



THE ORCHARDHILL RECORD

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Orchardhill
Parish Church
Church Road
Giffnock
Glasgow
G46 6JR
Tel: 638 3604

Is there a future for the church? Part 2

In my last article in the Orchardhill Record, I posed the question: "Is there a future for the church?" I gave some historical background, and then I pointed out some of the good things within our church and in the wider Glasgow area. Coincidentally this week's article by Bishop John Shelby Spong cites some American examples of the same thing.

So where then is the new life I referred to? The "Dandelions in the cracks of the institutional concrete".

First, there are some wonderful examples of new life in many churches that are intentional and publicly positioning themselves as churches that endorse a "new way" of approaching their Christian tradition. The ones that seem to experience the greatest energy and even growth in this declining market start with a more contemporary theology and Christology and move from there to an emphasis on values, relationships and spirituality rather than on beliefs and creeds. Some of the qualities that we can easily identify in these churches include things like active pluralism: real connections with communities of other faith traditions, shared space and the use of combined rituals. Another characteristic we have observed is a comfort, acceptance and even affirming relationships with people from the GLTB

communities. In all of these vital churches there is no sexual orientation issue.

While many of these models tend to show up in "new start" churches, real change does occur in several older mainline denominational churches. This usually happens with a congregation that has decided that it wants to re-identify itself as a new kind of church. Most of these churches have been led by an inspired minister through a process of discovery. Probably the most consistent quality that can be seen in these change agents is their ability to articulate a clear redefined purpose of the church. They are usually spiritually grounded and have a positive vision for the future. It helps to have some skills in dealing with conflict.

Some of these talented folks have their own creative ideas and are entrepreneurial. Others have used one of the dozen consultants that are now available, some with more success than others. Some are using a whole new operating system in order to view not only the church but their faith and even their world perspective as well.

Rev Dr Tom Thresher, author of a new book, *Reverent Irreverence*, has used his experience with Integral Theory to create new possibilities for the church and Christianity. His book tracks his experience in a church that

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Is there a future for the church? Part 2

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he ministers in and offers a vision for change in the future church. He provides a model that integrates Eastern wisdom and Western enlightenment, yet leaves room for traditional as well as progressive Christians and anyone else who would like to experience what he refers to as "Christ consciousness". When those in leadership realise that the purpose of the church is to help others experience the Divine at the deepest levels then the focus of the congregation is on practices and behaviour and not on beliefs and creeds. I believe that Thresher is on to something very important.

As I have written before, I am hopeful that the young people in the "Emerging" movement will continue to offer something substantial to a new and vital understanding of the Christian faith. Phil Snider and Emily Bowen, both ordained clergy in the Disciples of Christ church, certainly believe that there are plenty of opportunities in the

Emergent movement to help the whole church evolve. They have written a book called, Toward a Hopeful Future. The subtitle of their book is "Why the Emergent Church is Good News for the Mainline Congregations".

As ministers of a church, they speak and write from experience. Like Thresher, they offer not only a vision but a model. Best of all, they provide tools and many tips garnered from their own experience of trying to accommodate young people from this changing spectrum.

They make it very clear, however, that our mainline churches cannot keep doing things the same way and expect these young people to conform to our ways, our theologies and Christologies. "Emergents" are as uncomfortable with absolute certainty as they are with our typical mainline worship services. But they certainly represent Dandelions in the cracks of our church institutions.

Some more next month.

Chris

Octave Concert



In May this year my musical group, Octave, and I were delighted to perform a concert to raise funds for the SLA trip to India this summer. The evening was a great success.

Octave is a relatively new group, having performed our inaugural concert last September. As the name suggests, the group is made up of eight singers I hand-picked from the various musical groups I have had the pleasure of working with over the years.

If you enjoyed the concert in

Orchardhill we will be performing a new series of concerts on Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 September this year at 7.30pm in Motherwell's GLO Auditorium. Tickets are priced £10. The group are entirely voluntary, with proceeds from our concerts going to a nominated charity which this year is Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres based at Wishaw General Hospital.

