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Letter from the Locum



Garden thoughts...

Did you know that Edinburgh has more green spaces than any other city in Europe? You will have your favourite spots from the 'Botanics' at Inverleith to Princes Street or a more local garden. It might even be your own plot, whether little or large.

Through the centuries humans have enjoyed, even relished gardens. I tend to agree with Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC), "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." However, there are so many other good thoughts on this subject, "The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul." (Alfred Austin).

George Bernard Shaw suggested, "The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for him there."

It is a vast and important topic. Daniel Webster commented, “Let us not forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labour of man. When tillage begins, other arts will follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization.” Gardens do not just appear either. Kipling put it this way, “Gardens are not made by singing ‘Oh, how beautiful,’ and sitting in the shade.”

One writer, H. Jackson Brown Jr, asks us to think as well as act, “Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.” From the beginning of the Bible (Genesis Chapters 1 and 2) we hear of the Creator shaping a garden, “Now the Lord God planted a garden in

the east”(Gen 2). In a sense, order combats chaos in a good garden, and it needs constant work. Let us consider our personal love of gardens this summer. I leave you with Phyllis Theroux’s words and a prayer from St Francis to help you ponder:

“I think this is what hooks one to gardening: it is the closest one can come to being present at creation.”

From St Francis of Assisi.

*Praise be for our Mother the Earth,
which sustains and keeps us,
bringing forth diverse fruits,
flowers of many colours and grass.*

Have a good and happy summer.

Blessings,

Ian Gilmour
Locum Minister



Christian Aid Pedalling

A truly fantastic effort by our Locum Minister, Ian, and his daughter Jennifer in completing the Étape Caledonia last week!

The hills around Pitlochry were conquered on a very hot day, raising a magnificent £3000+ (with gift aid) for Christian Aid Week. Ian says they especially enjoyed the long downhill! Their fundraising page remains open for a few weeks

<https://tinyurl.com/pedalling-around>

Rachel McWilliam

Thought for the Month

Care Giving

Donating money to charity is a tricky business! There has to be trust in the organisation – trust that nearly all of the money we give them will go to the intended recipients. We appreciate that a large charity employs people who have to be paid, and that the charity needs to advertise itself to let us know why they need our support. But such expenses have to be kept in check; the bulk of the money donated should go to the intended beneficiaries.

The logo for Lendwithcare, featuring the word "lendwithcare" in a sans-serif font. "lendwith" is in dark blue, "care" is in orange, and "with" is in a lighter blue.

With these considerations in mind, an organisation I would like to commend is **Lendwithcare**, part of CARE International UK. **Lendwithcare** is a charity: it facilitates microloans to entrepreneurs in developing countries, with all of the loan going directly to the entrepreneur. The platform also relies on voluntary donations to cover operational and growth costs.

Here's how it works:

1) It starts with an idea: From launching a scrap recycling busi-

ness to diversifying crops and everything in between, entrepreneurs living in low-income countries are bursting with ideas – all they need is a helping hand to get started.

2) The entrepreneur requests a loan: Entrepreneurs approach one of **Lendwithcare's** local development partners for a loan. If their plans show promise the loan is approved and they are given the go-ahead to get started.

3) You lend to an entrepreneur: The local partner adds the entrepreneur's profile to the **Lendwithcare** website (lendwithcare.org/), where they will join other entrepreneur profiles from different locations across the globe. You can browse all the entrepreneurs available for funding and choose which you'd like to support, by lending them £15 or more.

4) The business grows: After an entrepreneur receives their **Lendwithcare** funding, which will have been provided by many individual contributions, they get to work starting or expanding their small business. **Lendwithcare** tries to keep each entrepreneur profile updated, so you can see on their website how a business is progressing.





Guild

Dates for your diary

Summer Coffee Mornings

The Guild are hosting four Coffee Mornings during the Summer. Everyone is welcome, entry is free, but we would be grateful if visitors gave a donation for the Projects we are supporting in Scotland this year. Information about these Projects will be available.

As usual there will be home baking, tea and coffee and a chance to chat with friends or meet new friends.

The dates are **Tuesday 3rd June, Tuesday 1st July, Tuesday 12th August, and Tuesday 2nd September.**

All at 10.30am in the Main Hall at Greenbank Church.

