

# thegoodneighbour

MARCH 2026



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

GreenbankParish  
CHURCH

# Parish Register

## DEATHS

14th January 2026  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Mrs Anne Margetts of Clarkston  
Mr Duncan McIntyre of East Kilbride

## PULPIT DIARY

Sunday 1st March	10.30am	Sacrament of Holy Communion with Sunday Club joining for Communion
Sunday 8th March	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club
Sunday 15th March	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club
Sunday 22nd March	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club
Sunday 29th March	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club

## FLOWER LISTS FOR MARCH

	Communion Table	Windowsills
1st March	Communion	
8th March	Sally Craig	
15th March	Susan Mowat	Time Out
22nd March	Elizabeth McDonald	
29th March	Anne Stewart	

The sheets for 2026 flower lists are on the windowsills in the transept. You can put your name down to put flowers on the Communion Table or on the side windows. A member of the flower committee will contact you during the week prior to your date.

With thanks,  
Elizabeth Cross



## GOOD NEIGHBOUR DELIVERY

The cost of producing Good Neighbour has increased considerably over the years as anyone with a printer who buys replacement ink will appreciate. Therefore, it has been decided that, as of the March edition (published at the end of February), members who have email will no longer have a printed copy of Good Neighbour delivered. Members who receive large print copies, are in a care home or are designated as having special circumstances will continue to receive a printed copy.

March 2026

Many of you will be aware that I'm recently returned from a trip to Perth, Australia to visit with my family there. The time difference being 8 hours, and the temperature difference about 30 degrees, it takes a while to adjust. That said, it was wonderful to be back with you at worship last Sunday and to re-connect with the good people of Greenbank.



I wonder whether, like myself, you like to join in worship with the local church wherever you are away from home? During my travels in Western Australia, I attended two different local churches, both of which were congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia. I was warmly welcomed and felt very much at home with the people, the style of church building and worship, the tea and biscuits afterwards, and of course the Christian message being proclaimed in word and deed. It was truly a joy to be with them.

The experience prompted me to reflect on what it is to be in a different place of worship. There is that which is familiar and yet also that which is new and requires adjustment. Being a Scot in Australia there were several people who came to speak to me about their Scottish ancestry and connections. Noticing that we started one service of worship with a John Bell hymn I spoke with the organist. She told me of her father who had been a member at a church in Stirling where I was the Parish Minister for many years. Such connections helped make me feel I was with my Christian family.

In 1977, three Australian Christian denominations joined to form the Uniting Church in Australia. After many years of prayerful discernment, the Congregational Union in Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia came together in the hope that they would "bear witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and will for the Church". Travelling so far from Scotland, it was a blessing to be reminded that, as Christians, we belong to a family which transcends all barriers of place and time.

Over the coming weeks, we can look forward to a service of baptism – a sacrament in which the love of God is offered to each one of us and which is the appointed way of entrance into Christ's church on earth and in heaven. We can also look forward to our shared services with other local churches and denominations during Holy Week.

What a privilege it is that we are each invited to respond to our baptism through a life of faith, and that here at Greenbank we have the Church of Scotland as our home. Let us commit to offer the same kind of warm welcome as I received in Australia to all people who may come to join us in worship in the weeks ahead.

Love and blessings,

*Rev Ruth Halley*

Reverend Ruth Halley, (Interim Moderator and Locum Minister)

# Prayer Diary

'A kind voice calls, 'Come, little ones,  
'Tis time to wake from sleeping!  
And out of bed without a word  
The drowsy folk come creeping,  
And soon above the chilly earth  
Their tiny heads are peeping.

They bravely face the wind of March,  
Its bite and bluster scorning  
Like little soldiers - till, oh joy!  
With scarce a word of warning  
The crocuses slip off their caps  
And give us gay good morning.

('Crocuses' - Anna M Platt)

It's still been cold when the wind blows but those tiny signs of new life are there, braving the cold. We get glimpses of blue sky amidst the grey, and splashes of colour from the earliest flowers.

