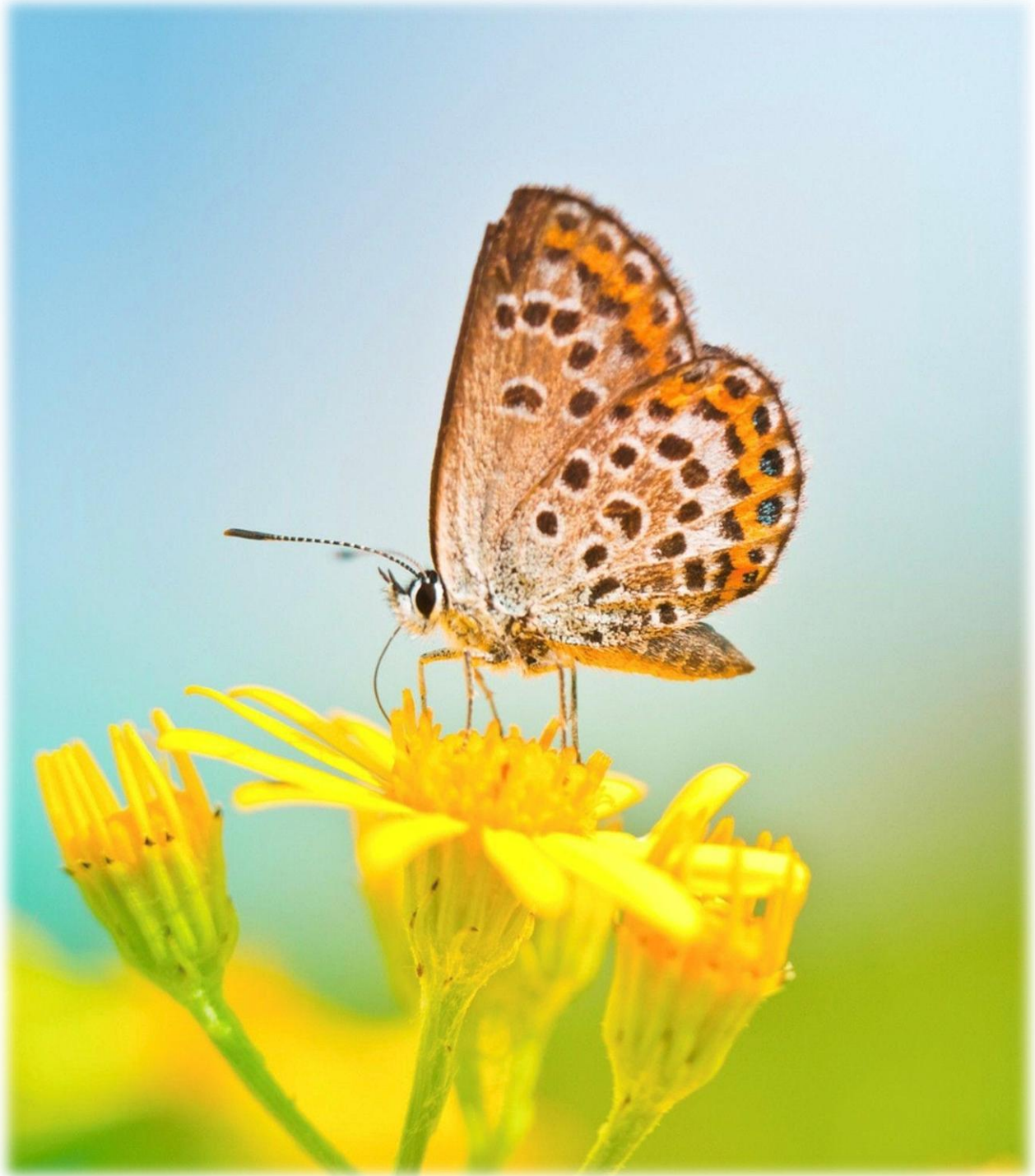


thegoodneighbour

APRIL 2026



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

GreenbankParish
CHURCH

Parish Register

DEATHS

17th February 2026

Mr James (Jim) Guy of Newton Mearns

PULPIT DIARY

Sunday 5th April	10.30am	Family Worship (with Sunday Club Easter Egg Hunt)
Sunday 12th April	10.30am	Family Worship
Sunday 19th April	10.30am	Family Worship
Sunday 26th April	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club

