



Orchardhill
Giffnock

THE RECORD

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Yes we can!

I clearly remember the first-term election campaign of President Barak Obama where he very cleverly used the slogan "Yes we can!" to inspire the nation. Whether he has or has not delivered I cannot say, but there is something about having a go that I admire and conversely drives me to despair when people simply say it cannot be done. Doing nothing as Christian people is never an option. The Bible is simply full of stories of people overcoming incredible odds.

You may recall that on the longest day of the year I played 101 holes of golf. Why? Because it has never been done on that course in over 100 years and people said it was not possible given the difficulty, particularly for a senior golfer on the wrong side of 50. We raised £1268.20 before we recover gift aid, and we should end up with a total in excess of £1500.00. So thanks to everyone who supported their crazy minister's endeavours that day.

The experience was life-changing and has been a deeply spiritual experience for me since. I have reflected on it and drawn inspiration from it for the challenges that lie ahead both for me and for us as a church. We are living in an increasingly secular age and in some cases a hostile age. Being part of the church and followers of Jesus make us a peculiar minority.

I do believe that there are lots of people who simply do not have time for church or for God or Jesus. But I also believe that there is a significant number of people who follow Jesus and have a deep sense of God in their lives but feel the church has nothing for them or that it has betrayed the Kingdom of God by the way it has conducted itself. In truth there is very little we can do to rewrite history or correct the wrongs of the past.

Having said that I am still positive and I do believe that the impossible is possible. I believe we need to be faithful to the teaching of Jesus not to be afraid to change in the light of new truth. The church does not cope well with new understandings and evidence that contradicts its long held dogma. Today we are still wrestling with the consequences of Darwin and the enlightenment, let alone the new understandings of our faith and texts gleaned from scholarship and discoveries over the past 200 years. We need to let go of past traditions that no longer sustain us or truths that we know are not valid in a 21st Century world. Jesus and the early church did it when reforming their understanding of the Old Testament.

Can we heed the call to integrity in worship and act justly in the world? Can we be the light in a world plagued with war, injustice, hopelessness, and selfishness? I believe we can. God is not finished with me and is certainly not finished with the church. I believe the impossible can become possible. Can we do it? Yes we can!

Chris

Sunday Crèche



For many weeks you may have noticed some small children and babies being brought to church on a Sunday morning: so perhaps it is time for us to provide a crèche.

We have the room and the toys but no one to organise this valuable facility.

Some ladies have said they would be willing to help, and therefore all that is needed is an organiser. If you feel this could be your way of serving please contact Anne Barr (07808 767 076) who will give you all the help she can to start you on your new venture.

Flower Delivery



If you can help with the much appreciated flower-delivery service please add your name to a date on the lists (located at both church doors during the summer and only at the tower door during the winter).

If you need any information please contact Norma Hannah (638 7515, norma@mikehannah.plus.com). Thank you.

Fitness, Friendship and Fun!



Have you taken a few years out of the game for school exams or university or to look after your children? Did you play when you were younger and are thinking of dusting off your racket? Are you just looking for a fun way to keep fit? If any of these is you, then come and join Orchardhill's senior badminton club.

The new season of senior badminton begins on Tuesday 3 September at 7.30pm in the Memorial Halls for all current members and anyone else interested in playing. The club meets every Tuesday evening for social (well, slightly competitive) games, and the standard of play varies to suit all skill levels. We also meet on Thursday evenings for matches.

We hope the 2013-2014 season will be a successful one for the mixed, ladies and gents teams and also the club in competing in the annual Thornlee Tournament next spring as the finale to the season. There are the club doubles and singles competitions to look forward to, and we have some social events planned such as a meal out, a quiz and a fun crazy tournament when the normal rules of badminton go out the window, and points make prizes!

If you are interested in joining, please contact Shona Fisher on 01357 523149 or by emailing shona.fisher2@mail.com. We hope to see many old and some new faces on any Tuesday.

Girl Scout

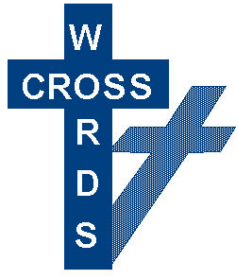
Brownies

Brownies' Fund-raising

Orchardhill's 8th Giffnock Brownie Unit raised £170 over the past season for Lepra, the charity which seeks to combat leprosy and other poverty-related diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis.

The unit is looking for new members. Anyone interested should contact the leader Pamela Watson at pamela.watson@hpa.org.uk. The unit meets on Thursday evenings (6.15-7.30).

