

# Greenbank Connections



December 2025 / January 2026

Issue 739

Scottish Charity SC011325



*Some of the Open Hand Team see page 16*

## Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

Online version: [www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/](http://www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/)

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## Letter from the Locum



### The turn of the year

The late Robert Kernohan was an editor of the old school. Bob was a Christian and a very able communicator. I believe he led more BBC Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' than any minister in Scotland with over 500 contributions. One New Year he simply offered a prayer. Here is the closing stanza:

*Renew in us now, in our selves  
and in our nation,*

*The sense of Your power and  
Your love.*

*Give us this year, as we need it  
and not just when we ask it,  
Restraint, encouragement,  
initiative,*

*Indifference to things that really  
are matters of indifference,  
And blessed assurance in all  
things essential,*

*Given to us by the saving power  
of Jesus.*

We have entered a new year of uncertainty – global and local. In

Greenbank church we move steadily onwards, forwards and outwards following Jesus' example and teaching. Our true north for this year is to 'Grow Young'.

The beginning of a New Year is a good time to leave the old behind, to carry our best thoughts gleaned from hard-won experience. Ultimately, we will succeed in helping the children if we work together. It is something this community has shown in spades.

In this season of Epiphany, as we recall the Magi travelling, bringing their gifts and visiting the Christ child, we in Greenbank are called to follow their example by engaging and valuing all the children of our parish.

It will need all of us, working for one another. I think one South Korean minister, Aeryun Lee, puts it rather well, *"God's love is not abstract...Christian love needs to be expressed, not only with powerful emotions, but most authentically through meaningful acts of love. It is the responsibility of the whole Christian community to live out the love of God in our common life together, through which others may see and experience God's love."*

This will certainly help us to mature in faith while we Grow Young. I am looking forward to this journey alongside you in the New Year.

Have an enjoyable 2026,

**Ian Gilmour**  
Locum minister



Alexander (Sandy) Boyd, grandson of Aileen and Ian Thomson, was welcomed into the church on Sunday 26th October

## Thought for the Month

### Mystery, muddle, miracle

On Christmas Eve, as the darkness outside deepens outside the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, inside the congregation at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols stands for the final reading from the Bible. This is introduced with the words "St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation." It concludes "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

For some people this is not so much a mystery as a muddle. They find God-talk at best confusing, even dismissing it as incomprehensible and incompatible with a contemporary understanding of the world. However, while recognising that at the heart of our faith is this "great mystery" of God becoming a human being, Christians must be ready to use their God-given minds to explore and to understand it as best we can. Like a character in EM Forster's *A Passage to India*, we may say, "I like mysteries but I rather dislike muddles."

To claim with St John that "the Word became flesh" is to assert that Jesus is not only someone through whom God communicates,

as through one of the ancient prophets, but is nothing less than God's self-communication.

- Jesus not only speaks the Word of God: he is the Word of God.
- Jesus not only speaks the truth: he is the truth.
- Jesus not only does the work of God: he is God.

Think of the entire process as God becoming involved with the world in the person of Jesus. As Eugene Peterson renders John's words, "The Word was made flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood." God comes as a fresh, invigorating presence into all neighbourhoods. This is the content of the Christian Gospel. This is the miracle of Christmas. By being one of us Jesus reveals to us who God actually is, has been, and will be.

Unlike St Luke, John does not give us down-to-earth stories about pregnant women, a decreeing emperor, weary travellers, angel choirs, visiting shepherds. And yet here we are confronted directly with the One who becomes wholly involved in human existence in the unique, unpredicted, and unpredictable event we call the Incarnation.







Apse in the Cathedral in Cefalu, Sicily, and depicts Christos Pantokrator, a common image in Byzantine art.

By Isabel Graham

When we have said all that we can say, the mystery remains. Here, some wise words of the late John McIntyre may help us:

“As each Christmas returns, the greatest single responsibility which Christians bear is to try to recapture something of the sheer unexpectedness, the stunning imaginativeness of that more excellent way which God finally chose, to make his love and forgiveness unmistakably real to his people.”

That is why at Christmas we can lose ourselves in wonder, love, and praise as once again we join in the familiar words:

*Word of the Father, now in flesh  
appearing!*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

**Peter Graham**

## Guild



We started November with an excellent meeting when Karen Young walked us in imagination down the Water of Leith giving us a wonderful description of the river, its history, wildlife (otters and herons and so much more) and development planning, particularly the work of the *Water of Leith Conservation Trust*.

