

# thegoodneighbour

September 2016



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



at the heart of the **community**

GreenbankParish  
CHURCH

# Parish Register

## NEW MEMBER

July 2016 Jeannette Mackay, 11 Viaduct Road, Clarkston

Jeannette Mackay was a member and an elder at St James Church, Paisley for over forty years until it recently closed. She has two daughters and three grand-children. Jeanette was a nurse until she gave up to help her husband run his model railway shop. Her main hobby is hand-bell ringing and Jeanette is still a member of the St James' group, which has kept going. Jeanette already helps out at the Cosy Cafe and is looking forward to becoming more involved in church organisations. Welcome on board Jeanette.

## BAPTISMS

22/5/16 Emily Jacqueline MacAskill, Nethercliffe Avenue, Netherlee

Emily was born at the Queen Elizabeth Maternity Unit aka The Southern General on 8th Feb at 11:59am by c-section weighing 5lbs 13oz. She was c-section due to breech position, same as her big sister Holly.

Big sister Holly is 5 ½ years old and going into P2. She has been in Sunday Club since age 3.

Emily's godparents are my best friend, Alisa Norval, we met at New Mums' Club when we had our first babies, Holly and Sophie. There are exactly 21 days between the girls with Sophie being the eldest. This time round there are 18 days between our babies Emily and James, who is the elder. My brother in law, Ross MacAskill, is Emily's godfather.

After the baptism we went back to our house in Netherlee; we were lucky with the weather and managed to have people outside!

I think memory-wise it was lovely to have Emily baptised in a church where I spent my childhood and where my family attended and still do. Also the gown Emily wore was first worn by my mum then passed down to my aunt, myself, Holly and now Emily.

It was also nice to see my husband and all his friends with the children afterward at ours. Craig has been friends with his friends since primary school.

24/7/16 Sam James Robertson, Dorian Drive, Clarkston

Sam was born on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 8.09pm at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow, weighing 8lb 2oz.

He is our first baby and the first Grandchild on my side (first Grandson on Scott's side).

For Sam's christening, we went a little crazy with godparents as we couldn't choose between his aunts and uncles! So we had my sister, Gemma and her husband, Kevin. My brother, Kristopher and also Scott's brother, Craig and his wife, Sara - so 5 godparents!

Sam was also baptised in a very special shawl: his great, great grandmother (on Scott's mum's side) was baptised wearing this shawl in 1890 and each generation since has been christened wearing it. So it was lovely to carry on this tradition.

We celebrated after the service at Cathcart Castle Golf Club with approximately 80 family and friends; it was a lovely day.

We will remember Sam's baptism as a very special and proud day for us both. It also meant a lot to us that Rev. Roddick carried out the baptism. We are also very grateful to the children who made such beautiful cards for Sam; we are looking forward to showing these to him when he is older.

## DEATHS

11/6/16 Mrs Elizabeth Swandells, 40 Woodbank Crescent, Clarkston

23/6/16 Mr Robert Bradshaw, 172 Kylepark Drive, Uddingston

25/6/16 Mr Robert Curran, Silverburn Care Home, Pollok

27/6/16 Mr Henry Arnott, 45 Hillend Road, Clarkston

7/7/16 Mr Derek Muir, 52 Hillend Road, Clarkston

9/7/16 Mrs Joy Jones, 50 Hillend Road, Clarkston

23/7/16 Mrs Elizabeth Newman, 15 Roland Crescent, Newton Mearns

8/8/16 Catherine (Rena) Anderson, 10 Windlaw Park Gardens, Muirend

8/8/16 Mrs Isobel Bills, Mearns Kirk House, Newton Mearns

*Dependent on your bounteous breath, we seek your grace alone,  
In every stage of life and death, to keep us still your own"*

Dear Friends,

This morning I visited Williamwood High School for the first time in this new session. This year I am the 4<sup>th</sup> year chaplain and our chaplaincy team have chosen the theme of "Better Together" for our series of Religions Observances in the school this year. At the morning assembly I spoke about the excitement and inspiration of the Rio Olympic Games in the last few weeks and how, apart from the medal winning performances, I had been drawn to the team spirit exemplified by many of the participating athletes. The examples I used were the Great Britain rowing, synchronised diving and hockey teams who all won medals by coming together to support and encourage one another to do their best. However, I also pointed out how one athlete, who best captured the essence of the Olympic spirit in a single act of selfless support and encouragement, was rewarded for it.

