

# thegoodneighbour

November 2016



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



GreenbankParish

at the heart of the **community**

# Parish Register

## BAPTISMS

18/9/16 Lukas Guthrie, Hillview Drive, Clarkston

Lukas was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 2.01am weighing a proud 4.4kg. His Christening on the 18th September coincided nicely to also celebrate his first birthday. The person most excited about both events was undoubtedly his big sister Sophia, who was over the moon that Lukas was now a big boy and that both her grannies and grandpas, as well as her Auntie Sonja, were coming. Sonja is my sister and apart from being a beloved Auntie, she is now Godmother to both our children, which is amazing for them and for us.

We really enjoyed the Christening Service and at this point want to thank everybody involved in making it so special. We particularly want to thank Jeanne for letting us light Lukas' Christening Candle. It really meant a lot to me.

We had a fantastic rest of the day and in true German fashion spent most of it eating. We went back to Dennistoun where we used to live. There we had lunch in Café Tibo, where we once had our memorable pre-wedding dinner with all my family and friends, which makes it a special place for us. Then we spent some time opening and playing with presents and eating Black Forest Gateau - yum. We painted a nice big picture for Lukas with everybody's hand print on it to remember the day. Strangely we also managed to fit in a bit of dinner and ended the day's festivities with a glass of Prosecco and a toast to Lukas. What a great day.

18/9/16 Rudi Robert McLellan, Alexander Avenue, Eaglesham

18/9/16 Rocco Maclaren, Attlee Road, East Kilbride

Brodie Coll, baptised on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Brodie was born on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and weighed 7lbs 7oz, the same weight as his big brother Harris (age 2). We can't believe Brodie is almost 1 already! He is a very happy baby who loves exploring!

We all had a wonderful day at Brodie's christening and thank Jeanne for such a lovely service. His godmother is his Auntie Deborah. Following the service we hosted lunch at our house with family and friends. The sun was shining so we spent the day in the garden.

Brodie wore the same christening gown that his brother Harris wore the year before and in fact that I (mum) wore and my sisters and brother who were also christened at Greenbank. It was very special to carry on the tradition.

## WEDDING

16/9/16 Heather Simpson and Kristofer Gibson, 30 Newlands Crescent, Aberdeen

Kris and I met on a school trip to Paris at the end of 3rd year. I was terrified of heights so when we went up the Montparnasse Tower Kris came over to me to try to cheer me up. We have been best friends ever since.

My bridesmaid was Shirley Seivwright. We have been best friends as well as next door neighbours for 26 years and have grown up in Greenbank Church. Our names are on the cradle roll at the back of the church beside the door. When we sat in the pews at Sunday School I would always picture her and I standing at the front of the church getting married (not to each other). Greenbank Church holds such lovely memories for me so I knew I had to get married there. Kris had two best men, his cousin, Ross and his best friend, Allister, who travelled from Texas where he now lives. The groomsmen were my brother, Scott, and Kris' friend, Jamie. We had our reception at Lochside House Hotel. We went to Bali for our honeymoon. It was such a beautiful place and the people were so friendly. We thoroughly recommend it if you're thinking about a trip! I know this will sound very soppy but the thing that Kris and I will remember most is looking into each other's eyes when saying our vows. It was a very special moment and you really forget that there are lots of people watching for those few seconds. In all honesty I was sceptical about people saying their wedding day was the "best day of their lives"...how wrong I was. It truly was the best day and we were so lucky to be surrounded by family and friends who mean so much to us. We will be living in Aberdeen and hopefully moving back to Glasgow in 2017. Can I make a special mention to thank John Meek who was beyond helpful in the lead up to the wedding and also on the day. Can I also thank Rebecca Martin for the beautiful horseshoe that she gave me when I arrived at the church.

## DEATHS

19/9/16 Miss Audrey Granger, 38 Hawthorn Court, Clarkston

2/10/16 Mrs Annette Rutherford, 9 Greenholm Avenue, Clarkston

2/10/16 Mrs Ena Lawrie, 37 Strathaven Road, Eaglesham

3/10/16 Mrs Renee Sim, 109 Vardar Avenue, Clarkston

9/10/16 Mrs Anne Smith, 36 Hillend Road, Clarkston

Dear Friends,

As the clocks go back and the days become colder and darker we move into November which is the month of remembrance.

