

thegoodneighbour

February 2016



Living our **faith** by our **actions**



at the heart of the **community**

GreenbankParish
CHURCH

Parish Register

BAPTISM

13/12/15 Chloe Kara McKay

Chloe was born on 2nd August at 7.50am at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. She was only 6lb 10oz. Her parents are Craig and Jennifer and her godparents are Jennifer's sister, Elaine, and Craig's brother, Robert. Chloe's christening was a great day; everyone was so welcoming. Seeing the kids at the Sunday Club brought back memories for Jennifer as she had gone to the Sunday School when she was a child.

After the service, family and friends popped down to The Overlee at Clarkston Toll, where organising everyone's meal was eventful but fun. Thanks to everyone for making our day so special.

NEW MEMBER

3/1/16 Mrs Sally Craig,

Sally has been attending Greenbank for a year and she is now very happy to become a member of her local church. She would like to thank Anna and David Martin, Doreen Cunningham, Jane Brown, Rachel McKay and Jean and Bill Carswell for their friendship and the warm welcome she has received. Sally would also like to give special thanks to Graham Vance for his guidance and encouragement in lifting her lines from South Shawlands church to join a new Church Family and to Jeanne for all her spiritual guidance. Sally worked in local government for 37 years and held the position of secretary to four Directors of Consumer and Trading Standards. She is married to Jim who was a Trading Standards Manager and they both took early retirement in order to care for their respective elderly mothers. Her favourite hobby is eating and drinking, especially whilst sailing the ocean waves on cruises. They both love Italy and enjoy regular visits to Lake Garda and Venice. She is also a great Zumba fan and has been attending the classes held in Williamwood High School for six years.

Sally just turned 60 in December and was so looking forward to getting her bus pass but was disappointed when she used it last week for the first time and the driver did not say "surely this can't be yours" !!

On a final note, Sally really enjoyed the recent Ladies Night and was informed by Graham Vance that he would guarantee her a "good time". Well it was so good that she has now joined Greenbank and she can't wait till the next one!! She is now looking forward to the Burns Supper.

DEATHS

23/11/15 Mrs Margaret Connell, Newton Mearns

4/12/15 Mr Robert McIntyre, Clarkston

*"Just as I am, thou will receive, will welcome pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because thy promise I believe, Oh Lamb of God, I come.*

PULPIT DIARY

5 th February	4.00pm	Messy Church
7 th February	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
14 th February	10.30am	Worship & Film Club
	6.30pm	Prayers for Healing Service
21 st February	10.30am	Youth Service
28 th February	10.30am	Sacrament of Holy Baptism & Sunday Club

MESSY CHURCH FRIDAY 5th FEBRUARY, 4PM – 6PM

For more details, to book a place or offer help, please phone/text Lorna Preece
at 07970192541 or email: messygreenbank@gmail.com



Dear Friends,

What is Lent for? As I was growing up I always thought that it was a time for remembering the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before beginning His ministry. The idea of Jesus' self-denial in the desert seemed to fit with ideas of giving things up for Lent. However, I now believe that Lent is much more than a time for just giving things up. From Jesus example we can also see that the 40 days in the desert were also a time of reflection on His relationship with God as He prepared for His ministry in the world.

In first few centuries of the Christian church, the 40 days of Lent were a time of instruction and preparation for acceptance into the church on Easter day. I think it is sad that the church has somehow lost that practice. Easter day is the perfect day for someone to commit themselves to God and His Son's church – and if anyone reading this feels that they would like to do that this year – I would be delighted to speak to them and admit them to full membership of the church on Easter day!

Whether joining the church or not, I also think it important that the idea of Lent as a time of reflection and learning is not rejected. The main purpose of Lent is not to deny ourselves the things we enjoy but to address those things in our lives that prevent us from coming closer to God so that we might serve him more faithfully. This Lent, you are invited to do that through the 'Lenten Book Group'. Fuller information about this group which begins on 6th February can be found on page 6 in this Good Neighbour.

I hope that you will think seriously about coming along to some of these informal Saturday morning 'Lenten Book Group' meetings and give up an hour of your week to explore or deepen your journey of faith. Each meeting will last approximately one hour. If you would like to attend please leave your name and contact details on the sheet provided in the Centenary Chapel of the Church or contact the Church Office so that a bible can be ordered for you.

