

# Greenbank Connections



June, July & August 2026

Issue 744

Scottish Charity SC011325



*The Rev Ian Gilmour arrives at John O' Groats (see p2)*

## 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



## Cycling up to John O'Groats Sunday 10th May



Final preparatory ride to Greenbank Church for the Sunday morning service.



Next day we prepare to set off at 7.45am on Monday 11th May, the others are considerably quicker, so start a little later. My favourite quote for today is from H G Wells, "Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race".



We also covered the highest section of our tour, so all is well, so far.

### Wednesday 13th May

I cycle with my daughter Jennifer and my nephew Ron.



Our team reaches Pitlochry for our evening meal.

### Tuesday 12th May

My quote today is from Albert Einstein, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

To retain your balance is not just as easy as it sounds, as wind, rain and hail can slow you up. However, we did make it to Carrbridge (hurrah!).

We have a vital support team – Mand and Donna Gilmour, who look after us.

Sarah Bentley, British cyclist, supplies the quote, "You are one ride away from a good mood"

This improved mood often arrives only after you overcome the hills and are descending effortlessly to the plains. We are enjoying the challenge but would prefer a following wind. However, we are strengthened by so many prayers.

## Thursday 14th May

Arrived safely at Altnaharra, but have been riding against the wind every day and it is increasing. It is getting tough, with winds up to 25mph, so it looks like we will need an extra day to get to John O'Groats.

The wise old cyclists used to say, "You never have the wind with you— either it is against you or you're having a good day."

We kept at it and arrived half a day late at that busy directional pole marking our famous destination.



We learned about ourselves, Scotland and its flora and fauna. We recorded seeing or hearing 30 species of birds – everything from Ostriches (on a farm) to Golden Eagles!

Jurgen Klopp was correct when he said "Life is too short not to celebrate nice moments!"



Thanks for all your prayers, which made a huge difference and for the financial support – to date we have raised over £6,750 for Christian Aid. We are relieved and pleased.

*Ian Gilmour*

**The Rev Ian Gilmour  
Locum Minister**

## Guild

Don't forget the Three Cs this summer – Coffee, Cake and Chat!

The Guild Tuesday Coffee Mornings will continue over the summer at 10.30am in



the Main Hall, on Tuesdays  
**2nd June, 7th July, 11th August and 1st September.**

**Edith Armit**

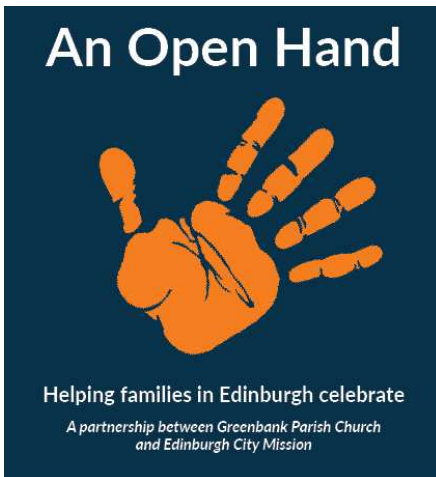
## An Open Hand

We are always delighted to receive donations. In this instance we were quite overwhelmed. Katie was contacted by Martin Rogerson whose shop Voga used to be in Tollcross. Some of you may remember it.

He had been looking for a 'good home' for his stock and came across An Open Hand. The pictures tell the story but suffice it to say there wasn't room for one new box on the return from the pick up. We are immensely grateful to Martin Robertson for thinking of us. The puzzles, games and toys will give so much pleasure to our families.

On another note, we have started a monthly newsletter. If you would like to receive it please let us know by emailing [katie@anopenhand.org.uk](mailto:katie@anopenhand.org.uk) you will be added to the list.

