

thegoodneighbour

December 2017



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



at the heart of the **community**

GreenbankParish
CHURCH

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, in church, we read from Isaiah chapter 9 *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; They lived in a land of shadows but now light is shining on them....A child is born to us"*. Isaiah's words point to the birth of Jesus and evoke memories of Christmas. Just like primary and nursery schools at the moment, the Sunday Club left the church that day to start rehearsals for the Nativity Service on Sunday 17th December. The reading and all these nativity rehearsals reminded me about the little girl who got so excited about her part in her school nativity that her parents began to think that she was one of the main characters.

When her parents arrived at school to see the nativity, they saw the shepherds fidgeting in one corner of the stage and Mary and Joseph standing solemnly behind the manger. Three wise men were waiting impatiently and their little girl was just sitting on a seat in the background. The teacher began to tell the Christmas story and got to the point when Jesus was born and a bright star appeared over the stable. This was their daughter's cue. She picked up a large tin-foil star walked behind Mary and Joseph and held the star up behind them for everyone to see. When the teacher spoke about the shepherds she shook the star up and down excitedly in front of them to show them where to go. When the teacher spoke about the wise men, she went to meet them and led the way. On their way home, after the nativity was over, the little girl, with great satisfaction, said to her parents, "I had the main part, because I showed everyone where to find Jesus!" That little girl's words speak to the truth of our task as Jesus followers, not only at Christmas, but at all times.

There are many adverts on TV at the moment that seem to suggest that Christmas is about making grand and expensive gestures but Jesus teaches us that it is simply about how we live our lives, both individually and as a church together. Being the light that shows people where to find Him means simply choosing to live kind, caring and compassionate lives because of what we ourselves have come to know and love about Jesus.

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born!* [Josef Mohr1818]


Christmas Blessings,

Jeanne



'Time to Remember' Sunday 10th December at 6.30pm. A simple service for all bereaved, whether recently or a long time ago. The service will commemorate loved ones no longer with us and the opportunity will be given to place their names on Greenbank's 2017 Christmas Tree of Remembrance. Refreshments will be served after the service.

'Christmas at Greenbank Manse' in aid of Al Shurooq School, Bethlehem will take place on Monday 18th December from 10am-12noon. Tea, Coffee, Home Baking & last minute Christmas Gifts. We will once again be entertained by Carolside Primary School choir. Tickets costing £2 can be purchased after church on Sundays or from church office.

 **Saturday Morning Book Club** The last meeting of the club for this year will take place on 2nd December. Meetings last one hour from 9am, with breakfast refreshments being served from 8.45am in Room A. The group are reading 'The Invisible Church' by Steve Aisthorpe. [ISBN-13: 9780861539161. Chapter 7 will be discussed at the next meeting.

Parish Register

NEW MEMBER

Lorna Buchan has been involved in Greenbank for many years. She was a Sunday school teacher here in her youth but moved from Greenbank when she got married. She is married to Doug. They have three children, Rebecca, Josh and Sophie. She works in a finance company and has just started a new job (good luck). Lorna enjoys reading, eating out and walking their cockapoo called Maisie. She loves holidaying in Florida. Welcome back Lorna.

DEATHS

23/10/17 Mrs Christina Montgomery, 15 Hillview Drive, Clarkston
27/10/17 Miss Barbara Craig, Clarkston House, 57 Stamperland Hill, Clarkston
7/11/17 Mr Gordon Pringle, 12A Homehall House, 82 Upper Holland Road, Sutton Coldfield
15/11/17 Mrs Alison Dick, 16 Sundale Avenue, Clarkston
19/11/17 Mr William (Bill) Thomson, 25 Beechlands Drive, Clarkston

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

BAPTISM

15/10/17 Anderson Douglas Brysland, 19 Darnley Gardens, Pollokshields

Anderson was born in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on the 19th April at 8.30am. He weighed 7lb 7oz. His parents are Lauren and Crawford and his godparents are family friends, John and Una Kyle. He has four half brothers and sisters. Lauren was baptised in Greenbank, helped in the crèche and taught in the Sunday school, so there is a long family connection. After the ceremony, they went to the House of an Art Lover - a double celebration, as it was also Lauren and Crawford's wedding anniversary that day.

