

# Greenbank Connections



April 2023

Issue 715

Scottish Charity SC011325



*The Parables Window (see p10)*

## Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

## Contents

Minister's Letter	2
Our next Session Clerk	3
Christian Aid Week	4
Carbon Footprint	5
Greenbank Scouts Jumble Sale	6
Thought for the Month	7
Guild	8
Date for the Diary	8
A New Perspective	9
The Parables Window	10
Scottish Love in Action	12
The Harvest of a Quiet Eye	13
Flower Rota	14
Coming for a Song	14
Congregational Register	14
Welcome Teams	15
Coffee Rota	15
Contacts and Deadlines	15
Scout Jumble Sale Advert	16
Lent/Easter Appeal	16

## Minister's Letter



### Not there yet

It's that time of year when looking out the window one can't really be sure what season we are in. Sometimes it's snowing, sometimes the sun is shining, sometimes the rain is lashing at the window. Snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses remind us we are indeed moving towards Spring. But we are not there yet.

We are not there yet could also be a theme for Lent. We are well into Lent and nearing Holy Week and Easter. But we are not there yet. This might have been the refrain the Israelites sang as they wandered through the wilderness for decades...we are not there yet. It can either be a chant of encouragement, or a cry of despair.

There is a finish line of sorts. Lent is a season during which we can reflect on all the finish lines we



have set our eyes on and why. The lesson of the journey in the wilderness and the temptation in the desert is that faith is rarely about the finish line or the end game. The Lenten journey offers an opportunity to reflect on whether we have our eyes set on the right goals and whether we have chosen to trust God in all things.

Has your Lent turned out different than you had imagined? The challenge is to be present to the Lent you actually have. Which leads to being present to the life you actually have. Our days are often complicated by feelings that may not seem very spiritual. We hold our annoyances, disappointments, and

grievances too close. We yearn to do better. But we are not there yet. As we travel through the final weeks of Lent and into Holy Week, we travel as individuals and in community. God travels with us on the days that are good and the days that are complete rubbish. Our finish line is Easter. We are almost there. Of course, when we get there, there will be much to celebrate and much to grieve. And then, we keep on keeping on in Christ's name working towards building a more just and more loving world. God promises that together we will get there. But we are not there yet.

*Julia A Cato*

## Our next Session Clerk



I am delighted to announce that our next Session Clerk will be **Rona Sommerville**. Rona will take up her new position when Valerie steps down at the June meeting of the Kirk Session.

**Neil Ross**

# Christian Aid Week 14th to 20th May 2023

## Volunteers required



The Christian Aid Week appeal this year will focus on Malawi, where farmers are struggling to survive due to the climate crisis. Christian Aid supports communities in moving to crops which are drought resistant and enabling them to sell their produce at fair prices.

For the last two years we have distributed delivery only envelopes in our parish, inviting people to donate to an online fundraising page or to return envelopes to the church office. This has been very successful, and last year we raised over £4,200 including Gift Aid.

We are intending to do this again for 2023 and I am in the process of contacting volunteers from previous years so that I can organise envelope delivery. It would be helpful to have additional volunteers. This would involve delivering envelopes to between 30 and 50 houses during Christian Aid Week 14th-20th May. There is no need to return to collect the envelopes.

Please contact me if you can help with this.

### Local Christian Aid Week Events

#### **Holy Comer Book Sale 13th & 14th May**

Following a successful weekend sale last year, this will be held again in Morningside United Church on Saturday 13th May (all day) and Sunday 14th May (afternoon only.)

#### **Coffee Morning Saturday 20th May**

We are organising a joint coffee morning with the other local churches. This will be held at Morningside Parish Church on **Saturday 20th May from 10am to 12 noon.**

Further details will be available nearer the time, but in the meantime – save the date!

**Fiona Watt**

Christian Aid Co-ordinator

### Greenbank Eco-Group will be running a Plant Stall at the Coffee Morning on 20th May



## Carbon Footprint: Measure – Reduce – Offset

A Christian charity called *Climate Stewards* is offering to help us deal with our individual carbon footprint: how to measure it, what to do about it and, where emissions can't be avoided, how to offset them.

[www.climatestewards.org](http://www.climatestewards.org)

Part of the *A Rocha* family of organisations, whose aim is to help care for God's creation,

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

*Climate Stewards* seeks to help everyone adjust to lower carbon lifestyles and to provide support for our global neighbours as they respond to the impact of climate change.

