Tower Hill, London.

Signalman Eric Brown is the only wartime member with war service who is still in the pews today. He was a wireless operator with 8 Special Wireless Section - a Royal Signals unit whose task was to intercept German military wireless messages sent in Morse Code and often using the Enigma Code. The Section operated in the south of England until 1944 when, a few days after D Day, it crossed to Normandy. It then went with the British 2nd Army through France, Belgium and Holland, ending up at Luneburg Heath in Germany in May 1945 where the surrender of the German Forces was taken by Field Marshal Montgomery.

Duncan Macniven

The sources of most of the illustrations are the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the war records of George Watson's College.

One Day in May Book Festival

Saturday 30th May 2015 at Greyfriars Kirk

Scottish Love in Action invites you to come to a Book Festival celebrating the best in modern literature. Join us for this new and exciting date in the Book Festival calendar.

Programme of Events

11am: Jeremy Strong, children's author (7+) of *The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog* and *My Brother's Famous Bottom* series.

2pm: Alasdair Gray, author of *Lanark*, will talk about his autobiography *Of Me and Others*.

5pm: Femmes Fatales, a trio of female crime writers discuss their work – **Alanna Knight**, creator of the Victorian Inspector Faro series, **Lin Anderson**, author of the Forensic specialist Dr Rhona Macleod series, and **Alex Gray**, author of the DCI Lorimer novels.

8pm: Alexander McCall Smith, well known for *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series and many other publications.

Book sales and signings will be available after each talk. Tickets for the adults' authors are £10 and for the children's author £6.

Tickets are available online (only) at www.sla-india.org from noon Tuesday 21st April 2015.

World Mission

With the approach of **Christian Aid Week 10th–16th May** and the many Christian Aid events in May, it seems appropriate to mention that Christian Aid is launching its new climate justice campaign 'One Million Ways'.

Millions of the world's poorest people are feeling the impact of climate change right now. They are suffering first and worst from the consequences, and yet they are least to blame.

When we demand that action is taken to tackle climate change we are not only being faithful to God, but we are uniting with people all across the world. Despite our diversity we are bound to one another as children of God and the inhabitants of his world and we experience the same emotions e.g. love and loss, fear and hope. Natural disasters and the fragility of our world frighten us all, but together we can do one million things to change our world and to build a future for everyone, standing against the greed and wastefulness that threatens our precious world.

By making small changes in our everyday lives and in our communities and standing together to challenge others we can reduce the threat of climate change and protect the things we love. Christian Aid's new campaign website has loads of ideas about how we can make some changes even by simply walking to church or not buying anything new for a whole day. They also want to know what you are already doing to tackle climate change so feel free to log on and tell them www.christianaid.org.uk/onemillionways/#what-do-you-love

The next **One World Stall** is on **Sunday 24th May** after the 10.30am Service.

Life and Work on-line

The General Assembly opens on Saturday May 16th. Follow proceedings with daily updates at www.lifeandwork.org, and www.facebook.com/lifeandwork and www.twitter.com/cofslifeandwork

Communion Pew Cloths

Are you able to help with this aspect of Communion preparations?

At present we need 28 volunteers to help prepare the Pew cloths for each Communion Service. In the past year this number has dropped by 7. To get back to the full complement I'm appealing for volunteers. With the full complement your help will be required only once a year.

If you are willing to be part of our team please contact Muriel McLardy (Tel 446 9065)

YACHT 2015

A reminder that a date for your diary is the 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 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; 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 Photo Competition for Greenbank's 2016 Calendar – spring has truly sprung and summer beckons, 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 in the freshness and green around us to reflect on the gifts from God in nature and landscape.



Christian Aid Week

10th May to 16th May

Please will collectors come to the Main Hall at Greenbank Church on Sunday morning 10th May, before or after the Service, to pick up their collecting bags with their envelopes etc. If this is not convenient for anyone, please contact me to arrange to get these before that date.

Pam Jack
email: pamelajacko6@gmail.com

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the Online
version of the Leaflet*

Welcome Teams

May

- 3 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker, Alastair Ross
- 10 **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Stewart Coghill, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, David Easton, Susan Jackman
- 17 **Keith Winton**, Eileen Campbell, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 24 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 31 **John George**, Rhian Ferguson Alastair Hunter, Hazel Macaulay, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster

June

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

Coffee Rota

May

- 3 Alison & John Murison (D60/D62)
- 10 Anne Kinnear (D9) & Sue Black
- 17 Yes Group
- 24 BAGs
- 31 Caroline Kehoe (D70)



Flower Rota

Provided by

Delivered by

May

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 | Caroline Kehoe | Catherine Ferguson |
| 10 | Margo Fraser | Liz Foster |
| 17 | Marjorie Thomson | Fiona Kelly |
| 24 | Rosemary McCulloch
& Ruth Johnston | Susan Black |
| 31 | Catherine Hardie | Charlotte Tucker |

June

- | | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| 7 | Ina Weir | Irene Horne |
|---|----------|-------------|

Crèche Rota

May

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|
| 3 | Sharon Hamilton | Lorna Htet-Khin |
| 10 | Lorna Periss | Alison Ambler |
| 17 | Jenny Wright | Hazel McLachlan |
| 24 | Lucy Teall | Sharon Hamilton |
| 31 | Rosemary Collier | Shona Murray |

Bookstall 10th May

After the 10.30am Service the Bookstall will be open with a selection of books from The Cornerstone with a special focus on Christian history, and other books that might help you on your faith journey or expand your knowledge of Christian doctrine or the Bible, including Bible study guides

John and Joan Ritchie

The Guild

Our winter session concluded with our Annual Business Meeting on 17th March, followed by a brief overview of some of the hymns in our Church Hymnary. Jenni Johnston retired as Secretary, having given years of sterling service; her successor is Sharie Perks. There were no other changes to office-bearers. Our annual outing takes place on 12th May and details have been circulated to members. Our monthly summer coffee mornings start on Tuesday 2nd June and continue on the first Tuesday of July (7th), August (4th) and September (1st). These take place in the Main Hall from 10.30am - noon and are open to all members, friends and members of the congregation. We are now planning our programme for the winter session 2015-16; several speakers have already been booked and the first meeting takes place on Tuesday 6th October at 7.30pm.