I look forward to sharing this faith journey with you. With all the joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams, lying ahead during these weeks of Lent may we, as a church, have the courage to walk together kindly, graciously and faithfully that we may discover many more ways to practise the command *"to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."* [Deuteronomy 6:5]

Yours

RETIRING AND NEWLY APPOINTED ELDERS & DISTRICT CHANGES

Retiring Elders

At the last Kirk Session meeting it was agreed by Session, at the request of Joyce McMeeking, Douglas Paterson and Walter Wilson, that these three elders should be placed on the retired list. Our minister commented at the meeting that it had been a privilege and blessing to have Joyce McMeeking, Douglas Paterson and Walter Wilson on the Session and that a great debt of gratitude was owed to each of them.

New Elders and District Changes

Diane Adam, Gillian Foy, Peter Howard, Alexander Howie, Graeme Rae and Kate Sanderson have been ordained into the eldership at Greenbank.

Alex Howie is the new elder for district 12 [Eaglesham Road and Glendoune Road];

Gillian Foy is the new elder for district 29 [Beechlands Drive];

District 47 [Greenwood Road] has merged with district 10 [Viaduct Road] and the new elder is Graeme Rae.

MEET THE NEW ELDERS

Diane Adam

I am married to Chris who has been an elder at Greenbank for some time now like his father, David, before him, so when I was approached to consider becoming an Elder at Greenbank I was delighted to be asked, but at the same time I also knew that with the role came considerable responsibility. I am happy to learn and grow into the role of an Elder and feel that the time is right to help in whatever way I can. I look forward to getting to know the other elders and working with them. They have all been very welcoming. We have three sons, Jonathan, who lives and works in Glasgow but our other sons, Graeme and Andrew (twins) live and work in Dubai and London. I have been a solicitor for 40 years. My hobbies are playing tennis and skiing with Chris and friends and family. I have recently started art classes for the first time. I also enjoy travelling and am interested in Reiki.

Gillian Foy

I have been attending Greenbank for as long as I can remember. Some people might know me better as Gillian McCrum! I'm married to Derek and we have a son, Christopher. I enjoy helping with the crafts at the Easter Holiday Club. *(She runs the crafts. I couldn't do without her – Alison).* When I've time I enjoy gardening. I'm an avid reader and like sewing. When on holiday I like to visit historical sites and castles. I was absolutely stunned to be asked to become an elder. I thought they were talking about someone else! It's a real privilege.

Peter Howard

I have been attending Greenbank forever. My mum and dad, Helen and Jim, brought me here as a wee boy and I went to Sunday school and attended BB at the church. I have a younger brother, Colin. Music is my main interest - I am the organist at Greenbank. I also enjoy reading and watching films. I visited Rome recently, which must rate as one of my favourite places. My initial thought when asked to become an elder was that I was too young but it was a real honour to be asked.

Alex Howie

I have been married for 43 years to June. We have two children, Susan and Stuart, three granddaughters and a grandson. In my spare time I like to play golf, though admittedly, badly! I enjoy football and am a keen DIY enthusiast. I am already in the Property group at the church. When asked to become an elder, I wondered whether I deserved the position. It is an honour and I only hope that I can justify the faith that people have put in me.

Graeme Rae

I joined the Church of Scotland in Erskine. When Gillian and I got married, I moved to Netherlee, which was Gillian's church. We have two children, Jennifer, 9 and Catriona, 7. We decided to move to Greenbank as the girls go to Carolside and their friends are at Greenbank. I don't have much spare time as I am a taxi driver for the girls but I do like to run. We recently enjoyed a holiday in Florida. To be asked to be an elder was completely unexpected but a real privilege.

Kate Sanderson

I have a fab husband Scott and three wonderful kids, Kyle, Keir and Eve. In my spare time (apart from being a Sunday club leader!) I enjoy keeping fit, I'm a member of a book group and often socialise with friends. We holiday every year in Menorca as we all love the island: it is so unspoilt, quiet and beautiful. I was very surprised to be asked to be an elder and wondered whether I'd do a good job. I work for CrossReach (the social care arm of the Church of Scotland) and on discussing this with a colleague she reminded me 'God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called'!

ROBERT MCINTYRE

This tribute was read in Greenbank Church 10th January 2016.

Robert McIntyre, one of our elders, died on the 4th of December last year.

