thegoodneighbour

NOVEMBER 2026

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

GreenbankParish
CHURCH

Parish Register

DEATHS

18th August 2026	Mr Peter Cation of Clarkston
16th September 2026	Mr Ian McTurk of Giffnock
17th September 2026	Mrs Elizabeth Cross of Clarkston

PULPIT DIARY

Sunday 1st November	10.30am	Sacrament of Holy Communion with Sunday Club
Sunday 8th November	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday with Sunday Club
Sunday 15th November	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club
Sunday 22nd November	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club
Sunday 29th November	10.30am	Worship with Sunday Club (first Sunday of Advent)

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Flower Committee are looking for new members to join them on a rota basis TO ARRANGE the flowers in Church for the service on Sundays.

It involves contacting the person who is donating the flowers, buying the flowers, arranging them on a Saturday morning and sometimes delivering them to recipients.

No great skill is required just a love of flowers and we are happy to advise if needed.

It is a rewarding job as many of the arrangements are in memory of a loved one but at the same time they make our Church look happy and welcoming.

We urgently need more volunteers, so if you feel you are able to help please contact the Church office or any of the Committee:

FLOWER LISTS FOR NOVEMBER

	Communion Table	Side Windows
1st November	Communion	
8th November	Marie Forster	Jeanette McKay
15th November	The Guild	Moira McAldine
22nd November	Elizabeth McKenzie	
29th November	Elizabeth McDonald	

A member of the flower committee will contact you during the week prior to your date.

Sheets will be out with next year's dates on the windowsills in the transept at the end of November. Should you wish to donate flowers for next year please add your name to your chosen Sunday.

Thank You.

November 2026

Dear friends,

As the current church year draws to a close it is good to look forward to Advent and Christmas and our celebrations of the Christ child born anew among us. I feel so privileged to be celebrating my fourth Christmas with you all as I have found at Greenbank a people who are caught up in the life-giving activity of the Holy Spirit at work in our world today.

I am delighted especially this year that the Moderator of the Church of Scotland the Right Reverend Gordon Kennedy is coming to worship with us on Sunday 29th November and to formally open the new Annexe. A number of other guests are also being invited to join us that day which is primarily a church event, with a wider community-focussed event planned for the Spring. The annexe opening by the Moderator in November is a fitting recognition of the exciting journey you are on, the marking of a milestone in that, and of all the good work you do with and for your local community and beyond and to the benefit of people of all ages. We know that the beautiful new building will offer so many opportunities to engage in ministry and mission and is a tangible expression of your love for God and for others.

This forward- looking witness is so important not least because we live in increasingly difficult times. It is a feature of Scotland today that faith is seen by many as being a personal matter – something which is about individual choice, private and personal. Christians are urged to keep their faith to themselves and not bring it into the public arena for discussion, far less action, around such things as social policy, economics and other everyday realities.

This is in context of a scandal which often goes unseen. Government research available online forecasts a big rise in poverty so that by 2027 there will be over 3.7 million children in poverty in the UK. That is approximately one child in four. According to the Joseph Rowntree foundation, in Glasgow the number is even higher with over one in three children living in poverty. In some parts of our city that figure rises to three in every four children.

It is in this city and this time that you are faithfully responding to the words from the prophet Isaiah read aloud by our Lord Jesus Christ in the synagogue at Nazareth (Luke 4:18-19):

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'"

I thank God for you all and for the wonderful witness of your refurbished sanctuary and new annexe. I feel sure that you will continue to work with and for others in developing all the good work that will take place under its roof and in going out from the church into the world around you. You are building the future of a worshipping community in this part of Glasgow to the benefit of all who will participate in that and be served by it.

Thank you all for your inspiring ministry and mission!

With love and blessings,

Rev Ruth Halley

Reverend Ruth Halley
(Interim Moderator and Locum Minister)

Prayer Diary

"I saw the lovely arch
Of Rainbow span the sky,
The gold sun burning
As the rain swept by.
In bright-ringed solitude
The showery foliage shone
One lovely moment,
And the Bow was gone."