[www.waterofleith.org.uk/](http://www.waterofleith.org.uk/)

At our next meeting we were looking forward to hearing the Rev Dr Richard Frazer tell us about his 'Travels with a Stick' – an account of his walk to Compostela on the ancient pilgrim trail. Unfortunately, he was unable to come and at short notice we decided that what the Guild would enjoy on a miserably cold afternoon was time to chat to each other with some silly games and the inevitable tea and biscuits. We hope to hear his adventures later.

In December we welcome back to Greenbank the Rev Dr Anne Logan for her talk on 'Breaking the Stained-Glass Ceiling' concerning the difficulties and triumphs of the first women to be ordained as ministers in the Church of Scotland. On 16th December there will be our usual Christmas Party for members, afternoon tea and carols – a good start to all our Christmas Festivities. We begin 2026 with a Coffee Morning on 6th January in the

Main Hall from 10.30am to 12 noon. This is open to everyone, the more the merrier. There will be a collection in aid of the **Work Party** who produce such an amazing quantity of knitted articles; hats, jerseys, lap rugs, twiddle muffs and more, all very much appreciated by those who receive them.

On 20th January Michael Cunliffe will be telling us about the life saving work of the RNLI whose volunteers risk their lives to save others at sea.

Our meetings are on Tuesdays at 2.30pm in the Braid Room and always finish with tea, biscuits and friendly chatter.

**Edith Armit**

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## The Singing Group

The Singing Group will meet on **3rd December** at 2.00pm in the Braid Room and join with Friendship Club on **10th December** at 2.00pm in the Main Hall for a Christmas Party.

The Singing Group are invited to lead the carol singing at tea-time after the Afternoon Service on **Sunday 21st December**. The short service starts at 2pm.

The Singing Group will restart after Christmas on **7th January** at 2.00pm and meet again on **21 January**.

**Gillian Sweetman and David Allan**

## Greenbank Connections

Greenbank *Connections*, with its regular news about Greenbank Church, is provided to members nine times a year.

To enable the Church to cover the costs of this, it is suggested that members might donate a minimum of £10 per household.

Payments can be made by bank transfer to the following account:

Account name: Greenbank Church

Sort code: 80-02-77

Account number: 00371917

Reference: [Your surname]/  
*Connections*

Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque. Please put your cash or cheque, along with your name and reference to Greenbank *Connections*, in an envelope addressed to the Treasurer and hand it in to the Church Office. Cheques should be made payable to Greenbank Church.

**Robert Young**  
**Congregational Treasurer**

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## Friendship Club

All meetings 2.00pm in the Braid Room and afterwards in the Hermitage Room for Tea and Biscuits.

On **26th November** Friendship Club welcomes Russell Clegg from the "*Wee Museum of Memories*" – a fascinating small museum in Leith. Do bring something small that has a memory for you to discuss over tea.

On **10th December** at 2.00pm in the Main Hall we join Alan Irvine and the Singing Group for a Christmas Party.

**2026**

**14th January** – On a winter's afternoon Kathleen Patrick will transport us to sunnier climes with a *Travelogue*.

**28th January**– Join with Tom Inglis and us to celebrate 60 years of **The Sound of Music** with a *Singalong* of the favourite tunes. All welcome.



If you need a lift, please contact

**David Allan 07800 607266**  
**Gillian Sweetman 447 1048**

## Greenbank Church Social Justice Action Group Palestine/Israel

Greenbank's Social Justice Action Group has recently discussed its priorities and has affirmed a continuing focus on the Palestine crisis. It recently supported the Edinburgh Direct Aid fundraising coffee morning, noting that organisation's current project work in Gaza. The Group will consider further fundraising and lobbying actions in due course. Meantime, for information, it is worth highlighting the position of the Church of Scotland on Palestine/Israel. The UNHCR Commission of Inquiry report on Gaza (September 2025) concluded Israel was actively committing genocide against Palestinians. There have been years of killing and injustice in Israel/Palestine, and the period since the Hamas attack into Israel on 7th October, 2023 has been particularly brutal. As we all continue to pray for a just and peaceful solution, the following is a brief summary of Church of Scotland pronouncements over the years on Palestine/Israel.

