

thegoodneighbour

APRIL 2024



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

Parish Register

BAPTISM

10/03/24 Emily Charlotte Gibson, Eastwoodmains Road, Clarkston

DEATHS

16/02/24 Mrs Vera Reid, The Paddock, Busby

14/03/24 Alfred Fenton, Mossgiel Crescent Busby

21/03/24 Mr Nigel MacMillan, Viaduct Road, 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 N.I.V.*

PULPIT DIARY

Sunday 7 th April	10.30am	Family Worship
Sunday 14 th April	10.30am	Worship (cover will be provided for Sunday Club/JAM)
Sunday 21 st April	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club & JAM
Sunday 28 th April	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club & JAM

LIVE STREAMING OF WORSHIP

Anyone wishing to view the service should click on the link, which is emailed to the congregation each week from the church office. The service can also be found by searching on You Tube. Once you have accessed 'You Tube' simply type in 'Greenbank Church Morning Service' and select the correct service. Please note that with live streaming there is about a minute's delay before the service is transmitted from the church to people at home. Please be patient if it is a little later than 10.30am before the service starts.

ACCESSING SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE BY TELEPHONE OR AS A RECORDING IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

SATURDAY BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is on Saturday 6th of April at 10am in the creche, just off the Hall of Friendship. We are still reading "Encounters with Jesus" written by Timothy Keller. We are now reading chapter 3, "The Grieving Sisters. Please bring a cup if you would like tea or coffee. New members would be made very welcome.

For more information, please contact Ronnie McNeill on 0141 5776503.



Dear friends

If you have been following world events you might think that there is little to celebrate: humanitarian crises in East Africa and Haiti, tensions between Iran and the USA, war in Ukraine, turmoil in the Middle East, and of course – the many social, economic and political challenges in Europe and the UK. We long for peace and justice, and for a new beginning.

During Holy Week and at Easter we remember something that happened which changed the world for ever. Jesus had arrived in the city of Jerusalem. People knew that he was compassionate, that he healed the sick and took care of the lonely and the poor, that he performed miracles and spoke about God in a way that no-one else could. But still they did not fully recognise nor understand him and the message of hope he brought. They arrested him and killed him in the most brutal way they knew how.

The followers of Jesus were afraid, and they felt all hope was lost. Yet something amazing happened. Three days after the crucifixion some of the women went to the tomb where the body of Jesus had been laid, and they found the tomb was empty. Two men in bright shining clothes appeared to them and asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised.”

We are a people of faith in what is a great mystery. Christ loved the world so much that his love for us was stronger even than death, bringing hope of new and unimaginable life for all. We believe in a God of new beginnings - that wherever things come to an end (and things do come to an end) God offers us a new beginning too. In the strength of the Holy Spirit, Greenbank Church is doing amazing things in seeking God’s purposes and new beginnings. Your Legacy Project to build for the future and re-energise the Church’s mission is just one example. We know that there is hope, and we have faith that God’s kingdom of peace and justice is coming. Even now we can find glimpses of it already among us as together we learn to live in God’s ways.

I hope that you find space to celebrate this Easter Sunday and, whatever age you may be, have great fun rolling and enjoying an Easter egg.

With love and blessings,

Rev Ruth Halley (Locum Minister)

OFFERING INCOME

Dear Friends,

I wish to thank all those who continue to support the church, whether by standing order, direct payment into our bank account, weekly freewill offering or putting money in the offering bag each Sunday.

Offering income is essential to the work of the church and any increases in offering income to Greenbank are always welcome. You may also, or instead, make a contribution to the Greenbank's Restricted Fabric Fund.

I recognise that some of us may not be able to increase their offering which makes it all the more important for those who can, to do so. For those are unable to come to church for whatever reason, but still wish to contribute financially, you may contribute by any of the above methods.

For a standing order form, or details of the church's bank account to make a direct payment, please email me at alistairsmith@ntlworld.com or write to me at the address below and I will be happy to assist. You may also post me a cheque and/or your freewill offering contribution to the address below.

