



# THE RECORD

## Mess and Morass

I write this the day after it was announced the United Kingdom has, with France and the US, launched attacks on various sites in Syria in response to the alleged chemical attack on Douma, a rebel-held town in Syria.

The British Prime Minister described the motive behind the attack as a statement that the international community will not tolerate the use of chemical weapons; the published legal advice to her permitted the action in the face of “overwhelming humanitarian suffering”. Yet speaking on Radio Four the following day, a Syrian refugee suggested such a limited “slap on the wrist” implicitly endorsed the longstanding use of conventional weapons against the beleaguered Syrian people; on the same programme a Syrian Anglican priest wondered why it was impossible for all the international players with clear interests in the area to discuss meaningfully how best to resolve the issue and minimise the incalculable, continuing civilian suffering.

The situation is a mess: one likely to require wisdom at least as great as Solomon’s though preferably without recourse to the threat of infanticide (there has been enough already). I mention this not to suggest a solution but to recognise the complexity of the conflict in which ordinary people suffer intolerably.

Easter surely teaches us that God transforms humankind from the inside out. God suffers human death and thereby defeats death: “God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself.” Pentecost, which we celebrate in a few weeks, has contemporary relevance by showing that Christian discipleship aspires to be a universal privilege and challenge: “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

Our faith, far from removing us from the world’s pain and problems, gives us every reason to become involved. Living in this democracy, we can discover, debate and dialogue with MPs, MSPs and others to encourage our nation to play its full part (however that may be discerned) in nurturing peace where presently war, destruction and suffering reign.

Christians do this believing that God, somehow, is involved in the mess and the morass. And because God calls us to be involved, too, despite all the challenges.

**Grant Barclay**  
Minister

# Falkirk Wheel Abseil

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me to abseil off the Falkirk Wheel to raise funds for the World Scout Jamboree. I was absolutely amazed by the response I had. You helped me to raise just under £1000 towards my fee. This was much more than the target I had set myself in doing this challenge and has contributed greatly to the overall total I need to raise. Thank you so much.

**Amy Harvey**



# Souper Soup Book

All your favourite recipes (and many more) from the Orchard Café are now available in a book. This can be bought at the café or after any Sunday service or from the church office. The cost is £4, and all proceeds go to church funds. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your soup repertoire!

# Leader Needed

The 2nd A Giffnock Guides are a very fun-loving, active group of girls who wish to invite anyone over the age of 18 to come along and help the unit. The current leader, who has given many years of her time to Guiding, has decided to step down, and the unit is looking for someone to help.

If we do not get any help the unit will be forced to close. Unfortunately we have already lost one Guide unit this year, and it would be awful to lose another.

If you would like any information please contact Pamela Watson at [giffnockbrownies8@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:giffnockbrownies8@yahoo.co.uk)

# Soundwaves

Soundwaves show this year was again very enjoyable. The children worked very hard and had great fun performing in "Soundwaves of the Seas." They raised £140 from donations for tea/coffee and programmes.

Thank to everyone who helped in any way with this show and especially to those people who came to support Soundwaves.

Donations will be sent to three charities – "Lori's trip to Namibia", "Amy's Scouting Jamboree" and "West of Scotland Deaf Children's Society", each receiving £50.

**Alexis Wallace**



# Bridging the Centuries ...

So often the cry goes up from people of no faith that the Bible is not relevant or that it cannot teach us anything in our modern day world. It can be argued strongly that time may pass and advancements can be made, but, underneath it all, people will always be people and their relationships with each other still flag up the same tensions, problems, challenges and emotions as they always have.

Soap operas and reality TV demonstrate this very well, and before that we had long-running serialisations of stories by the likes of Charles Dickens and long before that we had the Bible stories about people interacting with each other and displaying the full range of human emotions from anger, betrayal, hatred, prejudice to friendship, caring, devotion, love and faith.

For several weeks now, the Orchardhill teenagers who form Bridges having been meeting each Sunday during the morning worship service to share fellowship together, share their news from the previous week and look at the story of Esther and its relevance for us today. I chose this book because it had a good story which reads a bit like a soap opera but with clear elements of faith and its power and God's part to play in the lives of ordinary people.

