

Greenbank Connections



September 2024

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Scottish Charity SC011325



A Greenbank Brownie learning to fight fire (see article p18)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

Contents

Letter from the Locum	2
Outreach into Autumn and Beyond	4
Guest Preacher	4
World Church Group	5
Ladies' Badminton Club	5
An Open Hand	6
The Guild	7
Friendship Club	8
Yoga with Syra	8
Monday Badminton	9
Fresh Start	9
Baby and Toddler Group	10
Stagecoach	11
Recycling Boxes	11
Greenbank Singers	12
National Childbirth Trust (NCT)	12
Morningside Pilates	13
Make Your Life Better with Tai Chi	13
Scouting at Greenbank	14
Greenbank Holiday Club 2024	16
162 Brownies	18
Greenbank Church Choir	18
SLA Book Café 2024	19
Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra	19
Greenbank Pre-School	20
Scottish Country Dancing	21
Emilia's Art Club	22
Church Library	23
Safe Listening Place	23
Dementia Support	24
Morningside Hope	25
Greenbank Eco-Group	26
Work Party	27
Discipleship Group	28
Greenbank Walkers	28
Social Justice Action in Greenbank	29
Connections Deadlines	29
What's On	30
Welcome Teams	31
Flower Rota	31
Coffee Rota	31
Autumn Lectures	32

Letter from the Locum



Growing Greenbank

Sir Harry Secombe used to sing,
*"If I ruled the world, every day would
be the first day of Spring..."*

Neither Harry, you nor I will ever rule the world, but it is good to have hopes and to be prepared to make some positive contribution to our local communities. Following the appalling knife attack in Southport, Britain has witnessed some dark days; violence perpetrated against police, wanton vandalism, destruction of property and looting of shops. Faith groups have also been targeted yet beams of light have shone through the darkness. Ordinary committed citizens came forward to clean, clear and repair their towns. Many voiced the same thought: 'these hooligans do not represent my community'. I would like us to hold onto that thought.

Let's think about the past, present and future of this community through a possible title: 'Growing Greenbank'. The ideas collected here come from the people to whom I have spoken in my short time with you. I understand that 1927 was a key year for Greenbank Church, the year when the church building was opened. Many have said it would be good to mark this 2027 centenary in some special ways.

Here are a few thoughts:

Can we, with the help of those interested in local history, find ways to imaginatively retell the story of how Greenbank grew as a community? Can we encourage the support of other local organisations – the tennis and golf clubs, youth organisations and even businesses? So we would gain new insights from the past and not depend solely on what is recorded in the Kirk Session and the Guild minutes, though they will certainly be of help.

Could we organise a large open day style event early next year, e.g. a Flower Festival? We could invite the wider community to see the church as it approaches a major anniversary while letting everyone know what is growing in Greenbank. Greenbank Church and parish certainly has a rich story to share. We would hope to forge new relationships with those attending, of all faiths and none. Then we can talk about the changing needs

within this community and what can we do together to meet them.

The ideas collected may flow in surprising directions to mark 'Growing Greenbank 2027'. Perhaps a wedding fashion show with a service celebrating those who have pledged love in the building in the past? Would a celebratory *Songs of Praise* – a concert plus a refreshed archive of stories from those who served church and community in wartime, in professions and trades – be interesting? New insights will refresh Greenbank. If old and young can interact, we may learn together to discover new energies and, in time, a stronger future. Together we could imagine plans for Growing Greenbank healthily for another 100 years. Is it possible? The Bible says, "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10.27), even if none of us rules the world!

Every blessing,

Ian Y Gilmour
Locum minister



One of the fish biscuits from Holiday Club

Outreach into Autumn and Beyond

Sustaining Greenbank's outreach to the congregation and the wider community is a continuous activity. Regular communication, including this magazine and the weekly newsletter, requires a commitment from a good number of volunteers. Projects ongoing are the rebuilding of our website, and the expansion and improvement of our social media material – with the aim of further enhancing both their quality and their regular output. This edition of *Connections* is of course the Autumn bumper edition, which is delivered to every household in the parish – no small task.

This outreach is rewarding work. It would be great if we could get more volunteers to help in these and other projects. It is currently difficult to operate with the team that we have. Please think about helping out in the communications area in particular, but in other outreach events as well. As they say, many hands make light work!

Looking forward the next big event on 7th September is our **Open Afternoon and Autumn Fair**. There will be a café, stalls, children's activities and hopefully some entertainment. Tours of the church and halls, and a guide to the stained-glass windows will be available.

Enjoy this kick-off event for the autumn season and be ready to play a part by bringing friends and family to Greenbank, and making contributions to the stalls and activities.

Looking forward, there will be Christmas related events in due course, and plans are being discussed for a Burns Supper in January.

As we move through a period of transition in Greenbank, we must remember our faith commitment of reaching out to others and growing the church in our own community. These events are examples of the practical steps we can take to sustain our church life in challenging times.

David Jack

Guest Preacher

Sheena Orr will be preaching on Sunday 1st September. She is a Church of Scotland minister and Chaplaincy Advisor to the Scottish Prison Service. The Social Justice Action Group have asked her along and she will talk about her work within the Scottish Prison Service prior to holding a workshop in November.

