

# Greenbank Connections



November 2022

Issue 711

Scottish Charity SC011325



*The Autumn Banners currently hanging in the Church*

**Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh**

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

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## Minister's Letter



Things are starting to get busy for... Christmas. Office Christmas lunches and school Christmas Discos are being organised and booked. Mince pies and Advent Calendars have popped up in grocery stores. The Church booking calendar is filling up. Some of us may fear we are already behind with our Christmas shopping – because we haven't even started. It isn't hard to feel a slight tightness of discomfort in the chest as our to-do list grows. But the Christmas Season is not here yet.

Although there are benefits to looking ahead and planning for that which is to come, we must remember to breathe deep and to ground ourselves in the season we are currently in. Autumn is turning the leaves shades of yellow, orange and red. Conkers are falling from the trees, delighting the children (and adults!) with their spiky green

shells splitting open and revealing their shiny, brown chestnut treasure within. Apples fallen from trees are cooked and baked into pies, crumbles and chutneys. The berries are ripening red on holly bushes. There is much to enjoy in the days that grace us right now.



through our days. Anchoring ourselves in the quiet and steady presence of God each day is one way to keep perspective on our lives as the days whiz past. When we pause to acknowledge and admire the season we are in, we find God strengthening and renewing us for the next season to come.

The future will be what it will be. We have the present to make the most of as we move

*Julia A Cato*

## Change of Interim Moderator

I am writing to let you know about a change of Interim Moderator that will shortly be taking place. From 15th November, Rev Dr Dorothy Anderson will be taking over from me. With a background in law, Dorothy retired as Associate Minister at Dunblane Cathedral last year and now lives in Edinburgh. I believe she will be a very good 'fit' for Greenbank, and her contact details will of course be made available in due course.

As you may know, I recently retired and moved to East Fife, so continuing my involvement at Greenbank is not really practicable. But I believe I am moving on at a good time for the congregation: Julia Cato is now in post to provide regular

ministry after Anne Logan stepped down as locum, and as you can see from elsewhere in this issue the current proposals for the Presbytery Plan are now much more flexible than had previously been the case. I would like to pay a special tribute to Valerie Macniven who has been a constant support during my time of service, not least in the sometimes convoluted negotiations with Presbytery over the future of the congregation. In the meantime I was glad to lead worship on 23rd September and look forward to chairing my final Kirk Session on November 9th. I wish you all the very best for the future.

**Alistair Donald**  
Interim Moderator

## Retiral of Alan Irvine and Lenny Maguire from the Kirk Session

When the Kirk Session met on 27th September it accepted the retiral from active eldership of Alan Irvine and Lenny Maguire. Alistair Donald, Interim Moderator, paid tribute to them both. By coincidence they had both been admitted to the eldership at Greenbank in 1985, though Alan had been ordained elsewhere in 1966 while Lenny was ordained at Greenbank.

Alan was a District elder for about 20 years in Districts 34 and 31B before his appointment as our organist and choirmaster. He served the congregation superbly in that role for fourteen years, having originally offered to do it for three!

Lenny gave the congregation the benefit of his professional skills to help with fabric matters before and after he became an elder. He was the elder for District 20 for 37 years. More recently he has coordinated the Neighbourhood Group and supported the Friendship Group. Lenny's connections with Greenbank go very far back to when he and his twin brother were in the cubs 75 years ago! The Session will miss them both from its meetings but we all look forward to their continuing participation in the life and worship of Greenbank.

**Valerie Macniven**

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## Invitation to Ms Julia Cato's Ordination at Greenbank Church on Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 7pm

Julia Cato, our new Associate Minister, will be ordained by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian at a service of worship conducted by the Moderator of Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery. Members and friends of Greenbank are invited to attend

the service, which marks the start of Julia's ordained ministry in the Church of Scotland. It will be live-streamed too. The service will be followed by simple refreshments in the Main Hall when there will be an opportunity to welcome Julia informally.