Looking forward to seeing you!



Edith Armit

/contd Thought for the Month

5) Your loan is repaid: Entrepreneurs pay back their loans in instalments to local partners, who in turn transfer the repayments to **Lendwithcare**, who credit the repayment to your account. (99% of all loans are eventually repaid in full, a remarkable statistic.)

6) You decide what happens next: When a loan is repaid, the vast majority of lenders choose to reinvest, i.e. make further loans. You can also withdraw the credit if you wish or make a donation to support **Lendwithcare's** operating costs.

I have supported **Lendwithcare** for many years, and have met the small team which runs it. I log in from time to time to see how much money is

in my own account; if it is over £15 I usually make another loan. I may top up the amount in my account, or may choose to donate to **Lendwithcare** running costs. I have never withdrawn money, but theoretically I could. The fact that I can track the progress of all the entrepreneurs I currently support throughout the world (Palestine Territories, Malawi, Philippines, Rwanda, Cambodia, Ecuador, etc.) is remarkable.

Lendwithcare demonstrates how thoughtful use of the Internet can enable us to help others, carefully and effectively – and know who we are helping.

John Murison

Greenbank Pre School Eco-Report

We provide extensive opportunities for children to explore with all their senses and to begin to understand the biodiversity of their world and how to care for it. We aim to build awareness in our youngest learners about the impact of their own actions on the rest of the world.

The children are encouraged to understand the importance of conserving energy and why wasting energy can affect animals and habitats. To save energy, staff turn off lights that are not needed and keep doors that lead outside closed as much as possible. Children are encouraged to walk, use public transport, their scooter or bikes to get to Greenbank – we have a termly review of how children get to Pre School and log their responses on a bar chart. We discuss energy and its link to climate change, look at alternative and clean energy, and record the children's ideas on floor stories which are used to explore the impact of climate change on people and animals.

Let's talk rubbish: children's thoughts and ideas are recorded in floor stories, leading to discussion about what people throw away and how we might be able to reuse it. We aim to have a litter-free environment with children's growing



The repotted Tree of Life

understanding of the importance of disposing of litter properly – the children use litter pickers and regularly weigh their wastepaper, keeping a record. We have a wormery and feed foxes (not in Greenbank) – food that the worms and foxes don't eat contributes to the Council's food waste collection to create energy.

The BIG DIG afternoon is a massive part of our Eco-Community

initiative, and this year took place on 11th May – a gloriously sunny afternoon. Families and staff gave generously of their time as well as gardening and DIY skills. Lots of seedlings were potted on, other seeds sown, a tree re-potted. The dead plum tree was removed giving more room for the two apple trees in the lowest garden. Walls (and clothes) were whitewashed and a new mud kitchen built. We are going to create a den and rebuild the water feature which should enable us to collect rainwater for the garden. We are preparing to enter the POCKET PICNIC GARDEN competition and



Flowers below the willows

have a planter growing edible and medicinal plants.

Joan Ritchie
Chair, Management Committee
Greenbank Pre School



The Pocket Picnic Garden of edibles

Thoughtful Story

It was a frosty, black December night. I was driving along the motorway to Mum's house after a busy day at work as Mum was ill and in need of help. I got her settled in bed but in the morning it was obvious things were deteriorating and I had to call her GP. The outcome was to admit her to hospital and it was agreed that me taking her would be quicker than waiting for an ambulance. I hurriedly packed a case with essentials and we made it to the drop-off area at Ninewells Hospital. Now I needed a wheelchair.

There were none to be found, anywhere.

I was getting anxious wondering how I was going to get Mum to the ward. I was sent to the porters, who were less than helpful, so I headed back towards the car worrying about how Mum was. Just then I spotted someone abandoning a hospital wheelchair and I ran over to ask if I could have it – yes, I could! All I had to do now was get Mum into it. Somehow we managed and, with Mum wrapped in a blanket, I picked up her case in one hand and tried to push the wheelchair with the other. Easier said than done. I was struggling to make any progress and getting frustrated and emotional. I really needed to get Mum to the ward. Just then behind me a calm voice said 'It's much

easier to pull the chair. Can I carry the case for you?' I turned the chair and, sure enough, pulling it was a doddle! The relief!