('The Rainbow ' - Walter de la Mare)

I feel that there's been a lot of rainbows this year. It's certainly been very showery, and some of the showers have been really heavy. It just feels like more than usual. Not that I'm complaining. When you suddenly come across a rainbow, it brightens up your day.

And here we are, sitting in our new annexe having our tea and coffee. After all these years, and all the work that went into bringing it about, it's finally a reality. Give thanks for all the people who worked so hard to get us here, and ask that this building will be full of love, faith and joy. Give thanks for everyone who found it in their hearts to contribute financially, or used their talents to fund-raise. Every small contribution has helped bring us here.

We're starting to head into the winter weather now, and we know that it's wilder than it used to be. Pray that we will not suffer any major catastrophe's, with serious damage to properties, and loss of life. Ask that this winter will not be too cold, as many people struggle with the cost of heating their homes .

The cold and rain, and darker days also stop more people from getting out and about. Remember everyone who lives alone, and pray that they will find strength in their faith, and good neighbours to bring them comfort.

"Do for others just what you want them to do for you."
(Luke 6:31)

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.

CHRISTIAN AID FIDDLER'S RALLY

Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church are having a concert by Bearsden Fiddlers on Saturday 14th November at 7.00p.m. This will feature their very own John Curror, with the proceeds going to Christian Aid.

The tickets are priced £10.00 which includes a supper.

If you would like a ticket or any other information, please contact their church office.

What's On

VISIT BY THE MODERATOR

On Sunday 29th November, the first Sunday in Advent, we are very honoured to be joined by Rt Rev Gordon Kennedy, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, along with his wife, Rev Fiona Kennedy at our worship at 10.30am. Following the service, the Moderator will officially open the Annexe.

Afterwards, a sandwich lunch will be served in the Annexe. All members are invited to the lunch, which is free of charge. If you wish to attend, please sign up for this by adding your name and details to the sheet in the church, or by contacting the church office.

Helen Howard
Session Clerk

CHURCH CHOIR

Church choir rehearsals for the Nine Lessons & Carols service (Sunday 13th December at 10.30am) will begin weekly from Thursday 29th October at 8.15pm in the church. Anyone who wishes to sing with the choir for this service is very welcome to join us. For more information please speak with the organist, Peter, or a member of the choir.

SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday 7th November at 10.00am in the Annexe. We are still reading Timothy Keller's book *"Hope in Times of Fear".* We will be looking at Chapter 8, *"Hope for you".* New members will be made most welcome. For further information please contact the church office.

THE GUILD

The Guild have been greatly saddened by the death of our Joint President, Elizabeth Cross. Although in poor health for some time, Elizabeth never missed a meeting. She was a true Guildswoman and had been our President/ Coordinator for fourteen years. She has also held various positions since 1995 within the Church of Scotland Presbyterial Council. Elizabeth always seemed to know when people were unwell and her visits were much appreciated. We extend our love and sympathy to her daughters, Gillian and Alison, and her granddaughter, Lyra.

Our opening meeting, held in our new premises, was a very pleasant afternoon. Everyone thought the halls were amazing. Rev. Ruth Halley reminisced on Elizabeth's funeral and re dedicated the Guild. It was a pleasure to welcome some new members. We trust they enjoyed the fellowship and that they may entice others to join. Our programme for November is as follows:

4 November	Roy's Johnstone: Life in Scotland in the Good Old Days
11 November	Aletia Crichton: Chair Exercises
18 November	Robert Hamilton: President Ronald Reagan
23 November	Andrew Hinson: The Daffodil Collection at Greenbank

Enid Dron
Secretary

TIME OUT

Our first meeting for November is Thursday 12th in the new halls. We will be having a talk and demonstration on First Aid at home, a very useful talk for everyone. As Christmas will be fast approaching, on the 26th November we are having a Christmas Crafts night when we will be making some interesting Christmas decorations . We meet at 7.30 and all are welcome.

