

# Greenbank Connections



October 2025

Issue 737

Scottish Charity SC011325

25  
YEARS



SLA

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

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



### Harvest Hope at Greenbank

Where would we be without harvest?

We certainly still need:

Bread from wheat

Fish from the sea

Pears and apples from the trees

Lamb, pork, chicken and beef.

Every human being still depends on sun, water and those who tend and transport our goods. It is important, I believe, to give thanks to the Maker in autumn and at mealtimes.

A poet and writer, Shirley Erena Murray, working in New Zealand, produced one of the most reflective of the modern harvest hymns. Please give it a moment of your time,

*Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in  
our care:*

*gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow  
will bear.*

*We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures  
that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and  
forgive!*

*Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that  
is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will  
complete.*

*God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow,  
and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently and making us  
one.*

We all have a part to play to find a pathway to giving our children and their children reasons to continue to mark the harvest season with thanksgiving.

The Bible reminds us of God's blessing, "The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us". Psalm 67:6

Enjoy harvest this year.

Every blessing,

**Ian Gilmour  
Locum Minister**

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## Singing Group

The Singing Group will meet on Wednesdays 8th and 22nd of October at 2pm in the Braid Room. In November our meetings will take place on Wednesdays 5th and 19th. Don't be put off by thinking that you can't sing. None of us can. We just enjoy singing. We sing for about an hour and then finish with coffee, chat and laughter. You are guaranteed to leave feeling really

good. Why not give it a try? Bring a friend.

**David Allan and Gillian Sweetman**



## Thought for the month

### The Great Outdoors



“Believe me, for I know, you will find something far greater in the woods than in books. Stones and trees will teach you that which you cannot learn from the masters.”

That was written almost 900 years ago by St Bernard of Clairvaux, who’s pictured above. Born about 1090, Bernard was crucial to the founding of a new order of monks – the Cistercians. Melrose Abbey was one of their monasteries. The Cistercians lived close to nature, tending their own farms on land often brought into cultivation for the first time. Perhaps that prompted Bernard to emphasise the importance of the outdoors.

Eight hundred years later, John Muir (the Dunbar-born natural-

ist and founder of the US national parks movement, who’s pictured below) came to a similar understanding. He too had lived close to nature throughout his life. A couple of years before his death in 1914 at the age of 76, he wrote:

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.”

Greenbank has no areas of wilderness to match Yosemite in California which inspired John Muir. But as city dwellers we’re relatively fortunate to have two excellent (and completely different) local parks and the Pentland Hills close at hand. There we can find, if we choose, places which can heal and cheer, trees and stones which can teach.

Our autumn Forest Church on Saturday 4th October will tap into the spiritual power of the great outdoors. It’s an event for every age and all abilities. The details are opposite. Come along and discover what so inspired Bernard of Clairvaux and John Muir of Yosemite – and countless others through the ages.

**Duncan Macniven**





GREENBANK  
FOREST CHURCH

SATURDAY  
4th OCTOBER

MEET AT GREENBANK CHURCH

2 BRAIDBURN TERRACE

ALL FUN & ACTIVITIES  
WILL BE OUTDOORS

2 - 4pm

All children must be  
accompanied by a  
responsible adult.

## CrossReach Cards and Calendars on sale 26th October

A Christmas card is a perfect way to stay in touch, possibly with people you haven't seen for a while. It's a lovely way to let people know you are thinking of them, and to remind us of the baby born in a manger, who gives us hope.

**CrossReach** is one of the largest care providers in Scotland, with experience across a broad range of services. **CrossReach** is still growing, learning and improving, thanks to the incredible people we have the privilege to support, and all those who support us. "**CrossReach** aims to show the practical side of our Christian faith by reflecting Christian love to those we support, through our leadership, management and working relationships."

The Church of Scotland's Social Care Council is accountable for

the work of **CrossReach**. Its remit is to provide social care services and specialist resources in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in challenging circumstances. It also helps to identify areas of need and guides the Church in new approaches to relevant problems in society as well as responding to issues arising in the Council's areas of concern.

Please come and support **CrossReach** by buying cards or calendars in the Main Hall after Morning Worship on **Sunday 26th October**.

