

Greenbank Connections



September 2021

Issue 700

Scottish Charity SCO11325



Greenbank flies its Rainbow Flag

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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From the Manse



Dear friends and neighbours,

This is a season of new beginnings. We've had the schools go back and we're easing into a new pattern of life with many fewer lockdown restrictions. The vaccination programme for Covid-19 has released us from the "prison" of physical separation and we're able to get together more. Thanks be to God for all that has made this possible!

At church we've stayed connected in various virtual ways, but are now rediscovering the essence of Christian community as we gather together in person for worship and events of all kinds. It's in relationship that we grow in faith.

We'd like to invite everyone in our parish to Greenbank's Big Weekend in celebration of being able to gather again in our community hub that is Greenbank Parish Church. On Saturday 25th September there will be an Open Day when there will be an all-day café, stalls, tours of our wonderful stained glass

windows, mini organ concerts, and youth activities including a “silent disco” and pavement art. It’ll be a fun day for everyone in the parish to enjoy our church and to find out more about what we’re up to!

Because it’s our harvest festival weekend, there will be an autumnal flavour and “green” focus. On Saturday 25th at 7pm our Eco-Group will be hosting a Film Night and discussion, showing a film called “Thank you for the Rain” (see page 19 for details). Then on Sunday 26th it’ll be our Harvest Festival service at 10.30am.

We hope that you’ll take up our very warm invitation to come and see what’s going on at Greenbank and enjoy a great big weekend!

Look forward to seeing you there!

Rev Dr Martin Ritchie, Minister



From the Archive: the innovative concrete structure for the new church 1927

Greenbank’s Future Plan

There is still no news of when Martin will leave Greenbank. He remains our Minister until he is inducted to the charge of Tenafly, New Jersey, USA. At that point the Rev Dr Alistair Donald will take up his position as our Interim Moderator and the Rev Dr Anne Logan as our locum.

In previous vacancies we have been given permission straight away to seek a new Minister but, at the moment, this process has been suspended because this is a time of major reshaping in the Church of Scotland in response to a twin crisis of money and shortage of Ministers. Covid has brought forward the need for change which the Radical Plan passed by the General Assembly in 2019 set in motion.

This year’s General Assembly in May highlighted the scale of the problem – the Church is currently using £11m of its reserves each year to keep going and, clearly, this cannot continue.

The Assembly decided that it could in future afford only 600 ministry posts. Each local area (the Presbytery) was allocated the number it had to reach by 2025, 48 posts for Edinburgh down from 78. This means that, in future, there will be a lot fewer congregations, buildings and ministries.

→

No congregation is exempt from the need to restructure. Change was coming our way whether or not our Minister was leaving. About a year ago the Presbytery placed us in a group (cluster) with our nearest neighbours of Fairmilehead and Morningside to discuss how we might together contribute to the Presbytery's planning process. The three churches stated that we were all dynamic congregations with a strong contribution to make to mission. We were committed to work closely together but to remain independent.

There is now a new urgency in the Presbytery planning process because of instructions from the Church of Scotland to restructure and reduce the numbers of ministry posts. The expected departure of Martin has given the Kirk Session and Board the opportunity to rethink what Ministry might look like at Greenbank in the future. We believe the Church of Scotland needs strong congregations like Greenbank to be at the forefront of its mission. We have, therefore, put together a plan for the future of Greenbank that would both sustain and develop the existing congregation and contribute to missional outreach in another part of the Presbytery, possibly in the new housing areas that are springing up to the south of the city.

We want to go forward with a pioneering approach, calling for a

minister with particular strengths, someone who could take us forward along the lines of our strategic plan but also help the Church of Scotland to spread the Good News of the Gospel and live out the teachings of Jesus through service and concern for all people and for the earth itself.

We have put a case to the Presbytery to be allowed to seek a new Minister for this role. We await their response. In the meantime Martin's ministry here continues and, when he goes, the Trustees will give every support to Dr Donald and Dr Logan to sustain the congregation. Please remember the Trustees and all the Ministers involved in your prayers.

Valerie Macniven



On 13th June, Katy Harling-Lee was Baptised and she and Josh made their Confession of Faith

Welcome back to Young Church!

It's been such a long time since we've been able to gather properly, but we're really excited that Young Church is back so very soon. Children and families are really important to us at Greenbank, and we'd like to invite your children to come along and join in the fun on Sunday mornings.