Hazel Macaulay

World Church Group

The focus of Greenbank's World Church Group is well outside the parish boundary. We've written articles for the church magazine in the past year covering topics such as the displacement of Armenian Christians, the work of the Scottish Churches China Group, the support for vulnerable children and young people in India provided by Scottish Love in Action, and the welcome of Iranian refugees to the Borders.

We also share updates from Israel/Palestine where our mission partner the Rev Dr Stewart Gillan is based.



Through our regular Fairtrade stalls, with the next ones planned for the

Open Afternoon on Saturday 7th September and after the service on Sunday 15th September, we highlight the importance of fair prices for small producers in the global south. We also support the annual Christian Aid week campaign, raising vital funds to push back against the inhumanity of poverty around the world.

If you would like more information about the World Church Group or would like to help with any of our activities, please get in touch via the Church Office. Information can also be found on the World Church section of the Greenbank Church website:

www.greenbankchurch.org/adults/world-church/

Janet Edwards

Ladies' Badminton Club

The Ladies' Badminton Club meets every Wednesday morning in the Main Hall from 9.30 to 11.30am when we play doubles in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We even have time for a tea or coffee!

The session begins on Wednesday 11th September 2024, so do consider joining us for a morning of exercise and fun in equal measure.



If you enjoy playing badminton you will be made most welcome.

For more information, please contact me.

Susan Black

An Open Hand

An Open Hand is a project providing presents to parents living in severe hardship for their children's birthdays. So far this year, we have already delivered to more families than we did in the whole of 2023. We receive applications from around 20 charities or organisations in Edinburgh. We call the parent before the birthday to find out what they would like to give their child and then deliver this to the family home, with a family bag, while the children are out at school.

The delivery includes:

- The birthday present (chosen specifically by the parent) with card, wrapping paper and Sello-tape – approx. £35 in value
- The family bag containing
 - ▷ a book for each child in the family
 - ▷ a family game – Jenga / Twister
 - ▷ bubbles
 - ▷ paper
 - ▷ colouring pencils/writing pencils/ sharpener/ rubber/ pencil case

It's always wonderful to meet the families who take such care over choosing their child's present. For example, we are currently delivering over the next few months to a family of five.

We applied to *Free Cakes for Kids* for them to receive a cake along with the gifts. When we delivered the third child's gifts, the family rushed to share with us a special video of the second child's birthday celebration which had just happened. They had the gifts all laid out in the living room and the cake right in front of

the birthday boy. Dad was set up on guitar, big brother on drums, sister and mum singing and littlest brother and sister danced. What followed was the loudest, most joyful rendition of 'Happy Birthday' you might have ever witnessed - the music perfect, drumming tremendous and dancing so carefree – all centred on their brother.

This project was started to enable a little extra joy on a day which might be difficult and to allow a relaxed celebration of a child's birthday without financial burden and debt. Many thanks for all your support so far: details for giving are on our webpage* and, as we reach more children in Edinburgh, we welcome any donations that may be possible. Your giving has been so generous so far and we thank you so much for this. We also offer our sincere thanks for your continued prayers.



Katie Bogie

* edinburghcitymission.org.uk



The Guild

The Guild is a church-based organisation for men and women that normally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from October to March. Most of our meetings are held in the Braid Room at 2.30pm. As well as a varied programme of talks (anything from hilarious through interesting to inspiring) we raise funds every year for projects promoted by the national Church of Scotland Guild of which we are a part. Our meetings are open to anyone who is interested in any of our topics. These are intimate in *Connections* and the *Weekly Newsletter*.



We also have Coffee Mornings (with lots of home baking), a Christmas Party and a Summer Outing for members. We always have time for tea and chat and a chance to catch up with friends and to make new ones. Come and join us: you will be welcome.

The National Guild Strategy for 2025-27 is 'Let Us Build A House', with the themes of **Sure Foundations**, **Living Stones** and **Beyond the Walls**. The four projects we will support:

1. **Bear Necessities** Scottish charity working in a deprived area of Sliven City in Bulgaria;
2. **Bibles for Bairns** with the Scottish Bible Society providing Bible-related birthday presents for children in Scotland;
3. **Operation Hope** providing necessities to Christian families in Egypt suffering from discrimination and poverty;
4. **Crossreach**, the Social Service branch of the Church of Scotland, which runs the Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh supporting vulnerable families through therapy and counselling, and The Daisy Chain in Glasgow, a community-based early intervention project for children.



Above, packs ready to go
Left, loading up for an Open Hand distribution

Edith Armit

Friendship Club

Do you live in the Greenbank area and are you interested in meeting new people? Then our club is for you, whether you come to Church or not. Friendship Club aims to inspire and entertain with fortnightly meetings during the winter months. The Club will meet at the new time of 2pm starting with a talk or entertainment. Tea and biscuits follow and much chatter where new friendships are made or old ones continued.

The programme begins at 2.00pm on Wednesday 16th October (on the comfortable chairs in the Braid Room) with a talk on Rosslyn Chapel. On other afternoons we will be intrigued

to learn about 'The Man Who Never Was' and to relive 'The Swinging 60s'. Events include a Christmas Party, a Summer Tea Party and Summer Coffee Mornings. The annual subscription is £20 but, if you are new, come for a free meeting first!

We look forward to meeting you. Perhaps you would like to join us for our final summer coffee morning in the Hermitage Room at 10.30am on 11th September.

For further information and for transport arrangements please contact us.

