



THE RECORD

Cross Purpose

It is strange that the Christian Church has taken for its identifying icon a tool of torture. Crosses in churches, on gravestones and in books are accepted with hardly a glance. It was, though, the preferred Roman tool to dispatch troublemakers. Jesus and his contemporaries would have been familiar with crosses lining main roads, either in actual use or as reminders of past executions of those who dared stand against Roman authority. It is a symbol of death; especially as an empty cross, though, it has become an icon of life.

It is also strange in that the purpose of that form of execution was to divide and keep separate. Crucifixion was a strong discouragement to follow the example of those who had tried to fight against Rome. If you saw one of your band of compatriots crucified before your eyes, you might think twice about keeping that sort of company.

Yet, many centuries after the Roman Empire has collapsed, Christianity, which has taken this symbol of death and separation, continues to grow. It does so in part because one of its key ideas is that the aspect of human experience, which was terminated on the Cross of Christ, was, in fact, death. The empty cross of our tradition speaks to the truth that even death could not hold Christ. His promise of eternal life is about much more than chronology but does offer to us the real hope that, in God, "we shall not die, but live," as the Psalmist said.

We also live in times of greater pressure to divide and keep separate. Recent attacks, notably in New Zealand, indicate a wish on the part of some to strike out at those who are different; while the apparently large number of positive encouragements seen on social media even as the atrocity was being carried out should cause us to reflect that such hateful sentiments are perhaps more widely held than we would like to think.

As the Cross of Easter reminds us of life in and beyond death, so the Lord of the Cross calls us to be united to him, and with one another, in seeking peace in the world in our days. May we know the power of his risen life accompanying us as we collaborate to usher in his kingdom of justice, peace and life.

Your Minister,
Grant Barclay.

Lodging House Mission

Archie Hunter has served for many years as the link person between Orchardhill and the Lodging House Mission. In this role he has come to know the Mission's work, and those who serve through it, in detail. He has also enabled us to learn of this significant ministry in our city and has encouraged Orchardhill members to play a full part as it has sought to care for some of those who are most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. As he steps down from this work, and is succeeded by Garry Crosbie, Archie writes:

"As I conclude my stint with the Lodging House Mission I would like to put on record my appreciation of the response of the congregation throughout my period in office.

As I have said on several occasions, without the support of the Churches the LHM simply wouldn't exist and throughout, Orchardhill has been one of the strongest providers of that support.

I am very grateful to Garry Crosbie for agreeing to take on now the LHM liaison role at Orchardhill. We all wish Garry well with this and I know he can be assured of the solid support which I so much appreciated.

Thank you.

Archie Hunter"

We, in turn, record our gratitude to Archie for this significant work on behalf of the congregation and the Lodging House Mission.

The Choir

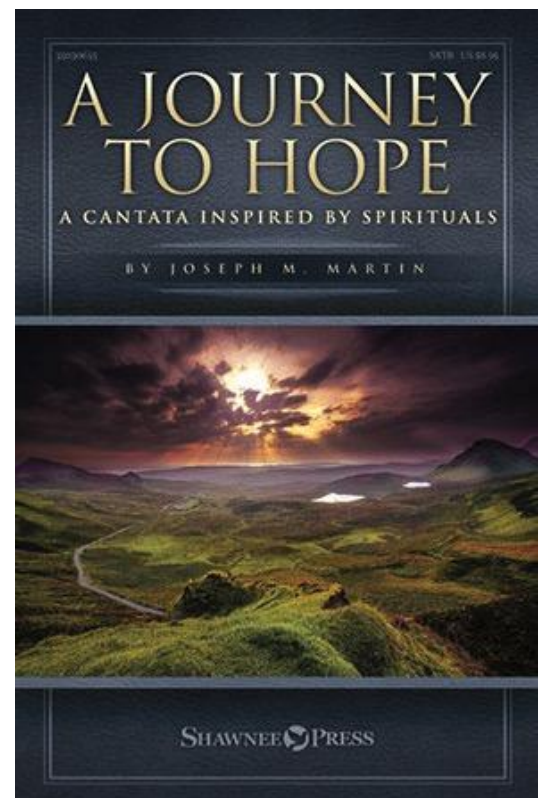
During Holy Week on Wednesday 17th April, the Choir will be presenting Joseph M Martin's 'A Journey To Hope'.

