

Greenbank Connections



March 2023

Issue 714

Scottish Charity SC011325



Decorating the tables for lunch (See p6)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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Friendship Club

Here we are in the last month of this session which seems to have flown by. Last month from Sabine Chalmers, the coordinator of Scottish Faiths' Action for Refugees, we learnt about the many reasons worldwide why people become refugees and the many disgraceful or caring ways in which they can be treated, both hugely upsetting or thankfully uplifting. Emotions and consciences were stirred. Then on the 22nd we joined Alasdair Smart on his chilly mountain top adventure in the Austrian Tyrol.

This month on 8th March we will be hearing all about Cramond Island from Alan Dods and on the 22nd from Edith Armit we will



Minister's Letter



Transitions

The weather can change suddenly, but seasons tend to transition gradually. The liturgical transition from Christmas to Lent thankfully includes Epiphany, allowing a gradual letting go of the baby in the manger so we can venture further afield. Epiphany encourages us to think about the light Christ brings to the world as we journey through the dark winter months. Our Candlemas Service of Blessing, celebrating the return of light, acknowledged the end of the Christmas season and encouraged us to celebrate Christ as the light of the world in all seasons of our lives. As the days get longer and daylight lingers for a few more minutes each day, we give thanks for the renewal of life in our world.

After the Season of Epiphany and before the season of Lent starts,

we celebrate Transfiguration Sunday. It would be easy to let this Sunday slip by with just a nod to a rather trippy story, but I would encourage you to linger for a bit. The story of the transfiguration of Jesus is the calm before the storm. Many of us know what it is like to weather a storm we are not sure we will make it out of. The Transfiguration story reminds us that there are life-giving moments in our faith journeys we can lean on when we can't see through the darkness of the present storm.



Snowdrops (or as they are sometimes remembered by an old name,

'Candlemas Bells') are starting to appear all around. They emerge in community, clusters of white flowers, offering a symbol of hope as the winter season lingers on. Although delicate

looking, they endure and thrive in freezing conditions, often undamaged and undaunted by falls of snow. As we prepare and transition into the season of Lent, let us remember that God prepares us for confrontation with storms, and that we do not journey through darkness alone. Christ's light is with us, always.

Julia A Cato

From Tony Foster

Liz and I are enjoying North Berwick, including worshipping at St Andrew Blackadder. I was sorry to give up my Treasurer's role without a replacement in place but am sure that Roddy, Charlotte and the rest of the finance team can cope without me. Liz and I still keep in touch with our friends at Greenbank via the newsletter and *Connections*.

I particularly enjoyed David's article on the Revelation window. I once looked up Charles Inglis Clarke who is commemorated by it. You may be

aware that he has another memorial, a hut on Ben Nevis, which reflects the fact that his family were keen mountaineers. The hut is still in use today by climbers on the Ben, has its own web page:

www.smc.org.uk/huts/cic

and is even on Facebook!

Tony Foster



Mission Partner for Greenbank

It was agreed at the Kirk Session meeting on Tuesday 17th January that the Rev Dr Stewart Gillan, Minister of St Andrew's, Jerusalem and Tiberias, should be our new Mission Partner.



Dr Gillan was appointed as Minister at St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias in succession to the Rev Dr John McCulloch who was our former Mission Partner. Dr Gillan was due to take up his role in August 2022, but, for various reasons, he did not get to Jerusalem until the end of the year. We are now waiting to hear more about how we can keep in contact with him and his work in Israel/Palestine. We will receive his Partner Plan letters and learn about the areas for which he would like us to pray. Dr Gillan published an article in the December 2022 issue of Life and Work, reflecting on his early experiences of life in Israel/Palestine.