PULPIT DIARY

1 st December	4.00pm	Messy Church
3 rd December	10.30am	Gift Service & Sunday Club [Followed by a short communion to mark the beginning of Advent]
10 th December	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
	6.30pm	A Time to Remember
17 th December	10.30am	Family Nativity Service
	7.00pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
24 th December	10.30am	A Medley of your favourite Christmas Carols Service
	6.30pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service (mince pies & mulled wine in the halls at 11pm)
25 th December	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship
31 st December	10.30am	Hogmanay Family Worship

MESSY CHURCH FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER, 4PM – 6PM

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

What's On



CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSE

This year's coffee morning in Greenbank Manse in aid of Al Shurooq School for the Deaf in Bethlehem is being held on

Monday 18th December from 10am to 12noon.

There will be tea, coffee, home baking and gifts for sale as well as a festive atmosphere. Tickets cost £2 and

SLEEP IN THE PARK – A MASS SLEEP-OUT TO END HOMELESSNESS IN SCOTLAND - FOR GOOD, SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2017

Social Bite, a proactive charity working around Scotland with and for homeless people, is organising the world's largest ever sleep-out and are hoping to attract 9,000 people to Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens. The charity hopes that by raising funds and working together, the people of Scotland will create such an impetus that homelessness will be eradicated over a five-year period. The aim is not only to find provision for housing, but also to provide rehabilitation; job opportunities and support that will help people get back on their feet and find their place within society. The hope is that the many charities who work in these areas might also link up to provide ongoing support and care.

The vision is to make Scotland an example for the whole world to follow. We know we are a small country, but we are also a nation of innovators, explorers, and philanthropists. We are a small country with a big and generous heart.

At Christmas time there are many legitimate calls upon our time and our generosity. There are so many worthwhile charities and causes to support. But there is for Christians something compelling about the reality of homelessness that lies near the heart of the Christmas story. The homeless Christ-child, the refugee Holy Family.

Social Bite has gathered together a range of amazing people to the sleep-out. John Cleese, Deacon Blue, Rob Brydon, Sir Bob Geldof, Liam Gallagher and Amy Macdonald who will be present on the night.

You might not be able to take part yourself; a cold winter night in a park in December won't be possible for everyone. But you might know someone in your Church or workplace, a child or grandchild, a student friend or someone in a uniformed organisation, school, or a company who might be able to get involved individually or as a group. The challenge is for each individual to raise a minimum of £100 towards the cause. 2,000 people have already signed up. There's still some way to go to reach 9,000 people.

Find out more at www.SleepInThePark.co.uk You can also watch this short video: https://drive.google.com/a/capital-events.co.uk/file/d/0B8k2l12zCl89d2JmVVINVEZVRjg/view?usp=drive_web and download the attached poster.

Our Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, is praying for 1,000 connected to the Church of Scotland to sign up. Will you join in? Our minister and some others from our congregation are hoping to take part – anyone who wants to join them should speak to Jeanne (644 1395) email: JRoddick@churchofscotland.org.uk or Alison Allan (638 3916) email: alison.allan@ntlworld.com

LUNCH CLUB

The next meeting will be on Friday, 26th January please come and join us! Lunch (soup and filled rolls, followed by tea or coffee and a biscuit) is served from 12 until 1pm in the church hall. A very warm welcome awaits you. There is a dedicated team who prepare the lunch each month, but we would be very happy to have some new volunteers.

If you would like more information about what helping involves, or if you wish to join us for lunch, but require a lift, please phone Jan (258 4959) or Maureen 639 5114.

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Clarkston Community Choir will hold their annual Christmas concert at 7.30pm on 6th December in Greenbank Parish Church. Joined by a fabulous orchestra of students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the choir will present a programme of Christmas favourites – the perfect way to kick off the festive season! Tickets £5, available at the door (includes tea/coffee after the concert.)

