



THE RECORD

Rembrandt's Message

Dear members and friends of Orchardhill,

In January my wife, Mary, and I were visiting our son and daughter in London. One evening we went to an exhibition in the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square: "Rembrandt: The Late Works".

Having known joy, love, and success in his early years, Rembrandt van Rijn was beset by sorrow, disgrace and financial hardship by the time his life drew to a close. His beloved wife died soon after the birth of their fourth child, a son, their earlier children all having died in infancy. Later he lived with his much younger housemaid, who was excommunicated by the Church for living with him unmarried. He outlived his son and died in poverty and was buried in a churchyard grave for the poor. Twenty years after his death, as was the custom with the remains of the poor, what remained of his body was removed and destroyed.

The 90 works in this exhibition were created during the turmoil of Rembrandt's last years. Biblical scenes carry the emotional intensity of his Christian faith, and an astonishing picture of a post-mortem, "The Anatomy Lesson", shows him as unafraid to face mortality. I was taken by surprise when I saw that in larger paintings he did not always seem to have the perspective quite right. But to look at the faces he had painted, whether in group scenes or individual portraits, was to see into the character and the soul of each person. Of no face was this more true than of his own.

Four self-portraits from his last years display his readiness to face the truth about himself and his life. We see the man he thought himself to be. No vanity is displayed in the worn, weathered face. No pride is depicted in the plain rough clothing. No easy hope is communicated in the resigned and questioning expression.

In these self-portraits Rembrandt demonstrates that even gifts as great as his do not shield a person from the heavy burdens of life. I found this strangely comforting in my own lot which is so easy.

A blessing,

John Miller

Get Ready for Summer!

Save the date: Orchardhill in Bloom, Saturday 23 May, 1.00-4.00pm

May is a favourite month for many of us. Optimism triumphs over experience and we begin to look forward to the lazy, hazy days of summer.

This year Saturday 23 May (Bank Holiday weekend) will be extra special. Save the date so you won't miss out on Orchardhill in Bloom – a great opportunity to kick start your summer gardening. Our mascot, Bertie Bloom, is already busy making preparations – and is keen you come and join him on the day!

Orchardhill in Bloom is planned as a community event with something for everyone. There will be a wide range of stalls and activities including:

- Sale of bedding plants, annuals and herbaceous plants
- Houseplants, tomato plants herbs and patio plants
- Advice from gardening experts
- Gardening books and tools
- Flower-arranging demonstrations
- Crafts and garden produce
- Children's activities
- Tea room with home baking

We are so fortunate in having our church as a wonderful space in which to welcome everyone. There will be many people who have attended events in the church halls, but who never have ventured into the church itself. Orchardhill in Bloom will be a great opportunity to showcase Orchardhill church, promote ourselves as a community-minded congregation and at the same time raise much needed finance.

Please help make this event a success.

A small army of volunteers have been busy sowing seeds, tending cuttings, cooking chutney and making crafts. It's time for us now to join them and do our bit to make sure Orchardhill in Bloom is a great success.

Look in the regular church intimations for details of how you can contribute. Just now we are looking for donations of garden related books, objects and crafts. In April the green-fingered can help by

- Potting up dahlia cuttings and herbs
- Continuing to divide herbaceous perennials
- Potting up strawberries propagated from last year's suckers

At the end of April we'll need help to distribute posters and leaflets – and, of course, to sell tickets! We'll need help on the day, too.

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Make a note of the date – and promote the event to friends and family

We're having to cover the costs of compost, publicity and materials. Maybe you'd like to donate some "seed capital"?

If you can help in any way please contact Dorothy Cartlidge (571 7839) or Fergus Cook (644 1354).

The more we can get involved in Orchardhill in Bloom – the more we can share in its success!



BERTIE BLOOM

Use of Sanctuary

A note from the *Locum* Minister

As you may know, it is for the minister to decide what events take place inside the actual church sanctuary. As *Locum* Minister, I have decided to agree to the request from **Orchardhill in Bloom** to have much of their display and many of their stalls inside the church itself.