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

Thank you all for your continuing support.
Alistair Smith, Treasurer.

LEGACY FUND

Thank you again to all those who continue to contribute to our Legacy Fund.

Pledges can be, and have been, made for any amount of money you can afford, and spread over a few years by standing order if that suits you better. Alternatively, a one-off payment by bank transfer or cheque can be made, and you can also donate to the project online by logging on to our church website, following the link to the Legacy Project and clicking the red "Donate Online" button.

Spare pledge and bank standing order forms are available from myself or the Church Secretary, should you require any.

Please remember that **every donation**, of whatever size, is both needed and warmly welcome.

Alistair Smith, Treasurer

Tel: 0141 571 2676 Email: alistairsmith@ntlworld.com

FLOWER LIST FOR APRIL

	Communion Table	Centenary Chapel	Side Windows
7th April	Diane Adam		
14th April	Etta Anderson		
21st April	Elizabeth MacDonald		
28th April	Eleanor Johnstone		

The flower lists are on the windowsill in the Transept. If you wish to donate flowers for the Church, please put name against the date which you want. A member of the flower committee will contact you during the week prior to your date.

With thanks,
Elizabeth Cross (0141 638 5162)

Prayer Diary

"I wandered lonely as a cloud,
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."
(William Wordsworth)

It's lovely to see all the spring flowers, poking their heads out from shady spots, or dancing in the wind; along with the fresh greens of new growth. The natural world bursts with new life in spring, and we, of course, are celebrating our risen Lord.

"He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart."
(Alfred H Ackley)

Say a prayer of thanks for all the green places. For everyone who tends a garden, for farmers growing crops, for cities making green areas in the middle of the bricks and concrete, for allotments and communal projects.

Ask for the Light to shine in the darkness of mens' hearts. Darkness which leads to hatred, envy and greed; which leads to theft, murder, war and exploitation.

Ask for healing for anyone sick in body or mind. Ask for solace for those who grieve; for hope for those who feel that they have none left; for peace for any who cannot find it.

Continue to pray for the journey that the church is on, here in Clarkston, and all over the country. Ask that the decisions we make now will make the church stronger and better able to serve the communities around us.

And, as Earth Day falls into this month, say a prayer for our planet and for everyone working towards a more sustainable and climate friendly way of life.

'We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him.' (Thessalonians 4:14)

Gillian Foy
Prayer Promoter [0141 638 6245]

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you need prayer for yourself, a loved one or a friend, requests can be sent to the Prayer Promoter, Gillian Foy via the church office at office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk Those for whom prayers are requested will be prayed for throughout the following month by members of the Prayer Group. Anyone who would like a copy of the prayer list, in order to pray for those on it, should contact Gillian.

What's On

THE GUILD

The Guild held their last meeting of the Session on 20th March. We have had an enjoyable year with good attendances every week. While things are a little uncertain for next year, we have been assured that we can meet in the church building. Further information on this will be given in the September issue of Good Neighbour. Meantime we look forward to our lunch in the Eglinton Arms on 15th May.

Enid Dron
Secretary

UKRAINE UPDATE

The Ukrainian community in this area is very settled now and most have their own homes and jobs. The children are in school or nursery and everyone is committed to learning English.

Each month a van goes over to Ukraine with items that are needed urgently or unavailable. The areas of conflict in the east in particular need food which is easy to prepare as there is often no power or fuel. Tins of fish and meat, packets of porridge, custard, powdered potato and noodles are easy to handle and transport. Food for babies is also needed but absolutely no glass bottles. Medicines for colds, flu and pain are impossible to buy and are very much appreciated. Chocolate is considered a huge treat.

The ladies here are making camouflage netting from old bed linen. They cut it up and dye it in suitable colours but they have discovered that red and pink are impossible to dye. If anyone has promised themselves to tidy their linen cupboard I know the ladies would be delighted with any sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers or table covers donated. This work is therapeutic for ladies who have left so much behind and feel unable to help.