We can see changes in the patterns of the weather, of the seasons, and how it affects wildlife and ourselves. Pray for everyone experiencing extremes of weather, damage caused by flooding, constant forecasts of rain and snow for the same places over and over.

In a world that seems to get more crazy by the minute, ask that world leaders find the wisdom to do what's best in the long term, and the ability to work together in a collaborative way. Pray for our own governments, that they are given wisdom and maturity.

Ask that different communities and cultures have the tolerance to accept each other's differences, and live alongside and amongst each other in peace.

Give thanks for the days getting longer, with the promise of brighter days and warmer days ahead.

Give thanks, too, as our new extension is looking more like a usable building and less like a building site. We've had a great opportunity to watch it growing bit by bit.

And ask that as it continues to unfold before us, that this year brings feelings of real community, love, tolerance, comfort, joy and peace.

*'O God of our divided world,  
Light up the way where our ways part.  
Restore the kinship of our birth,  
Revive in us a single heart'*

*(excerpt from hymn 506 - Alan Norman Phillips)*

Gillian Foy  
Prayer Promoter

## 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](mailto: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

## THANK YOU, GREENBANK PLAYERS!



Thank you to everyone involved in putting together a fantastic evening full of fun and much laughter. There is so much talent here in Greenbank. Where's Simon Cowell when you need him?

Sally Craig

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP

Our next meeting is **Wednesday 4th March** at 7.00pm in the manse, when the topic will be *Kindness and Goodness, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> fruits of the Spirit*. It would be great to see the group grow so please consider joining us. We also hope to meet on Wednesday 6th May.

Marie Forster

## SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

We are continuing our look at David Gibson's book, *"The Lord of Psalm 23"*. We are looking at the final chapter (9), *"Where he invites"*. The next meeting will be held on **Saturday 14th March**, meeting at 9.45am for tea/coffee and nibbles and starting at 10.00am in the manse. New members will be made most welcome. For further information, please contact the office.

## THE GUILD

This year's World Day of Prayer Service takes place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am in St Aidan's Church. This is a joint service between Busby, Greenbank, Williamwood, Netherlee & Stamperland, St Aidan's and St Joseph's. This year the service has been compiled by the women of Nigeria and is open to everyone. Your support at the service would be greatly appreciated.

It is hard to believe we are nearly at the end of another Guild year. Our speakers for March are as follows:

4th March	Dr Robert Hamilton	<i>President Nixon</i>
11th March	Jill Liddell	<i>Quiz</i>
18th March	Strathaven Strummers	<i>Musical Afternoon</i>

Enid Dron  
Secretary

## TIME OUT

March sees the last of our meetings for this session. Thursday 5th March we are having a guest speaker from Greenbank Gardens. Hopefully we'll get some good tips for our gardens. Our AGM will be held on Thursday 19th March. We will be having our annual weekend away in April, going to one of our favourite destinations, Pitlochry.

Elaine Carr  
Chairperson

## BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

Our club is very busy with many new starts and gradings which is great.

At the end of 2025, we had our annual "Design the Club Calendar" for 2026, where Sorcha won the competition for the 2nd year running.

Austin Lafferty, who is a 4th Dan Black belt, lawyer and an accomplished artist himself, judged the competition and his feedback was :-

*"A karate mouse. Beautifully drawn and coloured. A well-balanced image with message – "karate is for everyone big and small!" (written in various belt colours).*

*This is like a Roy Lichtenstein Pop Art painting. The subject is stripped down to the essentials, primary and bright colours shine, consistency of style and a strong theme. It even has a bit of humour with the comically curled pink tail. The lesson is subtle – a mouse isn't just small but naturally timid. It is karate that supports her in developing character and bravery. This one jumped out at me as soon as I saw it."*

The club paid for copies to me made and we raised £161 in donations, which went to a local charity "East Ren Good Causes"- if anyone would like a copy ,please email me at [johnbka@virginmedia.com](mailto:johnbka@virginmedia.com).

