

Greenbank Connections



September 2025

Issue 736

Scottish Charity SC011325



Greenbank Beavers see "Scouting at Greenbank" p16

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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Letter from the Locum



Did you hear about the Rabbi, the Minister and the Pope?

The Rabbi, to whom I am referring, was the late Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. One of my daughters and I were much impressed when he spoke in Edinburgh early in this millennium. He often invited his listeners to raise their thoughts towards a different horizon. One might wonder what he would be saying about the current horrible situation in Gaza. He was always concerned as to what we learn from conflicts. He said in one of his radio addresses, *"The real test of a society is not the absence of crises, but whether we come out of them cynical and disillusioned, or strengthened by our rededication to high ideals."*

And he reckoned that if you are in the wrong, you need to stand up, take responsibility and say, *"I apologise. And now let us work to put it right. The capacity for honest*

self-criticism is what allows us to weather a storm without losing our way." He titled that address 'The Age of Greed'.

The minister is me. I am trying to lead the congregation through Luke's gospel week by week in Greenbank Church. Sometimes Jesus' words on greed need very little commentary. This is the Bible reading from Sunday concerning a rich fool, who said to himself;

"Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?" And Jesus concluded, "This is how it is with those who pile up riches for themselves but are not rich in God's sight." (Luke Ch 12 vs. 19-21).

The Pope is the recently elected Pope Leo XIV, who has encouraged

Christians to be open and rich in God's sight in a recent address:

"I am not asking you to believe in everything. I am asking you not to close the door. Give a chance to God who waits for you without judgement.

I am just a priest who saw God in the smile of a woman who lost her son and yet cooked for others.

That changed me.

So, if you are broken, if you don't believe, if you are tired of lies ... come anyway. With your anger, your doubt... because this Church, as long as I breathe, will be a home for the homeless, and a rest for the weary.

God doesn't need soldiers. He needs brothers and sisters."

Is it fair to say God has work for us all to do, locally and globally?

Please work and pray for peace.

Enjoy the season of autumn.

Ian Gilmour
Locum Minister

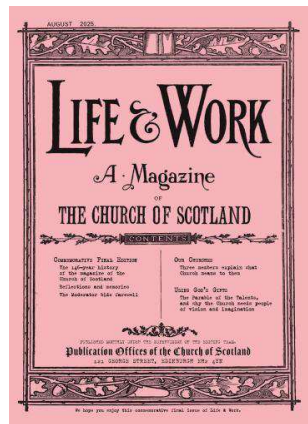
Goodbye to Life & Work

The magazine is closing down after 146 years . It was published this month with a Final Edition to form a Celebration.

It includes:

- The 146-year history of the magazine of the Church of Scotland.
- Reflections and memories, The Moderator bids farewell.

Tom Baldwin



Christian Aid Week Fundraising

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our fundraising for Christian Aid Week 2025. This year there was lots going on and we wish to thank everyone who donated, delivered envelopes, cycled (Ian and Jennifer), baked and sold cakes (Young Church), grew plants (John), or bought plants and cakes. We raised the amazing sum of £6,790, including Gift Aid.

Save the Date -

Saturday 25th October, 7pm

We are delighted to be hosting the Heart and Soul Swing Band in a concert to raise funds for Christian Aid. The band was founded by the Rev Dr Robin Hill, Minister at Longniddry

Parish Church. They have performed at charity events across Scotland. The concert will last for around 90 minutes and then tea and coffee will be available in the Main Hall.

We are supported in this event by our neighbouring churches, and we are pleased to be working together to raise money for this important charity, campaigning and taking action against poverty. Entry is free, and there will be an opportunity to donate at the end of the evening. We would love to fill the church with people of all ages; we are looking forward to a fun evening with lots of good music.

Fiona Watt
Christian Aid Coordinator

South African Outreach

Our recent visit to my family in South Africa coincided with our church's annual mission week / holiday club. The church reaches out to the local disadvantaged communities and around 150 kids attended the week of Bible stories, activities, and memory verses. Central to this was feeding them! Anja and Malachi attended and also helped peel enough carrots to make five huge pots of soup! It was really encouraging to see the church crammed full of kids, singing, and finding hope. I did find myself thinking of Green-

bank and hoping we can find lots of ways to encourage children and youth to get involved with church.