**Valerie Macniven**

## Presbytery Planning

The Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian will meet on 15th November. The expectation is that the Presbytery Plan will be agreed then. There have been some important meetings in the last few weeks with the other churches in our area (Morningside, Fairmilehead and St John's Colinton Mains) and people from the key Presbytery Committee. These have gone well and the latest draft proposes that the four churches be given time to work out a mutually acceptable future structure

that will enhance mission in the area. The previous proposal for a union between Greenbank, Fairmilehead and St John's Colinton Mains and a grouping with Morningside with a view to a future four-way union is off the table. If the Plan is agreed in this format there will be a year for further discussions about a final form of collaboration. A further update will follow in the December/January edition of *Connections*.

Valerie Macniven

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## Friendship Club

We started well this session as we welcomed three new members and Julia our new Associate Minister as our guest to a colourful and imaginative presentation of nature, set to well-known music, a very delightful and relaxing afternoon followed by lots of animated chatter over the welcome cuppas.

The next meeting was an equally colourful and lively history lesson from the early nineteenth century in Edinburgh. Now for November; on the 9th we'll do some memory jogging into the 50s with Tom Kelly,

a man of many skills, and then on to more necessary and mundane matters with a talk on "Edinburgh's Water Supply" from Allan Shaw, then goodness me, it's nearly Christmas. So, on 14th December Maureen Kelly, Tom's wife and woman of many skills, also both poses and answers the question "Did the Victorians invent Christmas?"

Why not think about joining us for entertaining afternoons, alternate Wednesdays, 2.30pm - 4ish, always ending with lots of blethers in a warm, friendly atmosphere?

Val Smart

## Scottish Interfaith Week 2022

The World Church Group at Greenbank receives regular emails from the Church of Scotland Faith Impact Forum with news and information about events and campaigns. We like to share some of these updates with you from time to time.

Scottish Interfaith Week was established by Interfaith Scotland in 2004. The aim of this organisation is to ensure good relations between the diverse religious and belief communities of Scotland and also to share good practice in interfaith dialogue, education, engagement and training.

Scottish Interfaith Week is taking place from 13th to 20th November. This year's theme is 'Storytelling', and the festival will have both online and in-person events. This will give people a chance to explore how faith and belief impact our communities and offer resilience, connection and

joy. Through storytelling, people can step into each other's worlds – through a poem, a song or a photograph. Stories can also break down barriers, challenge stereotypes and start important conversations.

Events are listed on the website:

[scottishinterfaithweek.org/events](http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/events)

and more information will be coming out on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

In the spirit of the storytelling theme there is an interesting account from the Director of Interfaith Scotland about moving to Samoa and the links with Robert Louis Stevenson, known in Samoa as "Tusi Tala" (the teller of tales).

[scottishinterfaithweek.org/  
scotland-to-samoa-community-  
living-and-telling-tales](http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/scotland-to-samoa-community-living-and-telling-tales)

Fiona Watt  
World Church Group

## Collect. Donate. Sort. Recycle.

### *Usable Glasses Give New Life*

Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services. The British Lions throughout the UK, recognizing the urgent need for corrective glasses, collect and process tens of thousands of unwanted and damaged spectacles each year.

Please hand in any old unused glasses to the church office between now and the end of November or give them to Hazel Macaulay who will take them to collecting opticians: ISee, 62 Niddrie Mains Rd, Edinburgh, EH16 4BG

[lionsclubs.co/MemberArea/  
knowledge/spectacles-recycling/](http://lionsclubs.co/MemberArea/knowledge/spectacles-recycling/)

Hazel Macaulay



## COP27

It doesn't seem long since last year's COP26 in Glasgow but the 27th "Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" will take place from 6th to 18th November in the Egyptian coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh. COP27 aims to build on the outcomes of COP26 to deliver action on an array of issues critical to tackling the climate emergency – from urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience and adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change, to delivering on the commitments to finance climate action in developing countries.

With the war in Ukraine, the cost of living crisis and the change in senior UK government personnel one can't help wondering if action on climate change has fallen down the list of priorities. The recent energy price guarantee introduced by the government includes a temporary suspension of the green energy levies included in household energy bills. And the government's drive to make the UK more self-reliant for energy means that oil and gas projects in the North Sea continue to be approved, at odds with commitments on reducing carbon emissions.