The voice belonged to a smiling lady who continued to carry the case down the path and the long corridor. She melted away as suddenly as she had appeared saying 'No problem' as I thanked her profusely.

She will never know what a huge difference that small, thoughtful act of kindness and valuable piece of advice on that day made to me – and to my Mum. It felt as if that smiling lady was an angel, sent to my aid in my moment of need. Have you had an angel moment?

Anne Kinnear



the Arty Church group made this donkey

Arty Church Greenbank Logo Collage

One of the craft options at **Arty Church** was reimagining the Greenbank Church logo. Emilia provided lightboxes and copies of the Greenbank Logo which we traced onto white paper. She also gave us the use of her club's materials and collage papers.



I followed Valerie's example and chose a map as my first collage paper – we sometimes need a map to help us find the **Way**. I spotted brightly coloured paper that reminded me of the colours of the rainbow – **Hope**. I added some dark



sections for our **dark times** (one of these was cut from a picture of trousers in an advertisement; another was from a building lit up by purple light – you can make out the windows if you zoom in). There is a small section of a paved path – **The Way**. I cut out the top section from a field of yellow (possibly oil seed rape) – this reminds me of feeding the hungry and the bright yellow of Spring. Finally, I added the cross – the **Resurrection**.

Joan Ritchie





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; many thanks to everyone who has donated items.

If you have any small electrical items, kitchenware or household items in good condition which you think may be of use, please consider donating them to Fresh Start. Items can either be taken directly to Fresh Start on Ferry Road Drive (see website details below) or contact me to arrange a convenient time for collection or drop off items locally.

Further information on Fresh Start and items suitable for donation can be found at

www.freshstartweb.org.uk

Goods you donate help to make up starter packs provided to those in need who are setting up a new home. If you do not currently have items for donation, there are other ways you can help:

1. You may consider making a purchase in the Fresh Start virtual shop www.freshstartweb.org.uk/shop to provide all or part of the packs made available.
2. Alternatively, you can donate new essential items, which Fresh Start regularly has to purchase for starter packs to meet demand. If you would like to donate by purchasing essential items via Amazon, please do so by using the Fresh Start wish list: tinyurl.com/Fresh-start-wish-list
3. Lastly, financial donations can also be made using the JustGiving on the Fresh Start website (under Donate). www.justgiving.com/freshstart-edinburgh

Eileen MacKinnon

Greenbank Holiday Club for P1-P7

4-8 August
10am-12.15pm
each day

**A Tale
of
Two Kings**
£25 (£5/day)

To register, go to
www.greenbankchurch.org



Church of Scotland's Tabeetha School, Israel

Last month Valerie Macniven asked who knew that the Church of Scotland had a school in Jaffa, Israel, called Tabeetha School. Well, I for one knew because – I taught there in 1964!!

At that time, Tabeetha School also had a hostel, and I was employed as a youth worker there and to take PE classes at the school. In fact, I also had a personal aim to learn Hebrew! I had been attending Aberdeen University and having failed my French exam, I learned that if I studied Hebrew, not only could that be my degree language, it also cut out a lot of work in the future divinity course on which my mind was set!! When I failed my first Hebrew exam, I found myself in the employ of the Church of Scotland at Tabeetha School. After six months in Israel, I returned to pass my Hebrew exam and graduate from university.

However, the experience of youth work and teaching gazzumped my thoughts of divinity and with a Social Work Course and Teaching qualification, I headed into the residential environment of youngsters, whose emotional and socially-damaged attitudes were a challenge to their home, school and environment.



Thirty years later I was to retire as Headteacher to youngsters under sixteen years of age whose behaviour required them to be held in secure accommodation. This was a bit of a far cry from the children of diverse backgrounds and nationalities who studied together at Tabeetha School, as they began to understand and respect each other's cultures. Nevertheless, Tabeetha School pointed me to a direction of service for which I will always be grateful.

פולש

Shalom

Peace be unto you.

Ian Thom



Over 13,000 men and women work in the UK's toughest and most dangerous peacetime occupation - deep sea fishing - daily facing death and injury. Established in 1881, following the Black Friday tragedy in Eyemouth, the Fishermen's Mission works day and night responding to calls for help. With the motto "preach the word; heal the sick", they originally operated from a fleet of boats, meeting with fishermen while they worked. Evolving with the fishing industry, they currently provide 24-hour mini-centres with facilities and welfare officers around the UK.