Clarkston Churches Together services during Holy Week:

Tuesday 31st March	7.00pm	Greenbank Parish Church
Wednesday 1st April	7.00pm	Busby Parish Church
Thursday 2nd April	7.00pm	St Aidan's Scottish Episcopal Church
Maundy Thursday 2nd April	7.00pm	Williamwood - Holy Communion service - no refreshments.
Maundy Thursday 2nd April	6.30pm	Netherlee & Stamperland: Communion service with refreshments afterwards.
Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd	7.00pm	Castlemilk Church
Good Friday 3rd April	7.00am	The Pilgrimage
Good Friday 3rd April	6.30pm	Netherlee and Stamperland: Choral Service

Clarkston Churches Together Good Friday Pilgrimage on Friday 3 April:

7.00am	Carmunnock
8.00am	Cartsbridge
9.00am	Busby
10.00am	Greenbank (refreshments)
11.00am	Williamwood
12 noon	St Joseph's
1.00pm	St Aidan's
2.00pm	Netherlee & Stamperland
3.00pm	Orchardhill (with the labyrinth and refreshments)

FLOWER LISTS FOR APRIL

Communion Table

5th April	Jean Strachan
12th April	Esmae MacEwan
19th April	Etta Anderson
26th April	Eleanor Johnstone



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

April 2026

As I write this letter to you I am sitting in my home in Bonnyrigg near Edinburgh, it is the 10th of March, and two things are going on at the same time: firstly, I am making early preparations for Holy Week and Palm Sunday in particular; and secondly I am listening in the background to a news report on BBC iPlayer. The report includes footage of US Defence Secretary Hegseth warning of the, "most intense day" of war and threatening Iran with, "the most strikes". Alongside is coverage of Iran firing missiles at targets in Israel, and across the Gulf, signalling its determination to fight on following the recent appointment of Khamenie as the new Supreme Leader.



It is difficult not to view the rhetoric of hatred, atrocities and war of our times in the light of that first Palm Sunday when Jesus arrived at Jerusalem.

In Mark's account of what happened it is a donkey which Jesus rides on and the parade happens before Jesus and his followers reach the gates of Jerusalem. In other gospels, the parade goes through the gates into the city. New Testament scholar, theologian and author Marcus Borg describes a second parade that day: On Sunday, Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem from the east in a procession riding on a donkey cheered by his followers. At the same time, a Roman imperial procession of troops and cavalry entered the city from the west, headed by Pilate. The contrast between Jesus' entry and the imperial entry sounds the central conflict that unfolds during the rest of the week.

Jesus' mode of entry was symbolic, signifying that the kingdom of which he spoke was a kingdom of peace. According to the prophet Zechariah, the king entering Jerusalem on a donkey was to banish the weapons of war from the land and speak peace to the nations. The kingdom of Rome on the other hand was based on violence and the threat of violence. One character in the Palm Sunday story that is often overlooked is that of the donkey – the humble one who carried the life of Christ through the crowds and into Jerusalem to face the powers.

Have you ever wondered though whether we might be like the donkey: whether what we are about as Greenbank Church is in essence making possible, as did the donkey, the entry of the Christ into our community today? Do we make space and time for Jesus to ride down the path among us? Do we sense a holy presence inviting us to support the Christ in working for good and justice and love? Many of you, I'm sure, would testify to that experience.

We could be, as was the donkey on Palm Sunday, those who carry the life of the Christ. Donkeys are not threatening or majestic creatures but humble and ordinary. The church is to be equally humble and ordinary as we carry the life of Christ.

With love and Easter blessings,

Rev Ruth Halley

Reverend Ruth Halley, (Interim Moderator and Locum Minister)

Prayer Diary

On Easter Day the lilies bloom,
Triumphant, risen from their tomb;
Their bulbs have undergone rebirth,
Born from the silence of the earth
Symbolically, to tell all men
That Christ, the Saviour, lives again.
The angels, pure and white as they,
Have come and rolled the stone away
And with the lifting of the stone,
The shadow of the cross is gone!

