



# THE RECORD

## Even Einstein Quoted God's Word

Dear members and friends of Orchardhill,

Somehow a few weeks ago I missed an important centenary. 25 November saw the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Albert Einstein's lecture to the Prussian Academy of Science, setting out his complete Theory of General Relativity.

On people like me, for whom scientific language is an utterly foreign tongue, the significance of the demonstration that gravity causes light waves to bend may be lost. But, relying on Einstein's theory, scientists have paved the way for many of the developments which have helped to shape our present world – the atom bomb, space exploration, and much of the electronic technology which surrounds us and is daily at our fingertips.

Einstein himself found it difficult to come to terms with some of the implications of his theory. Some physicists began to build a theory around the behaviour of things on a very small scale – what they called Quantum physics – and discovered to their surprise that they could not determine everything. Of the uncertainty that thus seemed to lie at the heart of scientific discovery Einstein wrote to a colleague: "An inner voice tells me that this is not the true Jacob. The theory accomplishes a lot, but it does not bring us closer to the secrets of the Old One. In any case, I am convinced that He does not play dice."

It is interesting to see how Einstein, when he speaks about the uncertainty which seems to be in the innermost nature of scientific discovery, uses religious language.

We are on the threshold of a New Year. Globally, internationally and nationally we face immense uncertainties. Locally, personally, the same will surely be true. How are we to find our way through it all? It is in just such circumstances as these that our religious language catches fire.

Jesus who was born in an outhouse is The Lord, crucified and risen. He is the Light that no darkness can put out. And our hope rests there – *"through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dayspring from heaven has visited us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."* (LUKE 1: 78)

With hope and blessings for the New Year,

**John Miller**

# Christmas Market Success



*Orchardhill's annual Christmas Market in November raised the admirable final total of £1022*

## Life and Work

A reminder to those who subscribe to Life and Work that the annual subscription of £26.40 is now due. We hope to be available in the Fellowship Room after the service on Sunday 31 January to collect the subscriptions. Payment may be made by cash or cheque (made payable to Orchardhill Parish Church).

**Jim and Aileen Blair**

# Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club

Orchardhill's season of junior badminton is well under way. Since August 18 young players, aged 10 -15, have been coming along regularly to the Memorial Halls on a Saturday morning from 10.00 till noon. They have enjoyed lots of chat, played lots of singles and doubles games, a morning with table tennis, a crazy tournament, a senior/junior morning, and a visit to the Emirates Stadium for coaching and watching the Scottish Open Grand Prix.



If you are interested in joining or adding your name to the waiting list, please email your name, date of birth and phone number to Barbara Mackenzie at [neiljmackenzie@msn.com](mailto:neiljmackenzie@msn.com).

## Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones have had a busy first term. We have had a visit from a tortoise, iced and decorated biscuits, made cakes to share with the congregation on Harvest Sunday, learnt the reason for wearing poppies on Remembrance Sunday and then designed and made our own poppy brooches as well as having lots of interesting chats and playing games. Our numbers remain constant with at least 10 children attending every Sunday.

The children's collection this year will be sent to Mary's Meals. We already have enough money to feed six hungry children for a year. Our children have each had a guess at how many children we will be able to feed by the time Stepping Stones finishes for the year in June. Guesses range from six to a hundred - we will probably be towards the lower number!

Pleased be assured that any children who wish to join us at Stepping Stones will be made very welcome. We're a friendly bunch even though we may sometimes sound loud and scary to the congregation while we are playing in the hall

## Flower Delivery

Please add your name to one of the lists at the church's Tower Door if you are able to assist with the much appreciated Flower Delivery service. Thanks to all those who delivered flowers during 2015.





*Soundwaves' children preparing for their Christmas Evening Service*



# Soundwaves' Christmas Service

Soundwaves' Christmas Evening Service was a great success. The boys and girls entertained us with the Christmas story in the form of Hosanna Rock, and the congregation joined in with much-loved carols. A very big thank you to everyone who came along and supported Soundwaves. The sum of £240 was collected and was sent to Robin House, Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Soundwaves start back on Tuesday 5 January, when we will begin preparations for this year's show, which is on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 March. Dates for your diary!

## Church Welcomes Climate Change Pact

The Church of Scotland has welcomed the international agreement to tackle climate change.

At the United Nations' Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris in December no fewer than 195 nations approved a pact. The agreement set a new international context for nations' use of fossil fuels and action on climate change, including limiting global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

A Church of Scotland spokesman said: "Congratulations to the United Nations, the French government and to delegates from all over the world, including the United Kingdom who have worked so hard to achieve a positive and legally binding agreement. Now the next stage begins: to live up to, and go beyond, the commitments made in Paris. That is our shared responsibility, not just that of our governments. Churches and the wider faith community have become increasingly active in the struggle for change."

Pilgrims representing the ACT Alliance, a coalition of more than 140 organisations and churches organisations, gathered in Paris from across the world and presented a petition with over 1.8 million signatories on it to the conference organisers.

The Conference of European Churches said the deal would combat climate change and advance ecological justice. General Secretary Guy Liagre said: "We welcome this agreement as a signal of hope, and as significant recognition of the necessity of global and common action."

Peter Pavlovic, secretary of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN), underscored that although the agreement is important, it must be viewed as an invitation to further action. "The significant work of implementation lies ahead," he added. "We must believe that the good intentions of the text will be honoured."



# The Guild's Christmas Lunch



The Guild gathered at the Fenwick Hotel on 7 December for an excellent Christmas Lunch and thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with each other in very pleasant surroundings. We were delighted that Rev John Miller and Mrs Isabella Hood were able to join us, and we thank them both for being such good company.

