

# THE RECORD



## Spring 2026



# A Word from Gillian Rooney

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Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible, but we find ourselves at the beginning of Lent once again. The year is moving swiftly, and already we are invited into this quiet, searching season of reflection and preparation as we journey towards Holy Week and the joy of Easter morning.

Lent offers us space — space to pause, to pray, to take stock of our discipleship and to listen again for the voice of Christ in our lives. In a world that rarely slows down, these forty days are a gift. They remind us that faith is not something that happens by accident - it grows when we are intentional about making room for God.

This year we have two opportunities to gather midweek for study and reflection:

On Wednesday afternoons in the Merrylea Building, Dr Maureen Park will lead a study based on *The Art of Lent*. This promises to be a rich and creative exploration of the season, and I know it will be a thoughtful and prayerful time together.

On Thursday evenings in the Orchardhill Building and via Zoom, I will be leading a rather different Lent study, using *Hamilton the Musical* as a starting point for reflection. You do not need to know the show to take part — just come ready to listen, reflect and share.

Both studies are open to all, and you will be made most welcome at either (or both!). Please see the website for more details.

As well as looking inward this Lent, we also find ourselves looking forward. At the time of writing, we are still waiting to receive a date from Presbytery for the Service of Union between Orchardhill and Merrylea. However, we will be moving ahead in the next month or so with the necessary votes in both congregations to ratify the Basis of Union and formally create *Orchardlea Community Church*.

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This is, inevitably, a season of mixed emotions. There is sadness, particularly as the Merrylea sanctuary will no longer be used for weekly worship. Buildings hold memories. They have been places of baptism, marriage, funerals and faithful weekly worship for generations. It is right that we acknowledge that sense of loss.

And yet — Lent reminds us that God so often brings resurrection out of what feels like ending. The Church has never ultimately been about bricks and mortar. It is about the people of Christ, called together, shaped by grace, and sent out in His name. We are the Church. Wherever we gather, Christ is present.

So, as we walk through these forty days, perhaps this year more than most, we do so trusting that God is preparing us — refining us, reshaping us, and leading us into a hopeful new chapter together.

May this Lent be a time of honesty, courage and deep assurance that the One who calls us is faithful.

Yours in Christ,

Gillian

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# Community Christmas Celebration

In the four years it's now been running, our Community Christmas Celebration has certainly gone from strength to strength.

Joined this year by our friends from Merrylea, the Orchardhill congregation stepped up as always to welcome in the community of Giffnock and beyond. And how they came! A record busting 457 people came along to share chat and fellowship, to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of our tireless tearoom crew, and most of all to hear the Good News from the mouths of witnesses.

Inkeepers, shepherds, the legendary wise women of Orchardhill. A scary Herod, twinkly angels and tired but happy new parents, squabbling only a little over who had hogged the donkey on the long walk. Our visitors were able to engage again with characters from the nativity story. And to hear - for the first time or for the hundredth - the incredible story of Jesus' birth.



At times the noise in the sanctuary was overwhelming, and we worried that it might be getting too busy. What a wonderful problem for a church to have!



It's testimony to the generosity of our bakers that the tearoom just about managed to cater for the huge number. Though the team must have been run off their feet keeping tea, coffee and hot chocolate flowing.





Too many people worked so hard - some for many months beforehand - to give praise to any individuals. But if you planned, built, painted, decorated, chatted, acted, baked, served, sorted, counted money or helped clear up afterwards - and turned Bethlehem back into Orchardhill - then you helped make the Extravaganza a huge success again.





While this is very firmly not a fundraising event, it's hugely encouraging that so many visitors choose to give, and to help with the expenses incurred in putting on such a huge event. An amazing total of over £400 was donated by our community.

Can we do it again next year?

# Watch Out – Beadle's About

So it's mostly carrying the Bible in and out, right?

Wrong!! Anyone who has volunteered for Beadle duty over the past few months - and who has been taught on the job by Beadlemeister Dave - knows that there's much more to the role than you might realise.

Essentially our volunteer Beadles are taking on the full Sunday morning responsibilities previously carried out by our Church Officer, Isabella. From checking the heating is on to making sure the minister has a glass of water. From getting the tea things ready to counting the congregation in attendance. And, yes, taking the Bible in and out of the Sanctuary. There's a lot to remember.

But training is provided of course, courtesy of the Beadlemeister. And there's a detailed checklist. More than one trainee Beadle has carried a copy of that close by on a Sunday morning.

It's a vital duty, one of service to God and to the congregation. Dave says anyone volunteering should realise "it's pretty much a 9 - 1 job". But many hands always make light work, and with sufficient volunteers it should only be a few Sundays a year.



If you think you might be interested in joining the Beadle rota, have a word with Dave. He'll be delighted to talk you through it, and to add you to his list of trainees.