**Rona Ferguson**



## Fresh Start

For someone stepping into an empty flat or house after a period of instability, even the most basic household items can make a huge difference – from crockery and cutlery to bedding, towels and small appliances like kettles and toasters. If you're sorting through household items you no longer need, please consider donating them to **Fresh Start** and help those moving on from homelessness to make a new home for themselves.

The items you're planning to sell, give away or store in the attic or garage could help turn a bare property into a place that feels like home. A set of plates becomes shared meals for a family, a lamp helps create a warm, welcoming space for someone to come home to and a duvet becomes a good night's sleep.



If they are in good working order and clean condition, your pre-loved belongings could be the very thing that helps someone in Edinburgh find the *fresh start* they need. A full list of accepted items can be found on the **Fresh Start** website.

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

Items can be taken directly to Fresh Start on Ferry Road Drive (see website for details) or contact me either by email or via Jackie in the Church office (447 9969) to arrange a convenient time for collection.

**Eileen MacKinnon**

## Singing Group

The Singing Group meets on Wednesday **10th June** and Wednesday **24th June**. If you like to sing, even if you think you can't, then this is for you. Come along and try it. You're likely to find that it lifts your spirits and you'll get good chat as well.

**Gillian Sweetman**  
**David Allan**



## Thought for the Month

### “Little things mean a lot”

Do you remember the song?

There is so much to dishearten us just now, both at home and overseas. It can feel overwhelming at times: so much hatred, resentment, greed, intemperate language, and it is easy to feel that there is nothing one can do. Power seems to lie elsewhere.

But little things mean a lot. If you can't change the world, maybe you can change your own little part of it. When I come into church, I am always uplifted by the warm greeting at the door, by smiles as I ease into the pew, by acknowledgement that I am welcome.

What are the little things that I can still do? I can try to be a more help-

ful neighbour, a more caring friend. Maybe I can smile and be cheerful even when I don't feel like it. I can accept things that are different without judging them. I can stop complaining and cultivate 'an attitude of gratitude' as Ian memorably said one Sunday. I can be honest about my doubts and uncertainties and admit my failings. I can look for the good in people and tell them about it.

That's quite a list. Possible? Well, I can try. I won't do any harm. Might even make me feel less helpless in the face of all 'the bad stuff'. Little things can mean a lot.

**Margaret Macintosh**

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## Lent / Easter Appeal 2026

The total amount raised was £3,133. This has been divided equally between the two nominated local charities **The Open Door** and **An Open Hand**.

Both charities have said that they greatly appreciate the Congregation's generosity.

**Alan Ramage**  
**Joint Clerk**  
**Congregational Board**

## Edinburgh Direct Aid International – Appeal

Readers will recall that Edinburgh Direct Aid International (EDAI) held a fundraising coffee morning at Greenbank in October 2025. Lately, it was able to benefit from taking surplus metal items unsold at the Scout jumble sale to process them for scrap income at its depot in Granton.

EDAI continues to accept and prepare relief goods to ship in containers for current refugee projects in places like Lebanon, Ukraine, and when able, Gaza. EDAI has a long history of taking direct action to provide help in devastated communities, often in war-torn areas, starting with Bosnia and Kosovo in the early to mid-1990s and continuing since.

In the past, lorries of relief goods were driven directly to the areas of need, but they are now mainly shipped in large containers to the Middle East (some aid is still driven directly to Ukraine).

A collection of priority items is proposed to take place at Greenbank Church on one Sunday in June. More details will be finalised soon,

but we hope members and friends will bring their contributions to the church on that Sunday.

### What is needed?

- Clothing of all types and for all ages of men, women, children, babies – including coats, fleeces, waterproofs and new underwear
- Footwear – shoes and boots in good condition
- Toiletries – soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary towels and razors
- School supplies – paper, pens, pencils, rubbers, pencil sharpeners, crayons, notebooks, etc.
- Scrap metal – aluminium, copper, brass, lead, wiring, cables, washed cans.

