



THE RECORD

‘An’ forward, tho’ I canna see...’

Do, please, indulge your still fairly-new Minister. Two decades of service a little way south of Giffnock makes it difficult, at least in January, to go beyond Ayrshire’s farmer-poet who is also our national bard. Whilst the mouse clearly did not have things easy, developments in the last two centuries and more haven’t helped allay human anxieties. The ploughman’s humble abode then, unlike many Ayrshire homes now, wouldn’t have had broadband internet and 24-hour rolling news.

Through such technologies we know ourselves to be at the threshold of a year which holds in store a range of developments unlikely to have been predicted 12 months ago. Political decisions made recently shall leave no part of our country or continent (or, indeed, ‘the West’) untouched. At the same time there seems to be little global ability to touch, in any meaningfully healing way, the continuing consequences of the civil war in Syria; nor, indeed, to repair the ‘social union’ as Burns put it between humankind and nature which may well have caused record-breaking global temperature rises in 2016.

What does faith in ‘God with us’ have to contribute here? We could make the mistake of thinking that, if things are all right for us and God is on *our* side, we may rest easy. But such an ark-type mentality sits uneasily with a God who dwells with humankind.

Incarnation offers, instead, the clue to proper response: engagement. It is a good thing to welcome among us those who wish to belong. But it is a greater thing to go out beyond the convenience of our setting, to move further from the accepted coherence of our world-view, and to draw meaningfully alongside those in considerable need. For if God is with us, God is with all – and as a united population on this planet all of us are in need and we may all be recipients of grace.

We are doing this as we engage with the Lodging House Mission and Glasgow City Mission here and support Scottish Love in Action’s work in Tuni, India. As we expand our collaborations, increase our joint activities and work together in more ways with more people we may discover that challenges we cannot see may find a faithful response in loving action carried out together.

Grant Barclay, Minister

Good News on Hyderabad Visit

Last month the Orchardhill Record reported that a planned visit of representatives of the Diocese of Hyderabad to Glasgow Presbytery had been thwarted by intransigence by the UK Home Office's immigration section. Two of the four Hyderabad representatives had been refused visas. However, thanks to interventions by Scottish MPs, we are pleased to report that one of the refusals has been reversed. So at least three of the four will now be visiting Scotland next month.

That good news was received by Glasgow Presbytery on 13 December. It was reported to the Presbytery meeting that evening.

Kirsten Oswald, the East Renfrewshire MP, has been particularly active in seeking to cut through the red tape, notably when she raised the matter at Prime Minister's Questions in late November. Appropriately, it was on Saint Andrew's Day! She also wrote to the Home Secretary to press for a review of the decision. The response from the Home Office indicated that officials would undertake a review of the visa applications. That review has so far been partially successful.

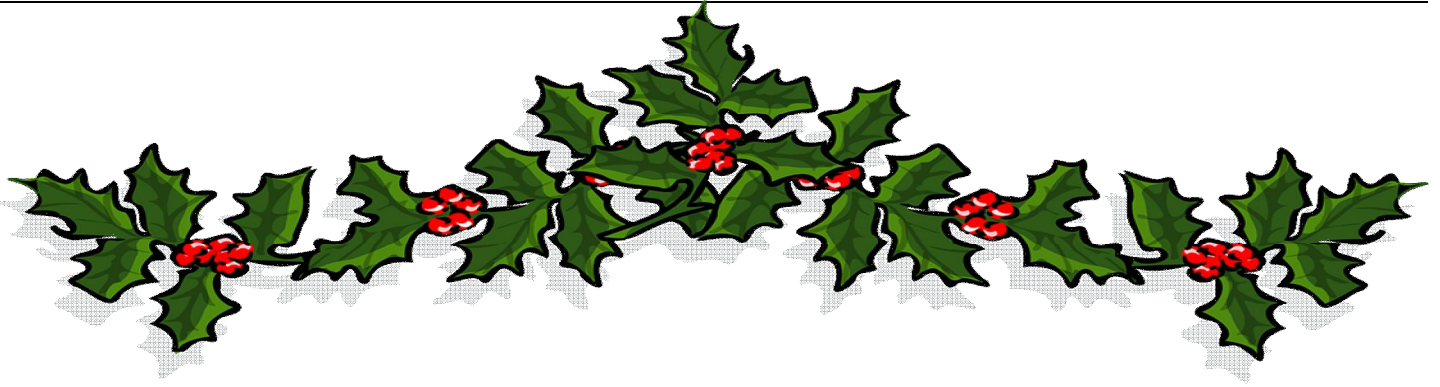
Despite the original refusal of two visas, the Bishop of Hyderabad and his wife still planned to visit Scotland next month as guests of Glasgow Presbytery. Because of dual nationality they have had no visa problem. Now we know that a group of at least three will be travelling from Hyderabad, and hopes remain high that the full team of four will be making the journey.