Kathleen Patrick

Material for the June *Leaflet* should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by **Sunday 17th May** or sent by e-mail by 9am on **Tuesday 19th May** to greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com

A QUESTION OF RESOURCES?

Nearly ten years ago, in June 2005, some 250,000 people gathered in Edinburgh as part of the Make Poverty History campaign. Along with millions of others throughout the UK and many more all over the world, they called on governments to increase and improve aid to developing countries, to cancel developing countries' debts, and to make global trade fairer. The wealthiest nations responded and considerable progress was made:

- Unfair debts owed by 39 countries were cancelled
- By 2011 130 million primary-aged children were attending school in Africa (87 million in 2000)
- In 2012 20 million fewer cases of malaria were reported worldwide than in 2000, thanks to more money being available for mosquito nets
- In March of this year the Westminster Parliament passed legislation which commits the UK to spend 0.7 per cent of its national income on aid.

These are remarkable achievements in a relatively short time. Lives are changing because people stood together and campaigned for what they believed to be right and fair. However, poverty is not yet history. Despite all that has been done both by governments and by aid agencies, the words of the 1930s Dundee Jute Mill Song remain true:

O, dear me, the world is ill-divided.

Them that works the hardest
are the least provided.

According to one organisation committed to combatting world hunger

- 805 million people – or one in nine people in the world – do not have enough to eat.
- 1.7 billion people lack access to clean water.
- 22,000 children die each day because of poverty.
- 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

The world is ill-divided. So too is our nation. A recent Scottish Government report, *Wealth and Assets in Scotland 2006-2012*, shows that the wealthiest 10 per cent of households owned 74 per cent of financial wealth, 55 per cent of pension wealth, 43 per cent of property wealth and 33 per cent of physical wealth (cars, household goods and personal belongings). Experts argue about the interpretation of these statistics, but few deny that the overall picture is reasonably accurate. This report, along with the growing number of food banks across the country, suggests that deprivation is widespread in Scotland.

From the earliest days the Church has shown care and compassion for the poor in its midst and around it. Although followers of Jesus Christ do not have a monopoly on compassion, they seek to follow one who has shown that at the heart of God are love and justice. Faced with this ill-divided, unjust world Christians are challenged afresh by a question Jesus once asked his first disciples about the adequacy of their resources to feed the hungry.

How many loaves have you? was the question. Jesus and his close companions had been followed to a remote place by a large crowd of people, eager to hear his teaching. Late in the day the disciples asked Jesus to send the people away so that they could find something to eat. Jesus immediately gave them responsibility for the hungry crowd: You give them something to eat. "How are we supposed to feed all these people?" the disciples object. "You want us to go and spend a fortune on food for their supper?" Jesus again turns their own question back on them: How many loaves have you?

The disciples may have thought that stocktaking was futile, but they obeyed. When they reported that there were five loaves and two fish and brought them to Jesus, he took the food, said a prayer of thanks to God, divided up the loaves and handed them out. In the end, not only was everyone fed (and there may have been as many as twenty thousand present; 5,000 men are mentioned in the story: women and children did not count in those days, so they were not counted!) but there were leftovers.

Jesus was not interested in the numbers. He did not count those he fed - he did something far more important: he fed them. Nor was he interested in the number of loaves and fish brought to him. Indeed, another version of the story has seven loaves and a few fish. By asking the disciples about their resources, Jesus was looking for evidence of their attitude. Did they believe that the little they had to offer, when given freely to Jesus, could be taken and used for the benefit of many? Or did they seek to hold on to what they had, afraid to let go, wanting to keep what they had for themselves?

In our ill-divided world we may long for God to bridge the gap between rich and poor by a miracle. But that miracle will only happen if those who have more than enough are willing to share what they have. As we have seen, a minority in our nation possesses the bulk of its wealth. Although tempting, it is simplistic to suggest that wealth inequality could be reduced by a higher level of taxation and different tax policies. Tinkering with the present system will never eliminate mass poverty. A transformation of society is required.

To achieve such a transformation may be costly. But still Jesus comes to his people and asks us, How many loaves have you? Like the disciples of old, we have to realise that we cannot expect other people to do our God-given work for us. We will find all sorts of excuses: we can't do it; we haven't the time; we have no more energy; we don't have the right skills.

Jesus takes the little we have and uses it for his purposes of love and justice in the world. Jesus takes loaves and fishes, ideas, time, energy, artistic gifts, love, money, a way with words, nimble fingers, whatever we have to offer. He takes, he blesses, he breaks (there is always a costliness in serving God and our neighbour) and gives it all back to us to use. What Jesus does with what we offer is mysterious, beyond our comprehension, but powerfully effective. We can only be amazed to see what God does with the little we offer from our meagre resources. How many loaves have you? More than enough to make poverty history!