At first glance, it may seem that this tale of intrigue in a royal court has little to do with life in the 21st Century world, but when you look at the feelings, actions and motives evident in the story, it is clearly apparent that nothing much has changed over the millennia.

Examples of all the characters are easily identifiable on today's world stage. There is a wealthy king, surrounded by courtiers seeking to advance their position and have a little of the king's importance rub off on them; there is a beautiful woman who rises from nothing to be queen; there is an advisor who will stop at nothing to rise to the top; there is plotting and intrigue and misunderstanding and manipulation not to mention sexism, racism, bigotry, corruption and death. It hasn't been hard for our teenagers to see the parallels that can be drawn.

We have explored the many aspects to this story and compared them to current news stories. Inevitably, the current President of the United States has featured heavily in our conversations. I have seen at first hand how our young people view the modern world and how they clearly are concerned about the things that really matter. These range from the discrimination still shown to people of different faiths, political opinions, colour, cultures, sexual orientation and so on. Our world can still be too concerned with looking after number one, turning its back on people who need help and taking advantage of others. In Bridges, we have talked about the increasing moves to exclude people of different cultures from societies, the hatred that is shown towards groups of people and the "I'm alright, Jack" culture amongst other things.

The book of Esther has so many parallels, at least metaphorically, with the current day situations. It has been very interesting to look at the story and draw the comparisons.

At the start of the story, we have a very wealthy king who squanders his wealth on lavish banquets where he is surrounded by "yes" men. He takes offence easily and responds with disproportionate action. His attitude towards women is condescending and disrespectful. We talked about the fact that respect must be earned by listening to others and valuing them and not

## ... Xerxes to Trump

by insulting them or controlling them. That was the week that Donald Trump called an author of a book about him a “loser” and himself a “stable genius”.

A new film had been released that week called “All the Money in the World” about the kidnapping of John Paul Getty’s grandson many years ago. At first, he had been unwilling to pay the ransom demanded for the boy’s safe return but eventually agreed to a reduced sum which he would be able to set off against tax. Once the boy was released, his grandfather made him pay back the ransom paid!

The effect of great wealth or power used selfishly, unwisely or thoughtlessly is clear to see even today. We considered the continuing gender pay gap with women still carrying out a disproportionate number of menial jobs for less pay and being paid less than their male counterparts for the same job. The Harvey Weinstein story had broken and we were able to discuss the ability of a powerful man to behave however he wanted without reprisal because others were too frightened to speak out against him. There have been many examples of those who have followed King Xerxes’s behaviour.

As New Year and its inevitable resolutions were on our minds, we thought that deciding to focus on others and what we could do for them rather than what we could do for ourselves (lose weight, get fitter etc) might be a better resolution. How about a daily random act of kindness to others?

As the story continues, Esther becomes the new queen, and this is of great significance to the rest of the tale. We thought about how God makes things possible even when they seem unlikely. Often it appears that the right person is in the right place at the right time for something to come about but that is not to say that that has happened by chance. Many events and happenings combine to lead to a particular result and placing our faith and trust in God particularly when we struggle to see how something is going to work out brings about unexpected consequences.

The next few chapters allowed us to think about how hard it can be to stand up for your principles and beliefs as we read about how Mordecai refused to worship Haman and about how important it is to act and take a risk when that is the right thing to do. We looked at the famous words of Martin Niemoller (“First, they came for the socialists...”) and of Edmund Burke (“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men should do nothing”).

It seems that these issues are very topical with the “Time is Up” and “Me Too” campaigns receiving a lot of media coverage and, of course, the gun lobby in the USA ironically under fire after the latest in a string of horrific shooting tragedies in American schools. Surely, protecting the lives of our children takes precedence over the right to bear arms. Our young people had plenty to say about that.

Not all of our time is spent in deep consideration of these questions. We do always try to play a game that is relevant - however loosely - to what we have been discussing.

We have been having a break over Easter, but we are now finishing the last few chapters of Esther to find out what happens now that the baddie has quite literally been hoist by his own petard.

Our youngsters are a great bunch of kids.

