

Greenbank Connections



May 2025

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Scottish Charity SC011325



Palm Sunday afternoon service included a fine afternoon tea. Further photos p 7

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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From the Locum



Have a wonderful Easter

Hope you enjoy these poems plus this text from Luke's gospel which we have been studying at Greenbank Church

"Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive?"

The First Day

(written 1995 in Australia)

It was an opal morning
like a world made brand new,
spider webs on the branches
glistened with fresh dew.
As I looked out the window
on the scene from my room,
I saw some women sobbing
by a limestone tomb.
Repeatedly they peered inside,
bodies shaking with grief,
as those who are forsaken
without hope of relief.
Suddenly they stepped back
wide-eyed and terrified,
I would swear they were listening
to something deep inside.

They spun around and set off
laughter now on each face,
Light footed as God's gazelles
they scampered from that place.
Curious beyond measure
I went down to death's lair,
cautiously I entered in
but found no death in there.

©Bruce D. Prewer

Easter 2020

(so written during the corona virus
pandemic in the UK)

And where is Jesus,
this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked
churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in
that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed;
the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen,
long before,
Alive, at large, and
making his strong way
Into the world he gave
his life to save,
No need to seek him
in his empty grave.

He might have been
a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day,
or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers,
instead he slips
Away from church,
shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with
a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher,

soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying,
gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless,
lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded,
for he came
And served us in a thousand
names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors
and catching traces
Of that virus which was
death to him:
Good Friday happened
in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless,
died with them
That they might share
his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him,
risen indeed.

© Malcolm Guite,
from 'Sounding of Seasons',
Canterbury Press

Enjoy God's richest blessing
this Easter,

Ian Y Gilmour
Locum Minister



Thought for the Month

Stories

The discussion groups which met during Lent looked at Neil Glover's book "Finding our Voice," which Neil spoke about when he gave one of our 2024 autumn lectures. The groups found many thought-provoking insights in the book. One was the idea that storytelling is vital to what Neil calls "the mainline church" – in other words, churches like Greenbank.

We have all heard stories which illustrate or deepen our faith. I heard a story recently about one of the street pastors in Perth who was accosted in a supermarket by a man who was no more than vaguely familiar. The man, however, well recalled their previous meeting some years before. On the streets and drunk, he had given dog's abuse to this meddling pastor – whose reaction was to cross to the chip shop and buy him a fish supper. They had had no further exchange, but for the man it was a turning-point. The caring action of the pastor prompted him to re-evaluate his life. He had gone into further education and was holding down a good job.

Perhaps few of us have such a powerful story to tell. In the discussion group I took part in, people were at first inclined to say that they had no special experiences. But as the discussion unfolded, we realised that interesting stories, revealing the power of the Christian faith, were not uncommon in our lives. But we weren't accustomed to recognising and especially (with Morningside reserve perhaps!) sharing them.

Neil Glover encourages us "to insist that life is 'storied', with stories which confirm our faith and those which challenge it". He sees that as an important way to help the mainline church to become more God-focused. Is that a challenge which we in Greenbank can take up, individually and collectively? Think about the stories that you can tell.....and then perhaps have the confidence to share them. The editors of *Connections* would be happy to find space each month for a short "shared story" (anonymised if you wish). Can you contribute one?

Duncan Macniven

Guild

There are no more Guild meetings until October, when the next session begins with an interesting series of speakers on a wide range of topics, but as usual we will be holding four Summer Coffee Mornings open to all with home baking, coffee and tea. There is no entrance fee, but we will be glad to receive donations to our Guild Projects.



The dates are **Tuesday 3rd June, Tuesday 1st July, Tuesday 12th August, and Tuesday 2nd September** all at 10.30am in the Main Hall.

In the meantime, the members are looking forward to our **Outing on the 6th May** when we are having Afternoon Tea at the Mortonhall Garden Centre.

Edith Armit

From Cup to Compost

Do you enjoy a cup of Fairtrade coffee after a service at Greenbank? It's not just great coffee—it's a chance to care for God's creation in a simple, practical way. Ever wondered what happens to the used coffee grounds?

YOU CAN HELP make sure they're reused! Bagged grounds are available after services—please take these home and use in your garden or allotment:

- Add to compost heaps—they're rich in nitrogen and help break down organic matter.
- Mix into soil to improve texture and water retention.
- Use as a natural fertilizer for acid-loving plants like azaleas and hydrangeas.