CrossWords



CrossWords have now resumed practices every Monday night in the Fellowship Room from 8.00pm. We are a group of singers, musicians and friends, and we invite anyone who has music in their heart and the desire to praise the Lord in a

contemporary style to join us. You do not have to be an expert. So why not come and see what it's like? All are welcome.

For more information please contact Lindsay Barr (638 1216 or lfbarr@gmail.com).

Flowers in the Church



Three more of the long-standing team of flower arrangers have decided to hang up their secateurs! Eunice Johnston (after an amazing 50 years) and Betty Shaw and Pauline Proven (after nearly 40 years each) feel it is time to retire from this lovely, much appreciated service to Orchardhill.

Until I started "doing" the flowers a mere 20 years ago, like most of you I took the arrangements in the church every Sunday very much for granted, but it isn't something that just happens and I want to express a huge thank-you to these ladies for all the work they have done over the years, not just on

Sundays but also at Christmas and Harvest. We will miss you so much.

However, they leave a huge gap in the rota that needs to be filled! Don't say "I can't do that" unless you have tried!

I plan to do a couple of simple demonstrations for interested folk, but if you still feel after that it's not for you, no pressure will be applied. The more people we have on the rota the less often you will be required to take a turn. Everyone is welcome – young, old, male, female.

Please speak to me any Sunday or phone me on 571 7617. Your Church needs you!

Joyce Winning

Junior Badminton



Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club starts again on 7 September, meeting in the Memorial Halls every Saturday from 10.00am until noon. All standards of play are catered for, and any boy or girl aged 10 to 15 is welcome to join. The names of any younger children can be added to the waiting list by emailing Barbara Mackenzie at neilmackenzie@msn.com (phone 638 0591).

As well as regular Saturday mornings we hold a variety of events throughout the year: coaching, visit to a sports centre, senior/junior mornings, crazy tournament, the Tricia Murray mixed doubles competition, friendly matches against other clubs, and a club singles competition, and we finish the year with the local churches' Thornlee Tournament.

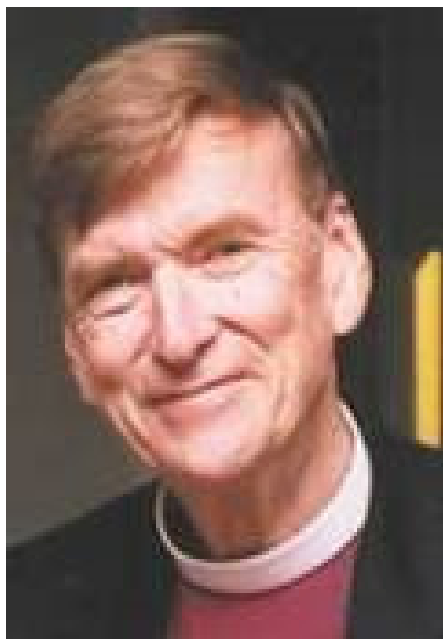
Anne, Judy and Barbara look forward to seeing all members, old and new, on the 7th in the Memorial Halls.

ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME BACK TO GLASGOW THE WELL KNOWN THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, USA THEOLOGIAN

BISHOP JACK SPONG

TO DELIVER TWO SEPARATE BUT CONNECTED LECTURES LINKED TO HIS LATEST BOOK

"The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic."



Bishop Jack Spong was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1952 and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1955 from the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. He has received honorary degrees from the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, Yale Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School and the Universities of Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge.

Before being appointed bishop, Jack served as rector of several North American parishes and has held visiting positions at major American theological institutions, most prominently at Harvard Divinity School. He retired in 2000.

Recipient of many awards, including 1999 Humanist of the Year, Bishop Spong is a contributor to the Living the Questions DVD programme and has been a guest on numerous television broadcasts.

He is a prolific writer. A prominent theme in his writing is that the popular and literal interpretations of Christian scripture are not sustainable and do not speak honestly to the situation of modern Christian communities. He believes in a more nuanced approach to scripture, informed by scholarship and compassion, which can be consistent with both the Christian tradition and contemporary understandings of the universe. He believes that theism has lost credibility as a valid conception of God's nature.

Jack Spong has also been a strong proponent of feminism, gay rights, and racial equality within both the church and society at large. Towards these ends, he calls for a new Reformation, in which many of Christianity's basic doctrines should be reformulated.