Bob was born in Govan in 1947, close to the Fairfield shipyard and was largely brought up by his mother as his father was in the Merchant Navy and spent long spells away at sea. He had a younger brother, David, who died in 1991. When Bob was 7 the family moved to Bishopbriggs and he attended primary school there before going on to Allan Glens School. He joined the Scouts and had happy memories of his scouting days - especially the annual summer camps. After school, Bob studied chemistry at Strathclyde University and after graduating went to work for British Aluminium in Kinlochleven. It was at Strathclyde University that he met his future wife, Margaret, and they got engaged in 1969 and married in 1970 before setting up their first home in Kinlochleven.

Bob was made redundant and in 1972 followed a lifelong ambition by joining the City of Glasgow Police (later to become Strathclyde Police). Over the years he served in Traffic, Support, and Licensing branches as well as serving in various Divisions. He attended the Lockerbie Disaster in 1988 – an incident that had a lasting effect on him. He retired from the police force in 2002 after 30 years' service and became a part time security officer at Asda in Toryglen - a beat he knew so well that shoplifters avoided the store when they knew he was on duty.

When they came back to Glasgow, Margaret and Bob lived in Kingspark and Cambuslang before coming to Clarkston in 1981 with their daughter, Alison, and son, Steven. Bob was very much the family man and a loving and supportive husband to Margaret through good times and bad; they celebrated 45 years of marriage last September. They had many shared interests including their love of travel and good food. He was a proud and helpful dad to Alison and Steven and proud Grandpa to Fraser, Chloe and Charlotte.

Bob was a man of varied interests: he was good at maths, DIY, putting up fences and painting – though perhaps not always wallpapering. He loved gardening and had a beautiful garden. Bob also had a strong appreciation of music.

Bob's faith was important to him. He and Margaret joined Greenbank when they came to Clarkston and he was ordained as an Elder in 1992. He was the District Elder for Beechlands Drive, a Duty Team Leader, Child Protection Co-ordinator for 5 years and served a period as Grounds Convenor as well as being on a number of other committees.

Throughout his illness and treatments Bob was amazingly brave and retained a cheeky and wry sense of humour. He had a refreshing honesty and he will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Today we give thanks to God for the life and service of Robert McIntyre and commend Margaret, Alison, Steven and the wider family to the love and care of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Over the past few months we have been keeping you up to date on Kirk Session discussions about what the future holds for Greenbank and the legacy we want to leave for future generations. The minister's Good Neighbour letter in November mentioned an important meeting that took place in September and later in that same edition, the Kirk Session meeting notes gave a summary of what took place at the meeting. It let everyone know that the Kirk Session had considered a comprehensive paper under the heading, '**A Legacy for Future Generations**'. The very strong emphasis in that paper was on our role as a worshipping community of God's people trying to discern His purpose for us in our community. The paper looked at what we currently do in Greenbank and at examples of what other churches in Scotland were doing.

In order to continue the work, the Session decided to establish two groups. The first was to develop the conversation with the congregation, community, local authority and others in order to, (i) address the issue of Greenbank's engagement with young people and the growing disengagement of many under the age of 50, and (ii) continue to determine how Greenbank might best serve any identified needs within the Parish and beyond as we endeavour to live our faith by our actions at the heart of the community.

The second group was to explore our property needs and report back to Session with clear and costed proposals.

All of this has been covered in previous updates but the remainder of this current note is new and brings you right up to date on the work of the two groups.

An important step, in tandem with the work being carried out by the two groups, was to meet representatives of the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. This is the body that holds land and property in trust for congregations across Scotland. They have significant, national experience of preparing congregations to face the future as far their physical resources are concerned and we were keen to draw on this experience. It was reassuring to hear them talk about their experience as it seems that very many congregations are in a similar position to ourselves with reducing congregations, income challenges and buildings that were built for another era. It was a very positive meeting and the Trustees encouraged us to keep going with our thinking and to go back to them when the congregation had a clear view as to how it saw the future for Greenbank.

And now to the work of the two groups:

Continuing the Conversation

The objective of this group is to maximise our chance of getting the right information about the needs in our community. In order to achieve this, the group divided into three subgroups that are having focussed conversations with (i) young people (ii) people under the age of 50 and (iii) outside community agencies in order to identify community needs.

(i) Progress with young people group

- a) Through speaking with pupils in Williamwood School and young people who already come about the church through organisations and asking them what kind of facilities or activities they felt Greenbank could provide, the single most common message is that there is no provision for our young people in terms of a youth club in Clarkston.
- b) This subgroup is researching how other churches have developed their youth strategies and a meeting has taken place with Presbytery Youth Development Coordinator which a representative from Busby Parish Church attended.