Her name was Nikki Hamblin from New Zealand's who stopped to help Abbey D'Agostino after the American athlete fell in agony when they tangled in their 5,000m race. Hamblin's compassion for her fellow athlete was praised around the world because she gave up the chance of a medal to stay with the stricken runner. D'Agostino urged to Hamblin to continue racing but she refused to leave the American's side until a wheelchair came to take her away.

The International Olympic Committee decided to give the New Zealander the prestigious Pierre de Coubertin medal, otherwise known as the International Fair Play Committee Award, which has only been awarded 17 times in Olympic history. Hamblin later said, *"Everyone comes here to compete but there are a lot of people who don't achieve that and their journey is really important too. That was one of those journeys and it has gone on to be one of the most important moments of my life."*

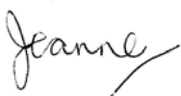
I reminded the 4<sup>th</sup> year pupils that coming together to offer one another words of encouragement is how they will get through this year because everyone needs other people to encourage them to be all that they possibly can be. In their diaries, in a date set for April next year, I asked the pupils to write down at least one way they might encourage someone else this year. We will revisit those entries at the end of the year. What would you have written?

After today's school assembly I began to wonder, "Who I was encouraging? Who loves to get my call or text because they know I want to see how they're doing? Who looks forward to getting together because they know they will be encouraged?"

Many inspiring moments in life result from one person encouraging someone else. We all face those moments, hours or even days when it's hard to see the way ahead. Words of encouragement like "I am here for you" or "I believe in you" or "You're doing ok" have made a difference in my life and I believe it is the same with everyone.

Writing to the church in Thessalonica the Apostle Paul said *"encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."* [ 1 Thessalonians 5:11]. As we journey on through this new session of our church year, may the Lord help us create the important moments of our lives by doing more than we can all imagine through a little encouragement.

Yours,



## PULPIT DIARY

2 <sup>nd</sup> September	4.00pm	Messy Church
4 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30am	Worship (Rev James Whyte) & Sunday Club
11 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30am	Worship (with Very Rev Dr John Chalmers) & Sunday Club
18 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30am 6.30pm	Sacrament of Holy Baptism & Sunday Club Prayers for Healing Service
25 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30am	Holiday Weekend - All Age Family Worship

## **J GORDON HAMILTON**

Gordon Hamilton, one of our elders, died on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

Gordon was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1928 in Mossspark where he was brought up with his older sister, Myra, and younger brother, Ian. He was a pupil at Mossspark Primary School and his secondary education was at Glasgow High School. It was at school that Gordon joined the Officer Training Corps and became the Pipe Major of the school Pipe Band and on a number of occasions was given the honour of Pipe Major of Massed Pipe Bands.

Gordon and his family moved to Woodbank Crescent in Clarkston in 1939 and Gordon's lifelong attachment to the 223rd Company of the Boys' Brigade and the Glasgow Battalion began when he joined as a recruit and rose through the ranks. Through his involvement with the Boys' Brigade, Gordon was a positive influence on the lives of many boys with entertaining bible class talks. He was Battalion Treasurer for 12 years - years that included the centenary celebrations and the acquisition and fitting out of the outdoor centre at Inversnaid.

Gordon was called up for National Service during his first year at University. He had intended to join the Gordon Highlanders but after 11 weeks intensive infantry training he was transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and trained as a specialist in the handling and disposal of ammunition. He became a Sergeant Ammunition Examiner and was posted to the Scottish Command Bomb Disposal Unit to deal with unexploded bombs.

On returning from National Service Gordon became an apprentice Chartered Accountant at McLelland Kerr and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1955. He became a partner in 1963 and in 1965 he set up a specialist tax department and this specialisation dramatically changed his professional career. Gordon became the Director of Taxes of the UK practice of Arthur Young, which became Ernst Young, and an International tax partner - overseeing the setting up of tax departments in 12 offices. This involved him in considerable travel not only in the UK but also in the United States. In 1986 Gordon was elected by his fellow partners to membership of the executive Committee running the UK firm of Arthur Young.

After retirement in 1989 Gordon served, as a non-executive director, on the boards of several companies. He served as a President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Benevolent Society and was a member of the Institutes Examination Board for ten years.