# Orchardhill Choir's Production of **Come Messiah King**

Sometimes it's hard to drag yourself out of the house on a wet Sunday afternoon during advent. So much to do, and some days are just made for a bit of wrapping the presents and a bit of decking the halls, perhaps with a cheesy Christmas movie on Netflix.

But nobody who made the decision to come out to hear the Orchardhill Choir's production of **Come Messiah King** (by Randy Vader, Jay Rouse and Rose Aspinal) regretted that choice for a moment.

Months of hard work by a choir of nearly 20 - and particularly by our organist and choirmaster Robert Newth - more than paid off. And how glorious to experience a production in our Sanctuary by that boosted choir, together with a wonderful orchestra of 6, an incredible soloist, and our own readers, all under Robert's baton. It was a privilege to hear words and music, new and familiar, played and sung to us by such a talented group of singers and musicians.

Chatting afterwards, many of us said that Christmas really started for us on that rainy Sunday afternoon. And all of our sincere thanks go to all involved: to all our singers from Orchardhill and Merrylea, to Robert's friends who gave their time and talents, and to Robert himself who brought this wonderful work to us.



# Church Garden

Replacement of broken planters, and new growing medium in all the planters in front of the Memorial Hall, preceded planting of various types of Narcissus in late September. Some are in bud now, and a few have started to flower.

The group has been working most Thursdays during Autumn and Winter, and are making gradual progress with clearance of bramble and ivy, which were throttling trees and shrubs in the shrubbery between the carparks.

Leaves were cleared from paths and lawns, and stored, for leaf mould. More recently paths have been kept safe with applications of salt.

The Ukrainian 'Mock Tree' was requiring a facelift. Ladies at the Orchard café were able to reproduce blue and yellow decorations. Two of the garden gang braved the elements to tie the decorations to the tree in time for the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine on 24<sup>th</sup> February.



Crocuses and mini Daffodils are making an appearance in the urns at the front of the church, and soon a mulch will be put on the Anniversary Garden, to suppress weeds and conserve moisture.



Observant folk will have noticed the Lenten number display in the Peace Garden. The last number will be removed on Easter Saturday when the cross will be placed in situ.

Thanks are due to all the garden group for their faithful attendance and diligence on Thursday mornings, and to Fiona Carmichael, Fiona McAslan and Mark Rooney for their help and support.

# Orchardhill Finances

Orchardhill Parish Church of Scotland, Giffnock

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year to 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 TOTAL £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL £
<b>Income and Endowments :</b>							
Donations and Legacies	1	175,069	37,500	212,569	167,725	-	167,725
Charitable Activities	2	43,710	-	43,710	46,718	-	46,718
Other Trading Activities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Income		7,737	1,394	9,131	8,970	1,344	10,314
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>226,516</b>	<b>38,894</b>	<b>265,410</b>	<b>223,413</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>224,757</b>
<b>Expenditure on :</b>							
Raising Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities		(250,610)	(3,730)	(254,340)	(222,599)	-	(222,599)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	3	<b>(250,610)</b>	<b>(3,730)</b>	<b>(254,340)</b>	<b>(222,599)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(222,599)</b>
<b>Net Income /(Expenditure) before gains and losses on Investments</b>		<b>(24,094)</b>	<b>35,164</b>	<b>11,070</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>2,158</b>
<b>Net Gain on Investments</b>							
Unrealised Gain on Revaluation		13,579	1,576	15,155	13,275	1,487	14,762
<b>Net Gain on Property</b>							
Unrealised Gain on Revaluation		896,960	-	896,960	-	-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>886,445</b>	<b>36,740</b>	<b>923,185</b>	<b>14,089</b>	<b>2,831</b>	<b>16,920</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>							
Total Funds Brought Forward		308,190	35,781	343,971	294,101	32,950	327,051
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>		<b>1,194,635</b>	<b>72,521</b>	<b>1,267,156</b>	<b>308,190</b>	<b>35,781</b>	<b>343,971</b>

### COMMENTS

The 2025 budget had projected a substantial deficit at £47,776 on "unrestricted funds"- this being £28,900 on various one off items of expenditure and £18,876 on "normal" activities. The final result (prior to the unrealised revaluations) has been an overall deficit of £24,094 which is an improvement of £23,682. The one off items have resulted in some unexpected costs and the cost higher by £5,992 at a total of £34,892 - these items were (i) new kitchen & ladies toilet in the church £12,521 (after grant), (ii) upgrading church electrics to rear area £7,537, (iii) memorial hall kitchen upgrade £5,006, (iv) memorial hall electrical work £2,888 and (v) fire alarm / sensors upgrade £6,960. On the other hand, there has been an improvement of £29,674 in other areas - the main changes have been (i) £7,000 saved on salaries of church officer and secretary less costs of cleaning, (ii) normal fabric costs lower by £8,900 (some costs deferred), (iii) hall rental income £5,300 higher due to higher usage and increased charges, (iv) offerings and one off donations higher by £5,700 and (v) budgeted deficits on the Philippa Hanna concerts and OY! weekend, which did not materialise due to substantial gifts towards these events.