Hayley Ferguson



Making Carrot Soup

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; 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 web-site 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 donated 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:

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.

Alternatively, you can donate new essential items.. If you would like to donate by purchasing essential items via Amazon, please use the wish list:

tinyurl.com/Fresh-start-wish-list

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

www.justgiving.com/freshstartedinburgh

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, 7.15-8.45pm, from September to April.

Over 18s only, £7 per visit. You must have your own racket. We are unable to provide coaching for beginners.

For further information on joining or visiting, contact me

Gillian Robinson

Young Church

Young Church 1:

Play or Sleep

This group is for babies and all pre-school aged children. We have a small group of adults who will be happy to care for your child while you stay in church. For pre-schoolers there are lots of toys, games and stories.

Every Sunday during the 10.30am service all year.

Young Church 2:

This is for Primary school children up to P6. Children go into the

church for the first part of the service then they can leave for stories, crafts and activities in the Hermitage room. We have a small but regular group of children ranging from P1-P6.

Every Sunday during school terms. If you would like to find out more, please contact

Hazel Mclachlan
Young Church Administrator



Young Church Summer Outing

Guild



The Guild is a church-based organisation for men and women which usually meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month to enjoy a very wide range of speakers, on topics as different as the *Research work at Edinburgh Zoo* into supporting endangered species, through *Renegade Monk and Run away Nun* (an extraordinary story about two very interesting people of great importance to the Reformation and history of our church) to *Stained Glass* and *Haggis Breeding*.

The **National Guild** of the Church of Scotland's (CofS) current programme for three years is **Let us build a House**. This includes *Sure Foundations*, *Living Stones* and *Beyond the Walls*. Until Christmas we are supporting two **CrossReach** programmes. (CrossReach is the social services arm of the CofS.) We continue to support **Scottish Love in Action***.

Research shows that parents who attend to their own emotional and psychological needs are in a better position to respond to their infants' cues and engage with them in positive ways. The Guild will support specialist perinatal therapy with crèche support at **Sunflower Garden****. The team there delivers

Parent and Infant Relationship therapy.

We support **Daisy Chain***** a community based, inclusive, early intervention project for children under 12, and their families. In 2026 we will be supporting a Project

in Egypt to improve life in a very poor Christian area where families currently find it impossible to make their houses weatherproof.

In the past three years we have raised £3,405.60 for Projects by donations at meetings and Coffee Mornings

Meetings are held in the Braid Room on alternate Tuesdays, at 2.30 pm. We also have a Christmas party and a Summer Outing each year. Details of coming topics are announced in *Connections* and the *Weekly e-Newsletter*. All are welcome. Come along to any you might be interested in and meet a friendly, chatty (very), bunch of people.

Edith Armit

* <https://www.sla-india.org/>

** crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/sunflower-garden

*** crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/daisy-chain-early-years-project

Friendship Club

Friendship Club is a Community Club supported by the Church and open to all. It aims to inspire and entertain with fortnightly meetings during the winter months.

The Club meets at 2.00pm starting with a talk or entertainment. Tea and biscuits follow and much chatter where new friendships are made or old ones continued.

We begin on Wednesday 15th October (on the comfortable chairs in the Braid Room) with Roy Johnstone talking about the Six Wives of Henry VIII. The next meeting on 29th October, George Anderson (of Beechgrove Garden fame) will talk about his life in horticulture.

Events include a Christmas Party, A Summer Tea Party and Summer Coffee Mornings. All these 12 meetings and four coffee mornings are covered by the annual subscription of £25 or £3 per meeting. If you are new, please come for a free meeting first.

We look forward to meeting you; maybe you can join us for our final coffee morning in the Hermitage Room at 10.30am on 10th September. If you would like more information or help with getting to the meetings, please contact David.