On the first full weekend in November, here at Greenbank we will celebrate the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus. The cross and resurrection are the ultimate faith memory for those of us who are Jesus' followers. In Jesus, God reveals the truths on which our faith and life is built. Yet, in spite of the importance of these truths, sometimes we forget them and that is why Jesus commands us to regularly share bread and wine together, so we might remember at the Lord's Supper.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of November we will hold our annual Remembrance Day service. One of the most important parts of the remembrance service is the simple message "Lest we forget." Ross McAlidine will play the bagpipes for us, again this year, after the two minutes silence. The tune he will be playing is "The Battle of the Somme". Ross's grandad was wounded at the Somme in July 1916 and it seems like a very appropriate and poignant way to honour and not forget those lives lost and those lives forever changed by war.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November our Guild will be remembering and celebrating its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Dedication Service. We are delighted that the General Secretary of the Church of Scotland Guild - Iain Whyte is coming to lead worship that day. I hope that you will come along to the service and offer your support and congratulations to the Guild on this auspicious day.

Finally, on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, our thoughts turn to Advent and the upcoming Christmas, family and church celebrations. That this time of year has come to be associated so much with Christmas preparations means that we sometimes forget to see the possibilities that God gives us each and every day. During Advent we remember that faithfulness to God is found in following Jesus Christ in the day by day events of our lives and church. Thus, on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, we will close our worship this month as it began, with a communion service at 6.30pm. At this service we will once again remember Jesus and the hope and challenge His birth offers us for the present day and for the future.

This month I hope that you will find the many invitations to remember well worth accepting. In your remembering, may you come to know more deeply how the light of Jesus Christ, born into a cold and dark world at Christmas, helps us to believe, and to live like we believe; that love and peace and hope have a part to play in every choice that we make, each and every day.

Yours,



This year we hope to display a large Advent Calendar again in our Hall of Friendship. Last year, members of the congregation contributed a short inspiring verse or personal memory about Advent or Christmas. The reflections were turned over on the Advent Calendar each day and viewed and appreciated by visitors to our Hall of Friendship.

Anyone wishing to participate this year should send their contribution by email to the church office [greenbank.office@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:greenbank.office@tiscali.co.uk) or hand it into the church office before 25<sup>th</sup> November.



## SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

The next meeting takes place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 9am for one hour with breakfast refreshments being served from 8.45am in Room A. We will continue to read from the OLD TESTAMENT COVENANT HISTORY – beginning at Samuel-King we will read to page 149. The Book Club is for everyone – you don't have to have a great knowledge of the Bible to join in. It is just an opportunity to get to know the Old Testament better. Why not give it a try? If you would like one of a copy of the book please contact the Church office.



## Can you help?

The Sunday Club are looking for a new Superintendent[s]  
Expectations of anyone taking over role are

- Provide a point of contact for Sunday Club enquiries.
- Attend leaders meetings (3/ 4 per year).
- Confirm the diary dates for the year and report to the Kirk Session (each leader happy to contribute to the report).
- Confirm the Hall Lets with the Halls Convener for Sundays and extra events.
- Co-ordinate banners for Sunday Club events.
- Liaise with charities for the Gift Service and arrange delivery of gifts.
- Oversee the Plant Sale and the Family days (3 per year).
- Arrange the summer outing.
- Encourage recruitment.

The Superintendent(s) will be supported by a team of enthusiastic and capable leaders who will organise the weekly running of the groups and who between them have taken on many of the tasks previously undertaken by the Superintendents to allow this to be a more administrative and supportive role. Our minister Jeanne [644 1395] would be happy to speak to anyone who might be interested or would like more information.