(ii) Progress with under 50s group

Research into our community needs has identified a need for more Bookbug Sessions in our area. Bookbug Sessions introduce reading to very young children, from babies to preschool age, using rhymes, songs and games. Bookbug is a national programme that encourages parents to share and enjoy books with their children. Currently the sessions are held at local libraries and are heavily over-attended with local libraries having to turn lots of parents and children away every week. This subgroup is further researching this facility.

(iii) Progress with identifying needs within the Parish and beyond

The sub group has been focusing on how best we might identify needs within the community.

In summary, the Conversations Group have been fortunate to get very direct and positive responses from our community but are continuously looking for information and feedback. On that note, please feel free to contact Jeanne Roddick or Hilary Carswell, who chairs the Conversations Group.

The Session was very interested in all of this work. Specifically, it agreed to the Conversations Group researching 2 possible activities, (i) to pilot the Bookbug scheme in April and (ii) to pilot a Youth Club after the summer.

The Property Group

The Property Group's work is well underway, continuously liaising with the Conversations Group to establish our accommodation needs. Over the next couple of months it plans to visit a number of churches that we have heard about, or that have been recommended by the General Trustees, as churches where similar challenges to those we face in Greenbank have been addressed in innovative ways. This will help us to shape our own accommodation needs and design thoughts for the future. The aim of the group is to carry out a full feasibility study and the Session recognised that the work involved in preparing such a study will be very detailed and technical and that it would be best to draw on external assistance from experienced professionals. With this in mind it agreed to appoint a firm of architects to work with us on this.

This note brings you right up to date. It is hoped that we will have more to report to you on all the work by the early summer.

BREAKFAST LENTEN BOOK CLUB 2016

SATURDAYS 9am to 10am

6,13,20,27 February; 5,12,19,26 March

BREAKFAST in ROOM A from 8.45am Tea, Coffee, Toast & Croissants

This Lent you are invited to return to where the Biblical Story begins: creation, rebellion, exile and the formation of a covenant people through whom God promises to save the world through **OLD TESTAMENT COVENANT HISTORY** which is a fresh presentation of the Old Testament historical books from **GENESIS TO KINGS**. The book strips away centuries of artificial formatting, leaving behind nothing but the Bible text. Books originally written as one, for example 1st and 2nd Kings, have been combined so the story flows more easily. The result is a Bible unlike any other available today — and more like the original Scriptures.

This year at Greenbank we will read the first half of the book during Lent and read the second half at a later date. Each week's discussion will be built on five simple questions and meetings will be very informal and open to everyone. You don't have to come to every meeting – just as many as you can! **Thinking about giving up something for Lent or taking something on - why not give the Breakfast Lenten Book Club a try?**

Last year the NEW TESTAMENT books were free but this year there is cost of £5 per book for the OLD TESTAMENT COVENANT HISTORY. If you would like to come to the Breakfast Lenten Book Club [or if you would like to purchase one of the books] please put your name on the sheet in the Centenary as soon as possible so that they can be ordered in plenty of time. The books can be paid for once they arrive.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYERS FOR HEALING

If you need prayer for yourself, a loved one or a friend please use the Greenbank Church Card [see reverse side] which can be found at the end of the church pews, and place it in the box at the front door of the church. Alternatively, prayer requests can be given to our Minister, Rev. Jeanne Roddick.

Those for whom prayers have been requested will be prayed for at the monthly at the Prayers for Healing Service and throughout the month by members of the Prayer Group.

CHURCH TRANSPORT

Any passengers not attending church and any drivers changing the date of their turn between Sundays 31st January and 28th February should notify Jim Guy on 638-5570 and he will take care of any alterations.

VOLUNTEERING VOCATIONS

Age 18-25?

Thinking of taking a gap year?

Interested in volunteering in a parish or project whilst exploring a vocation in the Church?

If you answered yes to all 3 questions, then Volunteering Vocations is for you!

Living in a community with other volunteers, you will spend 10 months participating in a wide range of tasks in a supported and reflective environment, for example:

- Youth outreach and other missional work
- Arts, music and drama projects
- Work within children's and youth ministries
- Family support projects
- Work with pastoral care teams
- Caring for the environment

For details on how to apply, contact Heather at vocation@churchofscotland.org.uk

KIRK SESSION – WHAT DO THEY TALK ABOUT?

The Kirk Session met on 7 December 2015 with 57 members attending. The following issues were discussed.

Worship: A busy schedule of church services was taking place in December, including Nine Lessons in Carols, Watchnight and Christmas Day services. Messy Church continued to attract strong support. Concern was raised about the Local authority's decision to sell Bonnyton House Care Home.

