


# GOOD NEIGHBOUR

December 2020



May you have the gladness of Christmas which  
is hope; the spirit of Christmas which is peace;  
the heart of Christmas which is love.

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

# Parish Register

## DEATHS

22/5/20 Mrs Mary Logan, 0/1 River Court, 203 Busby Road

31/10/20 Mr George Anderson, Lindsayfield Lodge Care Home, Rosaburn Avenue, East Kilbride

23/11/20 Mrs Maysie Fenton, Wellmeadow Lodge, Meadow Way, Newton Mearns

*"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*



In-person places for attendance at Sunday or Christmas day services must be booked in advance. Please make a reservation by email at [sundayservice@greenbankglasgow.org.uk](mailto:sundayservice@greenbankglasgow.org.uk) or by phoning Church office and leaving a message at 0141 644 1841.

The link for Sunday worship online [and for Christmas day] is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/757322655>  
Meeting ID: 757 322 655



The link for Thursday Sundown services and for Watchnight online is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85703523045>  
Meeting ID: 857 0352 3045



Online worship can be accessed by telephone by dialing +443300885830 or +44203415240 or +441314601196 followed by Meeting ID and the # key on the phone

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	<b>Gift Service</b>	In church and on zoom
20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	<b>Family Nativity Service</b>	(with online Nativity)
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.50pm	<b>Watchnight Reflection</b>	Zoom only
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	<b>Christmas Day Worship</b>	In church (must book) and on zoom
27 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	<b>Family Worship Service</b>	Zoom only
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	10.30am	<b>Family Worship Service &amp; Baptism [hopefully]</b>	In church and on zoom



Sunday services for the remainder of January will take place in church and on zoom at 10.30am and Sunday Club will take place on zoom at 11.15am.

All of these services can only be accessed through the Zoom link below:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85703523045> Meeting ID: 857 0352 3045



*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 last year's December Good Neighbour I wrote about a Rainbow Tree that was going to be created during Advent in our link building. The tree was made from bare branches that had fallen from larger trees in the manse garden. Everyone was invited to hang a rainbow coloured ribbon on the tree in remembrance of someone. What started out as bare branches soon became an array of coloured ribbons, each one remembering someone special.

The rainbow has become a familiar sight this year in windows across our community and it has become a symbol of hope during the coronavirus crisis. It therefore seems very appropriate that we have a Rainbow Tree again this year. Unfortunately, because of restrictions, it is not possible to put a tree inside the church building, but I thought we could use the very lovely laurel bush in the grounds of the church, beside the Jack McKinlay garden, for this purpose. In Christianity the laurel is said to symbolise the resurrection of Jesus Christ so it seems very appropriate that we use the bush for our Rainbow Tree.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, everyone is invited to bring a rainbow coloured ribbon and tie it onto the tree to remember a loved one who has died and/or as a symbol of hope for the future. Please wear a mask and maintain a 2 metre distance from others and please feel free to invite your family, friends and neighbours to bring their own ribbon too.

In the week leading up to Christmas the Angels that people have been knitting and crocheting, during the past few weeks, will have a brief Christmas message of hope attached to them and they will be distributed around the Parish for people to find and keep. If you would like to help distribute the Angels they will be at the link building, ready to set out on their journey, on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 10.30am to 12noon.

As we continue to face the realities of living with the pandemic my wish is that we will hold fast to the promise given to us, and this world, through the birth of Jesus Christ and know the hope and love of God with us, this Christmas and into 2021.

Yours,

### **A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to everyone in the congregation who returned their ballot paper in connection with our Legacy Project. I'm pleased to say that we received 454 ballot papers. The result was 399 for and 55 against, which equates to 88% in support of the Project.

I also wish to record my thanks to the Legacy Group whose hard work over many years has brought Greenbank thus far. The result of the voting means that much more work now needs to be done. As this planning and fundraising progresses and we move on together, the support and prayers of everyone in the congregation will be vital to making the dream of sustainable worshipping congregation of God's people, here at Greenbank, a reality in 2021 and beyond.

Jeanne



### **GREENBANK CHRISTMAS ANGELS**

Thank you to everyone who has been knitting Angels for distribution in our Parish during December with a Christmas blessing attached to them. The Angels will be blessed in church before setting out on their journey. Completed Angels should be placed behind the Manse storm doors by Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. If anyone would like to help with the distribution please contact Jeanne at [jroddick@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jroddick@churchofscotland.org.uk) or tel. 644 1395.

### **SATURDAY MORNING [BREAKFAST] BOOK CLUB**

The final meeting of the Saturday Book Club this year will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 9am when we will be reflecting on chapter 5 of *Rewilding the Church* so you'd better get reading! *Rewilding the Church*, by Steve Aisthorpe. The first meeting in the New Year reflecting on chapter 6 will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Whether you have read the book or not – anyone is very welcome to come along and join the discussion. The meeting ID is: 87333544421.



# Prayer Diary

'The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,  
But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.  
"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight.  
There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.  
I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,  
Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.  
I will visit each household before the first light;  
I'll cover the world and all in one night.  
With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,  
Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.  
To get in the house is the difficult part,  
So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.