It is a beautiful new cantata inspired by spirituals. It will start at 7.00pm.

You are all invited to join us and listen to this thought-provoking musical with narration and biblical verse.

Thank you.

David Fisher.



Social Events

Orchardhill has a fantastic calendar of events aimed at all ages and interests within our church family.

There have been monthly afternoon get-togethers to hear speakers, to play games and to socialise over craft activities. These events are a great opportunity for members of the church community to come together in fellowship.

The monthly film nights are proving very popular, we have enjoyed a wide range of movies from “Mrs Brown” starring Judy Dench and Billy Connolly to the recent hit “The Greatest Showman” as well as “Hidden Figures” and “Sully” among others.

Other events we have enjoyed include our Murder Mystery Afternoon Tea, a trip to see “War Horse” and our own Dessert Island Discs (same as the radio programme but better and with the added bonus of pudding)!

Most recently, we were thoroughly entertained by our very own David Fisher who put together a wonderfully entertaining and humorous romp through his musical career with the help of friends both playing a variety of instruments and lending their beautiful voices to perform his favourite songs. As was expected, David was highly amusing and demonstrated the talent to entertain which has kept him very busy in the world of amateur musical theatre over the last 28 years. A truly fabulous evening was had with the added bonus of nearly £500 raised for church funds.



David Fisher entertains



All of these events are aimed at giving our members enjoyable reasons to get together to give and receive fellowship, love and support.

A new calendar of events will be issued shortly. Please consider supporting the events and, in doing so, supporting our Vision - if you have been before, you know you'll have a great time and, if you haven't, you may just discover what you have been missing.

MACMILLAN EAST REN

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

Would you like to do something amazing to help support people affected by cancer?

Macmillan East Ren is a brand new project offering information and support to people affected by cancer in East Renfrewshire. Our aim is to make it as easy as possible for people to get the support they need, to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can. Volunteers are at the heart of our project, and by joining us as an Information and Support Services Volunteer, you'll be doing something amazing for people at a difficult time.

About the role

You'll be part of a team of volunteers helping to deliver information and support services to people affected by cancer in East Renfrewshire, in a friendly, non-clinical environment. You will provide a listening ear and signpost to relevant services including financial advice, physical activities or practical support. No personal experience of cancer is necessary and you'll receive full training and support.

You need to be 18 years old or over to apply for this opportunity.

Location

This role is currently available in Clarkston library and Barrhead Foundry. Our volunteers can also choose to get involved in promoting the service through outreach activities across East Renfrewshire.

Days and times

Barrhead Foundry: Wednesdays 10.30am to 12.30pm

Clarkston Library: Fridays 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Outreach days and times will vary

What we're looking for

Good listening skills with an ability to actively listen (training will be provided)

Open, warm and friendly manner

Good communication skills

Self awareness

Willingness to learn and to undertake training as required

What we offer you

Make a real difference to people affected by cancer in your community

Use and develop your skills, enhancing your CV

Ongoing training and development

Flexible opportunity to work at one specific venue or both, based on your availability

The opportunity to shape the future of a brand new service for people affected by cancer

For more information contact our Volunteer Coordinator who will be happy to discuss the role in more detail and answer any questions. **Tel:** 07867441486 **Email:** macmillan@ercultureandleisure.org

Soundwaves



The Wind in the Willows

On Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March the Soundwaves children had great fun performing their annual show. This year's performance, "The Wind in the Willows", was enjoyed by a very appreciative audience on both evenings. The children have worked very hard to make the show a success and all at Soundwaves extend a huge thank you to everyone from Orchardhill Church who came along to support them.