Gillian Sweetman, David Allan

Yoga with Syra

Vinyasa Flow Yoga is a dynamic practice linking breath with movement, suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced. Expect to build some heat, strength and flexibility, whilst releasing any tension and stress, and creating a sense of spaciousness and clarity in the body and mind.

I teach with warmth, compassion and love, sharing my passion for Yoga and the many benefits on and off the mat. I would love to welcome you along, so please get in touch for more details and to book in.

Syra Fleetwood
syrayoga@hotmail.com
07886 114990



TUES-
9:30AM
6:45PM
8PM MENS

THURS-
7:25PM
8:35PM

FRI-
9:30AM
11AM

SYRA YOGA

ALL LEVELS WELCOME

Fresh Start

Fresh Start's mission is 'to help people make a home for themselves' and demand for the services is huge. Your support is greatly appreciated and many thanks to everyone who has donated items. Goods you donate help to make up starter packs provided to those in need setting up a new home. If you have any small electrical items, kitchenware or household items in good condition which you think may be of use, then please consider donating them to Fresh Start. Items can either be taken directly to Fresh Start on Ferry Road Drive (see website) or contact me to arrange a convenient time for collection or drop off items to the box at the church door. Further informa-



tion on Fresh Start and items suitable for donation can be found at:

www.freshstartweb.org.uk

If you do not currently have items for donation, there are other ways you can help. You can donate new essential items like cleaning materials, or make a purchase in the Fresh Start virtual shop for items which Fresh Start regularly has to purchase for Starter Packs.

www.freshstartweb.org.uk/shop

Lastly, financial donations can also be made using the JustGiving site

[www.justgiving.com/
freshstartedinburgh](http://www.justgiving.com/freshstartedinburgh)

or Fresh Start website under Donate.

Eileen MacKinnon

Monday Badminton

Greenbank Badminton Club is a mixed social club of a mid-high standard. We play doubles and mixed doubles, using high quality Yonex AS30 feather shuttles, in Greenbank Church's Main Hall, Mondays 7-9pm, between September and April. Over 18s only, £7 per visit. For further information on joining contact me.

Gillian Robinson



Baby and Toddler Group at Greenbank

The Baby and Toddler group meets on Thursday and Friday mornings during term time in the Main Church Hall. There are lots of super toys for the children to play with whilst parents and carers can catch up over a coffee and home baking. The groups run from 9.45 to 11.15am with entry via the Church Office door, where someone will welcome you.

A healthy snack is provided for the children and cost per family is £2 per session. This last year has been great fun with Hallowe'en and Christmas parties and we also welcomed a mini-zoo!

All children up to school age are welcome with their parents or carers. Please come along and join us!



Mini-zoo came to Toddlers



Buggy Jam on a rainy day

Join the Team

Alternatively, if you would like to be part of our coffee and welcome team please get in touch: we'd love to have you on board.

For more information, please contact me, or check out our Facebook page at Greenbank Baby and Toddler Group.

Kirsten Pink

Stagecoach

Children and teens explore their creativity as they develop singing, dancing and drama skills in our engaging performing arts classes. Working with an experienced and passionate team of teachers, we use the performing arts to help develop confidence and communication skills. At Stagecoach, the Creative Courage we give to children goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. It gives every child a confident, radiating energy that follows them through home, school and later life.



Our Early Stages classes (age 4–6yrs) run for 90 minutes and Main Stages (age 6+) run for three hours each week. Classes run Thursdays and Saturdays at Greenbank, and Thursday–Sunday across Edinburgh. Booking is now open for the Autumn Term at Stagecoach.

Tina Strong
edinburgh@stagecoach.co.uk
 0131 610 0636

Recycling Boxes inside the Main Church Door

Stamp Appeal – donate used stamps, retaining approximately 1cm paper border, and support the *Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeal*.

Printer Cartridges – save ink cartridges from landfill (sorry no laser or toner cartridges) and support *Poverty Child*.

Bottle Tops – donate clean plastic bottle tops, of types 2 (HDPE) and 4 (LDPE) only. The collection and sale of the bottle tops is arranged by the Rotary Club of Galashiels and the money is donated to Macmillan Cancer Support and the Borders Oncology Department. (If still available after EU directive for attached tops)



Unwanted Spectacles – donate unwanted pairs of spectacles for re-use in Africa and South Asia through a scheme managed by *The British Lions*.

Food – donate imperishable food for food banks.

Fresh Start – Household goods, cleaning products. (see article p9)

Greenbank Singers

This group is for everyone who likes singing. No auditions required! We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon, led by Alan Irvine, to sing a variety of songs with the emphasis on enjoyment. We sing for around an hour, followed by a cup of tea or coffee.

There is a voluntary contribution of £2 per session to cover the music and the refreshments.

We start back on Wednesday 11th September at 2pm.

For more information please email singers@greenbankchurch.org

Gillian Sweetman



National Childbirth Trust (NCT)

Our expert-led courses will give you up-to-date, evidence-based information so you can decide what is right for you. With all your questions answered, you can make decisions about your birth, your baby, your options. Plus our online hub is packed with valuable content to support your in-person classes, like our exclusive new-born safety & baby health videos.



Gail Stark
enquiries@nct.org.uk
0208 752 9102

Morningside Pilates

Pilates for everyone...