Elaine Carr

GREENBANK PLAYERS

We are starting rehearsals soon for our 80th anniversary show, which will take place on Friday 23rd April 2027 in the evening, and on Saturday 24th April 2027 in the afternoon.

If you would like to join us, please speak to me or any member for more information.

Liz Smith
Secretary

BUSHIDO KARATE CLUB

Our club has been working hard in preparation for the Association Kata Championships, which will take place at the end of October. We are delighted to have 53 students representing our club, along with 11 teams competing at the championships. We wish all our competitors the very best of luck and look forward to seeing their hard work and dedication pay off.

A big thank you goes to Sensei Iain Frame and Adrian Hudson for their hard work in designing and producing our new club jackets. We have now taken delivery of the new coaches' jackets, and we look forward to receiving the students' jackets soon. These will be a great addition to our club and help bring everyone together as we represent the club at events.

We were also privileged to welcome Donald MacInnes, founder of the Bushido Karate Association, to our club. Donald delivered a session on Qi and Qi development, sharing his knowledge and experience in this fascinating area. He is a leading figure in the UK in the development and understanding of martial and health Qi, and we are grateful to him for taking the time to visit and share his expertise with our students.

Looking ahead to November, the Association's Black Belt Grading will take place, with a number of our students being put forward for this important milestone in their karate journey. We wish them every success as they continue their preparation and work towards achieving their next goal.

Thank you to all our students, instructors and supporters for their continued commitment and dedication to the club.

Best wishes,
John Elliot

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Clarkston Community Choir meets for weekly rehearsals from 7:30-9:30pm at Greenbank Parish Church, and they are busy preparing for a busy season of concerts in December, including their big charity concert finale, complete with 13-piece orchestra, at Greenbank Parish Church on 18th December. Rehearsals for the next two weeks will take place on Tuesdays (27th October and 3rd November) before returning to Wednesday evenings from 11th November. The group is very friendly and welcoming, open to anyone with an interest in singing - no auditions or previous musical/music reading experience required. For more info, pop along to a rehearsal on a Wednesday night or get in touch with us at: clarkstoncommunitychoir@gmail.com.

HALL HIRE

Greenbank Church Halls will not be available to hire for children's parties at this time.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

REMEMBERING

This November we do not have to look very far to see war. A lot of what is shown on the news is very upsetting as we see soldiers, families and children killed and injured in the Ukraine and the Middle East. Poppies remind us of how terrible war is but time after time their message is ignored or forgotten.

Many people choose to wear a poppy in November for Remembrance Day to show respect for the people who died fighting in the First World War and the wars that followed it, but there are other coloured poppies too - purple, black and white - that have different meanings.

The red poppy is the most famous symbol used to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in World War One and the wars that followed. Wearing a poppy was inspired by the fields of poppies that grew where many of the battles were fought. The red poppy belongs to the Royal British Legion - a charity created by veterans of World War One. They say that the red poppy represents remembrance and hope.

The purple poppy is often worn to remember animals that have been victims of war. Animals like horses, dogs and pigeons were often drafted into the war effort, and those that wear the purple poppy feel their service should be seen as equal to that of human service.

The Black Poppy Rose commemorates the contributions of black, African and Caribbean communities to the war effort - as servicemen and servicewomen, and as civilians.

Some people, though, feel that the red poppy glorifies war and conflict. Instead, they might choose to wear a white poppy. The white poppy is handed out by a charity called Peace Pledge Union, which promotes peace. They say that the white poppy commemorates people who died in conflict, but focuses on achieving peace and challenging the way we look at war.

National Tree Week
21st Nov to 29th Nov 2026

National Tree Week is UK's largest annual tree celebration, where the UK's conservation sector, volunteer groups and tree-lovers come together to plant thousands of trees to mark the start of the tree planting season.