- This is a single fund-raising event on a Saturday, to help the congregation's finances; it does not displace the worship which the church is there to shelter.
- I have invited the organisers to enhance the chancel area, with our font and communion table, with floral displays so that its atmosphere of faith can influence even the fund-raising that will take place.
- With that in mind, we hope to be able to welcome into the beautiful building many people who do not ever come to worship in the church.

You will sense that I and the organisers of **Orchardhill in Bloom** see this event as very much in keeping with the spiritual purposes of the church.

John Miller

Two Fellowship Ventures

A couple of weeks ago I announced in church that, following a quieter year when the Fellowship Task Group were concentrating on our new Welcome Group, we were now back with a number of activities for the coming year.

We hope that, once again, we can come together to enjoy each other's company in various acts of fellowship which strengthen our friendships and provide us all with the love and support that have sustained individually and as a church family in the past.

I am delighted to announce two ventures which are coming up very soon.

In past years we have had what was known as Dinner for 8. We have amended this slightly to Dinner for 6, but the idea is essentially the same. This is where three couples (they can be friends or partners) are put together in groups which are to meet three times over a meal in order to get to know each other better. The emphasis is very much on fellowship and not on the food itself, which can be anything from a three-course dinner to a take-away pizza. No one should see it as competitive, and no one will be nosing about your cupboards while you are in the kitchen! It is all meant to be very relaxed. Good, firm friendships have been formed in the past, and we hope more will result from this initiative.

We need couples to volunteer in order for this to work. Please consider taking part. Give your name to me at church or call me on 07981 970054 or email me (shonacook505@gmail.com).

We are also organising a film night in the church hall on 24 April at 7.00pm. The chosen movie is *The Way*, starring Martin Sheen. This is a thought-provoking story of a father, Tom, who goes to France following the death of his son, who was killed during a storm while walking the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St James), which leads to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Tom decides to walk the trail himself and meets various other travellers from around the world doing the same.

As with all fellowship events, there will be tea, coffee and home baking to enjoy, and the evening should be an enjoyable one with time, hopefully, to discuss the movie a little as well. It would be useful if those intending to come along give me their names so that we can cater appropriately.

I look forward to these events being well supported and to the fellowship they facilitate being rewarding for all.

Shona Cook



Orchardhill Boys' Brigade

Although the Orchardhill Boys' Brigade Junior Section is small in numbers the boys are very keen and enthusiastic to be involved in all that is going on both in the 86th Glasgow Company and in the district.

This year we have been able to enter several competitions, and the photograph shows some of the Junior Section boys and Anchor Boys with the district's five-a-side football cup, which our team won with the help of Max from the 79th Company (Newton Mearns). This was a terrific feat as our team were up against many companies who have a BB football team.

The Junior Section have also been successful in gaining a certificate for coming third in the district games-master competition and gaining gold and bronze medals in the district swimming competition.

Some of our Anchor Boys won certificates in the district six-a-side football and potted-sports competitions, and others gained a first and a third in the district colouring-in competition.

The staff say "very well done" to all the boys who have taken part in the various competitions, remembering that it is the taking part and sportsmanship that is important.

Margaret Howard



SoundWaves' Time Travellers and their "navigators" (see Page 7)



Sunshine Bags – Mary's Meals

Sunshine Bags will be available from Guild members at the church door every Sunday in April.

You probably know the concept behind Mary's Meals: feed a child one good meal a day in a place of learning, which gives the child the opportunity to benefit from education and climb out of poverty. Throughout the world Mary's Meals are feeding the amazing total of 989,791 children every day and the average global cost is £12.20 per child per year, less than we spend on a good restaurant meal for one person.

When the Ebola crisis hit Liberia, a country where Mary's Meals have been established since the 1990s during the terrifying civil war, all the schools were closed and military blockades were set up to restrict the movement of people and thus limit the spread of the virus. This, however, has resulted in soaring food prices and increased hunger. Determined to continue to help, Mary's Meals launched an emergency response, distributing food supplies to families in their own homes. At one point they were providing daily meals this way to 70,000 children.

We have decided this year to extend our appeal to Mary's Meals throughout the world rather than concentrate solely on the need in Haiti.

