



## The Blessings Of *Christmas*

Living our **faith** by our **actions**  at the heart of the **community**

# Parish Register

## BAPTISM

22/9/19 Heather Eleanor Cameron, Strathearn Road, Clarkston

Heather Eleanor Cameron was born in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 13th November 2018. She was born at 6.40pm and weighed in at 6lb 9oz. Heather's parents are Linda and Brett. She has a big brother called Hamish, who is 4, and is the youngest of 7 grandchildren so she has lots of big cousins who love looking after her! Her godparents are Linda's sisters, Jill McVeigh and Heather Gault.

Linda said that there were lots of things they would remember about the day - not least the torrential rain as they headed to the church! She said they would remember mostly the lovely service, the fact it was harvest thanksgiving too and that all the children were singing and joining in.

After the service the family had lunch at their home in Clarkston with all the family and described it as all in all a wonderful day.

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"*  
Matthew 19:14 NIV

## WEDDINGS

16/11/19 Emily Lennox and Andrew Harvey, Worsley Crescent, Newton Mearns

Andy and Emily met at the 6th year school Christmas dance when they were 17. It took Andy 10 years to finally propose! Thankfully Emily said yes! Their wedding was held at Lochgreen House Hotel in Troon. Andy's best man was his mate, Gary Scott. His groomsmen were Callum Bruce, Stuart Roberts and Callum McCusker, who are friends from school and B.B. Emily's bridesmaids were her sister, Sophie, childhood friend, Claire Burke and friends from uni, Rhona Morrison and Louise McKenna. Andy and Emily will be cruising in the Gulf of Mexico for a week; then to Florida before coming home to their house in Newton Mearns. Andy will always remember how proud he was of Emily who was stunningly beautiful. They had a wonderful day with family and friends many of whom commented what a personal and special ceremony Jeanne gave. They were so appreciative of the love and support they received from everyone.

*"[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*  
Corinthians 13:7 NIV

## DEATHS

3/11/19 Mr Gordon Richmond, 50 Flenders Avenue, Clarkston

5/11/19 Mr Richard Chalmers, 78 Craighill Drive, Clarkston

13/11/19 Mrs Pat Milligan, 24 Hawthorn Court, Clarkston

*"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" John 14:2 NIV*

\*On the noticeboard situated in the halls' corridor are Orders of Service of those whose funerals and weddings our minister has recently conducted. After a few weeks the orders are taken down but will still be available in the church office.

To encourage worship outside our church walls this Advent, Mary, Joseph and the donkey from Greenbank's Nativity Scene will journey from our church building in a story bag with a copy of the Christmas story, plus a diary in which all those who host the figures can share their experiences. Also included in the bag will be an Advent candle which can be lit and burned down one section on each night that Mary and Joseph and the donkey stay. Photos taken in each home can be emailed to the Church Office at [greenbank.office@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:greenbank.office@tiscali.co.uk) - these will be shown on PowerPoint each week of Advent. The last household will bring 'Mary and Joseph' to church to the family service on Christmas Eve where they will be welcomed back to the Nativity Scene. For anyone wishing to take part a 'signup' sheet is available in the Centenary Chapel of the Church from 10<sup>th</sup> November.





*When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between me and all living beings on earth. That is the sign of the promise which I am making to all living beings."*

Genesis 9:16-17

Dear Friends,

In these Advent weeks when advertisers on TV keep telling us it's the most wonderful time of year, it's not actually the most wonderful time of year for everyone: not when there is going to be an empty chair at a Christmas dinner table; not without a familiar voice joining in with the singing of Christmas carols; not when memories of past Christmases make this time of year seem less merry.

This year, at the beginning of Advent, a 'Rainbow Tree' will be placed in our link building to remind us all of God's promises seen in the rainbow. The tree will be made from bare branches that have fallen from larger trees in the manse garden. On the branches of the Rainbow Tree there will be ribbons that are the colours of the rainbow – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and purple. During the next few weeks, everyone who wishes can come to this space to remember those they have lost and to give thanks for the light and colour these people brought to their lives and to the lives of others. The coloured ribbons will be beside the tree and everyone can take one for each person they wish to remember and tie it onto one of the branches. There will also be prayer cards that can be used and taken away.

As long as there is something happening in the halls or in the church, the link building door will remain open – so please come at any time and invite your friends too. In this way a Rainbow Tree will be created during Advent as a symbol of the light of Christ come to this world at Christmas. So may these holy Advent weeks be filled with the light of Christ's hope, peace and love, God's rainbow promise to us and to the world, so may you know the blessings of God with you, this Christmas and always.

Yours,

## PULPIT DIARY

1 <sup>st</sup> December	10.30am	Worship & Sunday Club
6 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm	Messy Church
8 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Gift Service & Sunday Club
	6.30pm	A Time to Remember
15 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.30am	Family Nativity Service
24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service (mince pies & mulled wine in the halls at 11pm)
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship
29 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Family Christmas Carol Service (A medley of your favourite carols)

## CLARKSTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

To mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Clarkston Churches Together is hosting an evening event at St Aidan's Scottish Episcopal Church in Old Mearns Road. The Guest Speaker will be the Rev. David Coleman, Chaplain, Eco-Congregation Scotland.

On the morning of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January the clergy will also be preaching in one another's churches.



## SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

The Club meets in room A of the church halls, on the first Saturday of each month. The next meeting takes place on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December when we will continue reading 'The Books of the Bible – The Prophets', which is a fresh, yet ancient, presentation of Scripture, using the full NIV text with an 8

month reading plan.

Meetings last one hour and breakfast refreshments are served from 8.45am for a 9am start. All welcome.



**WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL & KWENDERANA** This is Joy Nyangulu. Joy is 8 years old and is a Standard 1 pupil at Emazinyeni Primary School in Ekwendeni, Malawi. The school has 438 pupils and 9 teachers. A ratio of 1:109. In Scottish schools the government recommends a maximum class size of 33 for pupils of the same age. To make matters worse, Joy and her classmates spend most of their time in school learning underneath a tree as there are no suitable classrooms at the school. Almost one third of pupils are forced to learn outside.

**Your donations will pay for:**

**£10 one row of bricks**

**£20 two rows of bricks**

**£50 one bag of cement**

**£100 tools and equipment for local builders**

**£200 one window**

**£250 one classroom door**

**£500 wooden beams for roof**

**£1000 three classrooms fully painted**

**£3000 concrete foundation block**

**£10,000 one ready to use classroom**

**\*all donations will contribute toward total fundraising target of £30,000 [monies should be made payable to Williamwood High School, Malawi]**

The weather in Emazinyeni can be searingly hot in the summer months and a total washout during the rainy season. As a result, pupils do not attend school at these times meaning that they can go days or weeks without attending. When pupils have to walk for one hour to get to school, many choose not to bother when they know that they are not going to learn very much that day. The implications for the children are significant. Statistics show that children born to girls who cannot read are twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday. In contrast continuing education can provide a sustainable route out of poverty for children and their families. Last year 37 pupils in Emazinyeni sat School Leaving Certificate Examinations and 24 pupils passed. Only 7 were selected to attend secondary school.

As a community that values education we realise that this is not fair and want to change this. The Kwenderana Partnership will be working to help make this a reality and you can help us do this. Along with Kwenderana, Williamwood High School has enjoyed a partnership with the people of Ekwendeni since 2012. In 2014 the school began working with Classrooms for Malawi to complete renovation work at Ekwendeni Primary School. In total, over £70,000

has been spent on renovation work at the school and to help fund the building of a new nursery school in a nearby village. At the primary school, 16 classrooms have been completely renovated to create suitable learning environments with new roofs, windows, doors all being put in. In addition, the school built a three classroom block which now provides safe and suitable classrooms for approximately 200 children.

As a result, attainment levels at Ekwendeni Primary School have increased significantly with 95% of pupils passing their Leaving Certificate Examination in 2017, with over two thirds being selected for secondary school which mirrors the continual improvement seen since 2014. The school attributes the improvements made to the school facilities with the head of the PTA saying *"to a large extent the better passing and selection rates can be attributed to the ever improving school teaching and learning environment, as a result of the renovations, that motivates both learners and teachers."*

The aim of the Williamwood Malawi Partnership and Kwenderana group between now and June 2020 is to raise over £30,000 to enable the building the three classrooms that are desperately needed at Emazinyeni to give Joy and her classmates the same boost that pupils at Ekwendeni received in the hope that their education will provide a sustainable route out of poverty. **Your help will allow us to make this aim a reality so that we can continue to help improve the education of children like Joy and to give them increased opportunities for the future.**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO CHRISTMAS AT GREENBANK MANSE**

where we will be visited by Carolside Primary School Christmas Choir  
on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December @ 10am-12.30pm.

Tickets £2 in aid of Emazinyeni Primary School Project

Refreshments, Homebaking, Gifts - ALL WELCOME [Bring your friends!!!]

# Prayer Diary

I made myself a snowball  
As perfect as could be  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet  
And let it sleep with me  
I made it some pyjamas  
And a pillow for its head  
Then last night it ran away  
But first - it wet the bed  
(‘Snowball’ - Deborah Milo)

December is here and the days are short, night closes in earlier each day. At long last I have done just about everything in the garden and I'm giving my frozen fingers a rest. As I stomp back inside to get heated up I can't help but think of people who have no home to go back to, who have to be outside in freezing cold or pouring rain all the time.

As we head towards Christmas please find space in your prayers for the homeless, the sick, the dying; those who will not be home for Christmas, our armed forces, prisoners, aid workers; those who are far from home and have no way to get back. And also say a prayer for those for whom Christmas is just another day.

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."  
(Norman Vincent Peale)

Let us pray that everyone feels a little of that magic, a little of the love and kindness, a touch of the faith that makes it so special.

"May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve" (Anonymous)

Wishing you all a Christmas filled with peace and love, and the very best that the new year can bring.

This New Year has been foretold.  
Your future is at hand.  
God knows the fate and outcome  
of each and every man.  
God has chosen the narrow road.  
His wisdom is leading the way.  
His great strength can carry your load  
His compassion you will feel every day.  
With a new dawn over the horizon,  
and the Lord to lead the way,  
you can spread your wings like an eagle  
and soar through every day.  
(‘A New Year Foretold’ - Debra L Brown)

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month in the church at 6.30pm. (Enter by Link building). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gillian Foy (638 6245)

## TIME TO REMEMBER SERVICE

A Time to Remember service will be held in the Church on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm to commemorate loved ones no longer with us at Christmas. During the service names of loved ones will be placed on a special Christmas Remembrance Tree which will remain in the church sanctuary that we all may know that this time of year belongs not only to us and our church, but also our loved ones as we journey together towards the One born for us at Christmas. Anyone who wishes to come to the service will be made very welcome. If you can't manage along to the service but wish someone's name to be placed on the tree, please record it in the Christmas Book of Remembrance which is in the Centenary Chapel.