Morningside Pilates at Greenbank Church offers a range of day and evening classes to include Beginners/ Improvers Pilates as well as slower-paced Healthy Back and Bones

classes and a Kettlebells/Hybrid mix too! For more information visit www.morningsidepilates.co.uk or contact me.

Joy Black

morningsidepilates@gmail.com

07305 994 949



Make Your Life Better with Tai Chi

Develop a mind that is dynamic yet clear and calm and a spirit that is resilient yet light and peaceful. Taoist Tai Chi™ practice is a moving meditation that reduces stress and helps you find joy. Physically it will make you energetic, balanced, strong and supple.

Taoism teaches that health comes when body, mind and spirit work together in harmony. Taoist Tai Chi™ arts grew from this tradition and are a powerfully beneficial path of ultimate transformation.

Practitioners feel that their lives get better through Taoist Tai Chi™ practice. They slowly become aware of the internal universe within their bodies and more connected to the world without. They often enjoy the opportunity to be part of a community.

Taoist philosophy does not see the decline usually associated with ageing as inevitable. Instead, the Taoist arts seek to reverse this process of contraction and degeneration, enabling practitioners to age in a healthier way.

Register for Tuesday evening sessions in the Centenary Hall at:

tinyurl.com/fbnmwz7m

Shona Thomson

sthomson@taoisttaichi.org

07502 854 110



Scouting at Greenbank

Greenbank Church is home to a thriving Beaver Colony, Cub Pack, Scout Troop and Explorer Unit, and has been for 91 years! We've been busy again this past year, with lots of adventures, skills learned, and memories made.

The **Greenbank Explorers** (aged 14–18) meet on Friday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.15pm. Recent activities have included wide games around the city, ready-steady-cook, night hikes, Gravity trampoline park, first aid, Scout skills, and an evening at Yellowcraig beach to finish off the term. They have had a great year with camps including Moffat in October, Milngavie in December, a ski weekend in January and a week-long Summer Camp in the Lake District this July including adventurous activities, Scafell Pike (highest summit in England), open fire cooking, and visits around the Lake District. Many Explorers have also achieved their Duke of Edinburgh Award through the Explorer unit over the past 12 months.

The **Scout Troop** (aged 10.5–14) have also been busy. With camps at the District Flag competition in September, a winter weekend in West Lothian before the Christmas break, a ski weekend in February, and a weekend camp in May at Crook



Explorers' Hike

of Devon where they were joined by the eldest Cubs – culminating in the traditional week-long Summer Camp, this year held at a green-field site near Killin. They did white water rafting, visited local places of interest, swam in the river, and played lots of games as well as campfires and open fire cooking.

The Scouts meet on a Friday night from 7.15pm to 9.15pm and recent meetings have included Scout Skills, games, a visit to the Gang Show, guest speakers, volunteering in the Braidburn Valley Park, and focusing on the World Challenge Award.



Scout Summer Camp

The **Cubs** (aged 8-10½) meet on a Thursday from 6.30pm to 8pm and enjoyed a busy year learning new skills and having fun. They focused on practical skills such as emergency first aid, knots and pioneering, and photography. Recent activities included the Gang Show, local hikes, and working on the swimming, pioneering badges, and Adventure Challenge Award. Also, a weekend at Bonaly in February allowed Cubs the chance to stay overnight, learn new skills and have a good time.



Cub Scout Hike

The Group are very grateful to the congregation of Greenbank Church and the wider community for their support throughout the year, particularly at this year's Jumble Sale which was possibly the most successful it's ever been!

With over 150 young people to support across the sections, we're always very keen to have new volunteers, and we are very flexible to what our volunteers can manage. There are always opportunities to help at any of the sections, either as a team member working with young people or in the background with some admin. Or you can join our trustee board. It's lots of fun for any age!

We're looking forward to being back in the Autumn Term after a well deserved Summer break.

Niall Morrison
Scout Leader

4th.braid.scouts@gmail.com
07707 554971

The **Beavers** (aged 6-8) have had a full-on year with lots of outdoor activities that have introduced the young girls and boys to Scouting. Recent activities have included a visit to Cramond island, the South Queensferry Lifeboat station, covering the My Person Challenge Award, and an exciting visit to a robotics lab.



Beavers at Cramond

Greenbank Holiday Club 2024

Helen Barnes led this year's Holiday Club, *Rocky's Plaice*, on the last week of the Summer Holidays before the children returned to school. A large number of helpers were on hand to educate and entertain the children. Besides adult leaders, teenagers from the Greenbank area were on hand to perform in the "Drama" and to make sure every child had a good time.

Besides learning about Pentecost and making fiery flames, they learnt about Fishers of Men, making various forms of fish, some edible.

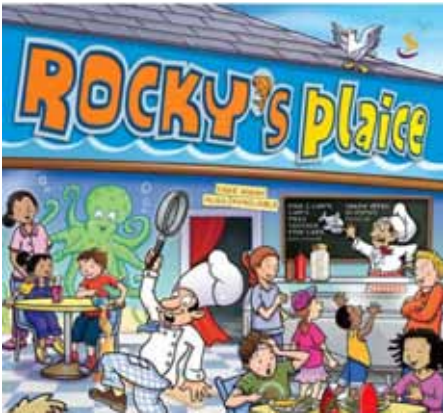
The following Sunday Service was dedicated to Holiday Club and was followed by a Barbecue Lunch for the whole congregation.