Dr Gillan will share the Church of Scotland's work in Israel/Palestine with the Rev Muriel Pearson who is the Associate Minister and is based in Tiberias on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Together they are responsible for the congrega-

tions in Jerusalem and Tiberias and for forming and sustaining relationships with the Church of Scotland's partners in the area. Many of them are working on Peace and Justice, not easy in

this troubled area. The two Ministers also provide support to the staff of the Scots Hotel at Tiberias, the Guest House in Jerusalem and Tabeetha School in Jaffa, which is on the Mediterranean coast, near to Tel Aviv.

In due course Dr Gillan will come to Scotland on a visit when we will have a chance to meet him and hear directly about his work.

Valerie Macniven
World Church Group

Date for your diary!

Afternoon Service: A short traditional service with familiar hymns and organ music. Communion will be celebrated.

The service will be on **Sunday 16th April at 3 pm**. Tea and coffee will be served in the hall with home baking and piano music.

Mary Hadden



Thought for the Month

Learning to walk in the dark

Last week, at our local History Society, I heard a talk about the Covenanters and their involvement in the Pentland Rising of 1666. As a child in Ireland, I had grown up with the awareness that some of my ancestors had been Scottish clergy involved in the struggles of that time: names on a family tree. After last week's talk, however, history became alive, and they became flesh and blood again – men who, for their convictions, were prepared to face imprisonment, loss of their living, even execution...

Just now, we are moving through the season of Lent, when we revisit the narrative about Jesus in the wilderness, grappling with whatever demons waylaid him. I suspect they were the same inner demons that we are challenged to deal with in our own journey – whatever makes us settle for being less than 'real'. Barbara Brown Taylor reminds us in 'Learning to Walk in the Dark' that the darkness, our shadow side, is as real and as much part of ourselves as our 'persona', our social self. Our humanity consists of learning to embrace both...

The only book I have had to buy twice, after my well-thumbed first copy began to fall apart, is Harry Williams' 'The True Wilderness'. A Cambridge theologian, who real-

ised that theology must be 'in the bloodstream as well as the brain', not just as an objective system, but at heart the call of Love for us to become whole persons. An encounter with 'thou mastering me, God' becomes the ultimate reality...

As the Church of Scotland seeks to reshape itself for a changing situation, we can look back with gratitude to those who fought for the freedoms we now enjoy. But new wine needs new wineskins, and a progressive community rightly continues to explore what that means for us today...

'Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the men of old - seek what they sought...' (Buddhist poet)

Mary McMahan

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discover about 'Stained Glass from start to finish' and that is our final meeting. We still have our outing to come in May and of course the summer coffee mornings will keep us all in touch.

As our numbers have diminished, the Lower Hall feels a bit like a barn, so we will from now on be meeting in the Braid Room, moving through to the Hermitage Room for our refreshments. I will have a sign out to direct members.

Val Smart

Soup 'n Song 'n Sweet Treats A Happy Coming Together

It's always heartening and inspiring to see what a 'team effort' can achieve and that certainly was evident in Greenbank recently.

An unexpected encounter with the delightful Newmarket Community Choir, lots of willing Greenbank helpers sharing their skills and talents enabled a happy 'coming together' event with the scene set perfectly following Julia's beautiful Candlemas Service on Sunday 5th February.

Newmarket Community Choir brought such energy and enthusiasm and following their lively, uplifting concert, there was a much enjoyed and important time of fellowship over lunch in the Centenary Hall which finished with Alan leading us all in a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

Special thanks go to Gillian Sweetman who, along with her hard-working team, did sterling service in the kitchen producing a delicious lunch. Thanks to all who helped in so many different ways, from the planning, to setting everything up, to our Springboard helpers, to the home bakers and to the D24 coffee team who kept the coffee pots flowing.

The choir were delighted with the warm, friendly welcome they received at Greenbank; it

was lovely to have so many of them join us for morning worship. It also came as a complete surprise when they presented us with a generous cheque for £250 to help us establish our new community singing group. We are told this was as a result of a 'whip round' they had as a way of saying thank you for lunch. It is evident just how much pleasure they get not only from singing together but also being together.