Young Church Sundays at 10.30am
From 29th August onwards we re-start our Young Church at 10.30am. Children come into the first part of the service in church for a story and song on the week's theme, then go through to the halls for our Young Church, which is on until the end of the church service.

Young Church 1: Babies, Toddlers and Pre-schoolers

We enjoy having babies and toddlers in church, and they are always welcome throughout the service. However, sometimes parents appreciate being able to have their small children looked after while they attend the service. So, our youngest group caters for babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers during the service.

Young Church 2: Primary School Upwards

Young Church 2 is for P1 upwards and there are lots of cool crafts and games. Older kids are encouraged to help the younger ones.

Booking to come

Because we have to take part in Track and Trace, **please email us** to let us know that you are coming. Tell us how many are in your group.

bookgreenbank@gmail.com

Bring face masks with you! Under 12s can take them off during times when they're not moving around, but we all have to wear them when singing.

If you'd like to find out more, get in touch with Martin, Steve, or Hazel:

Martin Ritchie, Minister

Tel: 07984 466 855

MRitchie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Steve Chaffee, Youth Associate

Tel: 07729 000 788

stevechaffee@greenbankchurch.org

Hazel McLachlan,

Young Church Administrator

mclachlans122@btinternet.com



*Josh's parents and Katy's mother joined Katy and Josh
(See Opposite)*

Guild

We're back! We had a very successful coffee morning on 3rd August. The Hall was bright and sunny and filled with cheerful chat, not to mention the cakes. It was great to see friends and be able to chat... all safely organised of course. We intend to hold another coffee morning for members on 7th September. Now we can get down to planning our syllabus for the next session with lots of interesting topics, some inspiring, some fun ones, some local charities and some much further afield.

Edith Armit



Guild Work Party

We were able to hold an afternoon tea for our members in June. We brought in items we had knitted over the summer and caught up with news. We are now getting ready to start up more normal meetings beginning on Thursday 23rd September at 2.30pm and every fortnight thereafter.

We are hoping that all will be more normal by then, but of course we will adhere to any new rules which are brought in.

New members will be very welcome. Best wishes – stay safe.

Anne Oxbrow



Christian Aid in 2021

Unfortunately all our usual local events were cancelled, but we had an amazing response to our Christian Aid Week appeal in May.

Over 40 volunteers delivered 1400 envelopes around our parish, inviting people to donate directly to our special Just Giving fundraising page, or by posting filled envelopes through the church letterbox. The volunteers did not return to collect envelopes.

As a consequence of these efforts we raised over £6,000 in total, including £4,355 through Just Giving. In addition to this Christian Aid will be able to claim over £1,000 in Gift Aid. This was considerably more than we have achieved in previous

years and we were delighted to have had such a positive response to our new style of fundraising.

Thank you to all donors and volunteers.

We continue to keep in touch with the Christian Aid teams in the other local churches and we know that their congregations also gave generously during Christian Aid Week. We hope to hold a joint event once it seems safe to do so.

Meanwhile Christian Aid continues to work to help the hungry and disadvantaged all year round.

www.christianaid.org.uk

Fiona Watt
Christian Aid Coordinator

Friendship Club

Are you a senior citizen in the Greenbank area? Then our club is for you, whether you are a church member or not. Around 30 of us meet on alternate Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Lower Hall (with lift access) where we are entertained by speakers offering a wide range of topics, often illustrated, amusing or serious but always interesting.

Each meeting closes over tea, biscuits and chat. In January 2022 we hope to restart the pre-ordered soup and pudding lunches to be served before the first meeting of each month at 1.15pm.

We always have a Christmas party and annual outing, usually in May. The annual subscription is £15 which includes tea but not lunch.

Our next session is planned to start on 13th October when Paul Greenwood (a very appropriate name) will lead us into the amazing "Magic and Mysteries of the Yew".

Our club is well named and a warm welcome awaits you, so why not join us then?

For further information please contact me.

**Val Smart,
Coordinator**



Eco-Group

“Code red for humanity” was the stark headline of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report giving the most up-to-date understanding of climate change. The evidence shows that human influence has directly led to an unprecedented scale of change in every region across the globe, resulting in extremes of heat, flooding and drought, which will impact on all of our lives and for generations to come.