**Shona Cook**

# HEROHEROHEROHEROCHIPSHEROHERO



## THE INCREDIBLE C.H.I.P.S



C  
H  
R  
I  
S  
T



6th - 10th August 2018

7.30 to 9.30

in

The Memorial Halls

Church road

Giffnock

H  
A  
S

Late

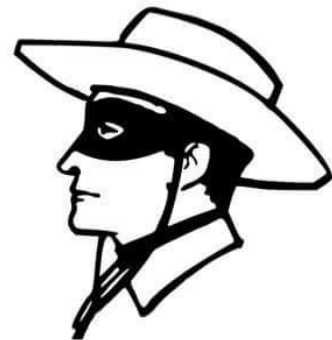
Night

Live

I  
N  
C  
R  
E  
D  
I  
B  
L  
E



P  
O  
W  
E  
R  
S



I  
T  
'  
S  
  
T  
R  
U  
E

Orchardhill Giffnock

**CHIPS** Cafe S1-S6

AUGUST 6th-10th 7.30pm

/ChipsCafe @ChipsCafe

# Junior Badminton Tournaments

The season's last meeting of the Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club took place on Saturday 18 March when the annual singles tournaments were contested. Claire Gibson won the girls singles convincingly against a much younger and less experienced opponent, Rachel Leung. In the boys singles a new name was added to the trophy when Noah Ferguson beat Cameron Griffiths 21-10, 21-20 in an exciting final.



The rosebowl in honour of Mary Russell, the founder of the club, was awarded to Daniel Watson.

In February the Tricia Murray Mixed Doubles Tournament was played, although with only two girls currently in the club, the format was younger with older. The juniors competed in a two league round robin format, and our elder, Jim Kerr, came to visit and presented the trophies to the winning couple, Johnny Knak and Mazda Khareghat.

Six of our juniors were playing in the finals of the local churches' Thornlee Tournament. More news will be published in the June edition.

The club now takes a break but resumes again at the end of August. The club meets on a Saturday morning from 10.00 till noon and caters for boys or girls aged 10-15. All standards of play are welcome, and any child can be added to the waiting list by emailing the name, date of birth and a telephone number to Barbara Mackenzie ([neilmackenzie@msn.com](mailto:neilmackenzie@msn.com)) or by telephoning 638 0591.

## American Pilgrims

Rev Matthew Davis, a Presbyterian minister in Northern California, is bringing a team of 13 high school students and 5 adults to Scotland from June 26 to July 6. They have been studying the themes of the Iona Community since August last year with a culminating pilgrimage experience to Iona.

During their time in Glasgow they are looking for opportunities to serve the larger community for one-two hours in exchange for accommodation. If you can help, please contact Rev Mathew Davis directly at [gravityofgrace@gmail.com](mailto:gravityofgrace@gmail.com)

## Easter Eggs



Stepping Stones thank the congregation for their very generous donations of Easter Eggs, which were given to the local food bank. We collected 230 eggs which must have made a difference to many families Easter. 250 next year?

On Palm Sunday Stepping Stones, Bridges and the crèche children met together for a fun morning. You may have heard us outside racing round looking for Easter Eggs, decorating hard-boiled eggs and playing Easter-based games. It was delight to see our young people all together, assisting each other and having such a joyous time.



## Anti-virus Licences

Orchardhill has been running an excellent-value-for money scheme for anti-virus protection for home computers. Two licences are still available for either a Windows or a Mac computer. If anyone in the congregation or a friend can use this business-class protection for their home computer at a very low cost then please contact either Dave Thomson ([Dave@G46.co.uk](mailto:Dave@G46.co.uk)) or Stevie Bennett ([sb@pamsun.net](mailto:sb@pamsun.net)) or go to [www.orchardhill.org.uk/eset](http://www.orchardhill.org.uk/eset).



# CrossWords' Charity Concert

CrossWords and their guests, **BEC Choir** from Largs, invite you to join with them as they present **Give Thanks** – an evening of Christian and secular music on **Saturday 12 May at 7.30pm**.