EDAI does not currently need bedding, blankets, duvets, sleeping bags, pillows or tents. It also cannot accept large appliances such as washing machines, microwaves or fridges, but thanks.



Edinburgh  Direct Aid International

## Greenbank After School Music & Singing Group

A new exciting weekly After School Music and Singing Group led by Steph Humphreys will start on **Wednesday 12th August** for P4 to P7 children.

Steph attended the City of Edinburgh Music School and went on to study music at the University of Edinburgh, where she won the Tovey Memorial Prize for the most promising performer or composer. She now works as a Community Musician and is passionate about ensuring that music is inclusive and accessible for all.

Children will be met at South Morningside School at 3.15pm, walked up to the Church for a simple snack followed by musical

games and singing. Parents or carers will need to meet children at Greenbank Church at 5pm. It will be run as an after-school group for up to 30 children with a total of three adult helpers.

For more details, please email

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

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

**Frances Brookfield**  
**Youth Coordinator**



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/Continued from EDAI Appeal p8

### Some EDAI Projects:

- Safe Schools in Ukraine – underground schools near the front line in Eastern Ukraine.
- Music Therapy for traumatised children in Lebanon.
- Summer camps for Special Needs Children in Bosnia.

- Emergency aid to benefit displaced people of Lebanon.

For further information please see

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

**David Jack**  
**Margo Simpson**  
**Edinburgh Direct Aid International**  
**SC050964**



Greenbank Church Congregation



*n on Sunday 26th April 2026*

## Ukrainians in Edinburgh

It is now over four years since Russia sent soldiers into Ukraine. Many lives have been lost on both sides; there has been much damage and destruction across Ukraine and no breakthrough in peace talks.

Estimates suggest that more than 5.5 million Ukrainians left their homeland. Over 300,000 have come to the UK, around 30,000 to Scotland. Some had family contacts in the UK, some were sponsored by Scottish families for a six month supported stay with accommodation, while the vast majority came through the Government's "super sponsor" scheme which offered residency, a right to work and access to benefits. It has been extended until September 2028.

The sponsors included people at Greenbank Church who welcomed new arrivals. Some are still here, working locally or online in Ukraine, studying in school or university, while others have gone back. Some stay connected – one girl recently sent her former host a recording of her singing "Ae Fond Kiss."

At the invasion there was already a small Ukrainian community in Edinburgh, people descended from around nine hundred men who arrived in Scotland after the end of the Second World War, facing persecution back home. Although most of the original group found

work and integrated, they were keen for their children to have links with their roots. The Association of Ukrainians provided a dance school, choirs and language tuition. After 80 years it was revived and their premises at Royal Terrace became a hub for information for the new arrivals and a cultural centre for music, dance and language teaching. They soon benefited from singing and dance groups while a teacher provided language and cultural tuition.

It is a living miracle that the legacy of the original refugees and their descendants has helped the more recent arrivals to thrive in their new surroundings and keep up with the culture and traditions of their homeland. Let us continue to remember the Ukrainian community in Edinburgh and pray for the wellbeing of those here and their families back in Ukraine.

**Valerie Macniven**  
**World Church Group**



# Recycling Begins at Home, Church and in the Community

In Edinburgh, only around 40% of household waste is recycled. Paper, cardboard and plastics collected in our green bins are sorted and processed at local and UK facilities, where they are turned into raw materials for new products.

However, we can improve recycling rates even further by recycling items that might otherwise end up in a grey bin – if we know where to take them.

To help with this, the Eco-Group has created a *Recycling Spreadsheet*, available on the Eco-Group page of our website:

[www.greenbankchurch.org/adults/eco-group/](http://www.greenbankchurch.org/adults/eco-group/)

and soft plastics commonly used in food packaging.

- The Council has a useful tool at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recyclingsorter](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recyclingsorter)

Next time you are about to throw something in the bin, take a moment to check if it can be recycled. Responsible recycling helps reduce emissions; cuts waste and lessens the environmental impact of extracting new resources.