# What's On

## THE GUILD

Diary

4 <sup>th</sup> December	2.15pm	<i>Christmas Meeting</i>
11 <sup>th</sup> December	12.30pm	<i>Christmas Lunch</i> Cathcart Castle Golf Club
2020		
8 <sup>th</sup> January	2.15pm	<i>South American Odyssey</i> Walter Edgar
15 <sup>th</sup> January	2.15pm	<i>A Parish Church Today</i> Rev. Joe Kavanagh
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	2.15pm	<i>From Rag week to Riches</i> Jean Macdonald
29 <sup>th</sup> January	2.15pm	<i>More on Street Pastors</i> Rev Wilma Pearson

The first half of our session has been most successful with excellent attendances and interesting speakers. Our Guest Night was an extremely happy event and was greatly enjoyed by our guests from 15 local Guilds.

Money from Sunshine Bags is still coming in and we wish to thank everyone for their contributions. The total amount raised will be published in a future edition of Good Neighbour.

Enid Dron, Secretary

## THE LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club meets for the last time in 2019 on Friday, 29th November between noon and 1.15pm in the church hall. As usual soup, filled rolls, tea and coffee will be on the menu. As a festive treat, mince pies will also be served. If getting to the church premises is a problem, please phone Jan on 258 4959 or Maureen on 639 5114 - we will be very pleased to arrange a lift for you.

In 2020 Lunch Club dates are as follows: 31st January, 28th February, 27th March, 24th April and 29th May.

## TIME OUT

Time Out is looking forward to a busy time over the next couple of months. Here is what we have planned:

12th December	Christmas Crafts
19th December	Christmas Night Out
Start 2020 on 9th January	Musical Evening of Fun
23rd January	Just Us - Burns Night
Saturday 25th January	Coffee/Tea Fundraiser (2pm-4pm in Church Hall). PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARIES!! (All proceeds will be distributed to our chosen charities.)
6th February	Childline

Wishing all our friends, family and the larger Church community a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Moiria McAldine

## LADIES BADMINTON

Ladies Badminton takes place on Thursday afternoons starting at 1.15pm - all welcome to join our friendly group for fun and games. Come along and make a racquet!!

Telephone: Margaret Kennedy 07806434321 for more information.

## TUESDAY NIGHT WALKING GROUP

We meet on Tuesdays at 7pm prompt (weather permitting) and walk around the local area chatting all the way. Our walks usually last an hour. Feel free to join us on any Tuesday. Evelyn Clelland (07762 065507)

## GREENBANK CHURCH FILM SOCIETY

The Film Society has two up and coming films. On the 9<sup>th</sup> December, "On Golden Pond" and your first date of 2020, "Puzzle" on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

On Golden Pond: Starring Henry Fonda, Jane Fonda and Katherine Hepburn (1981)

Cantankerous retiree Norman Thayer and his wife, Ethel, spend summers at their New England vacation home on the shores of idyllic Golden Pond. This year, their adult daughter, Chelsea, visits with her new fiancée and his teenage son, on their way to Europe. After leaving Billy behind to bond with Norman, Chelsea returns, attempting to repair the long-strained relationship with her aging father before it's too late.

Puzzle: Starring Kelly MacDonald and Irrfan Kahn (2018)

A woman, who has a talent for assembling jigsaw puzzles, sneaks away from her suburban town and goes to New York City where she partners with a man for a puzzle tournament in Atlantic City. As she experiences independence for the first time, she begins to view her value and the pieces of her own life in a whole new light.

The Society meets monthly on Monday evenings at 7.30pm from September to April in the Session House.

Jim Guy

## CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Clarkston Community Choir Christmas Concert will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Greenbank Parish Church. The concert will feature all of your festive favourites sung by the choir, accompanied by a fabulous orchestra of musicians from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Tickets £5, includes tea and coffee afterwards in the halls. If you aren't able to see the choir on this date, there is another performance on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm in Langside Parish Church.

The choir welcome all enthusiastic singers to join them on Wednesdays 7.30pm-9.30pm, and all of the music is sung from word sheets only so there is no prior musical training required. New members go free on the first rehearsal, thereafter £3 subs are paid weekly on the door. Members are also welcome to attend rehearsals without committing to singing in concerts, as sometimes it can take a while to build up the confidence to do so.

Richard Scholfield

## SNAP COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB

Any new members from P7 to S3 are very welcome to come along SNAP runs every Saturday (term time) from 7pm till 9pm. If you're P7-S3, come along for some Saturday night action packed fun and meet new friends - all are welcome. The SNAP team is looking forward to more games, crafts, baking and sports. Please feel free to register on the night or email: [SNAP@greenbankglasgow.org.uk](mailto:SNAP@greenbankglasgow.org.uk) for more information.

## MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy of the Session takes place on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December starting at 4pm in the church halls.

If anyone would like to be added to the WhatsApp group or to be kept informed of what's happening at this and future Messys, please send your mobile number and name to me at 07970192541.

The Messy Church dates arranged so far in 2020 are as follows: 31<sup>st</sup> January, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 24<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Lorna Preece

## FRIENDSHIP CAFE

The Friendship Cafe is open from 10am every Friday. (except the last one of the month when the Lunch club is on).

We were fairly small in number at the close of last session but big in spirit and welcome. Give us a shot and join us for tea/coffee and a blether. (No mention of Brexit – promise!)

If you would like to lend a hand, contact Blair Miller on 0141 577 5449.

# Social Events

## BURNS SUPPER

Once again we are delighted to announce that our annual Burns Supper will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January. An excellent selection of speakers has been lined up for your edification and entertainment. Tickets (priced £17) will be available to purchase from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December after morning service when Jan and Graham will be in the Fulton Hall of Friendship. You'll have to get in early as they go like hot bannocks!