Our thanks also go to the organisations that kindly allowed us access to the building for rehearsals, staging and the performances; without their co-operation and generosity the show wouldn't have been seen in the Memorial Hall.



Junior Badminton

The season's last meeting of the Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club took place on Saturday 16th March, when the annual singles tournaments were contested. Claire Gibson won the girls' singles against a much younger and less experienced opponent, Rachel Leung. In the boys' singles, after some very closely contested matches, Johnny Knak beat Noah Ferguson in the final in straight sets. The Rosebowl, in honour of Mary Russell, the founder of the club, was awarded to Gregor Dickov. It was awarded for regular attendance and for helping the leaders in various tasks, without being asked.

The following Saturday the group stage, quarters and semi-finals of the Thornlee Churches junior tournament was held at Orchardhill and several of our juniors will be contesting the finals on the 11th May.

The club now takes a seasonal break and resumes at the end of August. Unfortunately, it will be without the leadership of Anne Barr, who has decided to hang up her racket after many decades of service to Orchardhill. After so many years, memories are a little faint, but it is thought that some fifty years may have passed since Anne first started to help at the club. Over so many years, Anne has coached and encouraged a significant number of children into the sport of badminton.

The club meets on a Saturday morning from 10.00 until noon and caters for boys and girls aged 10 – 15. All standards of play are welcome and the name of a child can be added to the waiting list by emailing his/her name, date of birth and a telephone number to Barbara Mackenzie (neilmackenzie@msn.com) or by telephoning 638 0591.



Claire, Noah, Rachel, Gregor and Johnny

Eastwood Ecumenical Peace and Justice Forum...Report for 2018.

The forum exists in response to Christ's call for peace and justice for all. We have five regular meetings a year hosted by member churches. We currently have around 12 active members representing Giffnock URC; St Joseph's RC; St Aidan's Episcopal; Newton Mearns Baptist; Park Church; Eaglesham, Greenbank, Orchardhill, Maxwell Mearns, Mearnskirk and Stamperland Parish churches.

We review, and when appropriate act on, the campaign priorities of the main Christian charities - Christian Aid, Tearfund and SCIAF. During 2018 as in the previous year their main focus has been on issues related to climate change. This includes campaigning for divestment from fossil fuel extraction and for an early planned date for net zero carbon emissions. Our discussion of this led to:

- an open meeting with Ross Greer MSP, who emphasised the urgency of action on climate change.
- correspondence with the main Scottish banks about their investment policy in relation to fossil fuels.
- correspondence with Jackson Carlaw MSP about government and Conservative party policy on carbon reduction policy.

In September the second Eastwood Good Money Week meeting was held at Newton Mearns Baptist church with speakers from Rathbone Ethical Investment, Christians Against Poverty and Christian Aid.

Members of the group raise various issues for discussion at the regular meetings either in relation to national campaigns or through individual concerns. These have included people trafficking, use of plastics and plastic waste, trade with poorer countries in relation to Brexit, Universal Credit, the role of Eco-congregations, and Fairtrade. We corresponded with Paul Masterton MP on trade issues and on Universal Credit.

The group acts as a forum for sharing information on relevant events being held in East Renfrewshire or South Glasgow.

We have members from around half the churches in the general Eastwood area. It is disappointing that we have had no-one joining us from other churches currently not represented.

For any further information contact macintyre74@btinternet.com. Summaries of the presentation by Ross Greer and of the Good Money Week meeting are available on request.

Bridges Update

Each Sunday our teenagers, who are collectively known as “Bridges”, meet to share stories and experiences together and discuss their Christian beliefs.



Just before Christmas, the Bridges team put together a wonderful short movie. This was presented as an updated version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas “ with an emphasis on what the Lord God gave to us. The result was not only thought-provoking but a lot of fun too. The kids produced the whole thing, including filming and editing. The congregation were treated to a screening during the Nativity service and even joined in with the singing. We are very fortunate to have such a talented and enthusiastic bunch of youngsters at Orchardhill.

