

Greenbank Connections



September 2026

Issue 745

Scottish Charity SC011325



Uniformed Organisations Service in February. See p22

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

Online version: www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/

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Letter from the Locum



Mr Ordinary Says Goodbye

The Mr Men, then Little Misses have been making parents and children laugh since they were created by author and illustrator Roger Hargreaves in 1971. His first ever character, Mr. Tickle, was born when his son Adam asked what a **tickle** looked like.

To help illustrate talks for children I used to redraw some of his characters e.g. Mr Topsy Turvy and Little Miss Sunshine. The books were simple and engaging. Each story had one learning point so were very helpful for short child-friendly addresses. Of course, tastes change and I don't see these books being so obvious in the shops today, though they sold 250 million copies!

One of my friends at college was called Cliff Strong. He was a good cartoonist and he made much of his namesake **Mr Strong**, who was

a square figure coloured bright red. I remember going to a school assembly with him and the children were completely enthralled. They never tired of that character as he developed his friend Mr Strong's story in new and imaginative ways. In September 2026 Greenbank Church will send books to primary schools in Kenya. I wonder if one of the Little Misses or Mr Men will be included.

If you have ever read or been told these stories I wonder which Little Miss or Mr Man you would choose to be – Bump, Rush, Bossy, Happy or Brave?

In thinking about this I considered a possible new character, a Mr Ordinary. His story is that he plans to do great things but keeps failing on his own. However, with the help of Mr Clever and Little Miss Helpful he realises that his gift is inviting others to help him achieve his goals. So he invites other ordinary men and women to help him do the most Extraordinary things.

That seems like a crude summary of my ministries and of course the ministry of the people of God after Jesus invites us to become his body, hands and feet. Together, though rather ordinary ourselves, we can manage wonderful things.

This is what St Paul says of his personal experience of this in Romans Chapter 12:

Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvellously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be.

As I offer a wave goodbye I still feel very ordinary, but working with the congregation in Greenbank Church I have felt blessed and at times shared in things that felt rather extraordinary!

Thank you and every blessing on the next phase of your ministry with the lovely Emma,

Ian Y Gilmour
Locum Minister



Ian has left his mark on Greenbank's planters with his donation of Rudbeckia plants

Letter from the New Locum

We may have met already, but there are likely many people associated with Greenbank Parish Church and the local community that I've yet to encounter, so I'm delighted to introduce myself here. I'm

Emma McMillan and, following the Rev Ian Gilmour's retirement at the end of August, I will be Greenbank's Locum Minister.

The Bible reading for my first Sunday at Greenbank felt like the perfect introduction; it was **Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52**, including parables about hidden treasure, pearls of great value, new and old treasures. While these are usually understood as teaching about God's kingdom, they resonated with me for another reason, as for many years I worked as an auctioneer, jewellery, and silver valuer!

After studying Art History at Aberdeen University and Decorative Arts in Glasgow, I worked for several auctioneers, including Thomson Roddick Scottish Auctions, Bonhams, and Lyon & Turnbull. And, following redundancy during the 2009 recession, I became a self-employed consultant. Yet there was something ironic about being a valuer and not feeling valued by my profession. This prompted me to reflect on what I truly valued and



what I could meaningfully offer others.

Although I enjoyed meeting, helping people, and researching the objects they brought to auction, I became increasingly uncomfortable with the

commercial pressures of the work. So, I retrained, revived my love of singing and dancing, and for ten years combined consultancy work with leading community dance fitness classes! I particularly enjoyed working with Edinburgh Leisure's Ageing Well programme and in several care homes, so I also began running arts and crafts sessions there. These experiences brought me immense joy and a growing sense of vocation through valuing people rather than possessions.

In 2019 I briefly returned to Bonhams Edinburgh as their Head of Jewellery, covering maternity leave. Then, when the COVID pandemic brought both auctioneering and my independent work to a halt, one of the care homes I'd freelanced in invited me to become their Activities Coordinator. I accepted, and it confirmed that this was where my heart truly lay.



Friendship Club

Friendship Club is a Community Club supported by the Church. It aims to inspire and entertain with a very varied and interesting syllabus. Meetings are fortnightly during the winter months.

The Club meets at 2.00pm, starting with a talk or entertainment. You are welcome to stay for tea and biscuits where new friendships are made or old ones continued.

We begin on Wednesday 14th October with *Jaguars and More, The Pantanal Wetland, Brazil*. At the following meeting on 28th October, Roy Johnstone will talk on *Heroines of the SOE*.