We have only one meeting in January on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room, when Mrs Pat Connell, of Giffnock South Church, will give us an illustrated talk on her voyage across the Indian Ocean.

We look forward to welcoming everyone interested in this talk.

*Photos also on opposite page*





# Thinking Allowed

Thinking Allowed's next event will be on 4 February at 7.30 for 8.00pm in Orchardhill Church Hall – a discussion titled "On Being Connected to One Another".

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 unafraid 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.

## **FURTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

At Cairns Church, Milngavie, on Thursday 11 February (7.30 for 8.00pm )

Speaker: Rev Iain Whyte, BA, BD, STM, PhD, Honorary Post Doctoral Fellow, Diaspora Studies, University of Edinburgh

Lecture: "Faith, Fiction and History: How Can We Deal with our Roots?"

At Orchardhill Church on Thursday 3 March (7.30 for 8.00pm)

Speaker: Margaret Webb, BSc, Dip Ed, Dip Counselling

Lecture: "Tell Me The Old, Old Story: Where Christian Spirituality and Psychotherapy Converge"

Many of us enjoy hearing others tell a good story. But what about the stories we tell to ourselves? In this talk Margaret uses themes from Christian Spirituality and theories from Transactional Analysis psychotherapy to explore how the nature of the stories we tell to ourselves in the privacy of our own minds will ultimately determine our capacity to live life in all its fullness.

At Cairns Church, Milngavie on Thursday 10 March (7.30 for 8.00pm)

Speaker: Professor Stuart K Monro, Geologist and former Scientific Director of Our Dynamic Earth

Lecture: "A Geologist Reflects..."



# Kirk's Plea on Fuel Poverty

Just two days after the momentous climate change agreement at the Paris summit the Scottish Government has published deeply concerning statistics highlighting that one in three Scots lives in fuel poverty.

The figures are published in the Scottish House Condition Survey 2014. They show that in 2014 the level of fuel poverty remained similar to the previous year: 34.9% or around 845,000 households were fuel poor and 9.5% were living in extreme fuel poverty.

The Church of Scotland, which will be bringing a major report on Fuel Poverty to next year's General Assembly, described the figures as disappointing and showing the need to tackle fuel poverty as a priority. This comes at the same time as the Scottish Government is coming under renewed pressure to cut Scotland's carbon footprint to meet the new climate change commitments agreed at the Paris climate summit.

Sally Foster Fulton, Convener of the Church and Society Council, said:

"These two issues are related, and we need to tackle them together. Fuel poverty comes about because people have to live in houses that are poorly insulated and not fit for the 21st Century. Houses that leak heat lose vital income for their occupants and waste energy at the same time leading to a large part of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions.

"This is bad news for a third of Scotland's population, and it is bad news for the planet.

"I joined other church leaders in Paris and heard the stories from around the world that tell us we must tackle climate change. I see people living in fuel poverty here in Scotland and know that we must redouble our efforts to tackle fuel poverty and climate change together.

"The Scottish Government needs to make tackling fuel poverty and climate change together two of their top priorities for 2016."

## Williamwood's New Minister

Rev Janet Mathieson, Convener of the General Assembly's Business Committee, was inducted as Williamwood's minister in late October.

# Communion Roll

## DEATH

On 9 December 2015 Mrs Betty McKenna, 33 Huntly Avenue, Giffnock G46 6LW (district 23)

# Offering Rota

## JANUARY

3	Angela Peacock 638 0026; Sandra Cherrie 638 9702; Allan Rennie 882 9703; Norma Hannah 638 7515
10	Angela Peacock; Sandra Cherrie; Allan Rennie
17	Shona Fletcher 639 4523; Sandra Cherrie; Willie Hendry 644 0351
24	Shona Fletcher; Sandra Cherrie; Willie Hendry
31	Bill Yuill 638 2400; Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512; Norma Hannah 638 7515

## FEBRUARY

7	Bill Yuill; Evelyn McMurtrie; Jim MacKinnon 638 2123
14	Bill Yuill; Gordon Ross 638 1207; Jim MacKinnon
21	Bill Yuill; Gordon Ross; Jim MacKinnon
28	Ian Anderson 563 2395; Ian Cartlidge 571 7839; Jim MacKinnon

# Hyderabad Visit

A team of four from Glasgow Presbytery, including the Moderator and the Clerk, visited the Diocese of Hyderabad in November. The Glasgow representatives included the Presbytery Moderator, Rev Tom Pollock, Minister of Sherbrooke St Gilbert's, and the Presbytery Clerk, Very Rev William Hewitt.

A reciprocal visit from a Hyderabad team is being arranged.



# Deadline for February Edition

Sunday 17 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. 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 March edition will be Sunday 14 February.



# Orchardhill Calendar

## JANUARY

Sun	3	10.30am	Sacrament of Baptism and Family Service with Communion	Rev John Miller
Sun	10	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Tue	12	10.00am	Orchard Café reopens	
Sun	17	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Mon	18	2.00pm	The Guild: Across the Indian Ocean (Mrs Pat Connell)	
Sun	24	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Sun	31	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller

## FEBRUARY

Mon	1	2.00pm	The Guild Project: Mission International on Haiti	
Thu	4	7.30 for 8.00pm	Thinking Allowed: TED talks	
Sun	7	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller

### **ORCHARDHILL'S MISSION STATEMENT**

*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*
- *Worship that is a way of life lived out by all*

Orchardhill Parish Church, Church Road, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6JR

Phone 0141 638 3604

Website: [www.orchardhill.org.uk](http://www.orchardhill.org.uk)

email: [secretary@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:secretary@orchardhill.org.uk)