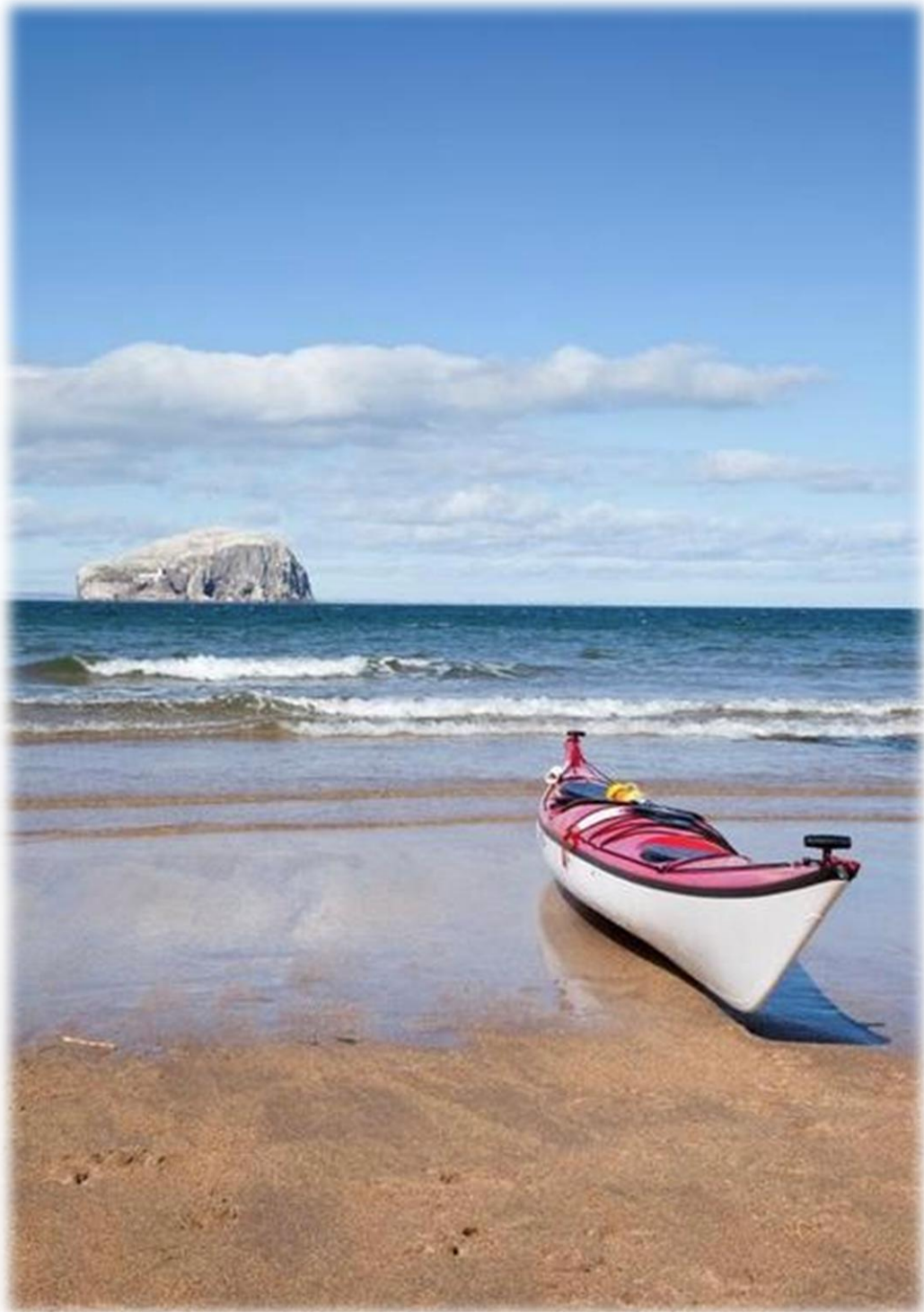


thegoodneighbour

JUNE 2026



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

GreenbankParish
CHURCH

Parish Register

PULPIT DIARY

Sunday 7th June	10.30am	Sacrament of Holy Communion with Sunday Club joining for Communion
Sunday 14th June	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club
Sunday 21st June	10.30am	Family Worship
Sunday 28th June	10.30am	Family Worship

FLOWER LISTS FOR JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

	Communion Table	Side Windows
31 st May	Muriel Beaton	---
7th June	Sheena Boyd	---
14th June	----	---
21st June	Anne Stewart	---
28th June	Jan Christie	Helen Howard
5th July	---	---
12th July	Marie Forster	---
19th July	---	---
26th July	Margaret Miller	---
2nd August	---	---
9th August	Liz Smith	---
16th August	Aileen McKinlay	---
23rd August	Derek Christie	---
30th August	----	---



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

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

The Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday 21st June at 11.45am in the church. All are welcome to attend

June 2026

Some of you may remember me speaking about the Iona Community and I know that many of you have spent time on the island, as I have. I was also remembering recently a Christian retreat I went on at a place called, 'Nether Springs'.