(June Masters Bacher)

Nature is creeping out from under its winter duvet. The spring flowers are peeking out, tiny bright green leaves are unfurling, the birds are throwing moss out of the gutters that lovely fresh feeling of renewal is everywhere. And we feel it too, because it's Easter, and our Lord is risen.

However, away from the natural world, things are very different. We have yet another war to add to the tally. Destruction raining down on more places and more people. Pray for everyone caught up in this latest conflict - all the people living in these countries, whether it's their adopted country or theirs by birth.

Pray for our world, riven by hatred and greed, where so many people are interested only in what they can get; where many people still go hungry and don't have a place to call home. Remember all the victims of grooming gangs and people in positions of power, people who seem to think they're untouchable and can exploit the weak.

Ask for strength for everyone who sets out to make the world a better place in some small way; that they find the resilience to keep going until a necessary change is implemented.

Ask for guidance for ourselves so that once our new halls are open we can re-connect to the wider community, and find our way forward, making our own small contribution to bringing people together.

Give thanks for the greatest Easter gift of all, Jesus Christ.

*'Christ the Lord is risen today,
sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
sing, ye heavens and earth reply.'*

(Charles Westley)

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. 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.

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

What's On

SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

We are starting a new book *"Hope in Times of Fear"* by Timothy Keller. Hope in Times of Fear unlocks the meaning of both the cross and Jesus' resurrection. Here the central message of the Christian faith is revealed with unshakeable belief, piercing insight and a profound message of hope for the world. We are looking at the first chapter, "Certain Hope".

The next meeting will be held on **Saturday 4th April**, 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 church office.

THE GUILD

It is hard to believe another session of the Guild is over. Things have been very different this year but we have managed our afternoons in the manse. Our numbers have been down as a consequence but everyone - including our speakers - have been very understanding. Thanks must go to our Tea Conveners for always providing our enjoyable cup of tea. Thanks also to the volunteers who set up the room for us every week.

We look forward to being in the new halls when we meet again in October. We hope too to welcome those members who for various reasons found it difficult to access the manse.

As last year's Drop-In afternoon at Rouken Glen was a success, we are holding another afternoon on Wednesday 20th May. Please come along and join us.

Enid Dron
Secretary

COSY CAFE



On Thursday 26th February, Greenbank's Cosy Cafe had a table at the Williamwood High School Refreshers Fair for S1 to S3. Jimmy Patterson and I set up the stall with a Cosy banner and chatted to the pupils and gave out leaflets. We hope we will get a few more pupils coming along as a result. We talked a lot about the new annexe as most of the pupils pass the church on their route to school.

We also explained that Cosy stands for Church of Scotland Youth but that it is free to pupils of all faiths and none. Indeed, several of our regular attendees are pupils of St Ninians. We just aim to provide a safe environment where secondary pupils can meet with their friends and wind down at the end of the school week.

We serve hot chocolate or juice and toast with chocolate spread and it's free. We have two helpers spreading and serving each week and would welcome more. The boys and girls who come are

polite and helpful and their capacity for the toast is amazing. We get free bread from the Spar across from the church.

Cosy cafe runs from 3pm to 4pm on Friday afternoons during school term. Do come along and see for yourself and maybe you'll be inspired to volunteer.

Liz Allan

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

In March, we celebrated International Women's Day at Bushido Greenbank.