Gordon met Marjory through his friendship with her brother Jack. He and Marjory married in 1958 and set up house in Queensberry Ave. Donald, Robert and Jane were born and they had a happy childhood with memories of being told stories that Gordon could make up on the spot. In 1978 the family moved to Mearns Road.

In his leisure time Gordon joined Cathcart Castle Golf Club where he was a member for nearly 60 years. He was also a member of Eaglesham Lawn Tennis Club where, thanks to Marjory's tennis skills, he and Marjory won the mixed doubles championship three times. In retirement Gordon and Marjory travelled widely with friends to many destinations.

Gordon's faith was central to his life and his family had a long connection to Greenbank Parish Church. Gordon's great grandfather had his name on the choir pews, his mother had been christened there, his mother and father were married there, he and Marjory were married there and his children were christened there. His first position in the church was as a primary school teacher under the watchful eye of Mrs Watson. He was ordained as an elder in 1974 and he was the church Auditor, Finance Convenor and a District Elder for many years. Gordon was the leading light in many Church stewardship programmes and in the construction of the Link Building. Through his work, Greenbank benefited from his very wide knowledge, not only of tax, but of general financial and economic matters - a knowledge which he freely shared with all members. Gordon was forward thinking in his views about the future of the church and helped drive many of the changes that have made Greenbank what it is today. In all circumstances he was a wise counsel, kind, thoughtful, measured and meticulous in his attention to detail.

Above all else in his life Gordon's affections were always firmly focused on his family, on his wife Marjory, children Donald, Robert and Jane and his six grandchildren. Sadly over the last few years we lost the Gordon we all knew, as Alzheimer's took hold, but his spirit was still there, revealing itself whenever it could in precious moments.

Today we give thanks to God for Gordon Hamilton's life as a son, brother, husband, father and grandfather and much respected friend who will be deeply missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing and loving him. We commend Marjory, Donald, Robert and Jane and the wider family to the love and care of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# What's On

## **"WHAT'S ON" SHEET & HARVEST OFFERING ENVELOPE**

Inside your Good Neighbour this month you will have received a "What's On" sheet which includes many useful contacts that you may require during the course of the year; please retain this for future reference. You should also have received a donation envelope for "The Lodging House Mission" which is for your Harvest Offering. If you wish to make a harvest donation please bring this with you to church on **Harvest Sunday** which this year is **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**.

## **THE GUILD**

The Guild will begin its 110<sup>th</sup> Session on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Our Syllabus Secretary has again planned a very interesting programme for us details of which are published in this edition of *Good Neighbour*.

Sadly we have had a very poor summer when the sun refused to shine. We are confident, however, that ladies of the congregation will still have been generous and that the Sunshine Bags will be full. The bags will be collected during October. Thank you to contributors and collectors.

We yet again cordially invite members of the Congregation to come along and sample our meetings on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.15pm. These are always happy gatherings and we desperately need new members for the Guild to continue to take a major part in the life of Greenbank Church as it has done for the past 110 years. As so many of the activities at Greenbank centre around young folk it is good to know there is still somewhere for the older generation to enjoy each other's company. We look forward to seeing you!

Enid Dron

## **WALKING GROUP PROGRAMME - 2016**

The Walking Group programme for the remainder of 2016 is shown below.

New members will be warmly welcomed. Come along and enjoy the fresh air and good company.

All walks are on Saturdays except 20<sup>th</sup> November which is a Sunday.

We leave from the Church at the times shown:

17 <sup>th</sup> September	Maidens to Culzean	9.30am
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Water of Leith	9am
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Clyde Walkway (Glasgow)	1pm

For further information contact Allan McLaren (639 5848) or Douglas Paterson (638 6350)

## **THE LUNCH CLUB**

The Lunch Club will commence on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 12noon till 1.30pm. Why not come along and enjoy soup, filled rolls, tea, coffee and biscuits, friendly chat and a warm welcome from our happy team?

Maureen & Jan

## **THE COLOUR CIRCLE**

The Greenbank Colour Circle's new session begins on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September when we will start preparing for our annual exhibition and sale in aid of CHAS which takes place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

## **MESSY CHURCH FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER, 4PM – 6PM**

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

# News and Updates

## ED LINES

Hi Folks,

I hope you all had a good summer. We're just back from holiday. This year we went to a place near Bournemouth. I never feel I've been on holiday unless I've been to the seaside so after much careful research and reading all the reviews available we plumped for a place that was within easy reach of the beach. Boy, were we disappointed. The site was small. The grass was non-existent and rather than looking out into openness we were faced with a wall of trees. It was dark, dingy and positively depressing. So after a bit of discussion, a few tears and despite Stephen's reassurance that it would be "fine", we decided to up sticks and move on. A couple of miles down the road we came across another camp site. It was bigger, friendlier and much more open - a place where we could happily stay for our two weeks. Sometimes, despite reviews, things don't turn out as you hope and "fine" just isn't good enough. It takes courage and a bit of nerve but you just have to pack up and move on because bigger, brighter, better things are surely just round the corner.

Alison

**ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE  
SUBMITTED BY SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER PLEASE**

## THANK YOU

Greenbank's marvellous Church Transport Rota makes such a difference to so many people's Sundays. I would like to give a special word of thanks to my drivers who always call on Saturday and allow me to attend Sunday morning service.

Having been a member of Greenbank Church for 37 years this wonderful service allows me to continue worshipping.  
Fay Thompson

## SUNDAY CLUB SUPERINTENDENTS

After ten years' service Douglas and Hillary Carswell have resigned as Sunday Club Superintendents. Sincere thanks are owed to them for all their dedicated work with the children during this time.

The Sunday Club is now looking for a new superintendent. If you are interested in the position please speak to the minister.

## URGENT APPEAL

Greenbank has been invited to join St Joseph's church to support the Edinburgh charity Re-act who need people to donate basic items for the refugees who arrive with nothing on the Greek island of Samos.

The following items are urgently needed:

Socks, summer hats and underwear for all ages, towels, sunscreen, nappies of all sizes, baby cream, soap and push chairs( strollers). Small donations of money can be accepted to buy items from the list.

The collections will be on 4th, 11th, and 18th September for transfer to Re-act to meet the last delivery for this year.

More information is available from Jeanette MacKay: 0141 237 7579; [jeanettecmackay@gmail.com](mailto:jeanettecmackay@gmail.com)

Donations can be left in the Hall of Friendship.

## POSTCARDS

As many of you will have noticed the use of postcards has greatly diminished. The charity, which sells these to raise funds, urgently needs more of any sort so please rather than putting them in the wastepaper sack hand them in. They have no problem if you wish to delete your address from them. I expect to hear next month what the money is being used for.

Duncan McIntyre (01355260068)

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

The annual door to door collection for Christian Aid took place in May and Greenbank's volunteers collected the sum of £3800; this was about the same overall total as last year total, but once again there were insufficient volunteer collectors to cover all the allocated streets within our district. This figure includes the £419 raised by the Big Brekkie event held after church at the start of Christian Aid week. The overall total from all the participating churches within Clarkston and district should be known at the next Christian Aid Committee meeting once the treasurer's report has been received. Many thanks to all those who gave of their time to assist in the collecting efforts and in the counting of the monies received at Greenbank.

### **SPONSORED SWIM**

The committee would like to mention that the date for the sponsored swim at Eastwood swimming pool is Saturday 8th October; sponsor forms will be available from Mark Allan and Ron Livingston nearer the time. Please consider taking part, or sponsoring one or more of the Greenbank participants.

Mark Allan

## **LODGING HOUSE MISSION**

Everyone at the Lodging House Mission was delighted to receive the large quantity of baking which was left over from the service on 26 June to install Jeanne as Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery. A letter of thanks was received.

The annual fundraising sponsored cycle will take place on Saturday, 3rd September. All are invited to support this event either by taking part or by sponsoring our church team. The team currently consists of Mark, Heather and Jennifer Allan, Val and Neil Scholfield, and Bill Stein. This year the event will start at Glasgow Green, go out to Clydebank and back, mainly on cycle paths, and finish at the Lodging House Mission. This is a great opportunity for participants to see inside the LHM and also is a place of shelter should the weather be inclement.