### PULPIT DIARY

4 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm	Preparatory Service
6 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Sacrament of Holy Communion & Sunday Club
	6.30pm	All Age Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Service of Remembrance & Sunday Club
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Prayers for Healing Service
20 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Guild Rededication Service & Sunday Club
		Preacher: General Secretary of C. of S. Guild, Iain Whyte
First Sunday in Advent:		
27 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
	6.30pm	Advent Communion Service

### OFFER YOUR HAND FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP!

Welcome an adult international student into your home this Christmas and make the world a little friendlier. Adult international students in the UK face a lonely holiday on a university campus, and would love to spend a few days with you, learning about British culture, experiencing Christmas festivities, and telling you about their own country. Hosting is a voluntary position suitable for all ages and is also available throughout the year with HOST, a charity set up in 1987. To find out more, please visit [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call 020 7739 6292.

# What's On

## THE GUILD

### Diary

2 November	2.15pm	Ian McCrorie <i>Clyde Steamers</i>
9 November	2.15pm	Dr. Maureen Park <i>Treasures of the Rijksmuseum</i>
16 <sup>th</sup> November	2.15pm	Jim Mulroy <i>Easy Listening</i> <i>Musical Entertainment</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	2.15pm	Amy Aitken <i>Yorkhill Children's Charity</i>
30 <sup>th</sup> November	2.15pm	One Way Gospel Group <i>Music and Poetry</i>

The National Guild theme for this year is "Be Bold Be Strong – Go in Joy" and it looks very much like Greenbank Guild will be able to do so! We are thrilled to welcome eight new members to our midst. It has given us the boost we needed and we do hope they will all enjoy their afternoons spent with us. However, we still have room for more. Visitors will always be made welcome.

Guild Week runs from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November and the Guild will be taking part in the Service on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup>. A short act of rededication will take place during the service. On Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November we plan to have a special afternoon tea.

We will be in charge of the Baking Stall at the Church Fayre on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November. The stall is usually a success and donations will be gratefully received either on Friday afternoon/evening or early Saturday morning.

You are reminded to please leave Sunshine Bags in the Vestibule on a Sunday morning if they have not been collected by the end of October.

Enid Dron

## LUNCH CLUB

Lunch Club meets on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 12noon till 1.30pm when we look forward to meeting you all for a bowl of soup and filled rolls. (Please note we do not meet in December).

The first Lunch Club of the New Year will be 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Anyone wishing transport please call the church office on 0141 644 1841.

Maureen, Jan and all the Team

## BURNS SUPPER 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017

Tickets priced £16 will be on sale on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November after church in Fulton Hall of Friendship.

Jan Millar

## THE FILM SOCIETY

The Film Society meets on a Monday evening. It runs from September through till April and shows a wide range of films to suit every taste.

The programme for now until February is as follows:

14 <sup>th</sup> November	Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954)	Howard Keel & Jane Powell
12 <sup>th</sup> December	The Bishop's Wife (1947)	Cary Grant, David Niven
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	The Third Man (1949)	Joseph Cotton, Orson Wells
7 <sup>th</sup> February	The Taking of Pelham 123 (1974)	Walter Matthau, Robert Shaw

Everyone is warmly invited. Not sure about the popcorn but have heard they make a good tablet!

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

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

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

It is hard to believe that this year's Winter Fair is almost here. Plans are going well and we look forward to another friendly and successful event in Greenbank.

As you know it is planned to have the usual stalls and to ensure an even more successful event we would appreciate donations from members of organisations and the congregation for any of the stalls listed below.

Donations for any of the stalls can be brought to Church any Sunday and placed in the blue box in the Link Building. Alternatively donations may be brought along to the halls on **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November** from **1.30 – 3.30pm.** and **6.30pm – 8.00 pm.** Home Baking should be brought along anytime on the Friday or on the morning of the Fair. Donations may also be collected by contacting any of the undernoted.

### Stalls Include:

Home Baking (on the day or left in the hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November :

Children's Toys and Books

Bottle Stall

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

Toiletries/Jewellery

Christmas Stall which will incorporate Christmas Floral Decorations

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, Hyacinths (these will be already planted and should flower around Christmas), 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.

Also this year, Bert McCrum has offered to polish any jewellery you may wish cleaned - £1.00 per item.

Tickets for the Winter Fair are now on sale priced £2.00 and £1.00 for school age children and can be obtained from Anna, Eleanor or Elizabeth after Church any Sunday.

