



# THE RECORD

## God's Promise Fulfilled

Dear members and friends of Orchardhill,

Much has happened since I stepped down from the post of Locum at Orchardhill in June, and I know that yours has not been an easy journey. Yet at the heart of our faith we believe that God fulfils his promises in unpromising situations.

Who, for example, would ever have thought of employing a poor, working-class female mill-worker from Dundee as a missionary leader? Yet that is exactly what happened. A hundred years ago on 15 January 1915 Mary Slessor died, one of the most astonishing Scottish women of her generation. Today her portrait adorns the Clydesdale Bank's £10 note. She was raised in a Dundee single-end, one of seven children in the family. TB took a terrible toll: only Mary lived beyond the age of 30. In the local United Presbyterian Church she taught in Sunday School and helped to run a youth club for tough young boys. She took a great interest in the work of her church's overseas missionaries.

Hearing of the death of David Livingstone, she decided she must go to Africa as a missionary. In Calabar, Nigeria, uncomfortable with the formality of the Scottish missionary programme and of the clothing she was expected to wear, she learned the local language and went out into the villages wearing local clothing. She confronted some of the practices of the local peoples: the culture required all twins to be killed at birth; widows were permanently confined to the hut; at the death of a chief, his wives and many slaves had to be killed to accompany him to the next world.

She herself saved many twins from death, explaining her actions in terms of her Christian faith. Her most persuasive argument was her extraordinary courage in the face of threats of violence. Time and again she stood unyielding, red-haired, her blue eyes unblinking, when arguing with a chief determined to put to death a slave or a wife or a warrior.

In 2001 my wife, Mary, and I visited Calabar and met with the Governor of Cross River State. Praising Mary Slessor, he said: "Some of the best things in our Nigerian culture have come from Dundee."

Yes. God's promise fulfilled in an unpromising situation. We shall find it always so.

I look forward to renewing friendships in the coming weeks!

**John Miller**

# Lodging House Mission

Orchardhill has received the following message from Gus McKay, the Lodging House Mission chaplain: "Please pass on our grateful thanks to the congregation of Orchardhill for donating the magnificent sum of £954 to help us here at the LHM in our work with homeless and socially excluded men and women. Orchardhill Church has been very faithful in supporting our work here in Glasgow with the homeless for many years now, and we are so grateful for your partnership with us in our work. Thank you too for your prayers for me, the staff and the service users we are seeking to support. I wish you all a very happy new year from us all."

In addition to the amount above, we have also sent £126 to LHM from the sale of Christmas cards. This represents a significant amount of financial support at a time when it is much needed at LHM, and I am very grateful to all who have responded so generously.

**Archie Hunter**

## Anti Virus Licence

Orchardhill is currently renewing its three-year Anti-Virus Licence. This is provided by Eset and is a comprehensive protection tool against attacks from the internet. It also incorporates a firewall and anti-spam email software.

The church bulk-buys this AV licence to obtain a discount and then offers it on to members who may wish to take advantage of the church's purchasing power. Of the 30 licences available, some have been spoken for, but there are still some left. The cost is £25 per computer for not just one year but for three years, covering until February 2018.

Please contact Dave Thomson on [dave@g46.co.uk](mailto:dave@g46.co.uk) if you wish to take advantage of this offer.

## Learn Eldership

The Learn Eldership resource written by the Mission and Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland has become the equivalent of a bestseller book with more than 3000 advance sales. To meet demand, the print run has now been increased to almost 6000 copies, a number which is especially high in the UK religious books market.

Learn Eldership will be published in early March by the Church of Scotland's publishing arm, Saint Andrew Press. It is available to pre-order at a discounted rate of £5.50 when purchased through the Church of Scotland – online at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk).

# Vacancy Procedures

Following Rev Chris Vermeulen's demission at the end of January, Orchardhill will be in a state of vacancy until a new minister is called and inducted. To provide clarity for the congregation, the *Orchardhill Record* offers a summary of the procedures to be followed in seeking a new minister.

When a charge becomes vacant the Presbytery Vacancy Procedure Committee meets with the Kirk Session to consult the elders on particular local circumstances and to discuss the implementation of the Presbytery Plan in relation to the charge. In Orchardhill's case that plan provides permission to call a minister on full tenure.

