

# THE RECORD



**March 2023**



# A Word from Gillian Rooney

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The buzz and excitement of the Christmas season is over and the next stage in the Christian calendar, Lent is fast approaching and will have begun by the time you read this.

Lent is a time of preparing for Easter. In order to help us do this, throughout the Lenten period on Wednesdays, there will be an opportunity to engage with the 'Be Still' course, where we will watch a short video and then have some time for discussion. This course is open to anyone with an interest in deepening their faith. Why don't you come along to the warm space in the session room and have a light lunch with us and then we will meet in the lounge at 1pm for our time of thinking together. Often Lent is a time where we 'give something up', where we try to emulate some of the discomfort endured by Jesus as he went into the desert for 40 days and nights as he prepared to meet his fate.

However, this year, instead of 'giving something up', I would encourage you to do something positive – have a kindly word for your neighbour, treat your fellow members of the church well, pray for someone you know who is in some kind of need, think about giving to the foodbank, volunteer to help out in the many church activities, pick up litter with the Black Door Shop on a Saturday morning – we can truly show people we are Christians by our love.

As a church community, our actions speak louder than our words and by using our many talents to do good, we are helping to spread the good news of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Gillian

# Easter Songs

David and all members of the Choir warmly invite you to an evening of Easter music and readings on:-

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in the Church sanctuary – doors open at 6.30pm for tea/coffee and refreshments and the Easter music will start at 7.20pm.

Our repertoire this time includes old favourite Easter songs, with a modern twist, but the harmonies are truly wonderful.

All members are working hard and we would love you to come and enjoy our evening of fellowship, verse and song



## Christian Aid Kilt Walk

We are always looking for new ways to raise money for Christian Aid, which provides help all over the world, wherever there is great need.

One great way to help is by taking part in the Glasgow Kilt Walk in the Spring 2023, and asking for sponsors. All donations received are topped up 50% by the Hunter Foundation.

There are three distances on offer, ranging from about 6 miles to 10 miles to about 26 miles.

The Glasgow Walk usually starts in Glasgow Green and finishes at Loch Lomond.

**Are there any fit, keen young people in our congregation who would like to take part in one of these walks, and seek sponsors to support them and Christian Aid?**

Are there some older people in the congregation who are willing to go about 6 miles or perhaps 10 miles, and ask for sponsors?

If so , please speak to David Howard ( tel: 0141 571 7854) who will be pleased to speak to Christian Aid, and provide you with more information, or go online to 'thekiltwalk' or 'theKiltwalk'.

# A Community Christmas

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December last year an enthusiastic team of actors, singers, bakers, set and costume makers worked together to produce a Community Christmas Celebration for the community surrounding the church.

The vision was to invite the community to come in and explore the Nativity story in a fun and interactive way. We decided that the last day of the school term was a good time to hold this event. Planning had been underway for several months and we had people across the generations participating - from our little Mary and Joseph to our Wise Women. The whole church was transformed into scenes from the Christmas Story supported by wonderful artwork produced by the very talented Gordon Thomson. Each scene had a painting, a written story and an interactive element. This meant that the nativity could be understood by all.

People were invited in by Saint Nicolas who set the challenge for the afternoon: inviting everyone to find out the reason why he began to give presents at Christmas time. There were age appropriate story trails for children and young people to follow.



After getting their worksheets the explorers set off to discover the story and first met with an angel who told them all about their role in the Christmas story before moving on to see the Wicked King Herod who was popular if a little scary!



Next for the explorers was the story of the shepherds - who had a hut in the session room including some sheep! The shepherds had very much immersed themselves in character and even had names!



The explorers followed the trail into the hall where there was a Christmas themed escape room for the teenagers and of course the glorious Orchardhill Wise Women who captivated their audience!



Following the trail on towards Bethlehem, the explorers entered the Sanctuary where they were, at last, able to bring their worship to the baby Jesus and his young parents.



The explorers were treated to the Orchardhill Choir - with friends from CrossWords - singing Christmas carols, as the little ones did some Christmas crafts helped by some of the congregation.



The reward for completing the bible trails and finding out about the story of Christmas was, of course, hot drinks and home baking supplied by the excellent Orchardhill bakers.



This was an interactive, inter-generational, community Christmas celebration which saw our church with her doors wide open full with literally hundreds of people. This was an exciting and rewarding event, which I think should be repeated this year! So watch this space for ways to get involved!

A great way to share the most amazing story!



# **Black Door Shop Building Relationships in Giffnock**

An article from the Jewish Telegraph:



## **YOUNGSTERS HELP OUT ON MITZVAH DAY**

**UJIA Matana Club members spent part of Mitzvah Day assisting refugee work and cleaning Giffnock on Sunday.**

The youngsters, from P4–P7 age, helped by adults, visited the Orchardhill Parish Church Black Door Shop charity and sorted items donated for refugees.

They also did litter-picking and made cards to send to the refugees.

Fifty people volunteered for the afternoon, including Glasgow Reform Shul minister Rabbi Pete Tobias and Chaplaincy couple Rabbi Aharon Lemberger and wife Hodaya.