My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.  
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.  
I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.  
I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.  
I can do all these things Lord, only through You,  
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.  
All this is to honour the birth of the One,  
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.  
So to all of my friends, lest Your glory I rob,  
Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job.'

(Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve, Warren D. Jennings)

So here we go into the last month of the year, a year the likes of which none of us have ever seen, and we're still wearing our masks and cleaning our hands and keeping our distance.

Even Christmas, traditionally a time for families to come together, will have to be different, and I ask you first of all to remember everyone who will have to spend it alone. Of course, some people are always alone at Christmas, and some don't even have a roof and walls for shelter and warmth, so please hold them in your prayers as well.

'Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus; that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen' (Robert Louis Stevenson)

The ripples from the pandemic are only just beginning. Please pray for everyone who has lost their job or is going to be unable to keep their business running. Pray for those who are struggling to keep food on the table, and ask that those who have, will be generous in helping those who have not., and pray for the many people who have been left with ongoing health problems from the virus, that ways will be found to help ease their symptoms.

Keep in your prayers every country - all of us suffering loss and hardship. Pray that governments will do their best to help everyone, and that they are ready to learn from each other what works best. Pray that the vaccines that have been developed will work well, and that once ready they will be distributed fairly and quickly.

Say thank you for all our NHS workers who have toiled through this crisis, who have shouldered the heaviest burden of the pandemic, whilst still dealing with all our other illnesses as well. And also give thanks for everyone who has helped those around them in any way.

Pray for Greenbank, that our plans for the future will meet His approval and prosper. And pray that it will not be too long before we are able to gather together again.

Pray that many will find time in a quieter Christmas to discover its true meaning. That families will draw closer rather than argue and fall out. And pray that the new year will indeed bring better things.

'...the Lord says, "Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already - you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

May each of you feel the peace and joy of Christmas and feel able to count your blessings.

'Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year.' (Anonymous)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you need prayer for yourself, a loved one or a friend requests can be sent to our Minister, Rev. Jeanne Roddick at JRoddick@churchofscotland.org.uk or the Church Secretary at office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk Alternatively, you can phone our Prayer Promoter, Gillian Foy. Those for whom prayers have been requested will be prayed for throughout the following month by members of the Prayer Group.

Gillian Foy (0141 638 6245)

## TRIBUTE TO TOM McMEEKING

Read in Greenbank Church on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

Tom McMeeking, one of our elders, died on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.

Tom was born in Clydebank in 1938 where his father, also Tom, worked in Singers. As a baby he and his mother, Agnes, known as Cissie, were evacuated to Portpatrick to stay with a relative. After the war the family moved to Croftfoot where Tom attended Croftfoot Primary and King's Park Secondary schools where he was a member of the football, rowing and cricket teams as well as captaining the golf team. It was at school he met his lifelong friend and future best man, Bob Crosbie. He also joined the 95<sup>th</sup> Boys' Brigade Company at Cathcart Old Parish Church.

Tom met his future wife, Joyce, at her staff dance in 1958 and they were married in Kenmuir Church, Mount Vernon, on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1963. After their marriage they set up home in Ilford where Tom had secured a job with the National Westminster Bank. It was there that Jane was born before the family moved back to Glasgow in 1967 where Shirley was born. Tom's career with the Royal Bank of Scotland followed, beginning in St Enoch Square and ending in Trongate where he was Branch Manager. After he had retired from the bank several colleagues approached Jane and Shirley and mentioned that Tom had been the best boss they had ever had.

Shortly after their return to Glasgow the family moved to Shawwood Crescent, Newton Mearns and attended Mearnskirk Parish Church where Tom was ordained as an elder in 1971. He participated fully in the life of the church as a District Elder and Bible Class teacher, putting his piano skills to good use accompanying the Bible Class's singing. On moving to Glendoune Road in 1976, Tom and Joyce transferred to Greenbank Church where Tom was admitted to the Kirk Session, became a District Elder, Assistant Treasurer and was involved in the financial side of the Centenary Celebrations in 1984 and the campaign to build the Link building. Tom was also the Kirk Session's Presbytery Elder for a time and Jeanne recalls that he had a knack of making reports of Presbytery meetings sound more interesting than they often were.

After retiring in 1991, Tom lectured briefly at Caledonian University on banking before becoming bookkeeper/finance man in his brother-in-law's building business.

Tom was the epitome of the term "family man". He adored Jane and Shirley and was delighted to welcome with great love and affection first Rolf and shortly afterwards Klaus, into the family. When both couples started married life in Germany, Tom and Joyce continued to be supportive from a distance but were overjoyed when the Mayer's and Billes's decided to return to Scotland. For Jane, Shirley, Klaus and Rolf, Tom always offered a listening ear. He adored his seven grandchildren who all have their own fond and collective memories of him and of the many happy holidays on Bute. He was a generous and supportive Grandpa who was very proud of all their achievements.

When Joyce died four years ago the family were concerned that Tom would give up. However he managed to find meaning in life and was great fun to be around, participating in the Colour Circle in Greenbank and attending several other church groups for coffee and friendship.

Tom lived life in a spirit of generosity and kindness. He was a gentle man and a gentleman who was prepared to give people the benefit of the doubt and was content with what life afforded him. Today we give thanks to God for the life and service of Tom McMeeking and commend Jane, Shirley and the wider family to the love and care of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to our caring friends at Greenbank for the kindness shown to us since the passing of our dear dad, Tom McMeeking. We have felt hugely supported in a very tangible way, which has meant a great deal to us both.