Presbytery will want to ensure certain matters: for example that ministry allocations have been met, that the manse is in good repair, and that specific requirements of the Presbytery Plan are being addressed. Once permission is granted by Presbytery (and sometimes there are reasons to "hasten slowly") the Kirk Session will prepare a Parish Profile, which would provide prospective applicants with background information about the congregation and the parish as well as how the congregation views the future mission and ministry in the parish.

An electoral roll is prepared (all members plus adherents), a Nominating Committee is elected by ballot at a meeting of the congregation, and that committee is given the task of advertising the charge and, in due course, interviewing candidates. These could be ministers who themselves apply or who are recommended or, indeed, who are approached by the Nominating Committee. That committee will bring a sole nominee to the congregation to preach at a morning service, and the congregation will then vote on whether to call that minister.

The Vacancy Procedure Committee will offer advice and assistance to the congregation at every stage of the vacancy, and the Interim Moderator plays an important role in the whole process. For everyone involved it is, of course, a matter for prayer.

## The Guild

The Guild will meet on Monday 9 February at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room to hear a talk by Mr David Wright on the history of Women at War.

On 23 February, again at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room, Mr Ian McNaught, president of the Scottish Cinema Organ Trust, will speak to the Guild about the Wurlitzer organ in Pollokshaws Burgh Hall.

We look forward to welcoming everyone interested in these talks.

# Presbyteries for Kirk Proposal on Ministers in Civil Partnerships

A majority of Church of Scotland's presbyteries have voted in favour of supporting the General Assembly's proposed Act regarding Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships. The margin was 32 for, 13 against: in percentage terms that was 71 to 29.

However, when measured by the votes of individual presbyters over all the presbyteries, the ballot was much closer – 55% to 45%.

Glasgow Presbytery's ballot, held at a special meeting in November, resulted in 127 for, 93 against (58-42%). Edinburgh was even more in favour (115-59), and all the other city and metropolitan presbyteries such as Dundee, Aberdeen, Hamilton and Stirling were in the Yes camp.

Outwith those presbyteries, however, no geographical agreement was obvious. For instance, in the south-west, Annandale and Eskdale were heavily for the proposed Act (23-7), Dumfries and Kirkcudbright were narrowly in favour (29-23), but Wigtown and Stranraer were 19-10 against.

Neighbours in the north-east produced similarly opposite results – Kindcardine and Deeside 28-13 for, Buchan 40-19 against. So it was also in the Borders – Duns 24-11 for, Jedburgh 22-10 against.

As its principal statement, the proposed Act affirms the historic and current doctrine and practice of the Church in relation to human sexuality and their application to ministers and deacons. However, a Kirk Session could be allowed to depart from that affirmation to permit the ordination, induction or appointment of a minister or deacon who is in a civil partnership. Before doing so, though, that Kirk Session would have to satisfy several caveats defined in the proposed Act.

Last year's General Assembly agreed to support the proposed Act, though only with the consent of the majority of presbyteries, a requirement defined in the long-established Barrier Act: that was the reason for the round of presbytery ballots late last year. The proposed Act on civil partnerships will return to the General Assembly in May for the final vote.

## Flower Delivery

Thank you to all who have assisted with the flower delivery. If you can, please add your name to a free Sunday over the coming months to help with this valued Service.

# Orchardhill in Bloom in May

Preparations are now under way for Orchardhill in Bloom, our major fund-raising event, which will hopefully involve and inspire all the congregation.

Among the many attractions will be advice from Mearns Horticultural Society and the RSPB, floral demonstrations, and children's activities. There will, of course, be a tea room as well as a large range of plants, shrubs, perennials, annuals, tomatoes, herbs and house plants for sale. Work has already started toward the preparation of stalls, selling gardening accoutrements, books, crafts, produce and preserves.

Please note that the date of the event has been changed to Saturday 23 May. Please put this date in your diary now, and help in February by sowing extra seeds, such as sunflowers, and making extra marmalade.



We are looking for intact plastic plant pots and seed trays (any size), small glass jars with lids, and jam jars. Bring these to church any Sunday in February.