In addition in the year, one member made a substantial £30,000 donation (which also attracted a £7,500 Gift Aid refund) to be used as a "Restricted Fund". The member was very supportive of the work of the Youth and Family Worker and while her contract was for 30 hours per week, the member believed she was working more hours and the gift was to support an extra 10 hours a week. The gift was to cover some 3 years of this extra expense with this being topped up with further smaller gifts in the next 2 years. This extra cost is therefore met out of the "Restricted Fund".

The Orchardhill budget for 2026 is in the process of preparation although it is known that amounts payable to the central Church and to Presbytery will increase by £8,850 from the amounts due for 2025. Normal fabric costs are likely to be well increased with catch up work on dealing with electrical issues to bring things up to the proper standard, and some work deferred from 2025. The draft budget shows a deficit and offerings will need to be increased if the results are to achieve a break even or a surplus. These comments relate to Orchardhill without any consideration of the impact of the prospective union with Merrylea.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON ABOVE ITEMS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 TOTAL £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL £
<b>INCOME</b>						
<b>Note 1 - Donations and Legacies</b>						
Donations	129,478	-	129,478	123,090	-	123,090
Gift Aid	30,981	-	30,981	29,561	-	29,561
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions from Cong Organisations	6,452	-	6,452	3,700	-	3,700
Sundry other donations and related Gift Aid	8,158	37,500	45,658	11,374	-	11,374
	<b>175,069</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>212,569</b>	<b>167,725</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>167,725</b>
<b>Note 2 -Charitable Activities</b>						
Hall rental	42,791	-	42,791	41,141	-	41,141
Other	919	-	919	5,577	-	5,577
	<b>43,710</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,710</b>	<b>46,718</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>46,718</b>
<b>Note 3 - EXPENDITURE</b>						
Giving to Grow & Presbytery Dues	96,651	-	96,651	96,052	-	96,052
Salary Costs, Organ Supply, Cleaning	63,917	3,730	67,647	67,492	-	67,492
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance, & similar	41,796	-	41,796	13,071	-	13,071
Heating, Lighting & Water	22,160	-	22,160	16,525	-	16,525
Insurance, Council Tax	14,396	-	14,396	14,616	-	14,616
All other costs	11,690	-	11,690	14,843	-	14,843
	<b>250,610</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>254,340</b>	<b>222,599</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>222,599</b>

## Orchardhill Parish Church of Scotland, Giffnock

### Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 TOTAL £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL £
<b>Fixed Assets :</b>						
Tangible Assets	925,000	-	925,000	28,040	-	28,040
Investments	219,507	38,701	258,208	207,272	35,781	243,053
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1,144,507</b>	<b>38,701</b>	<b>1,183,208</b>	<b>235,312</b>	<b>35,781</b>	<b>271,093</b>
<b>Current Assets :</b>						
Debtors	14,476	-	14,476	12,007	-	12,007
Cash at Bank and in Hand	13,080	-	13,080	38,894	-	38,894
Deposit Fund	28,958	33,820	60,776	29,609	-	29,609
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>54,512</b>	<b>33,820</b>	<b>88,332</b>	<b>80,510</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>80,510</b>
<b>Liabilities :</b>						
<b>Due Within One Year :</b>						
Creditors	(4,384)	-	(4,384)	(7,632)	-	(7,632)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(4,384)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,384)</b>	<b>(7,632)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,632)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,194,635</b>	<b>72,521</b>	<b>1,267,156</b>	<b>308,190</b>	<b>35,781</b>	<b>343,971</b>
<b>The Funds of the Charity :</b>						
General Funds	1,194,635	-	1,194,635	308,190	-	308,190
Restricted Income Funds	-	72,521	72,521	-	35,781	35,781
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>	<b>1,194,635</b>	<b>72,521</b>	<b>1,267,156</b>	<b>308,190</b>	<b>35,781</b>	<b>343,971</b>

### Some further information of note from the Accounts

#### NOTES

It was decided in the year that it was appropriate for the fixed assets previously included at cost less depreciation (being the Manse at 23 Huntly Avenue and the former church officer's house at 17 Church Road) should no longer be reflected at cost less depreciation but instead be shown at a revalued amount. The valuation is by the trustees on the basis of informal valuation guidance from an estate agent.

As mentioned on the note on the other page, there was a "restricted" donation and Gift Aid received in the year and this, less the amount spent, is £33,820 of the "Restricted Income Funds", the other main element of these funds being the Roof Fund.