# Young People's

Hi Guys,

Have you written your Christmas cards yet? I started writing mine last week. I've already done two! Perhaps I'll be finished by this time next year! When my children were at school they sent cards to everybody in their class at school. They used to compete to see who got the most back! Do you still sent Christmas cards or is it all done through Facebook or text messaging now? I don't know, but this is my Christmas message to you. Hope you all have a very merry Christmas, get everything you hope for and maybe a few things you don't!! See you next year

Al the Ed



## FIND THE WORDS

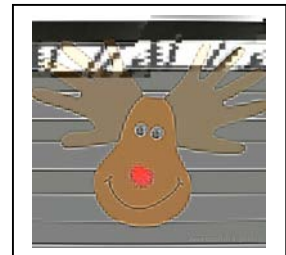
Christmas cards robin postman message  
merry greetings family friends charity  
stamps shilling

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c a f r o b i n c t  
s a m e i l s h p i  
y p r t e e r i i r  
r i m d s i n a t a  
r n a a s o g d i h  
e d i t t e p o s c  
m d m e s s a g e e  
h a g n i l l i h s

## HOW TO MAKE A REINDEER CHRISTMAS CARD

### What you need:

brown paper  
white card  
glue  
felt pens or stick on eyes  
pom-pom for the nose



1. Place your hand on top of brown paper and draw round it twice
2. Cut out a pear shape from remainder of brown paper to make reindeer face
3. Stick onto white card.
4. Stick on or draw on eyes, nose and mouth.
5. Write your greeting on the back

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Hope you all have a great time and don't eat too much cake. Naomi Ramsay, Harry McGowan, Martin Gall, Rory Hood, James Houston, Cameron Mitchell, Jill Carswell, Allison Preece, Jaime Stewart and Euan Dunnachie.

## WHITELEE'S WINTER WONDERLAND (£10 per person, under 3's go free. )

Join Santa at the Whitelee Winter Wonderland for a special experience. Get crafty where the whole family can make a festive decoration for the Christmas tree and then join Santa for a tour of the Windfarm to get up close to the wind turbines. After the tour it is back to the Visitor Centre to warm up with a hot chocolate and festive treats with Santa and Mrs Claus in the Exhibition Area. All children will also receive a small gift from Santa. **24<sup>th</sup> & 30 November, 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8th December 2019.**



The long awaited Star Wars film appears on screens in December. Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker also known as Episode IX will first be shown on the 19th December. In the immortal words of Darth Vader, the circle is complete. The surviving Resistance faces the First Order once more as Rey, Finn and Poe Dameron's journey continues. With the power and knowledge of generations behind them, the final battle commences. Release date: 19 December 2019









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**Joiner - Clarkston**

Photo by Mr Reid



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# News and updates

## ED LINES

Hi Folks,

Well Christmas is upon us once again. It seems to be coming earlier every year. I have had to be more organised this year than in the past. The whole of November was taken up with the preparation for Andy's wedding to Emily. We also had a holiday booked for the end of November and knew we wouldn't be home till the beginning of December. So, with that in mind, I started writing my Christmas cards. Fortunately, the cards have been in the shops since the beginning of October! Cards picked, I started to write them. I checked my Christmas card list. My mum used to have one which she ticked when she sent a card and crossed when she received one back. If she didn't get one two years in a row, that was it, you were off the list!! I'm not quite of that ilk. I like Christmas cards. I like writing them and I like receiving them. We get so much rubbish through our letterbox that to get a joyful greeting makes me smile. Some people have cut back in sending cards and instead send the money they would have spent to charity. That's great for the charity but I feel they're missing out. As I read through my address book, I see the names of family and friends no longer with us, neighbours that have moved away or friends I rarely see. This brings back memories that are often poignant, but happy. I write cards to people I have not seen for ages, promising, once again, to catch up in the New Year. . . hopefully next year I might. I pop in wee notes relating what my family have been up to and in many cases receive similar notes in return. I send cards to friends that I have made on holiday, which, though only a brief acquaintance, gives hope of further meetings in years to come. I send cards to people who have suffered the loss of a loved one, or to those who are going through a hard time in the hope that they will know they are being thought of at what can be a difficult time. So, even though it can be time consuming, I will keep sending my Christmas cards to my family and my friends. My acquaintances, old and new; my loved ones and those I care about, at home and abroad. I can't think of a better way to let those you care about know that they are in your thoughts. Is there a nicer way of passing on the joy, happiness and love that Christmas brings?

Merry Christmas,

Alison

**ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY  
SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY PLEASE**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THANK YOU

The Mackay family would like to thank the congregation of Greenbank for all the cards, flowers, thoughts and prayers for our late Mum, Mary Mackay who passed away on 26 September 2019.

Mum grew up in Greenbank and, apart from a couple of years when my parents moved to East Kilbride, spent her church life involved in many activities within the family that is Greenbank. From being christened to getting married, singing in the choir to joining the Guild, from the young mothers' group to the Boys' Brigade and everything in between, Mum launched her heart and soul into each event and made many, many, friends. We were all, obviously, christened in Greenbank and spent our formative years in the Sunday schools, brownies, guides, B.B, badminton and all the youth activities that were on offer. Greenbank is and always will be our family church.

We gain some comfort that Mum died on what would have been her 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary - Mary and Borthwick are together again for ever more.

Thank you,

Lyn, Stuart & Craig Mackay

### THANK YOU

Betty Ritchie would like to thank everyone who has sent her cards (she has over 50!) and visited her in her new home. She is completely overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity that she has been shown. Betty would like to wish all those at Greenbank every blessing and hope you have a very happy Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS FAIR 2019

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped at the Christmas Fair by donating items for the various stalls, giving their time to help on the stalls or by coming along on the day. Also a big thank you to those who helped behind the scenes, seeing to the designing and printing of tickets and publicity, counting the takings and John Meek for all his hard work and advice. Thank you everyone and know that your help and support has been very much appreciated by us both.