The following was included in The Special Report of the World Mission Council (WMC) to the General Assembly (GA) of the Church of Scotland in 2019:

1. It highlighted the desperate situation of the Palestinian community.
  2. It condemned the illegal expansion of Settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank
  3. It called for an end to the demolition of Palestinian houses and the expropriation of Palestinian land.
  4. It encouraged all Church agencies to engage with Israeli, Palestinian, and International organisations that are working to end the Israeli occupation through non-violent means.
  5. The core principle guiding the Church is the call for a peace based on justice and respect for the equal rights of all people.
- And most recently the deliverance of the General Assembly in 2025 included:

### *Assembly Trustees*

14. Encourage the whole Church of Scotland to continue to pray for peace with justice in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, and to continue to advocate for the creation of a State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel (Sections 15.1 to 15.10).
- (NB the UK Government has since recognised the state of Palestine)
16. In relation to Israel/Palestine:
    - (i) Condemn the resumption of the war on Gaza, the blockade of







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#### Palestine/Israel (Cont)

food and humanitarian aid, the ongoing forcible displacement of Gazans, and the continued holding of hostages;

- (ii) Instruct the Assembly Trustees in collaboration with the Faith Action Leadership Team to advocate to the Government of the UK that it must exert all efforts towards the upholding of International Humanitarian Law, the establishment of a ceasefire, (NB there is now a fragile ceasefire in place since 10th October, 2025) the lifting

of the blockade on food and humanitarian aid, and the release of the remaining hostages;

- (iii) Renew the call to the Government to stop granting export licences for the sale of weapons to Israel.

**Steven Hadden**  
**Social Justice**

## Fresh Start at Christmas

As well as the usual donations of household items, there are two additional ways you can help *Fresh Start* this Christmas.

**Firstly**, the *Cookers for Christmas* campaign, which in previous years has proved invaluable in helping provide essential white goods to those in need across Edinburgh, is again up and running.

If you would like to donate to the campaign, further details can be found on the *Fresh Start* website (by following the Cookers for Christmas 2025 donate link) and on the *JustGiving Cookers for Christmas 2025* page.

[www.freshstartweb.org.uk/](http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/)  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/cookersforchristmas2025](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cookersforchristmas2025)

**Secondly**, there is a request for items which can be used to make up festive food hampers and suggested items can be found on the list below. Donations can be left in the box marked **FRESH START** which is just behind the door in the church vestibule.



### Festive Food Donations Needed

At *Fresh Start*, we believe everyone deserves a happy Christmas, and we need your help to make it happen. We're asking for donations of the following items, which will

be turned into food hampers for those moving on from homelessness this Christmas:

- Mince Pies, Christmas Pudding or Cake, Fudge or Candy Canes
- Chocolates, eg. Coins, Selection Boxes, Advent Calendars and Tree Decorations
- Biscuits, Oatcakes, Crackers, Crisps, Nuts or Other Snacks
- Chutney or Jam
- Non-Alcoholic Fizzy Drinks
- Tea, Coffee or Hot Chocolate
- Christmas Crackers

Please note that, unfortunately, we're unable to take any perishable items due to storage limitations. We're also not able to accept any items that contain alcohol.

Please leave your donations by **Wednesday, 3rd December**.

Donations of small electrical items, kitchenware or household items in good condition are always needed and can be taken directly to Fresh Start on Ferry Road Drive (see website for address details) or contact me (by email or via Jackie in the Church office) to arrange a convenient time for collection.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to Fresh Start this year. Your support is appreciated.

**Eileen MacKinnon**

## **Christmas in Israel-Palestine**

Around 45,000 of the West Bank's Palestinian population of 2.7 million are Christian and, before the current troubles, 1,000 or so Christians lived in Gaza. In addition to this there are over 180,000 Christians in Israel. The largest churches in Gaza, Jerusalem and the West Bank are Catholic and Greek Orthodox, but many other groups have a significant presence.

Bethlehem, the town where Jesus was born, is situated in the Palestinian territory of the West Bank. There the Church of the Nativity has for many years been a focal point for Christmas celebrations including a Christmas Eve parade through the town, carol singing in Manger Square, and a midnight mass led by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and broadcast around the world. In 2023 and 2024, Christmas festivities in Bethlehem were overshadowed by the war and only modest celebrations took place.

Another sacred place for Christians and other religions, the Old City of Jerusalem, is a major pilgrimage site, particularly at Christmas. Traditionally there would be carol concerts, decorations and special events, culminating with midnight mass on 24th December at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

There are better prospects for this year. Flights for tourists have returned and the atmosphere is much more upbeat since the return of most hostages. The West Bank is still suffering though, and it is likely that any tourists that go will continue to avoid Bethlehem except for a brief visit. Palestinian Christians who would in the past have travelled the few miles from Ramallah or Bethlehem to take part in prayers and processions in Jerusalem now find that, due to Israel's control over movement, permits to travel are almost impossible to obtain.

