

thegoodneighbour

May 2017



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



GreenbankParish
CHURCH

at the heart of the **community**

Parish Register

NEW MEMBERS

3rd March

Craig Anderson, 6 Abernethy Place, Newton Mearns

Craig has been married to Janine for nearly ten years. They have two children, Scarlett, who is three and a half and Cole, who is one. Craig works as a contracting software engineer and likes to spend his spare time with his family. He also enjoys cycling and takes part in cycling charity events every other year. They enjoy their summer holidays in Majorca but would love to take the kids to Disney World in the not too distant future.

Dale Wilson, 28 Newton Grove, Newton Mearns

Dale is married to Scott. They have 2 children, Benjamin aged 3 and Joshua aged 6 months, and a dog Sammy who is 10. Dale's main work at the moment is being a full time mum while she is off on maternity leave. Her day job is as a GP. She enjoys playing badminton. Scott and Dale travelled all over the world before they had the children but now they holiday closer to home. In July Dale is climbing Ben Nevis at night with work colleagues in aid of Alzheimer's.

12th March

Graeme and Helen Bradshaw, 5 Carolside Gardens, Clarkston

Graeme and Helen Bradshaw have lived in the area and have been coming to the church for the last ten years. They have a daughter, Grace, who was baptised in the church. Graeme is a lawyer. He says he spends most of his spare time chauffeuring Grace around. However, he still manages to fit in a bit of running, plays the guitar and is taking piano lessons alongside Grace. Helen is an English teacher at Strathaven Secondary School. As you would expect, she is an avid reader. In her spare time, she enjoys running and going to the gym. Graeme and Helen have recently holidayed in London and Aviemore. When going abroad, they like Italy or the U.S.

April 2017 Mrs Mary Logan, 0/1 River Court, 203 Busby Road, Clarkston

BAPTISMS

12/3/17 Cole David Anderson, Abernethy Place, Newton Mearns

Cole Anderson was born on 8th April 2016 at 2.18pm and weighed 8lb 2oz. His parents are Craig and Janine and he has an older sister, Scarlett Elise, who is besotted with him. His godmother is Lindsay Hotchkiss. Craig and Janine will always remember seeing how happy Cole was and how much he enjoyed himself. He loved all the attention and admiration throughout the day and was so at ease with it. After the service Craig and Janine took Cole and Scarlett to House for an Art Lover where they were joined by friends and family for a great afternoon.

12/3/17 Elizabeth Ailsa Munro, Lomond Drive, Newton Mearns

Elizabeth was born in Queen Elizabeth University hospital on 4th July 2016 at 3.28pm and weighed in at 7lb 14oz. Her parents are Ailsa and Iain Munro. She has a big brother, Benjamin, aged 3. Elizabeth's godparents are her Uncle, John Nicholson, and her mum's good friend, Janet Westwater. After Elizabeth's baptism, the family went back to the house of Iain's parents (Fiona and Fraser Munro), for a wonderful lunch and a gathering with all their friends and family. Ailsa will always remember that Elizabeth decided she wanted a milk feed one minute before she was invited through into the church; and that she cried until Jeanne took her around the congregation; then she was quite happy! Elizabeth commented that it was wonderful when the children in the church sang *Twinkle Twinkle* to the three babies; it was a lovely moment.

12/3/17 Cadence Karen Daveigh Morrison, Lavender Drive, East Kilbride

DEATHS

20/3/17 Mrs May Telford, Norwood Care Home, 39 Victoria Road, Barrhead

29/3/17. Miss Ann Marie Cooper, Wellmeadow Lodge, Meadow Way, Newton Mearns

8/4/17 Mr Ronnie Clark, 51 Greenholm Avenue, Clarkston

*"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



On Easter Sunday as we gathered as a church family for worship, it was wonderful to see all the children excitedly running round the sanctuary making Easter bonnets before they went to search for Easter eggs in the halls. After the Easter egg hunt I saw one three year old running up the aisle, bonnet askew with one of the adult leaders running after him, both of them filled with the delight and happiness of Easter morning and oblivious to the rest of us watching. Perhaps it's a small thing but when I saw them I thought that's what churches are meant to be, communities of people where even for a moment or two, life breaks open and joy flourishes.