THE GUILD

Diary

6 th December	TBA	Christmas Lunch <i>Cathcart Castle Golf Club</i>
13 th December	2.15pm	Rev. Ian Hamilton <i>Music, Story and Message</i>
10 th January	2.15pm	Harmony <i>Songs of the Fifties and Sixties</i>
17 th January	2.15pm	Rhona Hughes <i>Still Singing</i>
24 th January	2.15pm	Joy Blair <i>Burns the Volunteer</i>
31 st January	2.15pm	Bill Stein <i>The Munros</i>

The Guild has had a wonderful first half of the 2017-2018 session. Of special note was our Guest Night when the Cowley Hall was full. Marvellous entertainment was provided by the Westertones – a very talented group of gentlemen. This was the choir's second visit to the Guild and I am sure we may meet up with them again in the future. Thanks to the ladies of the committee who provided the sandwiches and cakes. Our programme for 2018 looks interesting and new members will still be made very welcome.

The result of the Sunshine bag collection is not yet finalised but will be published in the next edition of Good Neighbour.

We now look forward to our Christmas lunch at Cathcart Castle Golf Club and wish all members of Greenbank a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Enid Dron

(Secretary)

THE FILM SOCIETY

The Film Society is proud to present:

11th December

The Shop around the Corner (1940) starring James Stewart & Margaret Sullavan)

Two employees at a gift shop can barely stand each other, without realizing that they are falling in love through the post as each other's anonymous pen pal.

Director: Ernst Lubitsch

8th January

Midnight in Paris (2011) starring Owen Wilson & Marion Cotillard

While on a trip to Paris with his fiancée's family, a nostalgic screenwriter finds himself mysteriously going back to the 1920s, every day at midnight.

Director: Woody Allen

5th February

The Sheepman (1958) starring Shirley MacLaine and Glenn Ford

A brash stranger and his sheep arrive in a small town, but not soon after, the townspeople decide they've seen enough of him.

Director: George Marshall

We meet monthly on Monday evenings at 7.30pm from September to April in the Session House.

Bring your own popcorn!

BURNS SUPPER

Our very popular Burns Supper will be held on Sunday 28th of January 2018. Tickets will be available on Sunday 17th December after morning service from Graham Vance and Jan Millar.

TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the group takes place on Tuesday 5th December 2017 from 7.30pm till 8.30pm in Room A. If you feel you would be interested in coming along please don't hesitate to contact me on the number below. Kindest regards,
June Lamont (07964 442417)

TIME OUT

We are all booked up for the only meeting in December which is our Christmas Night Out to the Swan Inn in Eaglesham.

We start 2018 with our first meeting of the year on 11th January when the theme is "Keeping Active".

A physio from the local Health Centre will be giving us some hints and tips on how to look after ourselves.

On 25 January we have "Time Out does Burns", a light hearted and possibly alternative tribute to The Bard.

Finally, a big thank you to Elaine for organising our Beetle Drive. We raised just under £300 – a terrific result.

Although the turnout wasn't as good as expected, it was a great evening - well done all!!

As usual we look forward to welcoming both new and old faces to our gatherings.

For more information please contact Moira McAldine on 639 5968 or Sharon Mitchell on 644 2448.

PULLING OUT THE STOPS

Our organist, Peter Howard, will be giving a recital in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum on Saturday 23rd December at 1pm. The programme will feature a selection of festive favourites so if you want to take some time out of a busy weekend then do come along – entry to the Art Gallery is free of charge.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery, amongst its vast artistic collections, houses a magnificent organ built by the organ company T C Lewis & Co in 1901. It was initially hired for the Glasgow International Exhibition and erected in a temporary concert hall, before being purchased by Glasgow Corporation and moved to the Art Gallery in 1902. It was rendered unplayable in 1941 following an air raid during which the Art Gallery sustained damaged. However it was subsequently restored to a playable condition. The organ has 2,889 pipes, 48 stops (sounds) and is considered by many to be one of the finest romantic concert organs in the world. Daily concerts take place in the Art Gallery at 1pm (3pm on a Sunday) and during 2015 the 3000th daily recital was performed. Cameras were installed a few years ago allowing those visiting the gallery to see the organ's manuals (keyboards) and pedals as the organist performs. After the recital each Friday there is a tour of the organ for visitors that are interested in learning more about the instrument, so feel free to go along and find out more for yourself.