This year's theme 'trees near you' is all about celebrating the trees that are part of our everyday lives. From the trees lining our streets and parks to those in school grounds, communities and local green spaces, these trees make a real difference where we live. They provide homes for wildlife, improve our wellbeing and help create healthier, greener spaces. National Tree Week is a chance to notice, appreciate and take action for the trees right on our doorstep.

East Renfrewshire is sometimes called "the leafy suburbs" because there are so many trees. Sadly. when we built our new annexe. we had to cut some trees down. Now that the annexe is built we have planted lots of trees as well as shrubs and flowers. Greenbank is doing its bit for trees and we look forward to watching our new trees grow in the coming years.

World Sandwich Day
3rd Nov 2026

The sandwich is named after John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, who liked eating beef placed between two slices of toasted bread when he wanted a simple snack. However the sandwich probably exists from the time bread did! There are not many people who don't eat sandwiches. Here are some of the favourites.

Britain's favourite sandwiches

1. BLT
2. Chicken salad
3. Tuna mayonnaise/Fish finger
4. Cheese and pickle
5. Egg and cress
6. Coronation chicken
7. Prawn mayonnaise
8. Smoked salmon & cream cheese
9. Beef and horseradish

Is your favourite there? The editor's grandfather liked cheese and blackcurrant jam sandwiches. One of her friends liked to put a bar of milk chocolate between the two slices of bread! Whatever your favourite is, enjoy!

SUNDAY CLUB

Greenbank Sunday Club...Give them a good start

Hi Everyone,

We are looking forward to the festive season as Christmas approaches.

We continue to work on crafts and games with the children spreading the word of God through stories and play.

We have settled into the Annex, and the children are enjoying having more room to enjoy their Sunday mornings.

Sunday Club Team

Dates for November are: -

Sun 1st November – Communion – Sunday Club meet in Annex and join congregation for Communion
Sun 8th November – Sunday Club meet in the Church and then annexe
Sun 15th November – Sunday Club meet in the Church and then annexe
Sun 22nd November – Sunday Club meet in the Church and then annexe
Sun 29th November – Sunday Club meet in the Church and then annexe
Sun 6th December – Sunday Club Gift Service - Sunday Club meet in Church and then annexe

St Andrew's Day
30th November

People in Scotland have celebrated Saint Andrew as a national figure for a long time. Some believe this tradition started around the time of Malcolm III (1058–1093). While it has been celebrated for centuries, November 30 only recently became an official national holiday. Sadly, it's not a school holiday.

Andrew was one of Jesus' first disciples. After Jesus died Andrew continued Jesus' work of preaching and teaching. Like Jesus, the Romans did not approve and so they executed him too. He was buried in Patras in Greece where he was the bishop.

According to legend, in AD 345 a Greek monk named Regulus or Rule was warned in dream that the Roman Emperor, Constantine, was going the invade the Greek city of Patras where Andrew's bones were kept, steal them and move them to Constantinople (Istanbul). To safeguard them Regulus was told to take as many bones as possible and flee to the edge of the world. The edge of the world was believed to be Scotland.

St Andrew is a very popular saint. Saint Andrew's Day has also been a national holiday in Romania since 2015 is considered the patron saint of many places. These include Cyprus, Greece (especially the city of Patras), Romania, Russia, Ukraine, and Tenerife in Spain. He is also the patron saint of San Andres Island in Colombia and Saint Andrew in Barbados.

Scottish Jokes for St Andrews Day

Q: What do you call 10 cows in a Scottish field?
A: The one on holiday—the wee calf!
Q: How did the little Scottie dog feel when he saw a werewolf?
A: Terrier-fied!
Q: What do you call a man from Glasgow who has lost his dog?
A: Douglas

The ruins of St Andrews Cathedral in St Andrews, Fife.

St. Andrew's Day Word Search

Can you find the Scotland related words in this fun wordsearch?

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

SAINT ANDREW, SCOTLAND, CROSS, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, BAGPIPES, HAGGIS, BLUEBELLS, HEATHER, KILT, TARTAN, SPORRAN

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 kettle foods such as pot/packet noodles and cup a soup are particularly needed. Donations of disposable razors and new male boxer shorts (small, medium and large sizes)** would also be appreciated.