Amazing facts

- ✦ Our women have an age range between 5 and 83 years of age.
- ✦ Our highest graded woman is Helen Buchanan, who is a 4th Dan Black Belt and one of our Senior Coaches. Both of Helen's daughters, Rhu & Erin, have achieved their 2nd Dan Black Belt. Helen has been hugely influential in the development of our club, especially from a women/girls point of view.
- ✦ Our other women coaches are Rhu Buchanan, Debbie O'Shea & Eileen Cowey.
- ✦ Rhu is highly qualified and works with children in her job and we are so fortunate to have her as one of our coaches.
- ✦ Debbie has brought new innovative ideas to our training.
- ✦ Eileen's background as Professor and Head of Nursing at Glasgow University has brought a structured approach to our coaching.
- ✦ We have had women from our club winning medals in the Commonwealth Championships, Association and at Club level.
- ✦ Our very own Hilary Carswell took Gold at the Association Championships in Team Kata.
- ✦ We have many mums and grans training alongside their children and grandchildren.
- ✦ We have 18 Black Belt women training in our club.



Coaches Eileen, Helen, Rhu & Debbie



Finally,

- ✦ Liz Allan achieved her orange belt at the age of 83. On the day of her grading, she showed great skill and ability and was a proud moment for Liz and our club.

Our club would not be as great without the amazing talented women students and coaches we have.

John Elliot

Bushido Karate Club

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Clarkston Community Choir meet for 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.

Legacy Project

LEGACY PROJECT UPDATE

As we move into April we are nearing the completion of our construction work. Those who pass by the church regularly will see that the scaffolding has now been removed and the windows installed.

What isn't perhaps as obvious is all of the unseen work that has taken place over the last few months. The new gas and electricity supplies have been installed, the air source heat pumps are also now in place, all part of our aim of having a "greener" building. The underfloor heating and the laying of the floor throughout the building has been completed as has much of the internal linings of the walls. The kitchen fittings and appliances have arrived and are currently being stored in the church for safety while work continues within the annexe itself.

Outside the building the groundworks are progressing. The very heavy periods of rain in the early part of 2026 have not helped as the ground conditions were very difficult and have delayed the work. However, the builders have done their best to maintain access for us to the church from the manse drive. The new lamp standards have been erected and all the wiring for a new CCTV system is in place.

There are still one or two technical hurdles to jump but the expectation is that we will see the bulk of the construction work completed by the end of April.

As you know, we have planning permission for a house at the Mansefield Road side of the site and work has now started on clearing that ground and making it ready for sale. The plan is to sell it as a serviced plot.

At the last Session meeting we talked about shifting the focus from the bricks and mortar to the use to which we will put the new facility. We agreed at that meeting to hold a special meeting of the Session to consider all of this and we will do this in mid April. More on this, and the full involvement of the congregation in discussion, will follow.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE LEGACY PROJECT



A friend of one of our members kindly made a variety of beautiful fabric items to sell to raise funds for our Legacy Project. They included iPad sleeves, bookmarks, hanging hearts, Airpod cases, and pouches for creme eggs.

These items were sold at church on several Sundays from 15th March. Everything was much admired and very popular, and at the time of writing this article very few items remain.

The sale of these items has already raised over £200!

A final total will be provided in a future edition of Good Neighbour, and via intimations. Many thanks to the very kind donor, and to all who enthusiastically purchased the items.

Alison Allan

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

WHO IS YOUR SUPERHERO?

National Superhero Day is celebrated annually on April 28th to honour both fictional comic book icons and real-life heroes. It began in 1995, when Marvel Comics employees went out into the world to ask kids what superpowers they would want to have if it were possible. The results surprisingly revealed that these kids ended up talking more about superheroes in their own lives, and how they often looked like a normal person.



National Superhero Day reminds everyone that, most of the time, superheroes are just everyday people who rise to the occasion of helping when help is needed. Not only that, but this is an ideal that can be passed on and practised in our daily lives. Every day men, women and children go out in the world and see the difficulties that people face. Some do big things like doctors, firefighters, the police and the armed forces but the list of superheroes in real life doesn't end there! Someone helping the homeless with food or clothes, comforting someone in distress, or stopping to help someone with a flat tyre at the side of the road can be someone else's superhero.

Lots of the kids in Marvel Comic's survey said their parents were superheroes, which shows that they don't need to have amazing powers like strength or being able to fly or becoming invisible. You don't have to wear a special costume. Even the smallest actions of love, support and kindness when someone needs help make a superhero.