Jane Mayer and Shirley Billes

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO CHURCH?

If you wish to attend a service please book a place for Sunday mornings as the congregation is still restricted to 50 people. To book please complete the online form at: [www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk/worship-booking](http://www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk/worship-booking)

**Please note that the service on 27<sup>th</sup> December will be on line only.** If you do not have email, please write, stating your name and the names of those wishing to attend with you (max 3 others) with your telephone number and the date/s you wish to attend. The letter should be sent to the church office. Unfortunately, masks still have to be worn for the duration of the service, singing is still not allowed and speaking the Lord's Prayer is not permitted.

If you or any members of your family have any Covid-19 symptoms you must not attend church. Similarly, if you are required under Scottish Government regulations to self-isolate, do not attend church.



# News and Updates

## ED LINES

Hi folks,

.....and then it was Christmas.

An angel from the Lord appeared  
"Joseph, there's nothing to be feared  
Mary she will bear a son,  
He will be the Holy One"  
And then it was Christmas.

2020, a year like we've never seen.  
A world pandemic, Covid 19.  
Been locked down, furloughed and quarantined  
And now it is Christmas

Shepherds tending to their sheep  
Were awoken from their sleep  
Don't be afraid, don't be forlorn, in David's town a  
child was born  
And then it was Christmas

Nurses, keyworkers gave their all  
Stay in, stay safe, save lives was the call  
As we watched and waited for the "R" rate to fall  
And now it's Christmas

This Christmas will certainly be different from the ones we have known before. I was chatting to young Jessica Martin recently. She was most concerned. There won't be any Christmas parties, the Nativity play is on Zoom but her biggest worry was that there wouldn't be a "Pink Flamingo" service. Yes, things will certainly be different. Family gatherings round the Christmas dinner table may be limited and New Year celebrations will be a No-no. But instead of fretting over the things we can't have, we should be focusing on the things we do have. If we have a roof over our heads, we should be thankful. If we have food on the table, we should be thankful. If we have family and friends to love and support us, we should be thankful. And we have the Love of God, for which we are thankful.

Yes things will certainly be different this year but hopefully next year will be different again. Things will have improved: there will be a vaccine and Jessica Martin will have her "Pink Flamingo" or as we know it the Christingle Service. Now that will be Christmas.

Merry Christmas,  
Alison

Wise men travelled from afar,  
Following a guiding star  
All the way to Bethlehem, with gifts for Jesus, Son of  
Man.  
And then it was Christmas.

Scientists, doctors worked through the night,  
To find a cure and save us from our plight,  
Good news! A vaccine is in sight.  
And now it's Christmas.

Born in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
God sent His son, to show us how to cope.  
Strength for today, for tomorrow there's hope.  
Now **that's** Christmas.

[Alison]

**ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY  
SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY PLEASE**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DON'T BE A COUCH POTATO!

Lorna Preece runs a Mind and Body Class every week on Zoom. If you feel you are becoming a couch potato then this is for you.

You can sit or stand while exercising and finish with some meditation. You will feel really good afterwards.

If you would like to join us please contact Lorna at [lo.preece@btinternet.com](mailto:lo.preece@btinternet.com)

Come on get out of that chair!!

Aileen McKinlay

A BIG THANK YOU TO...Bushido Karate for stepping up and delivering a large number of Good Neighbours over the last few months over a wide area out-with the parish, to those without email. Also thanks to them for their continuing help with Greenbank's Sunday Donations Trolley for Lodging House Mission.

District Visitors who feel comfortable doing so will resume their delivery duties this month.

THANK YOU FROM... The Lodging House Mission

A note of appreciation was presented to Greenbank from the Lodging House Mission for Harvest donations of £350 and for the faithful support of their work.

## KIRK SESSION – WHAT DO THEY TALK ABOUT?

The Kirk Session held a virtual on line Zoom meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November with 55 members attending and they received updates on a range of issues.

**Worship:** The Session noted that Zoom services were continuing each Sunday alongside Sunday morning worship in the church. An appeal was made for volunteers to help with the zoom camera operation in the church and to assist in checking the sound quality in their home on a Sunday morning. A Reflection Service at 7pm each Thursday on Zoom had started and had been well attended.

Attention was again drawn to the Saturday Morning Breakfast Book Club which meets on the first Saturday of each month – see elsewhere in Good Neighbour for the Zoom Link. Messy church had a small but successful Zoom meeting in September and another was planned for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November with a Christmas theme.

**Outreach:** The Glasgow North East Foodbank has resumed normal opening times and there have been continuous food donations and sufficient volunteers to handle them. The Lodging House Mission remains closed but work is continuing with volunteers and other agencies to provide food and toiletries to those in need who have been housed in temporary accommodation. Thanks were expressed for those who donated to the Harvest Appeal. Sample Christmas Cards in aid of the Lodging House Mission are on display in the Fraser hall window next to the link building and can be ordered online.

