



THE RECORD

Constant Use Takes Its Toll

There was once, I hear, a time when Fenwick Road was a quiet, pleasant place for a leisurely stroll at the weekend. Now more vehicles than can readily be counted travel its length all hours of every day – except, that is, when it's being resurfaced as occurred only a week or so ago. The tarmac needs to be replaced because the wear from constant use takes its toll. Perhaps we are not dissimilar.

The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) all record Jesus spending time in a deserted place prior to his public ministry. This is sometimes wrongly confused and conjoined with his temptation. The text, though, is clear that it is only after Jesus' period of fasting from food and friends that he encounters the Accuser's temptation to take different roads.

Was Jesus weakened or strengthened by being alone? Tradition suggests the latter: it was only by taking this time away from various distractions to focus on his life in the light of God's purposes and reflecting single-mindedly on living in loving relationship with his Father that he is able to withstand suggestions that he should be doing things another way.

Jesus lived in a day without daily newspapers, rolling news or the Internet: without the media as we now know it. And, yet, he still needed to get away. It was, apparently, in the solitude of a deserted place that the life-giving presence of God was most readily mediated to him in a way he could most helpfully experience.

He would not spend the rest of his life alone (though some of his followers, the Desert Fathers, tried to do this with the unfortunate unintended consequence that they became tourist attractions). None of this should make us complacent about social isolation as a present challenge which faces many.

As we continue through Lent it may, though, be worth considering the benefit of time spent with God and among fewer distractions. Like the closure of a main road for resurfacing, this sort of determined solitude brings inconvenience and probably requires some determined planning and forewarning. It may also allow deep, helpful and strengthening experiences in our faith to resurface and, not least, allow us to nourish a reconnection with God which enables us to keep travelling well by faith.

Grant Barclay

Eastwoodhill To Be Sold

Eastwoodhill, the Church of Scotland care home for the elderly at Eastwood Toll, is about to be sold to Pacific Care and so will no longer be a part of the CrossReach arm of the Church of Scotland. Pacific Care, with headquarters in Glasgow, already has some nursing homes in Scotland, which get a very high rating from the Care Commission. Pacific Care will be taking over the existing staff of Eastwoodhill so the greatest amount of continuity for the residents will be achieved.

The Friends of Eastwoodhill have continued their support of the residents. The home has not been so full this past year, though there has been demand for respite care. The staff have limited this to two people on respite care at any one time as more has proved unsettling to the permanent residents. The Friends have tried to continue with their regular Games afternoons on a regular basis, but these have been discontinued meantime as so many of the residents now are unable to cope with the simple games we play even with the help from the Friends.

The Friends have had a meeting with people from Pacific Care, in particular their managing director, Brendan Brawley. We were assured about the continuity of care after the hand-over and also the continuing relationship with the Church of Scotland through Eastwoodhill's chaplain, Rev Catherine Beattie.

It was emphasised that until Pacific Care had registered Eastwoodhill with the Care Commission the home would continue to be administered by CrossReach, with the hiring of staff and admission of new residents as before.

At question time we asked about the longer-term plans for Eastwoodhill, a change to a nursing home, selling of some of the land to a property developer, but it appeared that there were no such plans at present. We were happy that the Friends will continue, and Pacific Care seemed very pleased to have an active support group, a new experience for them. So we must wish them well and pray for the future of Eastwoodhill.

We are going ahead with Eastwoodhill's annual coffee morning in Giffnock South Church on Saturday 8 April from 10.00am till noon. Evelyn McMurtrie and I have tickets and the popular quiz, though you can also pay at the door. The aim this year has been suggested by the residents themselves – a dedicated games room equipped with suitable games. It is assumed that the new owners will agree to this.

Jeanette Birnie

Brains of the Church

On Sunday 26 February 12 teams pitted their wits against each other to become Brains of the Church – a title that has not been awarded for 20 years. The teams answered questions on many subjects ranging from films, TV and music to sport, history and science, not to mention the theme and picture rounds.