As a result of the generous donations received by the Lodging House Mission, they are now in a position to only charge for breakfast rolls and lunchtime pudding. All other food is now free, including the main lunch meal. Meal vouchers will continue to be sold to help cover food costs at the LHM. In the past these entitled the bearer to one full free breakfast or lunch. The vouchers are a good way of introducing people to the LHM, and can be given to people begging in the street as an alternative to giving money. The map on the back shows the location. Vouchers are available from me and are £1.25 each. Once at the LHM, people are introduced to the many other useful services available there.

A copy of the annual report is displayed on the noticeboard in the corridor outside the Fraser Hall.

Thank you all for your continued loyal support, which is greatly appreciated.

Alison Allan

## **CHARLIE'S CHALLENGE**

I had long wanted to be on 'University Challenge' and can now look back with great satisfaction on an appearance on the show with the team from St. John's College, Oxford that took us all the way to the final and through a very enjoyable experience.

The team selection was conducted by a former contestant in College, who bothered to inform me of it personally before the advertisement for auditions went out. Apparently of the sixteen people who went for the team, I was the standout candidate, which is nice to know.

Once our team of me (a Theologian), two Historians, and a Chemist (with a Classicist as reserve) had been composed and much paperwork had been filled in, we were called to a test and interview with the producers in Oxford. Despite my misgivings after the interview, I was delighted to find out about a month later that we had been selected for the show.

Filming took place at Media City in Salford over three blocks in the first half of 2015. It was nice to take the trips there as well as to have the experience of being made up and filmed for television. Everybody who worked on the show was very helpful and keen for us to feel at ease. I also got to know some of the other teams very well in the green room.

After filming was finished, the team had a long and difficult time of hiding the result from the rest of College as we progressed through the broadcasts of our shows. When these were shown, large crowds gathered to watch in College and it was very encouraging to have their support. Subsequently, I've enjoyed being recognised more often around College and sometimes in the street as well.

Charlie Clegg

## WINTER FAIR – SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

Now that the summer holidays are over, it is time once again to think about winter activities and in particular the highly popular and successful Fair known this year as the Winter Fair which this year is on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00am – 1.00pm. Cost £2.00 per adult and £1.00 per child (school age and over)

It is planned to have the usual very successful stalls. We would appreciate donations from members of organisations and the congregation for any of the stalls listed below:

Home Baking (on the day or left in the hall on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Children's Toys and Books

Bottle Stall

Christmas Gift Bags (A gift, minimum value £2.00 to be placed in Christmas gift bag)

Toiletries/Jewellery

Christmas Stall

Bric a Brac

Book Stall

New Unwanted Gifts

In addition there will be the ever popular Tea Room with a Christmas theme; along with the Christmas Hamper, Christmas Hyacinths (these will be already planted), Guess the Birthday; Guess Weight of Cake, Human Fruit Machine, plus one or two additions. Stalls for the children will include the successful "Pocket Money Stall" along with the usual favourites of Nail Painting and Tattoos.

Donations for any of the stalls may be left in the large blue box in the Link Building (marked Winter Fair) or by contacting one of the names below. Collection can be arranged.

It has been decided this year that instead of holding a meeting, we will contact organisations and helpers direct to check that arrangements are well in hand and this will allow us to check more accurately if any further help on the day will be required. If any organisation has any questions they would like to ask, please contact Anna, Eleanor or Elizabeth, who will be only too please to help your organisation.

Everyone's support for this event has over the years been terrific and we look forward to an even more successful event this year.

Anna Martin 644 0972 Eleanor Johnstone 577 0335 Elizabeth Cross 638 5162

## 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.

## FLOWER LIST FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2016

	<u>Communion Table</u>	<u>Centenary Chapel</u>	<u>Side Windows</u>
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Aileen McKinlay	Bill Robertson	
14 <sup>th</sup> August			
21 <sup>st</sup> August	Derek Christie		
28 <sup>th</sup> August			
4 <sup>th</sup> September		Moira Innes	
11 <sup>th</sup> September		Helen Cochrane	
18 <sup>th</sup> September		Beth Tait	
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Jane Livingston		

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.

Elizabeth Cross (638 5162)



## KIRK SESSION – WHAT DO THEY TALK ABOUT?

The Kirk Session met on 6<sup>th</sup> June with 55 members attending and they discussed a wide range of issues.

**Worship:** Thanks were expressed to all those who had volunteered to assist at care home services. The monthly Saturday morning book club was attracting a good number of people who enjoyed some interesting discussion. Messy church continues to thrive and topics included looking after God's planet and a visit to Greenbank Gardens.