**Finance:** The financial position was updated and it was noted that Offering Income had decreased by 4% for the period to 18<sup>th</sup> October. Due to the high proportion of offerings made by standing order the impact of the coronavirus had been mitigated affecting only weekly freewill and ordinary offering income. Fabric expenditure for the year to date totalled £4,795 and Legacy Group expenditure for the current year was £25,980. Since the last report there have been contributions from 1<sup>st</sup> Clarkston Brownies of £500 and Clarkston After School Care have contributed £2,275. Lodging House Mission collection amounted to £230 but this excluded donations by members who gave directly online. Lorna Preece's fundraising activities for church funds had also raised £114 to date.

The Treasurer presented the Budget for 2020/21, which was prepared on two different scenarios, a) the Kirk Session and Congregation approved the Legacy Project and b) the Legacy Project was not approved. The Kirk Session approved the Budget.

**Fabric:** The Property Convenor advised that new taps had been installed in the hall toilets along with some essential plumbing work. The underground drainage work at the manse had been carried out but despite this water continued to seep onto the church path and investigation work was continuing. Some of the LED lights in the floodlights had been replaced so they could be lit up in red for Remembrance Sunday as promoted by Poppy Scotland and work was in hand to repair the floodlights at the rear. The joists supporting the floor, which hold the bell in the church tower, were worn at the edges into the stonework and immediate action had been recommended to support them. An estimate had been obtained for under £500 and the Kirk Session approved this work. The convenor thanked Alex Howie and Bob Bulloch who had painted the railings outside the front of the Church.

**Fellowship:** The Fellowship Coordinator encouraged Elders to identify district members who would benefit from a Befriender's visit. The Burns Supper would not be taking place in the Church Hall in January but no decision had yet been taken on whether a virtual event could take place. The Guild continue to keep in touch by phone and a group of 24 Greenbankers are involved in East Renfrewshire's exercise initiative – Beat The Street.

**Youth:** Sunday Club and Jam continue to meet online each week. 1st Clarkston Brownies has been meeting on Zoom & 3<sup>rd</sup> A Clarkston Brownies and Guides have been meeting outdoors. The Session was advised the Co-op community initiative had raised nearly £1,000 for SNAP Youth Club.

**Church Reopening:** The Session Clerk reported that the Church Officer had resumed part time working and the Link Building was now open 9am-1pm, Monday to Friday for deliveries and collections. The Reopening Committee had met in late September and unanimously decided to keep the halls closed at this time and review the position at the end of November although it was unlikely any change in the position would be made before January at the earliest. Organisations had been advised of this in early October. The only exception was for Clarkston After School Care, which was permitted to continue.

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

**Christmas Services:** The Moderator advised that she proposed to have a Christmas Eve Zoom Watchnight Message from the church with no congregation present and a Christmas Day Service at 10.30am with a congregation present and on Zoom. The Moderator also reported that Christmas angels were currently being knitted by various people connected to Greenbank. Each will bear a Christmas message. The idea will be to leave them in various places in the community for people to find in the week leading up to Christmas.

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

The Gift service will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> December and arrangements for leaving gifts in the link building were advised. It was confirmed that the Sunday Morning Duty Rota would continue in the present format into 2021 and an appeal was made for younger volunteers. Thanks were expressed to existing volunteers.

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

## B.B. CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

As many of you will know, for many years now the 223<sup>rd</sup> Boys' Brigade have provided a Christmas card delivery service within the Greenbank Parish.

This year the company propose to continue to provide this service although we would ask that it is accepted that due to ever-changing Government guidance, the delivery service may be subject to change at short notice and cannot guaranteed.

Card collection is normally facilitated through placement within the B.B. post box placed in the sanctuary foyer during Sunday Service. This year due to the restricted Sunday service attendance, we would ask that if you wish to use the service, card collection will be as follows.

**Collections from Sat 28th November to Wed 9th December to**

**B.B. Post Box** – Located at entrance to Link Building (**9.00am to 5.00pm only**)

Through the door of the following officers:

Bobby Bisset 11 Knollpark Drive (Anytime)

Iain McCulloch 12 Knollpark Drive (Anytime)

Gordon Campbell 89 Fereneze Avenue (Anytime)



**PLEASE NOTE, NO CARDS TO BE PLACED THOUGH THE CHURCH OFFICER'S DOOR**

It is proposed that delivery of the cards will take place **from Sunday 13th December** and in time for Christmas.

All enquiries should be directed to Bobby Bisset: 223boysbrigade@tiscali.co.uk

## GREENBANK CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE

The church face book page is a valuable source of information. There are often daily updates there. If, like me, you do not use Facebook or have a personal Facebook account, you can still access the church Facebook page. To do this, visit the church website at [www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk](http://www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk) Scroll down to near the bottom of the home page, where you will see the Facebook icon (a lower case f in a square). Click on this, then click on posts. You will be able to view information which has been posted there, which might include, for example, zoom links, bible readings, photographs, and requests for donations etc. I find this source of information really useful, and hope you do, too.

Alison Allan

## FREEWILL OFFERINGS DURING LOCKDOWN

Dear Friends,

Following the notice in the April Good Neighbour, a number of you have responded by remitting funds to the church, and I would like to thank you all for doing this. It is a great help to our church's finances at this time.