Nine Lessons & Carols

Our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols takes place at **7pm on Sunday 17th December** in the church. We warmly invite you to join us for the re-telling of the well-known Christmas story and through prayer, reading and music to share in the joy and peace that Jesus' birth brings to us all.

The format of Nine Lessons and Carols was initially devised in 1880 (where the service took place in a shed serving at the time as Truro Cathedral), and took its current format in 1918 at King's College Cambridge, where it has been broadcast annually since 1928.

The Lessons are taken from Genesis, the prophetic books as well as the gospels and follow the stories of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus.

The carols, which intersperse the readings, are a mixture of well-known Christmas Hymns for all to sing, and Christmas choral pieces by classical and contemporary composers that will be sung by the Church Choir.

As always, I am very grateful to the extra singers who have joined us in rehearsing for the service and I hope they enjoy taking part.

Favourite Christmas Carols

For the first couple of weeks in November a slip was handed out to those at the 10.30am Sunday service inviting them to write down their favourite Christmas Carol. At the morning service on Sunday 24th December we'll be singing the congregation's favourite carols in a format similar to the Songs of Praise service. If you weren't at church when the forms were handed out then feel free to drop me a note of your favourite carol, or leave a note with the Church Office. I'd be grateful if all responses were returned to me by Sunday 3rd December.

Peter Howard
Organist & Choir Leader

News and Updates

ED LINES

Hi Folks,

Christmas seems to come round quicker every year. It seems like only yesterday I was ticking off the days to my summer holidays but now the Christmas countdown is on and I'm opening the doors of my Advent Calendar!

Advent begins on the first Sunday after St Andrew's Day this year. It's the time when we start preparing for Christmas and celebrating Christ's birth. I'm not sure that means dashing round Marks and Spencer looking for last minute gifts or a turkey crown! That said, however, I have started my own Christmas preparations. Last week I made my Christmas cake,, I've started writing my cards and my tree is waiting in the wings ready to be decorated. I am very fortunate. I have the ingredients in my cupboard which enable me to make the cake, and if I don't, I can go out and buy them. I have a comfy chair in a warm room in which to sit while writing my cards and I have a roof over my head under which I can decorate my tree.

I was away on a city break recently and was shocked and saddened to see the number of people, young and old, male and female, begging on the streets and sleeping rough. It's a sight that can be seen in villages, towns and cities throughout the country.

On the 9th December, the Church of Scotland is supporting "Sleep in the Park". It's an event that aims to raise over £4million to significantly change the lives of Scotland's most vulnerable people.

Over 2000 years ago Mary and Joseph found themselves homeless. They were given shelter in a stable where Mary could give birth to baby Jesus. Let us hope that "Sleep in the Park" will give people what we were given all those years ago. A new birth, a new life and renewed hope.

Wishing you and yours a very happy Christmas,

Alison

*You might not be able to take part yourself; a cold winter night in a park in December won't be possible for everyone. But **Annrose Bisset, JeanneRoddick, Alison Allan and Hilary Carswell** are. Their challenge is for each individual to raise a minimum of £100 towards the cause. Anyone who wants to join them should speak to Jeanne (644 1395) email: JRoddick@churchofscotland.org.uk or Alison Allan (638 3916) email: alison.allan@ntlworld.com or feel free to support them by sponsoring their efforts **For information about how to sponsor our Greenbankers go to: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/greenbankers> or you can sponsor them after the morning service during tea/coffee.** All money raised will be invested in a nationwide jobs programme for the homeless; new housing and accommodation models; addiction rehabilitation facilities; and Social Bite food provision - all measures to try to end homelessness in Scotland. For Good. Thank you for your support.*

ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY PLEASE

"THE OLD VIC"

On our journeys into town most of us have noticed the demolition of our much loved Infirmary.