This year Bridges has been taking a two-pronged approach to what we do on a weekly basis. We are watching “The Incredibles 2” and discussing the issues and themes that emerge; examining their relevance to our modern world and to what the Bible teaches us. We are discovering a great many parallels can be drawn and are having good fun exploring them.

In addition to the movie, Bridges has been welcoming some adult members of the congregation to chat about their lives and experiences. This has proven to be both beneficial and enjoyable.

A few weeks ago we got together one Sunday evening to enjoy a belated Christmas outing. The teens enjoyed a night at Clue HQ, in Kinning Park, trying their hand at two different escape rooms: “Bunker 38” and “ Cell Block”. They combined their talents and strengths, working together as a team to help each other crack the clues and escape.

Some of our young people have shown an interest in participating in meetings of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board; this will help strengthen the connection with the wider church.

If you are interested in seeing first hand what we’re up to you are most welcome to join us any time.

Life and Work

INSIDE THIS MONTH

BIBLICAL ANIMALS

- The Palm Sunday donkey and the animals of the bible

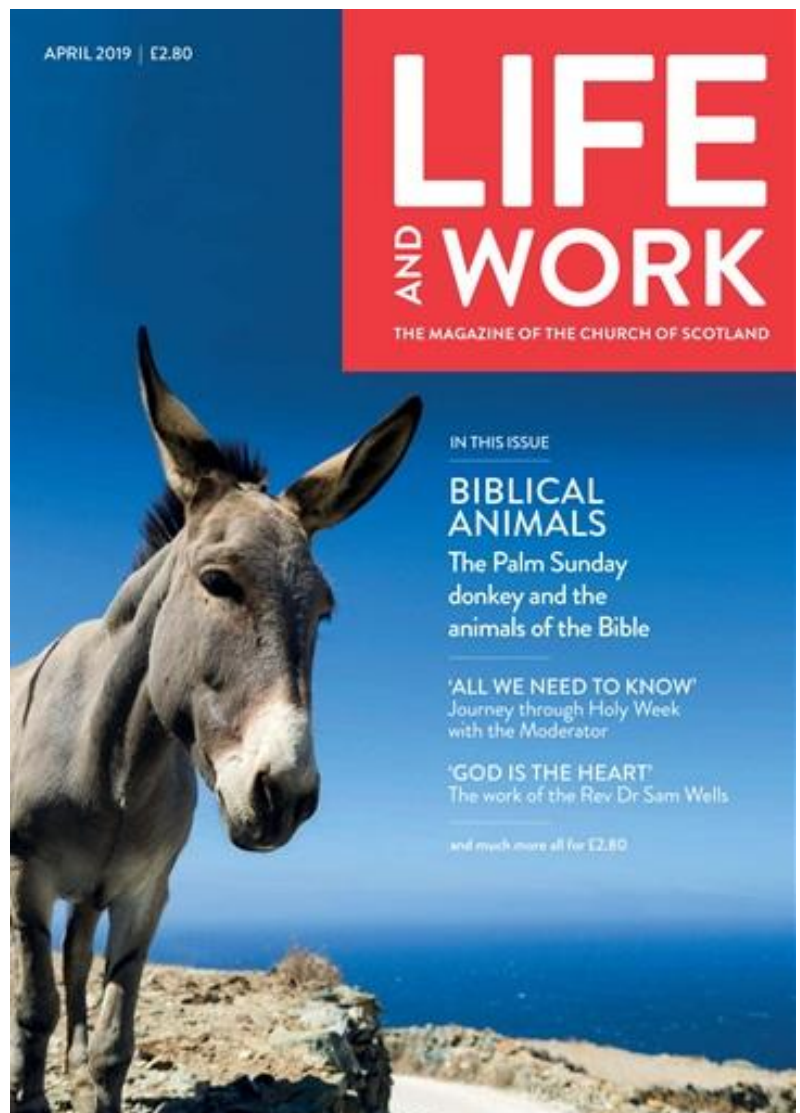
'ALL WE NEED TO KNOW'

- Journey through Holy week with the Moderator

'GOD IS IN THE HEART'

- The work of the Rev Dr Sam Wells

plus much more packed across 60-pages



Lodging House Mission – request

The Lodging House Mission is an essential source of food and personal items for many homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people. They rely on donations and are currently extremely short of the following:- cereal (not cornflakes), sugar, HP sauce, corned beef, razors, shaving foam, gloves, underwear - mainly men's.