AT ORCHARDHILL Wednesday 23 October 2013 at 8.00pm

"Exploring John's Origins: It is not a literal Text, but an
interpretive Portrait"

AT CAIRNS Thursday 24 October 2013 at 8.00pm

"Beyond Incarnation to Mystical Oneness: John's Story of Jesus"

Tickets £12 per lecture are available from ORCHARDHILL CHURCH OFFICE or from a member of the organising team on a Sunday. Alternatively you can book a place by phone (956 4868), email (office@cairnschurch.org.uk), website (www.cairnschurch.org.uk)

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served after each lecture when Bishop Spong will be free to meet the audience on a more informal level

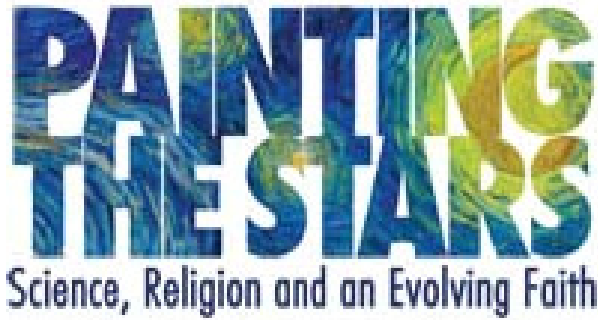


Guild Syllabus 2013-2014

The Guild meets on Monday evenings at 7.30 in the Church Hall and Monday afternoons at 2.00 in the Fellowship Room:

7 October (7.30)	Christian Aid: Mrs Mary Smith
14 October (2.00)	Sailing for the Disabled: Mr Ian Taggart
21 October (2.00)	Jeely Pieces: Ms Tracy Black
4 November (7.30)	Guild Theme, A Fellowship to Build: Rev Chris Vermeulen
11 November (2.00)	Church House: Miss Margaret Beaton
18 November (2.00)	Glasgow's Hidden Treasures: Mr David Walker
2 December (2.00)	A Dickens of a Christmas: Mrs Valerie Reilly
9 December	Christmas Lunch
13 January (2.00)	Classroom Capers: Miss Irene Kinniburgh
27 January (2.00)	A celebration of Robert Burns
10 February (2.00)	The Ark, Uganda Street Children: Rev John MacGregor
24 February (2.00)	The Panopticon Theatre: Mrs Kitty Walker
10 March (2.00)	Guest Afternoon, Pictures & Music: Mr Alastair Swan
17 March (2.00)	Out of Africa - Into Malta: Mr David McRoberts
24 March (7.30)	Allocations and Talk

Painting the Stars



On 12 September I will be starting a new group on Thursday nights at the manse at 8.00. Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith is a seven-session course covering themes like:

- Toward Healing the Rift
- A Renaissance of Wonder
- Getting Genesis Wrong
- An Evolving Faith
- Evolutionary Christianity
- Imagining a Future
- An Evolving Spirituality: Mysticism

We will meet every two weeks around food and drink to consider one of these themes.

“Mystery is a condition of awe, of resting precisely in an unknowing, long enough for the silence to have its way with us. The goal of this curriculum is to create some space for us to inhabit this mystery more deeply, and explore the relationship between science, particularly evolution, and religion. Perhaps most importantly, the hope is that each participant will feel from the inside what it is like to be the presence of all this creativity showing up after 13.7 billion years as him or her. Without this felt sense of being one with the creative process that is ceaselessly animating life, the conversation will remain objective and academic. We invite you to engage these seven weeks with an awareness that you are not separate from the creativity that produced you.”

Bruce Sanguin, author of If Darwin Prayed

If you would like to be part of this course please drop me an email at chris@orchardhill.org.uk or simply let me know.

For those who want to know the date of start of the next Living the Questions group, it will be on Wednesday 6 November. The Origins of the New Testament will continue on Sunday 1 September.

Sunshine Bags



Guild people will be collecting the sunshine bags at the Orchardhill doors before morning services starting on Sunday 6 October and continuing through the month.

I hope you have enjoyed this great summer— if some money went in the bag for every day of glorious sunshine, what a total we would have. All the money is going to Mary's Meals in Haiti, providing a nourishing meal once a day in a school to some of the poorest and most underprivileged children in the world. The meal attracts them to school, where they also get education to lift them out of their poverty. A few more weeks are left to make a real difference via our sunshine bags.

