

Green Shoots

Seeking excellence in children, family and youth ministry.



Prayer Letter

For Daily Prayer

- Tuesdays Story Telling at Celtic Cross Nursery (Monthly).
R.M.E. at Banchory Primary and Finzean Primary (Weekly).
- Wednesdays PEACE rooms at Banchory Academy (Weekly).
- Thursdays R.M.E. at Crathes Primary and Hill of Banchory Primary (Weekly).
- Fridays Young families gathering (Weekly).
- Sundays Sunday School or All Age Worship
Youth and Young Adults Gathering

A Spiritual Legacy

The Green Shoots Trust is the legacy project of the late Rev. Lisa Eunson. Ministry to young people was one of her greatest joys, and the trust was established with a view to promoting excellence in children, family and youth ministry at St Ternan's.

Our part-time employee, Henna Cundill, works within Church life, and also in Schools and Community Spaces, sharing the story of faith with people of all ages.

Green Shoots is about creating a family of worship, where faith is handed down from one generation to the next. We lead our children by example, making meaningful connection with one another and connecting young families into wider circles of care.

How can I support this work?

The Green Shoots Trust is currently in the process of acquiring legal charitable status, after which time we will be able to process your donation more efficiently. Queries about supporting the trust financially can be directed to Ken Elliott at kmdelliott@aol.com.

In the meantime, we value your prayer support.





Jesus in the Classroom

Religious Education and Religious Observance in Scottish Primary Education.

A common misconception is that Christianity and Christian Worship no longer has a place in Scottish Schools. In fact, the opposite is true: Scottish Primary Schools are required to provide regular R.M.E. (Religious and Moral Education) and R.O. (Religious Observance, i.e. School Assembly) that is based on 'Scottish values and their roots in Scotland's Christian heritage.'

Schools are encouraged, wherever possible, to invite local faith leaders

into School to talk about their values and religious practice. Thus, the Green Shoots Trust has had a positive response from all the local Primary Schools, and Henna now teaches a 30-minute R.M.E. class to over 100 children per week, woven through with regular whole-school assemblies.

During the R.M.E. classes the children look at a Bible story, and talk about what it means to follow Jesus and the values Jesus taught us

to live by. Thanks to the generosity of trust donors, we have recently been able to purchase a set of 25 classroom Bibles, so that the children can learn how to look up verses and read God's great story for themselves. The vast majority of these children will never be taken to Church by an adult, and yet- thanks to the Green Shoots Trust- they now have a chance learn the central truths of faith, and will be equipped to read the Bible and apply it to daily life.

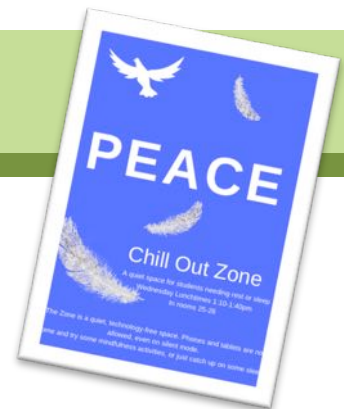
"My biggest concern this term is mental health..."

Early in the School Year, Henna met with the Rector of Banchory Academy to talk about how the Green Shoots Trust might enable partnership between St Ternan's and the School. The Rector reported:

"My biggest concern this term is mental health...it's waiting to explode. We're barely two weeks into term and poor

mental health is already the primary reason for students not attending School this year."

February will see the launch of PEACE: Chill Out Zone. Henna and Sue will be overseeing two classrooms, in a quiet area of the school, on Wednesday lunchtimes.



The rooms will be a technology-free space for students who need to take a break, rest, sleep, or take part in mindfulness activities.

Coming alongside our families raising pre-schoolers.

The Green Shoots Trust supports the work of a dedicated children's team at St Ternan's, offering an attractive and nurturing environment for Christian families. Our aim is to lead children into their own experience of faith and worship.

Through getting out and about with her own children, Peter (4-pictured above) and Andrew (3), Henna has been able to get to know other local mums, in addition to those who already worship in our congregation.

It was quickly identified that, although in general Banchory is a great place to raise a young family-with lots of activities and opportunities for children, many new parents do not have extended family nearby, and new mothers at home on maternity leave can find themselves isolated.



As there is currently no 'drop-in' style playgroup in the village on a Friday, a small group has begun to gather every Friday morning at the Rectory for 'Coffee, Chat and Play.' The group comprises some regular

Church members but also some families with no faith connections, who are just looking for a place to be welcomed and make new friends.



Another initiative to support our youngest ones has been the introduction of 'All Sorts Sunday.'

On these special Sundays, the children and young people split into three separate age-groups for their Sunday School time. The teenagers head out to TEASE café to chat with our youth leaders about faith, life and everything. Meanwhile, the primary-school aged children have an opportunity to experience a Godly Play session, and the pre-schoolers have their own special session based around music and multi sensory prayer.



The monthly service of All Age Worship, established under Lisa's leadership, continues as a place of joy and encounter for both the young and young-at-heart.

The service time has recently been moved to 9:30am for a trial period, as young mums commented that the 11am start was prohibitive for toddlers who, by late morning, are beginning to need a nap.

Also, for the vast majority of our Church families, only one parent is a practicing Christian, which means that the 11am service conflicts with a very real need to spend time together as a family at weekends.



Food

Friends

Faith



We hope you have enjoyed reading this insight into the work of the Green Shoots Trust.

Your prayer support is highly valued, as we seek to bear out Lisa's vision for a lively and effective ministry to children, youth and families.

Please do connect with us on Facebook by liking our page: @Greenshootsfamily

Webiste:

Stternansbanchory.org.uk

To contact Henna:

Greenshootsfamily@outlook.com

Youth and Young Adults

The youth group at St Ternan's continues to meet approximately once per month, according to the young people's schedules. We have recently lowered the age-range of youth group by opening it up to our two girls in their final year of primary school, which gives us a regular attendance of between 6 to 8 young people.

However, it was felt that something more frequent and less formal was needed to give young people the opportunity to mix with other young Christians, to see discipleship in action and learn what it means to be a young Christian adult in today's society.

A group of young adults had already been gathering at Henna and Alan's house in Ellon on Sunday afternoons, and when the family moved to Banchory the young adults moved their gathering to St Ternan's Rectory! This gathering has now been opened up to include the St Ternan's youth too.

The afternoon starts with catching up over a cup of tea, sometimes a board game, then a shared meal. Compline is said at 7pm, to which the parents of our young people are also welcomed.

In addition to the regular youth programme, a series of Confirmation Classes will be running in February/March 2018, and we look forward to seeing some of our young people getting Confirmed by the newly consecrated Bishop Anne Dyer (Scotland's first female Bishop!) on 18th March.

Henna's Personal Update



When Lisa phoned me, just a few weeks before she died, and asked if I would move to Banchory, with my family, and take on this role with Green Shoots Trust, it was completely left-of-field. At the same time though, it felt like an answer to a prayer that I had not-quite-prayed...

Alan and I are so glad we took the leap and made this move! Our children, Peter and Andrew, have settled well into their new surroundings, and we're grateful for the warm welcome we have all received from the congregation.

My training for ordination with the Scottish Episcopal Church continues, and in the coming weeks I will be having discussions with our incoming Bishop as to how (and indeed, if) we can integrate the next stage of my training with my work for the Green Shoots Trust.

I value your prayers at this time, as that next stage of my training is worked out, and also for us as a family as we seek to find more permanent accommodation. It would also be great if you could pray for Peter, our 4 year old, as he prepares to move from nursery to 'Big School' this coming autumn.