We appreciate all the support we have received over the years and we look forward to receiving your continued support and look forward to seeing you on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

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

## WINTER FAIR - TEA ROOM

Donations of mince pies, shortbread and good quality biscuits would be welcome for the tea room at the Winter Fair on 12th November. Please bring them along on the Friday evening or first thing on the Saturday morning.

With thanks, Grace Paterson (638-6350).

## WALKING GROUP PROGRAMME - 2016

Only one walk remaining this year and as usual we will be leaving from the Church.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November Clyde Walkway (Glasgow) 1pm

New members welcome. For further information contact Allan McLaren (639 5848) or Douglas Paterson (638 6350).

## TIME OUT

Our syllabus for 2016/7 is as follows:

### 2016

3 November CHAS

17 November Insight to Judaism

1 December Craft Night

15 December Christmas Night Out

### 2017

12 January Music & Movement

21 January Coffee Afternoon

26 January Burns Supper/Swap Shop

9 February Malawi Trip Talk by Rev Jeanne Roddick (tbc)

9 March Guide Dogs for the Blind

23 March AGM

Thursday evening meetings are held in the church hall and begin at 8pm.

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.



# News and Updates

## ED LINES

Hi Folks,

I have just completed a "muddy run." In a mad moment some of my friends and I signed up for it. I had been previously warned about the danger of losing footwear. I told my friends to ensure their shoes were firmly secured to their feet. I wasn't exactly smug but I was quietly confident that I would be the one who would definitely be okay. Some may say I got my "comeuppance", or in my case "comedownance". First muddy puddle and down I went like a ton of bricks and off came my shoe! Once my friends had recovered from fits of laughter, we ploughed on manfully or perhaps that should be "womanfully" pushing and shoving, tugging and towing and supporting each other along the way. A bit further on we came to another mud bath. When I negotiated my way to the other side, I discovered some other poor soul (no pun intended) had lost their shoe.

Well, if the shoe fits . . . it didn't but I didn't let the fact that it was a size 12 stop me. I claimed it as my own. Sometimes we think Karma doesn't work. We feel hard done by and we don't get what we deserve. In fact sometimes it can give us a right good kicking; but isn't it nice when it works and we do.

Alison

## ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER PLEASE

## THANKS FOR LADIES NIGHT

The Ladies Night on the 14<sup>th</sup> October was another resounding success. We were fed, watered and entertained by the men of the Church, although there were some very dodgy looking women and children in attendance too. Thanks again gents for a super night.

Alison Harvey and friends

Dear Alison,

Please give a special thanks to all who gave us such a wonderful night of fun and laughter on Friday.

Well done "boys."

Florence Denholm and the "girls"

Looking forward to next year's - the men really put on a great show.

Moira McAldine and Time Out "Ladies?"

## LIFE & WORK

As we approach another New Year could I encourage members of our congregation to subscribe to Life & Work magazine through annual subscription?

Life & Work is an informative and interesting magazine full of news, letters and items of interest from home and abroad, some interesting, some thought provoking and some amusing. It is also a written record of all activity within the Ministry local and national. In recommending this magazine to our congregation I would welcome interested subscribers to contact me directly.

*N.B. To all current subscribers and interested subscribers*

Life & Work magazine will be £2.50 per issue for 2017 (up .30p. per issue)

Annual subscription for 2017 for 12 issues £30.00

Ian McTurk (638 4649)

## THE COWLEY HALL'S GONE SILENT

The stage sound equipment in the Cowley Hall requires replacement/updating. We have been using a donated home hifi amplifier which, after many years' service, has finally broadcast its last sound! If anyone has a surplus 'home stereo' and would like to donate it to the Church it would be most appreciated. We are also looking for some additional speakers and would be interested in any sound and stage equipment. Please contact either Stephen Blanchflower or Neil Scholfield if you can assist.

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

The Clarkston and District Christian aid committee has been busy fundraising over the past session in a variety of events.

The treasurer's report summarises the results of the various activities as follows:

Greenbank contributed £864 to the £3,724 raised in last year's sponsored swim in October 2015.

The total income from the Annual Art exhibition held in March 2016 was £11,432. Profit from the event was £4,274 after artists' fees and expenses.