Four Glasgow Presbytery personnel visited the Hyderabad Diocese more than a year ago as the first positive step in a twinning arrangement. A reciprocal visit from Pakistan was originally planned for last year. That visit has been postponed twice because of visa problems.

Lisa's Stars

Thanks to the talented knitters of Orchardhill, Lisa's Stars were able to make a Christmas delivery to the neonatal unit at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. A dozen beautiful blankets and 80 tiny hats were given to families of babies born too soon.

If you would like to donate wool or knitted baby items, please pass them on at church or contact Gillian Griffiths (0140 638 5997: gillianmgriffiths@hotmail.com).



The Guild enjoying their Christmas lunch at the Fenwick Hotel



500 Years of Reformation

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It is half a millennium since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, a university town in eastern Germany.

These papers criticised the practices and doctrines of the late Medieval Catholic Church, and Luther was called to account before the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, at the Diet of Worms four years later, and he defended himself and his cause with these words: *"I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not retract anything since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise here I stand, may God help me."*

Luther's defence in these words is quoted by Susan Hardman Moore in an article, Luther and the World, in this month's edition of Life and Work. The Church of Scotland magazine also opens the Reformation's anniversary year with Very Rev Dr Ian Bradley's reflections on the impact of the Reformation in Scotland.

Other features in the magazine include the regular comments from the Moderator of the General Assembly, Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, as well as Very Rev Dr James Simpson and Ron Ferguson.

Stepping Stones' Ballet Girl

Stepping Stones have had a very successful 2016 and are looking forward to whatever 2017 brings us.

One of our older members, Kirsty McDonach, has been having a very exciting Christmas time as she was selected for a child role in Scottish Ballet's production of Hansel & Gretel at both the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh and the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. We are looking forward to her telling us all about life backstage



Celebration of Carols



On Sunday 11 December, Orchardhill's choir presented the Christmas Cantata, "Celebration of Carols" by Joseph M Martin. My thanks go to the choir for their hard work and dedication throughout the rehearsal period and also to the guests who joined us for this venture.

Choir practices resume in January on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. New members will be made most welcome as we turn our thoughts to Easter and Songs of Praise.

David Fisher

Orchardhill Record in Large Print

Three years ago the editors offered to produce large-print copies of the Orchardhill Record for those who wished that facility. No one took up that offer. However, it has been suggested again that a few Orchardhill members would welcome a large-print copy. If you wish such a copy of the church newsletter each month or if you know of anyone who would appreciate such a version, please advise the Church Secretary (0141 638 3604: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk).

Christmas Alphabet



Orchardhill's Anchor Boys and Junior Section boys who were awarded either certificates or badges are proud to show them off. More hard work next year so that they complete their achievements, and then they can show off their badges.

Instead of the Christmas Story the boys have been looking at the Christmas Alphabet . thinking about words that mean something about Christmas to us. Here are some of the boys suggestions. Unfortunately we could not think of anything beginning with Q, U, V or Z!