Jeanette Birnie

Huntly's "Birth Days"



This year's Huntly Hound Club had 90 children registered with about 20 team leaders. The theme was "Happy Birth Days with Huntly", and the stories were The Wisdom of Solomon, Baby Moses, Samuel and The Birth of Jesus. We also had games, crafts and singing. We had a banner, mascot and colouring competition. The children gained points for coming each day, wearing their team colours and for bringing friends: the Blue team were the winners. Harvey Heart visited again from the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. This year we managed three mornings in Huntly Park – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Many thanks to everyone who donated "junk" for the crafts. Your generosity meant that we spent less than £100 on additional materials for crafts, which meant that it only cost us roughly 20p per child each day for craft activities. Your yoghurt pots became beautifully decorated owls, your many small boxes (most of them previously containing medicinal items!) were turned into mobile phones and chargers, and your cereal-box cardboard became the base for the river for a Moses basket (plastic cup) to float on. Every basket had a Jelly Baby Moses, although I'm sure many didn't last too long!

If you have never experienced Summer Mission before then please come along next year and join in the fun. It is a very enjoyable week.







Octave's Charity Concert

Many of you will be familiar with the musical ensemble Octave as they performed a concert in Orchardhill last year to raise funds for the SLA trip to India and also entertained at the Guild guest night earlier this year. As the name suggests, the group is made up of eight singers, handpicked by David Fisher from some of the best talent in Glasgow and Lanarkshire.

Octave will soon be taking to the stage for their 2013 annual charity concert with an entirely new programme. The pieces will range from classical to Broadway shows to popular music. So something to suit all tastes.

As the group is completely voluntary, any surplus funds from Octave concerts are donated to charity. The group were able to donate £1000 to the British Heart Foundation in 2011 and a further £1000 to Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre last year. This year the group's nominated charity is Diabetes UK Scotland.

Tickets for "Octave – One. Two. 3 – GLO!" are priced £10 and available from David and Shona Fisher (01357 523149) or by email to shona.fisher2@mail.com. The concerts will run from Thursday 12 to Saturday 14 September at 7.30pm at Motherwell's GLO Auditorium.



Oxfam Farmyard

Stepping Stones had an exciting finish to the 2012-2013 session, when we were able to announce that we had made £582.29 for our Oxfam Farmyard fund-raiser. Liz, from the Clarkston branch of Oxfam, came along to Orchardhill to be presented with a cheque by some of our children. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach that total.

The new session of Stepping Stones started on 18 August, and we would be delighted to welcome any children between the ages of 3 and 12 to join us on a Sunday morning.



Songs of Praise

On 2 June a large congregation gathered in Orchardhill to join in a Songs of Praise, led by the choir. Through the evening we sang many well-known traditional and modern hymns including 'Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah' and 'Shine, Jesus, Shine'. The choir also sang three pieces including 'The Benedictus' from Karl Jenkins's 'An Armed Man' and 'You'll Never Walk Alone' from Carousel.

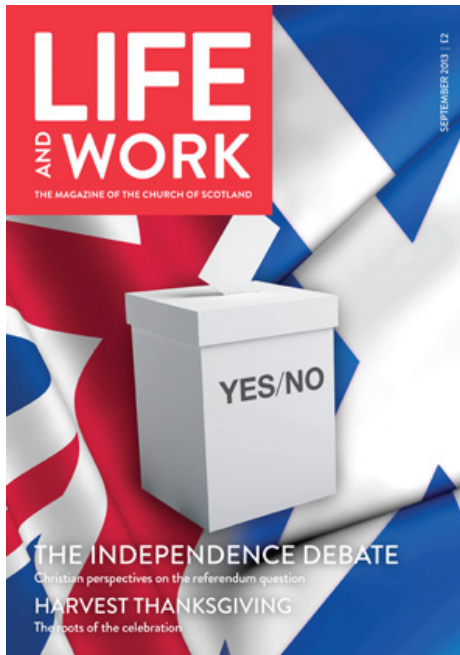
The choir boasted 18 voices that evening thanks to other congregation members and some visitors joining us. Wouldn't it be great to have that size of choir every Sunday! The congregational singing was very powerful; it was lovely to see so many from our own congregation but also many visitors from other local – and some not so local – churches. The hymns were accompanied by a 17-piece orchestra of professional musicians who gave of their time freely. We also welcomed our own Lorna McLean on the flute. The retiring offering raised an amazing £488 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

My thanks, as always, to the members of the choir for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Choir practice resumes on Monday 16 September at 7.30pm in the Church Halls as we start preparing for a Christmas cantata and some anthems. New members will be made welcome.

David Fisher



The Independence Debate



Life and Work, the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine, addresses the "independence debate" in its September edition. A year ahead of the referendum two of Scotland's leading Christian commentators, Rev Dr Doug Gay and Dr Ian Bradley, present theological cases for and against Scottish independence.

