

Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church



Orchardhill Church is a long established, lively and welcoming congregation. The many organisations of the Church are well supported both by members and others within our local community.

In the coming years we aim to realise our full potential through the further development of both our active congregational life and our outreach to the wider community.

We are seeking an enthusiastic minister with outward vision to lead us forward in faith.



The Mission of Orchardhill is to be a witness for Jesus Christ within our changing community and the world through:

- **Discipleship** that enables all to mature in their faith and fulfil their mission calling;
- **Fellowship** that deepens relationships;
- **Ministry** recognising and using the gifts and talents of all; and
- **Worship** that is a way of life lived out by all.

History

Orchardhill has been worshipping, witnessing and serving the congregation and community for over 115 years. It first met in the clubhouse of the local golf club before establishing its presence in Church Road, Giffnock, holding its first service there on 13th May 1900, then as Giffnock Preaching Station.

Our Congregation

The current congregational roll is 427 with a small number of adherents. Around 135 people attend worship regularly including children and young people.

Our congregation is on a journey of deepening faith: in recent times it has faced not inconsiderable challenges but has emerged stronger and more united than before.

Orchardhill is a true parish church with the vast majority of members living within or near the parish and involved with the community. We also work with neighbouring parishes in community initiatives and a number of joint services, notably during Holy Week. Our congregation encompasses a wide spectrum of theological views and beliefs.

We have historically been engaged with supporting the wider work of the church, wherever that may be, and that interest continues today.

The Kirk Session has decided to depart from the historic and current doctrine and practice of the Church in relation to human sexuality and their application to ministers and deacons of the Church.

Under the current settled plan for the Presbytery of Glasgow, Orchardhill has been allocated one minister of word and sacrament on full tenure.



Church Management

The Model Deed of Constitution has been adopted with a Kirk Session and Congregational Board.

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session comprises 46 elders (27 male and 19 female). Following a church conference in 2006, the Session altered the structures of the church and established a number of groups to look at strategy in certain areas of church life, namely:

- worship and discipleship;
- ministry;
- fellowship; and
- mission.

The Session has been operating a five yearly review plan of the life of the church. This has been put on hold during recent difficulties but the Session is keen to review and update the whole life of the church with our new minister. Over the years Orchardhill has always been open to change and new challenges.

Congregational Board

The Board currently comprises 22 elected members of the congregation, together with all the elders. There are a number of committees that operate under the Board such as Finance, Property and Housekeeping.

Staff

The continuing work of the congregation is supported by three members of staff:

- a full time Church Officer
- a part time Secretary (four mornings a week)
- an Organist and Choirmaster.

Finances

The Ordinary Income for 2014 was £181,906 excluding any legacies. A significant proportion of giving is through the Gift Aid Scheme. The last financial campaign was held in 2013 where offering income was increased by 10%. The congregation has moved from a deficit position in 2011 of £24,000 to a surplus before legacies of £9,000 in 2014.

The Congregational Board keeps stewardship under regular review and follows the principles of the “Seasons for Stewardship” programme.

In addition to meeting its commitments to the wider work of the Church, Orchardhill has a strong tradition of responding generously when called upon.

For further information about the church accounts, please see OSCR.

www.oscr.org.uk/charities/search-scottish-charity-register/charity-details?number=SC009774

Worship

Orchardhill is a broad and inclusive family, providing a welcoming and supportive environment for all stages of life and spiritual development.

Worship is at 10.30am and incorporates traditional and contemporary styles of music, led by both our choir and our praise group. Service patterns have changed and evolved over the last 15 years and the Kirk Session is open to exploring further evolution with our new minister.

Communion services are held four times a year and also on Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and the first Sunday of each new year. Twice a year, a midweek communion service is held for those who find attendance on Sundays difficult.

There are two youth services during the year; one led by Stepping Stones and Bridges (our Sunday morning groups for children and teenagers) and the other by our uniformed organisations (Boys' Brigade and Girl Guide movement).

The use of the time and talents of all God's family, whether on a Sunday morning or through the week, is seen as an important resource, strengthening and enhancing congregational life.

Stepping Stones and Bridges

Stepping Stones is for children from approximately aged three to twelve. Bridges is for those of secondary school age. Both meet during Sunday worship; the younger children enjoy engaging with the minister at the beginning of the service and are usually in Church for the end of the service. A crèche is offered for the under threes.



Discipleship

The Church provides a range of opportunities for bible study, discussion and prayer. A number of groups meet regularly and materials used range from Life Builder Studies, through books by Tom Wright, to Living the Questions courses.

The Kirk Session has appointed an elder with wide-ranging experience in education as our Director of Learning and Community.

Thinking Allowed

Over the last few years we have held a series of talks on subjects hoped to be of interest not only to the congregation but also the local community. These have included topics such as Assisted Dying and Food Justice.

Mission Trips

Over the last ten years, the congregation has supported a number of mission trips to South Africa and India.



Parish Responsibilities

The minister of Orchardhill is chaplain to the local primary school. We have active links with the school and they hold services within the Church four times a year, at which the minister is usually present.

Two or three times a year, the minister of Orchardhill is also responsible for taking services at Eastwoodhill and Williamwood House carehomes.

Over the last four years we have baptised an average of seven children per year, held five wedding ceremonies a year and performed sixteen funerals annually.



Organisations for Young People

Orchardhill provides a number of organisations for children and young people in the Church and the community. Approximately 200 children attend these organisations each week.

Uniformed Organisations

Orchardhill's Boys' Brigade Company has Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section. One Rainbow unit, three Brownie packs, and two Guide Companies also meet on the premises.