The Better Half of Fusion

The final scores were tight at the top, but congratulations go to The Better Half of Fusion, who were awarded the silverware, closely followed by Simple Minds (aka the office workers) and The Has-bean Counters (the Finance Committee) in joint second place. Another of the younger teams, Let's Get Quizzical (other members of Fusion), were presented with the wooden spoons. Congratulations also to Nanette Davidson for making the closest guess as to the weight of a tube of shuttlecocks!

There was a great atmosphere throughout the evening, and an amazing total of £487 was raised to go towards the maintenance and improvement of the Memorial Halls. A huge thank you to all the teams who entered and to those supporters on the night and the members of the Senior Badminton Club who made this event happen.



How heavy is a tube of shuttles? Nanette knew!



Let's Get Quizzical

Badminton Trophy Winners

The Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club's annual Tricia Murray tournament was held on 18 February with a good turnout of 18 members playing. Although usually a mixed doubles tournament, due to a lack of girls this year, couples were more "older and younger".

As well as being played in a very friendly manner, the games were all very close. Mazda Khareghat and Ruth Flockhart beat Daniel Watson and Amy Harvey in the first semi-final, and Michael Senyk and Alastair Flockhart won against Alessandro Morelli and Noah Fergusson in the second. In the final, another very close match, Michael and Alastair won in three games by 12-10, 7-11, 11-8. The cups and medals were presented by Shona Fisher, a member of the senior club.

Jim Kerr, our Church elder, was also present and said a few words. It was great to see so many parents coming along to support their children, have a coffee, and get to know each other. Well done everyone.



Winners Alastair and Michael



Runners-up Mazda and Ruth

Flower Delivery

The Flower Delivery list is located at the Tower Door and now has weekly dates instead of the fortnightly sheets. If you can assist with this very worthwhile service, please add your name and telephone number to your chosen date. Your help is much appreciated.

Octave's SLA Concert

David Fisher and his colleagues in the award-winning ensemble, Octave, will be giving a concert this month to raise funds for Orchardhill's Scottish Love in Action team's upcoming visit to India.

The concert will be in Orchardhill on Friday 28 April at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to hear Octave's programme of music from West End shows, the classics, and some pop. Something to suit all tastes!

Final Reflection

For many years Very Rev Dr James Simpson has been a regular and much appreciated columnist in Life and Work. However, he has now written his final reflection for the Church of Scotland magazine: his "retirement column" is published in the April edition.

Not surprisingly for the Easter month's edition, Dr Simpson, a former Orchardhill member and past Moderator of the General Assembly, has chosen to highlight the parallels between Bethlehem and Calvary.

Other subjects in the April magazine include:

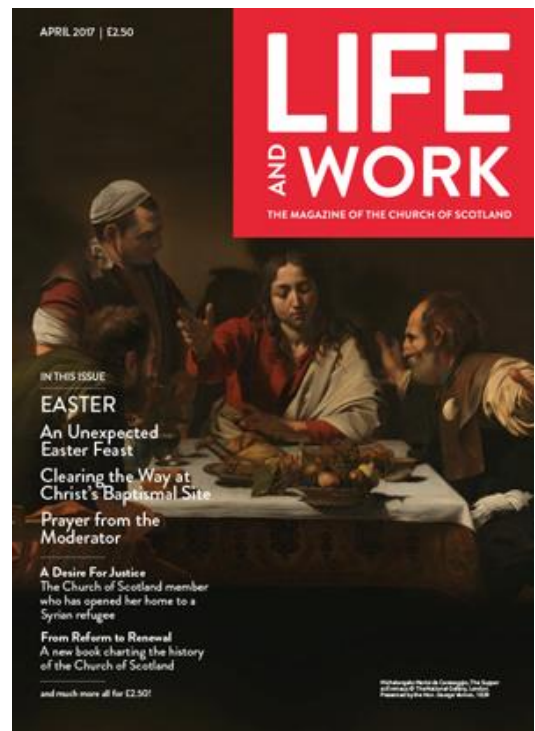
Easter Prayer from the current Moderator of the General Assembly.

Another former Moderator, Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald, introduces extracts from his new history of the Church.