Anna Martin and Eleanor Johnstone

### POSTCARDS

Postcards are still in demand and with the huge drop in usage any postcard used or unused is put to good use.

## **GNE FOODBANK**

Greenbank congregation has been supporting Glasgow North East Foodbank for a few years now through donations and volunteers. We operate through six centres covering five days and stretching from Bridgeton to Easterhouse with Parkhead Parish Church being the hub. All are busy and all rely on donations of food. Greenbank has played its part in this by giving around 1500kg. This provides a food pack for around 214 people for 3 days. This equates to around 1900 meals. Some achievement! So the team at GNE Foodbank would like to say a great big thank you for all your help and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alex Howie

## **MEMBERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES**

The Kirk Session, at the September meeting, agreed to ask members to add their email addresses to the roll records held by the church. This will allow faster communications with members and save on postage.

The data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Could you please send an email to the church office at [greenbank.office@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:greenbank.office@tiscali.co.uk) along with your name and address to allow us to add your email to our records.

Derek Christie  
Session Clerk

## **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

Did you know we have a GDPR group? GDPR or *General Data Protection Regulation* is the much-talked regulation about data security. The new law enforces the protection of personal and identifiable information of all EU citizens by organisations operating within and outside of EU. Our GDPR group, comprising of Liz Allan, Alan Veitch and Derek Christie are doing their best to keep us safe and protect our data. So just a wee reminder that, under GDPR, if you're sending mail to lots of people you should send it to yourself and use Bcc for the other recipients so that they can't access each other's addresses.

When using email, the Church Office will not reveal your email address to all other recipients

## **BEFRIENDERS**

As many of you will know, the Befrienders group was set up to offer pastoral care to those members of the congregation whose circumstances mean that they are not able to get out very often and who would welcome a regular visit from an elder or other church member. In recent years this list has sadly dwindled away, but it is likely that there are a number of people in Greenbank at this time who would wish to be added to it.

I would appreciate it if you could let me know of anyone in the congregation who would like a visit from a befriender. Please either phone me direct or contact the church office and let Jane Mayer know. Thank you.

Jane Livingston (Tel. 586 6272)

## **LIFE & WORK MAGAZINE**

As we approach another new year, could I encourage members (or non-members) of our congregation to subscribe to Life & Work magazine through annual subscription.

Life&Work monthly 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 notable activity within the Ministry local and national.

In recommending this magazine to our congregation, I would welcome interested possible subscribers to contact me directly.

Life & Work is distributed through the good services of our church Good Neighbour team and could existing subscribers note that the annual cost is unchanged for 2020 at £2.80 per issue, that is £33.60 per annum. Payment made to Greenbank Church.

May I take this opportunity to thank all current subscribers to the magazine for their support and encouragement.

Thank you in anticipation Ian Mc Turk (638 4649)

## **LODGING HOUSE MISSION**

Lodging House Mission Christmas cards are on sale in the Fraser Hall after the morning service. Cards are £4 per pack of 10 cards. The last day to purchase cards will be Sunday, 8th December.

The Lodging House Mission will again work in partnership with Glasgow City Mission and host the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter from 1st December 2019 until 31st March 2020.

Alison Allan

## LEGACY

In a letter to all members in September I let you know that the Kirk Session had agreed that redeveloping and extending the current sanctuary building was their preferred option for the future. The letter explained that this would mean retaining the current sanctuary building, removing the pews and adding an extension on the manse side to comprise a multi-purpose hall, toilets, office, meeting areas and soft play space. The resultant building would meet our needs and provide us with a modern, fit for purpose community church complex while at the same time retaining the history and memories attached to the current sanctuary.

Affordability is of course a key issue and that is where the sale of excess land comes in. The current halls would be demolished and the land to the north of the sanctuary sold for development. This could be for flats or a residential home or a combination of both. The income from this sale plus grants and funds raised by us would go towards meeting the cost of renovating and extending the current sanctuary building.

This brief note brings you up to date on what has been done since September.

Once the decision had been taken by the Session on its preferred option, it was important to put in place a clear governance Framework. A Legacy Project Group will oversee all aspects of the work while three sub groups will work on different aspects. One group is currently focussing on preparing a brief for an architect on what the redeveloped and extended church should be like. They will look at all the various activities that take place at the moment, speak to many people involved and try as best as they can to ensure that all current and future needs are catered for. The brief is important as it is this that will guide an architect in designing the facility.

Secondly, a Fundraising Group has been established to look at the potential for accessing funds from grant awarding bodies, establishing how best the congregation can become involved in supporting the work financially and also at what fundraising events might be appropriate.

Thirdly a Development Group has been busy looking at the north site and, following a selection process, is appointing a firm to market the site. This is a firm with significant experience, and in particular substantial experience of marketing sites in the local area. They will prepare the necessary documentation and market the site to their existing list of developers and on industry websites commonly used by those seeking sites to develop.

In addition to the above, we have met with the convenors of the General Trustees, Presbytery Strategy and Innovation Committee and Fabric Committee. Also in attendance were the convenor and deputy convenor of Glasgow Presbytery's Property Committee. The importance of this meeting is of course that the General Trustees are charged by the General Assembly with ensuring all church buildings and funds are managed in the best interest of the Church as a whole and in support of parish ministry, and we will need their approval for anything we might want to do. Before that we also need the approval of presbytery. This was a positive meeting with encouragement offered by all for what we are trying to achieve. Since then various discussions have taken place with officials in Edinburgh on a range of relevant legal and technical questions.