There will be a similar Children's Event in December, telling the Christmas Story, making decorations and, of course, singing Carols and Christmas songs. Watch *Connections* and the *Weekly Newsletter* for details nearer the time.

Many thanks to the huge team. (see below)

Editors





'A Church in a Fish and Chip Shop'

Right, from the top:
Iced fish, Story time in the Church, Games,
Pizza Lunch for the team



162 Brownies

What a busy year!! We started the term with a fun trip to the fire station where we got to try out the hose, enjoyed a chilly sleepover at a Brownie House just outside Edinburgh and brought some festive cheer when we went carol singing at a local nursing home.

In the New Year, we made our own sweet version of a Burns Supper (whipped cream, orange jelly and chocolate crispies) and performed in front of the congregation and parents in the Thinking Day service. Two real highlights were when we joined hundreds of other Brownies at a fun day to try lots of games and activities and enjoyed a very sunny sleepover – learning first aid, building dens and walking through the Colinton Tunnel. All of these activities and more meant that we earned lots of badges, including a few girls who earned their Gold Award – the highest award you can achieve in Brownies!



If you want to join the fun, please get in touch with us as, with two leaders taking 'maternity leave', we could do with an extra pair of hands. Equally, if you're handy with a spreadsheet and you'd like to help with our accounts that would be really appreciated.

Heather and Tracy
162greenbankbrownies@gmail.com
07905541783

Greenbank Church Choir

The choir meets in church premises on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm from 10th October until June to prepare music for Sunday worship. Our Director of Music is Alberto Massimo. The choir is a friendly group that enjoys singing and is always happy to welcome new members.

If you would like to join us, please have a word with Maestro Massimo or a member of the choir after a Sunday morning service.

Kathleen Patrick



Scottish Love in Action (SLA) Book Café 2024

The SLA Book Café is on **Saturday 28th September from 10.30am to 12.30pm** at George Watson's College, Colinton Road, EH10 5EG.

Meet your friends and enjoy coffee, shortbread, games and tombola. Cash and Card Payments accepted. The Book Café has a new model: please bring five books in good condition which you are happy to pass on, and take home five books new to you.

The famous SLA Literary Quiz will also be available on the day and online.

Tickets: £7.50, children £5.00, children under 5 free.

The complete ticket price and any donations go to your local charity **Scottish Love in Action** which has been supporting vulnerable children in India for almost 25 years.

Buy your tickets from 18th September on the SLA website – information will be included in the weekly Greenbank e-newsletter.



Sheila Cannell

www.sla-india.org

Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra

From September to May, Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra meets on Wednesday evenings in Greenbank Church's Lower Hall.

Established in the 1930s, we are one of the oldest amateur orchestras in Edinburgh. We are a small group of (mainly) string players who share a love of playing and performing music together. One of our aims is to bring to new audiences music that is rarely played or heard.

We usually perform two or three concerts each year in Greenabnk Church, including our Christmas and Spring concerts. Many thanks to everyone from the Church who supports us, especially to those who come to hear us play. We hope you'll join us for our concerts next

season. Look out for details of our Christmas 2024 concert (date *tbc*). Our programme will include some old favourites, and some pieces that may be new to you.

The first rehearsal for our new season is on 25th September from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. As well as rehearsing the repertoire for our Christmas concert, we will be tackling several other pieces, solely for fun! We always welcome new players; if you're interested in joining us or would like to come and 'try us out', go to:

edinburghchamberorchestra.blogspot.com

Anne Gibson

edinburghchamber@gmail.com

Greenbank Pre-School

Our Pre-School for 3-5 year olds is based in the Church's Centenary Hall and adjoining outdoor areas. We are a Funded Partner with the City of Edinburgh Council.

We open between 8.25am and 3.30pm during school terms with most of the children attending 1,140 hours per year, spread over four or five days. There are a few 'mornings only' places.

Little Lunches delivers our hot lunches four days a week and we serve a 'café style' lunch on Fridays.

The staff team of Early Years Practitioners is led by our teacher/manager, Mrs Kyra Okoth. The Management Committee comprises church members and parent representatives, and reports to the Kirk Session. Parental involvement during the day is most welcome.

We believe that the learning environment is the main teacher. The children enjoy exploring and using the many creative and interactive spaces that are tailored to their interests and which support learning and development across all aspects of the early level of the Curriculum for Excellence. Our high standard is maintained through regular self-evaluation, supported by visits from the City of Edinburgh Council Quality Improvement Officer.

Further information is available on our website including our application



Indian Garden

form. Applications are taken from when children turn two.

www.greenbankpreschool.org

For availability of places please contact us through the website or phone 0131 447 8068.

Joan Ritchie
Chair
Management Committee

Scottish Country Dancing

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society runs weekly classes at Greenbank Church halls for children on Saturday mornings and adults on Tuesday evenings.

Our youngest dancers learn rhythm and movement to music, offering children the chance to enjoy Scottish dancing in a fun environment, meeting new friends and learning the basic shapes of formations and some easy dances. Leading on from this, as they gain more experience, they develop their knowledge of Scottish dance formations and steps while continuing to expand their knowledge of dances.