- Sprinkle around plants to deter slugs and snails (Greenbank gardeners know the problem!).
- Feed your worms—great for wormeries and soil health.

No garden? No worries! Just put the bagged grounds in your kerbside food bin. This saves space in the church's bin, which is shared with the Pre-school and other users. All waste collected goes to the Millerhill reprocessing plant, where it's turned into energy and fertiliser—good for the planet and local jobs.

If you're on the Coffee Team and no one takes the grounds, please take them home, or put them in the church's kerbside food bin—*never in the church kitchen bin.*

Now that's what we call grounds for optimism!

Karen Young

**christian
aid**

Holy Corner Booksale 2025

Saturday, 10 May: 10am - 5pm

Sunday, 11 May: 1pm - 5pm

Monday, 12 May: 10am - 3pm

**In main hall of Morningside United Church,
entrance from Bruntsfield Place**

Refreshments available Saturday, 10am - 4pm

Payment by cash or card

Wide variety of categories, including:

- Hardback & paperback fiction and non-fiction
- Art, antiquarian & vintage
- Children's section



Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, EH10 4DJ

In aid of Christian Aid: Charity No. SC039150

Booksale website: <https://holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com>

Afternoon Service on Palm Sunday



The organisers

The afternoon service on 13th April, Palm Sunday, was well attended. The tea and music afterwards, with Louise at the piano, was very much appreciated.



Friendship Club Afternoon Tea Wednesday 7th May at 2pm

We are looking forward to being entertained by members of the Ceilidh Band followed by an Afternoon Tea in the Main Hall at 2pm. This is free for all Friendship Club Members. Others are welcome to join us (£3 donation) but please let us know, so that we can cater for everyone.

David Allan
Gillian Sweetman

Greenbank Singers

We welcomed back Alan Irvine to lead Greenbank Singers on 30th April. He will be with us on 14th and 28th May in the Braid Room at 2pm. We sing a wide variety of songs and have a cup of tea or coffee afterwards (donation £2). Come and join us.

David Allan
Gillian Sweetman



Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week 11-17 May 2025 – fundraising

The Christian Aid Week appeal this year will focus on Guatemala where the livelihoods, traditions and very survival of indigenous farming communities are threatened by deadly droughts, damaging storms and industrial plantations. Christian Aid is training farmers in sustainable methods and supporting them to increase resilience to climate change. They also offer humanitarian support when disasters such as hurricanes strike.

Thank you to all the Greenbank Church volunteers who will be distributing delivery-only envelopes to around 1400 houses in our parish during the week. Envelopes are also available in the church vestibule.

The envelopes include a flyer to say that they have been delivered by a volunteer from Greenbank Church and invite people to donate –

- to our special “e-envelope” The link is also on the church website:
fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/greenbank-church
- by posting the envelope through the church letterbox on Braidburn Terrace
- direct to Christian Aid.

Pedalling around Perthshire Ian and Jennifer Gilmour's 55-mile challenge



The Rev Ian Gilmour and his daughter Jennifer are taking part in Etape Caledonia, a closed road cycle event in Perthshire, starting and finishing in Pitlochry, on Christian Aid Sunday, 11th May. They have chosen to do the challenging 55-mile route which will take them along the shores of Loch Tummel and involves several steep climbs. Ian and Jennifer have generously offered to ride in support of Christian Aid and have created a separate fundraising page connected to the Greenbank appeal for Christian Aid Week. If you would like to sponsor them please follow the link –

tinyurl.com/pedalling-around-perthshire

Fiona Watt

News from Greenbank Pre School

This session Greenbank Pre School received their 7th Green Flag. Daniel Johnson MSP was invited to raise our new flag during our Open Afternoon in March. He subsequently published a motion in parliament about our Green Flag attainment.



Councillor Marie-Clair Munro tabled several congratulatory motions for local businesses and concerns at a Council meeting on Thursday 20th March:

“Council: Congratulates Greenbank Pre School on being awarded its seventh Green Flag, recognising

its commitment to sustainability and high-quality outdoor learning.

Acknowledges that the Green Flag Award, originally developed for public parks, is a prestigious accreditation for excellence in managing green spaces. It highlights the importance of safe, well-maintained, and stimulating outdoor environments.