Now in their 30<sup>th</sup> year together, CrossWords want to use their music to help others and so the proceeds from this event will be donated to the **Beatson Cancer Charity** to honour the **memory of Kirstie Watson** and to support and enhance the treatment, care and wellbeing of current, former and future cancer patients and their families.

**Tickets (minimum £6 donation)** are now available from members of CrossWords and from the church office (0141 638 3604).



## Record on Holiday

The Orchardhill Record will be taking a summer holiday: it will not be published in July and August. So if you wish to promote a summer event please submit the information in time for the June edition: the deadline is 13 May.

# Welcomers' Rota

	Entrance	Sanctuary	Greeters/Ushers
<b>MAY</b>			
6	Jim Mackinnon	Fiona Thomson	Anne Barr
13	Nanette Davidson	Fiona Thomson	Jim Mackinnon
20	Marion Watson	Bill McMurtrie	Alex Mall
27	Alex Mall	Bill McMurtrie	Jim Blair

<b>JUNE</b>			
3	Gordon Thomson	Ann Pope	Evelyn Borland
10	Evelyn Borland	Ann Pope	Gordon Thomson
17	Neil Mackenzie	Shona Fletcher	Ann Craig
24	Ann Craig	Shona Fletcher	Neil Mackenzie

# Offering Teams

MAY				JUNE			
6	Fiona Thomson	Peter Worthington	David Howard	3	Ann Pope	Neil Mackenzie	Lisel Tait
13	Fiona Thomson	Peter Worthington	Valerie Clarke	10	Ann Pope	Neil Mackenzie	Lisel Tait Norma Hannah
20	Bill McMurtrie	Alex Mall	Valerie Clarke	17	Shona Fletcher	Colin Williamson	Maureen Park
27	Bill McMurtrie	Alex Mall	Hilary Kennedy	24	Shona Fletcher	Colin Williamson	Maureen Park

# Scripture Readers

<b>MAY</b>				
6	Anne Anderson	13 Garry Crosbie	20 Fiona Thomson	27 Donald Carmichael
<b>JUNE</b>				
3	Shona Cook	10 George Robertson	17 Margaret Howard	24 Ian Cartlidge

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)

# Communion Roll

## DEATH

On 3 April 2018 Jean Montgomerie, Wellmeadow Care Home, Meadow Way, Newton Mearns G77 6XJ (district 14)

# Congregational Register

## MARRIAGE

On 7 April 2018 Claire Margaret Borland, 17 Eastwood Avenue, Giffnock G46 6LS and Justin Peter Vogts, Mozartweg 14, 41352 Korschenbroich, Germany

# Deadline for June's Record

Sunday 13 May is the deadline for the June edition of the *Orchardhill Record*.

Contributions should be sent by email to [record@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:record@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 not just the editor. Please note the change in the email address.

We prefer contributions to be sent by email. Handwritten or typed items can be accepted, though the source must be identified.

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.

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.

# May Calendar

Sunday	6	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Jim White
Saturday	12	7.30pm	Crosswords and BEC Choir Concert	
Sunday	13	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Sunday	20	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Sunday	27	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Tuesday	29	7.30pm	Kirk Session	

## Christian Aid Week Changes

Christian Aid aims to end poverty and injustice worldwide. This involves working in partnership with local organisations as well as with governments and the private sector. Christian Aid's work includes helping people to:

- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes,
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price,
- claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education, and
- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason

This year Christian Aid week is from Sunday 13 May to Saturday 19 May. Changes have been made from Orchardhill's previous activities in Christian Aid week. A "Soup and Roll" lunch will be held after the service on Sunday 20 May, and the book sale will be at Morrison's on Saturday 16 June.

Our thanks to all of the collectors who have helped raise funds for Christian Aid in Giffnock over the past three decades, but due to the growing challenges facing the task of door to door collecting, Orchardhill will no longer be collecting door to door (Park Church and the URC have similarly stopped collecting from their parishes). The door-to-door collection, although increasingly difficult for collectors, was very effective in raising over £2000 each year. We hope you will support the alternative ways that Christian Aid help some of the world's poorest people.

Christian Aid envelopes will be handed out to the congregation at the service on Sunday 13 May.