Information and booking forms for the concert are available on the Orchardhill noticeboards. If you are interested in tickets please speak to Shona or me.

David Fisher

Welcome Rota



August

5	Jim Johnston 633 2638; Jeanette Birnie 638 0457; Bill Blackie 639 1424; Ronald Carswell 638 6639
12	Gordon Ross 638 1207; Jeanette Birnie; Rachel Bell 639 8193; Ronald Carswell
19	Gordon Ross; Jeanette Birnie; Rachel Bell; Caroline Stuart 560 3335
26	Bill McMurtrie 571 2512; Valerie Clark 638 6148; Gillian Brogan 639 6269; Caroline Stuart

September

2	Bill McMurtrie; Valerie Clark; David Evans 571 7846; Norma Hannah 638 7515
9	Ian Anderson 638 0689; Allan Rennie 882 9703; David Evans; Steve McAslan 589 4289
16	Ian Anderson; Allan Rennie; Ann Pope 616 4809; Steve McAslan
23	Ian Anderson; Jim Kerr 638 2747; Ann Pope; Peter Worthington 638 4316
30	Ian Anderson; Jim Kerr; Susan McQuilter 638 6936; Peter Worthington

Church Choir

Orchardhill's choir resumes on Monday 10 September at 7.30pm in the Session Room. A very warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to join us.

We will be rehearsing a new cantata titled "A World of Christmas" by Joseph M Martin. We have sung a couple of Mr Martin's compositions before and have enjoyed his harmonies and his take on traditional music, maintaining a fresh approach to well-known stories of the bible.

Our 2011-2012 session it was a busy but satisfying time for the choir, and I thank them all for their dedication and enthusiasm. We sang a Martin cantata "Winter's Grace" at Christmas and excerpts from "The Good Shepherd" by T Mee Pattison at Easter, when a string quartet accompanied the choir. It was a lovely selection of music and is still available on the church website to listen to if you missed it. We will be continuing with introits and anthems throughout the year, and I look forward to another fulfilling session.

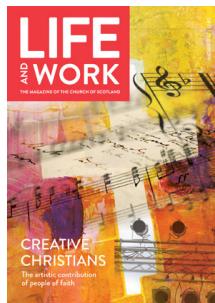
We are a very friendly group of singers who enjoy each other's company and singing praises to the Lord. Please come along and join us.





All smiles after the Lodging House Mission cycle challenge in June – (left to right) Dorothy Cartlidge, Richard Park, Chris Vermeulen, Bill Blackie and Ian Cartlidge. In all, 12 Orchardhill members participated in the charity event which raised more than £1300 to help tackle homelessness in Glasgow. Thanks to all who participated and to all who gave so generously.

LIFE AND WORK Creative Christians



This is the year of Creative Scotland as our nation celebrates the arts. The theme is picked up this month by Life and Work, the Church of Scotland magazine, in an article about people of faith making their own contribution to literature, painting, music, and the stage.

Other features this month include:

Passing the Faith: In his first column as Moderator, Rt Rev Albert Bogle reflects on his theme for the year.

Blessed are the Poor: Rev John Carswell reflects on monetary gifts during a charity collection.

From Jacob to Israel: Rev Marion Dodd demonstrates how name changes in Old and New Testaments have created “new” men.

Getting and Spending: Very Rev Dr James A Simpson looks at the deadly sin of greed.

Space Shapers: Rev Roddy Hamilton considers how the drama of God can be enacted at weekly worship through symbol and imagination.

Tax Dodging Hurts the Poor

From 24 August to 15 October, Christian Aid's Tax Justice Tour will take to the road to raise awareness of the impact tax-dodging has on the poor. It is hoping to send a strong message to the Government that it's time for MPs to take action to end it.



Christian Aid is running the tour in partnership with UK campaigners, Church Action on Poverty, who bring the perspective of the impact tax dodging has on people in the UK.

