



THE RECORD

Why the Burning Bush?

Dear members and friends of Orchardhill,

Why did the Church of Scotland adopt as its emblem the Burning Bush? At the forthcoming General Assembly it will be everywhere: on noticeboards, on notepaper, in stained glass windows and carved on doors. It usually has its Latin strap-line, *Nec tamen consumebatur*, which means "Yet it was not consumed".

The image comes, of course, from the story in the Book of Exodus (3:2) when Moses in the desert turns aside to investigate a bush which is burning but is not consumed. Moses hears God speaking to him out of the burning bush. The flames symbolise the presence of God. And the encounter with God transforms Moses's life for ever.

The great Reformed theologian John Calvin wrote about the burning bush as being like the church, which suffers persecution but survives and is not consumed. Calvin's French followers, the Huguenots, in 1583 were the first to adopt the image as the emblem of their church. They had suffered terrible persecution but took courage from the burning bush which did not suffer destruction.

The emblem of the burning bush was introduced on the front page of the minutes of our own General Assembly in 1691. The printer who produced the minutes, George Mossman, is thought to have introduced it on his own initiative, perhaps borrowing it from the Huguenots. The Presbyterian form of the church had been re-established in Scotland in 1690 after many decades of bishops in the Episcopalian system. Presbyterianism had not been consumed or destroyed. And the emblem has been with us ever since.

The picture of the Burning Bush was introduced, therefore, to give political courage to the Presbyterian church.

But the emblem still carries its original message, namely that the presence of God will transform but not consume the individual. As Moses did, you can meet God in the midst of ordinary life. You can have an encounter with the divine when you least expect it. It can happen in patterns of routine or in moments of surprise: and your life will be forever changed.

A blessing.

John Miller



General Assembly

The Church of Scotland's General Assembly will be held in Edinburgh from 21 to 27 May.

A summary of the key reports is published in the May edition of *Life and Work*, the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine.

Christian Aid Book Sale

The four Giffnock churches' annual Christian Aid book sale will be held on Saturday 21 May from 10.00am to 1.00pm at Morrison's supermarket. Once again we ask for your wholehearted support on behalf of the Christian Aid Committee.

Also, we are looking for new volunteers to deliver and collect envelopes for a street during Christian Aid Week from 15 to 12 May. If you are able to help please contact Ian Anderson (563 2395) or David Howard (571 7854).

Christian Aid runs projects throughout Africa, South America and Asia. So your support translates into lives transformed all over the world. Learn about what Christian Aid does at www.christianaid.org.uk.

As an example of the situations that Christian Aid goes to, the charity's partners support Syrian refugee communities in Lebanon and Iraq. Working in host communities and informal settlements and with refugees who are not often receiving other aid, Christian Aid have provided food, hygiene items, infant kits, fuel for cooking and cash assistance as well as much need psychosocial support to help people process what they have seen and experienced.

Christian Aid's partner in Greece, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), is working on the islands Chios, Samos and Kos, providing sleeping bags, food, water and baby kits and working to improve conditions in reception centres.

Philanthropy, Christian Aid's partner in Serbia, is providing essential humanitarian items such as food, wellington boots, children's coats, nappies and baby food as well as cash assistance to refugees arriving daily.

Flower Delivery

More help in the delivery of the flowers after the Sunday morning services would be much appreciated. New delivery lists are at the church's Tower Door.



Easter Egg Hunt

The young people of Stepping Stones and Bridges joined together on the morning of Palm Sunday to decorate and roll hard-boiled eggs. The children of the crèche then joined us, and we had an Easter Egg hunt in the church gardens. It was a delight to have all the children together to celebrate the joy of Easter.



Eastwoodhill Coffee Morning

The Friends of Eastwoodhill coffee morning at Giffnock South Church on 9 April raised £1212.35 to help with the purchase of a special mobility chair for the Church of Scotland care home at Eastwood Toll. Thanks to all who helped and attended and who supported the event in other ways. More money has still to come in from associated ventures such as the ever-popular quiz.

John Robert CRAWFORD

15 August 1931 – 4 March 2016

With sorrow we record the passing of Ian Crawford on 4 March. With his family he had lived in Giffnock for almost 60 years. Born on 15 August 1931 he was the only child of John and Agnes Crawford of Walton Street in Shawlands.