Situated in peaceful Northumbrian countryside, Nether Springs is the home and 'Mother House' of a monastic community known as the Northumbrian Community. The accommodation was basic but comfortable and healthy meals were provided. You may not be surprised to hear that I found one of the most valuable aspects of the experience to be the opportunity to get to know other people from a range of Christian denominations.



We had all gone there to study the spiritual practices and teachings of the Desert Mothers and Fathers - early Christian hermits, monks and spiritual leaders who lived mainly in the deserts of Egypt, Syria and Palestine from roughly the 3rd to the 5th century. The Desert Mothers and Fathers are often considered the founders of Christian monasticism and contemplative spirituality. It was no surprise then to find times of shared silence, guided meditations and quiet prayers. On one occasion we took Holy Communion together in a small lean-to chapel in the woods, heated by a wood burning stove and lit by candles only. There was a lovely sense of shared peace.

I returned from the experience rested and with new enthusiasm for the next stage of my own Christian journey. I had also gained new resources to sustain me and a better understanding of desert experiences in my own life. Having a 'desert' or 'wilderness' experience is something which most of us would identify with at one time or another in life. For that reason, I have listed below some further reading which may be of interest.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Rev Ruth Halley

Reverend Ruth Halley
(Interim Moderator and Locum Minister)

Earle, Mary C. The Desert Mothers: Spiritual Practices from the Women of the Wilderness, Morehouse Publishing
Williams, Rowan. Silence and Honeycakes: The Wisdom of the Desert, Lion Books
Forman, Mary. Praying with the Desert Mothers. Liturgical Press
Nouwen, Henri. The way of the heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers
Merton, Thomas. The Wisdom of the Desert. New Directions
Jones, Alan. Soul Making
Swan, Laura. The Forgotten Desert Mothers: The sayings, lives and stories of early Christian Women

Prayer Diary

"It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine
was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside."

(Maud Hart Lovelace)

We always like to think of summer days being warm and lazy, and although chances are we'll only get short spells of good weather, those are the days that spring to mind when we think of summer.

However, recent years have seen temperatures rise beyond comfortable. Ask that this summer is not too hot, and pray that we will not see so many of the terrible wildfires that start so easily where plant life is dry and frazzled.

'Summer
beaches waves so cold,
there
is an ice cream now it's sold.
Seagulls
soaring through the sky,
Summer
clouds never cry.
Waves
are crashing,
and
the fish are splashing.
Pink, purple,
yellow
and green
all
the colours going together
that
make summer better.
Views
so nice drinks with ice.
Summer's
sun so bright,
it
takes the dark away at night.
Cool
pools not too deep,
this
is my summer to keep.'

(Madeline, age 9, St Patrick's School, Masterton)

We're still waiting for our new annexe to be finished as I write this, but we should have access over the summer months. Give thanks for all the people we have who were able to use their talents to help this project come to fruition, and for all the people we have employed to turn this idea into reality.

Enjoy your summer break, whether at home or away. Pray that we get relief from the fractious world of politics and conflict for a little while, and that progress and good news lie ahead.

'Creator God,
who breathed this world into being,
who is discernible within
the harmony of nature,
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,
the grandeur of a mountain range,
the soaring eagle and humming bird,
thank you for this world
which you have created.
Thank you for summer sun,
which reminds us
that your creative breath
is still alive and active.
Thank you for the warmth of your love,
sustaining this world,
your garden.
Amen'
(*unknown*)

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.

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.

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

Alistair Smith, Treasurer

What's On

SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

The Saturday Book Club will next meet on Saturday 6th June at 10.00am in the manse, where we will again be looking at Timothy Keller's book, "*Hope in Times of Fear*". We will be looking at Chapter 3, "*Glorious Hope*". New members will be made most welcome. For more information please contact Ronnie McNeill or the church office.