Any donations can be left in the link building to be picked up and sorted in Church House.

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Clarkston Community Choir are back with a new session, rehearsing for upcoming summer concert on Friday 31st May, working on a great variety of classical, pop and folk songs. The choir is welcoming and inclusive - there are no entry requirements. Just come along and join in! We meet 7:30-9:30pm on Wednesday evenings in Greenbank Parish Church Halls, and attendance is free for your first week, and thereafter £3 per week. For more information you can email the choir director at: richard.scholfield@yahoo.com

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

We started a new class on **Fridays at 10.30am in GREENBANK**. A weekday/daytime class. This class is for new adult beginners but also for existing students of all grades to have additional training. The new class caters for those working from home, people who have dropped off children at school/nursery as well as those who are retired, in part time work, flexible work, on a four day week, college students with spare or taking advantage of your company's wellbeing time.

Physical and mental fitness is important at any age, but it's especially important the older we get. Exercise is scientifically proven to slow the effects of aging, prevent mental decline, and preserve our health. Learning an activity like karate, which trains you physically, mentally, and even spiritually, can transform your body and bring you a new sense of accomplishment no matter what age or fitness level.



We have our Association Black Belt Grading in May where we are putting forward three students, where they have been focusing on their training and the requirements that they need to demonstrate on the night. We have also started the grading of other students at club level.

Julia Walker from East Renfrewshire Council Culture and Leisure visited our club to present our certificate for Bronze Accreditation with East Renfrewshire Council with Active Schools.

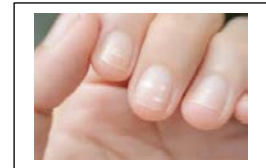
DID YOU KNOW?

The Easter holidays are a welcome break from school after the winter when we hope to get some Spring sunshine and warmer days. Sadly, this is not always the case. April is a month that is famous for its showers which means we maybe can't get out as much as we would like. After a while even TV, phones, computers a gaming get boring, so here are ten things about you, you might not know. Your mission is to try them out to see if they are true!

1. It is impossible for most people to lick their own elbow.
2. The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is believed to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language. Can you do it?
3. You cannot sneeze with your eyes open.
4. The average person laughs 15 times a day.
5. You can't hum a song while holding your nose closed.
6. You blink over 10,000 times a day or 12 times per minute.
7. It's impossible to tickle yourself.
8. Your fingernails grow at different rates. The middle finger grows fastest. The thumb is slowest. Your finger nails grow four times as fast as your toe nails.
9. You are taller in the morning than you are at night.
10. You can't breathe and swallow at the same time.



You can check out whether they are true on yourself, friends and family. Can you find anyone who can lick their elbow or tickle themselves? Take a photo of your nails when they have just been cut and then after a few days check if your middle finger nail is longer than your thumb. Get someone to help you measure your height – have you shrunk during the day? Have fun getting your friends to hum while holding their noses.



Hi Everyone,

I hope you have enjoyed our latest crafts and activities leading up to Easter and if you managed to attend church on Easter Sunday, then hopefully you enjoyed the egg hunt!

Hopefully you have not eaten too much chocolate over the holiday period. Some of you may have decorated eggs to roll down hills and Easter bonnets (hats!) to wear on your head. Lots of lovely bright colours and new colourful flowers and leaves in your gardens too.

This is a time of renewed hope which is told in the stories we learn about in Sunday Club and Jam so you can expect some more exciting activities and crafts this month.

Sunday Club & Jam Team

Dates for April/May are: -

- 31st March** Easter Sunday – Holiday
- 7th April** – Easter Holiday
- 14th April** – Easter Holiday – Cover will be provided for Sunday Club/JAM
- 21st April** – Sunday Club and Jam as normal
- 28th April** – Sunday Club and Jam as normal
- 5th May** – May Holiday – there will be activities in church for the children.