Also, we are still desperately seeking greenhouse space. If you can spare any space or have queries, please contact Dorothy Cartlidge ([dotplot231@gmail.com](mailto:dotplot231@gmail.com): 0141 571 7839).

## Sunshine Bags

Many thanks to everyone who took a Sunshine Bag last summer. I will shortly be sending a total of £1685 to Mary's Meals, specifically for their work in Haiti.

The more I read of this charity the more I am impressed by the efficiency in how they use their money and also by the overwhelming compassion they show to all the children throughout the world who need food and an education. By giving one good meal a day in a school or other place of education, Mary's Meals is now feeding nearly one million children every day, and these children are now getting an education.

This year's Sunshine Bag appeal has yet to start – watch this space.

**Jeanette Birnie**

# Welcome Rota

Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Ushers
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## FEBRUARY

1	Fergus Cook	Bill Yuill	Nanette Davidson	May Liddle and Shona Cook
8	May Liddle	Bill Yuill	Willie Hendry	Neil Mackenzie
15	Neil Mackenzie	Bill Yuill	Nanette Davidson	Willie Hendry
22	Marion Watson	Bill Yuill	Neil Mackenzie	Irene Kinniburgh

## MARCH

1	Linda Moir	Ian Anderson	Marion Watson	Fergus Cook and Neil Mackenzie
8	Fergus Cook	Ian Anderson	Shona Cook	Marion Watson
15	Marion Watson	Hilary Kennedy	Linda Moir	Gordon Thomson
22	Alex Mall	Fiona Cameron	Gordon Thomson	Linda Moir
29	Linda Moir	Fiona Cameron	Gordon Thomson	Alex Mall

# Collection Rota

## FEBRUARY

1	Bill Yuill 638 2400; Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512; Jim Mackinnon 638 2123; Dorothy Cartlidge 571 7839
8	Bill Yuill; Sandra Cherrie 638 9702; 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

## MARCH

1	Ian Anderson 563 2395; Ian Cartlidge 571 7839; Norma Hannah 638 7515
8	Ian Anderson; Ian Cartlidge; Norma Hannah
15	Hilary Kennedy 638 6114; Roseanne Henderson 571 7375; Jim Kerr 638 2747; Lisel Tait 638 8345
22	Fiona Cameron 571 7656; David Evans 571 7846; Jim Kerr; Lisel Tait
29	Fiona Cameron; David Evans; Susan McQuilter 638 6936; Ronald Carswell 638 6639

# Communion Roll

## Death

On 31 December 2014 Mrs Margaret Henderson, Flat 36, Homeglen House, Maryville Avenue, Giffnock G46 7PJ (district 30)

## Disjunctions

Mrs Elaine Vermeulen, 23 Huntly Avenue, Giffnock G46 6LW (district 23)

Mr Donald Waterson, 65 Greystone Avenue, Rutherglen G73 3SW (district 43)

## Deadline for March *Orchardhill Record*

Sunday 8 February is the deadline for the March 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. We prefer contributions to be sent by email, and we cannot accept any handwritten or typed item that does not identify the source.

Any photograph or logo must not be embedded in the article. Please send photos and the like as separate attachments to allow the editor flexibility in laying out pages.

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 April edition will be Sunday 15 March.

# Orchardhill Calendar

## FEBRUARY

Sun	1	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Sun	8	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Mon	9	2.00pm	The Guild (in Fellowship Room): Talk on Women at War	
Sun	15	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Sun	22	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Mon	23	2.00pm	The Guild (in Fellowship Room): Talk on Pollokshaws Burgh Hall & Wurlitzer organ	

## MARCH

Sun	1	10.30am	Family Service and Sacrament of Baptism	Rev John Miller
Sun	8	10.30am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev John Miller

## Time-travelling with SoundWaves

SoundWaves' children returned after the Christmas break to hear the title of this year's show, which is "The Time Traveller's Trek".

Come and join us on this exciting journey on 20-21 March (Friday-Saturday) at 7.30pm in the Memorial Halls. Tickets will be on sale mid-February from SoundWaves members.

The children have started learning the songs, and they look forward to a good turnout: so please make a note in your diary.

## Just a thought!

This will be a better world when the power of love replaces the love of power!

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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