Outreach: Continuing support was noted for the work of the Lodging House Mission with a donation of over £1300 from the Harvest Appeal. As in previous years, Christmas Cards were on sale. More helpers and donations of food were still needed for the North East Foodbank, which had fed over 3000 people in its second year, a 76% increase on the previous year - **if you can help, please contact Hilary Carswell or Alex Howie or leave donations at the church.** The Clarkston Community Choir was rehearsing for a Christmas concert - **if you would like to join the Choir which meets on a Wednesday from 8-30pm-9-30pm please contact Richard Scholfield.**

Finance: The Treasurer updated our financial position. Offerings had decreased by 1% in the period to 22nd November. Contributions from church organisations had increased, with recent donations from the 1st Clarkston Brownies, 2nd Clarkston Rainbows, Boys Brigade, Colour Circle and Friendship Café. Income was being generated from external organisations, including new contributions from Clarkston After School Care and the Community Choir. Tax receipts from Gift Aid had increased substantially and the Treasurer thanked Ian Henderson for his tireless work in this connection. Fabric expenditure was less planned, with a number of projects deferred, resulting in this year's accounts likely to show a surplus. It was expected that fabric expenditure would increase in 2016 due to the need to catch up with essential repairs and maintenance and to replace the church boilers. The forecast for 2016 indicated a deficit in of over £20,000.

Fabric: The Kirk Session approved the removal of waste bins from the main halls for a six month trial period to reduce the church officer's workload and to improve hygiene. Organisations would be asked to place recyclable items in the bins provided outside the Cowley Hall and general rubbish in black bags in the bins outside the Link Building. The Health and Safety Policy had been updated thanks to our Health and Safety Officer, Colin McAughtrie. Statutory and essential maintenance work continued to be a substantial part of the Property Budget and to take up considerable time for the Property Committee. Neil Scholfield had resigned from the Property Committee and thanks were expressed for his hard work. There was an urgent need for an additional member, with facilities management experience, to join the Property Committee - **if you can help, please contact Stephen Blanchflower, Property Convenor.**

Fellowship: The lunch club continued to flourish - **if you know of anyone who would like to attend but requires transport, please contact Jan Millar.** A number of social events had been held including the highly popular Ladies Night and the Greenbank Film Society film nights. The Christmas fair had raised over £3,000. Thanks were expressed to the organisers of these activities for their hard work.

Youth: Reports were received from: the 1st Clarkston Guides which has 34 guides and 4 young leaders and 4 adult leaders; the Rainbow Guides which has a huge waiting list; the Boys Brigade where the number of Anchor Boys has risen and the Junior & Company Sections have maintained consistent numbers, and all sections have a full programme of events; and the Sunday Club which meets on a Sunday Morning and covers ages 0-16 through the Creche, Mini Trailblazers, Sunday Squad and JAM.

Elders: The admission of 6 new elders on the 3rd of January was approved – see elsewhere for details. Requests from Joyce McMeeking, Douglas Paterson and Walter Wilson to be placed on the retired list of elders were approved; the Moderator paid tribute for their years of service and thanked them for their valued work in the church.

General Assembly: Approval was given to the offer from Graham Roddick to be a Commissioner to the 2016 General Assembly.

Elder District Visiting: Elders normally visit members in their district three times a year shortly before communion. A discussion took place about whether such visits were an outmoded concept and if models being adopted by other churches provided a better means of maintaining contact with members. It was agreed that we should continue elders' visits and consider the formation of a review group. - **if you have views or suggestions please let your elder know.**

Other Matters: An appeal was made for the names of anyone requiring an audio recording of Good Neighbour to be passed to Douglas Paterson. Under ECO matters the Kirk Session agreed to cease the provision of paper cups, to encourage groups to use china cups and mugs, and to investigate the installation of sensor lights in the halls. Bill Allan advised that the Kirk Session coffee morning would be held on 19th March 2016. Liz Allan asked for male volunteers to assist with visits to Eastwoodhill. Permission was granted by the Kirk Session to send pre 1976 records to the Mitchell Library.

(Please speak to your elder if you would like further information on any of the above.)