Scottish dancing is great for fitness and health, building cardio endurance and boosting circulation. Our Advanced Beginners class will



challenge you to learn in a friendly and relaxed way. This class is ideal if you are returning after a gap or have been in one of our Beginners classes and would like to build on your skills. Our experienced teachers will ensure that you learn at the right pace ensuring that you have a happy dancing experience in an inclusive atmosphere.

Find out more at our website:

www.rscdsedinburgh.org

Contact us at:

info@rscdsedinburgh.org



Pre-School Friday café style lunch

EMILIA'S ART CLUB

Fun, relaxed and super-creative art classes for children/young people of primary and secondary age.

Classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. See website for timetable or please get in touch with your query.

Emilia McMenamin

www.emiliasARTclub.co.uk
hello@emiliasARTclub.co.uk

07793 811 218



Safe Listening Place and The Information Station



We all experience challenges in everyday living such as bereavement, illness, mental health issues, dementia, relationship challenges, financial worries and much more. It can be hard to find somewhere safe to share worrying issues about yourself or a loved one, but no one need face these alone.

Safe Listening Place: for a listening ear and, if needed, assistance to find appropriate expert help, you can call our confidential phone line – 07516 990889 – between 10am-12noon on the first Sunday of every month. The phone line is managed mainly by someone with no connection to Greenbank.

The Information Station: we offer leaflets and contact details for many external agencies designed to help. Visit us at our stall in the Main Hall during coffee time on the last Sunday of the month. We are always happy to provide a safe listening ear.

Save the Date

Saturday 9th November 2024,
9.30am-12.30pm at Greenbank
Parish Church.

Breaking the Silence on Domestic Abuse: a morning to explore the issue of domestic abuse and how best to respond. Further details to follow.

Susan Inch

Church Library

The Children's and Adults' libraries are very much alive and well. We are currently working on an online catalogue for both libraries. In the meantime, you are welcome to browse and borrow whenever you are in the church building.

The bookcases are in the New Halls corridor.

Moira Small,
Janet Edwards,
Hazel McLachlan



Dementia Support at Greenbank

Greenbank Parish Church aims to be a church where people living with dementia and their families and friends are understood, respected and supported. Many in the church community are *Dementia Friends* and have taken part in education facilitated by Alzheimer Scotland.

Dementia-Friendly Afternoon Services

These are celebrated at 3pm four times per year at Easter, Summer, Harvest and Christmas. Each service, lasting 45 minutes, includes familiar hymns, organ music and the sharing of Holy Communion. The service is live-streamed and is also available on the church website.

Following the service there is Afternoon Tea with home baking and live music. The entire afternoon is joyful with a feeling of fellowship.

The church is accessible via a ramp or one small step. There are designated wheelchair spaces within the church and adapted and accessible toilets.

The next event will be on **14th September at 12.30pm** when we will be taking part in the **Pilgrimage of Hope** with Morningside Parish Church. (See opposite)

Harvest Thanksgiving is on 6th October at 3pm.

The **Christmas Service** is on 15th December at 3pm.

Jan Corbett



Afternoon tea after the service

Morningside Hope



Morningside Hope is the umbrella name for the dementia friendly projects that we have been running in Morningside Parish Church now for nearly three years.

Those projects include:

- **Heart for Art and Music** and Memories workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers.
- **Gentle Exercise Classes**
- **Games Afternoons**
- **Animal Afternoons**

- **Pastoral Skills Course** is open to anyone interested in finding out a bit more about pastoral care
- **Dementia Friendly Concerts** offering four concerts yearly that are open to everyone.

We have two this September:

- **Sunday 1st Sept at 2pm**
Peter Foggitt, Piano recital
- **Saturday 14th Sept at 2pm**
Santiago music for organ, flute, trumpet and electric guitar

Pilgrimage of Hope

Prior to the Santiago concert, we plan to have a brief “pilgrimage” in keeping with the Santiago theme, from Greenbank Church down to Morningside Parish (MPC) starting at 12.30pm. There will be a short reflection by someone from Greenbank followed by some music and then walking down to MPC, a second short reflection led by some-

one from MPC, followed by some music – a Pilgrimage of Hope.

If you are interested in attending, volunteering or simply interested in finding out a little bit more, just contact me.

Jacqui Lindsay
07834 364 628

*pastoralassistant@
morningsideparishchurch.org.uk*

Greenbank Eco-Group and Eco-Congregation

At Greenbank Church, we believe caring for the environment is integral to our faith. As a Gold Award-winning Eco-Congregation, we're committed to improving our environmental performance. Our enthusiastic Eco-Group has updated a strategy and action plan to raise awareness and promote practical, spiritual and global living.

Our Recent Achievements

- **Greening the Church Grounds:** the church frontage has been enhanced with five planters filled with wildlife-friendly plants, supporting local biodiversity.
- **Sustainable Facilities:** we replaced paper towels with electric hand-dryers powered by renewable energy, installed LED lighting and replaced our ageing boiler with a hydrogen-enabled one, reducing waste and emissions.
- **Forest Churches:** we held three Forest Churches in local parks, foster-

ing a spiritual connection to nature.

- **Promoting Green Technologies:** our members shared their experiences with green technologies like heat pumps and electric vehicles, inspiring others to consider eco-friendly alternatives.
- **Recycling and Reusing:** we collected stamps, printer cartridges, spectacles, bottle-tops, household items and food to support initiatives promoting reduce, reuse and recycle principles.