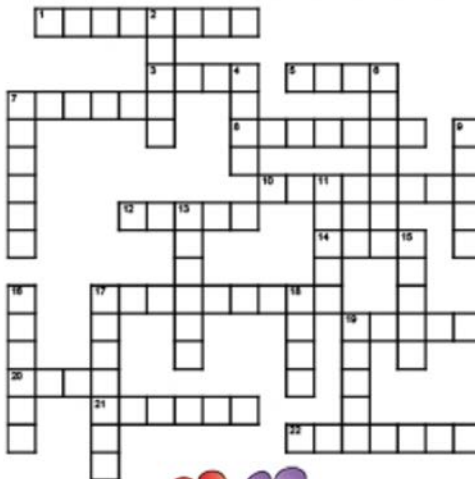
Spring is Here!

Across

1. It warms and brightens everything.
3. Warm up from a freeze.
5. They make honey.
7. Meal in the park.
8. Colorful arc in the sky.
10. It keeps the rain off you.
12. The color of spring grass.
14. Where a bird lives.
17. An adult caterpillar.
19. A baby chicken.
20. What chicks hatch from.
21. It comes after winter.
22. Red insect with black spots.

Down

2. Come out of an egg.
4. Wiggly creature that lives in the ground.
6. Short rainfalls.
7. Small pool of rain.
9. What the lawn is made of.
11. Another name for a rabbit.
13. A spring holiday.
15. Holland is famous for this flower.
16. Just a little wind.
17. Flower on a tree.
18. It is green and on a plant.
19. It might hide the sun.



Make a Bird Feeder

Now that Spring is here, we see a lot more birds in our gardens. Living near a big city we do not see as many as we do in the countryside but that doesn't mean we can't attract birds to our gardens. You could make this easy bird feeder.

You need a cup and saucer, some superglue, a length of ribbon or string and a hook to hang it from. Some bird seed would be good too.

Carefully squeeze some glue on the centre of the plate. Take the cup by the handle and attach it to the saucer with handle at the top. Thread the ribbon or string through handle. Screw the hook into a branch and hang it up. You could also just loop the ribbon over something.

BAD BIRD JOKES

- How do flocks of crows stay together? – Vel-crow!
- How does a penguin build a house? – Igloos it together!
- Why did the owl say, "Tweet, tweet?" – He didn't give a hoot!
- What kind of bird doesn't need a comb? – A bald eagle.
- Someone said you sounded like an owl. – Who?

News and Updates

CHURCH HEATING

At the end of last year, we announced that we had received a grant of £50,000 from the Church of Scotland Central Fabric Fund to help with the cost of replacing the heating system within the church. You will remember that the Kirk Session had made the decision to explore replacing the system in view of the many breakdowns we have experienced and the fact that expert, external advice had been received saying that the current system was beyond economic repair.

Since then, we have been working out exactly what would have to happen to allow replacement of the heating and how much it would all cost. The current system is based on heated water flowing through pipes within the sanctuary that run below the fixed pews, but above the floor. There are also a number of radiators positioned at various spots.

To replace this with a more modern system and maximise the space available to be used within the sanctuary, the church would need to be cleared, the pews and pulpit removed, consequential adjustment of the positioning of various electrical panels, remedial joinery work carried out, new carpeting laid and finally chairs positioned. Removing the pews and pulpit to create a flexible space for week-round use has always been the plan for the sanctuary as part of the larger Legacy Project, and doing it now just brings that forward in order to address the issues we have had with the heating breaking down.

Having spoken with, and visited, other churches where similar work has been undertaken, we have identified the various firms that would carry out the work, and the Kirk Session has given the formal go ahead. If all goes according to plan, the work would start after the June Communion and take about two months. During that time, we would still have the halls available for use on a Sunday.

An example of the kind of seats that could replace the pews are at the transept and you are invited to have a look - and a sit down. The plan would be to have half of the wooden seats with arms and half without. That would mean everyone would have access to an arm. We would also buy a number of the metal tubular framed seats in case they are necessary for more than the normal Sunday attendance.