Ian went to Shawlands Academy and served his time with Fairfields in Govan as a draughtsman. During his apprenticeship he played ice hockey for Glasgow Mohawks at Crossmyloof. Mutual friends arranged a blind date for him and Jean Cruickshanks, after which Ian went home and told his mother that he had met the woman he was going to marry. But then Ian went off to sea, doing his National Service in the Merchant Navy.

He and Jean were married in Martyrs' Church on 14 July 1955, and their first house was a room-and-kitchen in Townhead. Ian enjoyed his life at sea. But if they were to have a family Jean wanted the children to have their father at home. So Ian came ashore and worked with Govan Shipbuilders in the drawing office, specialising in the engine rooms of merchant ships.

They moved into a newly-built house in Giffnock, their home for the rest of their married life. They were blessed with a family; John was born in 1958, and in 1964 Linda.

Govan Shipbuilders became Upper Clyde Shipbuilders in 1968, and UCS became Kvaerna Govan in 1989. Ian continued in the drawing office. He never lost his love of the sea and enjoyed going on sea-trials with new ships. Jean and Ian were glad to see their children take their part in the Park Church, the Guides and Scouts and the Youth Fellowship. Ian joined Giffnock Bowling Club, and as the club's Social Secretary he knew everyone.

A keen gardener, Ian loved nature; the family's dog Prince was a favourite. Ian and Jean were proud of their family: John served his time as a diesel mechanic, and moved into senior management with Arnold Clark; Linda after working in retail management took up work with adults with learning difficulties, supported by her partner John Clements.

Then, when he was 62, Ian retired from work after 37 years in the shipyards. Ian and Jean went on Mediterranean cruises, and family life continued to give them pleasure. John and Mhairi had met through the church, and they were married in Orchardhill by Rev John Spiers. Their daughter Pamela was born in 1986, and Wendy in 1989. Both girls were very fond of their Grandpa.

In recent years Ian devoted himself to Jean, who had spells of poor health. Last year they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, with a special Card from the Queen. Ian enjoyed the wedding in 2014 of Pamela and Scott Coulter. And he was looking forward to Wendy's marriage to Grant Smith on 19 March.

On 26 February Ian went into hospital with heart trouble. On 2 March he was thrilled to receive the news that Pamela had given birth to a baby boy, Finn. Ian spoke of how he was growing older and reaching the end of his journey, and now here was a new little one, beginning his journey. Ian seemed content at the thought of this circle of life. Two days later, on 4 March, Ian's dear life drew to its close.

Robert James WATSON

4 April 1936 – 24 February 2016

Having dealt bravely with poor health for some time, Robert Watson died suddenly and unexpectedly at home on 24 February. He was 79. Robert was held in respect and affection in Orchardhill, where his wife Marion and daughter Kirstie are both Elders.

Born on 4 April 1936, Robert was the eldest in the family of Stuart and Ina Watson in Dennistoun. Friends knew him as Bob and Bobby, but in the family he was Robert. He grew up with his brothers George and Ronald. He was a member of the 183th Glasgow Boys' Brigade Company attached to Blackfriars Church.

He went to Golfhill Primary School and then on to secondary, and he was glad to leave school as soon as he could. Early in his working life he went to work with Litcraft in Finnieston. He was 16 when he first asked Marion Fisher out. She was just 14. They had both been at Golfhill Primary, and Robert was already hoping to win Marion's heart. But it took him 11 years. Robert spent two years in the Far East, doing his National Service in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and then back to work as a salesman with Litcraft.

Robert and Marion were married in King's Park Church, and their first house was in Evan Crescent, Giffnock. Their first child, Fiona, sadly died just after she was born, but she was never forgotten. In 1966 Craig was born, and in 1968 Kirstie to complete the family circle.

Robert was a keen golfer. East Renfrewshire Golf Club - "East Ren" - became his second home. The children were still young when Robert set up his own lighting company. Their house became the assembly line for lighting products. Robert and Marion opened a shop in Falkirk, Exciting Lighting, and in Glasgow a weekend shop in Candleriggs Market. Their business grew.

Robert was delighted to see Craig's growing success as a golfer. When Craig was working in the family shop Marion would often step in to enable Craig to take part in tournaments. With a handicap of plus 2, in 1997 Craig won the Amateur Championship. He was invited to play in the Masters at Augusta the following year, partnering Arnold Palmer on the first day. And Robert was thrilled when Craig was appointed captain of the Walker Cup team to play the USA in Los Angeles next year.