At the Church of Scotland hotels in Jerusalem and Tiberias there are signs of a return of business. At the House Hotel in Jerusalem (formerly called the Guest House) there will again be a Christmas market in the week before Christmas. Last year over 3,000 people visited and it was a great success. It is too early to see a mass return of tourists, but a few small groups have visited with more booked for early in 2026.

**Valerie Macniven and  
Fiona Watt  
World Church Group**

## Transitioning to Net Zero – a personal story

My wife Alison and I are not the first Greenbankers to go all electric but I am happy to share a little of our experiences to encourage others to do the same. This year we had major renovation works carried out on our house. As part of that project, we cut off the gas supply, enhanced the electricity supply, installed a heat pump, along with more insulation, plus solar panels and batteries. Our house is now entirely electric for heating, hot water and cooking, using an induction hob and electric oven. The transformation is exciting and, so far, works well.

The solar panels generate electricity even on colder days, so long as it is bright – full sun is not required. The power they produce is firstly consumed within the house and any surplus goes into the batteries. If the batteries become full, any surplus goes to the grid. My 15 year-old car had to be traded in recently and I was delighted last month when, for the first time, I charged up my elec-

tric car entirely from the batteries using free electricity.



The government is encouraging people to convert their heating from gas to electric by offering a grant of up to £7,500 towards the cost of a heat pump. Our pump cost a little over that. It sits outside in the back garden and occasionally whirrs away to itself to top up our heating or hot water. Living with a heat pump requires a different approach to gas central heating. Instead of programming the heating to give the temperature a boost, the pump remains on all the time, topping up the temperature as required. Our pump efficiency is between 300% and 500%, depending on the outside temperature, compared to less than 100% for a modern gas boiler.

It's too soon to make a meaningful comparison on running costs, but I understand they may be very similar to our previous combined gas



## Nessie Reid at 100



We congratulate Nessie Reid on her recent one hundredth birthday. Nessie and her late husband David joined Greenbank Church when they moved to Edinburgh in 1980. Both were keen members of Braid Bowling Club for many years.

Nessie is pictured holding one of the trophies she won. She usually attends our afternoon services.

## Advent Calendar 2025



The Greenbank Advent Calendar will start opening its doors on 1st December. Find it at:

[tinyurl.com/Greenbank-Advent-Calendar](https://tinyurl.com/Greenbank-Advent-Calendar)

Net Zero (cont) ->

and electric bills. The one big saving is in car fuel costs.

This is the first of two articles on going fully electric. The second will cover some of the things to consider before going electric and how to obtain financial support. I am happy to answer questions.

**Neil Ross**  
Eco-Group

## Facilities Officer



I am delighted to introduce you to our new Facilities Officer, Morag Waring, who is perhaps better known to many of you as Morag Armit. Morag started her new position on Monday 3rd November.

Her responsibilities include cleaning and maintenance matters; she replaces Jonathan Murray in these roles. We are grateful to Jonathan for his service to Greenbank, and we welcome Morag. Be sure to say hello if you see her around the premises.

**Julia Dunbar**  
Staff Elder





Come and admire our

## **Christmas Tree Festival 2025**

**Morningside Parish Church, Cluny Gardens**

**13 to 20 December**

Visitors welcome to view trees

10am - 12 noon weekdays

10am - 2pm Saturdays 13 and 20 December

Craft stall 10am - 2pm Saturdays

Refreshments 10am - 12 noon Saturdays

Junior School musicians from George Watson's College

11 - 11.20am Saturday 13 December

Morningside Parish Church Choral Scholars

11 - 11.20am Saturday 20 December

Laurentum

Vocal and instrumental music from the Middle Ages to the present day

12.30pm Saturday 20 December

Entry by donation supporting the charities

Morningside Hope and David Nott Foundation

**Thank you to our Sponsors :**

**WILLIAM  
PURVES**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

## The Open Door – News

### Day Services

We have launched our new Wednesday service and are now delivering services five days per week, Monday to Friday. Places are available for anyone over 50 that you know would benefit from both practical assistance and a chance to socialise, with support from trained staff and volunteers, or for families in need of respite from caring for their loved ones.

Day services help maintain independence, mobility and confidence, and delay the move into residential care.

Please phone **Lynnette** or **Simon** on 0131-447-9757 or drop in to talk with them.