Ron Ferguson argues that Christianity will not disappear in Scotland as humanity continues to seek meaning in life.

The impact and influence of art in telling the story of Emmaus.

A Church of Scotland member who has opened her home to a Syrian refugee.



April and May Welcomers

	Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Greeters/Ushers
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APRIL

2	Jon Weir	Jim Kerr	Jim Blair	Alex Mall and Shona Fletcher
9	Shona Fletcher	Joyce Winning	Jo Weir	Jim Blair
16	Jim Blair	Joyce Winning	Shona Fletcher	Jo Weir
23	Jim Mackinnon	Fiona Thomson	Ann Craig	Shona Fletcher
30	Isabel Vance	Fiona Thomson	Jim Mackinnon	Ann Craig

MAY

7	Ann Craig	Bill McMurtrie	Isabel Vance	Jim Mackinnon and Sandra Cherrie
14	Jim Mackinnon	Bill McMurtrie	Ann Craig	Isabel Vance
21	Sandra Cherrie	Ann Pope	Isabel Vance	Shona Cook
28	Shona Cook	Ann Pope	Sandra Cherrie	Anne Barr

Offering Rota

APRIL

2	Jim Kerr 638 2747; David Evans 571 7846; Susan McQuilter 638 6936
9	Joyce Winning 571 7617; Roseanne Henderson 571 7375; Bruce Paterson 571 7862
16	Joyce Winning; Peter Worthington 638 4316; Bruce Paterson
23	Fiona Thomson 571 7153; Peter Worthington; David Howard 571 7854
30	Fiona Thomson; Margaret Howard 571 7854; David Howard

MAY

7	Bill McMurtrie 571 2512; Margaret Howard; Valerie Clarke 638 6148
14	Bill McMurtrie; Neil Mackenzie 638 0591; Valerie Clarke
21	Ann Pope 616 4809; Neil Mackenzie; Alex Mall 585 7169
28	Ann Pope; Norma Hannah; Alex Mall

Reading Rota

April 2 Jim Blair 9 Shona Fisher 16 Bill McMurtrie 23 Joyce Winning 30 Lindsay Barr

May 7 Anne Anderson 14 Garry Crosbie 21 Fiona Thomson 28 George Robertson

Congregational Register

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Colin and Alison Mitchell from 15 St Annes Drive, Giffnock G46 6JS to Braehead Farm, Aiket Road, Dunlop, Ayrshire KA3 4BP (district 18)

Annual Accounts

At the February meeting of the Congregation Board the trustees approved the 2016 accounts, which were then presented in summary form to the Stated Annual Meeting in March. Income was down on previous years but stayed ahead of expenditure by £16,591.

We gratefully acknowledge generous legacies of £21,500 during the year: without these we would either have had to cut expenditure or finish with a deficit. These legacies, taken together with the continued giving of members and friends, allow us to support work in both the parish and beyond.

The church has, at present, significant reserves, some of which are restricted for property expenditure or work formerly supported by the Timothy Trust, but the Board are also aware that our buildings are requiring an increasing amount of work to be undertaken. Please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Donald Carmichael, if you did not manage to get to the Stated Annual Meeting and wish a fuller explanation.

Record's April Deadline

Sunday 16 April is the deadline for the May 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. **A 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 deadline for the June edition will be Sunday 14 May.

Orchardhill Calendar

APRIL

Sun	2	10.30am	Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Sun	9	10.30am	Palm Sunday Sunday Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Thu	13	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service at Giffnock South	
Fri	14	7.00pm	Good Friday Service at Orchardhill	
Sun	16	9.00am 10.30am	Short Service followed by Easter Breakfast Easter Service	Rev Grant Barclay
Tue	18	7.30pm	Congregational Board	
Sun	23	10.30am	Sunday Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Fri	28	7.30pm	Octave Concert (see page 5)	
Sun	30	10.30am	Sunday Worship	Rev Grant Barclay

MAY

Sun	7	10.30am	Sunday Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
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Orchardhill Parish Church
12 Church Road
Giffnock
Glasgow
G46 6JR
Phone: 0141 638 3604
Website: www.orchardhill.org.uk
Email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk