

Greenbank Connections



March 2022

Issue 705

Scottish Charity SCO11325



Some of the toys the Open Hand project was able to distribute (see p8)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March



This year the Service is written by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They reflect on God's words, "*I know the plans I have for you,*" and invite you to join them as they pray:

- for our environment
- for peace in their Nation
- that all may live in unity, in love and in peace

"Lord teach us to pray"

A warm welcome awaits you at your local service in St Peters RC Church or Craiglockhart Church of Scotland at 10.30am.

www.wdpscotland.org.uk

Letter from the Locum



Dear Friends,

As I write this, we seem to have been remarkably lucky with the weather this winter – although the very dry January may cause problems later in the year, most of us haven't minded living through it! Now as we approach March, we see all around us the signs of spring. Perhaps your thoughts are even turning to hopes of summer, of sunshine, and the possibility, pandemic permitting, of going on holiday. Often the planning and the anticipation of a holiday can occupy our thoughts and do almost as much good as the holiday itself. We plan what to take and what must be left behind; what to do when we get there; perhaps we even learn a few words of a new language.

As the days roll on through 2022, we find ourselves, as Christians, anticipating a different journey. Through the days of Lent, we have the time to prepare ourselves to travel with Jesus on the road to

the Cross. In Lent we have time to think what we need to take to accompany Jesus and what we will need to leave behind; time to think what it will mean to us to arrive at Easter and perhaps even time to practise a little of Jesus's language of love and compassion.

Blessings!



Rev Dr Anne T Logan



We are continuing with our programme of Dementia Friendly Services throughout the year.

In December we had a wonderful Christmas service reflecting on the journey of Mary and Joseph and thinking about our own journey in recent times. We had readings in Scots and uplifting music.

We look forward to our Easter Service led by the Rev John Stevenson at 3pm on Sunday 10th April. A warm invitation is extended to all.

Mary Hadden

Help Needed to Run Sunday Coffee

It was so good to have coffee after morning worship again last Sunday. However, if we are to continue to enjoy this fellowship, we need to find some new leaders of the team. Isobel Thom, who has led the team for many years, will retire in the spring, and Pauline Walker in the summer. We have much to thank them for. Happily Fiona Grant will continue but can't do it alone.

Although there are different groups serving coffee week by week it runs smoothly only because we have a strong leadership team to make up the rota, order supplies, manage the finances and provide support on a Sunday. There are various ways we can divide the tasks in the future so that no one person has to take it all on and the role on a Sunday is on a rota. Isobel is on hand to provide advice on what needs to be done and to help with the transition.

Is this an area of service that you could help with? If so please get in touch.

Valerie Macniven

SessionClerk@Greenbankchurch.org



The Guild

The Guild has thoroughly enjoyed its February meetings. On the 1st, Alison Murison gave a fascinating description of how Saughton Gardens have developed, from the time the estate was purchased by the council in 1900, the 1908 Scottish National Exhibition, 'digging for victory' in WW2 when the formal garden was dug up to produce vegetables, to the recent major redevelopment with its community involvement, café, Rose Garden, Winter Garden and so much more. This was all illustrated by excellent photos. The Guild members are now very keen to pay a visit.

On the 15th there was another excellent talk about a new development, this time in a very different setting. 'Kazunzu Village of Hope', is a Vine Trust Project which the Guild is supporting this year.



Kazunzu (above) lies on the shore of Lake Victoria in Tanzania and will eventually be a settlement with 40 individual houses each housing a family and fostered children. The

first two compounds of four houses are built and the families have moved in. Sixteen Guardian parents with their own children and 37 orphaned children have moved in. Work has started in communal areas; a village hub is under way, a fish farm has been set up (22,000 tilapia fingerlings), planning and work on the schools and medical centre continue. We hope to have a fundraising event for it shortly.