There are two ways in which you can maintain your freewill offerings to the church during this period:

The first, and best way if possible, is to make a direct payment into the Church's bank account, putting your freewill offering number in the payment reference box. For those wishing to do this, please email me at: [alistairsmith@ntlworld.com](mailto:alistairsmith@ntlworld.com) and I will supply you with the church's bank account details.

Alternatively, you can send me a cheque made out to Greenbank Parish Church with your freewill offering number, and I will post it into our bank with other cheques received.

Following the responses to date, I am collating these on a weekly basis and sending these off to our bank.

My address is 26 Stewart Drive, Clarkston G76 7EZ.

Thank you for your support.

## REQUEST FROM THE TREASURER

Request from the Treasurer

If the last three digits of your eight digit bank account number are 268 can you please contact me as there is a query we have been unable to resolve.

My contact details are: telephone number 0141 571 2676, or mobile 07917 711 459 or email address:

[alistairsmith@ntlworld.com](mailto:alistairsmith@ntlworld.com)

Thanks,

Alistair Smith, Treasurer

*As of yet no one has been in touch - could you please check your account number. Thank you.*



## FUNDRAISING

Dear Friends,

I'm sure you will already be well aware of how difficult charities and other organisations are finding fundraising just now and Greenbank Church is no exception. While partial lockdown still curtails some of the activities we enjoyed before COVID-19 I'd like to invite you to get involved in some virtual/socially distanced activities with all monies raised going directly to the church.

### **Mind and Body Classes**

There is an opportunity for you to join a virtual mind and body class presented by myself, a qualified instructor, on a Wednesday evening at 7pm (for approx. 40 mins). These classes help to de-stress, promote mindfulness, strengthen and relieve stiffness and can be adapted to accommodate all abilities. The cost is £6 per class and if you're happy after the first class, I would ask you to commit to a six-week block at the cost of £30.

### **Lockdown Library**

Have you run out of good books to read and maybe have a few cluttering the bookshelf that you are finished with? If you sign up to the Lockdown Library, I will email out a list of the books I have in stock weekly and if there is one you like the look of, it will be disinfected, put into a bag and left on your doorstep for you at a cost of just £2.

**Please get in touch if you have any 'good reads' in good condition, you'd like to donate.**

If you are interested in the Mind and Body classes or the Lockdown library and wish more information, please email Lorna at: [lo.preece@btinternet.com](mailto:lo.preece@btinternet.com) or phone on 0141 638 6157.

## LIFE AND WORK

After two years of no price increases, Life and Work will increase by 20p per issue to £3 per issue. Life and Work subscription will therefore be £36 per annum from January 2021 - still excellent value for money and a very good read. Please make cheques payable to Greenbank Parish Church and send to our Treasurer at:

Mr. Alistair Smith  
26 Stewart Drive  
Clarkston, G76 7EZ

Many thanks to all for your support,

Ian McTurk

### **THANKS TO IAN**

Many thanks are also due to Ian McTurk who has decided to stand down as our Life and Work Representative after over a decade.

## SUNDAY CLUB GIFT DONATIONS

Sunday Club would like to encourage you to make a donation, if you haven't already done so, to Church House, Queen Elizabeth Maternity Unit or SACRO. **This year, more than usual, these charities are relying on our support.** Please see the list of suggested items, how and when to donate, included in the article below.

Could I particularly highlight SACRO, which supports teenagers of offenders' families: they have asked for supermarket gift-cards as, in some cases, these are needed by the teenagers themselves to buy food.

Your generosity in supporting the charities we donate to is exceptional, and each charity always expresses their great appreciation for all that we donate.

Thanking you all in advance for your donations and co-operation.

Helen Howard, Sunday Club

**GIFT DONATIONS** as before are collected for 3 groups:

1. **NEW BORN BABIES** - the Queen Elizabeth Children's Hospital Neo-natal Unit cares for young, homeless or vulnerable mothers: **gifts of new new-born clothes** for the babies, and **toiletries for Mums** are requested, no second-hand, and unfortunately this year, **no hand-knitted items**.

2. **CHILDREN ages 8 to 12** - Church House in Bridgeton – specifically **games and arts/crafts** are requested.

3. **YOUTH ages 13 to 18** - Scottish Council for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (SACRO): please donate **gift cards**. **Supermarket gift cards would be particularly welcome e.g. Asda, Tesco, Morrison's, Sainsbury's**, due to the variety of goods available, and also as sadly **some young people will need them to buy food**.

Please bring your **new, unwrapped gift (gift cards in an unsealed envelope please)** on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December** to the trolley **at the Link Building between 12pm and 1pm**. We thank you, once again, for your support and generosity. Your help will make a big difference to others.

## LODGING HOUSE MISSION

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE LODGING HOUSE MISSION AMONGST THOSE AFFECTED BY HOMELESSNESS

**Donate to our Christmas Appeal:** online, through our website by clicking on the donate button at: [www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk](http://www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk) or by post making cheques payable to Lodging House Mission and sending them to: LHM, 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow, G1 5DT. We will put all your donations to good use making up emergency parcels to meet practical needs and helping to engage with those most affected.