Figures for the Annual Christian Aid week door to door collection in May 2016 show that Greenbank collectors gathered £3,776, including the funds raised by the Big Brekkie event. The total from all 7 participating churches was £13,873. This was down on the previous year from £15,516 collected in May 2015.

A total of £22,817 has been sent to Christian Aid Head Office.

The first committee meetings for the new session have now taken place and 7 people from Greenbank took part in the recent sponsored swim on 8<sup>th</sup> October. The Art exhibition venue for 2017 will be the Carmichael hall in Eastwood Park on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Planning for this event is also currently under way.

On behalf of the Clarkston and District Christian aid committee, I would like to thank everyone at Greenbank Parish Church who supported the fundraising efforts over the past session and hope for your continued support in 2016/17 for the Art exhibition and Christian aid week collection.

Mark Allan

## **LODGING HOUSE MISSION**

### Harvest

Sincere thanks to all members of the congregation and Sunday Club departments for the donations of cash and food given at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Our food donations filled one car completely, and a large floral arrangement was also much appreciated. A letter of thanks has been received.

Thanks are also due to the staff and children of Hazeldene Family Centre, Newton Mearns, who responded to the Harvest appeal with a further car load of food and a cash donation.

The help of John Meek (and his car!) was much appreciated in helping to deliver the food donations to the LHM on Harvest Sunday.

### Christmas Cards

The sale of Christmas cards to raise funds for the Lodging House Mission has now commenced. Cards are priced at £3.50 for a pack of 10. Sales will continue after the service each Sunday in the Fraser Hall until 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Come along for tea/coffee after the service and have a look at the cards. If anyone is unable to attend church and would like to purchase cards, please contact me and I will arrange to let you see them.

### Appeal for Volunteers

The following appeal for volunteers has been made by the Lodging House Mission:-

Lodging House Mission urgently require volunteers for general kitchen and hall duties

The workload is not physically or mentally taxing but is very necessary to our Christian service and outreach and you will meet a lot of interesting people. We are very flexible on working hours, but as an indication, most volunteers do 1 day per week, working 9.30am till around 2pm, however, we can accommodate most working patterns.

Please phone Helen Hart at the LHM in the first instance on 0141 552 0285 if you would like to respond to this appeal.

Alison Allan (638 3916)

## **GREENBANK BOWLS TOURNAMENT**

This event took place on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> June with 22 players taking part. There were 2 teams of pairs and 6 teams of triples. Although the weather was showery, 3 games of 5 ends were played. An afternoon tea was provided, thanks to the ladies who catered for us. Winners were a triples team consisting of Peter Rutherford, Liz Allan and Ron Brown. Runners-up were a pairs' team made up of Cathie Muir and Bill Allan. Thanks are due to Bill Robertson, Allan Johnstone and Sadie Gould for organising the event.

Several Greenbankers also took part in the Annual Eastwood Churches game on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Instead of individual churches providing their own teams as in the past, teams of triples were made up from members of all the churches attending. There were approx.30 players taking part but no Greenbanker was in the winning team.



## POSTCARDS

Please keep handing them in as there are collectors for almost everything. They go from here to Medical Missionary News who has a ready market for them. They have supplied me with some copies of their magazine which shows the work they do. I have put them with the other books on the rack so feel free to read them

Duncan McIntyre (01355 260068)

## STAMPS

The next collection from Greenbank will be due to go at the end of the month. Unfortunately the number coming in is steadily declining so please do what you can to rectify this!!

Elizabeth MacDonald

## FLOWER LIST FOR NOVEMBER 2016

	<u>Communion Table</u>	<u>Centenary Chapel</u>	<u>Side Windows</u>
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Jim Harvey		
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Elizabeth Cross	Sheila Matthews	Nan McCulloch
20 <sup>th</sup> November	The Guild	Esmae MacEwan	Moira McAldine
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Ladies Badminton	Moira Dickson	

The Flower Lists for 2017 are now 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)

## BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

Over the next month we will have our Gradings where our students will demonstrate all the techniques that they have been coached on and developed. We have more competitions coming up that our students have been preparing for. We also have more Child Protection courses coming up and as a responsible club all our Coaches are qualified and each Club has a Child Protection Officer (CPO) who reports to the Association CPO who then reports to the Governing Body CPO. The Scottish Karate Governing Body is at the forefront of good practice in adult and child coaching and if you would like to have more information or discuss please feel free to visit our club. A fact for the magazine – did you know that the new president of UEFA (football) Aleksander Ceferin is a Black Belt in Karate?