Our meetings in March should be good as well. On the 1st we will be hearing about 'Haggis Breeding!' This meeting was scheduled for last year and has been postponed twice so this is third time lucky. We have no idea what it will be like, but we had very enthusiastic reviews from other Guilds. The meeting on the 15th is 'Eavesdropping at Balmoral' which should be fun. The last meeting this month is on the 29th when we have our ABM and hope to have a Community Police speaker to advise on personal and internet safety. To make up for the missed meetings this session we hope to have an extra meeting in April, but that is still to be confirmed.

Edith Armit

P.S. It will be no surprise to say that we are planning to visit Saughton Gardens as our summer outing.

Thought for the Month: March

“Church is community and Greenbank has been such an excellent example of that,” said a lady in the congregation to me recently.

This *Connections* issue coincides with the second anniversary of the start of the most turbulent chapter in our modern-day lives: not an anniversary we’ll be rushing to celebrate. Rarely have we been more aware of the value of community and indeed our **need** of it.

Psychologists and sociologists will have much to write about in future from these two years but, for us now, we deal with their aftermath.

As a former Nurture Teacher in a primary school – with the psychological, social and emotional needs of young folk at the centre – I’m reminded now that these needs exist in us all, no matter our age, and they are perhaps more acute than pre-March 2020.

Community is inter-connectedness. *“We are wired to be caring for the other and generous to one another. We shrivel when we are not able to interact ... We depend on the other in order for us to be fully who we are,”* wrote Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1), reminding us of the African concept of **ubuntu**.

Father Richard Rohr (2) teaches that we are transformed by our suffering – not by bearing it apart and alone – but by recognising our universal connectedness with each other and God. *“Almost all people*



are carrying a great and secret hurt, even when they don’t know it” and “Shared struggle somehow makes us one – in a way that easy comfort and entertainment never can”.

We are the living stones of 1 Peter 2:5: not meant to be on our own but designed to be together. Given the current upheaval within our national kirk, the words of 1 Thesalonians 5:11 also speak loudly,

“Therefore we encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are doing”.

In this season of Lent, as we walk alongside each other, may we pray for each other and reach out to each other, continuing to sustain our Greenbank community.

Rachel McWilliam

(1) Desmond Tutu: *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*

(2) Richard Rohr: *Nothing Stands Alone – It Can’t Be Carried Alone*

cac.org/

it-cant-be-carried-alone-2022-01-04/

World Church Group

Fairtrade

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 21st February to 6th March this year and the message is “*Choose the World You Want.*” Look out for the Fairtrade logo on the goods you buy and support our stalls. We will have another Fairtrade Stall, which will include items for Easter, after church on Sunday 27th March and we will also offer some Fairtrade goods at the outdoor event planned for Saturday 12th March.

Partner Churches and Tropical Storm Ana

Following the deadly cyclone that affected Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique in January, partner churches have been in touch with the Church of Scotland asking that we keep their communities in our prayers. Climate change seems to be having an impact on the frequency and severity of these weather events. The BBC reported that in Mozambique, cyclone Ana destroyed 10,000 homes and dozens of schools and hospitals. In Malawi, 44 emergency camps were set up to deal with displaced and injured people.

Partners at Mulanje Mission Hospital report on the impact in southern Malawi where a vast area has flooded, affecting a large number of the country’s hydro-electricity stations and causing widespread

blackouts. Near the clinic, crops and trees have been washed away, roads and bridges destroyed, and there is concern that populations are vulnerable to disease due to toilets having collapsed and wells being contaminated. You can find out more about Mulanje Mission Hospital at www.mmh.mw

Fiona Watt

Friendship Club

How great to be back meeting together again. In February we had a most interesting talk from the “International Rescue Corps” formed here in Scotland over 30 years ago and now giving expert help worldwide in earthquake and flood disaster areas. This was followed by a surprising and enlightening talk about the “Trades of Old Edinburgh” and of course after both there was a lot of chatter as catching up was done.

Looking forward to March, on the 9th we will at last welcome Paul Greenwood to spread the “Magic and Mystery of the Yew”, then on the 23rd Deonaid Wilson will be telling us all about “Faberge Eggs” though I don’t suppose that she will have any to show us! And that sadly will be the end of our disrupted 21/22 Session. We hope to have our Outing in May but that is yet to be arranged. Watch this space!