## **Hold the Date!!!**

**Evening of Saturday 20th May for a Charity Concert in Orchardhill Church.**

Supporting Prostate Cancer UK and the Church Roof Fund.

Enjoy a great mix of Scottish and Popular songs and instrumentals”

# Why Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the way the Church of Scotland tries to ensure a safe space for all (as do all organisations). It is a process laid down in law, designed to protect children and adults at risk from harm. It has been part of church life for more than 30 years – though the regulations have been tightened over the years, as you might expect. Harm or abuse can happen anywhere – even in church communities.

For everyone in the congregation the message is simple: if harm or abuse is suspected or witnessed or is reported to you, you must immediately report it to me as the Safeguarding Co-ordinator. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

On a practical level, if anyone (16+) is, or wishes to be, involved specifically with children or adults at risk, then they may need to be cleared by the Safeguarding Service. If you think that might be you, or if you are organising activities for these protected groups, please contact me and I'll let you know what, if any, clearance is needed. Please note you must not begin your volunteering until you have completed the safeguarding process.

Safeguarding is not about doubting anyone's integrity, but rather ensuring, as far as we can, that Orchardhill is a safe space for all. It is a legal requirement, not optional. Training is also now a legal requirement for volunteers to ensure they have knowledge of the signs of abuse/harm and of how to protect themselves and their groups through risk assessment, among other things. Training is only for 90 minutes every 5 years.

Some may question the need for the process in a church setting, but sadly experience has shown that it is very much needed there, as anywhere else. It is also essential legally and morally, to enable us to demonstrate that we have done all we can to protect the most vulnerable among us. I know I can count on your support to ensure this is the case.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, if you have any questions about safeguarding, and I'll try to answer them – we are backed by an excellent department in the Church of Scotland head office, who are always willing to help. My contact details are [fiona362@icloud.com](mailto:fiona362@icloud.com) or my mobile is 07708 655339, as already displayed in the church building.

Fiona Thomson

# Update on the Grounds

Taking care of our established trees has been a key priority during the dormant season, and attention to the trees bordering the upper car park and Rosslea Drive was carried out by Tree Surgeon John McLaren, while pruning of trees bordering Church Road and the upper car park was undertaken by the gardening group. The wood chip produced from this operation has been used in the “garden” beside the Memorial Hall, in order to help suppress Horsetail, and in the area to the left of the lower car park exit where Symphoricarpos (snowberry), which restricted visibility, has been removed. Eventually some ground cover planting will take place there.

None of this work could be managed by the gardening group alone, and we are indebted to Jim Kerr, Robin Mair, Phil Tyson and Richard Wallis for their invaluable assistance. We have been working on Thursday mornings, repairing edging in the lower car park, removing seeded Sycamores, and restoratively pruning shrubs. Some scrub will be retained to provide a source of nectar, seeds, shelter and nest sites for invertebrates, birds and mammals. It is the intention to plant a few native trees of differing heights in the dormant season 2023 -2024.

All congregations have to enrol in the Eco – Congregation scheme by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, with environmental check-ups completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, and we seem to be meeting most of the criteria for the Church Land section at present, although there is plenty of potential for development.

## Save the Date – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Orchardhill Ladies Badminton Club is turning 50<sup>+2</sup> this year and we are going to celebrate!!

We would love for you to be part of this celebration, whether you have, or had, any connection to the Club, or are interested to find out more about us.

The celebrations will be in the Memorial Halls on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Please feel free to drop in any time between 10am and 12 noon, and join us for silly badminton, cake, and chat. Playing is not required; we would just be delighted to see you!

To make sure there is enough cake, please drop an email to [lbc50years@gmail.com](mailto:lbc50years@gmail.com) or speak to one of our members if you hope to come along.

# Faith

Faith is described as belief that cannot be proven; but is this really so?

The “Big Bang” theory, the creation point, now widely recognized as the birth of the universe, is the seed point of all life everywhere in the universe. From that single event 13.5 billion years ago, there has been constant evolution, and, over the past 4.5 billion years life on our planet Earth, all the flora and fauna has developed, changed, adapted, arisen and disappeared as a result of changing conditions on Earth, be they climatic, physical or external.

All of us who adhere to the Abrahamic faiths, Christianity, Islam and Judaism refer to the power behind and source as God, the creator of all things. At the time of Charles Darwin’s ‘On the Origin of Species’ he still believed that God was the ultimate lawgiver – surely that is correct: evolution and creation are not mutually exclusive, as many people thought, but totally complimentary: logic dictates that, without God, there can be no evolution.

If we “BELIEVE” in God, in what do we have “FAITH”? - we believe, with faith, that he will guide and help us in times of trial, and also in the teachings and commandments of his son Jesus Christ, and all the events surrounding his undoubted life on Earth, the Virgin Birth, the Resurrection and the miracles recorded in the Gospels, for, without that faith, we have nothing.

The following verses were penned by Gerrard Manley Hopkins, a poet brought up an Anglican, who converted to Catholicism, and became a Jesuit priest. It was written in 1877 but not published until 1918.