Church communities are called to create those moments of life and joy through worship, prayer, comfort, hospitality, by working together for justice and equity and serving the needs of the wider community and world. Together, sometimes loudly, sometimes gently, churches are called to share the joy of Jesus' Resurrection life and to show that maybe; just maybe, there might be another way for people to live in a world, and sometimes in a church, that it is often far too focused on negativity and despair.

The Good News of Easter is that Christ is not dead he is alive and continually making himself known in this world to those with the vision to see Him, offering little glimpses of grace and life, bringing hope and strength and filling children and adult's lives with joy and love. That's where Jesus Christ lives today and that's where His followers and His church live and that's where they will never, ever be defeated.

In the days ahead, may we, and the lives of those we touch, know that Our Lord walks with us, guiding us and filling our hearts with the joy and love of His Risen life.

Yours,

PULPIT DIARY

7th May	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
14th May	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
	6.30pm	Prayers for Healing Service
21st May	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
28th May	10.30am	Family Worship



The next meeting of the **SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP** takes place on Saturday 6th May at 10.30am in Room A. As well as shawls the group has been knitting 'Twiddle muffs' for people with dementia or Alzheimer's. If you would like to knit a shawl or muff but can't manage the meetings the group would be delighted to receive items knitted lovingly and focused on the care and wellbeing of an anonymous recipient. Knitting patterns for shawls and muffs have been placed on the table outside the church office - please feel free to take one. A blessing will be offered over any completed items by the Shawl Ministry group before being sent on its way. Thank you to everyone who has donated needles, wool and work for this Ministry your kindness has already brought comfort to many.



SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB Meetings before the summer will take place on 6th May and 3rd June for one hour with breakfast refreshments being served from 8.45am in Room A. The group are going to be reading **'The Invisible Church' by Steve Aisthorpe**. [ISBN-13: 9780861539161] The book can be downloaded onto a Kindle from Amazon or purchased from bookshops. Chapter 1 and its associated questions will be discussed at the first meetings. For anyone concerned about Church decline, the contents of the book offer a blueprint for building God's community in the coming years. The Church of Scotland commissioned new research in order to put together this carefully crafted and informed book which is aimed at helping congregations develop an enriching, vital Christian fellowship with the large numbers of Churchless Christians in every community. Everyone is warmly welcome to come along and join the discussions.

KIRK SESSION – WHAT DO THEY TALK ABOUT?

The Kirk Session met on 3rd April with 46 members attending and they discussed a wide range of issues.

Worship: Messy Church continues to flourish and the final meeting before the summer is on the 2nd of June. The Lenten Book Club held successful meetings on alternate Saturday mornings, serving breakfast refreshments – the final meeting of the season was on 15th April.

Outreach: The Kirk Session received an update from Alison Allan our Lodging House Mission representative. The new Saturday opening continues successfully thanks to volunteers from congregations including Greenbank who provide two teams. The Kirk Session also heard reports on Church House new premises, which is open 7 days a week, the Christian Aid Art Exhibition & Sale and Glasgow North East Foodbank which won the Evening Times Community Champions Trophy. Did you spot one of our elder's picture in the paper? A report was also received on the sale of Eastwoodhill, the Church of Scotland care home, to private ownership.

Finance: The Financial Position was updated and this shows a decrease of offerings of 1% for the period to 19th March. Since the last report contributions have been received from the Friendship Café, Time Out, 1st A Clarkston Brownies and Messy Church. Demand from external organisations for hall space continues and generates useful income towards the upkeep of our halls. Social and other activities including the Burns Supper, Spring Table Top Sale, and Good Neighbour Advertising also contributed positively to our funds.

Fabric: The Fabric report advised that essential repairs had been organised for the Church Officer's House and arrangements for maintenance of the grounds were being reviewed.

Safeguarding: Warm thanks were expressed to Jim McFadyen on his retirement as safeguarding Co-ordinator. Jim has been our co-ordinator for many years and has dedicated a significant amount of time, talent and effort in ensuring leaders at Greenbank are appropriately qualified and trained to care for vulnerable groups. The role will now be undertaken by Graeme Rae.

Fellowship: The Kirk Session received reports on a number of fellowship events over the past few months including the Kirk Session Coffee Morning, Afternoon Teas at Hawthorn Court and Aidan's View – both well supported, Greenbank Players "Murder Mystery Evenings" and Bookbug which continues to flourish.