Events include a Christmas Party, A Summer Tea Party and Summer Coffee Mornings. All these 12 meetings and 4 coffee mornings are covered by the annual subscription of £25 or £3 per meeting. If you are new, please come for a free meeting first.

We look forward to meeting you. Maybe you can join us for our final coffee morning which is in the Hermitage Room at **10.30am on Wednesday 16th September**.

If you would like more information or help with getting to the meetings, please contact:

David Allan

/contd from p4 *Letter from the New Locum*

By letting go of a career centred on earthly treasures, I discovered my own "pearl of great value": serving others and sharing God's love. This calling led me to the Church of Scotland's discernment process, into training for ministry, and I'm now entering my final year at New College, the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh.

Having completed my required placements to date, I'm delighted to answer the call to be Greenbank's Locum Minister, under the oversight of Interim Moderator the Rev Moira Macdonald.

Ian and I have spent August working together, and I'm very grateful for the warm welcome I've already received.

I look forward to getting to know you and discovering the many ways God's kingdom is growing here at Greenbank. May the Holy Spirit help us recognise hidden treasures, old and new, value one another as God values us, and faithfully share the good news of Jesus Christ together.

Emma McMillan

Fresh Start

For someone stepping into an empty flat or house after a period of instability, even the most basic household items can make a huge difference – from crockery and cutlery to bedding, towels and small appliances like kettles and toasters. If you're sorting through household items you no longer need, please consider donating them to **Fresh Start** and help those moving on from homelessness to make a new home for themselves.

The items you're planning to sell, give away or store in the attic or garage could help turn a bare property into a place that feels like home. A set of plates becomes shared meals for a family, a lamp helps create a warm, welcoming space for someone to come home to and a duvet becomes a good night's sleep.



If they are in good working order and clean condition, your pre-loved belongings could be the very thing that helps someone in Edinburgh find the *fresh start* they need. A full list of accepted items can be found on the **Fresh Start** website.

www.freshstartweb.org.uk/

Items can be taken directly to Fresh Start on Ferry Road Drive (see website for details) or contact me either by email or via Jackie in the Church office (447 9969) to arrange a convenient time for collection.

Eileen MacKinnon

Greenbank Church Legacy Group

Following generous legacy donations, we invited ideas on how these gifts could support the future of the church and our wider community. We were delighted to receive 92 ideas, spanning worship, ministry, families, buildings, community engagement and new initiatives.

The Legacy Group has reviewed these for impact and feasibility and is now exploring the scope and costs of the most promising proposals. We are grateful for everyone's contributions and excited about what these gifts could make possible.

Robert Young
Congregational Treasurer

Baby and Toddler Group

Thursday and Friday mornings, 9.45-11.15am

The Baby and Toddler group meet on Thursday and Friday mornings during term time in the main church hall. There are lots of super toys for the children to play with whilst parents and carers can catch up over good coffee and home baking.

The groups run from 9.45am to 11.15am and entry is via the church office door where someone will welcome you.

A healthy snack is provided for the children and a donation of £2 per family per session is invited. All children up to school age are welcome with their parents and carers. Please come along and join us. Alternatively, if you would like to be part of our coffee and welcome



team please get in touch - we'd love to have you on board.

For more information, please contact Kirsten Pink at:

toddlers@greenbankchurch.org

or call the church office on

0131 447 9969



An Open Hand

An Open Hand was established in 2021 to provide a birthday present for a child whose parents are in severe hardship, along with books for each of the family. Additionally, we provide a family bag which contains stationery and a suitable game and, more recently, we have added a mug for the parent /carer.



We are entirely volunteer-run and work with numerous organisations throughout the city which make referrals to us.

What was initially a partnership project between Greenbank Parish Church and Edinburgh City Mission became a charity in its own right in 2025. We have firm roots in Green-

bank Parish Church which strongly supported us from the outset. Full information can be found on our website:

anopenhand.org.uk

or by contacting us at:

enquiries@anopenhand.org.uk

Church Choir

The choir meets in Greenbank Church on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm from October until May to prepare music for Sunday worship, which often includes an Anthem. We also contribute substantially to seasonal music over the Christmas period.

For the service on Good Friday evening, we join with the choir of Morningside Parish; music in recent years has included Fauré's *Requiem*, and excerpts from Stain-

er's *Crucifixion*, Somervell's *Passion of Christ* and Handel's *Messiah*.

Our Director of Music is Maestro Alberto Massimo.

The choir is a friendly group that enjoys singing and is always happy to welcome new members. If you would like to join us, please contact Maestro Massimo or any member of the choir after a Sunday morning service.