Please help us improve our Recycling Spreadsheet by sharing information about additional items that can be recycled and where they can be taken.

**Karen Young**  
Eco-Group

Where to recycle	Product	Other info
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE AND WHERE</b>		
Recycle Now	A - Z of what you can recycle and where (aerocups to yoghurt pots)	Using your postcode, search the website at <a href="https://www.recyclenow.com/">https://www.recyclenow.com/</a>
City of Edinburgh Council Recycling	Information on kerbside collections, communal bins and recycling in the city centre	Search the website at <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/what-goes-into-bins">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/what-goes-into-bins</a>
<b>AT HOME</b>		
Council Green Bin	Paper and unvarnished matt Cardboard Drinks cartons (such as Tetrapak type) washed Clean plastic bottles with tops, pots, tubs and trays Clean cans, tins, foil and empty aerosols	For full lists of what can or can't go in the Green bins and boxes go to: individual kerbside collections - The City of Edinburgh Council <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recycling/individual-kerbside-collections">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recycling/individual-kerbside-collections</a> Keep it to roll it!

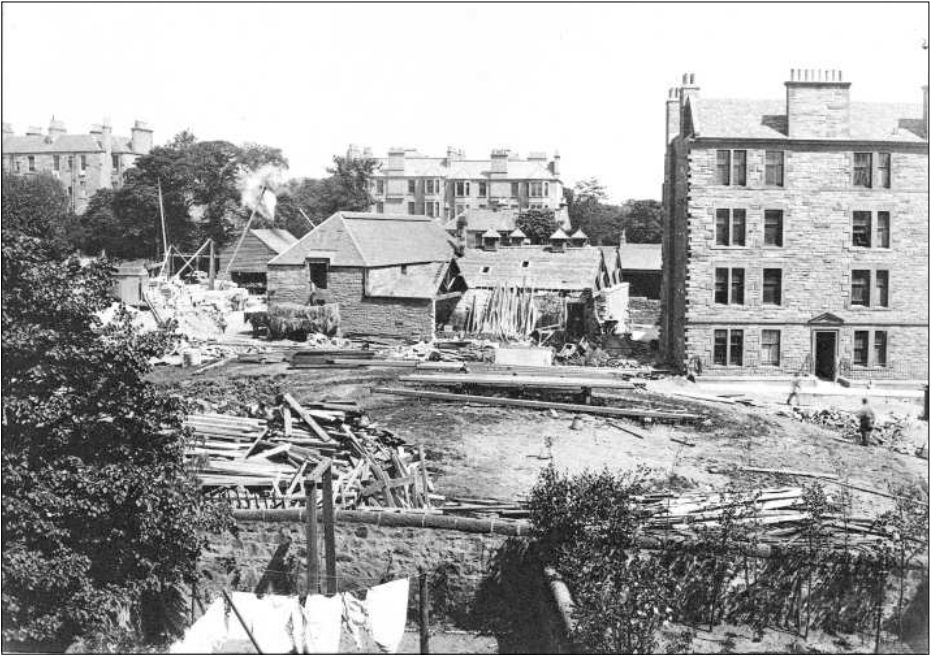
For example:

- The Turing Trust, near IKEA, accepts old laptops, PCs and related equipment, refurbishing them for educational projects.
- Larger Boots shops collect medicine blister packs and used toothpaste tubes.
- Many supermarkets now provide collection points for film



## Morningside Masons and Medieval Stones

A project funded by a Jean Guild grant from the  
Old Edinburgh Club to Morningside Heritage Association



*View from 38 Morningside Park, Edinburgh. Remains of Reid's cow park and byres: tenements well advanced. Summer 1899. Taken by William Edgar Evans, a young teenager*

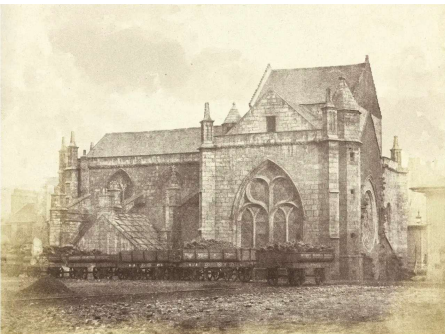
This project explores possible connections between 19th century stonemasons and the presence in a Morningside wall of several ornamental stone fragments – likely medieval and ecclesiastical – and potentially from the Trinity Collegiate Church commissioned by Mary of Guelders in 1460.