Illness stepped into the lives of Marion and Robert, and they moved into retirement. Though Robert did not focus his life on the church he was glad to support Marion and Kirstie in their commitment as Elders in Orchardhill, and he joined Orchardhill friends on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1987. He and Marion holidayed in Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the USA. Robert greatly enjoyed his social life at East Ren golf club, where his witty commentary on life kept the company bright.

His pride in Kirstie and in Craig was constant. And Craig and Angelina and young Jack were a most important part of his life. The family arranged a memorable Golden Wedding celebration for Robert and Marion two years ago.

Large numbers of friends joined the family at the funeral service in the Linn. In giving thanks for Robert's life we gather all his family into our prayers.

Welcome Rota

	Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Ushers
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MAY

1	Jim Blair	Fiona Thomson	Shona Fletcher	Jo Weir and Jim Mackinnon
8	Ann Craig	Bill McMurtrie	Isabel Vance	Jim McKinnon
15	Isabel Vance	Bill McMurtrie	Jo Weir	Ann Craig
22	Jim Mackinnon	Ann Pope	Ann Craig	Isabel Vance
29	Ann Craig	Ann Pope	Isabel Vance	Jim Mackinnon

JUNE

5	Fergus Cook	Maureen Park	Willie Hendry	Sandra Cherrie and Anne Barr
12	Sandra Cherrie	Maureen Park	Shona Cook	Irene Kinniburgh
19	Nanette Davidson	Shona Fletcher	Sandra Cherrie	Marion Watson
26	Linda Moir	Shona Fletcher	Jim Blair	Sandra Cherrie

Offering Rota

MAY

1	Fiona Thomson 571 7153; Peter Worthington 638 4316; David Howard 571 7854
8	Bill McMurtrie 571 2512; Margaret Howard 571 7854; Valerie Clarke 638 6148
15	Bill McMurtrie; Margaret Howard; Valerie Clarke
22	Ann Pope 616 4809; Neil Mackenzie 638 0591; Alex Mall 585 7169
29	Ann Pope; Neil Mackenzie; Alex Mall

JUNE

5	Maureen Park 638 0273; Anne Anderson 563 2395; Hilary Kennedy 638 6114
12	Maureen Park; Anne Anderson; Norma Hannah 638 7515; Roseanne Henderson 571 7375
19	Shona Fletcher 639 4523; Colin Williamson 571 9119; Lisel Tait 638 8345
26	Shona Fletcher; Colin Williamson; Lisel Tait

Communion Roll

DEATH

On 29 March 2016 Mrs Jean Muir, 20 Dorian Drive, Clarkston G76 6JP (district 4)

Congregational Register

MARRIAGE

On 2 April 2016 Suzanne McGuiggan and Crawford Dick, 12 Mill Road, Southampton, SO15 4JA

BAPTISM

On 3 April Fiona Meredith and Robert Iain, daughter and son of Suzanne and Crawford Dick

Orchardhill Record's June Deadline

Sunday 15 May is the deadline for the June 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 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. Photograph or logos must not be embedded in articles. 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 *Orchardhill Record* will be on holiday in July and August. Publication will resume with the September edition. The deadline for that edition will be 14 August.

Email Address for Intimations

The email address for intimations to be included in the Sunday service sheet is intimations@orchardhill.org.uk

Orchardhill Calendar

MAY

Sun	1	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller
Sun	8	10.30am	Family Worship and Sacrament of Baptism	Rev John Miller
Sun	15	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller
Tue	17	7.30pm	Kirk Session	
Wed	18	11.30am	Lunchtime Communion	
Sun	22	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Alastair McLachlan
Sun	29	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller

JUNE

Sun	5	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller
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El-Shaddai

Three of us were discussing the meaning of the song, El-Shaddai, and although Lindsay probably explained this some time ago we decided that we were unsure of its full and proper meaning. So we looked-up Google, and this is what we were told:

El-Shaddai means "God Almighty",

El-Elyon na Adonai translates as "God most high, O Lord", and

Erkamka na Adonai means "We will love you, O Lord".

So when next we sing it, here is what we are saying to God:

*God Almighty, God Almighty,
 God most high, O Lord,
 Age to age, you're still the same.
 By the power of the name,
 God Almighty, God Almighty,
 We will love you, O Lord.
 We will praise and lift you high,
 God Almighty.*

David Howard

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