John, Bushido Karate Association Chairman

### GOOD NEIGHBOUR CONTACTS

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## THE COVER

Last summer Jeanne asked JAM to give the crèche a makeover. We started with lots of paint and created sea, land and sky then filled them with as many of God's creations as we could manage. Next, we made snowmen out of socks and rice at Christmas and sold them to raise money to buy the crèche a comfy chair and some little colourful chairs for the children. It's been totally transformed. This summer Jeanne suggested painting JAM's own room upstairs above the vestry. We were lucky enough to receive the Fulton Award and used this to fund the project. Over a few weeks we've painted the walls with our new logo (designed by Fraser Simpson for the website), created a blackboard framed with our handprints and have a great big transfer of Jeremiah 29:11 on one of the walls. We've also got some new, colourful cushions. Everyone has taken part in some way and it is now very much their own space. It's looking great.

Susan Johnston (JAM leader)

## FROM CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MINISTRIES COUNCIL

### **To congregations about to receiving a candidate on placement 1 – Fergus Cook @ Greenbank**

The Training Task Group of the Ministries Council is delighted that you are going to provide a training placement for a candidate on placement. Most congregations find this a stimulating, enriching and enjoyable experience, but it also means change, especially if you are having a candidate for the first time. The Task Group thought it might be helpful to outline its hopes for the placement, and the thinking that underlies it.

#### **The background**

The placement is made by the Task Group in careful consultation with the candidate. The aim is to ensure that the candidate receives the best possible training, and is given ample opportunity to receive constructive criticism, and to reflect on the relationship between their theological education and parish life. All salary costs and travelling expenses are met centrally. The placement normally lasts from October to Pentecost.

#### **Changes for your minister**

It might seem that your minister will be having an easier time with a candidate to share the load. The task of training, however, is a major one, and will occupy a great deal of your minister's time, energy and imagination. This work is largely unseen, but it is vital for the candidate to receive a well-planned range of experiences, good critical feedback on the work that has been done, and time to discuss, reflect and ask questions.

#### **Changes for the congregation**

There will be a new face, a new voice, perhaps a new approach to some areas of parish life. On occasions where in the past you would have seen only your minister, now you may see minister and candidate together, or perhaps the candidate on his own. Please understand that if the candidate visits you at home or in hospital, or is asked to conduct a funeral, this does not mean that your minister is not interested in you. These are important areas of work for the candidate to experience before going to his/her own parish. The Task Group hopes that you will warmly welcome the candidate, and offer to him (support and encouragement. Each candidate brings a unique blend of skills and gifts, and these need to be used to the full; at the same time, however, it is important to remember that there is no guarantee that a replacement candidate will be allocated, so it is unwise for the candidate to develop too many new initiatives which cannot be sustained when he/she has gone.

A candidate will have a heavy workload from his/her University studies and therefore time spent in placement is limited and very much on a part time basis. Involvement in the life of congregation will therefore be restricted and this should be borne in mind.

#### **Changes for the candidate**

For most candidates this is an exciting time; a real taste of ministry in practice; an opportunity to get to know another congregation, the challenge of fulfilling their calling. Parish life is very difficult from university life, and time is needed to adjust. Every candidate makes mistakes; so please be patient and understanding!

#### **Conference programme**

The Task Group arranges compulsory conferences for all candidates to enable them to work together on issues relating to ministry.

#### **If things go wrong**

Thankfully this is a rare occurrence; if there are problems, the Task Group will seek to deal with them in a caring and pastoral way.

#### **Finally**

The church's candidates represent the next generation of ministers, and this stage of their pre-ordination training is vital. The Task Group hopes that you will enjoy sharing in it. Future congregations as well as the Task Group and indeed the whole church looks to you to prepare them as fully as possible for the challenges of ministry that lie ahead. We wish you God's blessing as you undertake this task.

Yours sincerely

**Convener Training Task Group**

**Ministries Council**

**Church of Scotland**



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