*Climate Stewards* works to offset carbon outputs with partners in Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda. Rather than offering only a financial transaction, these locally-designed projects also benefit health, family finances and the local environment.

For example, in Nepal Rupsi used to cook for her family on an open fire, increasing the risk of eye and skin infections. She had to collect 120kg of firewood each week.

*Climate Stewards* partner RIDS Nepal installed a smokeless metal stove, halving Rupsi's family's firewood needs. Now they don't need to collect wood every day, leaving the children more time for education and other activities. A chimney removes harmful soot and carbon monoxide from their home, and the stove's efficient burning action reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 6.5 tons each year.

The carbon offsetting calculator:

[www.climatestewards.org/offset](http://www.climatestewards.org/offset)

is easy to use. For example, offsetting the emissions of a return train journey from Edinburgh to London would cost £1.43; a flight to the Mediterranean would cost around £15 to offset. If you've been thinking about offsetting, do give *Climate Stewards* a try!

**Chris Weir**

for the Liberton Kirk  
Eco-Congregation Team



## Greenbank Scouts Jumble Sale

Jumble Sales are rare events these days and the Scout Sale is one of the best! Its profits keep our subscriptions low, subsidise Scouts to go to our many camps through the year, and ensure we have good-quality tents and other equipment.

This year's Sale is on **Saturday 15th April from 9.30am till noon** – so please come along (entrance charge £2) and marvel at the range and quality of books, toys, clothing, jewellery, bric-a-brac and more.

If you can help (particularly with home baking) or if you have good-quality jumble to donate, drop us a line on

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

or phone 07718 836683

or simply bring it along in the evenings of the preceding week (6.30-8.30pm). There's a lot of volunteer effort goes into the Sale so if you can join our enthusiastic team of helpers, just have a word with me or email

[4th.braid.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:4th.braid.scouts@gmail.com)

**Duncan Macniven**



## Thought for the Month – The Truth of Easter

*And is it true?* In his poem “Christmas” John Betjeman poses this question about Christmas and the Incarnation. It could equally well be asked about Easter and the Resurrection.

At Christmas not only do we celebrate the birth of Jesus as the baby of Bethlehem, but we marvel at the mystery of God’s love, beyond human comprehension and analysis, being revealed to us in Jesus of Nazareth. In his life, in his teaching, in his work of healing and renewal, Christians claim to see nothing less than God’s loving attitude to humanity expressing itself amidst the stresses and complexities of human life. All this seemed to come to an abrupt end with the violent death of Jesus.

At Easter not only do we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, but we marvel at the mystery of God’s love, crucified, dead, buried – and undefeated. Once more, in ways beyond human understanding, the death of Jesus, as well as his life, shows us the character of God, persevering in love, forever bearing hurt and sorrow and pain. Without the resurrection the cross of Jesus remains tragedy and defeat. But equally the resurrection is not the cancelling of the cross, for there is no way to resurrection except through the cross.

*And is it true?* The Gospel writers did not explore precisely what happened when Joseph of Arimathea’s rock tomb lost its tenant. For them it was a mighty act of God, and as such an impenetrable mystery. We may never know with any certainty what was going on between Good Friday and the first Easter morning. This is frustrating for those who want to ascertain the facts, who want the literal truth, who demand verification.

There is, however, a more-than-literal truth. It has to do with the difference the resurrection has made and what it has contributed to the lives of countless people. The main outcome of the resurrection was the transformation of what has been described as “a forlorn handful of former followers of an executed and discredited prophet” into what would become the dominant religion of the Roman Empire and subsequently a worldwide faith. Jesus did not survive as a gradually fading memory and influence in the hearts of his followers but as the sole source of their new life. The first Christians knew the presence of their living Lord in various ways, not least in the worship and fellowship of the church.

People still claim to know Christ’s living presence. This is not esoteric



## Guild



We have had an excellent year with interesting and fun topics for our meetings; everything from the Work of Edinburgh Council, through a Year in the Life of a Moderator, Christmas flower decorations and the Braid Burn Valley Park, with very enjoyable singing at our Christmas Party and discussion of the Guild theme for the year 'Wee seeds, Big Trees'. We have learnt about the work of the Guild Project 'Home for Good' to which we have already made dona-

tions. Rather than a one-off fundraising event we have decided to repeat last year's very successful Summer Coffee Morning series, where we invited all participants to donate to the Charity in lieu of payment

for the cakes and coffee. There will be full details of this nearer the time. We are also looking forward to our yearly outing in May.