A great deal of work still remains to be done before we are in a position to make a firm recommendation to proceed. As soon as we have detailed plans and cost estimates they will be provided for the congregation. A series of information meetings will be held ahead of a congregational meeting to make the final decision. This is likely to be well into the New Year.

Very many people are involved in the work that is being done and we are fortunate indeed to have so many willing volunteers helping. All of this is being done to ensure that there will be a worshipping congregation of God's people in our community for generations to come. In the meantime, please continue to remember this work in your private prayer and thoughts and if you think you could help in any way, or have questions or comments, then my details are on the "What's On" sheet issued with the September Good Neighbour or just drop a letter into the office at any time.

Gordon Dickson  
Legacy Project Group

## GOOD NEIGHBOUR ADVERTISING

As the year comes to a close, we are in our final phase of advertising in the Good Neighbour. I'd like to thank all those who advertised and all of you who used their services. The adverts in the church magazine have turned into a lucrative income, raising over £1500 in the last year. Traditionally at the end of each year we unfortunately lose one or two of our advertisers. With this in mind, if any of you have businesses, or know of anyone who has a business, who would be willing to advertise next year, could you contact me.

Alison Harvey 07742282870 or email [alih21@virginmedia.com](mailto:alih21@virginmedia.com)

## STAMPS

Please keep any that come your way and hand them in. As before only ordinary blue second class stamps are not wanted.

Please keep your eye open for higher value Christmas stamps. Last Christmas almost one thousand first and second class Christmas stamps came in, but only two of the higher value ones issued at the same time. Incidentally if you find yourself with nothing to do you can look for the year of issue which is now incorporated in the design of ordinary British stamps! Stamps from thirty one different countries came in last year. Duncan McIntyre



## KIRK SESSION – WHAT DO THEY TALK ABOUT?

The Kirk Session met on 4th November with 44 members attending and they discussed a wide range of issues.

**Worship:** The Kirk Session noted the busy schedule of December Christmas Services and that the church choir was rehearsing for the Nine Lessons and Carols which was taking place on the 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am. Messy Church continues to attract an average attendance of 35 children and 15 adults.

**Outreach:** The Befrienders Coordinator is keen to hear of anyone in the congregation who would benefit from a Befriender or from anyone who would like to take on the role of befriender. **If you can help please contact the church office.** The Kirk Session noted that the 90kg Rice Challenge was completed on Harvest Sunday with all the bags of Kilombero Rice sold and in doing so supporting Malawian rice farmers. A report was also received from Lodging House Mission where Greenbank's Harvest Gifts were delivered, and where Greenbank's team will provide support for the Saturday opening on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. In addition reports were also received from GNE Foodbank, Williamwood House, Clarkston Churches together, and Clarkston Community Choir which is holding the Christmas Carol Concert on 1<sup>st</sup> December in Langside Church and 7<sup>th</sup> December in Greenbank.

**Finance:** The Financial Position was updated and it was noted that Offering Income had decreased by 2.6% for the 42 weeks to 20<sup>th</sup> October which was a slight improvement on the September position. Fabric expenditure for the current year totalled £25,111. Total costs incurred in the year to date for the Legacy project amount to £8,794. Since the last report contributions have been received from the 1<sup>st</sup> Clarkston Guides, Mother and Toddlers, Friendship Café, Lunch Club, 3rdA Clarkston Guides, and Colour Circle. External organisations who use our halls continue to generate useful income towards the upkeep of our halls and enquires for new lets are received regularly. The retiring collection for the Lodging House Mission totalled £1,517. In addition the celebrations for Greenbank's 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary contributed £422 to church funds and the Community Fete/Fun Day in September brought in £470. The Treasurer submitted the Budget and salary increases for 2020 which were approved.

**Fabric:** The Property Convenor advised that Gas Safety Inspections of the Church, Manse, and Church Officer's house had been completed and passed as "safe to use". The external woodwork of the church and church halls has now been redecorated along with the wall in front of the Fraser Hall. The gutters have been repaired and it is hoped to paint these and the downpipes soon. The repairs to dampness and woodboring weevil infestation in the manse have been completed, along with some long overdue carpet replacement. Other minor repairs have also been carried out.

**Fellowship:** The Kirk Session received reports on The Guild and Time Out which have healthy numbers attending and an interesting syllabus for the months ahead. The Lunch Club is fully staffed, and the Friendship Café, which meets on a Friday between 10am-12noon, offers new guests a warm welcome for tea and a chat. It was noted Greenbank is manning a tea tent at the Very Merry Clarkston Christmas event on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Youth:** The Kirk Session received a report from the Chairperson of the management committee of SNAP. This club is for children in P7 to S3 and is run by a management committee, volunteers and young youth workers – a new coordinator is still being sought. To date SNAP has been allocated 2 funding grants from the Church of Scotland and the Youth Club has been successful in securing fundraising from the local Co-op. Using a Co-op card 1% of the cost of Co-op products could be donated to SNAP. Tackling the social isolation and loneliness of young people in our area was highlighted as a success for the club as was the forming of senior SNAP for S4's wishing to remain in the club. The 1<sup>st</sup> Clarkston Brownies are doing well with a full pack and a waiting list. The 1<sup>st</sup> Clarkston Guides have 30 girls and 2 leaders and 3 young leaders and have a waiting list. Jam has 15 young people currently on the role with 8-10 attending every week. The Children and young people who attend Sunday Club continue to enjoy and respond well to the lessons and activities that "Spill the Beans" resources provide. Numbers in the Sunday Club Squad for P5-P7 and in Trailblazers for 3 year olds to P4 are lower than normal which is giving some cause for concern and was discussed at the recent Sunday Club Leaders' meeting. All Sunday Club and JAM staff are looking forward to working together with the children and young people during rehearsals for the Nativity Play to take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Legacy:** The Kirk Session received an update on the Legacy Project, details of which can be found elsewhere in Good Neighbour.