### Coffee and Cake donation days

Thank you all for supporting our recent coffee and cake by donation day – it raised over £330 towards our day services transport costs. Our next coffee and cake day is on **Wednesday 10th December** 10.30am to 4.00pm – everyone welcome!



### Volunteers

We're recruiting Driver and Day Service Volunteers – please contact Lynnette or Simon (as above) if you, or someone you know can help



### Christmas Wreath-making with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

**Saturday 6th December 2.00pm to 4pm** – £35 tickets are available through EventBrite:

[tinyurl.com/The-Open-Door-Wreaths](https://tinyurl.com/The-Open-Door-Wreaths)

or contact Lynnette or Simon

### Trustees

Our Board is seeking three new Trustees with current experience in **business, marketing or HR** – please contact Lynnette or Simon (as above) if you, or someone you know would like to help The Open Door in this way.

**Simon Warr**  
**Operational Manager**

The Open Door  
420 Morningside Road,  
EH10 5HY

0131 447 9757

[www.theopendoor.org.uk](http://www.theopendoor.org.uk)

## Thank you from An Open Hand

On Sunday 2nd November we had the opportunity during the service and at coffee afterwards to thank the congregation for the huge support we have received since we started *An Open Hand* four years ago.

We are very grateful for both the generous donations received that morning and for the Sunday Morning Coffee collection.

The support financially and practically has been invaluable. Thank you again

**Rona Ferguson**



*An Open Hand volunteers*

# Annual Advent and Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid

Throughout Advent we will be having our customary annual appeal for Christian Aid. The 2025 Christmas appeal will focus on families caught up in conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the message “No crib for a bed.....when you’re fleeing violence.”

Many people in DRC have been forced to leave their homes due to deadly conflict, including a young mother Chance who ran on foot with her newborn as bombs fell. She found medical assistance and relative safety in Katashola Camp for displaced people, but her children are still hungry and at grave risk of malnutrition and malaria. There is more information about Chance and the Christian Aid Christmas appeal here:

[www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal)

In addition to this Christian Aid requires funding to continue its vital work with disadvantaged communities across the world throughout the year.

- The preferred way of donating is by **Bank Transfer** to the Collections account – see below. By using a reference including your name, the church can claim Gift Aid where appropriate and this will be passed on to Christian Aid.

- We will also have Gift Aid Advent envelopes available in the church vestibule and in pews from Sunday 30th November. Any cheques should be made payable to “Greenbank Church.” There will also be an opportunity to donate at the Christmas Eve services and on Christmas Day.

## Bank Details

Account name: Greenbank Church;  
Sort code 80-02-27;

Account number 10786266;

Reference - Your surname ADVENT  
Thank you for your continued support and generosity. We regularly receive messages from our colleagues at Christian Aid Scotland expressing appreciation of our fundraising efforts and gifts, which help families around the world to transform their own lives.

**Fiona Watt**  
**Christian Aid Coordinator**



## Retiral of two Elders

Isobel and Ian Thom have retired from the Kirk Session. They will be well-known to many in the congregation for all the work they have done in many aspects of the life of Greenbank.



Ian has been Property Convenor, Safeguarding Coordinator and, as a retired Headteacher, lent his experience to Christian Adult Education. Besides leading his Duty Team, he looked after the Pre School garden for many years and fitted it all round his devotion to rugby.

Isobel was a Sunday School teacher for many years and coordinated coffee while it was graduating to “proper” filtered coffee. She designed and created the black cross tapestry hanging in the Braid Room in time for its dedication.

These are only some of the ways that the Thoms have contributed to the smooth operation of Greenbank Church. The Kirk Session will miss them.



Ian talking to Q2

## Prisoners Week

Thanks to all who made the Prisoners Week Event ‘The Ballad of Jack and Stacey’ such a successful, insightful and enjoyable evening on the 21st raising £255 for Bethany Christian Trust.