Kathleen Patrick

After School Music Group

Wednesday 12th August marked the start of a new After School Music Group at Greenbank Church. It meets weekly during term time with children being met at South Morningside School at 3.15pm and walked up to the Church. It is led by Stephanie Humphreys, a professional musician specialising in working with children in the community. It aims to give children enjoyment in music and singing as part of a group. Children from other schools will need to make their own way to the Church. The group will finish at



5.00pm. There are still places available so if you wish to sign a child up, please click the After School Music Group button on the Church website or scan the QR code below.

For more details, please email:

[afterschoolmusicgroup](mailto:afterschoolmusicgroup@greenbankchurch.org)

[@greenbankchurch.org](mailto:atgreenbankchurch.org)

Frances Brookfield
Greenbank Youth Coordinator



Singing Group

This group is for adults who like singing. We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon, led by Alan Irvine, to sing a variety of songs with the emphasis on enjoyment. We sing for around an hour, and you are welcome to stay for a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. No auditions required!



There is a voluntary contribution of £2 to cover the music and the refreshments. We start back on **Wednesday 9th September at 2pm.**

For more information please email: singers@greenbankchurch.org

Greenbank Pre School

The Centenary Hall is the place to be for children aged 3 to 5. Pre School is a funded partner of the City of Edinburgh Council, with children receiving up to 1,140 hours per year of funded education and care.

We are open from 8.25am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday during school terms.

Our staff team of Early Years Practitioners is led by our teacher, Kyra Okoth, and Julie French, Deputy Manager. Our aim is that every child in our care enjoys a safe, healthy, fun and stimulating environment in which to learn and play. We give children the space to play, to discover their strengths and to explore their interests in meaningful, creative ways. We aim to share an ethos of caring, sharing and nurturing for our children and families. The staff are supported by a Management Committee of church members and parents.

Our projects this term:

- The Pet Shop
- ECO – Harvesting food from our garden, upcycling, recycling, measuring rainfall
- Measuring time



In the Centenary Hall

- Enjoying stories
- 'Who Am I?' – completing **All About Me** special folders.

We have a few vacancies for children who have turned three – further information and application forms are available on our website:

www.greenbank-preschool.org

Joan Ritchie
Chair

Pre School Management Committee



Lots of outdoor play

Greenbank Church and the Environment

Greenbank Church is a *Gold Award-winning Eco-Congregation*, committed to making wise environmental choices part of our everyday life as a church.

Through our Ethical Procurement Policy, awareness-raising and practical activities, we encourage everyone to consider the positive, sustainable actions we can take as individuals, as a church and as a community.

Throughout the year, the Eco-Group organises a range of events that everyone is welcome to join, whether you come to church or not:

Forest Church – In spring and autumn, join us for an all-age, family-friendly visit to local green spaces for fun, nature-based activities.

Repair Café – Bring along broken household items and see if they can be repaired, giving them a new lease of life and helping to reduce waste.

Seed and Plant Swaps – Held in spring and autumn, these are a great way to share plants you have too many of and take home something new for your garden or cupboards.

Keep an eye on our social media and church website for dates and details of upcoming events.

If you would like to find out more or join the Eco-Group, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch.

Karen Young
Convenor
Eco-Group



Ladies' Badminton

Wednesday mornings, 9.30-11.30am

The Ladies' Badminton Club meets on Wednesday mornings from September through to the end of May. Since the club's inception in 1988 many ladies over the years have enjoyed a morning of exercise, fun and sociable chat.

We play doubles in a relaxed and friendly manner in the Main Hall. Because there is only one court available, there is also plenty of time for chat including tea and coffee as well. Currently there is a full

membership of twenty ladies – both church and non-church members.

Susan Black



World Church Group

Launch of Peace Pole on 18th October and other plans and dates

The **Greenbank World Church Group**'s remit is to connect the congregation and parish to global issues of faith, justice, poverty and peace and how we can impact on these

For the last couple of years, we have been following the story of the International Peace Pole movement, which was started by a Japanese man, Masahisa Goi in 1955, because he was so concerned about the dropping of nuclear bombs in Japan in 1945. His mission was to spread the message – May Peace Prevail on Earth. From 1976 Peace Poles were being planted as a way to carry this message in different languages. Now there are around 300,000 all over the world, often associated with churches and other religious organisations.

The World Church Group has been working to bring a Pole to Green-

bank. We are now looking forward to its dedication on **18th October** during the Week of Prayer for World Peace. Our aim is to provide a community focus for all those seeking peace in the world. We will hold future events linked to the Pole, including something for children – all ideas welcome. Other dates for your diary – we will be serving coffee on **20th September** when we would be grateful to receive donations for the Peace Pole; and we will have our next **Fair Trade Stall on 4th October** at the end of *Fair Trade* fortnight.