**Outreach:** The Kirk Session received an update on our work with Christian Aid and Mark Allan thanked all the volunteers who collected – the folk who ran the "Big Brekkie" event and JAM for preparing collector packs. There were reports also from the Glasgow North East Foodbank where we provide food donations and helpers, Lodging House Mission where we are represented by Alison Allan, and Williamwood House where Stella Inglis is our representative. Jill Liddell submitted a Publicity Report thanking Fraser Simpson, one of our members, for the impressive new website, Susan Johnson for running Greenbank's Facebook Page and Alison Harvey for her sterling work editing Good Neighbour for another year helped by Jane Mayer in the office and Gordon and Margo Blyth who organise the distribution.

**Finance:** The Financial Position was updated and it was noted our overall offerings had increased for the 20 weeks to 15<sup>th</sup> May by 3.2%. Recent contributions from church organisations have been received from The Guild, 1<sup>st</sup> A Clarkston Brownies, 1<sup>st</sup> Clarkston Rainbows, Friendship Café, Time Out, Country Dance Group, and The Walking Group. External organisations continue to generate useful income. The Treasurer thanked David Thomson who has volunteered to run cost comparisons on Gas and Electricity providers to secure the best deal. He was also thanked for identifying previous VAT overcharges which has secured a refund.

**Fabric:** The property convenor thanked Alex Howie for organising stonework repairs and pointing that have been carried out to the Church, Halls and Manse. Replacement of some fire doors is also in progress and provision of new cupboard space in the Session House. The Church has now been advised that the grant application to the Whitelee Windfarm Fund has been approved and work to replace the aging church and hall boilers can now go ahead. Graham Roddick gave a detailed report and received Kirk Session approval for the work, a substantial part of which is being covered by the grant. It is anticipated the work will be carried out in the autumn. Graham was warmly thanked for his work on this complex task. Stephen Blanchflower advised that he will be stepping down as property convenor in the coming months due to work commitments and was warmly thanked by the moderator for his hard work over the years.

**Grounds:** Mark Allan who leads the Grounds team advised that 2 lawnmowers had been repaired enabling them to go ahead with the valuable work they carry out during the summer months. They normally meet on Tuesday evenings (weather permitting). They are always looking for volunteers – come along or contact Mark Allan.

**Safeguarding:** Graeme Rae has taken on the role of Deputy Safeguarding Officer to assist the vital work undertaken by Jim McFadyen. Safeguarding is a critical function carried out on behalf of the Kirk Session to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable groups (children and adults) and we are grateful to Graeme for accepting this role.

**Fellowship:** The Kirk Session received reports on a large number of fellowship activities (too numerous to mention them all) which included the successful Community Choir concert on 1<sup>st</sup> June, The Walking Group who have a full programme for this year (new members welcome), increased numbers reported at the Lunch Club, introduction of the new Bookbug sessions on a Thursday for children under 5 accompanied by an adult, and a Successful Sunday Club plant sale which raised £800.

**Youth:** The Kirk Session received reports from the Boys' Brigade and particular congratulations go to the 7 boys who gained the Queen's Badge. The company continues to thrive and offers a wide and varied programme thanks to the dedication of the leaders. Anyone wishing to help, please contact Bobby Bisset or the church office. Reports were also received from JAM, 1<sup>st</sup> Clarkston Rainbows and the Sunday Club. The Moderator expressed sincere thanks to Hilary and Douglas Carswell who are leaving the Sunday Club after serving as Superintendents for 10 years. This was warmly endorsed by the Kirk Session.

**Other Matters:** The Kirk Session agreed retiring offerings for 2016/17 and the proposed appointment by Presbytery of Helen Howard as an additional Presbytery Elder. After the main business the session broke into small groups to discuss elder visits to districts for the particular benefit of new and recently appointed elders. (Please speak to your elder if you would like further information on any of the above.)

## 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.)

## **BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB**

Over the summer it was announced by the International Olympics Committee that KARATE has been added to the Sports Programme for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 - so look out for a Greenbank student winning Gold.

In its current form, karate is less than 200 years old. However it has roots that date back thousands of years. The art originated on the island of Okinawa (Japan) and in its early form was heavily influenced by ancient Chinese martial arts, collectively known as kung fu.