Youth: Updates were received from JAM – which has 12 on the roll, 1st Clarkston Guides, who have 35 guides and 6 leaders and junior leaders, and the Rainbows who have a full programme of events till the end of the session. The Sunday Club, which has approximately 35 children attending each week, are appealing for adult helpers on a Sunday morning. **If you can help, contact the Minister.** SNAP, the new Youth Club, will hold its first meeting on the evening of 22nd April and two paid session workers have been appointed. Funding for SNAP is coming from the GoForIt fund.

Other Matters: The Kirk Session dealt with a number of other routine matters: the Kirk Session agreed to hold a retiring offering on 29th October in response to an appeal for funds to enhance the facilities at the Boys' Brigade Training centre at Carronvale House. The Kirk Session also agreed to hold the Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation after church on 18th June and this would simply be a short presentation of the 2016 accounts. The Kirk Session agreed to the requests of three elders, Bill Allan, John Baird and Blair Miller to join the Retired List. The Moderator expressed her warm thanks to them for their many years of faithful service and for carrying out their district duties diligently. Details of the new elders taking over these districts will appear shortly.

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

HELP STILL URGENTLY REQUIRED

SUNDAY CLUB

In term time during the Sunday morning service Sunday Club runs for all children ages 3 and above. This club aims to teach children, at a level they understand, all about the love of God and Jesus and how it can be incorporated into their everyday lives. This year we have just managed to run at the age appropriate child to adult ratios. To keep providing this Club next session we urgently require at least 2 adult helpers. If we have enough volunteers it could even be run on a rota basis. All that is required is 10 minutes prior to the Sunday morning service until the children are collected after the service and a good sense of fun.

Lynn Armstrong (571 3187)

Mobile: 07913 675209

2ND CLARKSTON BROWNIES

2nd Clarkston Brownies have become victims of their own success. Nicole (Brown Owl) and Jo (Tawny Owl) started out two years ago with four Brownies. Their number has now increased to 22! They are looking for some helpers on Tuesday nights between 6pm and 7.30pm to help with crafts and baking.

Anyone please phone 07954782599 or 6390765 and ask for Joanne

What's On



Time for Bedding!
Sunday Club Plant Sale
Saturday 13th May
9.30 – 12.00

We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support, especially this year without our superintendents. We would ask, that with your continued support, we make this the best plant sale ever!!! All home baking will be warmly appreciated and can be dropped at the halls on Friday 12 May between 5pm until 7pm or 9am on Saturday 13 May.

Also we require helpers to sell the plants and help in the tearoom. If this is something you would be able to do, please add your name to the board in the Hall of Friendship.

Many thanks,

Sunday Club Leaders

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid week this year is from 14th to 20th May.

Volunteers are urgently needed to fulfil our target of visiting every home within the Parish to carry out door to door collections. If you would like to be a collector, please come to the front of the church or see me in the Fraser Hall following the service on 14th May where you will receive an envelope containing all you will need to collect within your allocated street. Last year, unfortunately, we were unable to collect from many of the 87 streets in our district due to a shortage of volunteer collectors. Donations should be returned to the church on Friday 19th May between 7pm and 9pm, or on Tuesday 23rd May between 7pm and 8pm. Volunteers are also required to count the donations on these evenings. Additionally, following the success of last years '**Big Brekkie**' event, it is hoped to repeat this on the 14th May after the service. A team of volunteers will serve bacon rolls and pancakes to accompany the normal Tea and Coffee in the Fraser Hall after the service. Please consider making a donation to Christian Aid for your participation in this event. Please also consider supporting Christian Aid either by collecting or by helping with the count. Your help will be invaluable and will make a difference to those in greatest need throughout the world.

Mark Allan and Ron Livingston.

WALKING GROUP PROGRAMME 2017

This year's programme of walks is listed below. All walks are on Saturdays.

We leave from the Church at the times shown.

20th May	Brig O' Turk	9.00 am
10th June	Dunblane	9.30 am
8th July	Kilcreggan (circular walk)	9.00 am
12th August	Water of Leith	9.00 am
16th Sept	Chatelherault	10.00 am
14th October	Antonine Wall	time to be decided
November	to be decided	

The Walking Group are visiting Brig o Turk on the 20th May

Brig O' Turk Gaelic: Aird cheannchnocain meaning 'the stream at the hillock head'. A small peaceful village between Callander and Aberfoyle, Brig O'Turk is situated in the heart of the Trossachs. On the way to Brig O'Turk from [Aberfoyle](#) you travel through the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and past the David Marshall Lodge Visitor Centre situated one mile above Aberfoyle high up on the Duke's Pass. Continue on this road which must be one of the most scenic drives in Scotland and you arrive at [Loch Achray](#) with views of [Ben Venue](#), and [Ben A'an](#). The approach from Callander is via Kilmahog and travels along [Loch Venachar](#) with its sailing centre, before arriving at Brig O'Turk. If you are interested in joining us, call Allan McLaren 639 5848 or Douglas Patterson 638 6350 for further information.