It has been good to get back to being able to meet regularly with friends, to have a chance to chat and to enjoy the meetings.

*/Thought for the Month from p7*

mysticism, but simply a sense, indeed a knowledge, of Christ's continuing presence. Just as the first followers of Jesus were transformed into a revolutionary movement that turned the world upside down, so twenty centuries later we can experience a new quality of life filled with energy, love, joy and hope for the future, a profound transformation we may call "resurrection". Resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus long ago, nor is it what we may imagine we shall enjoy at the end: resurrection is a present miracle, touching all who hear the Good News of Easter and respond in faith. In this we discover its truth, its validity, and its relevance for us today.

**Peter Graham**

**Edith Armit**

## Date for the Diary

There will be a fundraising event on the afternoon of **Saturday 29th April** in Greenbank Church Hall in aid of *Childrens Literature for Children* who send books to Kenya to children who have very few books. More details soon but put it in your diaries now!

**Moirra Small**



## A New Perspective

As a very new member of Greenbank Church I would like to say how welcome I have been made to feel in your congregation. Like so many others I stopped attending my old church, the austere beautiful St Giles Cathedral, at the time of Lockdown.



quickly been extended to me, the kindness which has been shown (flowers delivered after a recent operation) and the vibrancy of Sunday morning services have been greatly appreciated. (I loved the liveliness of the recent morning service for the uniformed organisations.)

I found comfort and encouragement in the Live Stream services from Greenbank and it has been tempting to continue worshipping at home. There is something special about attending in person, however, and I decided that it was time for me to move back to a 'family' church. The warmth with which I have been received, the friendship which has

I understand that the church is facing challenges, not least in terms of future developments, but from a newcomer's perspective, Greenbank is a lively, active and fully involved congregation of which I am very happy to be part. Thank you to all you smiling, happy, friendly people who have made me feel at home.

**Margaret Macintosh**



*L to R: The Labourers in the Vineyard, The Good Samaritan. The Prodigal Son, The Wicked Steward, with the Evangelists below; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John  
See article overleaf*

## Greenbank Stained Glass The Parables Window

This window in the North Transept is one of the most interesting and informative windows we have as well as being lively and colourful.

It was designed and made by William Wilson in 1954, given by Mrs T.D. Dobson in memory of her husband Thomas Dobson.

It recalls early traditions of Christian teaching when eager groups listened to the retelling of stories told by Jesus – the Parables. When few in the congregation could read, vivid illustrations helped them to remember the stories either by frescos painted on walls or by windows, once the use of leaded stained glass developed.

The first use in Britain of stained glass in churches was ca. 7th century when Bishop Benedict hired craftsmen from Gaul to create stained glass for the windows of St Peter's Church and Monastery at Monkwearmouth. By the 13th and 14th century craftsmen all across Europe were creating astounding windows such as those of Chartres and Reims. Sadly most of the British mediaeval examples were destroyed in the upheaval of the Reformation.

There are 20 major panels in the window plus two very tiny ones. They are very vivid illustrations of these familiar stories. Take time to look

closely. Wilson's skill in creating expressive figures and especially faces, makes each story panel very dramatic. Look for 'The Costly Pearl' no.5\* (Matt. 13.45-46) where the delighted owner is holding the pearl up high to be admired. 'The Net Full of Fish' no.8\* (Matt 13.47-50) shows the physical effort of hauling in the net bulging with fish, look at the hands and arms straining. 'The Pharisee and the Publican' no.14\* (Luke 14.9-14) have faces which show very clearly the differing approach to prayer of the two men and in 'The Lost Coin' no.15\* and opposite (Luke 15.8-10) we see how desperately the woman searches her house through the night with her broom and her lamp. Do you see the donkey waiting patiently in 'The Good Samaritan' no.9\* (Luke 10.29-37)? The face of the other brother in the 'The Prodigal Son' no.12\* (Luke 10.29-37) shows clearly his resentment of how his brother is being welcomed.

Wilson put the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son near the foot of the window so that they would be easy for children to spot. As always in Wilson's work the hands, faces and significant details are so expressive that they tell the stories with great effect.