#### Collections for Third Parties

	2025 £	2024 £
Lodging House Mission	985	503
CHAS (Chest Heart & Stroke)	78	-
Maslows Community Hub (local refugees)	-	-
Water Aid	-	154
Quarriers	-	-
Glasgow City Mission	-	145
Prostate Cancer	-	176
Camwadic Helping Hands Food Bank *	-	207
Christian Aid Gaza	-	1,062
Bible Society of Pakistan	-	110
	<b>1,063</b>	<b>2,357</b>

\* The church has weekly donations of groceries and toiletries to support this cause.

#### Contributions from Organisations

	2025 £	2024 £
2nd A Giffnock Brownies	800	800
2nd Giffnock Brownies	-	300
2nd A Giffnock Guides	420	400
86th Boys Brigade	200	200
Senior Badminton Club	2,247	-
Orchardhill Café	500	1,000
CrossWords	-	-
Parent & Toddlers	1,085	-
Ladies Badminton	1,400	1,200
	<b>6,452</b>	<b>3,700</b>

# Ladies Book Group

Are you a keen reader of (mostly) contemporary fiction? And would you enjoy friendly chat - sometimes even book related - with a lovely group of ladies?

If this sounds like you, our book group might be what's missing from your life. We meet about every six weeks at the home of any one of our members. Previously we have always met in the evening, but we are now trying to alternate afternoons/evenings.

Books are chosen by the group - so no pressure to be the one to choose! One of us puts together a shortlist of 5 or 6 books, we exclude anything anyone has read and take it from there.

If you'd like to know more, or just to talk about books, catch Linda Moir at coffee some Sunday, or call 07968 793437.

# Bible Study Groups

Members and friends of Orchardhill have gathered, over the years, in groups at Church, or in our homes, to study sections of the Bible, and share hospitality and fellowship.

We currently have one study group who meet in the afternoon and another who meet in the evening – each group generally meets every 2-3 weeks.

Recent studies in the house groups have included Ephesians, the Lord's Prayer, the wonderful book of Ruth, in the Old Testament, and the Parables of Jesus in the New. We recently studied the Holy Spirit, and are presently working through the inspiring book of Psalms. To assist us, we use study guides suitable for those at any and all stages in their Christian journeys.

New participants are always welcome, and are invited to seek more information from our Minister, Rev. Gillian Rooney, or from Ian Cartlidge -

[ianjcartlidge@gmail.com](mailto:ianjcartlidge@gmail.com)

# **Merrylea Parish Church Singing Group for People with Dementia and their Carers**

The Singing Group is now in its eighth year and regularly welcomes new people along to the group. We also enjoy the company of residents from local care homes.

We are most fortunate to have Robert Newth as our piano accompanist and Graham and Elaine Cartlidge who provide our technical support.

In February we celebrated St Valentines Day and sang songs such as, My Love is but a Lassie yet and Mairi's Wedding from our Scottish Section and If you were the only Girl in the World and Once I had a Secret Love from our themed section, Love and Romance.

Our Tea team provided us with a delicious afternoon tea of cream scones and St Valentines Day themed cakes and chocolate.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm when we will sing some Welsh and Irish songs in celebration of St David's Day and St Patrick's Day.

A warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to join us.

For further information please contact Margaret McLellan on 0141 639 6853

# Family Ceilidh

Merrylea hosted the Family Ceilidh for Merrylea Parish Church and Orchardhill Parish Church to reciprocate Orchardhill's Quiz Night held last September. These two events were a way of getting to know each other as we move closer towards the union of our two congregations when we become Orchardlea Community Church.



The feedback from the ceilidh has been very positive and certainly on the night everyone was having a good time. We danced, we sang and we played games. In all of these we were very ably led by The John Knox Ceilidh Band. Our thanks to Kim and all the band members for giving us such a fun night. A very big thank you is due also to the committee for organising the event and the excellent buffet.

Moran Laing

Margaret McLellan

## The **Black** Door Shop

As many who follow The **Black** Door Shop will know we were delighted recently to receive for the third year running from **Keep Scotland Beautiful** the award of **'Outstanding' Level 5 in terms of being outstanding** in three Categories :-

1. **Community Participation** – the essential role that local initiatives play in fostering environmental stewardship and community engagement.
2. **Environmental Responsibility**:- play a crucial role in promoting sustainable practices and community involvement.
3. **Gardening**: - serves as a platform to celebrate community efforts in cultivating beautification and environmental responsibility.

This award we share with the Orchardhill Gardeners who maintain our grounds to such a high standard.

**A small working group** have been busy paving a way to create new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) that the **Black** Door Shop would be registered with under OSCR and this has highlighted the need to have safeguarding matters brought under the new charity and a form of agreement or lease to be created. These matters are continuing to be worked on by the group.

### **Litter Uplift**

it's amazing that our young people after a week getting up for school get up even earlier on Saturday mornings and are out litter picking with our adult volunteers every week. Litter in Giffnock after a Friday night is full of food boxes, cans, bottles.