**David Allan
Gillian Sweetman**

Singing Group



This group is for anyone who likes singing. We're not a choir. You don't have to be good, just enjoy singing. We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon, led by Alan Irvine, to sing a wide variety of songs with the emphasis on enjoyment. We sing for around an hour, followed by a cup of tea or coffee, and chat. There is a voluntary contribution of £2 to cover the music and the refreshments.

We start back on Wednesday 10th September at 2pm.

For more information please email the office

Alan Irvine

Work Party



This year the Work Party has received some very generous donations from the Guild and from members of the congregation. We are very grateful for this as the yarn we buy is becoming more expensive.

We hope we can encourage more people to join us and knit for our charities as the need is still increasing. Even if you only knit a few squares or a hat it would all help!

Our meetings are held fortnightly from 2-4pm in the Hermitage Room when we return our knitting and collect more wool and patterns. Our first meeting after the summer break will be held on **Thursday**,

25th September and, as always, we shall be delighted to welcome new members at any of our meetings.

If you would like to help us but are unable to attend our meetings, you can become one of our “outworkers” and receive yarn and patterns for knitting at home.

Anne Oxbrow

Social Justice Action Group

Greenbank’s Social Justice Action Group seeks to raise awareness of injustice and related issues amongst the congregation and the wider community in our area.

With a recently expanded membership, it is sustaining links with our local MP and MSP, promoting action to overcome the plight of prisoners and their families in Scotland, and supporting our existing patterns of giving to the Open Hand project and other causes.

The group intends to focus on child poverty, locally and nationally, in the coming autumn and winter season and is hoping to promote events and information which are informative and relevant to the extremes of poverty evident in Edinburgh. Lobbying for public policy change and other actions are also under consideration.

If you feel like being involved in activity in this area, please contact me for further information.

David Jack

Safe Listening Place and The Information Station

Safe Listening Place

Finding somewhere safe to share worrying issues that are affecting us can be hard. No one should need to face these alone. If you have concerns or are worried about a loved one, confidential help is on hand, a listening ear and support if needed to find the right pathway to appropriate expert help.

You can call our designated confidential phone line on: 07516990889 between 10am and 12noon on the first Sunday of every month. The phone line is managed mainly by someone who has no connection to Greenbank.

The Information Station

We all experience challenges in everyday living. Bereavement, the

endurance of long term mental and physical illness which impacts on the person suffering and those who are caring for them, relationship struggles, financial worries and so much more.

Here you can find various leaflets and contact details for many external agencies designed to help and support. Please stop by and have a browse or a chat to one of our team, who are always happy to provide a safe listening ear. You can visit us at the Information Station on the last Sunday of the month in the Main Hall during coffee time. Our new display stand is always available in the corridor outside the Main Hall.

Safe Listening Place Team

Baby and Toddler Group at Greenbank

The Baby and Toddler group meets on Thursday and Friday mornings during term time in the church's Main Hall. There are lots of super toys for the children to play with whilst parents and carers can catch up over coffee and home baking.

The groups run from 9.45am to 11.15am and entry is via the church office door where someone will welcome you. A healthy snack is provided for the children and a donation of £2 per session is invited.

This last year has been great fun with Hallowe'en and Christmas parties!

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

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 check out our Facebook page at:

[Greenbank Baby and Toddler Group](#)
or contact me.

Kirsten Pink

News from An Open Hand

It is almost four years now since *An Open Hand* first launched in Greenbank Church. Over that time, we have grown from providing birthday gifts to six families in 2021, 49 in 2022, 61 in 2023 and finally 125 in 2024. We have delivered books and games in the family bag to 11 siblings in 2021, 78 in 2022, 102 in 2023 and 238 in 2024. We also now have contact with 39 organisations, schools or churches in Edinburgh.

