



THE RECORD

An Old-fashioned Christmas

Dear members and friends of Orchardhill,

Food is an accurate measure of our wealth, both as individuals and as a society. Giffnock's new fish and chip shop is the first such establishment of my acquaintance to offer, on its menu, half a lobster – albeit at £14.95: with the full lobster at £29.95.

And now that Christmas is approaching we are being challenged to find the delicacy or the culinary extravagance that will lift the meal on that Day of Celebration to an even higher level of significance than the feasts we are able to enjoy any day of any week. As soon as the Hallowe'en market finishes on 31 October the supermarkets begin to advertise their special Christmas fare. Parents and grandparents at once begin putting in their orders for turkeys and haunches of venison and glazed Christmas puddings to ensure a truly traditional Christmas.

The echo of the Christian Christmas can still be heard in the background music of Christmas carols in public places, for instance, and in this year's Post Office issue of Christmas stamps with their six images from the Nativity story. But for the most part the historic Christian teaching and practice about Advent and Christmas have vanished.

For many centuries church-going Christians regarded the four weeks of Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas, marked by a measure of fasting, just like the 40 days of Lent before Easter. To those who had eaten sparsely during the weeks of Advent the feast on Christmas Day was the meal of the year.

Mary and I were in Africa during a rural famine in 2008. The hospital we lived in could feed protein to patients and staff only once a week – a plate of beans. But they made a huge effort to provide a Christmas dinner. A cow was slaughtered so there was beef stew; there were chicken and potatoes and rice and sadza and cabbage. How everyone looked forward to that feast, and how everyone enjoyed it with laughter and singing! The fast had been followed by a feast.

Perhaps it really was an old-fashioned Christmas!

A blessing.

John Miller Locum Minister



Lodging House Mission

We have received the following message from Lodging House Mission relative to our Harvest donations:

“Please pass on our grateful thanks once again to the folk at Orchardhill Parish Church for donating their Harvest gift to help us provide a nourishing, wholesome meal for the many socially excluded and homeless men and women who require the Lodging House Mission’s help and support. All the Harvest gifts that we received from many churches and schools mean that we can continue to provide free and heavily subsidised meals for our service users.

“As there is very little sign of the number and women who are homeless reducing in the near future, and with significant changes to the Benefit System, it would appear that the service of the LHM will be required for the next while. Homeless and socially excluded men and women will still need to be cared for and fed. We are only able to provide the level of support and help that we do because of your generosity and support.

“Please continue to support us in whatever way you can, especially through your prayers, so that as we engage with our service users we will begin to see their lives changed for the better.”

As ever, there is more to be done. The Christmas card order list is available in the vestibule, and cards can be purchased direct at the Orchard Café.

Sunshine Bags

Very many thanks to all of you who took The Guild’s Sunshine Bags in April and duly returned them in October.

However, a number of bags are still out there. I do not send the money raised by the Sunshine Bags until January, so you are not too late; you still have time to contribute to the work of Mary’s Meals worldwide. Please give your bag to me or any other Guild member. If you have any difficulty returning it, please phone me (638 0457).

Jeanette Birnie



Our next event is ***Celebrate Christmas with Soundwaves*** on Sunday 6 December at 6.30pm in the church.

Please put the date in your diary, and join us that evening for our Christmas celebrations with the usual tea, coffee, shortbread and chat afterwards in the hall.

Alexis Wallace

Orchard Café



The final date for the Orchard Café this year is Tuesday 8 December. This will be our Christmas lunch, which will be served from noon till 1.00pm. Advance booking is required. No coffees that morning!

The café will reopen on 12 January.

We will wish all our customers, bakers and soup-makers a happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Overnight in Science Centre

On Friday 13 November four Junior Section Boys and two leaders from Orchardhill's Boys' Brigade company set off for the Glasgow Science Centre, where, along with about 400 boys and officers from all over Scotland, they enjoyed a sleepover.

After checking in and being allocated our luggage bin we all set off to explore and try out the various activities on floor 1 of the Science Centre. Among the boys we think all activities were attempted: from making a rocket and launching it to see how far it would travel to playing in the Space Zone and completing the puzzles.

At about 6.30pm half the number filed into the Science Show Theatre, where various experiments were carried out relating to our body, our diet, and what happened to our food through our digestive system. The finale was an experiment using a Bunsen burner, funnel, and tube, and we think icing sugar, which was lit and created great balls of fire. We were sitting at the front, and the heat was tremendous.

Again we had some free time and explored floor 2: My World of Work and Life, Powering the Future, and the Lab. We also picked our spot for sleeping.

8.00pm came all too soon, and we set off to the Planetarium. This was all about the stars, a trip to the moon, a trip to the outer galaxy, and then the various planets. It was all interesting and very informative.

Free time again, and we explored Body Works on the third floor.

10.00pm was supper time: very welcome hot chocolate, devotions, and then up to our allocated "bedroom" for the night. Lights out at midnight.

Subdued lighting came on about 5.30am, and at 6.00 it was everybody up. Each floor was gradually cleared of bedding, and a welcome light breakfast was served from 7.00 onwards before we set off home about 8.00 as the Centre had to be empty by 9.00.