Join Us!

If you're interested in joining the Eco-Group or have project ideas, please get in touch. Your involvement can help us expand our efforts and introduce new, impactful initiatives. Let's work together to create a sustainable future for our community and beyond.

Karen Young
Eco-Group Convenor



Work Party

Throughout the year, even during the summer months when there are no meetings, members of the Work Party are busy knitting baby and toddler jumpers and cardigans, hats, bed socks, twiddle muffs, knee rugs and baby blankets. (See below.)

Early in December all the knitted goods are donated, as appropriate, to Muirhouse Church, Saughton Prison Visitor Centre, Edinburgh Clothing Store, Morlich House, The Elms and the Homeless Shelter in Gorgie for distribution in time for Christmas.

We meet fortnightly on Thursdays from 2 to 4pm in the Hermitage

Room when we collect knitting yarn and patterns and have a cup of tea.

Our first meeting after the summer will be held on Thursday, 26th September. If you enjoy knitting, we shall be delighted to welcome you at any of our meetings.

If you are unable to attend meetings, you may like to contribute by becoming one of our outworkers who are given patterns and yarn, and knit at home.

For further information please contact **Anne Oxbrow**

Doris Laing



Discipleship Group

The Discipleship Group is involved in organising two forthcoming events. The first is the series of three autumn lectures, arranged in collaboration with Morningside Parish Church. Details are given in the poster on page 32. These annual lectures are always interesting, illuminating and relevant (and there are good refreshments and a chance to chat before the lectures). We hope that you will be able to come along.

The second is a new series of discussion groups, starting in October. Depending on the number of people interested in taking part, we

might organise one group meeting in the Pentland Room during the day, and one group meeting in members' houses on a weekday evening. We plan first to discuss Ian Gilmour's recently-published book "Stirred by the Storm", each chapter of which has questions for discussion. Each group could then decide what to do next. Interested? Please email or phone the church office:

office@greenbankchurch.org

0131 447 9969

without commitment and we'll see what groups we can put together.

Anne Kinnear

Duncan Macniven

Greenbank Walkers

The walking group will start up again on Wednesday 18th September, meeting at the church at 10am. Our walks provide some gentle exercise and the chance to chat over a cup of coffee.

Here is a photo from one of our recent walks at the Botanic. If you would like to join us, please contact me.

Tom Inglis



Social Justice Action in Greenbank

A Wider View

Greenbank is well known in the local community and beyond for its commitment to achieving social justice through its variety of practical actions, as well as supporting global and national initiatives. Help the Homeless, Scottish Love in Action, An Open Hand, Christian Aid, and climate change are just a few examples.

A revised remit and new membership for the Social Justice Action Group was agreed by the Kirk Session earlier in the year, with a renewed focus on taking action to influence public policy. However, just as a new programme was being drawn up, the General Election was called and

the Group rapidly set up a Hustings in Greenbank, held on 20th June in conjunction with Morningside and Fairmilehead Parish Churches. Duncan Macniven took on the role of organising everything at very short notice, with a positive outcome on the night.

Beyond this, new projects and events are being planned, with a fresh focus on *Prisoners Week* and other initiatives over the coming months. Look out for more information soon, and if you feel like being involved in this field, please join the group and play a role in this growing area of activity.

David Jack



Herbs in one of the Eco-Group's new Planters

Connections Deadlines

	On Paper	By email
Oct	Sun 15 Sept	Thurs 19 Sept
Nov	Sun 13 Oct	Thurs 17 Oct
Dec-Jan	Sun 10 Nov	Thurs 14 Nov
2025		
Feb	Sun 12 Jan	Thurs 16 Jan
Mar	Sun 9 Feb	Thurs 13 Feb
April	Sun 16 Mar	Thurs 20 Mar
May	Sun 13 April	Thurs 17 April
Jun-Aug	Sun 11 May	Thurs 15 May
Sept	Sun 3 Aug	Thurs 7 Aug

What's On

Greenbank Parish Church and Halls 2024-25

We will do our best to facilitate these classes and events.
Please note that groups may sometimes be cancelled
due to circumstances beyond our control

Sundays

Church with Crèche and Young Church	10.30-11.30am
Traditional Dementia-Friendly Services	afternoons (quarterly)
Springboard for P7-S3	morning/evening
Qll for S4 and upwards	7-9pm

Under-5s

Babies & Toddlers (Thursdays & Fridays)	9.45-11.15am
Greenbank Pre-School (Monday-Friday)	8.25am-3.30pm

Youth Groups

Rainbows	Thursdays 6-7pm
Brownies	Mondays 6-7.30pm & Wednesdays 6.30-7.45pm
Beavers	Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm
Cubs	Thursdays 6.30-8.00pm
Scouts / Explorer Scouts	Fridays 7-9.30pm

Church Groups

Guild	Tuesdays fortnightly, 2-4.30pm
Guild Work Party (knitting etc)	Thursdays fortnightly, 2-4pm
Church Choir	Thursdays 7-9.30pm
Ladies' Badminton	Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