Fly tipping in the library car park at the clothing bins continues to grow. The Council are aware.

We prayed for Derek one of our adult litter pickers who had been in the QE hospital unwell with pneumonia. I am pleased to say he was in visiting us the other day looking much better.

We have three teams out each week. We are always looking for litter pickers to join us. There's not a lot beats an early leisurely walk followed by a cuppa to set the day up. **The continued supply of donations**

has resulted in having to seek more volunteers. We now have around **18 adults** regularly attending during the weekdays Monday Tuesday and Thursday and some also join us on Saturdays when we have up to **20 young people** in volunteering.

Young and old all are keen to help sort the donations when they arrive into bags representing men, women, boys, girls, shoes, towels, bedding and into boxes for dishes, pots, pans, mugs, tumblers, Kitchen tools and electrical items etc.

Despite the numbers we have we still need more adult helpers particularly in the afternoons for an hour or so. If you or anyone you know would like to join us pop in to see what 's involved. We haven't had anyone not come back so why not give it a try. Age is no barrier we take all ages, sizes, colour, faith or no faith. All are welcome.

On Mondays and Tuesdays, we remove all the previous weeks donations and they are collected by Maslows, Coftfoot Pantry, Social Workers, Care Workers, or staff at Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire (VAER) for onward distribution to those less fortunate.

The laptop project was boosted recently with the supply of over 100 pre used laptops from a national organisation. Funding was offered by VAER to cover the cost of replacement batteries and M2 SSD drives which was gratefully received to the tune of £9,450. To date over 60 of the laptops have been requested by supplied to social workers and care workers for use by school children, students and or parents . Our latest request came from Eastwood Health Centre for a regular supply.

With the cost of SSD M2 drives rising 300% due to AI computers using so much raw materials in the past few months it's doubtful the funds will last as planned. We will find a way round this little setback with a little prayer or two.

**One young man who came to The Black Door Shop** on a work placement was the unexpected star of an East Ren Council video. In it he explained over the lockdown he had lost all self-confidence couldn't get a job and went to seek advice at the VAER.

He was sent to us and he told the amazing story of how his time at the BDS had helped his confidence: how we helped him to prepare for a job interview, how he told the interviewer's how fixing laptops at the BDS and talking to everyone coming in and all the volunteers at the BDS had restored his confidence.

He proudly tells the camera man that he got the job as a computer apprentice and that he intends coming every Saturday to the BDS to fix laptops That was before the end of the year and he comes faithfully from his parents' home in Barrhead to the BDS. William told me "it's only one train and a bus to get here – it's a train and two buses to get to work – no bother to come here "

**We had two very helpful 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils** helping us last year. The mother of one asked if we could help her niece whose mother had to move to Kilmarnock after a divorce. The young lady had a massive self-confidence problem and hadn't been out the house since the lockdown. She was picked up and dropped off at the BDS by the aunt for a few weeks. During this time we coaxed her into helping and she appeared to like what she was doing, we learned that the young lady's gran stayed in Clarkston. We worked with her and one day we got her to accept that if we got her on the Giffnock train her aunt would get her at Clarkston. This was hard work for her, but she did this several times. Move on a few months and we had her mum drop her at the bus stop at her home in Kilmarnock and she was able to get the bus to Church Road and then was able to get to the BDS. She missed her stop or got off early a few times, but she was taught by us to use her phone maps, so her anxiety was managed resulting in her arriving pleased to tell us why she was late. She now has a job as a waitress at a local golf club, and her aunt keeps us up to date with her progress.

**We currently have David** with us. David was brought to us via VAER. His wife brings him along. He has early dementia and being retired he was not getting much satisfaction at home all day. David assures us he is physically fit and able to lift our bags out but has difficulty he tells us with some things. He can also wash dishes, make tea and chats and he tells us he enjoys his Tuesdays with us. His wife is also getting a couple of hours respite during his time with us and told us this week she has been able to prepare his lunch and dinner without any interruption!!

**The next people to join us** are a 17-year-old young man who would like to be a joiner but cannot get taken on as an apprentice as he has no woodworking experience . He stays within walking distance and is coming next week for an opportunity for him to see what we can offer. We can offer him an introduction to the safe handling of hand tools and managing donations.

Another 20-yr old is at university doing a computer programming course. He is hoping to learn how a computer is built. He has some difficulties and his mother will bring him along in the next week or two to meet us and he can tell us what he hopes we can help him with.

### **Southsider Magazine February Edition**

is a free booklet dropping round your doors soon. On pages 8 and 9 they have featured The Black Door Shop. A sneak preview is on the link below.

<https://thesouthsidermagazine.aflip.in/93f21de22d.html>

**I hope you agree** that this little taste of the outreach work that your servants in Christ at Orchardhill are doing is shining bright on the church and that this can only be a good thing going forward .