What tales would these old wards have to tell!!

Think of all the tonsils removed, fractures mended, life-saving operations performed and of course end of life care.

As those walls come down let us give thanks for the skills of the surgeons, the dedication of the nurses not to mention all the auxiliary personnel, right down to the ward maids of bygone years, who used to mop round the beds with a cheery word to all.

Whatever rises from the ashes, many of us will never forget the care we received in the Old Victoria.

Beth Jardine

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2017

A very big thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas Fair such a success by raising the fantastic sum of £2,950 after all expenses have been met.

To those people who gave their time so willingly to help on the stalls, tearoom, at the door, behind the scenes and of course by coming along and supporting this major fund raiser a very big thank you for all your hard work. Thank you also to everyone who donated items to the various stalls for without these donations such a sum could not have been achieved.

Thank you everyone!

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Once again we had a very meaningful Armistice Day Service. Jeanne recounted the stories of John Adam and Thomas McGowan McGhie whose names are on Greenbank's First World War memorial and who were both killed in the battle of Passchendaele, Ypres. Jeanne also spoke of Allison Graham, a gunner in the Royal Artillery who died in January 1946 and whose name is also on our war memorial. Ross McAlaine once again played the pipes and Grace Loudon read her Armistice Day poem, which she had written at school.

TUNE SELECTION

It was pointed out to me that I have been piping at the Armistice service for 10 years – where does time go?? 2017 marks a century, since the truly horrific campaign at Passchendaele. My Grandad's memory was explicit of terrain fought over as he was the head gardener at the Botanic Gardens prior to 1914. Mud, mud, mud and more mud! His language was also explicit!! In his after campaign report in 1917, Sir Douglas Haig, then affectionately known as the "Butcher", commented that losses were acceptable in view of the gains made.

It should be noted that at the Somme in 1916, over 4 months, the daily British losses were 5,000 killed a day on average, and at Passchendaele in 1917, over much the same time span 8,000 were killed a day on average. My Grandad's company lost 82% of its members, either killed or wounded. The saddest circumstance was the sheer number of his friends and comrades who were wounded, but then drowned in the Mud, and were lost for ever – Requiem {for the unknown soldier} is therefore most appropriate for this year's tune.

Ross McAlaine

REMEMBER ME

The poppies grow where the soldiers die,
We fought for your country, side by side,
The gunfire blazed as far as you can see,
Do you remember me?

I lie under poppies of red and black,
Never will I look back,
I died for freedom, freedom is the key,
Do you remember me?

The poppy is a symbolic flower,
On the 11th day of the 11th hour,
It's over, I am as glad as can be,
Do you remember me?

I am the soldier, who fought for you,
I am the soldier, brave and true,
I am the soldier, now I am free,
Please remember me.

Poem written by Grace Loudon, aged 10.



Lest We Forget

USED STAMPS (& POSTCARDS)

Hello there. Once again Christmas is just round the corner so please remember to collect the stamps which ideally should be cut with a small border.

This year, I reckon I've trimmed hundreds of stamps and it takes time! Most importantly, of course, is saving them.

Thank you,

Elizabeth MacDonald

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 remains at £2.50 per issue for 2018 Annual subscription for 2018 for 12 issues £30.00

Ian Mc Turk (638 4649)

GLASGOW NORTH EAST FOODBANK

Please think of the foodbank coming up to Christmas.

Parcels or items of Christmas foods such as tinned turkey/ham, Christmas cake and biscuits, custard, napkins, ect.

A full list is on the screen in the Hall of Friendship or call Alex Howie on 638 5169.

Please have your parcels in the box in the Hall of Friendship by Thursday 14th December.



The Simpson family would like to thank the congregation for the unbelievable support of Millie's fund raising on behalf of Crohn's & Colitis UK. "The care and compassion that Greenbank has given us since Millie's diagnosis and the generosity in supporting this fundraising has once again proven that our church is a wonderful place and we are extremely grateful to be part of its community and congregation. Thank you does not seem enough, we are extremely grateful."