Scotland is split into six areas with mission centres around the coast-

line. One centre is in Troon, opened in 2006, covering from Annan right up as far as Gourock and caring for migrant fishermen from all over the world who work on UK fishing boats. Foreign fishermen come with a restricted visa in which they need to prove the boat is spending 90% of the time outside the 12-mile limit and they are restricted to the harbour area. The vast majority of the skippers and boat owners care for their crew and there are foreign crews who have worked here for years quite happily.

Unfortunately, not all the fishermen who come here have been treated as they had expected or as we might consider acceptable. For over a decade the Fishermen's Mission in Troon have found themselves supporting men who had been trafficked here to work for

a Scottish fishing company which appears not to have treated them well.

In August 2024, a BBC investigation into the treatment of foreign fishermen in Scottish waters found that 35 men from the Philippines, Ghana, India and Sri Lanka, had been recognised as



Outside the Troon Mission



/contd Fishermen's Mission

victims of modern slavery by the Home Office after being referred to it between 2012 and 2020; initially it was mainly people from the Philippines who were involved but recruitment operations later switched from East Asia to West Africa.

The foreign fishermen come here through agents in their home countries, having signed contracts that they may not have fully understood and often taking out substantial loans as part of the process. The Fishermen's Mission provides invaluable support to this group of highly vulnerable people.

Further details of the Fishermen's Mission can be found at

www.fishermensmission.org.uk/

and their Troon centre at

www.fishermensmission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Scotland-Network.pdf

**Alex Morrow
World Mission**

Coffee Rota

June

- 1 Choir
- 8 Susan Inch & Chris Horne
- 15 Katy Maguire
- 22 Christina Morrow
- 29 Singing Group

July

- 6 Joan Ritchie
- 13 Julia Dunbar
- 20 Eco-Group
- 27 Nora Kellock

August

- 3 Gillie Davidson
- 10 Vivien Hutchison
- 17 tbc
- 24 Lorna Perriss
- 31 David Jack

Flower Rota

provided by

delivered by

June

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Ina Weir | Heather Kay |
| 8 Caroline Kehoe | Alison Kerr |
| 15 Eleanor Winton | Christina Black |
| 22 Diana Teasdale | Alison Murison |
| 29 Robin Searl | Moirra Davidson |

July

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 6 Kathleen Patrick | Diana Teasdale |
| 13 Joshua Munyao | Cathie Maclennan |
| 20 Katy Maguire | Helena Dutton |
| 27 Moira Davidson | Frances Wallace |

August

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 3 Michael Struthers | Ishbel Clark |
| 10 Diana Teasdale | Rosemary Collier |
| 17 Alison Murison | Sheena Marshall |
| 24 Gillian Sweetman | Mandy Hunter |
| 31 Vivien Hutchison | Pam Jack |

September

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 7 Kathryn Sangster | Hayley Ferguson |
|--------------------|-----------------|

Welcome Teams

June

- 1 Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Margot Gillon
- 8 Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 15 Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay
- 22 Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Jane Harkin
- 29 Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison

July

- 6 Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 13 John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden, Catherine Cameron
- 20 Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small
- 27 Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black

August

- 3 Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 10 Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Margot Gillon
- 17 Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay

The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

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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 **September** issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by **Sunday 3rd August** or sent by e-mail by **8pm on Thursday 7th August** to:

greenbankconnections@gmail.com

24 Donald King, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Jane Harkin

31 Stuart Sanders, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison

September

7 Keith Winton, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small

We're having a party!

Quest & QII

are celebrating 80 years of adventure at Greenbank
Church

Save the date –

**Saturday evening and Sunday morning
27th–28th September 2025**

to step back and share happy days and lasting
friendships.

*We hope you can join us for food, ceilidh dancing and
entertainment.*

Please help us to spread the word to all former
Quest and QII members.

We will be in touch again soon to reveal
further details of the 'revue' of 2025.

Watch this space!

To keep up to date with plans, please register your interest
at **quest@greenbankchurch.org** or contact
the church office on **0131 447 9969**