However, with COP27 taking place in Egypt, there is some optimism that there will be more focus on Africa, the continent most vulnerable to climate change despite having contributed the least to global warming. It may help to firm up the commitment of wealthy nations to contribute \$100 billion a year from 2020 to the countries most affected by the climate crisis.

What practical action can we as individuals take? Well, we can sign one of the petitions in support of justice for climate-vulnerable communities, for example the "It's time to deliver" petition organised by Tearfund

[www.tearfund.org/campaigns/climate-campaign](http://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/climate-campaign)

or join the Global Day of Action at 12noon on 12th November in St Andrew's Square, Edinburgh

[climatefringe.org/](http://climatefringe.org/)

and help keep the urgent issue of climate finance on the agenda.

**Janet Edwards**  
**Greenbank Eco-Group**



## Thought for the month

### God's loving justice

Mary and I were fortunate enough to be in San Francisco this summer and one of the highlights of our trip was a visit to Alcatraz Prison. The prison had been used from the mid-19th century by the U.S. Army for military prisoners, but in 1933 was transferred to the U.S. Department of Justice for use by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The Federal Government had decided to open a maximum-security, minimum-privilege penitentiary to deal with the most incorrigible inmates in Federal prisons, and to show the law-abiding public that the Federal Government was serious about stopping the rampant crime of the 1920s and 1930s.

I found the tour of the prison fascinating, very educational but also a bit depressing to think that human beings had to live in such conditions. There was also a wonderful exhibition titled "The Big Lockup: Mass Incarceration in the United States," highlighting injustices in the US mass incarceration system. The exhibit featured infographics explaining how the war on drugs and systemic racism has disproportionately incarcerated people of colour, as well as panels describing how education, affluence, drug use and whether or not someone is placed in foster care can influence the likelihood that someone is incarcerated. According to data from 2017, 28% of people incarcerated between 2000 and 2013 had a history of either an open \*child welfare case for in-home services or an out-of-home foster care placement. In 2018, \*\*44% of children in the foster care system nationwide were Black or Latino.

Within our faith communities we often talk and read about our God being a just God. What does justice look like in the Kingdom of God? Is God's justice vengeful and retaliatory, or does it seek to restore and heal people when they are broken and hurt?

The Jewish philosopher Martin Buber says God is "the God of the Sufferers". We can look at the ways of Jesus to further reveal the nature of God's justice, being the one who was God on Earth. Jesus went to where the suffering was, to the people who were excluded from the system. He physically and spiritually rescued those in need, be it the leper in Matthew 8 or the woman caught in adultery in John 8 as two examples. Empathy for the victim became one of the most subversive elements in his teachings and it was difficult for folk to comprehend. Jesus said "in so far as you did this to one of the least of these, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40) Ultimately



## Advent and Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid



We will, as is customary, be having our annual appeal for Christian Aid during the period of Advent beginning on Sunday 27th November.

There will be Gift Aid envelopes available in the church and information about donating online will be in the next edition of *Connections* and on the church website nearer the time.

**Fiona Watt**  
Christian Aid Coordinator



Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and gift wrap will be on sale on Sunday 6th November in the Main Hall.

**Joan Ritchie**

he identified with all victims in the manner of his passion and death.

God's power for justice is precisely his power to restore people when they are broken or hurt, he uses their mistakes to liberate them, to soften them, to enlighten them, to transform them, to heal them. In God's kingdom all sorrows are shared in a heart of compassionate love, all tears are gathered in a womb of mercy, all pain is healed by the balm of forgiveness.

**Stephen Hadden**

[\\*tinyurl.com/4n3ms93u](https://tinyurl.com/4n3ms93u)

[\\*\\*tinyurl.com/z45ns49p](https://tinyurl.com/z45ns49p)

## Greenbank Calendar 2023 now on sale



A Greenbank Calendar, similar in design to the YACHT calendars of a few years ago, has been prepared from the winning entries of the recent Greenbank Life photographic competitions.

Each A4 calendar costs £6, or four for £20, and is on sale in the Main Hall after Sunday morning worship, or from the Church Office during the week.