There is no doubt that this could not have happened without the contributions that everyone made, a real Greenbank team effort resulting in us being able to raise £290 to support Edinburgh City Mission (food banks and support for homeless). A positive ripple effect of coming together on so many different fronts!

We only hope that it will inspire some of you to come along and join



Origami doves



the Greenbank 'singing group'. Watch this space for further details which will be coming soon!

Susan Inch and David Allan



Greenbank's Stained Glass The Ministry of Music Window

If you look south (left) from your pew on a sunny Sunday morning you will see the sunlight streaming in through the Music window, lighting up the vibrant colours of Saint Cecilia, known as the patron saint of music, who is the central figure in the window, surrounded by cherubs and angels.

Erected in 1928, this was the first window to be installed in the new church building after it opened in 1927, and is traditional in style, following the 'older static representational style of oil paintings' *(a), with madonna-like faces on all the figures. There is a lightness about this window which I like – the glass is not stained throughout, as in the other windows, giving a sense of space and sky through the clear panes. The colours are enhanced by the bright red wings of the angels, providing a frame for Saint Cecilia in the centre.

Of particular interest are the musical instruments being played by the angels and cherubs. Saint Cecilia herself is playing a Portative Organ – one which can be carried – playing with one hand while the other operates the bellows. The cherubs top left and top right are playing trumpets, while centre left and right there are lutes, which are plucked, and on the right there is also a viol, which is bowed. At the bottom right an angel plays a harp, while on the left the rectangular box-like instrument being plucked is identified by our former Organist, Tom Sommerville, as a 'rotte or rotta, which was a lyre or small harp, called a crot by the early Britons and a crwth by the Welsh'*(b).

If you look carefully, you will see it has eight strings, with an oval opening just below the angel's hand. There is much fine detail in the instruments and in the playing fingers of the angels and cherubs – definitely worth a closer look.

The window was created by James Ballantine Jr (1878-1940), grandson of James Ballantine Sr, the founder of a successful glass-making business in Edinburgh's George Street, who





The Ministry of Music Window

branched out into stained glass and opened a studio in Rose Street Lane. His son Alexander, also a talented stained glass artist, continued the business, and windows were installed in many places throughout the country. By the time young James was in charge the company was exporting windows to other parts of the world as well, such as Canada, Bermuda and

South Africa. Interestingly, William Wilson, who was responsible for three of the Greenbank windows (including the Nativity Window described in the December/January issue of *Connections*), was apprenticed to James Ballantyne & Co in 1920 at the age of fifteen, and worked for them on and off until the 1940s.

The Music window was gifted to Greenbank by the two daughters of Mr and Mrs Joseph Bennet in memory of their parents, who were members of the congregation with a great interest in music. Mr Bennet was one of the original two elders who came from Braid Church and were

largely responsible for setting up the Greenbank congregation in 1900.

Louise Coghill

* See *Guide to the Stained Glass Windows in Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh* by Donald G M Mackay, Minister 1950-1982

(a) p25 (b) p4

Copies available, price £5, from the Church Office. It is available online:

tinyurl.com/3nhszwv4

Stamps and Ink Cartridges

We started collecting used ink cartridges in October 2021 and to date we have now saved 716 ink cartridges from landfill (approximately 7.60 Kilos) and as a side benefit we raised £117.25 for the charity, Poverty Child. It is an impressive figure from just one Congregation and while only a small dent in the estimated 45 million cartridges that go into landfill each year, every little helps. We take all makes of ink cartridges, sorry no laser or toner cartridges. We are happy to take from your neighbours and friends as well.

The current stamp collecting year finishes at the end of February but will be replaced by a new scheme starting in March so keep the stamps coming. For the year past we sent six larger sized shoe boxes full of stamps which as with the Ink Cartridges is a great success. Again if your friend and neighbours have stamps please collect.

The recycling and used stamp boxes are in the vestibule.