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP

Our next meeting is **Wednesday 3rd June** at 7.00pm in the manse, when the topic will be the final 2 Fruits of the Spirit. It would be great to see the group grow, so please consider joining us. For more information, please contact the church office.

LADIES BADMINTON CLUB

The Greenbank Ladies Badminton Club meet every Monday morning for a game and chat. We have enjoyed another session at Busby church, and recently enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Redhurst.

We have 5 new members and are looking forward to returning home to Greenbank in September.



CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Clarkston Community Choir present their annual Summer Charity Concert on Friday 12th June 7.30pm-9.00pm at Greenbank Parish Church, featuring Spitha Brass quintet. The concert features a weather-themed programme, with everything from musical theatre and pop to classical choral works, and will raise funds for Brain Tumour Research and Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland. Tickets are £6 and are available in advance from choir members, or on the door (pre-booking encouraged). For more information, contact clarkstoncommunitychoir@gmail.com.

WILLIAMWOOD PARISH CHURCH SUMMER CONCERTS

Williamwood Parish Church is pleased to present their annual summer concert series, featuring four monthly concerts from May to August. Concerts take place on Sundays 7.00pm-8.00pm, with wine and refreshments after each performance included in the admission price (cash donation on the door, £5 suggested). The series is curated by Williamwood's director of music, Richard Scholfield, and features a huge variety of instruments and musical styles performed by talented local musicians.

Sunday 31st May - Scottish Saxophone Quartet

Sunday 21st June - Trio Alba (soprano voice, cello & piano)

Sunday 19th July - Chris Vettraino & Liana Storey (oboe & piano)

Sunday 30th August - The Undici Project (11-piece chamber orchestra)

HALL HIRE

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

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

What an amazing night we had at the Senior BKA Dan (Black Belt) Grading — an event we hold twice each year, and one that always brings so much pride and celebration. We enjoyed tremendous success, with the following students achieving their new grades:

✂️ **1st Dan:** Stephanie, Logan, Zaina, Ashley, Ella, Isla and Muhammad

✂️ **2nd Dan:** Cailin and Alasdair

✂️ **4th Dan:** Adrian, Derek and Steven

Every hour of training, every bit of effort and all the preparation they put in really showed. Grading in front of one of the highest panels in Scotland is no small challenge but they rose to the occasion perfectly. They didn't just do themselves proud; they brought great credit to our entire club.

This year's night was extra special, as we celebrated Adrian, Derek and Steven passing their 4th Dan.

I have had the privilege of coaching them from their very first day in the dojo right through to where they stood on Friday. What they displayed was simply on another level. You could clearly see their deep understanding of karate in every movement and technique. I didn't give them a single note or input for their performance; instead, I found myself learning from them. That speaks volumes about where they are on their personal karate journey. Everything they have achieved is down to their own incredible dedication, time and commitment.

All three are coaches themselves now, and their loyalty to this club, their support for me, and the way they guide and encourage fellow students is something we can never fully repay.

Our club simply wouldn't be what it is today without them. They have helped shape our identity and success, and they are the perfect example for every student here, something for everyone to look up to, and a clear vision of what is possible in their own karate journey.



Greenbank students passing at grading



4th Dans: Adrian, John, Steven & Derek



It's important to say too that **4th Dan** is widely recognised as a major transition point. It takes you to a whole new level. The grading itself is different, the preparation is different, and it becomes about far more than just physical technique. It is about a deep, rounded understanding of what karate really means and encompasses. Adrian, Derek and Steven have more than earned this step, and they have made that transition beautifully.

I always tell our students after senior gradings: "You will never forget this night — the feeling, the achievement, the experience will stay with you forever. Take a moment to remember your very first day in the dojo... and look how far you have come."

Congratulations to every single one of you — this is truly well deserved.

📌 There is so much going on in the weeks and months ahead:

- 👉 More gradings coming up for our Kyu-grade students
- 👉 Our Child Protection Officer, Donald Cowey, has been working with East Renfrewshire Council to develop a special coaching course, designed specifically for our 13–15-year-old Black Belts
- 👉 End of May: Special course with Amy Connell — Commonwealth Karate Champion 🏆
- 👉 June: → Bioenergy class — focused on breathing techniques and control
→ Later in the month: A meditation class led by a Buddhist monk

Our classes will run right through the summer, so there's no better time to join us! If you'd like to come along for a free taster session, please get in touch: 📧 johnbka@virginmedia.com 📞 07788 418421

"You'll never regret trying. You'll always regret not trying."