May I remind you of the idea behind the Sunshine Bags? Whenever the sun shines, when something good happens to you or one of your family or whenever you feel the presence and love of God particularly close, put some money in the bag. As usual the bags will be gathered in during October: so quite a few months to fill your bag.

Please take a Sunshine Bag. If you cannot manage to church to collect a bag, please phone me (638 0457), and I will get one to you.

Jeanette Birnie

Time Traveller's Trek

SoundWaves' show, Time Traveller's Trek, was a great success last month. The boys and girls entertained us again with their many talents. We would like to thank everyone who helped us, with special thanks to those people in the congregation who came along to the show to support our youngsters.

SoundWaves will now take a break over the summer. We will start again at the beginning of September. Watch our website (www.orchardhill.org.uk/whats-on/children/soundwaves) for details.

Prospective new members from Primary 3 to Secondary 1 should contact Alexis Wallace on 585 7986 for details and to have their name put on next session's list.

Welcome Rota

Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Ushers
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APRIL

5	Gordon Thomson	Donald Carmichael	Alex Mall	Shona Fletcher and Jim Blair
12	Shona Fletcher	Donald Carmichael	Alex Mall	Jim Blair
19	Jo Weir	Donald Carmichael	Jim Blair	Shona Fletcher
26	Jim Blair	Donald Carmichael	Shona Fletcher	Jo Weir

MAY

3	Callum Hunter	Fiona Thomson	Isabel Vance	Jim Mackinnon and Jo Weir
10	Isabel Vance	Fiona Thomson	Jo Weir	Callum Hunter
17	Jim Mackinnon	Ann Pope	Callum Hunter	Isabel Vance
24	Callum Hunter	Ann Pope	Isabel Vance	Jim Mackinnon
31	Ann Craig	Hilary Kennedy	Jim Mackinnon	Sandra Cherrie

Collection Rota

APRIL

5	Donald Carmichael 638 2555; Shona Cook 644 1354; Susan McQuilter 638 6936; Ronald Carswell 638 6639
12	Donald Carmichael; Shona Cook; Norma Hannah 638 7515
19	Donald Carmichael; Shona Cook; Norma Hannah
26	Donald Carmichael; Shona Cook; Valerie Clarke 638 6148; Colin Williamson 571 9119

MAY

3	Fiona Thomson 571 7153; Peter Worthington 638 4316; Valerie Clarke 638 6148; Colin Williamson
10	Fiona Thomson; Peter Worthington; Norma Hannah 638 7515
17	Ann Pope 616 4809; Bill McMurtrie 571 2512; Margaret Howard 571 7854; Joyce Winning 571 7617
24	Ann Pope; Bill McMurtrie; Margaret Howard; Joyce Winning
31	Hilary Kennedy 638 6114; Anne Anderson 563 2395; Alex Mall 585 7169

20 Years of Service



For the past 20 years Orchardhill Church has been one of 48 churches helping the Victoria Infirmary chaplain with the Sunday afternoon service. Patients were visited in certain wards, and those who were interested were taken to the service either by wheelchair or accompanied on foot by two of our team. With so many churches taking part it meant we were involved only once a year. Sunday 1 March was our last visit as the hospital (the old building) will be closed this month.

(Photograph: One of the Orchardhill teams with the chaplain, Ishaku Bitrus)

Volunteers Needed

The minister of the Giffnock URC, Rev Jake Tatton, has asked for two volunteers from each local church to help out at a Messy Church Day on Saturday 25 April. She is looking for people to take up posts that can be as easy as helping with crafts that have been already organised.

It would be really good if Orchardhill could offer two or more names. Youngsters up to oldies can apply! More information can be obtained from Anne Barr (638 1216).

Eastwoodhill Coffee Morning

Eastwoodhill Residential Home's annual coffee morning will be held on Saturday 18 April in the Giffnock South Church halls (10.00am-noon). Tickets (£2) and the very popular quizzes (£1) are available from Evelyn McMurtrie (the Kirk Session representative on the Friends of Eastwoodhill Group) and Jeanette Birnie (the Guild representative).