The sentiment can be summed up best by quoting Stuart, Bethany panel member:

*“It was amazing tonight, beautiful voice from an amazing singer/artist/performer amazing story from Sam as always, emotional, insightful, thought provoking. An all-round great evening, amazing people at Greenbank Kirk beautiful building, so welcoming, so much faith in action and just amazing from them and others wanting to get more involved in helping prison leavers but in a way that’s knowledgeable, I’m just in awe and buzzing from tonight. Keep it up guys your work changes life’s” [sic]*

**Hazel Macaulay**

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## Coffee Rota

### December

- 7 Communion  
Christina Morrow D40 & 41
- 14 Katy Maguire
- 21 Gillian Sweetman Singing Group
- 28 Edith Armit  
& Ann Pirie Guild

### 2026

#### January

- 4 Joan Ritchie
- 11 Julia Dunbar Help the Homeless
- 18 David Jack Eco Group
- 25 Nora Kellock

#### February

- 1 Niall Morrison Scouts



## Welcome Teams

### December

#### 7 Communion

Caroline Kehoe, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy

#### 14 Christina Morrow, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Margot Gillon

#### 21 Ian Thomson, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay

#### 28 Donald King, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Jane Harkin

### 2026

### January

#### 4 Stuart Sanders, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison

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

#### 18 Rosemary McCulloch, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton

#### 25 John Ritchie, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden, Catherine Cameron

### February

#### 1 Ian Thom, Keith Clark, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black

## The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Locum Minister: Rev Ian Gilmour

phone: 07794 149852

email: [IGilmour@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:IGilmour@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Administrator: Jackie Wilson-Tagoe

phone: 0131 447 9969

email: [office@greenbankchurch.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:greenbankweekly@gmail.com)

Material for the February issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by Sunday 11th January, or sent by e-mail by 8pm on Thursday 15th January to:

[greenbankconnections@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankconnections@gmail.com)

## Flower Rota

provided by

delivered by

### December

Advent and Christmas

### 2026

### January

#### 11 Flower Fund Janet Edwards

#### 18 Sally Anderson Win Kerr

#### 25 Pauline Walker Eileen Mackinnon

### February

#### 1 Isobel Thom Alison Offer

## Congregational Register

### Baptism

#### 26 October

Alexander (Sandy) Douglas

Thomson Boyd, 45/9 Montpelier Park (D64)

### Deaths

#### 30 October

Mrs Margo Fraser, 96 Greenbank Crescent (D59)

#### 9 November Miss Catherine (Kay) Ellis, 5a Cluny Avenue (D33)



# Welcome to Advent and Christmas at Greenbank Parish Church



*We aim to make the Christmas festival special. You'll be very welcome at any of our events and services – come and join in for fun and peace in our beautiful church. All are welcome – no church background is necessary. Services in the church will be livestreamed. The Christmas tree will be up and we'll be ready to celebrate!*

## **Sunday 7th December 9.30am & 10.30am Communion**

A chance to reflect on the Jesus story with the sacrament, always rich in symbolism.

## **Saturday 13th December 2pm–5pm Creative Christmas Event for Primary School Children**

The creative arts combine to build a nativity in a joyful fashion. To sign up, visit [www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org).

## **Sunday 14th December at 10.30am Gift & Nativity Service**

Our Christmas gift service, and our young people tell the story of the birth of Jesus. We dedicate the gifts given by members of the congregation and community for children of prisoners and others in need in Edinburgh as we think of God's gift to us at Christmas – Jesus Christ.

## **Sunday 21st December at 10.30am Lessons and Carols**

Our Choir and Director of Music lead us in a beautiful musical journey through the Christmas story, with carols traditional and modern, choir and organ music, readings and prayers to help us celebrate.

## **Sunday 21st December at 2pm Afternoon Carol Service**

Join us for a short Dementia Friendly service with lots of familiar carols and readings, and then festive refreshments afterwards.

## **Wednesday 24th December at 4.30pm Christmas around the World (Including Christingles)**

Anything can happen in this fun family service for all ages. Bring the kids for traditional and modern Christmas carols and songs, and the Christmas story told in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

## **Wednesday 24th December at 11.30pm Watchnight Service**

We gather to greet the Christ child. Carol singing from 11.10pm.

## **Thursday 25th December at 10.30am Christmas Day Service**

Come and give thanks on Christmas Day. Toys welcome!

## **Sunday 28th December at 10.30am The Gate of the Year Service**

A reflective service of music and readings for the New Year.

**Livestream:** Go to [www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org) and press the 'Watch Services' button.

2025

## Christmas Afternoon Service at Greenbank Sunday 21st December at 3pm



All are welcome to join us for our Christmas Afternoon Service, conducted by the Rev Ian Gilmour. The Service will be Dementia Friendly and will include a short Communion Service with traditional Christmas carols and readings. Join us afterwards in the Main Hall for festive treats and live music.

Transport is available: email [lifts@greenbankchurch.org](mailto:lifts@greenbankchurch.org)

The service will be livestreamed, and recorded on the Greenbank website: [www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)

For more information please contact Jackie in the Church Office (0131 447 9969).