Greenbank Church members have been central to supporting us with resources and prayer, and in providing the funds for the birthday gifts and family bags. We are extremely grateful for this past and ongoing support. With the increasing costs of gifts and applications, we have looked to additional income sources, and in doing so have decided to become a registered charity to be able to apply for small grants and funds. We are making initial preparations for this and hope to apply in the next month or so. We hope that our relationship with Greenbank will remain just as close as it is now as we strongly feel part of the Church and its outreach.

Recently we have made a small addition to the family



bag of a carefully wrapped mug containing tea and coffee for our parents. We wanted to bless them with a small gift as we bring gifts for their children and hope they can sit for a few

minutes resting and knowing they are thought of and valued. We continue to offer 'Try Praying' books to all parents and these are still very well received.

We are going to host a soup lunch in early November and hope to see you then! Many thanks again for your wonderful support and we would be so grateful for your continued prayers that we take the right path with this project.

Katie Bogie



Greenbank Pre School

Pre School for many years now has operated as a Funded Partner with City of Edinburgh Council for 3–5-year-olds, based in the Centenary Hall. Under the guidance of our innovative teacher/manager, Kyra Okoth, the children and staff enjoy their time at Greenbank.

Following a visit from HMIE in June 2024 the inspectors reported that they found highly motivated children who were engaged and showed perseverance in their learning. They explored play spaces confidently and showed creativity and imagination. Children played well together, sharing resources and ideas. Staff's skilful interactions and highly responsive approach met children's needs and interests. They knew children very well and had created a calm and nurturing learning environment. The rich indoor and outdoor learning spaces helped children develop a wide range of skills very well. Open-ended resources and child-led experiences supported children to observe, explore and solve simple problems.

At Pre School the children are encouraged to care for the environment – to support this we entered the **Keep Scotland Beautiful Pocket Picnic Garden Competition** earlier this year. In June we received

a Pocket Garden Design winners' certificate. The pocket garden supplies food and shelter for pollinators and other minibeasts. Food we grow will be enjoyed by the children.



The pocket picnic garden as it looked in June

Topics the children have explored this session include transport, travel and engineering.

Further information is available on our website

www.greenbankpreschool.org

where you will also find our application form. Applications are taken from when children turn two. For availability of places please contact us through the website or phone 0131 447 8068.

Joan Ritchie
Chair
Management Committee

World Church Group

Do it Fair in 2025

Consumers increasingly feel the world is unfair and feel powerless to change it, but Fairtrade offers a simple, accessible way to make a difference. The balance is tipped when farmers work with Fairtrade to improve their livelihoods. Originally the Fairtrade movement was about fairer wages for farmers but increasingly it's about supporting them to adapt their farming, in order to manage the impact of climate change.

Greenbank's World Church Group will offer a variety of True Origin Fairtrade products

trueoriginfoods.co.uk/

at a stall after the morning service on Sunday 21st September. This will be just ahead of Fairtrade Fortnight, taking place from 22nd September to 5th October. Do come along and browse our stall, or if you can't make it, please look out for Fairtrade products in local stores



– maybe you'll find something you haven't come across before.

By choosing Fairtrade-certified products and advocating for fair trade practices, we can contribute to a more equitable and sustainable global economy.

Do it fair, brew it fair, chew it fair, sip it fair, pick it fair, grow it fair, buy it fair and wear it fair.

Janet Edwards
World Church Group



Displays in Pre School

Holiday Club 2025



Some of the Volunteers



Rehearsing the action song at the volunteers' morning meeting





The story for the week was of David's slaying of Goliath, hence the catapults (right), shields (biscuits), Kings and castles.



Action Songs in the church

Scouting at Greenbank

Greenbank Church is home to a thriving Beaver Colony, Cub Pack, Scout Troop and Explorer Unit, and has been for 92 years! We've been busy again this year, with lots of adventures, skills learned, and memories made.

Explorers (aged 14-18) meet on Fridays from 7.15-9.30pm and had a great year. Activities included First Aid, Bake Off, Debate Night, Interview Skills, Kayaking, concluding with a summer BBQ at Yellowcraig Beach. Camps were held at an indoor Christmas camp at Forfar, a ski weekend at Glenshee, and locally at Bonaly. A highlight was the expedition to Northern Ireland where 46 Explorers visited for eight days, climbing Slieve Donard, its highest mountain (that's four UK peaks since 2022 for those counting), surf lessons at Portrush, and two days

exploring Belfast, its political history and learning about the Titanic. Explorers also supports members through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, with Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions taking place over the summer.