**Other Matters:** The Kirk Session dealt with a number of administrative matters including the following:

The Stated Annual Meeting will take the format of last year and be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June after the morning communion service.

A letter was received from Calder Watson asking to resign from the Kirk Session after serving as an Elder for 50 years. The Kirk Session accepted his resignation and transfer to the Retired List and the Moderator expressed her gratitude for Calder's many years of service.

Approval was given for the Elders' Coffee morning to be held in March 2020; new duty rosters for offering teams were distributed, as were Freewill Offering Envelopes for Elders to deliver to their districts.

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

## LONG SERVICE ELDERS

At Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, six of our elders received Long Service Certificates: Ian McTurk and Calder Watson for 50 years' service; Liz Allan, John Baird, Ron Livingston and Betty Ritchie who have each served for 30 years. Massive congratulations and thanks to them all. Here's a wee bit about them and what they've accomplished over the years.

Ian McTurk was a deacon at Sandgate Church in Ayr before being ordained there, as an elder, in 1969. He left there in 1971 and joined Shawlands' Cross, where he was finance convenor for over 20 years. He was a district elder with 35 parishioners in his area. Ian was admitted to the eldership of Greenbank in 2006. As well as being a district visitor, he has been Life and Work distributor for over 10 years. His wife Aileen, daughter Alyson and grandchildren Hannah and Lindsey are of great support to him.

Liz Allan was ordained in Greenbank in 1989. She has two children, Sheena, and Robert and four grandchildren. In Greenbank she has been a Sunday School leader, District Elder, Convenor of the Outreach Committee, choir member and choir secretary and has helped with several youth clubs and summer mission.

Liz comments: "My late husband, Bill, was also a Greenbank elder and through him I also became involved in Kwenderana group activities and Age Concern Eastwood fund raising. I think my involvement with the Church without Walls initiative under Gordon Hamilton's leadership was the most satisfying. I believe the work of that group moved us on to becoming a more outward looking church. My biggest personal satisfaction in church comes from singing in the choir. As a lone voice I'm pretty average but with others I can be part of something beautiful. It's a bit like being a Christian - on your own: very nice - as part of God's community: a powerful force for good".

John Baird was ordained in Greenbank in November 1989. He is married to Christine and they have two boys, David and Alistair. He also has a grandson, Josh. John has been a visiting elder for four districts in his time. He was also on the new members committee giving a warm welcome to anyone new coming to the church. His biggest role, and one that gives him most satisfaction was as B.B. Captain. He still sees many of the boys that he helped through their formative years.

Ron Livingston was ordained as an elder in Greenbank 30 years ago, which he reliably informs me was 1989. Being a maths teacher he'd know! He has had many roles in the church: Bible class teacher, Outreach Committee member and the Session Clerk of our church for 5 years. He has been a district elder for many years and is also currently the representative for Scripture Union and Christian Aid. Ron was also on the panel of Greenbank's Got Talent as Greenbank's very own Simon Cowell. He is in the Worship group and leads us in worship as a very able stand in for Jeanne. Ron's greatest satisfaction comes when he is helping the wider community.

Betty Ritchie was ordained into the eldership by Dr Stewart in 1989. Her husband Ronald was also an elder. She has two sons, five grandchildren and a great grandson. Betty started her church life in Croftfoot where she led the Sunday School. When the family moved to Clarkston, she joined Williamwood Church before moving on to Greenbank. Betty's role was to co-ordinate lady visitors and organise visits to parishioners, a role which she very much enjoyed.

J Calder Watson was ordained in October 1969 at Croftfoot Parish Church, a busy thriving church, where Calder was a district visitor. After he had a career move, he, and his family moved to Kirkliston, a smaller church, in which his services as a district elder were not required. They returned to Glasgow in 1989 when he joined Greenbank and became an elder for Busby, Carmunnock, Thorntonhall and Waterfoot. As a district elder for 35 years he feels privileged and fortunate to have served in two very different communities. Calder describes his role as a district elder as a humbling and rewarding experience. He extends thanks to everyone he's met throughout the journey.

## FLOWER LIST FOR DECEMBER 2019

	Communion Table	Centenary Chapel	Side Windows
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Marie Foster		
8 <sup>th</sup> December		Vera Reid	Mrs Spelman
15 <sup>th</sup> December			
22 <sup>nd</sup> December			
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Alan Johnston		

Please note:

The Flower Lists for 2020 are on the transept windows and you are invited to put your name and telephone number on the list at the date of your choice. A member of the flower committee will contact you in the week prior to this date.

Elizabeth Cross (638 5162)

## **223<sup>rd</sup> GREENBANK BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY – 95<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

As many of you will be aware the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion dinner of the 223<sup>rd</sup> Greenbank Boys Brigade Company was held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at the Redhurst Hotel. A total of 127 attended the event. Most of those were ex-members of the company plus special guests, a number of "friends" of the company and the current officers from the various sections. I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of them for attending and for making it such an enjoyable and memorable occasion. The age range of our ex-members attending was considerable, from one group who were in the company during the 1960's to the group of Queen's men who left the Company Section in May 2018. One thing that really struck a chord with me was the enduring friendships within the various groupings, which were originally forged during their time as boys in the 223 and are still going strong today. This was also the message which came across at the Youth Service in church the next day, when Jeanne asked three of our ex-members how the Boys' Brigade had helped to shape their lives.