At the time of going to print, Millie had sold a magnificent 1100 raffle tickets. The Magic Squares to win the meal at Ian Brown's restaurant still has 40 squares to sell, so if anyone would like to take one of the remaining boxes, please ask the family. The winner will be drawn as soon as all the boxes are sold.

Just for Laughs



The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

FLOWER LIST FOR DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018

	<u>Communion Table</u>	<u>Centenary Chapel</u>	<u>Side Windows</u>
3 rd December	Marie Forster	Mrs Spelman	
10 th December	Vera Reid	Odette McClenaghan	
17 th December			
24 th December			
31 st December	Alan Johnston		
<u>2018</u>			
7 th January	Bert McCrum		
14 th January	Bill Stein		Betty Ritchie
21 st January	Calder Watson	The Howard Family	Jan Millar
28 th January	Jane Livingston		

Please Note:

The Flower Lists for 2018 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)

223rd GLASGOW COMPANY BOYS BRIGADE CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY 2017

The BB Boys will be delivering Christmas cards within the Parish again this year.

The collection box for these will be located in the vestibule of the Church from Sunday 3rd December until 10.30am on Sunday 17th December. Cards will be delivered as soon as possible thereafter.

Please note that cards can only be delivered within the Parish boundaries as shown on the map on the front of the collection box.

KIRK SESSION – WHAT DO THEY TALK ABOUT?

The Kirk Session met on 6th November with 48 members attending and they discussed a wide range of issues.

Worship: The Worship Group had conducted morning services on 1st and 8th October when the minister was on holiday. Thanks were expressed for this and especially to Ron Livingston and Helen Howard for delivering the sermon. The Saturday Morning Book Club continues to meet and anyone is welcome to come along for breakfast at 8.45am followed by an hour of discussion. A report was received from Messy Church which has an average attendance of 30 children and 12 adults. A couple of additional volunteers are required – **if you are interested in helping contact Lorna Preece**. Thanks were expressed to those who read the lesson from the Bible on a Sunday morning. More volunteers are required and if you are interested please add your name to the sheet in the Centenary Chapel.

Outreach: The Kirk Session's attention was drawn to the Mission and Discipleship Council's participation in the key national initiative in 2018 of the Year of Young People. Greenbank has joined the initiative which aims to explore what the church can do both on a Sunday and beyond to engage in new ways with young people. As a national Church it is right that the Church of Scotland should be highlighting issues that are critical for children and young people and engaging with them to ensure their fullest inclusion in our congregations and communities across Scotland. Greenbank continues to donate generously to the North East Foodbank; **if you wish to help contact Alex Howie**. The Kirk Session also heard of the generous donation from Greenbank to the Lodging House Mission at Harvest. Saturday opening continues to be supported by 15 churches including twelve volunteers from Greenbank. Christmas Cards can be purchased once again each Sunday till mid-December. A report was received from Mark Allan and Ron Livingston who represent us on Christian Aid Clarkston and District. Greenbank made significant contributions through the Christian Aid Sponsored Swim, The Art Exhibition and door to door collections during Christian Aid Week.

Finance: The Financial Position was updated and this continues to show a decrease of offerings of 2.0% for the period to 15th October. Since the last report contributions have been received from the Friendship Café, 1st Clarkston Brownies, Film Society, Lunch Club, Colour Circle and from the Fun day in September. Demand from external organisations for hall space continues and generates useful income towards the upkeep of our halls. Our Crisis Fund paid out £2,000 split between the Red Cross and the Disasters Emergency Committee to alleviate suffering in recent disasters. The Treasurer presented the Budget for 2018 and advised that on present offering income trends and with only statutory and essential fabric repairs there was a projected deficit of £20,000. This compares with a projected surplus this year of just under £1,000. The Kirk Session approved the Budget and Staff Salary increases.