The Tax Justice Tour will take Christian Aid's red double-decker bus across every region of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The bus will provide a space for you to learn more about tax dodging and its impact on those living in poverty.

There will be talks with local and national politicians as well as church leaders and campaigners. The tour will

Orchardhill Badminton Club

Do you want to keep fit and have fun? Well, the Orchardhill Badminton Club could be for you. Perhaps you haven't played for a while but are thinking about picking up your racket again.



The new season of the club begins on Tuesday 4 September at 7.30pm in the Memorial Halls. We have a healthy membership with varying degrees of age and ability, and anyone over 16 will be made most welcome on the 4th or any Tuesday after that. Throughout the year we hold a singles and doubles tournament within the club, a crazy tournament (just for fun), and also have some social outings.

For those looking for competitive matches, we have four teams playing in local leagues: two mixed teams, a ladies' team, and a gents' team. Home

also provide the chance to hear from people who have first-hand experience of the impact tax dodging. It will, of course, provide the opportunity and tools for you to help tackle this gross injustice.

Tax dodging costs poor countries an estimated £110 billion a year. That is 50% more than the UK's international aid budget, and it deprives poor communities of money that should be funding development: paying for schools, hospitals, infrastructure and other vital services.

Christian Aid's 2009 report, False Profits, explains the maths and the kind of damage this does to development: you can download it from the Christian Aid website.

The Tax Justice Tour bus will be in Glasgow on 2 October. I will let you have details nearer the time. For more information see www.christianaid.co.uk.

Chris

matches are played on a Thursday evening. The matches are generally well-contested, and our teams fare reasonably well; indeed, last year the ladies' team won their division of the Langside League.

Each year the club competes in the Thornlee Tournament, a local inter-club event run over two weeks in April with a social event at its conclusion. This year's tournament was very closely fought, but Orchardhill managed to win the overall team trophy in addition to several individual event winners and runners-up.

If you would like more information please contact Shona Fisher on 01357 523149 (shona.fisher2@mail.com) or Emma Taylor (emma.orchardhillbaddersclub@gmail.com).



Orchardhill Olympics



After many months of planning by the Fellowship Task Group, our summer outing, the Orchardhill Olympics, went ahead in Huntly Park on Sunday 10 June, just two days after the real Olympic torch passed through Giffnock. The rain stayed away for most of our day, and when it did come it neither stopped play nor dampened the spirits of those who came along to join in the fun.

A huge thank-you needs to be said to the large group of helpers who got our "Olympic Stadium" ready for the "Opening Ceremony" in time. There was a very real spirit of fellowship among the folk there, and with everyone pulling together, we soon had the registration marquee and the refreshment tent in place along with the miles of bunting which decorated Huntly Park.

At 1.30 our first torch-bearer set off from the church with our magnificent torch based on a lovely design created by two of the Brownies from the 2nd "A" Giffnock unit, Madi Callander and Sophie-Kay Black. The torch was passed from one runner to the next all the way up Church Road and down Huntly Avenue to the park. It was fantastic to see people cheering on our torch-bearers, some of whom overcame walking difficulties to proudly carry the torch.

Once we reached the park gates we had a short opening ceremony. We were very pleased to have Andrew Mullen with us to help us get the games under way. Andrew is a fifth year pupil at Mearns Castle High school who attended the Parent and Toddler Group here many years ago. He is a fantastic swimmer and has been selected to be part of the GB Paralympic team this year in London. We, of course, congratulate him on his selection, wish him well later in the

summer, and will follow his progress with interest. He said a few words of welcome for us and then introduced "Her Majesty The Queen", who cut the ribbon and got the games going. Many thanks to Anne Anderson for her magnificent performance.