This sets the scene for the United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP26 – taking place in Glasgow in November. The eyes of the world will be on Scotland where leaders will have to make difficult choices with profound implications if we are to slow the warming and devastating consequences.

Greenbank Church’s Eco-group is actively participating in the run up to COP26 as a member of Eco-Congregation Scotland. We have applied for our Silver Award, showing what we as a church, congregation and community are doing to make a difference in areas such as recycling, green energy, energy reduction, wildlife gardening, active travel, shopping local, reducing water use and volunteering. Indeed, one of our members is an official COP26 volunteer and will be directing delegates at Waverley Station.



Greenbank Church will be taking part in Scotland’s Climate Fringe Week from 18-26 September 2021 so keep an eye on our website for activities. The Eco-Group has also set up a Greenbank Eco-Forum Group on Facebook. Join this group to share great ideas and local information. Look out for fruit trees being planted in the church grounds and Braidburn Valley Park this winter as a result of our successful book and plant sale as the church opened up to welcome back more people.

Each and every one of us will have to make changes but every change to reduce emissions will make a difference. “Heat, meat and fleet” are the big three areas of our lives that generate the most carbon and we can all take small (or large) steps to make a difference. Turning down the thermostat by one degree; eating one more vegetarian meal a week; and walking, cycling or taking public transport for one journey a week rather than jumping in the car, will all make a difference. If we make a difference and our governments make a difference, let’s turn Code Red to Code Amber to Code Green.

Karen Young

World Mission Team

The team follows closely the weekly updates from the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum and in particular news of the activities of our Mission Partner, the Rev John McCulloch, who is Minister at St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem. We aim to keep the congregation informed about world mission matters through articles in *Connections* and on our web page and through practical action such as the planned Kilombero Rice stall, in support of Malawi rice farmers, in the Church on the 25th September.



Whilst it hasn't been possible to have a periodic FAIRTRADE stall at church over the past 18 months, we hope everyone will continue to look out for the distinctive FAIRTRADE logo and

support fairly traded goods whether in their local corner shop or on a supermarket website.

Details of our activities can be found on our web page

greenbankchurch.org/adults/world-mission/

Janet Edwards
World Mission Team

Baby and Toddler Groups at Greenbank

The Baby and Toddler groups meet on Thursday and Friday mornings during term time in the church's Main Hall. It's a chance for the children to play with lots of super toys whilst parents and carers can catch up over a coffee and some home baking. The groups run from 9.45am to 11.15am and entry is via the church office buzzer.

Cost per family is £2 per session. All children up to school age are welcome with their parents and carers. A warm welcome is extended to everyone so please come along and join us!

At present it is necessary to book in through Facebook

www.facebook.com/greenbankbabyandtoddler/

For more information please contact Kirsten Pink on

kirstenpink@hotmail.co.uk



Hallowe'en at Toddlers →

Retiral of Three Elders from the Kirk Session

Three elders retired at the Kirk Session meeting on 2nd June. The Minister thanked them for their service and paid tribute to them for all they had done.

David Allan was one of our longest serving elders, having been admitted to the Session at Greenbank in 1977. He was ordained at Scotstoun, Glasgow in 1974. David has held many prominent roles in these 44 years. Most recently he took on the role of Property Convener, using his management expertise to set up a broadly-based team of experts to cover the main functions, and learning a lot more about property himself. David had many other roles at Greenbank – magazine editor, convener of Mission and Service, setting up and filling the role of staff elder, taking a leadership role in elder training and ensuring that Kirk Session conferences had a strong spiritual content. For much of the time David was also a District elder, looking after District 4 and later Districts 62 and 69.

Moira Davidson was ordained and admitted to the Kirk Session at Greenbank in 2000. She convened the World Mission Team from 2003 to 2007 and has continued to take an interest in its work. Her other Committee roles included

Communion Elements and our former Parish and Community Interests Committee. She was a dedicated District elder for District 31B. Moira was always a keen volunteer for extra duties or to respond positively when asked to take on something new. Her prize-winning Lockdown Life photos are on display in the Hermitage Room corridor.