From key sources, initially Post Office Directories and Census records from 1841 (the year of the first Morningside Census) and

1921, more than 40 working men, predominantly masons, wrights or builders, were recorded as living in the Morningside area. Among those were James, Simon, John, Peter and Robert Slater, the five sons of a successful Shetland builder who had come to Edinburgh between c1867 and 1901 and broadly followed in their father's professional footsteps. Each has a story to tell, but it is Simon who has a key place in the Morningside stones' story.

Simon had come to Edinburgh by 1881, and by 1891 he had moved to Morningside. On 17th May 1897 John Reid disposed (assigned ownership) of his 1,800-acre dairy farm to Simon, who wasted no time! Within four days he had lodged his first petition to the Dean of Guild court (the forerunner of the City Council's Building Control committee) to build two tenements at Springvalley Gardens. Between then and July 1903, he was granted warrants to build nine more tenements in Springvalley Gardens and 13 in Springvalley Terrace. In 1902 Robert Slater was granted a warrant to convert 14 Springvalley Gardens into workshops; it is possible that this was the conversion of a two-storey building erected in 1899 by James White on the site of what has come to be known as the Wild West Yard.

**Jill Powlett Brown**



### **Footnote:**

Between 9th May and 26th June, in the Museum of Edinburgh, Dr Jill Harrison is exhibiting her Old Edinburgh Club funded work on the *Trinity Collegiate Church - Medieval Edinburgh's Forgotten Masterpiece*.

There is also a series of talks on Saturday mornings and walks through medieval Edinburgh. All are free, but booking is required. Further information is at

[www.revivingthetrinitystones.co.uk/exhibition](http://www.revivingthetrinitystones.co.uk/exhibition)

*Trinity College Collegiate Church was deconstructed in 1848 so that Waverley Station could be built. Some of its stones made their way to Morningside.*

## Greenbank Pre School

The children and staff at Pre School are enjoying another excellent year. The next few weeks will be very busy – our annual “Big Dig” (when we refurbish the outdoor spaces) was on Saturday 23rd May, then Sports Day in the Braidburn Valley Park on 11th June and Graduation on 25th, which is the last day of term. Many of the children will be moving on to school after the summer and



we still have vacancies for next session. Application forms are available on our new website which has been developed for us by a former pupil!

Please have a look at [www.greenbank-preschool.org](http://www.greenbank-preschool.org)

**Joan Ritchie**  
Chair  
Management Committee

## Holy Corner Christian Aid Booksale

Holy Corner Booksale raised £10,340 for Christian Aid over the three-day sale. Thank you so much to all those who donated/bought books or both. A special thanks to all the Greenbankers who gave up their time to help with the sale.

**Hazel McLachlan**  
Holy Corner Book Sale



## Holiday Club Congregational BBQ

We are all looking forward to Holiday Club from **3rd to 7th August**. Please get in touch if you'd like to help with the coffee and juice on any of these days.

The Congregational BBQ is a highlight of the week after church on **Sunday 9th August**. Please let Helen Barnes or Frances Brookfield know if you can help with this.

Thanks.

**Helen Barnes**

## Imagining Greenbank's Future Legacies that Last

Greenbank Church has received extraordinarily generous legacy gifts from the late Georgina (Gina) Millar and Winnie Milne, both much-loved members of our congregation. Together with other recent legacies, these gifts total around £200,000.