We had clearly marked areas for field and track events, and we had a large number of activities for the children, the adults, and the less active adults who participated in five teams representing the five continents of the Olympic symbol. Events ranged from the three-legged race and the space-hopper race to croquet and boules with speed-knitting and jigsaw completion against the clock along the way. There were many other games like fling the wellie, toss the biro, juggling, golf-chipping and an all-ages quiz to mention just a few. Our participants all had great fun and whether they were five or seventy-five they took part with gusto and smiles on their faces and, in some cases, more than a normal level of competitiveness!

The teams in the top two positions at the end of the scheduled events then went head to head in a "Tug-of-Friendship" with Europe as our overall winners after the rope had broken twice. We clearly don't know our own strength. I like to think it was a very clear sign of how much stronger we are together than apart. Our Olympic champions then were awarded their gold Cadbury's medals, and the games were over.

Throughout the afternoon we had great support from members of Bridges, who ran a tuck shop, and Thorntonhall Farmhouse Ice Cream, who came along with a variety of their delicious ices for us to enjoy.

An especially big thank-you must be given to Wholefoods Market who

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Orchardhill Olympics

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brought along delicious filled rolls, crisps and cans of juice for the participants to enjoy. All the money raised from the sale of their food during the afternoon was promised by Wholefoods to our church, and they have given us a cheque for over £319, which is just fantastic. Our community really pulled together, and by helping each other we all benefited from the occasion.

It was lovely to see many friends there having a great time. On a happy note, some unfamiliar faces were also there, and I suspect some people came to the park that afternoon not knowing anything was going on and just joined in. It is great to think that we have reached out into our community and involved people unconnected with our church. I hope that, in future, more people from our own church will choose to support these events as well.

Although we are not likely to repeat the Olympics any time soon, the Fellowship Task Group will continue to put together events for members of our church to encourage greater fellowship. The success of these ventures depends entirely on those participating. The more people who come along, the greater the atmosphere and the greater the fellowship.

I would again emphasize that all events organised by the Fellowship Task Group are specifically planned with all age groups in mind, and we have run very successfully a number of Outings/In-ings/Elders' Evenings where everyone has had a great time. I know this is true because of all the positive feedback given. If you have never yet been to an event, please come along next time. You will be pleasantly rewarded with a fun time with friends old and new, and you will have contributed to the sharing of God's love to your neighbour through each one of us.

Shona Cook



The Orchard Community Café

It has been a busy year in the Orchard Community Café, and we have particularly enjoyed having the mums, toddlers and babies from the Imagifun class plus a few dads, grannies and grandpas with us on a Tuesday. It's a very child friendly atmosphere: so if you're a child-minding grandparent, why not come and join us?

As a result of our busy time, we have been able to donate a record amount to charity this year. £250 each has gone to Macmillan Cancer Support, Starter Packs Glasgow, Robin House, Bliss Scotland, Values into Action Scotland, Hazelwood School, Glasgow SE Foodbank, Malcolm Sargent House (Prestwick), and Orchardhill Church. Also, £200 to Glasgow the Caring City, £350 to Scottish Love in Action, and £252 to Compassion UK, through which we support a small boy in Ethiopia at the rate of £21 per month. That makes a grand total of £3052.

The charities that we support are mainly local or ones with which someone has a connection. If you would like to nominate any particular charity, please let us know.

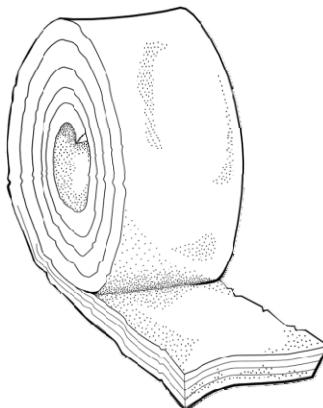
We try to keep our overheads to a minimum, although we obviously have to buy tea, coffee etc in addition to keeping the dishwasher and boiler serviced. Our bakers and soup-makers provide us with a wonderful variety of good things, but we would like to have a few more people on the rota. We do not need anything fancy: just tray bakes and tasty soups!

We would also like a few more helpers. This does not need to be a regular commitment, but if you were willing to help one day every few weeks that would be great.