If you can help with any of the above please bring donations into the Church Office.

Orchard Community Cafe

The Café will be closed from Thursday 28th March for 2 weeks. The doors open again on Tuesday 16th April.

Welcomers' Rota

Entrance	Sanctuary	Greeters/Ushers
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APRIL

7	Marion Watson	Jim Kerr	Neil Mackenzie
14	Gordon Thomson	Joyce Winning	Marion Watson
21	Anne Barr	Joyce Winning	Alex Mall
28	Alex Mall	Fiona Thomson	Anne Barr

MAY

5	Jim McKinnon	Fiona Thomson	Anne Barr
12	Nanette Davidson		Jim McKinnon
19	Marion Watson		Alex Mall
26	Alex Mall	Neil McKenzie	Jim Blair

Offering Teams

APRIL		MAY	
7	Jim Kerr, David Evans, Susan McQuilter	5	Fiona Thomson, Margaret Howard, Valerie Clarke
14	Joyce Winning, David Evans, Ian Cartlidge	12	Norma Hannah, David Howard
21	Joyce Winning, Roseanne Henderson, Ian Cartlidge	19	Norma Hannah, David Howard
28	Fiona Thomson, Margaret Howard, Valerie Clarke	26	Neil McKenzie, Alex Mall, Hilary Kennedy

Scripture Readers

APRIL

7 Garry Crosbie 14 Marion Simpson 21 Ian Anderson 28 Linda Moir

MAY

5 12 Anne Anderson 19 Lindsay Barr 26 Shona Fisher

Congregational Register

Change of Address

Vivien Scott

27 Gordon Crescent
Newton Mearns
G77 6HZ

To

27 Boylestone Road
Barrhead
G78 1JD

Death

John Oswald

Clarkston House Care Home
57 Stamperland Hill
Clarkston
G76 8AJ

(Formerly of 9A Douglas Gardens, Giffnock).

Deadline for May's Orchardhill Record

Sunday 14th April is the deadline for the May edition of the *Orchardhill Record*.

Contributions should be sent by email to Record-Team@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.

We prefer contributions to be sent by email, and we cannot accept any handwritten or typed item that does not identify the source. Nor can we accept pdf files. 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.

You are required to ensure anyone featured in your article(s) has given consent to be identified either for the specific article, club, group or more generally for Orchardhill Record.

The editor acknowledges every contribution. Contact them before the deadline if you have not received confirmation of your contribution.

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phone 0141 638 3604)

website: www.orchardhill.org.uk

email: secretary@Orchardhill.org.uk

Orchardhill Calendar

April

Sunday	7	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Tuesday	9	7.00pm	Glasgow Presbytery	
Sunday	14	10.30am	Palm Sunday	Rev Grant Barclay
Tuesday	16	7.00pm	Labyrinth in Art - Sanctuary	
Wednesday	17	7.00pm	Choir Cantata: A Journey to Hope - Sanctuary	
Thursday	18	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service	
Friday	19	7.00pm	Good Friday Service at Giffnock South Church	
Sunday	21	6.00am	Easter Worship and Walk - Ballageich Hill, Eaglesham, then walking to church	
Sunday	21	8.30am	Easter Breakfast in the Church Hall	
Sunday	21	10.30am	Family Service with Communion	Rev Grant Barclay
Sunday	28	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Tuesday	30	7.30pm	Kirk Session	

May

Sunday	5	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Tuesday	7	7.45pm	Congregational Board	

Orchardhill Parish Church: Scottish Charity number SC 009774