### Food Parcel:

Approx 3 days meals, contains:

Tea and biscuits  
Box cereal and milk  
Tinned soup  
Tinned beans  
Tinned spaghetti  
Meat and fish  
Tinned mince or stew  
Tinned potatoes  
Pasta and rice  
Jar sauce  
Tinned curry

### Toiletries Pack:

Contains:

Socks and boxer shorts/briefs  
Shampoo and Shower gel  
Soap and facecloth  
Toothpaste and toothbrush  
Deodorant  
Wipes and tissues  
Face covering  
Men's: Shaving foam and razors  
Women's: Sanitary products

### Kettle Food Parcel:

These packs need only a kettle

(assumes no tin opener or crockery)

Contains:

Pots of instant porridge & plastic spoon  
Cuppa soups and paper cups  
Pot noodles  
Ring pull meat (i.e. cornbeef)/fish  
Ring pull tinned fruit  
Tea, sugar, UHT milk and biscuits

### Winter Weather Pack:

Contains:

Hat  
Scarfs  
Gloves  
Facemask  
Handwarmer

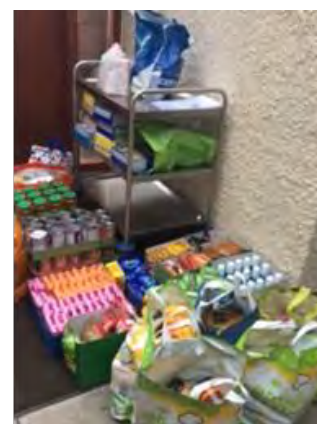
Sunday collections continue outside the Link building of Greenbank every Sunday between 12noon and 1pm.

The photo shows the items donated on Sunday 15th November.

We are grateful to all members of our congregation and community who have donated, supervised the trolley and delivered the donations.

A huge part of the donation in the photograph was gifted by a group of ten kind, thoughtful, young men, all good friends, and four of whom were Queen's men in 2013 in Greenbank's 223rd Boys' Brigade Company. Between them, the friends gathered £200, and used this to buy items which are currently requested by LHM. We are blessed to have fine young men like these thinking of others and lending their support to LHM.

Thanks also to SNAP youth club who have kindly donated the stock of confectionery and drinks from their tuck shop. Due to the current limitations on the use of our church premises, SNAP youth club has not been running, and this stock was not being used up. It will definitely be put to good use by LHM.



### Christmas Cards

Christmas cards are still on sale to raise funds for LHM. The brochure showing this year's selection was printed in the November edition of Good Neighbour, and you can see the selection on the church Face book page and they are on display in the windows of the Fraser Hall (beside the Link Building door).

Christmas cards may be obtained as follows:

1. Call Helen English at LHM on 0141 552 0285 to place an order.
2. Email [enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk) to place an order.
3. Order online at [www.charitycardsonline.com/lhm](http://www.charitycardsonline.com/lhm)
4. Post your order (using the order form printed in this edition of Good Neighbour) to Lodging House Mission, 35 East Campbell Street, Glasgow, G1 5DT

Please consider supporting LHM by buying some cards, and please place your order by **15th December** to avoid disappointment.

Thank you

Alison Allan

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Stuart Meek  
Joiner - Clarkston



Hi Guys

Bet you're getting excited already! Nearly Christmas and you're probably getting everything ready, ticking off the days in your advent calendar. One of the things I, and the other members of the church love, is watching you guys doing your Nativity Play and listening to you singing all the Christmas songs. It'll be a bit different this year as you'll be doing it on Zoom but rest assured we'll all be watching you and singing along. Christmas songs are called carols. Below are some interesting facts and figures about Christmas carols. Enjoy!

Alison

## ALISON'S CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

1. The word "Carol" means dance or song of praise and joy.
2. What's the worst Christmas present? A broken drum – you just can't beat it.
3. When Oliver Cromwell came to power in 1647, Christmas and singing carols was banned.
4. Did you hear about the kid who was scared of Santa? He was Claus-trophobic.
5. Carol singers were called 'Waits'. They only sang on Christmas Eve which used to be known as 'waitnight'.
6. What do you call a snowflake that goes up? Confused.
7. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" was written by Charles Wesley in 1739.
8. What do you call an old snowman? Water!
9. Felix Mendelssohn composed the tune for Hark the Herald, 100 years later in 1840.
10. Why did the turkey join the band? Because it had the drumsticks!
11. Carols weren't sung in churches until they were introduced by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.
12. What do monkeys sing at Christmas? Jungle Bells
13. 'Good King Wenceslas' gave alms to a peasant on the Feast of Stephen, the December 26th.
14. Who says Oh Oh Oh? Santa walking backwards!
15. Spotify + Echo found 914,047 Christmas records.
16. What's green, covered in tinsel and goes croak croak? Mistle-toad!
17. The first song ever broadcast was "O Holy Night" by inventor, Reginald Fessenden, on Christmas Eve, 1906.
18. What is white, furry and minty? A polo bear!
19. A survey in the UK in 2016, found Silent Night was the nation's favourite Christmas carol.
20. What's the difference between Rudolph and a knight? One slays the dragon, the other drags sleighs!
21. St. Francis of Assisi started Nativity Plays.
22. What's a dog's favourite carol? Bark, the herald angels sing.
23. The earliest carol, written in 1410, was about Mary and Jesus meeting different people in Bethlehem.
24. What did Mrs. Claus say when she looked up into the sky? "Looks like rain, dear!"
25. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols began in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge, it has been broadcast since 1928.