We have also started a Bo (weapons) class with David Sibbald 4th Dan, one of our coaches, who has over 30 years' experience.

Alasdair Strokosch, who represented Scotland at rugby and who is a 3rd Dan Black Belt in our club, will be taking some classes on grappling/ground work which we are looking forward to. Finally, we also have a Buddhist monk coming along to do classes on meditation and then a Reiki Master taking a class.

John Elliot

Bushido Karate Club



## CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Clarkston Community Choir are back with weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7.30pm-9.30pm at Busby Parish Church halls. The choir are a friendly and inclusive group of around 80 singers, with no entry requirements or previous musical experience required - just come along and join in! The choir will be preparing a weather-themed programme for Summer charity concerts in May and June 2026, with an eclectic mix of popular, classical and alternative songs. For more information, contact [clarkstoncommunitychoir@gmail.com](mailto:clarkstoncommunitychoir@gmail.com).

## 1ST A CLARKSTON BROWNIES LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

We at 1st A Clarkston Brownies are looking for new members. Here is what Brownies is all about.

- 👉 Brownies is full of firsts: your child can explore their creative side, get out into the great outdoors, learn how to look after themselves, others and the world we live in.
- 👉 Brownies follow a programme designed to give them the opportunity to try lots of different activities and learn about a large variety of different things
- 👉 We do fun activities, play games and earn skills builder and interest badges, all while being supported by our trained volunteers who give up their time for free.
- 👉 They could get skill builders in things like first aid, or communication and interest badges in baking, aviation, camping and many more

To join or find out more please go to the girl guiding website and look for our unit, 1st A Clarkston Brownies.

Thanks  
Brown Owl

# Legacy Project

## THANK YOU, CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Clarkston Community Choir, an initiative started by the church over ten years ago, hold a concert in the summer and at Christmas each year. The funds raised at these concerts is split between two charities that are nominated each concert by members of the choir.

Our Legacy Project was selected as one of the recipients to receive a donation from the Christmas concert in December 2025 and Gordon Dickson, chair of the Legacy Project Group, was invited along to the first meeting of the choir in 2026 to receive a cheque for £1,500. The choir has been meeting in Busby church while our work is continuing.



Gordon thanked the choir for their support and looked forward to welcoming them back to Greenbank once the work was completed.

## 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 Administrator, should you require any.

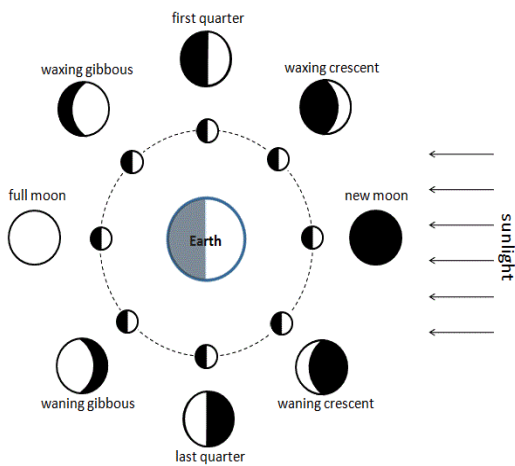
Please remember that **every donation**, of whatever size, is both needed and warmly welcome.

Alistair Smith  
Treasurer



# YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

## OUR MOON



Our Moon is a dusty ball of rock, measuring 3,476km in diameter– that’s roughly a quarter of the size of Earth. It takes 27.3 days for the Moon to travel all the way around the Earth.

The temperature on the Moon varies from super hot to super cold! When the Sun hits its surface, temperatures can reach a scorching 127°C. But when the Sun ‘goes down’, temperatures can drop to around -153°C. That’s really, really, really cold. Like Earth, the Moon has gravity (the force that pulls things towards the ground). But the Moon’s gravity is weaker, only one sixth of the Earth’s

gravity, in fact. That means you’d weigh much less if you were to stand on the Moon!