**Joan Ritchie**



### Greenbank Parish Church Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh

**Saturday 25th October 2025 at 7pm**

As seen on **BBC**

**SONGS OF PRAISE**

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

**In aid of christian aid**

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

## Guild



The Guild is looking forward to the new session, meeting friends, and enjoying a wide range of Topics. We start on 7th October at 2pm in the Braid Room with the Rev Ian Gil-mour speaking about our current theme *Let us build a House*. Then on 21st October we will have one of Kathleen Patrick's interesting presentations of her travels with her excellent photographs... and there are lots more to come, from Air Traffic Control to the RNLI and the Water of Leith.

Until Christmas we will be supporting the **CrossReach** Sunflower Garden and Daisy Chain projects focusing on their work with vulnerable families.

In 2026 we will be supporting a Project in Egypt improving housing for very deprived Christian groups in the South.

There is always a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along to our meetings to hear interesting talks and meet old and new friends.

**Edith Armit**

## Tabeetha School again

My sister, Ishbel Imrie, gave me a copy of Greenbank's *Connections* May 2025. How interested I was to read the article about Tabeetha School. I taught there from 1970 to 1973. Life there was challenging, difficult, exciting, interesting and hard work but never, ever, dull.

Miss Stewart Berkley, niece of the founder Miss Jane Walker-Arnott, gave me a piece of Jaffa lace. The



poor lace makers were known by the indentations in their teeth. They could not afford to buy scissors.

Life must be exceedingly difficult for staff and pupils just now, but with amazing resilience and courage Tabeetha continues to help children to respect one another and the backgrounds from which they come. Recently, I took part in a Webcast with many former pupils. It was humbling for me to hear their stories from different parts of the world, and how being at that "wee school" had shaped their lives.

Do pray for our work in Jaffa, Tiberias and Jerusalem.

*Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*  
(Psalm 122).

**Elspeth Kerr**

# COFFEE MORNING

GREENBANK CHURCH HALL,  
BRAIDBURN TERRACE,  
EH10 6ES

**SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2025**

10.15AM - 12PM

TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR  
PROJECTS IN  
UKRAINE & GAZA

**Edinburgh**  
 **Direct Aid**

SCO 50964

Edinburgh  
Direct Aid  
has been  
an all-  
volunteer  
registered  
charity  
since 1992.



**HEAR A SHORT TALK AT  
AROUND 11AM BY HEAD OF  
LOGISTICS IAN MCHAFFIE**

**ENTRY DONATION: £6**

**EVERY PENNY GOES DIRECTLY TO  
SUPPORT OUR AID EFFORTS.**

**HOME  
BAKING**

**FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL  
0751 887 1496**



## Who would have thought?

Who would have thought that when 23 young people from Greenbank, led by Gillie Davidson and Brian Barron, went to India in 1999, in 2025 we would be celebrating 25 years of the charity, Scottish Love in Action.

In 25 years, SLA has helped well over 25,000 children and young people living in poverty in India into better lives.

So many members of Greenbank have been involved over the years – going to India, running and attending fundraising activities, as members of QII, giving talks, donating to SLA and serving on the SLA Board – a big shout out to you all. Thank you.

SLA's initial work was with the Light of Love Home in Tuni. More recently SLA has moved on to supporting inspirational Indian organisations who work to transform the lives of children and young people. The

*ASRITHA Rainbow Home* supports former street children. *Livelihoods* supports children from *Rainbow Homes* as they transition into adulthood. *VOICE-4* (formerly known as *VOICE 4 Girls*) empowers marginalised adolescent girls and boys.

Despite the improvements we hear about in the Indian economy, many young people are still being left behind; for 25 years, SLA has helped these children and young people into a better future.

Thanks to you all; and we hope that you will attend some of our SLA25 celebratory events in November.

25 years – 25,000 children  
– £8 million raised

Who would have thought that!

[www.sla-india.org/news/  
25th-birthday-events/](http://www.sla-india.org/news/25th-birthday-events/)

**Sheila Cannell**

## Dementia-Friendly Afternoon Service

The Harvest Thanksgiving Dementia-Friendly Afternoon Service will be held on **Sunday 19th October at 2pm.**

If you would like to help out please get in touch. All are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you.