Christmas is always a good time for new movies. This year's must watch Christmas movie is **Jingle Jangle, A Christmas Journey**.

In the gloriously vibrant town of Cobbleton, legendary toymaker Jeronicus Jangle's (Forest Whitaker) fanciful inventions burst with whimsy and wonder. But when his trusted apprentice (Keegan-Michael Key) steals his most prized creation, it's up to his equally bright and inventive granddaughter (Madalen Mills) - and a long-forgotten invention - to heal old wounds and reawaken the magic within.

There are lots of Christmas films that are fun to watch even if you have seen them before such as "**A Christmas Carol**" or "**The Santa Clause**". One of my favourite Christmas films is "**Polar Express**". The other one is "**Miracle on 34th Street**". What is your fav film? What will you be watching it this year?

Hi everyone,

I can't believe it's nearly December already! It's been a very strange year because of Covid-19, but time keeps passing and the nearer it gets to Christmas, the time seems to go faster. A few weeks ago, we were told that this Christmas would be very different from our usual Christmases – and I even saw posts on Facebook saying Christmas is cancelled! That made me really quite annoyed!! Christmas is definitely not cancelled!! The reason we have Christmas is because God sent Jesus to be born to Mary & Joseph, and to always be our friend – and nobody can change or cancel that!!

Last December I wrote that 'it just wouldn't be Christmas without our Nativity Play' - a couple of months ago it looked like we might have to do without it, but we found 'God Is With Us Everywhere!' which can be filmed at home, and lots of you have agreed to be in it! I'm really looking forward to seeing it, and also all the stars and angels you're decorating.

On Sunday 13th December our Sunday Club Zoom is going to be a Christmas Activity Day, and we hope lots of you can join in the fun.

All the Sunday Club & JAM Leaders wish you and your families a Happy Christmas, and a Happy 2021. Hope you all have a great time during your school holidays.

Helen

Sunday 6th December

Sunday 13th December

Sunday 20th December

Sundays 27th December & 3rd January

Sundays 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st January

Sunday Club Zoom at 11.15am

Sunday Club Zoom – Christmas Activity Day at 11.15am

Family service with Nativity play at 10.30am on Zoom

Family Worship at 10.30am on Zoom

Sunday Club on Zoom at 11.15am

**FIND THE WORDS** Christmas carol, oliver cromwell hark herald angels feast stephen lessons silent night dance praise singers

s	a	m	t	s	i	r	h	c	d
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a	n	g	e	l	s	t	a	i	l
t	n	e	l	i	s	n	c	s	m



**HELP SANTA FIND RUDOLPH**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gosh! Lots of birthdays over the Christmas holidays. Hope you all have a great time and don't eat too much cake. Happy Birthday,

Naomi Ramsay, Harry McGowan, Martin Gall, Rory Hood, James Houston, Cameron Mitchell, Jill Carswell, Allison Preece, Jaime Stewart and Euan Dunnachie



## THINGS TO MAKE AND DO THIS ADVENT

### MULLED WINE

It is customary at the Watchnight Service to enjoy a mince pie and some mulled wine in the church halls. As this year it will not possible, here is the recipe for mulled wine that we usually use. Adjust the amounts for smaller quantities, obviously and don't forget the mince pie!

100g caster sugar  
1 cinnamon stick  
4 cloves  
1 nutmeg  
Thinly sliced oranges  
2 bottles red wine  
1 pint of water

Boil the water with the sugar and spices for five minutes.

Add the sliced orange and leave for 15 minutes.

Stir in the wine and heat slowly without boiling.

Serve very hot.

(If you want use ready-made mulled wine, it can be improved by the addition of a little sugar, sliced orange and a cinnamon stick.)

### CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

What you'll need:

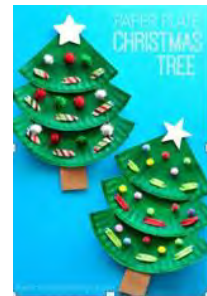
- 1.) Paper plates
- 2.) Green paint,
- 3.) Pom poms, stars, glitter for decoration
- 4.) Scissors
- 5.) Glue
- 6.) Cardboard strip

Cut paper plates into 3 different sized slices. Paint them green.

Stick them onto the card board strip, starting with the biggest at the bottom and

overlapping them with the smallest at the top. Decorate them with pom poms, glitter and top it off with a star.

You can then thread them and hang them on your tree or stick them onto card and write your Christmas message.



### ULTIMATE EASY GINGERBREAD

Prep: 20 minutes Cook: 15 minutes plus 1 hour chilling

#### Ingredients

100g salted butter	3 tbsp golden syrup
100g dark muscovado sugar	½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tbsp ground ginger	1 tsp ground cinnamon
225g plain flour	50g icing sugar

#### Method:

- 1.) Heat the butter, syrup and sugar in a small pan until melted, stirring occasionally. Leave to cool.
- 2.) Mix the bicarb, ginger, cinnamon and flour in a bowl. Pour in the buttery syrup mixture and stir to form a dough.
- 3.) Put the dough on a sheet of baking parchment, and roll the dough out to ½cm. Place another sheet on top. Put on a baking tray to keep it flat and chill in the fridge for 1 hour.
- 4.) Heat the oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Line a large baking tray with more baking parchment. Remove the dough from the fridge and cut out shapes using a cookie cutter.  
We made some with smaller stars cut out of the centre to thread ribbon through and hang from a Christmas tree.
- 5.) Place the shapes, spread apart, on the lined baking sheet, and bake for 10-12 minutes. Leave to cool completely on the baking sheet.
- 6.) Mix the icing sugar with 1-2 tbsp water – not too thin or it will run. Decorate the cooled biscuits with the icing using a piping bag with a thin nozzle.