We would welcome new members for the Group or to hear from anyone who is interested in what we do.

Valerie Macniven



Greenbank Badminton Club

Mondays 7.15 to 8.45pm

Join our friendly and inclusive badminton group every Monday from 7.15–8.45pm, running from September to April. We welcome players of an intermediate standard who enjoy badminton in a relaxed and social environment.

Everyone aged 18 and over is welcome. Junior players may attend when accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Cost: £10 per session.

Contact:

gillianrobinson2010@gmail.com

Brownies

162 Greenbank Brownies meet every Wednesday in Greenbank Church from 6:30 to 7:45pm. Brownies is for girls aged 7 to 10 years, and we do badges and activities from the six themes of the GirlGuiding programme. These are "Have Adventures", "Take Action", "Express Myself", "Know Myself", "Skills For My Future" and "Be Well".

Highlights from the last year include celebrating 100 years of Thinking Day with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers



from all over Edinburgh at EICC, a sleepover at South Queensferry marina with paddle-boarding and kayaking as well as lots of games and badges at Brownie meetings.

We have spaces for girls just now and are always looking for volunteers so, if you are interested in either, please contact Tracy at:

162greenbankbrownies@gmail.com

Heather (Tawny Owl)
Tracy (Fluffy Owl)

Emilia's Art Clubs

After School on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Adults on Fridays 9.45-11.45am

Friendly and creative groups where children or adults can be creative and learn new artistic skills.

Emilia McMenamin



Holiday Club 2026 – Kingdom Builders



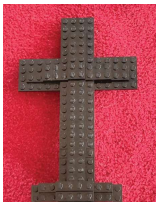
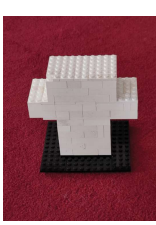
Morning Meeting



Lego at every table



insects





What do you think
Heaven looks like?

Jesus is met by Angels



Icing biscuits is always popular



Build them up!



Lunch for the leaders on Friday

Young Church

Every Sunday during the 10.30am service all year.

Young Church 1:

Play or Sleep

This group is for babies and all pre-school aged children. We have a small group of adults who will be happy to care for your child while you stay in church. For pre-schoolers there are lots of toys, games and stories.

Young Church 2:

This is for Primary School children up to P6. Children go into the church for the first part of the service then they can leave for stories, crafts and activities in the Hermitage room. We have a small but regular group of children ranging from P1-P6.

If you would like to find out more, please contact

Hazel McLachlan
Young Church Administrator



Greenbank Walking Group

The Greenbank Walking Group's first walk will be Wednesday 16th September. We meet fortnightly at 10am at or near the church, although we often use our bus passes to go a little further afield. The walks are not strenuous and always include a visit to a coffee shop along the way!

If you would like some gentle exercise and a chat with others you may or may not know, you are very welcome to join us.

Please get in touch with me for further details.

Tom Inglis



Guild

The Guild is a church-based organisation for men and women which usually meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month to enjoy a very wide range of speakers on topics as different as the *Work of Air Traffic Control*, a *Pilgrim's Journey to Compostela* and *Haggis Breeding*.

Recently we had a speaker to tell us about the progress of a Project we have been supporting in Egypt providing roofing, toilets and furnishings such as bedding to complete houses being built in a very poor community.



In the past three years we have raised £3,405.60 for Projects by donations at meetings and events and Coffee Mornings.

Meetings are held in the Braid Room on Tuesdays, at 2.30pm. We also have a Christmas party and a Summer Outing or Afternoon Tea each year. Details of coming topics are announced in *Connections* and the Weekly e-Newsletter. All are welcome. Come along to any you might be interested in and meet a friendly, chatty (very), bunch of people.

Edith Armit

Greenbank Guild Work Party

Every year our Work Party knits hats, scarves, jumpers, cardigans, knee rugs, baby blankets, twiddle muffs and bed socks. These are all gifted to the Bethany Homeless Shelter, the visitors' centre at HMP Edinburgh, The Elms, the Edinburgh Clothing Store, and the North Edinburgh Churches in time for Christmas. We are a very small, friendly group and we always need more knitters. If you would like to help, we meet



fortnightly starting on **Thursday 24th September at 2.30pm** in the Hermitage Room. If you would rather knit as an outworker we can supply yarn, pins and patterns.