Commends Greenbank Pre School for its dedication to enriching outdoor learning through initiatives like nature trails, vegetable gardens, and wildlife habitats. Achieving the Green Flag Award demonstrates its strong commitment to sustainability, biodiversity, and environmental responsibility.

The Council further notes the Pre School’s long history, originally established by Greenbank Church in the 1970s, forming a partnership with the City of Edinburgh in 1999, and adopting its current name in 2003. The school is overseen by the Kirk Session of Greenbank Church, with a Management Committee of church members and parents.

Council extends its best wishes to the pupils, staff, and wider school community as they continue their work in environmental education.”

Joan Ritchie
Chair
Management Committee

Recycle Your Electricals

Almost all of us have unwanted or broken electricals lying around or have considered binning them. In fact, discarded electricals are the fastest-growing source of waste in the UK – and the world – with over 100,000 tonnes binned every year in the UK and a further 880 million unwanted gadgets gathering dust in our homes. That's an average of 30 per household!

But unwanted electricals aren't actually waste. These electricals contain valuable materials like copper, lithium and gold which can be reused and turned into anything from solar panels to life-saving equipment. Anything with a plug, battery, or cable can and should always be reused or recycled.

Local drop off points for recycling electricals, batteries and lightbulbs:

- Sighthill Community Recycling Centre
- Craigmillar Community Recycling Centre
- John Lewis, Edinburgh
- Currys, Craigleith, Edinburgh
- B&Q, Hermiston Gait, Edinburgh

Information about City of Edinburgh kerbside collections may be found [here](#)¹.

Organisations which work to repair, refurbish or repurpose electrical items are [The Edinburgh Remakery](#)² and [The Turing Trust](#)³. This month [The Edinburgh Remakery](#) will

have a Tech Donation Box situated in Morningside Library where you can donate old laptops, tablets, iPads, smartphones, DSLR cameras and cables. However, items must be able to fit into the donation slot on the box.

Karen Young
Greenbank Eco-Group

¹tinyurl.com/Kerbside-collections

²www.edinburghremakery.org.uk/

³turingtrust.co.uk/



The box in Morningside library.
Note that all items must fit through the slot.

Our Power Our Planet – Earth Day 2025



On 22nd April, *Earth Day 2025* marked the continuing international fight to save our planet and focus

on renewable energy solutions to preserve God's Creation. This year's theme is 'Our Power, Our Planet'.

Our congregation at Greenbank is well aware of efforts locally and internationally to bring about change. We as individuals in our various ways support actions that limit the damage being caused to the Earth's fragile ecosystems. Investment in projects to help communities hit hard by climate change and the consequences of over exploitation of the Earth's resources is a priority. I have been contacted by a charity I support, *Practical Action*, to explain their work in renewable energy projects in places such as Kenya, Nepal and Uganda. Simple schemes to change over to non-polluting cooking stoves that are fuel efficient, solar energy projects to light up homes so that kids can study in the evenings and agricultural productivity improvements from renewable energy are amongst the many low-tech projects that are making an impact.

A good number of these worthy initiatives will be hit hard by recent international aid cuts by the US

and also the United Kingdom. It's time to oppose these damaging reductions and lobby for restoration and expansion of aid to the poorest of the world's communities.

So, what should we do from a faith-based perspective?

First get informed about these issues – the *Earth Day* website is a starting point, www.earthday.org and organisations like Practical Action and of course Christian Aid provide lots of briefing material.

Second, write to politicians about the need to continue international aid in these difficult times.

Third, give to key organisations and projects to show solidarity with poorer communities who are trying to do their bit to preserve and enhance the world, not destroy it.

Fourth, pray for God's guidance towards a better world.

David Jack

Hope needs action
**PRACTICAL
ACTION**

practicalaction.org

Greenbank Holiday Club

for P1-P7

4-8 August
10am-12.15pm
each day

A Tale of Two Kings

£25 (£5/day)

To register, go to
www.greenbankchurch.org



Tabeetha School, Jaffa, Israel



You may not know that the Church of Scotland has a school in Jaffa, Israel, on the coast not far from Tel Aviv. It was founded in 1863 by Jane Walker-Arnott, the eldest daughter of a Glasgow University professor. She had visited the area in 1858 for the good of her health. After two years she returned to Scotland but was drawn back to the area because she wanted to

improve the lives of the girls and women she had met.

At first the school was in Jane Walker-Arnott's house. As well as basic literacy and numeracy the girls studied the Bible and made lace which was sold in Scotland to raise money for the school.