Fabric: The Property convenor advised the Kirk Session that a decision was awaited from Historic Environment Scotland about proposals to list the church. The annual inspection of the gas boilers within the church, manse and church officer's house was recently completed.

Fellowship: Attention was drawn to forthcoming events – Christmas Fair on Saturday 11th November, Elders Away Day at Maybole on Sunday 12th November, and the Burns Supper on Sunday 28th January 2018.

Youth: The Kirk Session received reports from the 1st Clarkston Brownies, the Boys' Brigade and the Sunday Club. The Moderator thanked Helen Howard for agreeing to take on the role of Sunday School Superintendent. The Saturday Night Youth Club (SNAP) has met seven times since the summer break with many new members bringing the number of people attending to 35.

Other Matters: The Kirk Session agreed to support the review of the Kwenderana Partnership consisting of Greenbank, Busby, Giffnock South and Williamwood. Bill Robertson was thanked for agreeing to join the Greenbank representatives. The Moderator reported that invited invitations were sought for Church of Scotland Assembly Committees as well as an additional representative at Presbytery. After the main business was finished Ruth Forsythe, the Presbytery Spiritual Formation Advisor, led a discussion on worship, looking at various cultural, traditional and theological aspects. (Please speak to your elder if you would like further information on any of the above.)

CHRISTIAN AID

The annual Christian Aid sponsored swim took place at Eastwood pool on Saturday 7th October. Congratulations to the 11 participants from Greenbank. The total number of swimmers from all the churches represented was 49, which was slightly up on last year. The sum of the sponsorship money raised by our swimmers stands at a creditable £614, but I will give a final figure of all the sums raised from all the participating churches in due course. The event itself ran very smoothly with most of the participants completing the target of 20 lengths of the pool with a well-earned refreshment after their hard work. Certificates are being prepared for presentation to the Greenbank swimmers; hopefully during the morning service in the near future. In November the Art Group sub-committee began the organisation of the next fundraising event to take place on 10th March 2018 which will be the annual Art Exhibition and Sale; this event is again taking place in the Carmichael Hall at Eastwood Park. On behalf of the Clarkston and District Christian Aid Committee, I would like to thank everyone at Greenbank for your support of the fundraising efforts for Christian Aid during 2017 and wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mark Allan

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

SATURDAY OPENING

Saturday opening continues at the LHM with the support of churches in Glasgow Presbytery. Fifteen churches participate in a rota to provide a team of four people each Saturday. The next date on which Greenbank will provide a team is **Saturday, 16th December**, and we are grateful to Anne Muir, David Dowell, Elizabeth McKenzie and Susan Wilkie who will be on duty that day. We currently have 13 people from our congregation who are involved in Saturday volunteering at the LHM. If this is something with which you would like to be involved, please let me know.

GLASGOW WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The Lodging House Mission is again set to host the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter which will run from the beginning of December 2017 until the end of March 2018. This is a joint initiative between Glasgow City Mission, who run it, and the Lodging House Mission, who host it. **The LHM is pleased to announce that for the period of the Shelter, they shall be open every Sunday (8am till 3pm). This will ensure that the Service Users are not obliged to go out into the streets at 8am in winter weather and that food, warmth and other facilities are available.**

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards will again be sold to raise funds for the Lodging House Mission. Cards are on sale in the Fraser Hall each Sunday after the morning service from now until 9th December. Cards are sold in packs of 10 which cost £3.50.

Thank you for continuing to support the work of the Lodging House Mission in so many ways - by donating sugar; by purchasing Christmas Cards; by volunteering on Saturdays; by sponsoring our cyclists - your support is very much appreciated.

Alison Allan (638 3916)

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

At our annual course with the BKA which was on Kumite (fighting) techniques we had a great turn-out from students from all our clubs. We had senior instructors taking 4 sections where they showed various techniques and moves where all the participants came away with something new.

Our Greenbank senior students also had the opportunity to train with the Scottish Karate Champion Louis Galasso. Louis had just returned from the World Championships and he made his first stop of visiting the club that he started with and where he achieved his Black Belt. Louis has a long list of achievements – British, Swedish, Scottish Champion to name a few and it was a great class that he held and we look forward to him returning.