At the beginning of this month, in the Christian Church, we celebrate the biggest superhero of all. Jesus. Jesus gave up his life so that he could save ours. Over 2000 years after he did this for us, at Easter each year we remember what he did and give God thanks for his tremendous gift to us in Jesus, his son. Superheroes don't do things for thankyou's. They do them because that is what they know is the right and often brave thing to do and that is why they deserve all the thanks we can give them.

NATIONAL PET MONTH

Do you have a pet? The UK's favourite is a Labrador Retriever.



In the UK 6 out of 10 households have a pet. Most people have dogs and cats. There are about around 13.5 million dogs and 12.5 million cats. Other popular pets include indoor birds (1.5m), chickens (1.3m), rabbits (1m), and various small mammals, reptiles, and horses.

National Pet Month celebrates and raises awareness of responsible pet ownership. While most people love their pets and look after them well, too many don't. Sometimes it's because they have chosen the wrong pet or find they can't afford it. Sadly, some people are just cruel. There are organisations that can help with this such as SSPCA and when we see mistreated pets we should report it at any time of year. What National Pet month does is remind us that pets not only need looking after but are a long-term commitment.

Pet Word Search

Find all of the pet related words in the puzzle below.

Best friend	E A R F T T P Y K B
Budgie	M V E E A U R E E U
Bunny	A E O C T A R S T N
Canary	D I C L N S T T E N
Cat	K G P A C F M A L Y
Dog	L D C M R L J A F E
Feed	A U C I H S I F H U
Fish	W B E G E R B I L R
Gerbil	K N D O G P L R Z M
Guinea pig	D G I P A E N I U G
Hamster	
Love	
Pet	
Turtle	
Walk	

Hi Everyone,

It is so lovely to see some of the buds on the trees and some spring flowers peeping through the very soggy ground! We continue to share the stories from the bible and some fun crafts.

We cannot wait to get back into the halls and have a bit more space to move around.

Sunday Club Team

Dates for April 2026

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

Sunday 12th – Sunday Club on Holiday

Sunday 19th – Sunday Club on Holiday

Sunday 26th - Back in Church (Manse or Halls Still to be confirmed)

Dates for May 2026

Sunday 3rd May - Sunday Club on Holiday

For all Sundays that Sunday Club is on holiday there will be crafts available for children in the Sanctuary.



Looking for the perfect activity this Easter break? Join us at GHA Rugby Club for a fun, interactive, and player-focused rugby camp led by some of our Premiership senior players.

Open to anyone — you don't need to be a GHA player to attend! Girls especially welcome.

Our P1 – P3 half day sessions are designed for children of all abilities. No prior rugby experience is required—this camp is all about learning the Fundamentals! Mon - Wed 9am - 12:30pm

Our P4 – P7 five day camp led by experienced coaches, will focus on skill development, teamwork, and game-based learning in a supportive and engaging environment. Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm

Our U13 – U16 five day camp will help attendees train like the pros, using innovative and engaging techniques to develop skills, techniques, and tactical understanding. Whether it's learning the game, exploring specific positions, or gaining insights into nutrition, strength and conditioning, and strategy, this camp is designed to get the most out of every player. Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm.

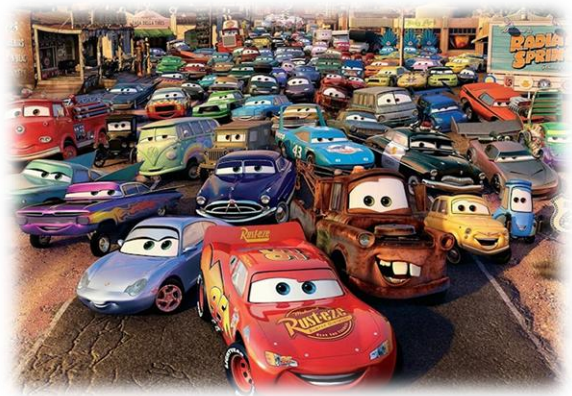
[Check the website for more information and prices.](#)

FOR A RAINY SATURDAY

Join in at Eastwood Theatre for the 20th Anniversary of the classic Pixar animation "Cars". On the way to the biggest race of his life, hotshot rookie race car Lightning McQueen (voiced by Owen Wilson) gets stranded in a rundown town and learns that winning isn't everything in life.