**John Murison**

[Cover photograph by Moira Small:  
Iona, July 2022: Waves at the North End]

## The Guild

The Guild started the new session in splendid style with an interesting, lively and very helpful discussion with Councillor Neil Ross, who gave a clear and concise description of the range of Council activities and how they were organised. He then conducted a Question and Answer session during which problems such as potholes, illegal parking, waste disposal, making contact with the appropriate sections and many others were brought up. It was altogether a useful and enlightening afternoon. The Council can look forward to many emails from Greenbank!

On 1st November we will have some fun with flower arranging and on the 15th we will watch a Video presentation about Home for Good, the project we are supporting this year. This charity works towards ensuring a settled home, through fostering, adoption or supported accommodation, for every child in Scotland who needs it. It will be very interesting to hear how the Project works and what progress is being made. Let's hope we can raise as much for this Scottish Project as we did for Kazunzu Village last year.

All are welcome to come to any of our meetings, we are a friendly bunch, and there's always time for tea, biscuits and chat (especially the chat).

**Edith Armit**

Here is the programme for January to March 2023:

### January

- 10 Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12 noon in the Main Hall
- 17 Braidburn Valley Park  
Andrew Swann

### February

- 7 A Year as Moderator  
Very Rev Dr Derek Browning
- 21 Working with Stained Glass  
Edith Armit

### March

- 7 Edinburgh City Mission  
Dr Katie Bogie
- 21 2.30pm  
ABM Members only  
3 pm  
The Work of the Pre School  
Kyra Okoth



## William Wilson Exhibition Now On

The Royal Scottish Academy (at the foot of The Mound) is currently holding an exhibition of the work of William Wilson, who designed and executed several of the stained glass windows at Greenbank Parish Church.

From its website:

### William Wilson

An anniversary exhibition: 8th October to 13th November 2022  
RSA Lower Galleries | Free entry  
This October we are pleased to present an exhibition commemorating 50 years since the death of one of Scotland's most acclaimed twentieth-century artists, William Wilson RSA (1905–72). Regarded as a leading exponent in printmaking, watercolour and stained glass, this exhibition marks the first survey across Wilson's practice in nearly 30 years.

### Greenbank Comment:

This is an excellent exhibition which illuminates Wilson's work and adds to our appreciation of his three windows in Greenbank.

The exhibits include working drawings and photos of work in progress. As well as his wonderful stained glass he produced beautiful etchings and the exhibition includes many of the plates used. It is amazing to see how delicate the detail is of the etching on copper and then to see the final print (in reverse of course!). The exhibition does not include his Greenbank windows, but I was intrigued to see a small panel which is very similar to one in our Christmas window, he obviously liked it.

Edith Armit



## Church Social

David Jack, Richard Dunbar and their team organised an excellent and well-attended event on 24th September. All ages enjoyed a varied programme of entertainment and a really good supper. The Church Choir and the Ceilidh Band also entertained, as well as these pictured.



*Drama 1 with Anne and Phil*



*Auld Lang Syne*



*The Praise Band*

*Drama 2 with Duncan, David and David, but who is the miserable chap in green?  
(answer page 15)*

## Date for your diary!

An **Afternoon Service** will be held on Sunday **4th December** at 3 pm. The service will be led by the Rev John Stevenson with a Christmas theme.

The service will be Dementia friendly and all are welcome.

Mary Hadden



## Live-streaming at Greenbank



Learn how it's done

**Saturday 12th November 2022**

**from 10:30 to 11:30am**

This is an opportunity to see what's involved with the cameras and sound used to stream our services. If interested please speak to David Ferguson or write to

[office@greenbankchurch.org](mailto:office@greenbankchurch.org)

by 4th November.

David Ferguson

## Flower Rota 2023

Thank you so much to everyone who generously provided flowers during 2022 and also to those who kindly arranged flowers on behalf of other donors. The flowers are a wonderful addition to worship and are also much appreciated by those who receive them after the Sunday service.

The Rota for next year will be available in the Main Hall on Sunday mornings from Sunday 6th November and opportunities for flower donors to sign up will remain available until all the slots have been filled.