Groups for Everyone

Badminton Club	Mondays 7-9pm
Capital Voices Choir	Tuesdays 7-9pm
Edina Country Dancers	Wednesdays 7-9.30pm
Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra	Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm
Emilia's Art Club	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Friendship Club (for over-60s)	Wednesdays fortnightly, 2-4pm
Greenbank Singers	Wednesdays fortnightly, 2-3.45pm
NCT Antenatal Classes	various
Pilates	Mondays 5-8pm; Tuesdays 10.30am-12.30pm; Tuesdays 6-7pm; Thursdays 9.30-11.30am
RSCDS Country Dancing	Tuesdays 8-9.30pm; Saturdays 9.30-11.15am
Stagecoach Performing Arts	Thursdays 5-8pm; Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm
Taoist Tai Chi	Tuesdays 6.30-8pm
Yoga (Trish)	Mondays 6.15-7.15pm
Yoga (Syra)	Tuesdays 9.30-10.30am; Tuesdays 6.45-9pm; Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm; Fridays 9.30am-12noon

If you would like to book a room for a business meeting or children's party,
or to run an activity or club, please email hallsbookings@greenbankchurch.org
or contact us via the Halls section of our website www.greenbankchurch.org

Welcome Teams

September

- 1 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 8 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black, John Kalu
- 15 **Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 22 **Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay
- 29 **Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Margot Gillon

October

- 6 **Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Rod-erick Morrison, Jim Young, Elaine McRae, Jane Harkin

Flower Rota

provided by delivered by

September

- 1 Vivien Hutchison Hayley Ferguson
- 8 Kathryn Sangster Moira Little
- 15 Sheila Somerville Jan Corbett
- 22 Chrissie Munro Frances Wallace
- 29 Joan Ritchie Pam Jack

October

- 6 **Harvest**
Grace Maweu Catherine Cameron & Anne Ratter



The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Locum Minister: Rev Ian Gilmour
phone: 07794 149852
email: IGilmour@churchofscotland.org.uk

Administrator: Jackie Wilson-Tagoe
phone: 0131 447 9969
email: office@greenbankchurch.org

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

Items for the *Weekly Newsletter* should be sent by **Thursdays** to:

greenbankweekly@gmail.com

Material for the **October** issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by **Sunday 15th September**, or sent by e-mail by 8pm on **Thursday 19th September** to:

greenbankconnections@gmail.com

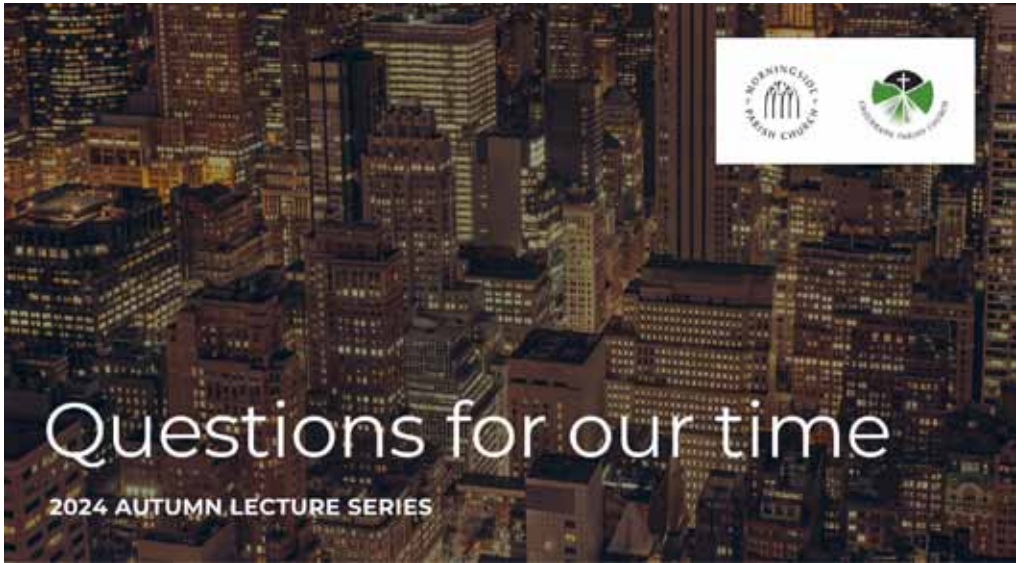
Coffee Rota

September

- 1 Pre School
- 8 Hazel Macaulay D69
- 15 Helen & Phil Barnes D39, 42 & 89
- 22 John Ferguson D60
- 29 Janet Edwards World Church Group

October

- 6 Diana Hastings D33



Questions for our time

2024 AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES

The lectures will be held in Greenbank Parish Church on Braidburn Terrace at 7pm, preceded by refreshments at 6.30pm. The lectures will last approximately one hour, including time for questions. They will be livestreamed, with the recordings also available via the churches' websites.



8 SEPT

The Justice Call

Joy Gillespie is CEO of Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland, an adviser to the Scottish Government, and a board member of Poverty Alliance and GoYouth Trust.



15 SEPT

Assisted Dying

Rev Dr Liam Fraser is minister of St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow. He is the author of "Atheism, Fundamentalism and the Protestant Reformation" (2018) and "Mission in Contemporary Scotland"



22 SEPT

Searching for Renewal in the Mainstream Church

Rev Neil Glover is a parish minister in Highland Perthshire and the author of "Finding our Voice" (2024). He convenes the Church of Scotland's Seeds for Growth

Greenbank Church at 7pm · Refreshments from 6.30pm
Livestream at [greenbankchurch.org](https://www.greenbankchurch.org)

Entry by donation