**One thing that is concerning** is the risk of head banging entering the under-floor area via the low roof. This is caused by the only access point into the under-hall area being from two half height narrow doors installed in 1962 when the building was constructed.

To enter this area three steps, have to be negotiated. We installed a handrail at each side to assist entry and egress from this point.

Once inside if a person were to continue forward from this point to the far end of the hall they would require to duck under the concrete beams that run from one side to the other.

To reduce this risk, tables have been installed under the beams to force people to go to the lower end where there is about 7ft of head height.

The only access point being from within the shop causes other issues too.

One possible solution will be to have a door on the outside wall. This would allow for better and safer access and would enable safer and better use of the space.

Permission has been granted by the Kirk Session to investigate a solution that would mitigate the risk of injury and improve the use of space and come back to the next meeting with a plan.

Stephen Bennett

Convenor

The Black Door Shop

# Family News, Announcements Etc.

We would like to include a section in The Record where you can share your news. This could be the arrival of a new baby, the graduation of a loved one, or the announcement of an engagement or marriage.

In addition to the joyful events, we would like to include a 'remembrance' section where we can publish tributes and life stories of deceased members of your family who were members or attendees of Orchardhill. Such information can act as important records for future generations. If you would like assistance in producing the articles, please let us know, and we can help with this.

To submit an article, please email to [record-team@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:record-team@orchardhill.org.uk) or hand in a hard copy to the office.

## Orchardhill & Merrylea Congregational Roll

### Deaths

Angela Walker-McClymont

Marion Simpson

Alice Walker

Michael Burton

*Well done thou good and faithful servants. Rest safe in the Lord.*

# OY! Orchardhill Youth

**Messy Church** is back on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30-2pm  
Families of all ages are welcome to join us for crafts, games,  
a light lunch and maybe even some egg rolling!  
Email [youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk) to register your place

## **OY! Youth Club**

Fridays during term time  
5-7pm in the church hall  
Games, crafts, light snack, tuck shop  
From P6 – S6

## **Cosy Café**

Wednesdays during term time  
3-4.30pm in church hall/session room  
Come and hang with friends in a warm space, drink hot  
chocolate and eat toast!  
For all secondary school kids

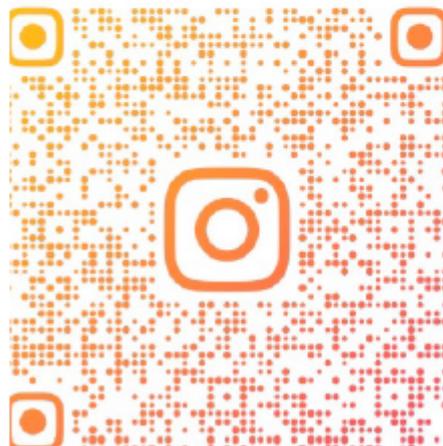
## **Sunday mornings**

Join together with whole congregation for start of service then  
leave with friends for activities, games and stories  
Sunday 10.15am. First Sunday of month 11am (check website  
for full details)

## **CHECK OUT OUR NEW ACCOUNTS ON THE SOCIALS**

Instagram @orchardhill\_youth

Tik Tok @orchardhill\_youth





# OY! Orchardhill Youth

## Easter fun

What do you call a Transformer Easter Bunny?

Hop-timus Prime

How does Easter always end?

With an R



Why are you so tired in April?

Because you have just finished a March

## Easter anagrams

**GEGS**  
**SRC SO**  
**GHTNUEG**  
**LTCOCHEAO**

**BALM**  
**FTHIA**  
**GRNSIP**  
**SNIRE**

## Easter

G	S	D	P	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	G
H	G	B	O	E	G	A	M	U	S	U	S	E	J
R	F	A	I	T	H	C	O	P	I	T	G	O	D
R	I	S	E	N	L	S	U	G	A	R	S	T	A
T	C	I	C	H	N	R	E	A	S	T	E	R	P
T	T	E	R	B	O	O	U	M	G	L	O	R	Y
A	E	O	L	R	E	L	R	R	L	O	U	L	R
P	B	L	S	C	G	E	M	R	L	A	S	S	R
R	I	T	O	M	B	G	B	C	S	C	P	F	E
I	B	C	R	C	P	G	O	G	P	E	G	F	H
L	L	G	O	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	T
S	E	E	G	C	E	A	L	B	I	B	O	N	M
I	P	H	O	H	S	S	I	L	N	R	U	I	E
C	G	A	L	C	R	O	S	S	G	I	S	E	I

APRIL  
 BIBLE  
 FAITH  
 TOMB  
 RESURRECT  
 PALM  
 SPRING  
 CHOCOLATE  
 EASTER  
 GLORY  
 EGGS  
 RISEN  
 GOD  
 CROSS  
 JESUS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9460471/>



# Over A Thousand Years of Service

This is a time of change - exciting, scary and yes, sad for some. So it feels important at such a time of change, to celebrate the continuity represented by the remarkable long service of some of our elders.