## THE GUILD

Further to last month's intimations I'm sorry there is no good news to report. There will definitely be no Christmas Lunch this year.

It is with regret the decision has also been taken that the Guild will not be resuming at all for the remainder of this session. The committee is very sad about this but feel it is the only sensible thing to do. To obey all the rules and regulations would be very difficult. Hopefully all will be well by September 2021 and we will be able to enjoy our afternoon meetings again. Christine Baird, our treasurer, has received some Sunshine Bags proceeds but will still be delighted to receive donations.

The committee send their best wishes to all Guild members. We hope and pray that this unsettled time for all of us will soon be over and life will be returned to normal. Meantime; the compliments of the season to all in Greenbank.

Enid Dron  
Secretary



### Beat the Street East Renfrewshire

Beat the Street Game is now over. Well done to the 26 players from Team Greenbank CoS. We reached a very creditable fifth place and amassed a total of 43,950 points which works out as an average 1,690 each.

I was also delighted to win a bike from veloworld which was a very welcome but unexpected bonus.



## FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Committee regret that flowers are still not allowed in the Church. When services return to normal, the usual sheets will be placed in the transept. Anyone wishing to donate flowers should write their name and phone number in the date of their choice. Thank you.

Elizabeth Cross (0141 638 5162)

## TIME OUT

We are still keeping in touch with each other with whatever gadget and app we know how to work!!

We wish all our members and the Greenbank community a Happy Christmas and hope we can all meet up soon after the New Year.

Sharon Mitchell

## MEMBERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES

The church office now holds the email addresses of many of our members. If we have not yet heard from you we would very much appreciate it if you could spare a minute of your time to send your email address to the church office at: [office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk](mailto:office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk)

Derek Christie  
Session Clerk

## JUST FOR LAUGHS

When asked about Christmas, children give the funniest answers

What gifts did the wise men give Jesus?

William, aged 7:

"I don't know what presents they brought Jesus but a Lego set would have been better."

What animals were in the stable?

Matthew, aged 6:

"There were sheep, horses and a crocodile outside the stable."

Who was the Angel Gabriel?

Jay, aged 5:

"There was also an angel called Gabriel, whose favourite thing was to fly around all day."

Who was Jesus?

Molly aged 6:

"Jesus was a newborn king - but there were a lot of newborn kings so he wasn't the only one."

And the last one.....

Where was Jesus born?

James, aged 5:

"In a stabiliser!"

## GREENBANK OFFICE

Jane Mayer, our Church Secretary, is currently working from home and can be contacted at the new church email address: [office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk](mailto:office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk) If you have any queries about anything to do with church please feel free to contact Jane or our minister Jeanne at 0141 644 1395 or [jroddick@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jroddick@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## BUSHIDO

Our students are continuing to keep up their training via Zoom and are progressing at a great rate. Our Club is part of one of the largest Associations in Scotland - Bushido Karate Association which is part of the Scottish Governing Body which is a member of the World Karate Federation so we are in good hands as regards direction during the pandemic.

If you have heard our classes on a Saturday morning you may have heard many Kiai.

Kiai (気合?) (pronounced key-eye) is a Japanese term used in in Martial Arts which basically means "concentrated spirit".

A karate master can take out an opponent with their kiai alone (or so the teachings say). Knowing when to use a kiai, and how to properly execute and apply it are just as important as knowing the proper way to kick or punch. It is a technique just the same as a kick or punch, but just not as physical.

A kiai is done by quickly exhaling, and at the same time making a one-syllable sound. "I", "HI" and "EE" would be good sounds to use for a kiai.

The noise from a kiai involves the abdominal muscles and diaphragm and should not be sounded merely from the throat.

When done properly, the kiai does three things:

1. It empties air from the lungs.
2. It should startle your opponent.
3. Prime yourself for combat. It should "psych" you up.

Finally, Bushido Karate Club would like to wish all our friends at Greenbank Church a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to meeting up again.

Best wishes,

John Elliot

Bushido Karate Association Chairman

## **GOOD NEIGHBOUR CONTACTS**

EDITOR	Alison Harvey 638 3679 E-mail: <a href="mailto:alih21@virginmedia.com">alih21@virginmedia.com</a>
DISTRIBUTORS	Gordon & Margot Blyth 638 7646
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OFFICE	The Church Secretary, currently working from home Email: <a href="mailto:office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk">office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk">http://www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk</a>



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Minister: Rev. Jeanne Roddick. Tel: 01416441395

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Depute Session Clerk: Peter Liddell. Tel: 0141 6387870.

Church Office: 0141 644 1841. Email: [office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk](mailto:office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk)

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