



*SoundWaves' girls and boys greeting the audience during their successful concert in Orchardhill in December (see also page 3)*

## Minister's Demission

Rev Chris Vermeulen, minister of Orchardhill Parish Church since 2005, has submitted a letter of demission to the Presbytery of Glasgow. The Presbytery meeting on Tuesday 9 December accepted Mr Vermeulen's demission, which will be effective from 31 January.

Very Rev John Miller will return to Orchardhill later this month, taking over from Very Rev David Lunan as Interim Moderator. We thank Mr Lunan for his support and guidance for Orchardhill over the last six months or so during this difficult time, and we looking forward to welcoming Mr Miller back into our company from 25 January.

*(Mr Lunan's Pastoral Letter is on pages 5 and 6)*

# Thinking of Happiness

To beat the winter blues this month, Thinking Allowed will explore what makes us happy. The prompt for our discussion in Orchardhill on Thursday 29 January will be two TED talks. If you are new to TED, it is a nonprofit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short powerful online talks.

The two talks to be watched and discussed are "Want to be happy? Be grateful" by Brother David Steindhal-Rast and "The habits of happiness" by Matthieu Ricard.

Brother David, a monk and inter-faith scholar, outlines how all humans share a wish to be happy. It is an inspiring lesson in slowing down, looking where you're going, and, above all, being grateful. To date his talk has been viewed by about 3.5 million people.

Matthieu Ricard, a biochemist turned Buddhist monk, says we can train our minds in habits of well-being to generate a true sense of serenity and fulfillment. This talk has been viewed more than 4 million times.

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served from 7.30pm before the talking starts at 8 o'clock.

## Work in Church Garden

Many of you will be aware that significant works have recently been carried out at the Claremount Avenue entrance to Orchardhill Church.

It became apparent that the overflowing gutters were not entirely due to the blocked downpipes but that the drains below the ground were completely root-bound. This work has proved to be quite extensive and has resulted in the need to replace a good portion of the existing drainage. This work required to be done before the winter arrived, and there is still some work to be completed.

We have also installed a permanent electric supply to the living Christmas tree with the assistance of Frank McQuilter, Susan's husband. Many thanks to Frank, who gave up a complete Saturday to carry out this task.

These two pieces of work have created a bit of quagmire in the area, and I have decided that until the works are completed and dried out these areas should become out of bounds. So if you normally use that area to enter the church it would be appreciated that you enter at the Church Road gate. I will let you know when the works are completed.

**Willie Hendry** (Property Convenor)

# Choir's Christmas Cantata



The climax to a busy but enjoyable session for the Orchardhill choir was the Festival of Carols during morning worship on Sunday 14 December. A string quartet accompanied the choir with a specially commissioned arrangement.

Festival of Carols followed the familiar theme of nine lessons and carols blending together well-known and unfamiliar melodies. My thanks to the choir for their hard work and dedication and to our friends, including the string musicians, who joined us for this celebration.

Choir practice resumes on Monday 12 January, and as we prepare for Easter, new members will be warmly welcomed.

Best wishes from myself and the choir to you all for 2015.

**David Fisher**

## SoundWaves at Christmas

SoundWaves had a very successful evening on Sunday 14 December when the boys and girls entertained the congregation with "It's a Party". The children had worked very hard over a very short time to learn all the songs and instrumental pieces, and they put it all together with talent. Alexa Wallace, Aileen Scudds and their team of helpers thank all the parents, friends and members of the congregation who came to support them.

# Orchardhill Work Parties

I write this note to record my thanks to all the people who have been involved in the work parties which have been held at the church over the last two years.

It never ceases to amaze me how many people, members and non-members of Orchardhill, turn up to assist in the maintenance of the church – be it gardening, painting, joinery, making the bacon rolls, supplying the nibbles.

I must say that it was with great apprehension that I took on the roll of property convenor just over two years ago. I can honestly say, though, that this has been one of the most rewarding things that I have done, and the support which I have had, not least from my right hand man, Gordon Thomson, has been terrific.

## **Now to the community**

Very recently it was brought to my attention that we could perhaps help a family who needed a bit of assistance packing their garden up for the winter. So in November about 20 very kind, willing and smiling people turned up on another dry Saturday morning with their garden tools and tidied up Claire and Jim Harvie's garden.

Claire described it as overwhelming: for me it was humbling to see how gracious these people are to turn out and do this work.

So to sum up my thoughts. The people that are involved in the work parties are very special. We enjoy ourselves, and to date the weather has been very kind to us. You're all welcome to join the next one.

This is Orchardhill Church working in the community. Give yourselves a big pat on the back. Thanks.

**Willie Hendry**

## **The Guild Theme**

The Guild theme this session is "A World to Serve", and on Monday 12 January at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room we will watch the film of The Guild's annual meeting in Dundee, which, as always, was an inspiring event.

On Monday 25 January, also at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room, we will learn more about the work inspired by women in India to encourage self-help groups in Scotland, which is one of the Guild's National Projects: "Passage from India".

We look forward to welcoming everyone interested in these meetings.