Anne Oxbrow

New Gentle Yoga Class Yoga with Veronica Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30am

From September 2026 a new yoga class will be available at Greenbank Church on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30am. You'd be very welcome to come and give it a try!

Gentle Yoga is for anyone interested in movement as a way of maintaining and developing wellbeing, mobility and strength in a supportive environment. No previous experience is necessary.

Each week we start the class with a gentle warm-up for the joints,

followed by yoga poses with some kneeling, standing, and lying down, insofar as your body feels comfortable. The class finishes in quiet relaxation.

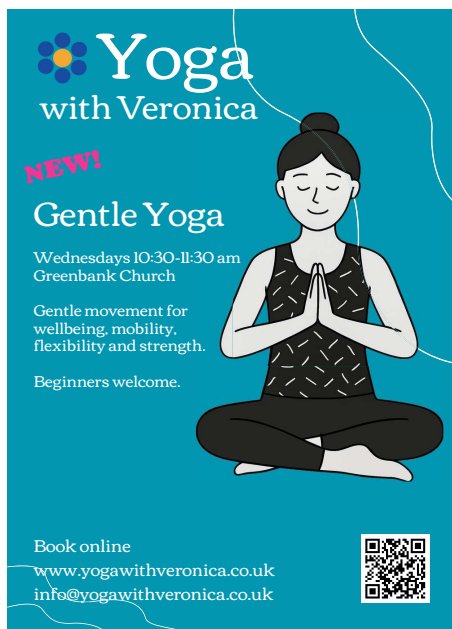
Come join us to recharge midweek! You can book classes and learn more about Yoga with Veronica at:

www.yogawithveronica.co.uk

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Veronica Lussier

info@yogawithveronica.co.uk



Yoga
with Veronica

NEW!

Gentle Yoga

Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am
Greenbank Church

Gentle movement for wellbeing, mobility, flexibility and strength.

Beginners welcome.

Book online
www.yogawithveronica.co.uk
info@yogawithveronica.co.uk



Save the Date



A SAFE LISTENING PLACE

Breaking the Silence on Domestic Abuse

At Greenbank Parish Church
Saturday 7th November 2026
9.30am–12.30pm

Come and join us to explore how domestic abuse can be addressed in our communities

For more information: www.greenbankchurch.org

To register, email:
SafeListeningPlace@greenbankchurch.org

The Information Station

You can visit us at the Information Station on the last Sunday of the month in the Main Hall during coffee time. Here you will find various leaflets and contact details for many external agencies designed to help and support.

If you have a request or are seeking information, we will be delighted to try to point you to avenues of support, especially in relation to the challenges we all face from time to time. These include bereavement, relationship struggles, caring for loved ones, long term illness, financial worries and so much more...



Please stop by and have a browse or a chat with one of our team, who are always happy to provide a safe listening ear. Our display stand with a range of helpful leaflets is always available in the corridor outside the Main Hall.

Safe Listening Place Team

SafeListeningPlace@greenbankchurch.org

Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society/RSCDS Tuesdays: 8-9.30pm

Scottish dancing is great for fitness as regular exercise helps improve your health. Our Essential Skills class will challenge you to learn in a friendly and relaxed way.

This class is ideal if you are returning after a gap or have been in one of our Beginners classes and would like to build on your skills. Our experienced teachers will ensure that you learn at the right pace ensuring that you have a happy dancing experience in an inclusive atmosphere.

Dance is a great physical activity to get you moving, building cardio endurance and boosting circulation.

treasurer@rscdsedinburgh.org

www.rscdsedinburgh.org



Mama Gives Light – Birth Yoga

Wednesdays 7-8pm

Join us for our weekly Pregnancy Yoga & Birth Preparation classes, tailored to support you during pregnancy as you bond with your baby and meet other mums.

Expect gentle but effective stretches, breathing techniques and strengthening poses to help you with any pregnancy aches and pains and to prepare for labour and birth.

We focus on flowing yoga poses and birth breathing techniques especially designed for labour and



birth, whilst incorporating pelvic floor strength and awareness exercises.

Guided relaxation techniques will help you stay calm and focused during pregnancy.

You will be safely guided by Marcela, an experienced Yoga Birth Teacher, Doula, Birth Educator, Active Birth Teacher, and mum of three, who has been teaching for 10 years.

Marcela de Leon Perez

marcela@mamagiveslight.com

mamagiveslight.com

Edinburgh Stagecoach

Tuesdays 5-8pm; Thursdays 5-8pm;

Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-4.30pm

Stagecoach students develop their Creative Courage and key life skills through singing, dancing and acting. Working with a brilliant team of professional and experienced teachers, our classes are fun, nurturing and structured to give children the best chance to shine. Running Thursday – Sundays in venues across Edinburgh (and running Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at Greenbank Church).