What's On

THE GUILD

Diary

3 rd February	2.15pm	<i>Imago Dei – Made in God's Image</i> Andy Gillies
10 th February	2.15pm	<i>Coco Chanel</i> Wendy Sandiford
17 th February	2.15pm	<i>Quiz</i> Jill Liddell
24 th February	2.15pm	<i>Musical Afternoon</i> One Way Gospel Group

Once again the Guild was thrilled with the amount raised from Sunshine Bags. The total amounted to £2,220. £1,200 was donated to Church Funds and the remaining amount was divided between the Guild Haiti Project and 12 other local charities. Sincere thanks to all involved in any way.

This year Greenbank Church is hosting the **World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, 4th March at 10.30am**. Although this service is organised by the Guild it is open to ALL members of the congregation. We hope for a good attendance. The service this year has been organised by the women of Cuba.
Enid Dron, Secretary

THE COLOUR CIRCLE ART EXHIBITION AND SALE

You are invited to view around 200 works of art by the Greenbank Colour Circle on Saturday 13th February, 10am-2pm, in order to support the work of the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland, which provides the only hospice service in Scotland for children and young people with life limiting conditions. A children's hospice offers professional care, practical help and emotional support to the whole family, usually from the day of acceptance to the death of their children and beyond. Do come and support this worthy cause.

Tickets can be bought in advance for £2 from any member of the club or at the door. This also buys your tea/coffee and home baking.

LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club continues to be held in the church halls over the winter months. The dates for the remainder of the session are 29th January, 26th February, 1st April, (to avoid Good Friday), 29th April and 27th May. All these dates are Fridays. Everyone will be made most welcome - come and enjoy a plate of soup, a filled roll, a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit (or two) coupled with a friendly chat.

Members of the group are happy to offer transport to anyone who needs a lift to the church hall - if this includes you, or someone you know, then please phone Jan on 639 0373 or Maureen on 639 5114 and a lift will be organised.

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Come and join us as we prepare for our summer concert in June! All are welcome - no experience required. Rehearsals are every Wednesday night in the upstairs hall 7:30pm-9:30pm with a tea break. For more information email: richard.scholfield@yahoo.com

The choir recently performed their first Christmas concert on the 25th November (attempting to get in before everyone gets tired of hearing Jingle Bells). Joined onstage by an eleven piece orchestra, they performed an entertaining and varied selection of well-known Christmas songs and carols. The atmosphere was brilliant, and there was a lot encouraging feedback in the tearoom after the concert. The choir now look forward to another concert in June 2016 and hope to draw the same audience - one which completely filled the downstairs seating in the church!

GREENBANK PLAYERS

The 'Greenbank Players' will be putting on a 'Murder Mystery' this year. This will be for one night only - 19th March at 7 o'clock - we shall provide a light supper along with the opportunity to hone those sleuthing techniques; it should prove to be an intellectually challenging but highly entertaining evening. More details to be unravelled in due course.

KIRK SESSION COFFEE MORNING

The Kirk Session Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 19th March from 10am to 12noon. Tickets price £2 (Children £1) can be obtained from Elders or Associate members of the Session or at the door.

It is hoped that the Congregation and friends of Greenbank will give their usual support to this event which is again in aid of our Crisis Fund as well as supporting our Ekwendeni Partnership in Malawi. (Bill Allan)

News and Updates

ED LINES

Hi Folks,

My phone has predictive text. You wouldn't believe the number of times this has got me into trouble. I recently sent an important text message and it threw in a completely random and inappropriate word. By the time I realised this it was too late - the message was sent! I once commented on Donna caravanning with us. This came up as carjacking which was much more accurate as she borrowed the car three years ago and I haven't seen it since! How a machine knows what is going to come from my mouth, when I don't, is amazing!

At the beginning of each year, newspapers and magazines take great pleasure in publishing horoscopes, or perhaps that should be "horriscopes", predicting what the future holds for the following year. I have never believed in them. I view them with a healthy amount of scepticism. I don't know what my future holds for the next five minutes. What I do believe, what I do know, is that the future is something to which you should look forward. You should live and enjoy each moment as it comes. It comes only once. Make the most of every minute. Take every opportunity because then, whatever happens, you can look to a future which is bright.

Alison

**ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY
SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY PLEASE**

THANK YOU



Once again this year, the retiring offerings over the Christmas services were for the benefit of CHAS and I wanted to thank everyone for their generosity. I especially wanted to write as both the Chairman of CHAS but more importantly, a member of Greenbank. This year the amount raised was £794 and we at CHAS are enormously grateful to all who contributed.