When? 7th April
Time? 11am
Where? Eastwood Theatre
Price? £5

Book at the Box Office or visit the event website.



RIDDLE ME THIS



- What can you hold in your left hand but never in your right?
- What has an eye but can't see?
- What is purple and smells exactly like green paint?

(answers on back page)

News and Updates



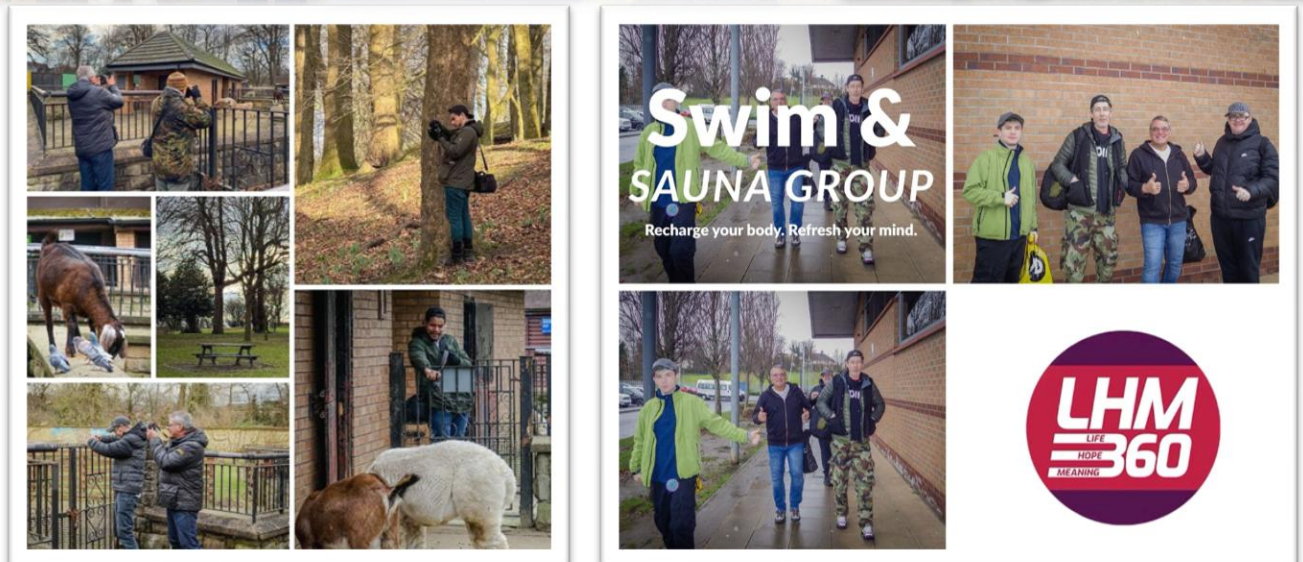
DONATIONS for the LHM can be put on the trolley in the church vestibule on Sunday mornings and in the box in the manse hallway during office hours. At the moment **diluting juice, pot noodles/packet noodles and tinned tomatoes are particularly requested.**

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. All donations are very much appreciated.

3412 MEALS were provided in January, which is historically a quieter month. Although this is low compared to the last 11 months, it is actually the busiest January since 2022. Last month 3718 meals were provided.

THE AGM takes place at the LHM on Wednesday, 29 April at 7.30pm. More details to follow. All are welcome to attend.

IN FEBRUARY the LHM organised outings in their minibus to local places such as Tollcross Park and the City Chambers. Groups also visited Paisley Abbey and Edinburgh Castle.



Liz Smith
LHM Representative

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 me or the church office, or write to me at the church office and I will be happy to assist. You may also post me a cheque and/or your freewill offering contribution to the church office. 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 MAY ISSUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR

should be submitted to the Church Office: office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk
and the Editor, Jill Liddell: liddell.jill@gmail.com, **by Sunday 12th April 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.

Page 8 - riddle answers: your right hand; an eye; purple paint

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