The **Scout Troop** (aged 10½-14) has also been busy, meeting on Friday nights between 7.15pm and 9.15pm. Activities included home skills, Scout skills, cycling, hiking, volunteering in Braidburn Valley Park, visiting the Gang Show, teambuilding challenges, kayaking and the Global Issues badge. There was an October weekend near Crieff, an indoor winter camp near Forfar, two ski weekends at Glenshee, Spring Camp near Callander, May Camp activity weekend at Fordell Firs, and our traditional week-long



Explorer Scouts at the Titanic Exhibition

Summer Camp near Crieff. Scouts took part in an overnight hike, canoeing, archery, local visits, river swimming as well as campfires and open fire cooking. In September, we were proud to win the District Flag camping competition at Bonaly for Scouts across the Braid District.

Cubs (aged 8-10½) enjoyed a busy year focusing on learning practical skills and achieving badges such as emergency first aid, fire safety, pioneering, science, and navigation. Recent activities included visits to the Gang Show and the Police Station, local hikes, DIY, swimming and a (planned!) visit from the Fire Brigade. A November weekend offered Cubs the opportunity to have fun staying overnight at Bonaly. Older Cubs also had a night camping there in May. The Cubs meet on Thursdays from 6.30-8pm.

Beavers (aged 6-8) meet on Tuesdays from 6.30-7.30pm. They make new friends, play games and learn skills. Recent activities include laser tag, Burns Night highland games, visiting the local fire station (where everyone took a turn squirting the hose!), a visit from air traffic control, and tubing at Hillend. Beavers worked on their Cooking, Safety and Air Activities badges. Several Beavers also achieved the highest Beaver Award, the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Getting outdoors when

possible, Beavers hiked up Blackford Hill, orienteered in the Hermitage, and cooked damper bread over a campfire. Beavers have been away overnight twice - a skills camp at Bonaly, and a pirate-themed camp at Torphichen - where they built dens and campfires, practised archery and explored a labyrinth in the dark. For some, these fun first stays away from home represent a huge achievement.

We are all very grateful to the Greenbank Church congregation and the wider community for their support throughout the year, particularly at this year's jumble sale which (once again) was the most successful ever! With over 150 young people to support across the four sections, we're always keen to have help from new volunteers. You can assist any of the sections, either working in a team directly with young people or in the background helping with admin. It's lots of fun for any age! The best initial contact is:

4th.enquiries@gmail.com

Niall Morrison



Scout Camp

Brownies

162 Greenbank Brownies meets in the Upper Hall every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 7:45pm. Brownies is open to girls aged 7 to 10 years old.

We work on the GirlGuiding programme with girls completing badges and awards. Girls work independently in small groups to encourage self-government and decision making.

We have also enjoyed a sleepover at South Queensferry with kayak-



ing and paddleboarding at Port Edgar, trips to the local Care home for carol singing, and learnt about our local area with treasure hunts and built bug hotels in Braidburn Valley Park. If you would like to join us and see what Brownies is like, please contact us at

162greenbankbrownies@gmail.com
or register online at

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Tracy Brocklehurst

Edinburgh Stagecoach

Stagecoach students develop their Creative Courage and key life skills through singing, dancing and acting. Working with a brilliant team of professional and experienced teachers, our classes are fun, nurturing and structured to give children the best chance to shine. Running Thursday – Sundays in venues across Edinburgh (and running Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at Greenbank Church).

Tina Strong

edinburgh@stagecoach.co.uk



Laughter Club

We come together to do laughter exercises combined with breathing exercises, which is a fun way to improve your overall health and



mood. Laughter releases feel-good hormones, reduces stress-hormones and acts like a mini workout for your immune system!