Val Smart

'Greenbank Life' Photographic Competition

We are currently holding a photographic competition each month called 'Greenbank Life'. The competition details can be seen by clicking on the Greenbank Life button on the home page of the Greenbank website:

www.greenbankchurch.org

The second Greenbank Life Competition ended on 11th February, and you were then invited to vote for your favourite photograph. Many thanks to all who submitted photographs, and to those who voted.

The results are as follows:

First: 6: Metropolitan Cathedral of St Andrew, Glasgow – Janet Edwards

Second: 2: Marmalade's Golden Glow – Janet Edwards

Third: 1: Sunset, 20th January – Margo Fraser

The closing date for entries for the next Greenbank Life competition is Friday 11th March 2022 at 10pm, with voting for your favourite photograph from Saturday 12th to Tuesday 15th March. The result will be announced in the April issue of Connections.

Please take part – by submitting photographs, by voting, or both.

John Murison



An Open Hand Update

Coming into 2022, we have delivered a steady flow of presents to parents across Edinburgh. The children have been of a variety of ages, and there is a huge range of interests amongst them!! We have thankfully been able to get presents that their parents are excited to give them, and know they will be happy to receive on their birthday. The families are also finding the family bags useful, for the children, their siblings and parents to use together, so we have been encouraged by this.



We continue to receive warm support from shops in Edinburgh. Toys Galore remains our regular 'go to' place for toys, and we are immensely grateful for the huge discount they generously give for each toy. This enables us to get far larger presents for our children, for the budget we have. We would really like to thank them very much for this ongoing very kind and open-handed support.

John Lewis got back in touch with us at the start of the year offering to make another donation. They have given us a huge number of beautiful toys and also a large financial donation. We were quite overwhelmed by the size of their donation and it will help enormously over the coming weeks and months.

The Edinburgh Bookshop is giving us good advice on books to include in the family bags and also a discount, which again helps tremendously. We are very keen to ensure that each family bag contains a book for the birthday child, and also one for each sibling, so advice on books is very useful.

Prayers for provision have been answered greatly and we are so appreciative for this. We also continue to be very thankful for the significant ongoing support from members of Greenbank Church. Our target now is to receive more applications for as many families as we can, so that we can support as many birthdays as we can. If you might pray for more applications to come in, that would be wonderful. The feedback from families so far has been so positive and we would like to help more families.

I will finish with one feedback text we recently received. It reads;

"I'm not the greatest when it comes to express my self about anything but will do my best. I think that what you people's do for ours family is just beyond amazing. Thanks to you, our children's are able to have a lovely gift on their birthday that otherwise wouldn't get. They're able to get a lovely birthday card and books, that again wouldn't get otherwise. Also

you provide the whole family with books, a bits of stationery that every child and family enjoy. Wouldn't have been for you, many children's and family wouldn't be able to have all this, wouldn't be able to get a gift on their most important day, their birthday, their child's birthday. Thank you for all you do for our families."

Katie Bogie

Outreach Stall Saturday 12th March

Members will recall the popular outreach stall held in front of the church buildings last August, while Covid restrictions were still in place. It is now planned to operate similar stalls outside in the paved area in front of the church on a monthly basis into the summer. The first will take place on 12th March, between 10am and 12noon. Passers-by and visitors will find a tea and coffee bar, books, plants and homemade preserves (jams, marmalade and chutney) and a Fair-trade goods stall.

While it is hoped that this activity will help with general fundraising and cover costs, the main aim is to meet people in the neighbourhood

and the wider community, tell them a bit about Greenbank's Mission and our recent initiatives and projects, and pass out information. Members and friends are also encouraged to come along and enjoy a chat and regain a sense of church activity in more normal times.



The stalls in August

Items for the stalls such as good modern paperback novels, jars of home produce and plants can be delivered to David Jack, 25 Braid Mount, 447 2866 in the week before the event or brought along between 9 and 10am on the day. Offers of help to serve at the stalls will also be welcomed.

