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## Interim Moderator's Message

Dear friends,

I thank the editor for inviting me to introduce myself to you through The Record. I am John Miller, a retired Church of Scotland minister. Since 2007, when I stepped down after 37 years as minister at Castlemilk East parish, my wife Mary and I have spent most of our time in Zimbabwe. We returned finally to Glasgow in July.

Many readers may know that Glasgow Presbytery has appointed me as Interim Moderator here at Orchardhill while an inquiry takes place about a financial matter involving your Minister, Chris Vermeulen. I shall also do my utmost to be a pastor to the congregation during this time.

I have arrived at a testing time, but I am not a stranger here. When I was in Castlemilk we held a weekly Nearly New Sale, making good clothing available to people at low cost. Orchardhill generously supplied us once a month with a delivery of excellent clothing. The ladies who

brought the deliveries from Orchardhill became good friends with the Castlemilk ladies who ran the sale. Orchardhill Sunday School gave us selection boxes at Christmas and chocolate eggs at Easter, and SoundWaves supported our youth work. So there is a genuine pleasure for me in renewing my association with Orchardhill.

On my first Sunday with you, 15 December, I was filled with wonder at the Christmas Cantata, performed by the choir under the direction of David Fisher. I sensed that the Christmas message, presented so beautifully by the choir, truly lifted the spirits of the whole congregation that morning. It brought home to me that even in a time of great difficulty the experience of worshipping together and of hearing again the sustaining Word of God will set us on the best possible path through the coming weeks.

We will keep Chris and his family continually in our prayers, and I look forward to sharing with you all in the time ahead.

Yours sincerely,

**John Miller**



## Welcoming in the New Year

# 2014

As you will be aware, the Fellowship and Ministry Task groups have been looking recently at the welcome we give at Orchardhill Parish Church to members of our congregation and visitors alike. We have been investigating ways to improve what we presently do to ensure that we are providing a warm, friendly and helpful welcome each Sunday and on various other occasions when our church is open to the public.

We are very pleased that we are able to roll out this new-look welcome starting in the New Year, having gathered a group of willing volunteers who have met on several occasions to discuss the kind of welcome we want to extend and how to do that.

We are going to have a welcome desk each week where you can find out what is going on that week or in the near future and volunteer for things that need willing helpers. There will be greeters

and ushers to help you with anything you need (within reason).

We know that this team of greeters/ushers will provide a wonderful welcome and that you all should notice a difference in the style of welcome you receive. It may seem unfamiliar to you at first, but we would ask you to bear with us and to give us your feedback on what you like, don't like, and think would help improve the welcome or any other constructive suggestion you have. There are bound to be some teething problems, but we hope you will be understanding and patient.

The team can always benefit from new members, and if you feel you can offer assistance in this way and serve the Lord in this ministry we would love to hear from you and have you join us.

Please remember that we are all hosts in our church and all can help provide a welcome which means that those coming to our church feel cared for and part of God's loving family at Orchardhill.

**Shona Cook**

## A Place at the Table



News and pictures coming out of Syria become more distressing every week. Refugee camps in neighbouring countries are finding it difficult to cope with the numbers arriving every day, and conditions for the many people still left in Syria are unimaginable. However, there is good news! Thanks to your generosity in purchasing so many cups of imaginary coffee through "A place at the table", the Orchard Café has been able

to send £700 to the Church of Scotland World Mission. This money will go to our partner church, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, who aim to support refugee families by providing food and hygiene kits as well as other practical help.

For more information, go to the Church of Scotland website and search for "A place at the table".

The Orchard Café will reopen on 21 January.

## Collection Rota

### January

5	Angela Peacock 638 0026; Sandra Cherrie 638 9702; Allan Rennie 882 9703; Willie Hendry 577 5903
12	Angela Peacock; Sandra Cherrie; Allan Rennie; Willie Hendry
19	Norma Hannah 638 7515; Sandra Cherrie; Shona Fletcher 639 4523; Dorothy Cartlidge 571 7839
26	Norma Hannah; Sandra Cherrie; Shona Fletcher; Dorothy Cartlidge



### February

2	Bill Yuill 638 2400; Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512; Jim Mackinnon 638 2123; Norma Hannah 638 7515
9	Bill Yuill; Evelyn McMurtrie; Jim Mackinnon; Norma Hannah
16	Bill Yuill; Gordon Ross 638 1207; Jim Mackinnon; Alastair Borland 638 0958
23	Bill Yuill; Gordon Ross; Jim Mackinnon; Alastair Borland

## Featuring Food Banks



A powerful and poignant feature on the role of food banks in the January edition of Life and Work, the Church of Scotland magazine, asks us to spare a thought for those less fortunate.

There has been an explosion in the number of food banks in Scotland over the past year, and many are run by churches or groups of churches. The Life and Work article records the comments and views of the volunteers who run the food banks as well as the people who use them.

The magazine also features another food-related landmark in the calendar, Burns Night on January 25. Scotland's annual celebration of the Bard is an occasion when the humble haggis, neeps, and tatties become a feast which, like Christmas, brings us together.

Very Rev Dr James Simpson, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, traces the Church of Scotland's long association with Burns Suppers.

"Every January thousands of Burns Suppers are held in Scotland and thousands more in distant corners of the world," writes Dr Simpson. "Ever since that first Immortal Memory proposed by an Ayrshire minister, many of the most eloquent speakers at Burns Suppers have continued to be Kirk ministers – James Currie, Robert Paterson, David Ogston, John Chalmers and John Weir Cook to mention just a few."