LUNCH CLUB

The next meeting of the Lunch Club will be on Friday 26th May. Lunch is served from 12 noon until 1pm. There will be soup and filled rolls on the menu, plus the usual cuppa and biscuit, not to mention the friendly chat. Please come along and join us. This will be your last chance until September!

If you are keen to sample our products, but feel you need a lift to the church hall, or if you would be interested in joining our team, please get in touch with Jan on 2584959 or Maureen on 639 5114.

ANNUAL BOWLS TOURNAMENT

It is proposed to have the annual bowls tournament on Saturday, 10th June at 2p.m at Giffnock Bowling Club.

As usual, it will be a mixed triples game. Entry is £5 and anyone, veteran or beginner, is welcome to play.

Entries should be notified to Bill Robertson on 585 0008 or Sadie Gould on 571 8808 by the end of May.

GREENBANK LADIES AFTERNOON BADMINTON CLUB

All former (not old) members are invited to have a smashing time at our 40th Anniversary celebration. It is being held on Friday 5th May at Whitecraigs Golf Club, Ayr Road. For further information, anyone wishing to join us should contact Carol Inglis at carolinglis2@icloud.com or Evelyn Hamilton evelyn@evelynhamilton.co.uk

TUESDAY EVENING WALKING GROUP

As the clocks have moved forward into spring our walk is now in daylight - hurrah!

If you would like to join our little group we meet at 7pm in front of the church and walk for an hour round local area.

Contact Evelyn on 07762 065507 for more information.

TIME OUT

A reminder that our 'summer'!!! Meetings have started on Thursday evenings. As discussed at AGM, unfortunately we will not be going to Greenbank Gardens this year, so some of us have very kindly offered to have our get-togethers in our homes. A small refreshment with a wee cuppa and bikkie will be available and please bring £2 to pay the hostess - thanks. To find out the venue, phone Catherine Hart tel. 639 9496 or Moira McAlidine tel. 639 5968 for more details.

WALKWAY STUDIOS PRESENTS – THE ROCKIN' GREENBANK GIG

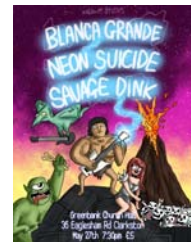
Saturday 27th May at 7.30pm in the Cowley Hall, Greenbank

Music genre of the 3 bands performing:

Pop punk, Rock and Avant Garde

Tickets £5, available from the church office or can be reserved from:

walkway.studio16@gmail.com



MESSY CHURCH FRIDAY 2nd JUNE, TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

In Overlee Park weather permitting

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

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

Our Association which is one of the largest Associations in Scotland held their annual Karate Championships on KATA at Parklands. KATA is a Japanese word describing detailed patterns of movements practiced either solo or in pairs.

We had over 250 individual competitors and 90 teams with entrants from all the clubs in our Association. Greenbank had a fantastic day as we brought home a massive haul of medals with 13 Gold, 14 Silver and 14 Bronze across our junior and senior student categories. In the team event we swept the board in many of the categories with 8 Gold, 6 Silver and 5 Bronze.

A special mention must go to Kiara Meiklejohn who took part on her birthday and came away with 3 Golds. Our success was seen across all grades with the newest students to our club coming home with Gold, Silver and Bronze. Kristine Graham and Erin Buchanan came through tough rounds to claim the top senior female synchronised Kata category with a memorable display. Erin actually met her mum Helen in the final and showed no mercy! Iain & Derek Frame (twins) who are the reigning Senior Male Champions walked away with Gold again producing an Olympic standard performance – they set the bar and keep pushing it higher.