Stuart Sanders

Guild

The Very Rev Dr Derek Browning gave us an excellent talk about his year as Moderator, it was interesting, fun and thought provoking. The Making of Stained Glass presentation gave us some of the history of glass making and told us about the labour involved in creating stained glass panels, large and small. This was illuminating and will allow us to look at the windows in



Greenbank with greater understanding of the effort that went into the making of them.

On 7th March we look forward to Katie Bogie telling us about the interesting and very valuable work of the Edinburgh City Mission.

On the **21st March** we have the **ABM**, with Kyra Okoth describing the work of the Pre School. This is for members only.

Edith Armit

Christian Aid Advent & Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all who supported our appeal so generously. I am delighted to let you know that a total sum of £12,131 was raised, including Gift Aid. This year's Christian Aid Christmas appeal focused on Malawi where

families depend upon small-scale farming and are thus extremely vulnerable to the climate crisis. The funds we raised will go towards helping families and communities grow food crops resilient to climate change and thus preventing hunger.

Fiona Watt
Christian Aid Coordinator

Welcome Teams

Mar

- 5 **Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Margot Gillon
- 12 **Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay
- 19 **Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Elaine McRae, Jane Harkin
- 26 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robert Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small

April

- 2 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton

Flower Rota

provided by *delivered by*

Mar

- 5 Alan Ramage Jill Mundy
- 12 Janet Ferguson Margot Gillon
- 19 Alison Murison Pauline Walker
- 26 Anne Oxbrow Joan Cameron

April

- 2 Katie Grey
Wedding Charlotte Tucker

Coffee Rota

Mar

- 5 Communion no coffee
- 12 Ian & Isobel Thom D53, 54 & 56
- 19 Hazel &
Angus McLachlan D49 & 50
- 26 Rosemary McCulloch D43

April

- 2 Rona Sommerville D69

The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

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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 to: greenbankweekly@gmail.com

Material for the April 2023 issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pidgeonhole by **Sunday 12th March 2023** or sent by e-mail by 8pm on **Thursday 16th March 2023** to greenbankconnections@gmail.com

A poster for a Forest Church event. The background is a photograph of a forest path. In the top left corner is the Greenbank Parish Church logo, a circular emblem with a cross and a tree. In the top right corner is the 'eco congregations Scotland' logo, featuring a stylized plant and a cross. The text is centered and reads: 'Forest Church' in large green letters, 'Saturday 25th March 2pm-4.30pm' in purple, 'Meet in the Main Hall' in purple, 'Wear outdoor clothing' in purple, 'Activities: seed bombs, planting, forest art' in purple, 'Refreshments provided' in purple, 'Families and Adults welcome' in purple, 'Register at greenbankchurch.org (no charge)' in purple, and 'A fun and inspiring event!' in large green letters.

Forest Church

Saturday 25th March 2pm-4.30pm

Meet in the Main Hall

Wear outdoor clothing

Activities: seed bombs, planting, forest art

Refreshments provided

Families and Adults welcome

Register at greenbankchurch.org (no charge)

A fun and inspiring event!

Lent / Easter Appeal 2023: Recipients

At its January meeting the Congregational Board selected the undernoted charities to share the monies raised in this year's Lent / Easter appeal.

The Open Door, Morningside

www.theopendoor.org.uk

The Open Door is a small charity in Morningside, Edinburgh. Its mission is to bring Care, Love and Laughter into the lives of frail elderly people, those who are lonely, those suffering with Dementia and other additional needs and their carers.

Seagull Trust Cruises, Ratho

www.seagulltrust.org.uk

Seagull Trust Cruises, is based at Ratho and operates on the Union

Canal there. It is described as free cruising for special needs passengers. Church groups, elderly groups, families where someone has a blue badge, special schools etc are all welcome but the bulk of its passengers are from Care Homes.

Members can donate using envelopes which will be in the pews from Sunday 19th March to Sunday 9th April inclusive or via the Lent Easter Donate "button" on the Church's website

Alan Ramage

Joint Clerk

Congregational Board