There will also be a separate list where people can sign up to arrange flowers for other members who wish to donate flowers but are unable to arrange them.

Moira Land

## Recycling Ink Cartridges (update)

Since we started collecting in October 2021 we have now saved just 560 ink cartridges from landfill (approximately 6.01 kilos) and as a side benefit £91.95 raised for the charity, Poverty Child.

We take all makes of ink cartridges, sorry no laser or toner cartridges. We are also happy to take from your neighbours and friends as well. The recycling and used stamp boxes are in the vestibule.

Stuart Sanders





## **CHRISTMAS TREES DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR**

**Save money and time by getting your premium quality Fraser Fir delivered to your door (in our delivery area) or collect from Greenbank Church.**

### **Scouts are selling Christmas trees again!**

The Greenbank Scouts and Explorers are all ready to deliver a Christmas tree to your door (in our delivery area, which includes the parish and beyond, except flats). You can order from Saturday 5th until Friday 25th November

by email [scouttrees2021@gmail.com](mailto:scouttrees2021@gmail.com)

or phone 07718 836683 between 7pm and 9pm

Our prices (please pay by bank transfer when your order is confirmed) are:

4ft Fraser Fir £30

5ft Fraser Fir £35

6ft Fraser Fir £45

7ft Nordmann Fir £55

8ft Nordmann Fir £60

We'll be delivering the trees on Friday 2nd December (3pm–7pm or 7pm–10pm) and Saturday 3rd December (9am–noon or noon–3pm).

The profits go towards the costs of running our very active Scout organisations, which have well over 100 young people.

**Duncan Macniven**



## Coffee Rota

### Nov

- 6 Lorna Perriss, D61  
 13 Anne Kinnear, D9  
 20 Hazel Macaulay, D8  
 27 Helen & Phil Barnes, D42 & 49



### Dec

- 4 Communion, no coffee

## Welcome Teams

### Nov

- 6 **Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock  
 3 **Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Elaine McRae, Jane Harkin  
 20 **Keith Winton**. Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robert Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small  
 27 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton

### Dec

- 4 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden

## Flower Rota

*provided by*      *delivered by*

### November

- 6 Louise Coghill      Isabel Graham  
 13 Moira Davidson      Gail Beveridge  
 20 Sue Black      Julie Nimmo  
 27 Christine Buist      Miriam Jackson

### Dec

- 4 Julia Dunbar      Jill Powlett Brown

### Answer to page 12 question:

John Murison

### The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Ms Julia Cato (Associate Minister)

tel: 07957 586 898

e-mail: [jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Administrator: Ms Jackie Wilson-Tagoe  
 phone and fax: 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 to: [greenbankweekly@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankweekly@gmail.com)

Material for the Dec-Jan issue of **Greenbank Connections** should be delivered to the Church Office by Sunday 13th November 2022 or sent by e-mail by 8pm on **Thursday 17th November 2022** to [greenbankconnections@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankconnections@gmail.com)

# COUNTDOWN to CHRISTMAS!



You are invited to bring gifts of non-perishable food during Advent, for donation to our nominated charities.



Please drop off your (unwrapped) gifts at any of the collection points below during Advent...

Helen & Phil Barnes,  
4 Greenbank Crescent,  
EH10 5SG

Julia & Richard Dunbar,  
26 Easter Steil,  
EH10 5XE

Alison & John Murison,  
17 Jordan Lane,  
EH10 4RA

Kirsten & Simon Pink,  
1 Shearie Knowe Gdns,  
EH13 0FN

Greenbank Parish Church,  
Braidburn Terrace,  
EH10 5ES

Alison & David Reid,  
27 Comiston View,  
EH10 6LP

David & Rona Sommerville,  
40 Plewlands Gardens,  
EH10 5JR

Karen & Robert Young,  
13 Greenbank Loan,  
EH10 5SH

For more information contact Julia Dunbar (Phone 07740 600119)

## Christmas Event for Children

at Greenbank Parish Church

on Saturday 10th December, 2pm - 5pm



Only £6  
per child

An afternoon of **FUN** for Primary School Children  
Register Online at [www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)  
or contact the Greenbank Church Office (447 9969)