Later on in the month we have some of our students going for gradings including Junior & Senior Black Belts

Best wishes John Elliot, BKA Chairman

News and Updates

ED LINES

Hi Folks,

We were away in the caravan at the weekend. We had planned to go to Moffat, a place we'd often been to before and somewhere that held many happy memories. Unfortunately when we phoned to book, the site was full. There was no room at the inn! We looked through the caravan site book and came across a wee site a few miles away at Lochmaben. We'd passed through Lochmaben many years ago but had never spent any time there; nevertheless we decided to give it a try. It's a small village and the birth place of William Patterson, founder of the Bank of England. There aren't many shops: just a grocer's, an ice cream shop and a cafe. However, it does lay claim to three lochs and we spent some very enjoyable days walking round the area, watching the wildlife and admiring the countryside. It wasn't quite what we'd planned or what we'd imagined but it worked out well. Things don't always go the way we want them however much we'd like them to. Circumstances can conspire against us and things that are outwith our control can put a spanner in the works. It's then we have to assess things and consider all options. The route we take might not necessarily be the one we've mapped out or envisaged. Okay, Lochmaben wasn't Moffat, but that didn't make it bad; it just made it different. What it did, however, was give us other options and opened our minds to new possibilities for the future.

Alison

ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY SUNDAY 14TH MAY PLEASE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU

Dear Alison,

Bill and I would like to thank all our many friends at Greenbank for their kindness to us over the last few months. Bill was in hospital in January, suffered a debilitating illness in February and on 17th March we celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary. On all of these occasions we have been overwhelmed by the visits, prayers, flowers, good wishes, cards, e-mails, Facebook messages and hugs we have received. We have been truly blessed to be part of the Greenbank family.

Liz Allan

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the letters and emails I've received on the Legacy of Greenbank. I have passed these on to the appropriate people and you should have received a reply by now. Meetings have been held during April and there are more on the agenda. I would encourage you all to attend any future meetings where all views, opinions and concerns can be heard and addressed.

Yours, Alison

Dear Jeanne and all the lovely ladies and gentlemen at Greenbank Church,
Thank you for a wonderful week. The children are loving it. Have a happy Easter.
From Grace, Olivia and Luke Duffy

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Although numbers were down slightly this year, we still had about fifty children attending. A massive thank you to all those who helped out at the holiday club last week, particularly, Jan and Shauna at reception. Gillian, Bert and Elizabeth at the crafts and Debby, Ronnie and Fergus doing the games. We were also blessed with a number of young people helping this year - Daniel H, Daniel Mc, Scott, Josh, Rachel, Heather, Lauren, Jennifer and Eve. Thank you all very much. Thanks also to anyone else who helped out. Even if you could only manage for a day or two your help was invaluable.

Thanks again,

Alison Harvey

DISTRICT ELDER

After many years of service Bill Allan has retired as district elder to Fairfield Court. Diane Adam has now taken over this district.

BELATED ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS TO:

BILL AND LIZ ALLAN ON THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Bill and Liz were married in Wellington Church, University Avenue, Glasgow on 17 March 1967. Bill's brother, Tom, was best man and Liz's sister, Jean, was bridesmaid. They had the reception at Esquire House at Anniesland and Liz seems to recall that the reception meal cost 17/6 (87.5p) per person and that included two drinks for toasts! Bill and Liz celebrated our Golden Wedding at Carnbooth House Hotel, which cost a tad more.

KLAUS AND JANE MAYER ON THEIR SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Jane and Klaus met on Iona in April 1989 when they were volunteers for the Iona Community. Jane was the Abbey tour guide and Klaus was the gardener. They married on 10th April 1992 in Iona Abbey and had their reception at the Argyll Hotel, Iona. Jane's bridesmaid was her sister, Shirley and Klaus' best man, his brother, Robert. They celebrated their Silver Wedding back on "the sacred Isle" as guests once again of the Argyll Hotel.

CHRISTIAN AID ART EXHIBITION AND SALE

The 37th Annual Art Exhibition and Sale took place on 11th March in the Carmichael Hall at Eastwood Park. The total income was £15,500 (£9,717 last year) from the sale of 71 paintings and takings from door entry and stalls. Christian Aid will receive a third of the sales of paintings, and this looks to be a figure of £6,400 of profit towards the work of Christian aid.

CHURCH CAR TRANSPORT

This service needs another driver as soon as possible. A car with four doors is preferable. Offers of help should be made to Bill Robertson whose phone number is 585 0008.

THE FILM SOCIETY

The Film Society final film of the session was *Citizen Kane*. We have enjoyed a good turnout for our films this year and have welcomed many people through our door. Keep a look out in September's Good Neighbour where you will find our programme for the next year.