The four panels along the base of the window show the symbols of the four Evangelists who recorded Jesus' stories in the Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

A window of this size and complexity is not made by the artist alone, there is a team of draughtsmen, glass cutters, enamellers and lead workers who carry out the artist's design. Most unusually Wilson gave credit to his team of workers and their names appear at the foot of the window in the right hand corner.

There is so much of lively interest and colour in the panels it is well worth the time to sit and 'read' all the stories. Everyone can find their own favourite parable.

... and the two tiny ones? among all the biblical settings you should be able to find two children, a little girl as an adoring cherub (Matt. 18.10) and a little boy in modern shirt and shorts to remind us that, then as now, 'of such is the Kingdom of Heaven' (Matt 19, 14; 18.1-5).

Full details of the panels are given in the second edition of the Rev Donald Mackay's Guide to Stained Glass Windows in Greenbank Church which is available online:

[tinyurl.com/3nhszwv4](http://tinyurl.com/3nhszwv4)

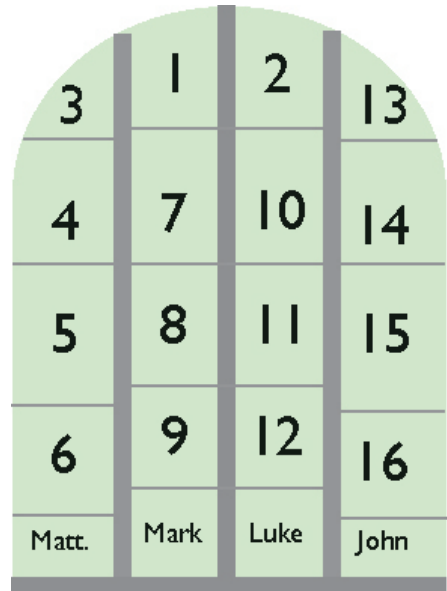
Copies are available for £5 from the Church Office

**Edith Armit**

\* See Diagram right



No 15 The widow searching for her lost coin



Key to the Window's Stories

## Scottish Love in Action

Scottish Love in Action (SLA) has its roots firmly in Greenbank. In 2000 Gillie Davidson and Brian Barron took a group of Greenbank Qllers on a work venture to India, and thereafter established the charity. I am delighted that some of the original young people from Greenbank now serve on the Board of SLA.

We now support different organisations, but with the same aim of helping children and young people out of poverty into rewarding lives, particularly through education. We currently work closely with three projects in India:

- The ASRITHA Rainbow Home in Hyderabad, where girls who have lived on the street are educated into rewarding lives.
- The Livelihoods Project which supports young adults, boys and girls, moving from a Home into productive adulthood.
- VOICE 4 Girls which teaches girls and boys aged 13-15 about their bodies and their rights, empowering them to help themselves and others.

SLA's website has stories of how the lives of these young people are transformed – girls who had lived on the street graduating as nurses, or young people whose parents scratched a rural living studying agriculture at university.



Here in Scotland, last November, we welcomed the wonderful leaders of VOICE 4 Girls, Anusha and Vanitha. And we will soon restart visits to India post Covid.

India is a diverse country, with the highest number of people living in abject poverty in the world. Millions of children are on the street, picking litter and being exploited. Girls face huge risks of abuse, early marriage and pregnancy.

SLA's support has demonstrated the value of this work to some Indian companies and individuals who now help directly.

Thank you, Greenbank, for your amazing 23 years of loving support and prayers.

**Sheila Cannell**  
Scottish Love in Action  
[www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org)



## The Harvest of a Quiet Eye

Diana Bland has pointed out an article which appeared in an issue of *The Scotsman* concerning the writings of Thomas Ratcliffe Barnett, minister of this congregation from 1913 to 1938.

The Rev Donald Mackay's booklet *The Story of Greenbank* tells us that Dr Barnett published fourteen books in total, from 1902 to 1942. His final book, *Scottish Pilgrimage in a Land of Lost Content*, was the subject of *The Scotsman* article.