Elizabeth Htet-Khin was ordained and admitted to the Kirk Session at Greenbank in 1991. She was convener of the Social Committee from 2013 to 2017. This period coincided with a very active time for the Committee, particularly in support of the Youth at Church Today – YACHT – campaign. Elizabeth was in the lead to make sure that the big events, such as the annual ceilidhs, went off without a hitch. She also served on Parish and Community Interests and Communion elements. She has been the representative elder for Springboard and Nile Grove. Elizabeth has been a supportive District elder, for District 40, for many years and more recently for District 39.

The Kirk Session accepted all the retirement decisions with regret and wished the group well for their continuing participation in the life of the congregation.

Valerie Macniven

Summer Snippets

Data Protection – after a thorough review of our data protection arrangements, carried out by Simon Pink under the direction of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board, we now have a new policy statement. This is displayed on the website and in hard copy in the office corridor. Simon is now our data protection coordinator and can be reached at

dataprotectioncoordinator@greenbankchurch.org

Help for struggling churches – our Lent and Easter appeal raised

Presbytery elder

Ian Thom has represented Greenbank Church in Edinburgh Presbytery for the last five years. He has attended meetings and has reported faithfully and carefully to the Kirk Session on the Presbytery's business. We are very grateful to him for his service in this role, including as a Commissioner at the General Assembly, held online in May 2021. Ian will be succeeded by **Lyndsay Kennedy**.

Valerie Macniven



£10,000, an amazing result. We have, so far, given out £4,000, with £2,500 going to Castlemilk Parish Church to help get them up and running again in their new building; and £1,500 to our former “twin” congregation at Richmond Craigmillar Church where the food programme is under greater pressure as a result of increased poverty during the pandemic. Both churches are very grateful and hope to develop or rekindle links with us.

Valerie Macniven

Country Dance Club



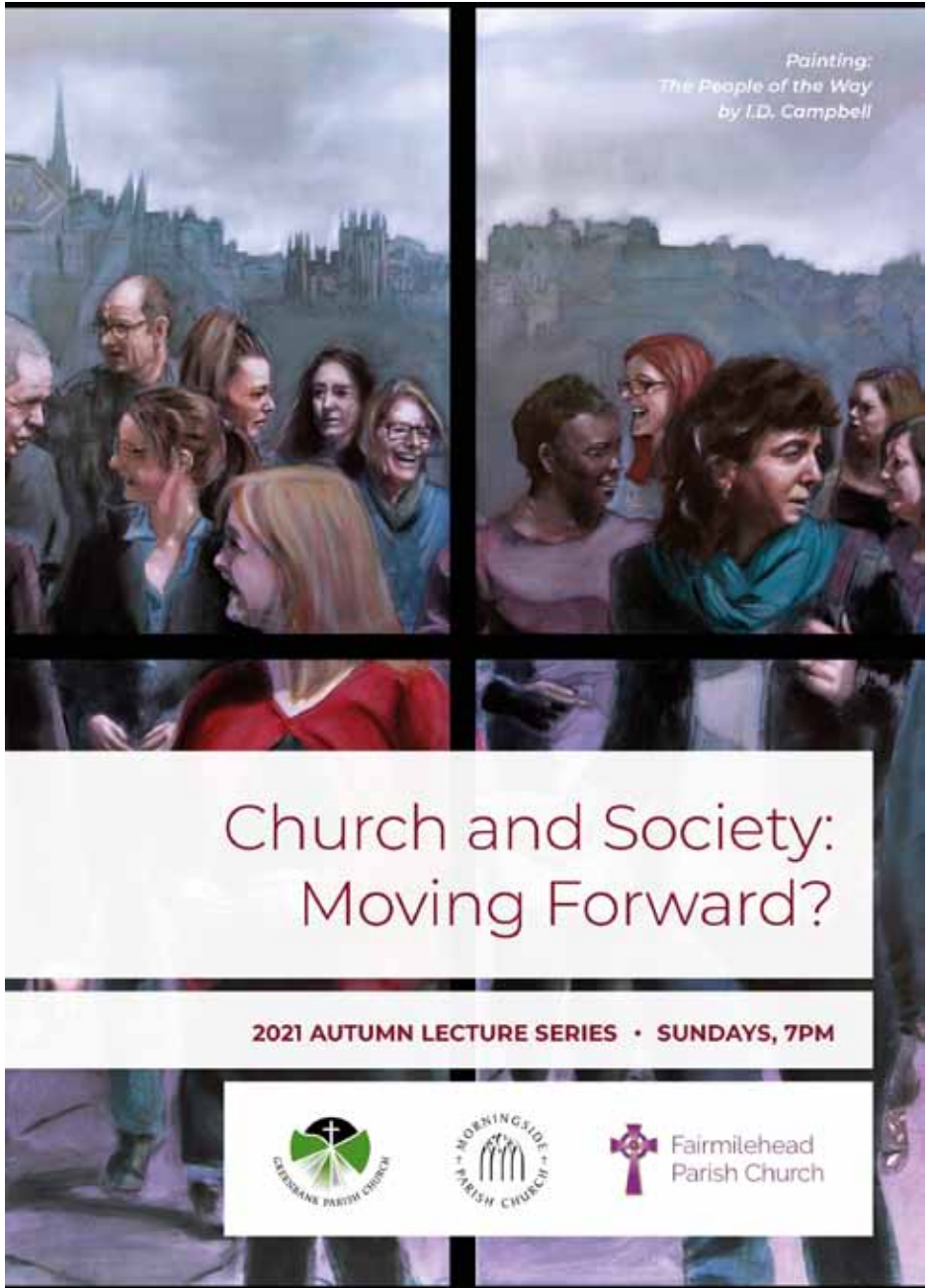
The Country Dance Club is a social club open to anyone interested in Country Dancing. Our meetings are held on Wednesday evenings in the Centenary

Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The weekly programme of new and more familiar dances is taught by a qualified instructor.

The Hall has been booked for the autumn session and the first meeting will be held on Wednesday, 29th September at 7.30pm when we hope to welcome back our present members and any others interested in joining us.

For further information please contact Helen Millar (helenmillar1@yahoo.co.uk)

Doris Laing



*Painting:
The People of the Way
by I.D. Campbell*

Church and Society: Moving Forward?

2021 AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES • SUNDAYS, 7PM



Fairmilehead
Parish Church



5 SEPT – MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

The Very Rev. Dr John Chalmers

Convener of the Assembly Trustees

The shape of the Church to come in a time of transition



12 SEPT – GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH

The Rev. Liz Henderson

Richmond Craigmillar Church

Lessons learned from the pandemic and how it affected the parish and ministry in Craigmillar



19 SEPT – GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH

Prof. Helen Bond

Professor of Christian Origins and New Testament,
University of Edinburgh

What Jesus and the first Christians thought about faith and community and what it could teach us for today



26 SEPT – MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

The Very Rev. Albert Bogle

Pioneer Minister of Sanctuary First

What the evolution of an online church and community means for the future

Livestream at morningsideparishchurch.org.uk on 5th & 26th September
or greenbankchurch.org on 12th & 19th September

To attend in person, you must reserve your place in advance
email: office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or call: 0131 447 6745

The Scouting movement at Greenbank

Greenbank is home to a thriving Beaver colony, Cub pack, Scout troop and Explorer unit.

Coming out of lockdown has meant a much more exciting 2021 for everyone. Not only have all sections been able to meet in person for the first time in months, but the Scouts and Explorers have even been on camp! The Scouts had an active two days and a night at Bonaly for the young campers and four days and three nights at a site near Killin for the more experienced. The Explorers enjoyed a week at a site near Mof-



fat learning skills, doing hikes and visiting an activity centre during Scotland's 28° heatwave!

We have grown from our humble beginnings in Greenbank Church hall that evening in January 1933 with a patrol of 6 Scouts. We now host over 60 Explorers (young people of 14-18 years), over 50 Scouts (10½-14), 32 Cubs (8-10½) and 20 Beavers (6-8). We will be back enjoying the outdoors we love so much, as well as a phased approach back to indoor meetings as guidance continues to evolve.





During the second lockdown, the Explorers and Scouts have been meeting online, including virtual camps with campfires and tents in individual gardens, and even a virtual meet up with our friends at 103rd Braid instead of our annual joint ski trips! In the best weather of Spring, Summer and Autumn, we'll spend lots of time in the nearby parks and green spaces doing hikes, games, cooking, and skills. In the winter, we concentrate on badge work – for instance, the Scouts have recently achieved the Local Knowledge and Chef activity badges and Skills Challenge badge.