**Jan Corbett**



## Small Changes, Big Savings: Energy Tips for Winter

One practical way to care for the planet – and our wallets – is by making small energy-saving changes in our homes. The Energy Saving Trust have helpful tips that could save a typical household hundreds of pounds a year.

Simple actions can add up quickly. For example, switching off appliances on standby could save around £40 a year and turning off unnecessary lights can add another £7. Washing clothes at 30°C and reducing machine use by only operating with a full load saves £22, while avoiding the tumble dryer altogether could cut bills by £45.

Water use is another key area as metering would make us more aware. Taking a four-minute shower instead of a long one can save £50 annually. Even swapping one bath per week for a shower adds up to £8. Filling the kettle with only the water you need could save £26 and topping up your hot water tank insulation could save another £35.

Draught-proofing your windows, floors and

doors at home offers the largest individual saving at £70 per year. Reducing dishwasher use with full loads also helps, with a £11 saving. That all adds up to £314 savings a year. These actions not only lower bills, they reduce our carbon footprint by using fewer resources. As energy prices rise and environmental concerns grow, every step we take, no matter how small, makes a difference.

Let us be mindful in our homes in how we live each day. Stewardship starts at home.

**Karen Young**  
Convenor, Eco-Group

### Top options for reducing your carbon footprint

Average reduction per person per year in tonnes of CO2 equivalent



Live car-free  
**2.04**



Refurbishment  
/renovation  
**0.895**



Battery electric car  
**1.95**



Vegan diet  
**0.8**



One less long-haul  
flight per year  
**1.68**



Heat pump  
**0.795**



Renewable energy  
**1.6**



Improved cooking  
equipment  
**0.65**



Public transport  
**0.98**



Renewable-based  
heating  
**0.64**

Source: Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions



## Welcome Teams

### October

- 5 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black  
 12 **Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Margot Gillon  
 19 **Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay  
 26 **Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Jane Harkin

### November

- 2 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison

## Flower Rota

*provided by*

*delivered by*

### October

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 5 Grace Maweu       | Mary Hadden       |
| 12 Heather Kay      | Catherine Cameron |
| 19 Valerie Macniven | Anne Ratter       |
| 26 Alison Reid      | Rona Ferguson     |

### November

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 2 Louise Coghill | Isabel Graham |
|------------------|---------------|

## District Visitors

As we start a new session, I'd like to record our thanks to our District Visitors who are handing over this role. Our thanks are due to Mrs Janet Walker, Mrs Aileen Thomson, Mrs Jan Corbett and Mrs Barbara Middleton. Special mention should be made of Janet's long and dedicated service – over 50 years! New Visitors have willingly agreed to take on these districts. Please make them welcome. We are also very pleased to welcome Jan and Barbara as new Elders.

**Janet Ferguson**

## 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 **November** issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by Sunday 12th October, or sent by e-mail by 8pm on Thursday 16th October to:

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

## Coffee Rota

### October

- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 5 Rosemary McCulloch      | D39, D49, D50 |
| 12 Neil Ross              | D24           |
| 19 David & Janet Ferguson | D13, 26 & 28  |
| 26 Helen & Phil Barnes    | D39, 42 & 89  |

### November

- |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| 2 Rachel McWilliam | D58 |
|--------------------|-----|



Charity Number SC030516

**SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION  
PRESENT THEIR 2025**

**£12**  
**PER TICKET**  
*Family ticket discounts*

# Fireworks Extravaganza

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SLA

**SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER**

**George Watson' Rugby Ground , Myreside Road, EH10 5DB**

## **BLUE SHOW**

**Gates Open 4pm**

**Show Time 4:30pm – 5:15pm**

## **RED SHOW**

**Gates Open 6.30pm**

**Show Time 7:00pm – 7:45pm**

**HOT  
FOOD &  
DRINKS**

## **Entertainment**

Pipe Band, Dance Ihayami,  
Delighters Fire Circus Theatre

Fireworks display by 21CC Fireworks

Compered by Malcolm Reid and Dougie Robertson

**SLA  
CHARITY  
EVENT**



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of our fun, family event**

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Number of tickets limited, book early to avoid disappointment. Event enquiries: [enquiries@sla-india.org](mailto:enquiries@sla-india.org)