It's scientifically proven to lower blood pressure, strengthen your immune system, and improve your overall wellbeing. No sports outfit required, just bring yourself, have a laugh and give your brain a mini holiday. We end the session with a short relaxation and a cup of tea, if you feel like it.

When: on the first Friday of each month at 10am, Hermitage Room;
How to attend: join spontaneously or (preferred) register on:

www.happy-ever-laughter.co.uk

Price: Donation based

Happy Ever Laughter

Emilia's Art Club

A friendly and creative group where children can be creative and learn new artistic skills. It meets in Greenbank Church's Lower Hall on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

www.emiliasartclub.co.uk

Emilia McMenamin



Capital Voices Choir

We are a singing group that provides an opportunity to sing in a relaxed and friendly environment. We welcome people of all ages over 18 and any level of musical ability.

There's no need to worry about an audition - there isn't one. There's no need to be able to read music either. You're welcome to come and try it out to see if you like it - your first session will be free!

We sing mainly pop songs but we have a varied repertoire ranging from current and classic popular, Gospel and soul all the way to traditional African and other world.



We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm, during school term time, at:

Greenbank Parish Church, in the upstairs hall.

Cost per term: £75 waged £70 retired/concession

Vicki Gilmore
Capital Voices Committee member



Morningside Pilates

There are welcoming Pilates classes at Greenbank Church to suit all ages and abilities. Classes operate Monday to Thursday and include Standing and Seated Pilates, Mat-work Pilates from Beginner to Intermediate, and strength focused Pilates with hand-weights and kettlebells.

Please get in touch for more details or a complimentary trial. Autumn block starts on the 11th August.

Joy Black



Syra Yoga

Discover the power of movement and breath with Yoga. Syra offers thoughtfully crafted Vinyasa Flow classes suitable for all levels. Vinyasa is a dynamic style of yoga that links breath with movement, helping you build strength, mobility, and balance in a safe, playful, and supportive environment.

Each class is designed to meet you where you are – whether you're stepping onto the mat for the first time or returning to deepen your practice. Expect an energising flow that will leave you feeling grounded, refreshed, and more connected to your body.

Come and move and breathe with intention.

Please get in touch for more details and booking information.



Syra Fleetwood

YogaBirth – Pregnancy Yoga & Birth Preparation

Join us for our weekly YogaBirth – Pregnancy Yoga & Birth Preparation class. In these longer sessions we have some time to discuss and share information on any topics related to pregnancy, birth, postnatal recovery and motherhood.

Expect gentle but effective stretches, breathing techniques and strengthening poses to help you with any pregnancy aches and pains and prepare for labour. We incorporate gravity-assisting positions and birth breathing

techniques especially designed for labour and birth, whilst incorporating pelvic floor strength and awareness exercises.

You will be safely guided by Marcela, an experienced YogaBirth Teacher, Doula, Birth Educator, Active Birth Teacher, and mum of three.

**Mama Gives Light/
Marcela de León Yoga**



Morningside Hope @ Morningside Parish



All activities below take place at Morningside Parish Church,
2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 6BQ

Dates 2025:

Heart for Art: workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers

Held every Tuesday 11am to 1pm

Annual Art Exhibition: Saturday 29th November

Music And Memories workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers

1st and 3rd Mondays in the month 2- 4pm

September: Mondays 1st & 15th

October: Mondays 6th, 13th* & 20th

November: Mondays 3rd & 17th

December: Monday 1st and Monday 15th (Christmas Party)

* Visit from Nigel's All Stars, Traditional Scottish Music Group

Gentle Exercise Classes dementia friendly but open to all 60+years

The class itself will last 40-45 minutes,

followed by tea, coffee and the chance to chat.

2nd & 4th Mondays in the month 2-4pm

8th & 22nd Sept, 13th & 27th Oct, 10th & 24th Nov,

8th Dec (Christmas Party)

Games Afternoon: open to everyone, these afternoons are a chance to meet up with old and new friends, play our favourite board games, jigsaws etc. and have a coffee and catch up.