Best wishes,
John Elliot

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW



The Royal Highland Show is an annual event that shows off Scotland's farming, food and rural life. Sounds boring? Not a bit of it. There's plenty of entertainment and stalls to keep children of all ages happy. There is a special Kid's Zone as well as a chance to meet baby animals, climb aboard towering tractors, try face painting, mini rovers, countryside rowing, circus acts and, like the girl in the photograph, meet alpacas. If you like horses there are showjumping and pony club competitions. There are loads of farm animals to admire and you can watch sheep shearing. For older children there is shopping, plenty of food and drinks to try and live music.

The 2026 Show is on from Thursday 18th to Sunday 21st June at Ingliston near Edinburgh. Tickets can be bought from the [Royal Highland Show website](#). Looks like several exciting days out.

2026 Commonwealth Games Medals will Feature Braille

Glasgow's Commonwealth Games begin on 23rd July until 2nd of August. During that time a total of 215 medal events and up to 1,168 medals will be given out. Medals can be won in Athletics & Para Athletics (Track & field only, including the Commonwealth Mile); Swimming & Para Swimming; Track Cycling & Para Track Cycling; Weightlifting & Para Powerlifting; Bowls & Para Bowls; 3x3 Basketball & 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball; Artistic Gymnastics; Netball; Boxing and Judo.



The medals for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will feature braille for the first time. **Braille** is a system of raised dots which enable blind or visually impaired people to read and write by using their fingers to feel the shape of the dots, which tells them what the words are.

The medals have been designed an artist from Glasgow School of Art, and feature things that relate to the Glasgow, such as the Finnieston Crane landmark, and tartan.

BARBIE IS COMING TO GLASGOW

Barbie: The Exhibition is on in Kelvingrove Art Gallery from 13 June – 18 October 2026. It is a large-scale touring exhibition featuring over 150 dolls from when Barbie first appeared in toy shops to today.



Children have had baby dolls for hundreds of years but Barbie was the first doll to look like an adult. She first appeared in America in 1959. As she became popular, there were clothes that she could change into and in 1961 it was decided she needed a boyfriend, Ken. She was also given a little sister called Skipper and a best friend called Midge.

Over the years she has also been given accessories such as cars, horses, a caravan and even a house, all with outfits to match. Barbie also gave the world a new colour – Barbie Pink which you can see in the image above.

The Exhibition is ticketed. [Tickets can be bought online from Glasgow Life](#) and are priced from £8-£16.



Greenbank Sunday Club...Give them a good start

Hi Everyone,

The Sunday Club will be taking a break during the summer holidays. Each week the leaders provide loads of activities for the children and work hard to celebrate Christmas, Easter and the end of the Sunday Club year with special events and treats with the children and their families. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they do during the year and look forward to their return after the summer.

They will be saying goodbye to one leader who has been in Sunday Club since it was Sunday School. Lynn Armstrong is "retiring" to fulfill other church duties. We would like to thank her for her many years of dedication and wish her well as pursues other avenues in Greenbank.

Have a lovely summer, everyone.

Jill (Editor)

Dates for June 2026

Sunday 7th June – Communion – Sunday Club will join the congregation later in service for communion

Sunday 14th June – Last Sunday for Sunday Club – Fun and Games for the children

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

NOT LONG NOW!



FIFA WORLD CUP
CANADA | MEXICO
USA | 2026

There's a lot of excitement in Scotland as the Scottish Football Team head to the USA for World Cup for the first time since 1998.

Their first game is against Haiti on Sunday 14th June at 2 o'clock at night UK time in Foxborough near Boston. You can watch it the next day but will have to try hard not to learn the score in advance! The second game against Morocco is on Friday 19th June at the same stadium but is a bit earlier at 11PM. That should be well past your bedtime! Scotland's last match in the first round is against Brazil in Miami, again at 11PM. Scotland met Brazil the last time they went to the World Cup and lost by 2 goals to 1. Let's hope they do better this time!

Scotland have great fans who enjoy the experience as much as the play. Win or lose they impress the locals wherever they go with their fun and good humour. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they got to the next round? Let's get out the tartan and the flags and support our national team. Scotland !