This presents both an opportunity and a responsibility: how can we use these one-off gifts to make the greatest, lasting difference for Greenbank's Ministry and mission, infrastructure, community outreach and future sustainability?

To help guide this process, a Legacy Group has been set up. The group's role is to gather ideas, explore what is possible, assess impact and feasibility, and recommend how these gifts might best serve the life of the church for years to come.

We would love to hear your ideas.

At this stage, we are inviting ideas and suggestions from across the congregation and church community. Your idea could be:

- big or small,
- practical or imaginative,
- transformational or incremental,
- delivered quickly or plant seeds for the future to unlock something bigger.

We are keen to hear ideas that:

- strengthen worship, ministry and pastoral care,
- support children, young people and families,
- improve our buildings or facilities,
- deepen community engagement and outreach,
- encourage new initiatives providing they can be sustained,
- is within our capacity to deliver.
- No idea is too small to consider!

Please send a brief description of your idea and, if possible, an indication of likely cost or scale to the Treasurer at

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

or complete an ideas form available after services or from the church office.

Closing date: **Friday 26th June**

As we imagine Greenbank's future together, these gifts give us a unique opportunity to create something meaningful and lasting.

How could these legacies help shape the next chapter of Greenbank's story?

**Robert Young**  
Congregational Treasurer

## Coffee Rota

### June

7	Communion	
	Gillian Sweetman	Singing Group
14	Barbara Middleton	D38, 51 & 52
21	Jan Corbett	D20, 21 & 23
28	Jonathan Mundy	

### July

5	Joan Ritchie	
12	Nora Kellock	
19	Neil Ross*	D24
26	Hazel Macaulay	

### August

9	John Ferguson*	D60
16	David Jack*	
23	Diana Hastings	
30	Rosemary McCulloch	D9

### September

16	Jan Corbett*	D20, 21 & 23
	* To be confirmed	

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## Flower Rota

*provided by*

*delivered by*

### June

7	Caroline Kehoe	Alison Kerr
14	Eleanor Winton	Christina Black
21	Diana Teasdale	Alison Murison
28	Robin Searl	Moira Davidson

### July

5	Joshua Munyao	Diana Teasdale
12	Kathleen Patrick	Cathie Maclennan
19	Catherine Denham	Helena Dutton
26	Moira Davidson	Frances Wallace

### August

2	Michael Struthers	Ishbel Clark
9	Diana Teasdale	Rosemary Collier
16	Alison Murison	Sheena Marshall
23	Gillian Sweetman	Mandy Hunter
30	Vivien Hutchison	Pam Jack

### September

6	Sheila Sommerville	Hayley Ferguson
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William and Clare Stevenson would like to thank everybody at Greenbank who helped to make the baptism of Miller such a wonderful event and hope everybody enjoyed the cake afterwards in the Hall.

## Welcome Teams

### June

#### 7 Communion

**Keith Clark**, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black, Pauline Walker, Catherine Denham

14 **Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy

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

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

### July

5 **Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Jane Harkin

12 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Muri-son

19 **Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay

26 **Rosemary McCulloch**, Moira Land, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton, Tony Rose, Rosie Rose

### August

2 **Joan Ritchie**, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden, Catherine Cameron

9 **Keith Clark**, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Isobel Thom, Charles Black, Pauline Walker, Catherine Denham

16 **Caroline Kehoe**, Ian McWilliam, Anne Kinnear, Kathryn Sangster, Rosemary McLeod, Lyndsay Kennedy

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

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

### September

#### 6 Communion

**Donald King**, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Jane Harkin

## 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 **September** issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by **Sunday 9th August** or sent by e-mail by **8pm on Thursday 13th August** to:

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



Anne Morham, who has died aged 104



An entire week of fundraising events,  
Every donation matched for one week only

Find out more on [eventbrite](#) [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)



420 Morningside Road