On the morning of the dinner the customary football match between a mixture of younger and older boys was held, with a total of 30 taking part. The score was immaterial and I was reminded of an oft made comment from one of our fondly remembered past captains, Bill Bannister, that "it was not the winning that was important but the taking part". There are a number of ex-members still defying the years and taking part in the football match and I thank them for continuing to support this fun event.

Our thoughts now turn towards our Centenary celebrations which will take place over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024. This will be a major milestone for our B.B. company and more news on the planned celebrations will be shared nearer the time. We are continually looking to increase the number of ex-members on our mailing list, so if you know of any relative or friend who was in the 223<sup>rd</sup> Greenbank B.B. company, please pass their details to John Meek ([john.meek@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.meek@ntlworld.com)).

Chris Adam  
Chairman, 223rd BB Company Ex-members Association

## **BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB**

All our students have been preparing for their gradings at various levels/grades and we have some students who are going forward to the Association Grading.

We have had more students working towards their coaching qualifications which will support our club as the numbers continue to grow.

A recent article noted Karate is one of the best activities you can choose for your children. It offers skills that last a lifetime and an opportunity for continuous learning and development. Kids who practice karate have excellent focus and develop useful self-defense skills. The martial art keeps them fit and enables them to thrive within a community of strongly bonded friends.

We will have a new intake of students in January and would encourage anyone of any age to join our great club and start their journey- even if you would like to come along for a taster session.

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 Elliot, Bushido Karate Association Chairman

## WHO DO YOU THINK THEY ARE? (Long Service Elders)

Name? Ron Livingston  
Over 21 Yup  
Fav food Fish and chips  
Fav TV The Brigade  
Fav actor Clint Eastwood  
Fav film Jean de le Florette  
Fav music Schubert Strings Trio  
Fav joke What do you call a man  
with no fingers? Justice Thumbs!!!!



Name? Liz Allan  
Over 21 A wee bit  
Fav food Chinese  
Fav TV David Attenborough  
Fav actor David Tennant  
Fav film Back to the Future  
Fav Music Anything the choir sings



Fav joke: Why do you never see the headline,  
"psychic wins lottery???"

Name? Betty Ritchie  
Over 21 Born in 1932 so work it  
out!  
Fav food Tea and pancake  
Fav TV Maigret  
Fav Actor Judy Dench  
Fav Film Calamity Jane  
Fav Music Mozart/opera  
Fav Joke What do you call an elephant in a phone booth?  
Squashed!



Name? Ian McTurk  
Over 21 By a long way  
Fav food Roast beef  
Fav TV Animal documentaries  
Fav actor Liz Taylor  
Fav film Cat on a Hot Tin Roof  
Fav Music Pilgrims Chorus



Fav Joke The past, present and  
future walked into a bar. It was tense.

And the student Assistant Minister just managed to sneak in...

Name? Steven Owens  
Over 21 Nearly twice that!!  
Fav food Lasagne  
Fav T.V. Star Trek  
Fav actor Anthony Hopkins  
Fav music Lewis Capaldi  
Fav film Greatest Showman  
Fav joke Drummer friend had 4  
daughters. Anna 1, Anna 2, Anna 1,2,3,4



## GIFT SERVICE REQUEST

Just a wee reminder to everyone about our Gift Service, taking place this year on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Your generosity in supporting the charities we donate to is exceptional, and each charity – Church House, Princess Royal Maternity Unit and SACRO – always express their great appreciation for all that we donate. You might remember that last year, we were blessed to have Angela Molloy from Church House, give us a passionate, enthusiastic and interesting talk on all the work that goes on there, and hopefully you will bear that in mind this year when making donations. We always have a very generous amount of baby items for the Princess Royal, which is great, however last year we didn't have quite so much for either the children at Church House, nor for the teenagers supported by SACRO, and I would respectfully ask you to bear this in mind when choosing items to donate. There should be a list of suggested items included in this magazine. Thanking you all in advance for your donations and co-operation.

Helen

Howard



## SUNDAY CLUB GIFT SERVICE SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

The Sunday Club would like to invite everyone to please bring a gift on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December to help brighten up what might otherwise be a rather bleak Christmas for some children and families in our city. In the past we have had a terrific response to this request.

As before Gifts are collected for 3 groups:

1. NEW BORN BABIES & MUMS - a section within the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital cares for young, homeless or vulnerable mothers: gifts of new-born clothes for the babies and toiletries for the mother are requested. Nothing second hand please.
2. CHILDREN ages 8 to 12 - Church House in Bridgeton – specifically games and arts/crafts are requested please for girls and boys aged 8 to 12.
3. YOUTH ages 13 to 18 - Scottish Council for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (SACRO): gifts of toiletries, socks, sweets, gift cards e.g. New Look or JD Sports for girls and boys of ages 13-18 would be most appreciated please.

We know that these organisations greatly value the gifts we have been able to provide over the years. Your help will make a big difference to others.

Please bring along a **new, unwrapped** gift on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December and join the Sunday Club by placing it under the Christmas tree in the church. We thank you for your support this year and in the past.

## GOOD NEIGHBOUR CONTACTS

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Website: <http://www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk>



Great news! SNAP Community Youth Club has been chosen to benefit from the next round of the Coop Local Community Fund. The funding round begins on 27th October 2019 and closes on 24th October 2020. During this time Coop members will be able to choose SNAP as their local cause.

If you are a member, every time you buy selected own brand products and services, you can choose that 1% of the money you spend can go to SNAP. Not a member! No problem. You can join online at [membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration](http://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration) or enquire in store. Coop membership brings you benefits as well as funding for SNAP so it's a win-win situation.

Please encourage family and friends to participate too and nominate SNAP as their local cause.

Thank you.



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