We also have our Junior Black Belt Grading in December where we have a number of students working towards.

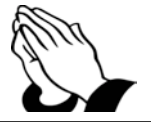
Why not follow our Club on our Facebook Page and keep up to date with all our activities.

Finally, Bushido Karate Club would like to wish all our friends at Greenbank Church a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Best wishes,

John, Bushido Karate Association Chairman

Prayer Diary



'Christmas is a-coming, the geese are getting fat.

Please put a penny in the old man's hat.
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do.
If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you.'
(Traditional English Christmas rhyme)

So here we are hurtling towards Christmas again. In the words of Sarah Kay, 'It is December, and nobody asked if I was ready.'

The calendar's filling up with times to go shopping, Christmas fayres, nights out, concerts; and in-between there's cards to be written and meals to be planned, and time still needs to be found for all the everyday stuff too.

In the middle of all this, try to find a quiet moment to say a little prayer.

- Say thank you for all the bustle and cheer within our church walls as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.
- Say a little prayer of hope and comfort for those who are alone, who are facing illness, whose lives are troubled and bleak, who have lost someone dear to them, or who live in fear.
- Say thank you for all our emergency services, and all those who look after the needs of others. Christmas especially can be a dark time if your life is in contrast to all the bright lights and excitement.
- Pray that the feelings of hope and goodwill that come with this time of year can be extended to the wider world. That people will feel a real desire to work together, and to extend a helping hand.
- And as the year draws to a close, ask that next year will bring good things.

Opportunities: for each person; each group; each company; each place; each country.

Generosity: of spirit; of time; of money; of love.

Happiness: a little brightness in every day.

Peace: in a world of trouble, hatred and grief.

'May joy be your gift at Christmas and may Faith, Hope and Love be your treasures in the New Year.' (unknown)

But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not grow weak. Isaiah 40:31

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

2ND CLARKSTON RAINBOWS

After 14 years of service to the Guiding Movement within Greenbank Parish, I have decided to step down as Rainbow Leader of the 2nd Clarkston Rainbows Unit from May 2018.

So we are actively looking for someone to take over the running of the unit from September 2018. If you or anyone you know would be interested in taking over the Rainbows, please don't hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Sadly, if we don't find anyone to take over the unit it will close.

June Lamont (07964 442417)



Gift Service Sunday 3rd December

Everyone is invited to bring along a gift to help brighten up Christmas for children and families in need in Glasgow. Gifts are going to:

- SACRO (Scottish Council for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders) for young people aged 13-18. At this time of year they would very much welcome supermarket gift tokens – Tesco, Asda etc.
- The Princess Royal Maternity Unit - Baby clothes and toiletries for newborn babies and mums
- Church House, Bridgeton - Toys for girls and boys age 8-12.

Please leave your **new, unwrapped** gift under the Christmas tree in the church or hand it in to the church office.

Thank you for your support. Your generosity will make a big difference to their Christmas.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR CONTACTS

EDITOR	Alison Harvey 638 3679 E-mail: alih21@virginmedia.com
DISTRIBUTORS	Gordon & Margot Blyth 638 7646
LIFE & WORK	Ian McTurk 638 4649
OFFICE	The Church Secretary, Greenbank Church Office 644 1841 36 Eaglesham Road, Clarkston, G76 7DJ Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9.15 - 12.15 Thursday & Friday 9.15 - 1.45 E-mail: greenbank.office@tiscali.co.uk Website: http://www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk



GreenbankParish
CHURCH

Minister: Rev Jeanne Roddick. Tel: 01416441395
Session Clerk: Derek Christie. Tel: 0141 6380044.
Depute Session Clerk: Peter Liddell. Tel: 0141 6387870.
Church Office: 0141 644 1841. Email: greenbank.office@tiscali.co.uk
Church Address: 36 Eaglesham Road, Clarkston, Glasgow, Scotland. G76 7DJ.
Congregation No: 160863. Registered Charity No: SC011453.