Just as in our own personal lives, the church has to manage its limited resources as carefully as it can. Spending now to replace the heating will reduce our annual heating costs and minimise the risk of further expensive repairs to the current system becoming necessary. It also means that we open up a space for use that would otherwise lie empty for the vast majority of the week. This work within the sanctuary itself contributes to the vision of the wider Legacy Project of creating a sustainable, worshipping congregation for future generations. In that respect, we are nearing the end of very lengthy and detailed negotiations to agree the final price for the land we are selling, and once that is complete, we will be able to set out for you a timetable of what will then happen.

**ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO
GREENBANK OFFICE AT: office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk
& JILL LIDDELL AT: liddell.jill@gmail.com BY SUNDAY 13th April PLEASE**

HALL HIRE

Greenbank Church Halls are available to hire for children's parties. There is plenty of space to run around, play games and have fun. For further information, contact the Church Office on office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk or leave a message at the church office on 0141 644 1841

GREENBANK PLAYERS

Many thanks to the wonderful people who bought tickets for our production of 'Return to Grimley'. On Friday night the hall was packed with over 100 people!!

We hope you all had a very enjoyable evening with lots of laughter and some good chat with friends. Once again thank you for your continued support. It means so much to us.

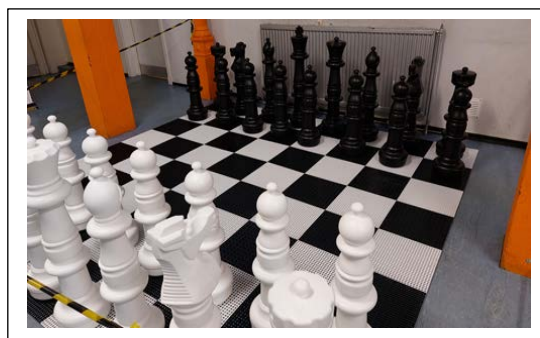


Donations for the LHM can be put on the trolley in the Link building on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am-12noon; Sundays 9.45am-11.30am. **Sugar, diluting juice and long grain rice are urgently required at the moment** as well as UHT milk, kettle foods eg pot noodles, and tinned soup. Toiletries, new boxer shorts and ladies pants and new or nearly new trainers are also needed. Clothing and bedding are not required at the moment.

Envelopes are also available for donations of money. Please complete your details on the envelope (so that Gift Aid can be claimed if relevant and your donation can be acknowledged) and either hand to me, place in an offering bag during the service or post in the letterbox at the entrance to the church halls. Please do not leave these envelopes on the trolley with the other donations. All donations are very much appreciated.

The LHM organises a programme of daily activities, which is available for everyone to see on the whiteboard in the main hall. Trips to the underground tour of Glasgow Central Station have proved to be very enjoyable. Weekly swim and sauna sessions at a community complex have multiple benefits such as improving mental health and wellbeing. The computer room has been converted to a cinema, which is fully blacked out and has surround sound. A variety of films is shown while guests relax in the reclining chairs. This is a very popular activity. A large chess set has also been installed in the main hall.

Liz Smith (571 2676)



GIFFNOCK SOUTH CONCERT SERIES

The Giffnock South Concert Series presents monthly concerts in the beautiful sanctuary at Giffnock South Parish Church, featuring a huge variety of solo performers and chamber groups from around Glasgow and beyond. Concerts take place on the first Saturday of each month from 1-2pm, and tickets cost just £5 (available on the door, under 18s free). The next event on 2nd March will feature the Willow Trio (clarsach trio) performing a live score along to a filmed ballet, weaving together Scottish traditional music with Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake, in a project entitled 'The Swan of Salen'. For more info, or to stay up to date with the concert, like the Giffnock South Concert Series page on Facebook, or send us an email to join the mailing list at: giffnocksouthconcertseries@gmail.com

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If you know of anyone who might like to place an advert in Good Neighbour, which is distributed to over 600 people in Clarkston and the surrounding areas, please contact our church office on 0141 644 1841.

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