During the Communion service at Merrylea on the 1st of March, Gillian was delighted to present long service certificates, signed by the Moderator on behalf of the whole Church of Scotland - to elders from both Merrylea and Orchardhill.



A total of 1065 years of service was marked and celebrated. We are grateful to them all for their long service to Merrylea and to Orchardhill, and for their future service to our soon to be united congregation.

Certificates were issued to the following and we were delighted that so many of the recipients were able to attend on the day.

- Donald Thomas (1969) – 57 years
- Irene Burleigh (1985) – 41 years
- Margaret McLellan (Commissioned as a Deacon 1986) – 40 years
- Caroline Norwood (1991) – 35 years
- Elizabeth Roddick (1991) – 35 years
- Margaret Cameron (1993) – 33 years
- Heather Thomas (1993) – 33 years
- David McLellan (1998) – 28 years
- David Howard (1976) – 50 years
- Iain Lennox (1976) – 50 years
- Gordon Ross (1976) – 50 years
- Lindsay Barr (1980) – 46 years
- William Hendry (1980) – 46 years
- Neil McKenzie (1982) – 44 years
- Allan Rennie (1982) – 44 years
- James Blair (1985) – 41 years
- Ian Cartlidge (1985) – 41 years
- David Thomson (1985) – 41 years
- Marion Watson (1985) – 41 years
- Josephine Weir (1985) – 41 years
- James Mackinnon (1990) – 36 years
- Ian Anderson (1994) – 32 years
- Rachael Bell (1994) – 32 years
- Garry Crosbie (1994) – 32 years
- James H. Kerr (1994) – 32 years
- Richard Park (1994) – 32 years
- Joyce Winning (1994) - 32 years

# Up and Coming Events

We have lots of events and activities planned for these next few months, please keep an eye on the website and social media for up to date information. But here are a few of the next big things that are coming up in the life of our church communities.

**Messy Church** Sunday 29th March 12:30-2pm Orchardhill building

**Worship at 1pm** Thursday 26th March in the Merrylea building

**Holy Week Labyrinth** Tuesday 31st- 3rd April in the Orchardhill building

**Singing Group** Friday 3rd April in the Merrylea building

**Joint Easter Sunday garden service** and breakfast 9am in the Orchardhill building

**Worship at 1pm** Thursday 30th April in the Merrylea building

**Singing group Friday** 1st May in the Merrylea building

**Summer Garden party** Saturday 9th May with a bouncy castle/BBQ in the grounds at Orchardhill

**Worship at 1pm** Thursday 28th May in the Merrylea building

**Singing Group** Friday 5th June in the Merrylea building

**Outing to Dumfries House** on Saturday June 13th all welcome, register interest with Karen in the office at Orchardhill

# Pop-Up Pancakes

Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras, Pancake Day. Call it what you will, the day before Ash Wednesday - which marks the start of Lent - has traditionally been a time of feasting, using up the tasty stuff in the house before six weeks of Lenten fast.

From that, we developed the habit of making pancakes. What better way to put all those yummy eggs and lovely sugar out of temptation's way?

For the past few years, we have flung open the doors at Orchardhill, welcoming the community in out the cold for hot drinks and delicious homemade pancakes. This year was busier than ever, with over 400 pancakes served.



Many congratulations and thanks to pancake makers extraordinaire Dorothy, Val and Norma for their amazing efforts, and to all those involved in this lovely act of community outreach.

# Alice Walker

**15 November 1926 – 7 January 2026**

When Jesus speaks of the vine and the branches, he describes a life that remains connected, close to God and close to others. That image feels especially fitting as we remember Alice, who knew how to abide. She was deeply rooted in her faith, steadfast in her church life, and constant in her love for family and friends.

One small but telling sign of that love is something many will remember: Alice always walked you to the gate. Even in her later years, despite gentle protests, she would not let anyone leave her home unaccompanied. It was a simple, faithful gesture that quietly said, 'You matter, and I will see you safely on your way.'

Alice was born on 15 November 1926 in the Parish of Borthwick, just outside Edinburgh. Soon afterwards her family moved to Queen's Bay Lodge in Portobello, at the entrance to the Church of Scotland's Eventide Home, where her father, Alex, was head gardener and her mother, Helen, was the cook. Those early influences: gardening and hospitality, shaped much of Alice's life.