Junior Badminton Club

Established for nearly 50 years, this club meets every Saturday morning and in addition to learning the skills of the game, has a strong tradition of teaching fair play and graciousness on court.



Soundwaves

This group encourages children to develop their musical talents through singing, playing instruments and performing an annual show.

Summer Mission

Orchardhill has been running a Summer Mission for a week in August every year since the 1980s.

The Huntly Hound Club meets in the morning and provides an introduction to Bible stories, as well as games, music and crafts to Primary School children.

CHIPs Café (Christ Has Incredible Powers) runs concurrently in the evening. It is designed for teenagers and encourages discussion on topical issues, coupled with praise and games. Late Night Live is for older teenagers and continues discussion late into the evening after CHIPs.



Other Activities

We have a high hall usage, reflecting our engagement with our church family and our community. A small number are detailed below:

The Guild

We have an active Guild which meets regularly. Each year through their activities they raise significant funds for charity and church projects.

CrossWords

An ecumenical praise group encompassing modern worship.

The Choir

Our choir is led ably by our very talented organist, and contributes to worship on a regular basis.



Badminton Clubs

The senior club has an enthusiastic membership of around 25 and is involved in local leagues and tournaments. There is also a keen Ladies club of around the same size.

The Orchard Café

An increasingly important face of Orchardhill's outreach to the community, the café provides coffee, home-baking and fellowship. Run by volunteers, it also raises a substantial amount for charity.



Our Parish

Giffnock is situated in East Renfrewshire on the South Side of Glasgow about six miles from the city centre. The area is well served by regular trains to Glasgow city on two separate lines and frequent bus services. The main motorways (M77, M8 and M74) are easily reached. Glasgow Airport is eight miles to the West. The Ayrshire Coast can be reached in 40 minutes by car.

Locally, there are a good number of sports clubs for golf, tennis, bowling, rugby and athletics. At Eastwood Park there is a recreational centre with swimming pool and gym and there are a number of private health clubs in the locality. There are a number of parks in the area. The area has a wide selection of all the normal shopping and service amenities

The Parish falls within the catchment area for some of East Renfrewshire's top performing schools and there are a variety of easily reached independent schools. The Scout, Guide and Boys' Brigade movements are all active in the neighbourhood.

Giffnock is a residential area popular with all ages; young couples, more established families and older people alike. The Parish consists mainly of owner occupied housing with a number of complexes providing sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

Locally, there are several other churches – Giffnock South and The Park Church (both Church of Scotland) and a United Reformed Church, with Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Evangelical Churches also nearby. The community includes a number of Muslim families and there is also a synagogue in the area.

Further information about the parish can be found here.

cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics_for_mission/parish_profiles/160860.pdf



Our Buildings

Church

The church buildings were extended in 1910 and again in 1936 to form the structure that is in place today. The general fabric of all the church buildings is in good repair.

The sanctuary has seating for 450, and provides flexibility in worship style. It is equipped with audio/visual equipment allowing sound reproduction for word and music and projection of visual material. The sanctuary retains many older features including the choir pews and the original Hill, Norman and Beard pipe organ.

The remaining buildings on this site consist of the Church Hall, Session Room, Fellowship Room, normal ancillary rooms and office accommodation upstairs.

Memorial Halls

The Memorial Halls, situated across Church Road, were completed in 1962 to satisfy the needs of an expanding church and named to commemorate members who had given their lives in the First and Second World Wars. The principal hall seats 200 and has a stage for drama. Other rooms include a kitchen and facilities.

The adjacent upper and lower car parks provide parking for both sites. Beside the Memorial Halls is the house for the Church Officer.

Manse

The Manse, at 23 Huntly Avenue, is situated within five minutes' walk of the church in a popular residential area. It is a traditional stone-faced semi-detached villa comprising accommodation over two levels of, four bedrooms, two public rooms (one of the bedrooms has in the past been used as a study), large kitchen/diner and conservatory. The property is double glazed and has modern gas central heating throughout. Level gardens to the front and rear with a single detached garage are also a feature. The property has recently been redecorated and the family bathroom renovated.

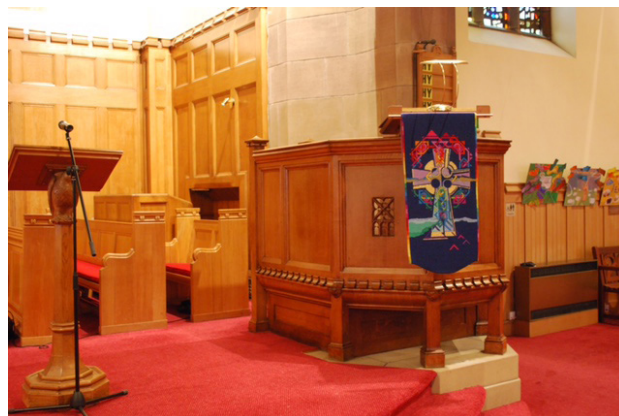


Our New Minister

As a congregation we believe that God is calling us to be His light in this community. We are looking for a Minister who will:

- provide meaningful worship for all;
- share knowledge and teaching to help us to grow in our faith journey;
- encourage and develop the existing Ministry to our children and young people;
- provide strong pastoral care to our congregation and parish; and
- nurture and use the talents and gifts of the congregation for use in Orchardhill and beyond.

We look forward to working together with our new Minister to seek, prayerfully, the future path for our congregation.



Contacts

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www.facebook.com/orchardhill.parishchurch