Tina Strong

edinburgh@stagecoach.co.uk



Arty Church

The Rev Ian Gilmour and Emilia McMenamin led a well-attended Fruits of the Spirit Arty Church in June.

Craftwork and bread making expressed the presence of the Spirit and the Trinity in everyone's life.



Making the noise of the Rushing Wind



Yoga with Syra

Tuesdays: 9.30am, 6.45pm, and Men's Yoga at 8pm

Thursdays: 7.25pm and 8.35pm

Fridays: 9.30am and 11am

Whether you're curious about trying yoga for the first time or looking to deepen an existing practice, you'll be warmly welcomed at Yoga with Syra. My Vinyasa Flow classes combine mindful movement, breath and relaxation to help you build strength, improve flexibility and feel calmer, lighter and more connected.

Every class includes options and variations, allowing you to practise at a level that's right for you while gradually building strength, mobility and confidence.

For seven years, I've had the pleasure of welcoming people from the local community to my classes at Greenbank. My aim is to create a welcoming, supportive space where everyone feels comfortable to move, breathe and explore their practice at a pace that feels right for them. I'd love to welcome you onto the mat.

Syra Fleetwood

07886 114990

srayoga@hotmail.com

Scouting at Greenbank

Greenbank is home to a thriving Scout Group (Scouts, Cubs and Beavers) and Explorer Unit. They provide adventure, new skills, friendship and community spirit to over 180 young people from 6 to 18 years.

The Beavers (aged 6 to 8) meet on Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm. Activities over the past year have included drawing maps of Braidburn Valley Park, learning to pack a rucksack and setting up pulleys across the Braid Burn (including practising knots), tubing at Hillend, orienteering, making pizza, a night walk with head torches and cooking on a campfire. A highlight was linking with a Kea group in New Zealand and making a video to send to them all about the Beaver Colony and Edinburgh. During the year the Beavers have also helped the local community by collecting three bins worth of rubbish from Braidburn Valley Park and sorting donated clothing for the Tollcross Clothing Bank.

The Cubs (aged 8 to 10½) meet on Thursdays 6.30-8pm. They have completed numerous activity badges, notably Backwoods Cooking, Entertainer, Pioneer, Scientist and World Faiths, as well as Challenge Awards for Skills, Adventure, Outdoors, Personal, Team Leader and Teamwork. A weekend pack holiday in November, staying in the Chalet at Bonaly Scout campsite, included events such as "capture the flag", fire lighting, cooking and eating flour twists on the fire, hiking around the reservoir and stay-

ing up late watching films. Fixtures in the calendar included a visit to the Gang Show, a Hallowe'en party and Christmas DIY.

The Scouts (aged 10½ to 14) meet on Fridays from 7.15 to 9.15pm. The Troop came second in the District Flag camp competition last September, competing against patrols from the whole of Braid District. Other camps included a weekend at the Jock Neish Centre near Forfar in November and two ski weekends at Glenshee (with snow this year!). Indoors, over 100 Scouts and Explorers enjoyed the 30th annual Burns' Supper with challenges, speeches, poems, toasts and (of course) haggis. Other meetings have included team-building games, a visit to the Gang Show, a night hike, an international night, learning about disabilities, a visit to watch Edinburgh Rugby, a night of kayaking, and lots of games.

The Explorers (aged 15 to 18) meet on Fridays from 7.15 to 9.30pm. They went on a weekend camp at Craggan and a Christmas camp at Forfar as well as a weekend ski-ing at Glenshee. More domestic activities included First Aid, a Debate Night, Interview Skills, Kayaking, summer BBQ at Yellowcraigs Beach, World of Football, Burns' Supper (with Scouts), Wide Games, Bake Off and a highly successful jigsaw night. In March, Lara Barnes was presented with her King's Scout Award – the highest award a young person can achieve and the first awarded to a



Greenbank member of the Scout Association for nearly 30 years.

In July, Greenbank Scouts and Explorers teamed up with the 103rd Braid Scouts from Morningside Parish Church to form a group of 133 Scouts, Explorers, and Leaders who attended the international Danish Jamboree near Copenhagen. We arrived to find a camp the size of a town boasting 30,000 attendees from all over the world. On-site activities were interspersed with visits to the local town, a day trip

to Copenhagen for Explorers, and swapping badges and neckers while making friends with Scouts from countries including America, Australia, Hong Kong and, of course, Denmark. It was an experience of a lifetime to share a field with so many others who share the same values and love of the outdoors.