On a clear night we can see the Moon. Most of the time we don’t pay much attention to it but if you look at it regularly you will have noticed it seems to be changing shape. That’s because, as the Moon goes round the Earth, the Sun lights up different parts of its surface. We only see the Moon because it reflects light from the Sun.

The Moon’s shape seems to change because the Earth casts a shadow on it as it lies between the Sun and the Moon. When the Moon appears to be getting bigger, it’s ‘waxing’ and when it looks like it’s getting smaller, it’s ‘waning’. Once the face of the Moon is fully turned towards the Sun, it’s a Full Moon, and we see it all. But, as the Moon moves around the Earth, the face pointing towards us gradually becomes hidden from the Sun until we can hardly see it at all – this is a New Moon. Look out your window and see if you can spot all the different shapes.

## Spring Flowers



P T T X C P E T U N I A N X E  
 O A S Y I S V I O L E T F A G  
 P A J D A I S Y Y L R N Y A E  
 P Z Q C R O C U S I U Z I H R  
 Y C O S M O S C D L O H G N A  
 S U N F L O W E R Y T S B W N  
 D M D C H F R D V Y Z I O P I  
 L Q S A Q N Z V S A Z R K A U  
 O K C R F B R R Y D Z I A N M  
 G K A N A F O O E O Z A S S U  
 I E L A L F O D S K N C L Y X  
 R M I T Z G E D E E E A L E U  
 A O L I G U Z P I Z I N N I A  
 M Q T O Q X U A L L D J N K Y  
 Y R O N L T O Y F T U L I P S

Word list:

- |           |           |          |           |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| AZALEA    | DAISY     | LILY     | ROSE      |
| CARNATION | FORSYTHIA | MARIGOLD | SUNFLOWER |
| COSMOS    | GERANIUM  | PANSY    | TULIP     |
| CROCUS    | IRIS      | PETUNIA  | VIOLET    |
| DAFFODIL  | LILAC     | POPPY    | ZINNIA    |



## DAFFODIL TIME



This year, the whole of March is taken up by Lent. (That’s the 40 days before Easter.) Daffodils are also known as “Lent Lilies” as they tend to bloom shortly after Ash Wednesday and die off around Easter. They belong to a family of flowers called Narcissi and it is said that the very first flower bloomed to comfort Jesus on the night of The Last Supper.

An ancient Greek mythology tells how Narcissus flowers came into existence in ancient times. According to the story, Narcissus was the beautiful but very big-headed young man who fell in love with his own reflection. He could not stop looking at it, grew tired and fell into the water. The flower sprang up where he had sat.

Daffodils are the national flower of Wales and are often featured on royal emblems alongside the English Tudor rose, the Scottish thistle, and the Irish shamrock.

According to Welsh folklore, the person who spots the first daffodil bloom of spring will be blessed with wealth and good fortune for the following year, so giving a bunch of daffodils is an especially nice gift.

## RIDDLE ME THIS!

I’m tall when I’m young, and I’m short when I’m old. What am I?

(Answer on back page)

Hi Everyone,

It has been good to get back and to resume sharing God’s word with stories and crafts since the children returned to Sunday Club. We have enjoyed some stories about Jesus and his disciples. The Sunday Club children can see the Legacy Project progressing from our window in the Manse and we are all excited for the completion and move back to the halls.

Sunday Club Team

**Dates for March 2026**

Sunday 1st March – Communion – Sunday Club in manse then join Congregation in Church for Communion

Sunday 8th March - Sunday Club in Church and manse

Sunday 15th March – Sunday Club in Church and manse

Sunday 22th March – Sunday Club in Church and manse

Sunday 29th March – Sunday Club in Church and manse



**Dates for April 2026**

Sunday 5th April – **Sunday Club on Holiday** - it is Easter Sunday and there will be the annual egg hunt.

**RED NOSE DAY 2026**



Red Nose Day is back again this year on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March with a whole new idea called “Design-Yer-Nose. Whether you’re an artist or just feeling playful, every unique Nose brings a little joy to the world. And this simple bit of silliness helps support serious work here in the UK and beyond.