It was perhaps fitting at Christmas time, when children are so much the focus of our attention, that we did take some time to think of those children and their families who are going through the hardest of times. This father wrote poignantly about his daughter's last Christmas at Rachel House in Kinross, *"During her short life, we'd spent past Christmases in hospital. This was the only one we had as a proper family. On Christmas Day itself, the staff just let us be a family. When she died, it made such a difference that we could go and see her any time, day or night. At Rachel House, she was the happiest we ever saw her."*

It really was the best part of her life."

Last year our 267 members of staff worked to ensure that each child enjoyed life to the full, for as long as they as they could. This involved 10,000 bed nights and 1200 home visits caring for children and families all across Scotland. It also meant being with the families of the 65 children who died.

This all of course comes at a cost, some £12.5m in a full year. Around £1.6m of that comes from Government sources and so you can see the enormous need there is every year to keep raising funds to continue the work.

At the top of our Order of Service each Sunday are the words, *"Living our faith by our actions at the heart of the community"*. By your actions this Christmas I believe you have done just that. CHAS has been active now for 22 years and with your support you have helped us continue the work. Many families will have cause to thank you.

Very many thanks and best wishes for 2016.

Gordon Dickson

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

What a treat! Every year our choir simply excels at this service. Our gratitude is due to Peter in particular and all choir members and augmenters in general. And didn't the congregation enjoy singing hymns with familiar words to traditional tunes. Thanks too are due to the 9 Greenbankers who read so beautifully. Overall a seamless performance from start to finish. The whole service was enjoyed by a very large and appreciative congregation.

A Jaap

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE BATON?

After leaving Greenbank in the hands of our two B.B. boys and arriving at Busby Church in record time, it went to most of the schools, churches and youth organisations in the district.

Sheena Wurthman, the chairperson of Eco-congregation Scotland, took it to Paris where she met pilgrims from all over the world.

One group from Scandinavia started at the Arctic Circle and walking 20k a day arrived in Paris 6 months later. They collected melted water from a glacier and samples from every river they crossed en-route. Many walked part of the journey but two completed the whole distance!! A group of Buddhists composed a chant about climate change on their journey to Paris. They attempted to teach this to their fellow campaigners! Others from Manila composed an appropriate song as they went through the mountain passes on their walk from Rome to Paris.

The U.N. negotiator for climate change, Christina Figueres, met with the representatives from these and many other organisations and religious groups. She was given the baton with cards giving details of the numbers of people involved in its journey round Scotland and beyond. She said that adding together the distances walked and cycled by the campaigners was equivalent to going round the globe seven times!!

Luckily we do have citizens of the world who take climate change seriously. Our leaders did reach an agreement at the summit. We pray that they will be able to implement their commitments.

(Photographs on the Eco noticeboard) The Eco Group.



Members of our partner church, in the east end of Glasgow, Garthamlock and Craigend East Parish Church, have combined their love of knitting/crocheting into a Shawl Ministry which reaches out to those in need of comfort and support, as well as in celebration and joy. The shawl makers begin with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The shawls are very simple to make and upon completion, a final blessing is offered before it is packed away in tissue to be passed on to someone. Made in prayer and completed in prayer, the shawls are often made and given to recipients anonymously.

Some recipients continue the kindness by making a shawl for someone else. Thus, the prayer blessings ripple from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the embrace of God's love around them. Some shawls have been given to people undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during bereavement; giving birth, nursing a baby; as a wedding gift; during an illness and recovery; ministering to others ...there are endless possibilities!

If you feel that you want to know more about, or get involved in this Shawl Ministry you are invited to a meeting on Monday 15th February at 7.30pm at Garthamlock and Craigend East Parish Church. On this evening you will hear some of the amazing stories of those who have already embarked on this very special ministry. If you would like to go, please contact Jane at the church office and leave your name with her. If you need a lift to Garthamlock transport is available. After the meeting on the 15th February it is hoped that people from both churches will be able to work together on this Shawl Ministry.

FLOWER LIST FOR FEBRUARY 2016

	<u>Communion Table</u>	<u>Centenary Chapel</u>	<u>Side Windows</u>
7 th February	M. Alexander	L. Burgess	
14 th February	I. Blanchflower		
21 st February	C. Cobb		
28 th February	C. Black	A. McKinlay	

The Flower Lists for 2016 are on the transept windows; you are invited to put your name and telephone number on a list to donate flowers on the date of your choice. A member of the flower committee will contact you during the week prior to this date.