Since the Scout Troop was founded in 1933, the Scouts have always had close links with the church. The church is rarely fuller than at the Uniformed Organisations Service in February each year (see photo on cover).

We're very grateful for the support from the church – particularly at the time of our annual Jumble Sale when we fill all the halls, and the outside space too, with a cornucopia of attractive items. **The 2027 Sale is on 17th April – save the date!**

About 3 or 4 Beavers join us each term. There are also a few places available at later stages in the Scouting journey. The best initial contact is

4th.enquiries@gmail.com

We are always keen to recruit new helpers and leaders to join our happy and motivated teams. Can you help?

Duncan Mcniven



Here we are on the final day with the Danish group who camped next to us and joined us one evening for a campfire.



Morningside Hope @ Morningside Parish

All activities below take place at
**Morningside Parish Church,
2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 6BQ**



Dates 2026:

Heart for Art: workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers
Held every Tuesday 11am to 1pm
Annual Art Exhibition: Saturday 26th November

Music And Memories workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers
1st and 3rd Mondays in the month 2- 4pm
September: Mondays 7th & 21st
October: Mondays 5th & 19th
November: Mondays 2nd & 16th
December: Monday 7th & 21st (Christmas Party)

Gentle Exercise Classes: dementia friendly but open to all 60+ years
The class itself will last 40-45 minutes, followed by tea and coffee
2nd & 4th Mondays in the month 2-4pm
September 14th & 28th Sept, October 12th & 26th
November 9th & 23rd, December 14th (Christmas Party)

Games Afternoon: open to everyone, these afternoons are a chance to meet up with old and new friends, play our favourite board games, jigsaws etc. and have a coffee and catch up.

Held once a month on a Wednesday afternoon 2-4pm
16th Sept, 21st October, 18th Nov, 16th Dec (Christmas Party)

Animal Afternoons: Wednesday 7th October Alpacas 2pm TBC

Dementia Friendly Concerts: The concerts are followed by tea and coffee
Saturday 26th Sept Featuring Bach cello and organ solos
Saturday 28th Nov The Rock Choir

Playlist for Life: Over two decades of scientific research has shown that listening to a personal playlist can improve the lives of people living with dementia. Our trained volunteers can support you to create a personalised playlist that can help

- reduce anxiety
- improve your mood
- make difficult tasks more manageable
- evoke memories that can help families and carers connect.

Interested in attending? Please come along to any of the above, you will be most welcome.

Interested in volunteering? If you would like to help with any of these activities or simply find out a little more about what we offer, please get in touch.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Jacqui:

Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant, 07834 364 628
pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Morningside Pilates at Greenbank Church

Mondays 5-8.30pm; Tuesdays 10.30am-1.30pm;
Thursdays 9.30am-12.45pm



Move well • Feel stronger • Enjoy Pilates

Come along to a friendly, welcoming Pilates class where everyone is encouraged to move at their own pace. Classes are suitable for all abilities, with a choice of mat work and a seated & standing class for seniors or anyone who finds getting down to the mat difficult.

Pilates can help you improve strength, balance, mobility and confidence – while enjoying some time for yourself in a friendly group.

New clients are warmly invited to a complimentary trial class. Come and join us – you'll be very welcome.

I'm Joy Black, a Body Control Pilates instructor, and I offer 10 classes each week at Greenbank Church. I also have additional training in areas including osteoporosis and bone health and use weights and other equipment where appropriate.

Joy Black
Body Control Pilates Instructor
morningsidepilates@gmail.com



Morag's Truck

Filled with Books for
Africa



What's On

Greenbank Parish Church and Halls 2026-27

www.greenbankchurch.org

We will do our best to facilitate these classes and events.

Please note that groups may sometimes be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control.

Sundays

Church with Crèche and Young Church	10.30-11.30am
Qll for S4 and upwards	7-9pm
Traditional Dementia-Friendly Services	afternoons (quarterly)

Groups for Church Members

Guild	Tuesdays fortnightly, 2-4.30pm
Guild Work Party (knitting etc)	Thursdays fortnightly, 2-4pm
Church Choir	Thursdays 7-9.30pm, Sundays 10am

Youth Groups

Rainbows	Thursdays 6-7pm
Brownies	Mondays 6-7.30pm; Wednesdays 6.30-7.45pm
Beavers	Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm
Cubs	Thursdays 6.30-8.00pm
Scouts and Explorer Scouts	Fridays 7.15-9.30pm
After School Music Group	Wednesdays, 3.15-5pm