Want to join? In normal times, Explorers and Scouts meet on Fridays (7.15pm to 9.15pm), Cubs meet on Thursdays (6.30pm to 8.00pm) and Beavers meet on Tuesdays (6.30pm to 7.30pm).

The best initial contact is

4th.morningside.scouts@gmail.com

Want to help? Our main fundraising efforts are bag-packing at Waitrose at Christmastime and that Green-bank institution the Jumble Sale (on Saturday 23rd April next year – after missing 2 in a row!) – both of which depend on the support of the congregation and the neighbourhood. And we'd be delighted to hear from anyone who wants to join our team of enthusiastic leaders, especially for the Explorers and the Beavers. Do email us if you can help, we welcome volunteers with varied availability!

Niall Morrison
Scout Leader



What's on this Autumn

Members of the congregation meet throughout the week to pursue a range of interests. These include the Choir, the Guild, the Work Party knitters, Country Dancing, Ladies' Badminton and the Friendship Club for senior citizens which invites members of the community to join them for a fortnightly programme of talks and tea.

Opportunities for local under-5s to have fun include the popular Babies and Toddlers get-togethers on Thursday and Friday mornings, the Nile Grove Playgroup and the Greenbank Pre-School.

Several youth groups enjoy meeting in the halls, including Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts and we are also delighted to host several South Morningside after-school clubs.

Many other groups are planning to meet in the halls throughout the week in a Covid-safe manner, including Badminton, Yoga, Zumba, Pilates, Bridge, Capital Voices Choir, Royal Scottish Country Dancing, the Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra, and Stagecoach Performing Arts for children and young people.

If you'd like further details of any group, these will soon be available on our website.

Moira Land

Hiring Our Halls

Greenbank provides a great resource for the local community, offering several halls and rooms for hire. These are well-used by commercial organisations as well as many church and community groups.

Details of hiring options can be found on our website at

www.greenbankchurch.org/hall-hire

We have put in place a raft of Covid-19 measures to ensure the safety of our users.

If you would like to make a no-obligation enquiry about hiring a hall or room, whether for a leisure pursuit, a business meeting or a party, please email hallsbookings@greenbankchurch.org or telephone the Church Office on 0131 447 9969.

Moira Land



Nile Grove Playgroup at Greenbank

The perfect place for your child to take their first step towards independence and to learn and explore through play as well as socialise with children of similar age.

Childcare for 2¼ – 5 year olds

Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday, and Friday

9.15am – 11.45am

£12 per session

We are a local and friendly community playgroup running since 1984

Registered Charity no. SC008817

The playgroup benefits from several fundraising events throughout the year to help raise much needed funds in order to enhance the learning environment for our little learners. Even though 2020 was an extraordinary year, friends and families of the playgroup were able to come together and contribute to some small fundraisers (over £1,300 was raised). Help and support from the community is always much appreciated.

Each day the children will enjoy a host of toys and games alongside art and craft activities, messy play, dressing up, story time and singing. They will also enjoy a healthy snack and have some time to play outdoors in our private garden area. Our collection of balance

bikes and scooters are favourites as well as the space hoppers – all of which help the children develop their gross motor skills.

Our four dedicated members of staff have a wealth of early years' knowledge and experience between them and always cater for the interests of the children.

Child-led learning and planning plays a very important part in Nile Grove Playgroup.

The playgroup has strong links with the church's Baby and Toddler group as well as with Greenbank Pre-school. More

recently, we were able to make use of one of the tennis courts from our neighbours, Mortonhall Tennis Club, to hold our end of term sports day.

Whether it is to help cover working commitments, or to give yourself a couple of hours of peace, we would love to hear from you and invite you to come and visit us.

Playgroup Manager: Elaine Ho

info@nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk

Tel: 07766416805

(during playgroup hours)

www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nilegroveplaygroup



Greenbank Pre School

We are a Funded Partner with City of Edinburgh Council for children aged three to five, based in the Centenary Hall.

We open between 8.25am and 3.30pm during school terms with the majority of the children attending 1140 hours spread over four or five days. There are a few “mornings only” places. Little Lunches deliver our hot lunches each day.

The staff are led by our teacher/manager Mrs Kyra Okoth, supported by a team of Early Years Practitioners. The Management Committee comprises church members and parent representatives, with the minister as honorary chair.

At Greenbank we believe that the learning environment is the main teacher. We set up many creative and interactive spaces that appeal to the interests of individual children and support their learning and development.