A very worthwhile Friday evening, and we are sure the boys learned a great deal as well as realising the Boys' Brigade is much wider than just our company and our district but all over Scotland. Our boys were well behaved and were a credit to themselves, their parents, and to the 86th. Thank you to all who organised the event and to the staff of the Science Centre. Because of the heavy demand it may be three years before we can go again!

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is meeting regularly in the early stages of our search for our new minister. We will be placing the advertisement about our church in the February issue of *Life and Work*, which comes out at the end of January.

Our work now is done in terms of strict confidentiality. So I am afraid that there will be no further reports from the committee until we bring forward the name of our choice of Sole Nominee. We will be greatly helped by your prayers and your patience.

Donald Carmichael (Convener)

Sunday Intimations

Please note that a new email address is now available for intimations for the Sunday Order of Service booklet. Intimations should be sent to intimations@orchardhill.org.uk.

Updating Church Website

Over the coming months it is likely that the Orchardhill website and app will be receiving a larger number of visitors as we progress in our search for our new minister. It would be great if the website fully reflected the active congregational life at Orchardhill. Therefore we would like to encourage all the church organisations to review the content of the website relating to them and ensure it is up to date and consider including photographs. This is also a great way to promote our organisations and encourage new members or leaders.

Please send any updates and pictures to our webmaster, Dave Thomson, at webmaster@orchardhill.org.uk.

The *Orchardhill Record* editorial team add to the website request. A colourful, well filled newsletter would be a more than useful tool in publicising ourselves during the vacancy. Let's aim for a return to the months when we had an *Orchardhill Record* that spanned 12 pages or even 16! That'll look good in print and on the website.

The editorial team's email address is record-editor@orchardhill.org.uk.

Congregational Register

Change of Address

Elizabeth Alexander from 16 Church Road, Giffnock G46 6JR to 4 Wellfield Avenue, Giffnock G46 7QL (district 16)

December Rotas

Welcome

	Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Ushers
6	Ann Craig	Fiona Bissett	Isabel Vance	Shona Cook & Sandra Cherry
13	Sandra Cherrie	Fiona Bissett	Ann Craig	Shona Cook
20	Shona Cook	Fiona Bissett	Sandra Cherrie	Ann Craig
27	Ann Craig	Fiona Bissett	Shona Cook	Sandra Cherrie

Offering

6	Fiona Bissett 638 6394; Andrew Flockhart 586 8867; Norma Hannah 638 7515; Dave Thomson 638 3289
13	Fiona Bissett; Andrew Flockhart; Richard Park 638 0273; Anne Anderson 563 2395
20	Fiona Bissett; Andrew Flockhart; Richard Park; Anne Anderson
27	Fiona Bissett; Andrew Flockhart; Richard Park

Rotas for January and the remainder of 2016 will be advised to collectors later this month.

Thinking Allowed

The next Thinking Allowed event will be on 4 February at 7.30 for 8.00pm in Orchardhill Church Hall.

Following last year's successful evening of discussion prompted by TED talks we will repeat the experiment this year. If you are new to TED, it is a non-profit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short powerful online talks. Some of these talks have been viewed by millions of people across the world. The two talks we will watch together are highlighted below.

Why would God create a Tsunami?

Rev Tom Honey, Canon Pastor of Exeter Cathedral, is not afraid to take on some of religion's tougher issues. In the days following the tragic South Asian tsunami in 2004 Canon Honey pondered the question, "How could a loving God have done this?" Here is his answer.

The Power of Vulnerability

Brené Brown studies human connection – our ability to empathise, belong and love. In a poignant, funny talk she shares a deep insight from her research, one that sent her on a personal quest to know herself as well as to understand humanity. A talk to share. Voted one of the best of TED talks of all time.

The evening is a discussion entitled "On Being Connected to One Another".

January *Orchardhill Record* Deadline

Sunday 13 December is the deadline for the January 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. We prefer contributions to be sent by email, and we cannot accept any handwritten or typed item that does not identify the name of the source.

A photograph or logo must not be embedded in the article. Please send photos and the like as separate attachments to allow the editor easy 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 February issue will be Sunday 17 January.

Orchardhill Calendar

DECEMBER

Sun	6	10.30am	Second Sunday in Advent: Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Family Worship	Rev John Miller
		6.30pm	Christmas with Soundwaves	
Sun	13	10.30am	Third Sunday in Advent: Choir Cantata	Rev John Miller
Sat	19	10.00am	Christian Aid: Big Sing at Morrisons, Fenwick Road	
Sun	20	10.30am	Fourth Sunday in Advent: Stepping Stones' Nativity	Rev John Miller
Tue	22	1.30pm	Giffnock Primary School Winter Service	
Thu	24	6.30pm	Family Christingle Service	
		11.00pm	Mulled Wine and Carols followed at 11.30pm by Watchnight Service	
Fri	25	10.00am	Christmas Day Family Service	Rev John Miller
Sun	27	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller

JANUARY

Sun	3	10.30am	Sacrament of Baptism and Family Service with Communion	Rev John Miller
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