A	Advent Angels	N	Nativity Noblemen
B	Bells Baubles	O	Orient
C	Christ Cattle	P	Peace Presents
D	Donkey	Q	
E	Eating	R	Robins Rudolph
F	Frankincense	S	Saviour Snowman
G	God Giving Gold	T	Tree Tidings
H	Holly Happiness	U	
I	Innkeeper	V	
J	Jesus Jolly	W	Wise Men Wreaths
K	Kings	X	Xmas
L	Love	Y	Yuletide
M	Mistletoe Myrrh	Z	

Stepping Stones' Party



Stepping Stones enjoying their Christmas Party on 11 December

Interested in the Big Questions?

Do you wonder about why we are here? Life after death? Suffering? The point of religion? Faith or action?

If so, why not come along to a new group to chat about these and other questions. There, in the company of others, you can examine and express your own thoughts and beliefs about many thorny issues such as these as we look at a series called LifeSpirit. There are no right answers, but perhaps as we explore together we might learn from each other and gain new insights as we share our differing viewpoints in a safe space.

The aim is to start the group in January. So we hope you can join us for what promises to be an entertaining series. If you are interested and would like to know more then please contact Fiona Thomson on 571 7153 or fiona362@icloud.com. Depending on the preferences of those who are interested we can look at both daytime and/or evenings for meeting.

Fighting with Nonviolence

Following up the well-received TED Talks of last year's Thinking Allowed programme, this session's event will feature Jody Williams and Scilla Elworthy giving lectures, respectively "A Realistic Vision for World Peace" and "Fighting with Nonviolence". These will take place in Orchardhill on Thursday 2 February.

In more than 100 years of Nobel Peace Prizes, only a dozen women have ever won. Civil-rights and peace activist Jody Williams received the award in 1997 as the chief strategist of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which established the first global treaty banning antipersonnel mines.

Williams believes that peace is defined by human (not national) security and that it must be achieved through sustainable development, environmental justice, and meeting people's basic needs. To this end, she co-founded the Nobel Women's Initiative, endorsed by six female Peace laureates. She chairs the effort to support activists, researchers, and others working toward peace, justice, and equality for women and thus humanity. Williams also continues to fight for the total global eradication of landmines.

How do you deal with a bully without becoming a thug? In this wise and soulful talk, peace activist Scilla Elworthy maps out the skills we need — as nations and individuals — to fight extreme force without using force in return. To answer the question of why and how nonviolence works, she evokes historical heroes —Aung San Suu Kyi, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela — and the personal philosophies that powered their peaceful protests.

Finally, on Thursday 9 March, Very Rev John Miller, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, returns to Orchardhill to deliver his lecture on "What Shall We Tell the Grandchildren?"

Cairns Church, Milngavie, also hosts Thinking Allowed lectures:

12 January – Myra MacDonald, author and former Reuters Bureau Chief for India: "Pakistan: Politics and Religion".

23 February – Rev Julie Nicholson: Roy Paterson Memorial Lecture.

Thanks from Guides

2nd A Giffnock Guides thank everyone for supporting the girls at the Youth Service in November and for buying cakes after the service. The Guides are pleased to announce that they raised £90, which they have given to Stepping Stones as a contribution towards Mary's Meals fundraising.

January & February Welcomers

	Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Greeters/Ushers
JANUARY				
1	Shona Cook	Angela Peacock	Anne Barr	Willie Hendry
8	Willie Hendry	Angela Peacock	Shona Cook	Anne Barr
15	Anne Barr	Shona Fletcher	Willie Hendry	Shona Cook
22	Shona Cook	Shona Fletcher	Anne Barr	Willie Hendry
29	Irene Kinniburgh	Evelyn McMurtrie	May Liddle	Neil Mackenzie

FEBRUARY

5	Neil Mackenzie	Evelyn McMurtrie	Irene Kinniburgh	May Liddle and Nanette Davidson
12	May Liddle	Gordon Ross	Neil Mackenzie	Irene Kinniburgh
19	Irene Kinniburgh	Gordon Ross	May Liddle	Neil Mackenzie
26	Nanette Davidson	Ian Cartlidge	Marion Watson	Gordon Thomson