The play activities we provide are aimed at the areas of children’s development and learning iden-

tified in the early level of the Curriculum for Excellence: Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Expressive Arts, Technologies and Religious and Moral Education.

The children spend time outdoors in the garden and on walks through the Hermitage. Parental involvement is welcomed.

Further information and application form are available on our website

www.greenbankpreschool.org



Joan Ritchie
Chair
Management Committee



Thank You for the Rain

Kisilu Musya, a Kenyan farmer, started to use his camera to capture the life of his family, his village and the damages of climate change. When a violent storm throws him and Norwegian filmmaker Julia Dahr together, we see him transform from a father to a community leader and activist on the global stage.

There will be a showing of their award-winning 90-minute film in the church buildings at

7pm on Saturday 25th September

followed by a short discussion. Booking is required – please email

greenbankfilmmight@gmail.com

to reserve seats.

Janet Edwards



Rooms For Refugees

This organisation works hand in hand with Scottish Action on Housing, to provide safe comfortable rooms for refugees and asylum seekers whilst they wait for their council or housing association application for a flat to be processed.

At this time when refugees are very much in the news, and when many of us have an unoccupied spare room, it's worth considering how we can help. See the Rooms

for Refugees website for a wealth of information on the subject, and plenty of positive testimonials, both from hosts and guests.

There are also opportunities to volunteer with both Rooms for Refugees, and Scottish Action on Housing.

Alison Ambler

www.roomforrefugees.com

National Giving Day

The Church of Scotland has decided to offer congregations the chance to participate in a National Giving Day on one Sunday between Sunday 5th September and Sunday 31st October 2021. On this day we will reflect on God's goodness through these challenging times and respond with gifts of thanksgiving. Money received through this initiative will remain with participating congregations and will not be taken into account in the assessment of our Ministries and Mission contribution.

At Greenbank the congregation has responded very generously in



its general giving throughout the Covid period and for specific purposes such as Christian Aid, the Lent Appeal and the Open Hand project. It is not therefore intended

to give a strong emphasis to National Giving Day. Nevertheless, if members wish to respond to the initiative we will use the money towards our upcoming boiler replacement that will be more energy efficient and so reduce our carbon footprint and take advantage of the exemption from the Ministries and Mission assessment. Further details will follow about the chosen Sunday and how to give.

Valerie Macniven

Life and Work Issue: September 2021

On 29th August 2021 we celebrate the past, present and future of the Church's magazine. We share with you again details of Life and Work Sunday and invite you to join us in celebrating and supporting the magazine of our Church.

Life and Work has been informing, uplifting, moving, connecting and occasionally enraging the Church of Scotland for over 140 years. This summer, we are offering churches the chance to celebrate that.

Life and Work Sunday will be marked on 29th August with a celebration.

Annual **PRINT** Subscription

Buy 12 issues for the price of 10 and pay **ONLY** £30.

Purchase and save at

www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe using promotion code **LWS2021**

Annual **DIGITAL** Subscription

Receive 34% OFF when you buy 12 issues and pay **ONLY** £13.99

Purchase and save at

pktmags.com/lwspromo

Promotions are valid until 30th September 2021



Finding somewhere safe to share worrying issues that are affecting us can be hard. No one needs to face these alone.

Safe Listening Place ...

If the current trajectory for the lifting of Covid restrictions stays on course, the Greenbank **Safe Listening Place** project can start on **Sunday 3rd October 2021**.

We will have a safe listening place within the church, or you can call us on the first Sunday of the month between 10am–12:30pm on: 07516990889. Or email safelisteningplace@greenbankchurch.org

Taking those first steps can be the hardest ... we are here for you

Susan Inch

Confidential help can be found from the following agencies.

Women's Aid Helpline:
0131 315 8110

www.edinwomensaid.co.uk

Scotland's Domestic Abuse Helpline:
0800 0271234. 24-hour service

Respect Men's Advice Line:
Free phone 0808 8010327

Campaigning for Social Justice

Confining our group to issues affecting us in the United Kingdom, the Greenbank Social Justice Group has an "ear to the ground" for major issues that may conflict with the Christian desire for human flourishing. From time to time an issue may emerge which the group would like to highlight to our congregation and parish. Sometimes this might involve us in providing information about how you can support a particular campaign, and sometimes it might involve inviting the congregation as a whole to consider lending its weight on an issue.