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 at the start of the Sunday 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. The LHM is very grateful for all donations.

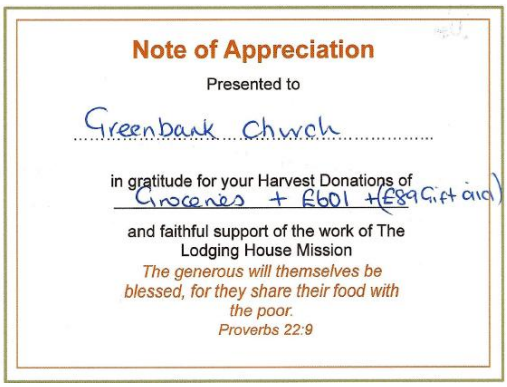
Harvest Thanksgiving: Very many thanks to all those who supported the Harvest Appeal so generously. A packed car of food donations was taken to the LHM as well as a beautiful flower arrangement. £670 including £89 in Gift Aid was also collected at the retiring offering. Your gifts of food and money are always greatly appreciated. Thank you also to Carol Scofield and Alison Allan for decorating the church so beautifully and to Derek Christie for his assistance in removing the donations from the church.

Volunteers are needed at the LHM. If you would like to help at the LHM for a couple of hours or longer on a weekly or fortnightly basis, then the LHM would love to hear from you. Help is needed in the hall to serve teas and meals as well as people to participate in the activities programme.

Christmas cards will be on sale again this year. There are seven designs, a mixture of old and new ones, and each pack of ten cards costs £4.50. Further details will be provided in the Order of Service.

In September 2026 4304 meals were served compared with 4052 meals in September 2025.

Liz Smith
LHM Representative


Note of Appreciation

Presented to

Greenbank Church

in gratitude for your Harvest Donations of Groceries + £601 + £89 Gift aid

and faithful support of the work of The Lodging House Mission

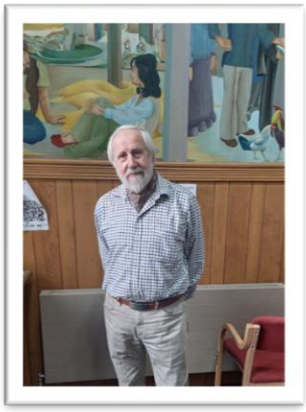
The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.
Proverbs 22:9

A heartfelt thanks to the congregation at Greenbank Church for the generous Harvest donations as well as a monetary donation of £601 + £89 Gift aid)

Your kindness will enable us to provide meals, care and support to those experiencing homelessness and poverty

With grateful thanks and warmest wishes from everyone at the LHM.

A SURPRISE VISITOR TO GREENBANK



On the first Sunday of teas in the annexe we were delighted to welcome a visitor, who asked to see inside our church. It transpired that he was Gordon Lennox, who had helped Alasdair Gray to paint the mural in the Fulton Memorial Transept in 1973.

The mural depicts the story of Ruth but many faces were of people Alasdair Gray knew as well as of people from our church. Gordon lives in Fife but we hope that he will visit Greenbank again someday so that we can record all the names of the people in the mural.

Liz Smith

Glasgow NE Foodbank
Together with Trussell

The Glasgow North East Foodbank continues to support families by ensuring that no one in the community faces going hungry. That's why they provide five days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. As a part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, they constantly work to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

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, as well as helping by **donating 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. At the moment, as well as **the usual food items, the foodbank would appreciate donations of toiletries of all types**.

Alex Howie, GNE Foodbank Coordinator

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 the church office. You may also post me a cheque and/or your freewill offering contribution to the church address. Thank you all for your continuing support.

Alistair Smith, Treasurer

LEGACY FUND

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

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

Scan me

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

Alistair Smith, Treasurer

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 DECEMBER 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 15th November 2026** please.

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