Other articles in this month's edition include:

Celebrating God's Bounty: The roots of Harvest Thanksgiving and seasonal celebrations around the world.

Discombobulate, Mackerel and Hair Spray: The Moderator, Rt Rev Lorna Hood, reflects on the gifts young people bring to the Church.

Unrecognised Missionary: How a Church of Scotland supported charity is helping tribal people in northern India in the spirit of the first missionary to work there.

Resourcing Change: A campaign to improve conditions for garment-industry workers in Bangladesh.

This is my Life: A charity with strong Church of Scotland links, working to support the children of military personnel.

A Real and Present Threat: Rev Scott McKenna considers the existence of Satan

Plus news, regular commentators, letters and reviews – all for just £2.

Orchardhill BB

All sections of the 86th Glasgow Company, The Boys' Brigade, have resumed in the Memorial Halls and are working hard towards their achievements and badge work as well as having fun. The meeting times on Friday evenings are:

Anchor Boys (Primary 1, 2, and 3): 6.30-7.30 under the leadership of Dawn McDonald.

Junior Section (Primary 4, 5 and 6): 6.30-7.30 under the leadership of officer Margaret Howard and helper Lynda Hood.

Company Section (Primary 7 and Secondary 1 to 6): 7.30-9.30 under the leadership of our captain, Stephen Bennett, and officers Neil Hutchison and Margaret Howard as well as having parental help.

This year we have nine young men who, all being well, will be put forward for their Queen's Badge, which is the highest award achievable in the Brigade.

Any boy interest in coming along to see what happens will be made very welcome. We would also welcome any parent who would be willing to offer occasional help.

For further information please contact our Stephen Bennett (638 7284).

Welcome/ Collection Rota

September



1	Bill McMurtrie 571 2512; Valerie Clarke 638 6148; David Evans 571 7846; Ronald Carswell 638 6639
8	Bill McMurtrie, Valerie Clarke, David Evans, Ronald Carswell
15	Steve McAslan 589 4289, Allan Rennie 882 9703, Joyce Winning 571 7854, Colin Williamson 571 9119
22	Steve McAslan, Allan Rennie, Joyce Winning, Roseanne Henderson 571 7375
29	Peter Worthington 638 4316, Jim Kerr 638 2747, Neil Mackenzie 638 0591, Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512

October

6	Peter Worthington, Jim Kerr, Susan McQuilter 638 6936, Evelyn McMurtrie
13	Gillian Brogan 639 6269, Maureen Park 638 0273, Susan McQuilter, Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722
20	Alex Mall 585 7169, Hilary Kennedy 638 6114, Ann Pope 616 4809, Irene Kinniburgh
27	Alastair Borland, Gordon Thomson 571 7153, Ann Pope, Roseanne Henderson 571 7375

COMMUNION ROLL

New Member

We welcome into our Fellowship and Service:

Mrs Karen Maudsley, 26 Davieland Road, Giffnock G46 7LL (district 2)

Deaths

On 3 August 2013 Alma Francis, Bonnyton House, Oliphant Crescent, Busby G76 8PU (district 41), formerly 8 Torburn Avenue, Giffnock

On 16 August 2013 Andrew Hamilton, 36 Kippen Drive, Busby G76 8JH (district 12)

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Change of Address

Mrs Elizabeth Shaw from 16 Claremount Avenue, Giffnock G46 6UT to 15 McLaren Court, Fenwick Place, Giffnock G46 6UF (district 14)

Orchardhill Record – October Deadline

Contributions for the October edition of the *Orchardhill Record* should be in the editorial team's hands no later than **Sunday 22 September**. 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.

The editor acknowledges every contribution: so please contact him before the deadline if he does not advise that he has received your contribution.

Orchardhill Diary

September

1	Sun	10.30am	Family Worship and Sacrament of Baptism	Rev Chris Vermeulen
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		7.30pm	Housegroup at the Manse (Origins of the New Testament)	
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3	Tue	10.00am	Orchard Café re-opens	
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		7.30pm	Congregational Board followed by Kirk Session (in the Church Hall)	
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8	Sun	10.30am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev Chris Vermeulen
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12	Thu	7.45pm	Mission Task Group	
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		8.00pm	Housegroup at the Manse (Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith)	
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15	Sun	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Chris Vermeulen
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22	Sun	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Chris Vermeulen
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29	Sun	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Chris Vermeulen
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October

1	Tue	7.45pm	Ministry Task Group	
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6	Sun	9.30am	Orchard Café Breakfast	
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		10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving	Rev Chris Vermeulen
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