The history of Okinawan Karate can be traced back to the late 17th century when a ban on weapons was imposed by the samurai rulers of Japan. This meant that all training by early masters, had to be done in secret and as weapons could not be carried on the island, self-defence tended to revolve around empty handed techniques.

At the turn of the 20th century, Anko Itosu gained permission to end the shroud of secrecy for those who wanted to learn martial arts and began teaching Karate in Okinawan schools. This led to further expansion by one of Itosu's students, Sensei Gichin Funakoshi, who introduced the art to Japan in 1922.

Towards the end of his life, Funakoshi was instrumental in forming the Japanese Karate Association (JKA) which set about making karate a world martial art by sending out its best instructors to teach it all over the globe. Today, karate is practiced by millions of people right across the world.

Over the next few months we have courses for our instructors to keep up with the latest coaching methods and also our Association course for our students. In addition it is the start of the competition season and we look to enter more students at various events.

Finally we will be starting a new beginner's class and if you know of anyone who would like to join our great Association please pass on my details.

Best wishes,

John

Bushido Karate Association Chairman

## **REPORT OF THE LIAISON GROUP**

For those who may not be familiar with what we do, briefly we endeavour to visit or at least make contact with every club and organisation connected to Greenbank Church. Taking with us the greetings of the Kirk Session, our interest in them, in what they do, and their well being.

Throughout the year we have the opportunity to read both in Good Neighbour, and in the reports we receive before each Session meeting much of what some of our organisation are doing. Our contacts allow us to learn of any difficulties or problems they may have, and in particular of any assistance they may require from the Kirk Session.

At this time last year there were question marks over the future of both the Men's Club and the Junior Badminton. The previous year the Men's Club had met only once, and sadly last session they did not meet at all. Similarly the Junior Badminton had ceased to function as they had no adult leader, and despite the best efforts of some, no leader has come forward, so it too did not meet at all last year. Unless someone comes along with the specific intention of restarting either of them, we think that in the circumstances we must now consider them lost.

The Cosy Coffee House continues to function with help of volunteers on a rota basis and at the beginning of last session there was for a while some involvement by senior pupils from Williamwood School. This venture too has no leader and without one appears to be a bit rudderless. However, bearing in mind the time that this venture meets, finding a leader is not an easy ask.

It is pleasing to note that numbers across the range of all our youth work are holding up, and in some groups a small increase has been recorded. It is also encouraging to see that there has been an increase in the overall number of leaders, although some groups are still reporting that they are understaffed.

Last year the Drama Club had hoped to return to the stage with a full production, but owing to lack of numbers settled for a murder mystery night, and as I understand it will do so again this year. However in order to return to a full stage production they require new additional members.

This echoes pretty much the position of most organisations as they look forward to the new session. To help find new additional members is a common request being made of the Kirk Session. We think however

that finding new members is a matter for each organisation itself, by publicising their own activities as widely as possible, and it may be that the best way to recruit new members is for existing members to enthuse about what they do, telling their friends and neighbours and maybe encouraging them to come along. Nevertheless we can perhaps help by being aware of all that is going on, so that if we are asked then maybe we can point people in the right direction. One request is from the Lunch Club. This very popular club does not lack leadership; it has two very able leaders in Jan Miller and Maureen Moss who are supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. They all work very hard at making this the success it is and will continue to do so, but they would like a bit more help. So maybe if you go along you might just like to help every now and then, or perhaps you may know someone who would be willing to do so, all offers will be gratefully received.

For the most part our organisations continue to function successfully; whilst realizing that some people (by attending more than one club) are counted more than once, total membership of all groups is slightly up this year at a little over 900. Whilst numbers attending remain consistently high which is indicative that they are well run and obviously enjoyed by all who go along.

Two things worth mentioning:

Firstly, the amount of charity fund raising carried out by various organisations is really something of note, and something for which each group involved can be justifiably proud and should be commended for, enabling them to contribute generously to the charities they support.

Secondly we are sure that you will not be surprised to learn that the organisations speak very highly of John Meek, he is always pleasant, available, helpful and nothingever seems to be too much trouble.

The halls are well used, and all our organisations are busy welcoming not only church members but the wider community too, and are a major part of our Church life, work and witness, making an important contribution to our aim of living our faith by our actions at the heart of the community.

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