## Stepping Stones' Fund-raising



Stepping Stones have launched their fund-raiser for 2013-2014. Half of the money collected will go to Orchardhill Church and half to Water Aid, a charity

which is involved in 27 countries worldwide, transforming millions of lives every year.

The charity works with the poorest and most marginalised communities to set up practical and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene projects that

meet their real needs. Hardware, such as taps and latrines, is always backed up by the promotion of good hygiene behaviour, making sure that the health benefits of safe water and sanitation are maximised.

In the near future Stepping Stones hope to spend a morning looking more closely at the problems caused by living without fresh, clean water. We have received an excellent resource pack, which includes games and quizzes along with films and clips suitable to show the children.

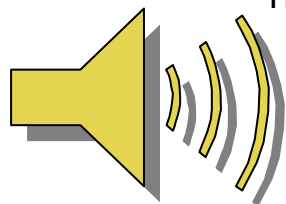


## Christmas Fayre

A total of £733 was raised from Orchardhill's Christmas Fayre on 30 November. The money has gone towards the cost of the church's roof

repairs. Many thanks to everyone who handed in donations or gave up their time to help on the day.

## SoundWaves



Thanks to all who came to "Celebrate Christmas with SoundWaves" on 15 December and to everyone who helped in lots of ways. The boys and girls did very well, and we raised the good sum of £160, which will be sent to

CHAS (Robin House).

SoundWaves resume on Tuesday 7 January, when we will embark on our show preparations. The show this year is on 21 and 22 March. So please make a note in your diaries.

## The Guild



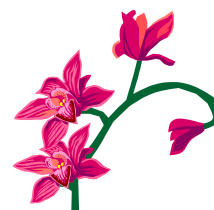
The Guild are looking forward to Irene Kinniburgh visiting again. This time, on Monday 13 January at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room, she will be speaking about some of her teaching experiences in "Classroom Capers."

On Monday 27 January at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room the Guild will be celebrating the poetry of Robert Burns.

Please join us if you are interested in either of these meetings.

# Seasonal Shenanigans

Stepping Stones gathered to enjoy a time of Seasonal Shenanigans after the Nativity rehearsal on 15 December – lunch, games, and making Christmas crafts.



# Flower Delivery

Many thanks to all who assisted with Flower Delivery during 2013. Lists for this year are currently at the Tower Door during the winter months. Please add your name if you would like to help with this rewarding ministry. For more information contact Norma Hannah (0141 638 7515 or [norma@mikehannah.plus.com](mailto:norma@mikehannah.plus.com)).

## Christmas Decorations



Once again we thank those who were involved in the decorating of our church and halls for Christmas. The Memorial Halls this year again were decorated by Alison Bell and the Monday night Guides. The church hall and tree in the sanctuary were decorated by Bill Wallace, Peter Worthington and David Worthington with the additional decorations in the sanctuary completed by the Flower Committee. Isabel Hood

## Life and Work

A reminder to those who subscribe to Life and Work that the annual subscription of £24.00 is now due. We hope to be available in the Fellowship Room after the service on Sunday 26

did the hard work by bringing all the decorations from storage into the church. The tree in the sanctuary was again donated this year by Willie Hendry in memory of his parents.

Over the years I have enjoyed organising and managing the setting-up and taking down of the Christmas decorations. This pleasant task was enhanced by all the various families who have helped over the years to hang the decorations on the tree or climb a ladder to put up the decorations in the hall. My thanks to all who have come to help or donated decorations or trees or have just commented on how good the decorations are each year.

One group took the decorating of the Memorial Halls as a challenge. When I came to take down the decorations after Christmas, I could not understand how they managed to put a large decoration, year after year, on the wooden part above the stage. I had to go up a ladder and take a brush shaft to knock it down. Many years later I discovered that they put tables at the edge of the stage and a ladder on top of the tables. They then climbed the ladder, leaned out beyond the edge of the stage and hung that decoration. The Youth Fellowship of that era had no fear or regard for Health and Safety but enjoyed the challenge and adventure.

It is now time for me to pass on the baton to Peter Worthington, who has agreed to take on this challenge. I hope that he will enjoy this task as much as I have and that you will give him the same support as you have given me.

Good luck, Peter!

**Bill Wallace**

January to collect subscriptions. Payment may be made by cash or cheque (payable to Orchardhill Parish Church).

**Jim and Aileen Blair**



Nativity 2013

## Orchardhill Record Publication Change

Beginning with the February issue, each *Orchardhill Record* edition will be published on the last Sunday of the previous month.

Previously, each issue has been published on the first Sunday of the relevant month. However, that has meant that events in the first few days of a month cannot be published in that month's *Orchardhill Record*. The change will allow any month's events to be promoted in that month's edition regardless of the date.

February's edition will thus be published on Sunday 26 January. The deadline for contributions will be Sunday 12 January.

Contributions should be sent by email to [record-editor@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:record-editor@orchardhill.org.uk) before 1.00pm 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.

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

Orchardhill Parish Church: Scottish Charity number SC 009774

# Orchardhill Diary

## January

Sun	5	10.30am	Sacrament of Baptism and Informal Communion	Rev John Miller
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Sun	12	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller
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Mon	13	2.00pm	The Guild in Fellowship Room (Classroom Capers: Miss Irene Kinniburgh)
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Sun	19	10.30am	Family Worship (Pulpit Exchange)	Rev John Young (Giffnock URC)
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		7.00pm	Covenant Service at Giffnock URC Church	Very Rev Sheilagh Kesting and Rev Mitchell Bunting
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Sun	26	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller
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Mon	27	2.00pm	The Guild in Fellowship Room (Robert Burns Celebration)
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## February

Sun	2	10.30am	Sacrament of Baptism and Informal Communion
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