After leaving school, Alice worked in Jenners as a perfumery demonstrator and beautician. She took pride in her appearance throughout her life and was always beautifully dressed even when working in the garden. It was through the Jenners Tennis Club that she met her future husband, John, the club champion. They were married in 1949. After time in Edinburgh and then Aberdeen, where they were members of Beechgrove Church, the family moved to Glasgow in 1966 when John joined Trerons on Sauchiehall Street. They settled in Orchard Drive, Giffnock, a house that remained Alice's home for 57 years and they became active members of Orchardhill Church. John served as an elder, and Alice quickly became known for her baking.

Her marmalade was legendary, produced in large quantities each January for family, friends and church events. Chocolate fudge cakes were eagerly sought at Guild sales, often disappearing before the event had properly begun. Her scones, however, were her trademark, always baked on the day, even if that meant a 5am start. As recently as three years ago, she was still baking for church events, delighting a new generation of appreciative tasters. Alice served faithfully on the flower committee and as Guild tea convenor for many years. Hospitality was part of who she was.

Family life was central to Alice. Barbara was born in 1957, and Graham followed seven years later. In 1987 she became a grandmother for the first time, welcoming Gordon, followed by Malcolm and Catriona. She delighted in their lives and later in their partners and her great-grandchildren, Freya, Heather and Henry. Time spent together brought her great joy.

Alice and John were a familiar sight walking around Giffnock in all weathers. After John's death in 2013, Alice remained in her home, continuing to tend her beloved garden well into her nineties, even trimming hedges from step ladders until persuaded, reluctantly, to accept help. Her garden was her pride and joy and a place of many conversations with neighbours and friends through the seasons.

Following a stroke in June 2023, Alice moved to Hilltree Court in Giffnock. Although she missed her garden dearly, she settled into this new chapter with characteristic determination. She continued to keep active, often seen out with her zimmer frame in local shops. After further health challenges in late 2025, she died peacefully on 7 January 2026 at the age of 99.

Alice will be remembered for her faithfulness, elegance, generosity and deep love of family. In her long life she tended what was entrusted to her; her home, her church, her relationships and her garden and in doing so bore much fruit. We give thanks for her life, and we trust her now to the care of Christ, the true Vine in whom she remained all her days.

# Marion Simpson

9<sup>th</sup> March 1934 – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

It is one of life's great blessings to know someone in a way that changes us. Many of us knew Marion personally; others knew of the difference she made in the lives of those they love. Each of us carries some part of her story. In the Beatitudes, Jesus speaks not about fame or success, but about a way of living shaped by faithfulness, love and character. Marion's life reflected that spirit. It was not simply what she did that mattered, but how she lived: steady in faith, generous in service, and deeply committed to her family, her church and her community.

Born in March 1934 in Giffnock to Robert and Marion Simpson, she grew up in a gifted and encouraging family. Education and service were part of the air she breathed. Her mother was a teacher, her father worked in the railways, and Marion herself went on to train as a primary school teacher, serving in schools across the south side of Glasgow, including Carolside, Giffnock and Braidbar Primary. She rose to senior leadership roles and was remembered as a gifted, musical and forward-thinking educator, who believed deeply in children and in learning.

Faith was central to Marion's life. Baptised as an infant, she remained rooted in Orchardhill Parish Church throughout her life. She served faithfully as a Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, Guild member and pianist, choir member and later elder. Her faith was practical and steady, expressed in reliability, service and quiet care for others.

Family meant everything to Marion. Though she never married, her life was full and rich with love for her siblings, nieces and nephews, and later great-nieces and great-nephews. She was immensely proud of them all and took great delight in family gatherings. Known affectionately as "Aunty Mar," she brought fun, games and mischief wherever she went, often accompanied by music at the piano.

Golf was a lifelong passion. An exceptional player, she was Williamwood Lady Captain in 1971 and achieved the remarkable distinction of being Women's Club Champion across four different decades. Her commitment and discipline were matched by her joy in sharing the game with others.

In later years, Marion found particular pleasure in gardening and in the company of close friends, especially her lifelong friend Evelyn Nelson, with whom she shared many travels and adventures. Even in her final months, she delighted in meeting friends and remained engaged with life. Marion was cared for with kindness and dignity in her final years at Balmoral Care Home, and her family are deeply grateful for the compassion shown to her there, as well as for the support of the Olden Goldies befriending service.

When we reflect on Marion's life, what stands out is her constancy: her faithfulness to family, church, pupils and friends. She lived independently and confidently, with warmth, humour and integrity. The influence of her life is woven through many others. We give thanks for a life well lived and for the blessing she has been to so many. May she rest in peace.

# Articles for the Record

Readers are welcome to submit articles to the Record Team to be considered for publication. Items should not exceed 500 words, and should report on events in the Church, publicise forthcoming events, or be of likely interest to the congregation.

It would be hugely appreciated if any articles could be in an editable format such as within the body of an email or in MS Word etc. Please avoid PDFs if at all possible.

Articles are not normally attributed to the Author.

Please send anything you'd like us to look at to: [record-team@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:record-team@orchardhill.org.uk)

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