GREENBANK BADMINTON CLUB

Well, here we are at the end of the 2016/2017 competitive season. It was difficult for us to play all our scheduled games, mainly due to shortage of lady players. We played six games, winning three and losing three. We also lost the final of our local Trophy. A satisfying performance, considering the difficulty we faced in raising a team.

We did welcome four new members but also lost two members. The club was well attended and everyone enjoyed their games as well as the social side of the club. We have eight players taking part in five events in the League's end of season Tournament and we wish them success.

Our playing season finishes at the end of May and we will have our night out in early June.

Finally, our congratulations go to DOREEN GAULD on completion of 50 years uninterrupted membership of Greenbank Church Badminton Club. A record in itself. Well done Doreen.

The Club will resume on Tuesday 5th September 2017 and it would be good to see some new members – both ladies and gents.

Bill Malcolm

PARABLE FOR TODAY

A craftsman is given three precious gems which are loose and serve no particular purpose. The craftsman will make a crown setting for each of the three gems; he will then bind the three crown settings together and connect them to a band of gold so that they can be shown together.

There comes a day when a young lady accepts a proposal of marriage and this band with its three gems displaying their beauty is placed on her finger; soon a plain gold band is placed alongside and the bands begin a long journey with many a buffeting together in the journey of life.

After many years together the plain band wears its way into the side of the crown setting endangering the security of the gems. The craftsman is able to repair this damage time and time again, till one day the craftsman advises the settings should be renewed, returning the precious gems to future security and a longer life span; this done, the gems can now continue to shine their brilliance.

What is the meaning of this parable?

The gems are the church

The setting the sanctuary

Author – Anonymous

A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

By the time you read this we will have held the presentation to the congregation and had the four smaller meetings. All of this forms part of the important engagement process with the congregation. As was said many times, we are some way off having to make any final decision but it is important that we all have the same level of detail and facts to inform our thinking.

The aim of the four smaller meetings had been to encourage more of an exchange of views than is possible at a large meeting and this brief update goes over some of the questions asked and answers given so that everyone is up to date. It covers the first three meetings as the magazine had gone to print by the time of the final meeting. If anything different emerges at that meeting, it will be included in an update in the June edition.

Q When would any of this happen?

A It is difficult to say but September marks the time when we will be clearer on whether or not the land on the new site will be available for construction of a new church. We would then need to be clear on the details and the costs and come back to the congregation with all of that information, probably in early 2018. After that, depending upon what option we eventually go for, it will be a few years before we see any change completed.

Q How high would be the flats be that are proposed for our current site?

A Our assumption, based on discussion with the Architects, is that they will probably be ground and two upper levels at the most. In the end the final decision on acceptability would of course rest with East Renfrewshire Council planners.

Q Under option 3 once the site is sold how will we ensure the church is not demolished?

A This will come down to the terms of the eventual contract that would be signed between the church and whoever is selected to carry out the building work. In all discussions so far we have been clear that the main church building has to be retained.

Q What can we do to encourage more people to come to church?

A Falling congregations is an issue facing churches all over Scotland in many different denominations. A maxim that we often repeated to ourselves during the work is that belonging can lead to believing. We believe that by modernizing our facilities and encouraging more people to think about being part of the church, in a host of different ways, we will eventually see some of those come to faith in their own time.

Q Did you consider just retaining and improving the existing building?

A Yes, the Session did look at that option, the estimated cost of which was in the region of £940,000. This would address many of the current issues we know about but of course with an old building like ours, there are likely to be hidden costs that we will not know about until the actual work starts. Cost was not however the main factor. We could retain and improve the fabric of the church building but that would not address the fact that it would still lie empty for most of the time, be expensive to run and heat, not energy efficient and not provide the kind of facilities or the flexibility required to attract future members and serve the community as we wish.

Q Could we not just alter the building to allow it to be used more?

A At the meetings some people did express a strong sense of attachment to the current building, wanting it simply to be brought up to date but its general appearance to be retained. Others felt the pews could be removed and the floor levelled to allow greater use and yet others spoke about closing off the gallery and using it for some other purpose. During the development of the option appraisal, the Session recognised the limitations of the existing buildings in relation to accessibility, flexibility and adaptability. Our requirements could not be met by simply updating the existing building, hence Option 1 emerged as the best solution if the existing buildings were to be modernised. However the Session took the view that Option 1 was less attractive than a new building, it would result in higher running costs, it would be necessary to decant for two years, there would be insufficient car parking, etc.