David Jack

Goodbye to Ginny Johnston

Ginny Johnston has decided it is time to retire; she will leave her post as our administrator in April.

Ginny has given us cheerful and committed service for 10 years and I am sure many of you will wish to mark this by contributing to a retirement gift.

If you'd like to contribute you can do so in one of the following ways:

- 1 Online bank transfer
Account Name: Greenbank Church Collections
Sort Code: 80-02-27
Account Number: 10786266
Reference: Your-Surname GJ
- 2 Cheque via the Church Office:
Made payable to Greenbank Church Collections
With the envelope marked Treasurer – GJ
- 3 PayPal (if you have a PayPal account)
Use the link:
paypal.me/greenbankchurch
Press Send and then log in to your PayPal account
Include For Ginny in the notes section.

Unfortunately, Gift Aid cannot be claimed on donations towards leaving gifts for members of the Greenbank team.

Valerie Macniven, Session Clerk

Work Party

We are delighted to report that we are once more able to meet and enjoy tea, cake and chat as well as handing in knitted items and collecting more yarn and patterns. Already we have a number of knitted jumpers, hats, baby blankets and bed socks.

Please donate

Although the wool shops are now open again they are having problems with deliveries and colour choices are limited. Any spare wool, especially machine washable double knitting, would be very useful.

Our next meetings are to be on Thursday the 10th and 24th of March, at 2.30pm in the Hermitage Room. New members are always very welcome, so come along and join us to help provide goods for people, young and old, struggling in Edinburgh.

If you have any questions please phone.

Anne Oxbrow



Only a few of the products

Welcome Teams

March

- 6 **Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Elaine McRae, Jane Harkin
- 13 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small
- 20 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden
- 27 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton

April

- 3 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison, Rachel Cadell

Coffee Rota

March

- 6 Communion
- 13 Vivien Hutchison (D71)
- 20 David Jack (D72)
- 27 Louise Coghill

April

- 3 Edith Armit (D12A)



Flower Rota

provided by delivered by

March

- 6 Flower Fund Jill Mundy
- 13 Flower Fund Marjorie Smith
- 20 Helen Barnes Rosemarie Crawford
- 27 Flower Fund Joan Cameron

April

- 3 Flower Fund Charlotte Tucker



The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Rev Dr Anne Logan (Locum Minister)
phone: 0131 663 9550
email: annetlogan@sky.com

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 April 2022 issue of **Greenbank Connections** should be delivered to the Church Office by Sunday 13th March 2022 or sent by e-mail by 8pm on

Thursday 17th March 2022 to
greenbankconnections@gmail.com

Concert in aid of SLA at Greenbank Church Saturday 5th March



Scottish Love in Action are delighted to announce a concert to be held at Greenbank by the *Aquillos Ensemble* in aid of SLA. The *Aquillos Ensemble* includes two former members of Quest: Chris Crosby and Barbara Richerby (née Tulloch).

Join us for a sublime evening of music.

Date: Saturday 5th March 2022

Time: Doors open at 7pm for
7.30pm start

Venue: Greenbank Parish Church

Tickets: £8

For further information and to book tickets, (some may be available on the door) visit:

www.sla-india.org

Eco Lifestyle Social Night, 26th March

As things get back to normal (al-most) the Outreach Group and the Eco Team have combined forces to offer an entertaining and informative social evening on Saturday, 26th March. Suitable for all ages, members and friends, including family groups, are encouraged to attend. It is hoped that some of the youth club members will also come along.

There will be a 'sustainable living' quiz, and speakers on topics ranging from installing heat pumps in your home to organic gardening and other sustainable living practices. The evening will feature refreshments and tasty snacks and a discussion period to round things off. So come along and test your knowledge and hear from other people who have made important lifestyle changes in their fight against climate change.

As well as being good fun, holding this and other events are part of Greenbank's commitment to implementing our Gold Award Eco congregation status, and emphasising our care for God's Creation.

Event timings are 7.30 to 9pm. If you would like to attend, please book your place(s) with David Jack (davidinnesjack@gmail.com or on 447 2866 or 07926812924).

David Jack