Held once a month on a Wednesday afternoon 2-4pm

17th Sept, 15th Oct, 19th Nov, 17th Dec (Christmas Party)

Animal Afternoons: Wednesday 8th October Alpacas 2pm TBC

Dementia Friendly Concerts

The concerts last 40-45mins and are followed by tea and coffee

Sat. 27th Sept 2pm, Strings, Sat 29th Nov Chamber Choir

Interested in attending? Please come along to any of the above,
you will be most welcome.

Interested in volunteering? If you would like to help
with any of these activities, please get in touch.

Jacqui Lindsay
Pastoral Assistant

Morningside Stones and Medieval Stones: Researching a 'lost tradition'

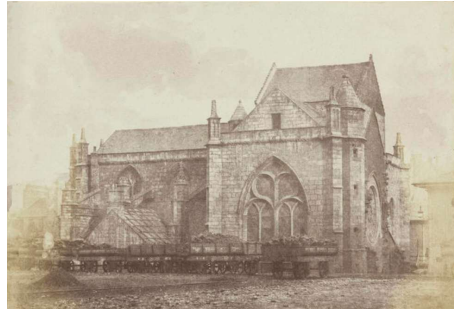
Morningside Heritage Association



(MHA) has been awarded a grant by the Old Edinburgh Club (OEC) to explore connections between 19th-century stonemasons and a number of ornamental stone fragments in a

Morningside wall.

MHA member, Jill Powlett Brown, is searching for documentary evidence that these fragments originated from the 15th-century Trinity Collegiate Church. Following its demolition in 1848 to make way for Waverley Station, the Church stones were stored on and near Calton Hill, pending identification



*Image of Trinity Collegiate Church, 1848
awaiting demolition to make way for
Waverley Station, image Ross and Thomson,
photographers, c. 1847
Source: Royal Collection Trust*

of a site for the Church to be rebuilt in its entirety.

Interested to know more?

Jill's project email is:

Greenbank Walking Group

The Greenbank Walking Group will start up again on Wednesday 3rd September. We meet fortnightly at 10am at or near the church (although we often use our bus passes to go a little further afield). The walks are not strenuous and always include a visit to a coffee shop along the way!

If you would like some gentle exercise and a chat with others you may or may not know, you are very welcome to join us.



Please get in touch with me for further details.

Tom Inglis

Caring for Creation at Greenbank Church

At Greenbank Church, we see environmental stewardship as a vital expression of our faith. As a Gold Award Eco-Congregation, we are committed to improving our environmental impact through practical, spiritual and global actions, guided by our enthusiastic Eco-Group.

Recent Highlights:



An Evening with Patrick Grant

The Great British Sewing Bee judge shared memories of Morningside, our church and halls, and urged us to buy less and buy better.



Edinburgh Repair Café

In February, over 80 visitors brought items for repair, from a gramophone to a teddy bear. We look forward to hosting the Café again in Spring.



Pipe Insulation

We're insulating church heating pipes using sisal, a sustainable natural fibre, cutting emissions and costs.



Greening Our Grounds

Our new planters are now full of vibrant, pollinator-friendly plants.



Forest Church

Two outdoor gatherings in local parks saw us going on a Cherokee Trail of Tears treasure hunt and creating autumn leaf lanterns, celebrating creation through worship, fun and reflection.



Campaign Awareness

We've promoted climate and biodiversity action at home, in our community and globally.



Recycling Drives

Ongoing collections include stamps, spectacles, cartridges, bottle tops and more – encouraging reduce, reuse and recycle habits.

Get Involved

If you're passionate about the environment or have an idea for a project, join our Eco-Group! Together, we can grow our impact and care for creation – locally and beyond.

Karen Young



2025 AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES



Ecology matters

WELLBEING OF CREATION & HUMANITY

Morningside Parish Church, Cluny Gardens

Sundays 7–8pm | **Refreshments from 6:30pm**

Join in person or livestream: morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Free entry – donations welcome at the door



7 SEPT

Ecology, The Climate and The Need for Action

Dr Mike Robinson OBE

As Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and Chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, Mike Robinson has been instrumental in informing sustainability and climate change for 25 years.