FIND THE WORDS



- | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------|----------|---|
|  | WORLD CUP | FUTBALL | JERSEY |  |
| | STRIKER | DEFENSE | COACH | |
| | GOAL | GOALIE | FORWARD | |
| | SOCCER | CLEAT | MIDFIELD | |



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Legacy Project

LEGACY PROJECT UPDATE

As we walked round the annexe following the latest site meeting, it is clear that we are very nearly there:

- ✓ all of the wall coverings are now in place
- ✓ the final surface of the main hall has been laid
- ✓ the lighting is in
- ✓ the kitchen units and appliances are in
- ✓ the toilet cubicles are all fitted out and have been tiled
- ✓ the new sliding doors to the main entrance have been delivered and fitted
- ✓ the air source heat pumps are in and working
- ✓ an induction loop system has been fitted to the two halls
- ✓ the new vestry/office area has been floored and decorated
- ✓ the stonework around the two new doors from the annexe into the sanctuary are almost complete as is the new fire door on the north wall of the annexe.

There is a bright and airy feel about the annexe and we will have a building with which we can all be proud.



Outside, the landscaping work is continuing, and you will see the changes Sunday by Sunday. Around 20 trees have been planted and more are to come. The path in the front of the Church now extends right round to the new entrance to the annexe; external lighting is being put in place; and work is underway on the new access road from Mansfield Road. CCG, the company building the care home on the site of the old halls, have now built a wall between their site and the church grounds. This will allow our contractor to lay a path down that side of the church.

At the time of the last update, it had been hoped that the work would be finished towards the end of May or early June. This is later than had been planned at the start of the work and is due, in the main, to the late delivery of certain key materials and shortages of labour in certain areas. At the time of writing this current update, we are still hoping for the bulk of the work to be completed by mid to end June. The next site meeting will take place in the first week in June and we will have a clearer picture then.

The last update also reported that the Session had met to begin to focus on how we maximise all the opportunities that the new annexe presents. The outcome of that meeting is that three working groups have been established to look at:

- (i) community need and the potential of working with partners to satisfy need
- (ii) how best the whole congregation and wider community can become involved in shaping what we do and finally
- (iii) how we determine our priorities from all the ideas that will emerge.

Around twenty elders volunteered to be part of one of these three groups and work has already started. This really is the work of creating a sustainable, worshipping congregation serving the community that was the vision behind the entire Legacy Project. More on all of this will follow.

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



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 tinned tomatoes, diluting juice, long life milk, pot/packet noodles, small salt and peppers for the tables, tomato ketchup and brown sauce 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.

3,988 meals were provided in March and 4,014 meals in April. Only main courses are counted as meals. Some guests may only wish a starter or dessert at lunchtime or cereal at breakfast.

Volunteering to help Greenbank help the LHM: Would you like to join the new rota in July to deliver the donated items to the LHM on a suitable day during the week? If you would like to help, please get in touch with me.

The AGM had to be cancelled due to staff illness. The rescheduled meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17th June** at 6pm.

Guests of the LHM are making the most of the better weather with outings to places such as Mugdock Park and Linlithgow Park. Without the LHM and its minibus, many guests would not be able to get out of the city and enjoy different surroundings.



Live music in the art room



Linlithgow Park



Mugdock Park

Liz Smith
LHM Representative

GNE FOODBANK ANNUAL REVIEW




During 2025, the Glasgow North East Foodbank distributed 2,735 food parcels across 6 centres in Parkhead, Easterhouse, Bridgeton, Shettleston, Riddrie and The Story Coffee. They supported 5,685 people, 1,862 of them children.

Food donations totalled 24,726 kg, with almost 5,000kg donated from churches – Greenbank Church donated a huge 330kg. In addition, the foodbank purchased an additional 12,192kg of food allowing them to donate a massive 36,943kg of food to people in need.


Their key projects during the year were Winter Warmer Packs, Easter for Everyone, Summer Fun Bag and Hug-in-a-cup.

All of this is made possible by the hard working volunteers at GNE, but wouldn't happen without the support of those who donate food via Greenbank, and [donate online](#). Thank you all.

Donations can be left in the box in the church vestibule on a Sunday, or placed in the box in the manse hallway during office hours.


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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.

ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 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 16th August 2026** please.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR CONTACTS

EDITOR:	Jill Liddell	liddell.jill@gmail.com
DISTRIBUTOR:	Liz Allan	lizabeth.allan4417@gmail.com



GreenbankParish
CHURCH

Session Clerk: Helen Howard
Depute Session Clerk: Peter Liddell
Treasurer: Alistair Smith
Church Administrator: Sandra Veitch, 0141 644 1841, office@greenbankglasgow.org.uk
www.greenbankglasgow.org.uk
Church Address: 36 Eaglesham Road, Clarkston, Glasgow, Scotland. G76 7DJ
Congregation No. 160863. Registered Charity No: SC011453