# Rededicating to Jesus Christ

Dear members of Orchardhill,

When I was in parish ministry we used every year a practice which comes from the Methodist tradition, though I am pleased to say it is now included in the Church of Scotland Book of Common Order. It is the Covenant Service, and we in the Presbyterian tradition are very familiar with the term "covenant". It is a way of giving everyone in the congregation the opportunity, if they wished, to rededicate themselves to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord as we all did when we first joined the Church. The service takes the very simple form of the minister, at the end of the sermon, reading these words:

*Let us renew our part in the new covenant which God has made with his people through Jesus Christ.*

*God has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both.*

*In some we may please God, and please ourselves,*

*In others we cannot please God, except by denying ourselves.*

*Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given in Christ.*

*Therefore let us make the covenant of God our own.*

The congregation is then invited to repeat with the minister:

*Our Father in heaven, you are our God, we are your people.*

*You made us and we are yours.*

*You call us to a new life in Christ, and we commit ourselves to you.*

*We are no longer our own, but yours.*

*Use us as you will.*

*Put us to doing, put us to suffering,*

*Let us be employed for you, or laid aside for you;*

*Exalted for you or brought low for you,*

*Let us have all things, let us have nothing.*

*We freely and whole heartedly yield ourselves to you.*

*And now O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,*

*May the covenant we make, be written in our hearts,*

*and ratified in heaven.*

*To your name be glory for ever. Amen.*

And we would sing the Scottish paraphrase :

*I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend his cause;  
maintain the glory of his name, and honour all his laws.*

(Continued on page 6)

# Orchardhill's Christmas Market



*Orchardhill's Christmas Market in November raised just over £1070. We had a variety of more than 15 stalls plus the big Orchardhill stall. SoundWaves provided entertainment, and a lot of the congregation gave us home baking, helped in the tea room, and worked with setting-up too. Many thanks to all of them.*

## Life and Work

A reminder to those who subscribe to Life and Work – the annual subscription of £26.40 is now due. We hope to be available in the Fellowship Room after the service on Sunday 25 January to collect the subscriptions. Payment may be made by cash or cheque (payable to Orchardhill Parish Church).

**Jim and Aileen Blair**

## Rededicating to Jesus Christ

(Continued from page 5)

God has many services to be done, and for each of us it's different. How are we going to use the talents, the gifts, the resources, the time we've been given wisely, and to the glory of God, and the building up of the Body of Christ, and the Kingdom of God in this New Year of Grace?

It is a time of new beginnings, for Mr Vermeulen and his family and for the Orchardhill congregation, and I wish you all God's blessing in this new year of grace and in all the years to come.

It has been a privilege being with you and getting to know you and working with you over these last few months, and I thank you.

The Lord be with you,

**David Lunan**

# Communion Roll

## Death

On 1 December 2014 Mrs Isobella Davidson, Mearnskirk House, Old Mearns Road, Newton Mearns G77 5RZ

## Disjunction

Mr Grant Vermeulen, 23 Huntly Avenue, Giffnock G46 6LW (district 23)

# Collection Rota

## JANUARY

4	Angela Peacock 638 0026; Sandra Cherrie 638 9702; Allan Rennie 882 9703; Willie Hendry 644 0351
11	Angela Peacock; Sandra Cherrie; Allan Rennie; Willie Hendry
18	Shona Fletcher 639 4523; Sandra Cherrie; Norma Hannah 638 7515
25	Shona Fletcher; Sandra Cherrie; Norma Hannah

## FEBRUARY

1	Bill Yuill 638 2400; Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512; Jim Mackinnon 638 2123; Dorothy Cartlidge 571 7839
8	Bill Yuill; Evelyn McMurtrie; Jim Mackinnon; Dorothy Cartlidge
15	Bill Yuill; Gordon Ross 638 1207; Jim Mackinnon; Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722
22	Bill Yuill; Gordon Ross; Jim Mackinnon; Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722

## Deadline for *Orchardhill Record*

Sunday 11 January is the deadline for the February edition of the *Orchardhill Record*.

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. The editor acknowledges every contribution. Contact him before the deadline if he has not confirmed that he has received your contribution.

The deadline for the March edition will be Sunday 8 February.

# Orchardhill Calendar

## JANUARY

Sun	4	10.30am	Family Service followed by Communion	Rev Alastair MacLachan
Sun	11	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Blair Robertson
Mon	12	2.00pm	Guild Theme: A World to Serve	
Sun	18	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Blair Robertson
Sun	25	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Mon	26	2.00pm	Passage from India (self-help groups in Scotland)	
Thu	29	7.30 for 8.00pm	Thinking Allowed: Happiness (two short talks)	

## FEBRUARY

Sun	1	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Sun	8	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller

## Orchardhill in Bloom

All gardeners and interested parties are called to a meeting in the Session Room on Thursday 8 January at 7.30pm in order to discuss preparation of plants for the Orchardhill in Bloom event in May.

Enthusiasm is as important as expertise, and many willing helpers are required. Space in greenhouses and conservatories for plant storage is also requested. For further information please contact Dorothy Cartlidge (571 7839 or [dotplot231@gmail.com](mailto:dotplot231@gmail.com).)

## Rainbows' Recipe Book

Orchardhill's Rainbows have produced a book of their favourite recipes. Books (price £2 each) will be on sale during coffee and tea after the services or contact Kirsty Flockhart or Isabel Vance.

Orchardhill Parish Church, Church Road, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6JR (phone 0141 638 3604) Website: <a href="http://www.orchardhill.org.uk">www.orchardhill.org.uk</a> email: <a href="mailto:secretary@orchardhill.org.uk">secretary@orchardhill.org.uk</a>
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