Grab your markers, stickers or full-on sparkles — anything goes with a Design-Yer Nose. Then scan the QR code on your Red Nose packaging to add your creation to the Hooter Hall of Fame. Each Red Nose has a comfy soft back and a doodle-ready papery front, both made from plant-based materials. You can order yours from the Comic Relief online shop or Amazon.

Buying a nose helps raise money for children and young people in the UK and abroad who might otherwise not have food, an education, a safe place to stay or be free from harm and worry. There are lots of other fun ideas to raise money and you can get your friends and relatives to donate money at the red nose telethon on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Be funny for money!

**RED NOSE JOKES**

1. **What did one toilet say to the other?** You look a bit flushed.
2. **Where do polar bears vote?** The North Poll.
3. **How do we know that the ocean is friendly?** It waves.
4. **What animal is always at a baseball game?** A bat.
5. **Why is six afraid of seven?** Because seven eight nine.
6. **Why do fish live in salt water?** Because pepper makes them sneeze.
7. **Why was the Easter Bunny so upset?** He was having a bad hare day.
8. **What kind of shoes do ninjas wear?** Sneakers.
9. **Why wouldn't the shrimp share his treasure?** Because he was a little shellfish.
10. **I once had a hen that could count her own eggs...** she was a mathemachicken.

**WORLD WILDLIFE DAY**



World Wildlife Day is on March 3 every year to raise awareness of endangered animals and plants, and ways to fight against wildlife crime. This hippopotamus looks as if it would be hard to shift but hippos are in danger of extinction due to climate change. These massive animals rely on freshwater systems for survival, but droughts and farming and removing their sources of water threaten their numbers. Moreover, building and illegal poaching are other leading causes of their decline.

# News and Updates



**DONATIONS for the LHM** can be put on the trolley in the church vestibule on Sunday mornings and in the box in the manse hallway during office hours. At the moment **diluting juice, pot noodles/packet noodles and tinned tomatoes are particularly requested.**

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 or place in an offering bag during the service. Please do not leave these envelopes on the trolley or in the box. Donations can also be made online at [www.lhm360.org/donate](http://www.lhm360.org/donate). All donations are very much appreciated.

**BURNS SUPPER AND CEILIDH** On Wednesday 4th February, the LHM hosted a Burns Supper and Ceilidh where guests enjoyed haggis, neeps and tatties, great speakers and musicians, and dancing.



People from different walks of life joined together to celebrate this Scottish tradition as a community which embraces social inclusion.

Liz Smith  
LHM Representative

## POSTAGE STAMPS

Very many thanks to all who have collected their stamps over the festive season. It is amazing that lots of small and modest amounts combine into a substantial donation.

Royal Mail usually increase the price of postage from April, so that is likely to happen again this year. Check the [Royal Mail website](http://www.royalmail.com) for full details.

As before, I am happy to receive your stamps in person. There is also the box (deep Rose pink) in the vestibule as you enter church.

Elizabeth McKenzie

## BETWEEN ASH AND ALLELUIA

*"Between Ash and Alleluia"* is a recently published Christian book containing a collection of daily poems, prayers and reflections. It is primarily intended to accompany us through our Lenten journey on the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Monday. However, it is also suitable for dipping in and out of as it suits the reader. The author is Rev Eleanor Hamilton, who was inducted as the minister of Dumbarton Parish Church in November 2025.

Alison Allan

## 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 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 the office or write to me at the office address and I will be happy to assist. You may also post me a cheque and/or your freewill offering contribution to the office address. Thank you all for your continuing support.

Alistair Smith, Treasurer

## HALL HIRE

Greenbank Church Halls will not be available to hire for children's parties until the new halls are built.

### **ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR**

should be submitted to the Church Office: [office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk](mailto:office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk)  
and the Editor, Jill Liddell: [liddell.jill@gmail.com](mailto:liddell.jill@gmail.com), **by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026** please.

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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.

Pae 7 - Riddle Answer: A candle!

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 CHURCH

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