Church Office (644 1841)

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

Thank you

Sincere thanks to all who supported the Lodging House Mission this Christmas by purchasing Christmas cards and by making a financial donation. You bought 305 packs of cards and additionally donated a total of £406.30. This total includes donations from individuals and a donation of £57 from The Guild. Some donations are suitable for Gift Aid, which, when added, will increase the amount significantly. Your generosity is very much appreciated, and your continued support is vital in allowing the important work of the Lodging House Mission to continue. Thank you also for the toiletries which were donated.

Christmas

The Lodging House Mission was open on Christmas Day, providing a three course meal to around 100 people.

Glasgow Winter Night Shelter

This winter, the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter is operating at the Lodging House Mission. The service commenced on December 1st 2015, and will run until March 31st 2016 (4 months).

The Glasgow Winter Night Shelter is a partnership of charities, organisations, and housing associations concerned with tackling homelessness, during the cold winter months, many people sleep rough in the streets of Glasgow. Rough sleepers and people with nowhere else to sleep are welcome to use the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter for emergency accommodation. In the mornings, users of the service can remain in the LHM and take advantage of free food, shelter, warmth, and all of the other support facilities which are available. Additionally, they will be connected with Glasgow City Council's case team in order that accommodation can be found for them.

In 2014-15 (3 months only), a total of 407 individuals used the shelter, between them accessing the service some 1,501 times.

Homelessness Sunday Service

The Homelessness Sunday Service will take place at 6.30pm on Sunday, 31st January at the Lodging House Mission, 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow. The guest speaker will be Rev Tom Pollock, Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery. All are invited to attend this service. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards, when there will be an opportunity for fellowship and discussion of homeless issues, and an opportunity to see how the LHM is supporting the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter Project. I will have a few spaces available in my car, so please let me know if you would like to attend and I should be able to offer transport.

Sale of Greetings Cards

The sale of greetings cards (birthday, get well soon etc.) has resumed. Cards will be on sale most Sundays in the Fraser Hall following the morning service. Money raised will be donated to the Lodging House Mission.

A donation of £50 from the sale of these greetings cards was made to Mary's Meals when the textile collection van came to the church in December.

Alison Allan

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

It is with great pleasure I announce that Aiden O'Brien achieved his Junior Black Belt. This has been down to all his hard work and dedication to the art. Having Aiden achieve this milestone on his journey completed a great year for all our junior students in all avenues of Karate.

We have started a course, with one of our instructors, concentrating on karate techniques, combinations and training methods in preparation for up and coming competitions throughout the year- there are new concepts being brought in and we are all looking forward to seeing the progress of our students.

Our Association Championships are on the 13th March at Parklands and is always a great event where all our clubs come together to participate in a competitive but friendly environment.

With the start of a new year if anyone would like to come along and watch one of our classes and see what we do – please feel free to drop in.

Best wishes,

John Elliot

Bushido Karate Association Chairman

ADVERTISING INITIATIVE

Over the last few years, the Good Neighbour has been running adverts in the centre page, which has provided important income for the Church. We have two adverts fewer this year due to recent shop closures and the increase in businesses using social media to advertise their products. Can we appeal to members of the congregation using those who advertise with us to let them know that you have seen their advert in the Good Neighbour. If you know of anyone or any company who would like to take the opportunity of advertising, please let us know.

Val Scholfield (638 2146) Alison Harvey (638 3679)

(Greenbank Church will not be held responsible for any contracts negotiated by or on behalf of any person purchasing or receiving services provided by our sponsors.)

Clarkston After School Services

Job opportunity- Early Education and Childcare

Due to expansion, our out of school care service- Clarkston After School Services is currently recruiting a Childcare Practitioner to support the manager in the growth and further development of our service. The post is up to 20 hours per week during East Renfrewshire Council school term time, between the hours of 7.30-9am and 3-6pm Monday to Friday with the possibility of additional hours during school holidays. Job share applicants welcome.

The successful candidates must have PVG membership, be registered with SSSC (or eligible to register) and hold a relevant childcare or play-work qualification. Car drivers preferred.

In return, we offer on-going training and support and a competitive rate of pay starting at £7.80 per hour. For more information and an application pack, please email us clarkstonafterschool@gmail.com, or contact us through our FB page.

TIME OUT

On Thursday, 4th February we are going bowling and we will be meeting on Thursday, 18th February, but have not yet decided on our activity for the night.

We will have a team taking part in the annual Church quiz on 25th February - go team Time Out!

Anyone wishing to join us on any of our evenings will be made most welcome. For further information, please phone Catherine Hart tel. 639 9496 or Moira McAldine tel. 639 5968 for more details.

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