Offering Rota

JANUARY

1	Angela Peacock 638 0026; Sandra Cherrie 638 9702; Allan Rennie 882 9703
8	Angela Peacock; Sandra Cherrie; Allan Rennie
15	Shona Fletcher 639 4523; Sandra Cherrie; Willie Hendry 644 0351
22	Shona Fletcher; Sandra Cherrie; Willie Hendry
29	Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512; Norma Hannah 638 7515; Bill Yuill 638 2400

FEBRUARY

5	Evelyn McMurtrie; Jim Mackinnon 638 2123; Bill Yuill
12	Gordon Ross 638 1207; Jim Mackinnon; Bill Yuill
19	Gordon Ross; Jim Mackinnon; Bill Yuill
26	Ian Cartlidge 571 7839; Jim Mackinnon; Ian Anderson 563 2395

January's Scripture Readers

1: Margaret Howard

8: Fergus Cook

15: Angela Peacock

22: Donald Carmichael

29: Shona Cook

Communion Roll

DEATH

On 26 November 2016 Mr Robert Martin, 26 Arthurlie Drive, Giffnock G46 6UP (district 32)

Congregational Register

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Linda Moir and Miss Katrina Moir from 35 Merrylee Park Avenue, Giffnock G46 6HR to 18 Gleneagles Drive, Newton Mearns G77 5UA (district 10)

February's Orchardhill Record Deadline

Sunday 15 January is the deadline for the February edition of the Orchardhill Record. The editors would be grateful if you could help by submitting contributions well in advance of the deadline if possible.

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. Please send your contributions as soon as possible rather than waiting till near the deadline.

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. But jpg files are OK.

The editor acknowledges every contribution via his personal email address. 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 12 February.

Princess High Commissioner

The Princess Royal has been appointed as the Queen's High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May this year.

The UK Government's official announcement last month stated: "The Queen has approved that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, KG, KT, GCVO, GCStJ, GCL, CD be appointed as Her Majesty's High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2017."

Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, commented: "We are delighted with the news that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal has been appointed by Her Majesty The Queen as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of 2017. Her Royal Highness served as Lord High Commissioner in 1996 and we look forward to her returning to the General Assembly next year."

The High Commissioner is the Sovereign's personal representative to the Annual General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. She will attend the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on behalf of the Sovereign, making the opening and closing addresses to the Assembly. As High Commissioner, she will carry out a number of official functions as the High Commissioner.

Moderator-Elect

This year's Moderator of the General Assembly is to be Rev Dr Derek Browning. He will succeed Right Rev Dr Russell Barr on the opening day of the General Assembly in May.

Dr Browning, a former pupil of North Berwick High School, has been minister of Morningside Parish Church in Edinburgh since 2001. He graduated with the degree of Doctor of Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary in the United States in 1997.

He read history at Corpus Christi College in Oxford and opted to train for the ministry ahead of pursuing other graduate career options working for the BBC in London and the oil giant Shell. He is also a graduate of St Mary's College in St Andrews and was ordained at Cupar Old Parish Church in Fife in 1987. Dr Browning has served in the Church in several capacities in St Andrews and Edinburgh Presbyteries.

He is currently the convener of the General Assembly's Business Committee, which also has responsibility for Heart and Soul, the highly popular event held in Princes Street Gardens on the Sunday of the General Assembly.

Orchardhill Calendar

JANUARY

Sun	1	10.30am	Family Worship with Communion	Rev Grant Barclay
Sun	8	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Sun	15	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Tue	17	7.30pm	Kirk Session	
Sun	22	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Mon	23	2.00pm	The Guild: Travels on the Indian Ocean (Mrs Pat Connell)	
Sun	29	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay

FEBRUARY

Thu	2	8.00pm	Thinking Allowed: TED Talk (A Realistic Vision for World Peace)	
Sun	5	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay

Life and Work

A reminder to those who subscribe to Life and Work that the annual subscription of £30.00 is now due. We hope to be available in the Fellowship Room after the service on Sunday 29 January to collect the subscriptions. Payment may be made by cash or cheque (payable to Orchardhill Parish Church).

Jim and Aileen Blair

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