The writer, Laura Waddell, quotes from the chapter on *The Beauty of Common Things*:

*"Above the bridge there is a green bank, and above the bank you can see the white gable of a cottage. Behind the white gable is a tree, hanging with red rowans. Above the red rowans stretches a deep blue sky without a cloud, and all around lie the purple moors. What is there in this small cottage, when we think of the infinite variety of scenery in Scotland? But, look again - at the amber water, the green bank, the white gable, the red rowans, the blue sky, the purple moors, and surely here is a riot of colour in the commonplace,*

*and an encouragement to the humblest soul to think nobly of self and so realise the divine possibilities that are in us all.'*

"I read these words on an endlessly grey day, after hours of cold, mizzling rainfall. There is condensation on my windows and the transporative glow of a sunny and warm Scottish day feels far off. Still, I can feel the magic Barnett conjures through warming to his delight.

"The chapter ends with wise words: 'It must ever remain true that while haste and hurry are chasing the peace out of life today, there will always be ample room for the harvest of a quiet eye.' Published 80 years ago, in 1942, this is a reminder some things never change, but that the power to wrest control over our attention lies within us."

**Editors**



## Flower Rota

*provided by*

*delivered by*

### April

2	Katie Grey	
	Wedding	Charlotte Tucker
9	Easter	
	Alison Hamilton	Margaret Mack
16	Jill Powlett Brown	Fiona Watt
23	Janet Walker	Sarah Crawford
30	Hazel Macaulay	Katy Ferguson

### May

7	Margo Fraser	Susanna Waller
---	--------------	----------------

## Congregational Register

### Deaths

#### February

- 23 Mrs Jennie Johnston (D13)
- 25 Mr Alex MacMillan (D14)

#### March

- 15 Mrs Fiona Ramage (D56)



## Coming for a Song

David Allan and Alan Irvine have spotted that there's a group of non-choristers who like singing together – and our first meeting was on 15th March. We sang a range of mostly-familiar pieces starting with “The Lord’s my Shepherd”, ranging through “Molly Malone”, “Men of Harlech” and “Wild Mountain Thyme” and finishing with “Any Dream will do”.

With Alan at the piano it was of course great fun and fifteen of us (roughly the same number of men and women) spent an hour singing, followed by tea and coffee thanks to Gillian Sweetman. The £2 charge

was money well spent! The plan is to meet fortnightly at 2pm on a Wednesday afternoon – and it's not necessary to be there every time.

Want to come and sing? Email Alan at

**Duncan Macniven**



## Welcome Teams

### April

- 2 Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 9 John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden
- 16 Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison, Rachel Cadell
- 23 Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isabel Thom, Charles Black
- 30 Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy

### May

- 7 Ian Thomson**, Kathleen Patrick, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett Brown, Karen Young, Heather Kay

## Coffee Rota

### April

- 2 Rona Sommerville** D69
- 9 Katy Maguire** D19
- 16 Diana Hastings** D31A 3 1B 32 & 35
- 23 Moira Davidson**
- 30 Gillian Sweetman** D89

### May

- 7 Susan Inch & Chris Horne**

### 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:

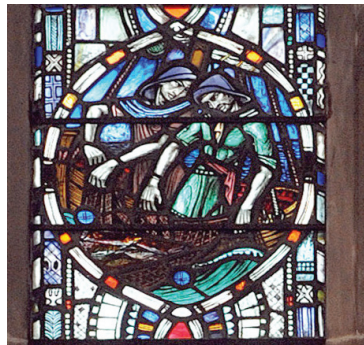
Greenbank Parish Church  
Braidburn Terrace,  
Edinburgh EH10 6ES

Items for the Weekly Newsletter should be sent by Thursdays to:

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

Material for the May 2023 issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by **Sunday 16th April 2023** or sent by e-mail by 8pm on **Thursday 20th April 2023** to:

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



*The Net Full of Fish, See p10*



## Scouts @ Greenbank

Be prepared for "probably the best..."

# JUMBLE sale

...in Edinburgh"

SATURDAY 15th APRIL 2023 : 9.30am – 12 noon

GREENBANK CHURCH, BRAIDBURN TERRACE, EH10 6ES

4th Braid Scout Group is registered as a Charity number SCO15021

No Cards – CASH only please

Adults £2

## Lent/Easter Appeal

This year's Lent/Easter Appeal is in aid of **The Open Door** and **The Seagull Trust Cruises**.

Members can donate to the appeal using the envelopes available in the pews until Sunday 9th April.

Members can also donate:

- Using the "Donation Lent 2023" button on the website:  
[www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)

- By transfer from your own bank account to –

Full Name:

Greenbank Church Collections

Sort Code: 80-02-77

Account No: 10786266

Mark payment with identifier

"Your-Surname LENT"

Alan Ramage