The Friends Group are looking for a new chairman. A volunteer would be welcomed. It is not an onerous role with a meeting once a month. Meetings rarely last too long!

Since last year Eastwoodhill has had some important changes. Mrs Jennifer Gibson, the Unit Manager, left to have a baby (a wee girl called Kirsty), and she was replaced by Mrs Pat Lawrence as Acting Unit Manager. A few weeks later Mrs Sharon Scully, the Depute Unit Manager, was seconded to Whinnieknowe Care Home in Nairn as Acting Unit Manager. While Jennifer was on maternity leave she accepted a training position within CrossReach. Pat has now been appointed Unit Manager, and Sharon has returned to Eastwoodhill. So the Home can enjoy more stability within the senior staff.

Eastwoodhill is nearly always full and continues to have people seeking a room. The latest inspection report in September last year was very positive about the care given to residents.

Eastwoodhill has been asked to take part in a pilot scheme, with East Renfrewshire Council offering two beds on a 10-week basis to people no longer requiring hospital care but not quite ready to go home. The first two people who were part of this scheme were very happy in Eastwoodhill but have now gone home. The pilot has been extended, and two more people are now living in the Home before they return to their own homes.

The Friends of Eastwoodhill continue their activities, including a games afternoon every few weeks. Every friend visits one or two residents on a regular basis. One friend, with the help of another, holds a Guild meeting every two weeks (with home baking). They have about eight people in the Guild just now, a very popular item on the calendar.

The annual coffee morning is run by the Friends to raise funds for Eastwoodhill. That money, augmented by donations from Guilds, churches and relatives of residents, pays for Christmas gifts for residents and staff and helps with the cost of outings. Last year's fund-raising focussed on a new health treatment room: this is now complete and in use. This year's efforts will be concentrating on personalising the bedrooms, allowing residents to choose their bed linen and curtains, all to make their rooms special to them.

The coffee morning will have all the usual stalls, baking, books, bric-a-brac (including toys) and toiletries. If you would like to make a donation of any kind, please contact either Evelyn (571 2512) or Jeanette (638 0457).

Communion Roll

New Member

We welcome into our Fellowship and Service:

Gail Duff, 51 Braidpark Drive, Giffnock G46 6LY

Congregational Register

Change of Address

Ronnie and Sandra Carswell from 10 Huntly Avenue, Giffnock, to 7 Moraine Drive, Clarkston G76 7QJ (district 23)

Douglas and Ann Harvie from 4 Otterburn Drive, Giffnock, to 10 Huntly Avenue, Giffnock G46 6LP (district 11)

Deadline for May's *Orchardhill Record*

Sunday 12 April is the deadline for the May edition of the *Orchardhill Record*.

Contributions should be sent by email to 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. Using that email address ensures that every contribution goes to both members of the editorial team. 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 flexibility in laying out pages. Nor can we accept pdf files.

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 June edition will be Sunday 17 May.

Orchardhill Calendar

APRIL

Wed	1	11.30am	Lunchtime Communion	
Thu	2	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service in Orchardhill Church	Rev Calum Macdonald and Rev John Miller
Fri	3	7.00pm	Good Friday Service in Giffnock South Church	Rev Catherine Beattie and Rev Jake Tatton
Sun	5	9.00am	Easter Breakfast	
		10.30am	Easter Service followed by Communion	Rev John Miller
Sun	12	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller
Sat	18	10.00am-noon	Eastwoodhill Coffee Morning at Giffnock South Church	
Sun	19	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller
Sun	26	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller

MAY

Sun	5	10.30am	Family Worship	
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Easter Breakfast

Orchardhill's Easter Breakfast will be held on Sunday 5 April at 9.00am. Please phone the church office if you are planning to attend.

Church Office

Orchardhill's church office will be closed from Tuesday 7 April, reopening on Tuesday 14 April. If you have intimations or administrative tasks, please contact office by Tuesday 31 March.

Orchardhill Parish Church, Church Road, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6JR (phone 0141 638 3604) Website: www.orchardhill.org.uk	email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk
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