Groups for Everyone

Greenbank Pre School	Monday-Friday 8.25am-2.35 or 3.30pm
Babies & Toddlers	Thursdays & Fridays 9.45-11.15am
Badminton Club	Mondays 7.15-8.45pm
Capital Voices Choir	Tuesdays 7-9pm
Edina Country Dancers	Wednesdays 7-9.30pm
Emilia's Art Club for children	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after school
Emilia's Art Club for adults	Fridays 9.45-11.45am
Friendship Club (for over-60s)	Wednesdays fortnightly, 2-4pm
Greenbank Singers	Wednesdays fortnightly, 2-3.45pm
Morningside Pilates	Mondays 5-8.30pm; Tuesdays 10.30am-1.30pm; Thursdays 9.30am-12.45pm
NCT Antenatal Classes	various
RSCDS Country Dancing	Tuesdays 8-9.30pm
Stagecoach Performing Arts	Tuesdays 5-8pm; Thursdays 5-8pm; Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-4.30pm
Yoga, Gentle (Veronica)	Wednesdays 10.30-11.30am
Yoga (Marcela/Pregnancy)	Wednesdays 7-8pm
Yoga (Syra)	Tuesdays 9.30-10.30am; Tuesdays 6.45-9pm; Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm; Fridays 9.30am-12noon
Yoga (Trish)	Mondays 6.15-7.15pm

If you would like to book a room for a meeting or to run an activity or club, please email hallsbookings@greenbankchurch.org or contact us via the Halls section of our website www.greenbankchurch.org

Welcome Teams

September

6 Communion

Donald King, Jan Corbett, Roderick Morrison, Jim Young, Jane Harkin, Pam Jack

13 Stuart Sanders, Moira Davidson, Julia Dunbar, John Murison, Alison Murison

20 Keith Winton, Richard Dunbar, Chris Horne, Robin Nimmo, Hazel Macaulay

27 Rosemary McCulloch, Moira Land, Fiona Grant, Martin Struthers, Barbara Middleton, Tony Rose, Rosie Rose

October

4 Joan Ritchie, Susan Inch, Gillian Sweetman, Clare Campbell, Stephen Hadden, Mary Hadden, Catherine Cameron

Coffee Rota

September

16 Jan Corbett

13 Anne Kinnear D49 & 50

20 Sheila Cannell & Valerie Macniven
World Church Group

27 Caroline Kehoe D70

October

4 Helen & Phil Barnes D39, 42 & 89

Flower Rota

provided by

delivered by

September

6 Kathryn Sangster Hayley Ferguson

13 Sheila Sommerville Moira Little

20 Christina Black Jan Corbett

27 Joan Ritchie Julia Dunbar

October

4 Grace Maweu Fiona Connal

The Ministry Team can be contacted directly

Locum Minister: Emma McMillan

email: emcmillan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Administrator: Jackie Wilson-Tagoe

phone: 0131 447 9969

email: office@greenbankchurch.org

To make contact with any organisation featured in *Greenbank Connections*, please use the telephone number or email address given, if there is one. Otherwise contact the Church Office.

Website: www.greenbankchurch.org

Postal address:

Greenbank Parish Church

Braidburn Terrace,

Edinburgh EH10 6ES

Items for the *Weekly Newsletter* should be sent by Thursdays to:

greenbankweekly@gmail.com

Material for the **October** issue of *Greenbank Connections* should be delivered to the Editors' Pigeonhole by **Sunday 13th September** or sent by e-mail by 8pm on **Thursday 17th September** to:

greenbankconnections@gmail.com

Connections Deadlines

	by email Thurs	bundling Fri	Collect
Oct	17 Sep	25 Sep	27 Sep
Nov	15 Oct	23 Oct	25 Oct
Dec/Jan	19 Nov	27 Nov	29 Nov
Feb	21 Jan	29 Jan	31 Jan
Mar	18 Feb	26 Feb	28 Feb
Apr	18 Mar	26 Mar	28 Mar
May	15 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr
June/July/Aug			
	20 May	28 May	30 May
Sept	12 Aug	27 Aug	29 Aug

AN EVENING WITH JAMES NAUGHTIE: INSIGHTS INTO AMERICAN POLITICS

**ADMISSION
FREE
DONATIONS
ARE WARMLY
WELCOME**

Join one of Britain's best-known
broadcasters on an evening of insight,
discussion and audience questions.

Sunday 20 September 2026

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

Greenbank Church

Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 6ES

Watch the livestream at www.greenbankchurch.org