The school was popular with the local community and attracted the



/ continued: Tabeetha School

attention of Thomas Cook, already a well-known travel agent who led pilgrimages to see the holy sites. After ten years, with his help, land for a school was bought and the building opened in November 1875. When *Life and Work* started in 1879 its first edition included an article about the school. By that time, it had 50-60 girls who attended as boarders. It later welcomed boys.



The portrait of Jane Walker-Arnott still hangs there

Tabeetha School is one of very few schools in the Holy Land where children and young people of as many as 40 nationalities and many languages, faiths, cultures and histories are being educated together. Teaching is in English, and the curriculum is based on the English system of education and qualifications. These are well accepted by universities in Israel and across the world.

These are difficult times for the school. After October 2023 numbers attending fell but have now grown again. They need our prayers to continue to offer a rare opportunity for students of diverse backgrounds to study together and understand and respect each other's cultures.

Valerie Macniven
World Church Group

Welcome Teams

May

- 4 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton
- 11 **John Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden, Catherine Cameron
- 18 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay, Moira Small
- 25 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black

June

- 1 **Christina Morrow**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Susan Black, Nora Kellock, Margot Gillon

Coffee Rota

May

- 4 Helen & Phil Barnes D39, 42 & 89
- 11 Ian & Isobel Thom D53, 54 & 56
- 18 Rosemary McCulloch D49 & 50
- 25 Hazel & Angus McLachlan D43

June

- 1 Choir

Flower Rota

provided by

delivered by

May

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 4 Margo Fraser | Sarah Whitty |
| 11 Land Family | Fiona Kelly |
| 18 Rosemary McCulloch | Susan Black |
| 25 Diana Hastings | Irene Horne |

June

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1 Ina Weir | Heather Kay |
|------------|-------------|

The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Locum Minister: Rev Ian Gilmour

phone: 07794 149852

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Administrator: Jackie Wilson-Tagoe

phone: 0131 447 9969

email: 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

Postal address:

Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace,
Edinburgh EH10 6ES

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

greenbankweekly@gmail.com

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

greenbankconnections@gmail.com

Summer Connections

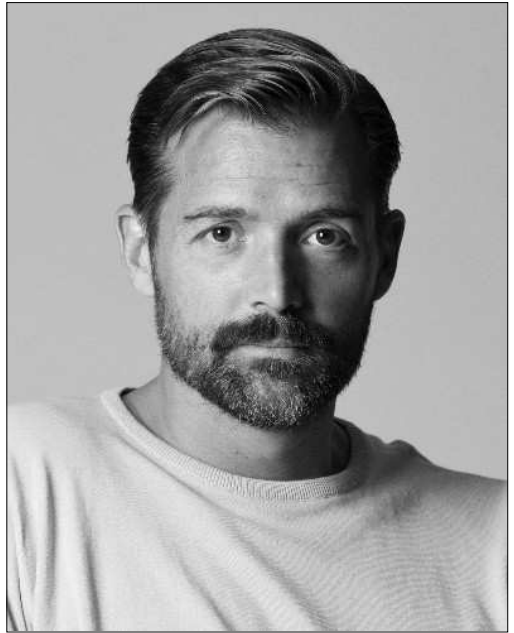
The next *Connections* covers three months: June, July and August, so please send in any news about all three months by Thursday 15th May. The September *Connections* is distributed to the whole Parish, so it is important that all our activities are mentioned. The September deadline is Thursday 7th August.

Alison Murison

An Evening with Patrick Grant: Champion of Sustainable Fashion

We're thrilled to welcome Patrick Grant, founder and director of the social enterprise *Community Clothing* and author of *Less: Stop Buying So Much Rubbish*, to Greenbank Church for a special evening focused on sustainable fashion and how "having fewer, better things can make us happier."

Patrick, a Morningside native, is a passionate advocate for craftsmanship, ethical production, environmental



sustainability and local manufacturing in the fashion industry. Join us on Sunday 1st June 2025 at 7.30pm at Greenbank Church. The evening will include a talk, Q&A session and the opportunity to buy Patrick's book and have it signed by the author.

Tickets are £14.00 available in person from the Main Hall after services starting at the Easter weekend, or from the church office. Online booking will be available soon via *Tick-etSource*.

Don't miss this inspiring event with a local voice making a global impact.

Karen Young
Eco-Group