Q Could we get grants to bring the church up to date?

A It might be possible and others have done so but our exploration of several grant awarding bodies led us to think that it would be much more difficult to secure grants for that kind of remedial work than it might be for a new build project.

Q Are we sure that a new church may not also cause problems in the future, some new build schools for example have experienced problems?

A This will come down to the specification we decide upon and the choice of contractor. The current estimates are based on a good quality build. If and when we get down to the finer detail, the precise quality will have to be decided and this would form part of what would eventually come to the congregation.

Q How will we vote?

A As part of the National Church we have been taking advice on key points from the Church of Scotland's solicitor and will continue to do so in order to ensure that we are complying with Church law at all times. This will include the mechanism for any vote.

Q The objectives of the project are sound but is it not possible to do all that we want from an altered church?

A Yes, this is really what option 1 spells out but the Session concluded that a new building would provide a better answer as described above..

Q Will the developer converting the church in option 1 or 3 not come back to us for more money if they find unspecified problems with the building once the work starts?

A No – the developers will have to satisfy themselves on all related issues before making payment and taking possession of the site.

Q If we have to decant, for options 1 or 2, will we get the people back especially organisations with no other church connection?

A This is difficult to judge. Moving out for a period of two years, which is what the architect estimates, is likely to have some impact. The extent of it and how lasting any impact might be, we can only guess at but it is fair to say that the need to decant was a factor in the Session coming to its own view on a preferred option. Any associated costs have not yet been factored into the calculations.

Having held the various meetings we are now left to reflect on all that we heard. While the meetings are over for the meantime, you can of course still ask questions by speaking to your elder or emailing, writing to or phoning the church office and the display boards will remain up in the corridor outside the Fraser Hall.

PRAYER DIARY

*Sweet May hath come to love us,
Flowers, trees, their blossoms don;
And through the blue heavens above us
The very clouds move on.*

(Heinrich Heine, 'Book of Songs')

The natural world feels clean and new at this time of year. If only human affairs were so easily renewed.

This month keep in your prayers:-

- Our Governments, as they search for the best way ahead, that they will be able to enter into constructive discussions about our future.
- Ask that in an increasingly unsettled world, calm heads will prevail.
- Hold in your hearts all those affected by acts of violence and terrorism.
- Remember those who are afflicted by illness or pain, who are weighed down by grief, and who feel themselves to be alone.
- Our minister Jeanne, for all her hard work on our behalf, and that of our local community.
- Our whole congregation, as we continue to weigh up the road ahead of us as a church.
- All those who use their time, talent and energy to further God's work.
- All pupils and students who are still working through their exams, that their hard work will give them the results they hope for.
- And as our clubs and organisations are starting to wind down for the summer, give thanks for all the hard work put in by their leaders and members alike.

Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

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 Prayers for Healing Service and throughout the month by members of the Prayer Group.

A Prayers for Healing service takes place on the 2nd Sunday of every month in the church at 6.30pm. (Enter by Link building). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gillian Foy (638 6245)

Prayer Promoter

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

APPEAL FOR SUGAR

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the LHM appeal for sugar. To date you have donated 81.65 kg (approx. 180 lbs) plus 2000 sachets - a great response. This has been received with much appreciation at the LHM. The appeal for sugar continues. Donations may be placed in the big blue bucket which is in the Link Building.

EASTER APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who supported the Easter Appeal by making a cash donation to the LHM. Donations were invited to be made by post, telephone, online, or via donation envelopes passed to me. A total of £168 was passed to me in donation envelopes for onward delivery to the LHM. This total does not include Gift Aid. Thank you for your kind and generous donations which help to allow the work of the LHM to continue.