We look forward to seeing all our regular customers and hopefully a few new ones when we start again in September.



Insulation Offer



Are you interested in helping to save God's planet and saving money in the process?

Many of you will already have cavity wall and/or loft insulation installed in your home, but if you have not done so then you will be interested that ScottishPower is offering both for free till 30 September.

Cavity-wall and loft insulation are simple ways to reduce your carbon footprint at home. If your home isn't insulated you could be losing a quarter of your heat through the roof and over a third through the walls. It costs more to keep warm! These insulation measures are quick and easy to install, will make your home more energy efficient and easier, and cheaper to keep warm. In fact, installing such insulation could lower your energy bills by over £300 each year.

You do not need to be a ScottishPower customer to take advantage of the offer. If you are interested, visit www.scottishpower.co.uk/homeinsulation (quoting code SPF) for further details of the offer and associated terms and conditions or call 0845 601 7836. Also, if you are on certain benefits, such as child tax credits or a state pension, you may also be eligible for up to £200 of high-street vouchers.

Please note that this is not an advert on behalf of ScottishPower. All the energy supply companies in the UK are obligated by the Government to reduce domestic carbon emissions and have targets to meet by the end of this year. Therefore most are offering similar insulation deals. If you make contact with other companies they will be able to tell you of the offers they currently have available.

Flower Delivery



Many thanks to all who have helped with the very worthwhile service of delivering the church flowers. If you added your name some time ago, please check the lists at the church doors as a reminder of your chosen date. The recipients of the flowers are

always most appreciative of the kind thoughts which accompany the flowers.

If you wish to assist please select a free date from the lists and add your details. For further information please contact Norma Hannah (638 7515: norma@mikehannah.plus.com).

COMMUNION ROLL

Disjunctions

Alex and Betty Cleland, 58 Forres Avenue, Giffnock (district 31)

Death

On 9 May 2012 Mrs Mary McGuigan, 12 Keith Avenue, Giffnock (district 40)

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism

On Sunday 1 April 2012 Connal David, son of Martin and Gillian Brogan, 98 Hillend Road, Clarkston G76 7XY (district 20)

Marriage

On Thursday 5 July 2012 Andrew Kerr to Gillian Logan, Flat 3/1, 20 Durward Court, Shawlands, Glasgow

Changes of Address

Alison M D Bell from 20 Hillside Road, Mansewood to 18 Hillside Road, Mansewood, Glasgow G43 1DB (district 41)

Mrs Margaret Henderson from 32 Carrick Crescent, Giffnock (district 10) to Flat 31, 5 Waterford Road, Giffnock G46 7PJ (district 30)

Orchardhill Record – September Deadline

Contributions for the September edition of the *Orchardhill Record* should be in the editorial team's hands no later than **Sunday 19 August**. Contributions should be either sent by email to record-editor@orchardhill.org.uk before 1.00pm that day or left in the relevant slot in the rack in the church corridor no later than 10.30am.

We prefer contributions to be sent by email, and we cannot accept any handwritten or typed item that does not identify the source.

Please submit all contributions as soon as possible. Do not wait until the deadline date.

A couple of contributions have gone missing in transmission in the past year. The editor acknowledges every contribution: so please contact him before the deadline if he does not advise that he has received yours.

August

Sun	5	10.30 am	Family Worship and Sacrament of Baptism	Rev Chris Vermeulen
Mon-Fri	6-10	10.00 am-noon	Huntly Hounders in Huntly Park	
		7.30 - 9.30pm	Chips Café in the Memorial Halls	
Sun	12	10.00am	Mission Service in Huntly Park (weather permitting)	
		11.15am	Morning Worship	
Sun	19	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Chris Vermeulen
Sun	26	10.30am	Family Service and Sacrament of Baptism	Rev Chris Vermeulen

September

Sun	2	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Chris Vermeulen
Sun	9	10.30am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev Chris Vermeulen