14 SEPT

The Unstoppable Power of Hope: Christian Aid at 80

Val Brown

Val Brown is Head of Christian Aid in Scotland. She has served on the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, chaired their Middle East Committee and currently chairs their ethical oversight committee.



21 SEPT

Nature's Genius: Evolution's Lessons for a Changing Planet

Professor David Farrier

David Farrier is Professor of Literature and the Environment at the University of Edinburgh, and author of *Nature's Genius: Evolution's Lessons for a Changing Planet* and *Footprints: In search of Future Fossils*.

What's On

Greenbank Parish Church and Halls 2025-26

www.greenbankchurch.org

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
Springboard for P7-S3	morning/evening
Qll for S4 and upwards	7-9pm
Traditional Dementia-Friendly Services	afternoons (quarterly)

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

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 and Explorer Scouts	Fridays 7.15-9.30pm

Groups for Everyone

Greenbank Pre School	Monday-Friday 8.25am-3.30pm
Babies & Toddlers	Thursdays & Fridays 9.45-11.15am
Badminton Club	Mondays 7.15-8.45pm
Capital Voices Choir	Tuesdays 7-9pm
Edina Country Dancers	Wednesdays 7-9.30pm
Emilia's Art Club for children	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons
Friendship Club (for over-60s)	Wednesdays fortnightly, 2-4pm
Greenbank Singers	Wednesdays fortnightly, 2-3.45pm
Morningside Pilates	Mondays 5-8.30pm; Tuesdays 10.30am-1.30pm; Thursdays 9.30am-12.45pm
NCT Antenatal Classes	various
RSCDS Country Dancing	Tuesdays 8-9.30pm
Stagecoach Performing Arts	Tuesdays 5-8pm; Thursdays 5-8pm; Saturdays 1.30-4.30pm
Yoga (Marcela/Pregnancy)	Wednesdays 7-8pm
Yoga (Syra)	Tuesdays 9.30-10.30am; Tuesdays 6.45-9pm; Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm; Fridays 9.30am-12noon
Yoga (Trish)	Mondays 6.15-7.15pm

If you would like to book a room for a meeting 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

- 7 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small
- 14 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 21 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden, Catherine Cameron
- 28 **Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy

October

- 5 **Ian Thom**, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay

Flower Rota

provided by delivered by

September

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|
| 7 | Kathryn Sangster | Hayley Ferguson |
| 14 | Sheila Somerville | Moira Little |
| 21 | Christina Black | Jan Corbett |
| 28 | Joan Ritchie | Julia Dunbar |
| | | Fiona Connal |

October

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| 5 | Grace Maweu | Mary Hadden |
|---|-------------|-------------|

Coffee Rota

September

- | | | |
|----|----------------|--------------------|
| 7 | John Ferguson | D60 |
| 14 | Janet Edwards | |
| | | World Church Group |
| 21 | Hazel Macaulay | D89 |
| 28 | Anne Kinnear | D9 |

October

- | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|
| 5 | Caroline Kehoe | D70 |
|---|----------------|-----|

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 **14th September**, or sent by e-mail by 8pm on **Thursday 18th September** to:
greenbankconnections@gmail.com

Connections Deadlines

	by email	bundling	distributed
Oct	Thu 18 Sep	Fri 26	Sun 28 Sep
Nov	Thu 16 Oct	Fri 24	Sun 26 Oct
Dec/Jan	Thu 20 Nov	Fri 28	Sun 30 Nov
2026			
Feb	Thu 15 Jan	Fri 23	Sun 25 Jan

Greenbank Parish Church Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh

Saturday 25th October 2025 at 7pm

Heart & Soul swing band



As seen on **BBC**



**Free entry but donations
requested for Christian Aid**



*Five local churches are supporting this concert:
Fairmilehead, Greenbank, Morningside, St Fillan's, and St Peter's*