Amnesty International

Many of you will be familiar with the work of Amnesty UK, which stands up for humanity and human rights.

Amnesty International UK works to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied. As a global movement of over ten million people, it is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation. It investigates and exposes abuses, educates and mobilises the public, and helps transform societies to create a safer, more just world. The organisation received the Nobel Peace Prize for their life-saving work.

www.amnesty.org.uk/get-involved

Hazel Macaulay

Running Together

Greenbank Church JogScotland restarts this term with the same two groups. On a Tuesday we are going to be working through the Couch to 5km for anyone who would like to start running. We meet at church at 8:45am.

On a Thursday evening we meet at 7:30pm and run a 5km loop. At that point some go home and some stay for a further few km. We run at a

Eco-Group and World Mission Sale

The event attracted a good number of Greenbank members who enjoyed meeting each other, sometimes for the first time since lockdown, with a cup of coffee in hand from the Dunbars' stall. Visitors were attracted by the tented village and one person got off her bus to see what was going on.



Janet Edwards sold a great deal of Fairtrade rice and pulses. The books, plants and coffee made over £750, which will be spent on

steady pace to allow everyone to keep up and chat at the same time!

The focus of **Greenbank JogScotland** is to encourage and support anyone who wants to try running to achieve their goals. It is more about running together, making friends and enjoying it than breaking any records!! If anyone is interested in being part of either group you would be most welcome! Please email me for more information!

Katie Bogie

cwightman@doctors.org.uk

Summer Flowers

Thank you so much to all those who generously provided flowers over the summer months, including Ina Weir, Flora Brodie, Diana Teasdale, Joan Ritchie, Grace Maweu, Kathleen Patrick, Margaret Pitkeathly, Pauline Walker, the Hutchison family and the Flower Fund. They were beautiful and much appreciated by those to whom they were distributed. There are still some opportunities to sign up for vacant slots:

Moira Land

landfamily@hotmail.com

fruit trees in Braidburn Valley Park, and in church property. There is a long-term aim to “green” the front of the church which will require plants and planters.

Alison Murison
Convener
Eco-Group

Flower Rota

Provided by *Delivered by*

Sept

- | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------|
| 5 | Flower Fund | Julia Dunbar |
| 12 | Flower Fund | Catherine Cameron |
| 19 | Diana Teasdale | Alison Ambler |
| 26 | Katy Maguire | Pamela Jack |
| | <i>Harvest</i> | Rona Ferguson |

Oct

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 3 | Joan Ritchie | Fiona Connal |
|---|--------------|--------------|

Welcome Teams

Sept

- 5 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Sandy Cameron, Alison Murison
- 12 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robert Nimmo, Hazel MacAulay, Moira Small
- 19 **Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Malcolm Watters
- 26 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Susan Jackman, Clare Campbell, Catherine Cameron, Ishbel Emery, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden

Oct

- 3 **Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, David Bogie

Coffee Rota

Sept

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 5 | <i>Communion</i> | no coffee |
| 12 | Anne Kinnear | |
| 19 | Rachel McWilliam | |
| 26 | Jill Powlett Brown | |
| | <i>Harvest Festival</i> | |
| | <i>Greenbank's big weekend</i> | |

Oct

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 3 | Joan Ritchie |
|---|--------------|



The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Rev Dr Martin Ritchie (Minister)
 phone: 07984 466 855
 email: MRitchie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mr Steven Chaffee (Youth Associate)
 phone: 07729 000 788
 email: stevechaffee@greenbankchurch.org

Administrator: Mrs Virginia Johnston
 phone 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 October 2021 issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office by Sunday 12th September 2021, or sent by e-mail by 11.59pm on Thursday 16th September 2021 to greenbankconnections@gmail.com

Greenbank Church's Big Weekend Saturday 25th September Open Day

10.30am to 3.30pm

Youth Activities including
"Silent Disco", Pavement art
Stalls : Books, Fair Trade, Eco-Group

Sanctuary Stained Glass Tours,
Prayer Stations, Organ Music

All Day Pop-up Café
with home baking

7pm: *Thank You for the Rain*

Film promoted by Eco-Group



Sunday 26th September

10.30am: All-age
Harvest Thanksgiving
Service