SATURDAY OPENING

Saturday opening at the LHM continues, made possible by the support of churches in Glasgow Presbytery whose congregations provide a team of four volunteers each Saturday on a rota basis. Greenbank has provided a team on two occasions to date, and will again provide a team on Saturday, 20 May. Our thanks are due to Christine and John Bryden, Anne Muir, Elizabeth McKenzie, Douglas Carswell, David Dowell, Fergus Cook and Susan Wilkie for supporting this venture.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the Lodging House Mission took place at 7pm on Wednesday, 5th April at the LHM. There were approximately 40 people in attendance, including a number of staff and clients of the LHM. Ewen Mackie, Rev Graham Blount and Gus Smeaton were re-elected as Directors, and the appointment on 8 June 2016 of Stanley Smith as a Director was confirmed. The annual accounts were presented and the annual report was adopted. Following the AGM, the evening continued with a review of the year presented by Gus Smeaton; a short talk by Liz, who is an HNC student at the City of Glasgow College and currently on a placement at LHM; and a short talk by Ian, who is a client of LHM and shared with us a bit about his life story and association with, and appreciation of, the Lodging House Mission.

Gus educated us with some information and statistics about the LHM. Many clients come, in the first instance, for food, warmth, and safety. LHM is currently able to offer a free main course at lunch time, while a hot roll costs 40p. They served 24,000 main meals last year, with 80% of their food coming at Harvest.

There are many activities on offer, including arts and crafts, computing and keep fit, and services such as hairdressing are available. Numeracy and literacy classes are available, as are guitar lessons and choir. The chaplaincy offers support and crisis management. Clients have a variety of support requirements, which include help with accommodation, finance, addiction and mental health. The LHM aims to help people to restore dignity and self-worth. The LHM is currently hosting 5 x Narcotics Anonymous groups and is forming much closer relationships with other homeless agencies.

The LHM hosted the Winter night shelter in partnership with the Glasgow City Mission. It ran from 1st December 2016 until 31st March 2017 and met the needs of 620 individuals using the service 3564 times. Users were 89% men, with an age range of 16 - 68. The nightly capacity of 40 was exceeded 12 times.

A Hogmanay Dance was held from midnight until 2am. There were 110 for Christmas Day lunch and a good turnout at the Homeless Service.

The LHM requires £327,000 to run this year. 50% of their income comes from churches, 40% from trusts, and 10% from legacies. Gus acknowledged that churches are at the heart of the work of the LHM and explained that "Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless".

Entertainment was provided by the LHM choir.

CHURCH HOUSE, BRIDGETON

The latest update and annual report from Church House is on display on the noticeboard in the corridor outside the Fraser Hall.

Alison Allan (638 3916)

FLOWER LIST FOR MAY 2017

	<u>Communion Table</u>	<u>Centenary Chapel</u>	<u>Side Windows</u>
7 th May	Anna Martin	Sheila Matthews	
14 th May	Muriel Beaton	Christine Britton	
21 st May	Christine Armour	Barbara Low	
28 th May			

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)

DARKSIDE

A BBC play for radio by Tom Stoppard incorporating "The Darkside of the Moon" by Pink Floyd

If you are a Pink Floyd fan or like plays by Tom Stoppard, then I thoroughly recommend this production to you. The dialogue is interspersed with the Pink Floyd album, and is a remarkable interpretation of the music. Be prepared to be blown away when Emily delivers her "Oration". It's a surreal study in moral philosophy featuring Emily McCoy, a student who gets immersed in the thought experiments posed by Mr. Baggot to provoke discussion about the subject. Emily meets one of the characters in a thought experiment, not important for my article, but fascinating if you listen to the play. There's a particular section which I'd like to share with you as it struck me as analogous to our faith. It's not important that the boy has no name (although significant in the context for the play).

Boy: ...you're dissing the Transcendental is all

Emily: What's the Transcendental?

Boy: It's the juggler on the radio.

Emily: The juggler on the radio?

Boy: There's a juggler on the radio. He sounds exactly the same as if there's no juggler. There's lots of people listening to the radio, and some are saying "I believe in the juggler!" and some are saying "There is no juggler!", and there's a few philosopher-type people saying, "How is a juggler you can't see, hear, smell or touch different from no juggler?" But there's nothing any of these people can tell each other about the existence or the non-existence of the juggler.

Emily: So how do you know there's a juggler?

Boy: (after a pause) I heard him on the radio.

Well there you are. What do you think? Do you believe in the Juggler?

Of course the difference is - we see the good works performed in HIS name.

Two spoilers I feel I should reveal if you decide to listen to the whole play. Firstly, there is a small amount of bad language but it is contextual and necessary. I hope you are not offended. Secondly, it's not a happy ending - sorry - but provokes thought. If you listen to it once, I guarantee you will replay it several times.

So, do you believe in the Juggler?

Alan Veitch

□

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