## **PIED BEAUTY**

*Glory be to God for dappled things -  
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;  
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;  
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches’ wings:  
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow and plough;  
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.  
All things counter, original, spare, strange;  
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how ?)  
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; dazzled dim;  
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:*

## **Praise Him**

He believed that created beauty is a reflection of God and that the beauty of nature is constantly reborn and renewed; in other words, God is always around us, whatever the prevailing circumstances, and that God never changes and is immutable. He believed that nature had been violated and polluted by human industrial activities; however, beauty of the natural order is never exhausted because the world is blessed with the grandeur of God.

One wonders what his reaction would be to the profound difficulties that our world now faces, but with faith in God, we humans, as custodians of our planet Earth, can and will overcome our present difficulties and ensure that God’s creation flourishes in the future.

# Church Choir – Christmas Cantata 11<sup>th</sup> December

A very enjoyable and well-attended evening started with refreshments and home baking whilst browsing some Christmas stalls, before adjourning to the Sanctuary for Carols and the choir's presentation of 'Festival of Christmas'.

It really was an evening of Christmas praise and my thanks to all who supported the Choir. Special thanks to Isabella and the Air Cadets who assisted with preparation and serving, the Choir and friends for their hard work in learning this tricky Cantata, and Bill Wallace and Shona Fisher for setting up and operating sound and screens.



David Fisher

# Church Choir - Community Nativity – 23<sup>rd</sup> December

The Choir were delighted to assist with the afternoon community nativity by singing Carols old and new.

We were joined by some friends from Crosswords and sang for one hour and forty minutes in total!

The refreshments and home baking were very welcome and helped rest our vocal chords, if not our mouths.

My thanks to the Choir for coming out especially so close to Christmas, but what fun we had!



# A Week in the Life of ...

## Church Secretary Carol-Anne

To those unfamiliar with the energy of a busy modern Church office, “Church Secretary” might conjure up a particular vision. A little light shorthand and typing for the Minister, perhaps? Tea and tissues for the bereaved. She could be a minor character in a Miss Marple novel.

None of these is anything like Carol-Anne’s role as Orchardhill’s Church Secretary.

The Church Office is in many ways the nerve centre of the whole operation. It’s a busy, buzzy place, and all of Church life is there. The Record popped in to catch up with Carol-Anne and hear more about her working day.

Carol-Anne came to Orchardhill in September 2012, and in the past ten years she’s seen many changes, four ministers and a global pandemic. After years in various jobs within the water industry, Carol-Anne was looking for a change, and felt that the role at Orchardhill might suit her skill set. She’s very self-motivating and enjoys the combination of team working with the ability to set her own tasks and deadlines.

While life and events will inevitably impact on plans, a “typical” week might look like this:

Tuesday is the first working day of the Church Office week, and will start with reviewing the emails received over the weekend – up to 50 of them. It’s also the busiest day for the Church buildings, so there are always issues and queries arising. And it’s the day to try to plan for what the week might bring.

Wednesday is Carol-Anne’s most varied day, and depending on what is happening in the Church, it might involve getting ahead with plans for communion, for any extra services or for some upcoming community event.

Thursday starts with a staff meeting. This is a new initiative to make sure the whole team is pulling together, that everyone knows what’s going on, and that any pastoral issues are picked up.

It’s also the day Carol-Anne starts putting together the order of service for Sunday, and the enews, as well as the worship schedule and slides ready for the Media Team to use during the service.

On Friday, it’s vital to check everything is right and ready for Sunday worship. Any late items can be added to the schedule. It’s also time to issue the enews, which gets sent out to around 300 people. Everyone on the Church’s mailing list gets a copy, and only two have ever asked to unsubscribe. Large print copies of the order of service need printed, but it’s a big change from the pre-pandemic days when much of Friday was spent printing.

All of this, though, is subject to the needs of the Congregation, and to the seasons of Church life: weddings and funerals; Christmas and Easter.

Much of the work of the Church Office involves management of hall and room letting, vital both for the Church's income and for our mission of community outreach. Carol-Anne stresses Isabella's vital role in that work. The two work closely together in all aspects relating to managing our premises lets, and it's that teamwork which ensures that our various users are happy to keep using Orchardhill for their projects and that the rental income keeps coming in.

Carol-Anne loves seeing the Church so busy again, after those long months of silence during lockdown. The place is meant to be busy, alive with the sounds of a Church at the heart of its community.

If you would like a hard copy of the Orchardhill Record, a large print order of service or if you have any other request for the Church Office, please contact Carol-Anne.

## Pop-Up Pancake Stall

On Shrove Tuesday we had our pop-up pancake stall at the entrance of the church. Delicious pancakes with various toppings were served along with tea and coffee.

This event was a huge success and was attended by over 100 people – local families, children on their way home from school, neighbours and, of course, members of the church.

Many thanks to our team of pancake makers led by Dorothy Bennett and Isabella Hood.



# Life and Work

## March 2023

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Connecting to God in Nature

Thomas Baldwin learns about the growth of groups taking church outdoors.

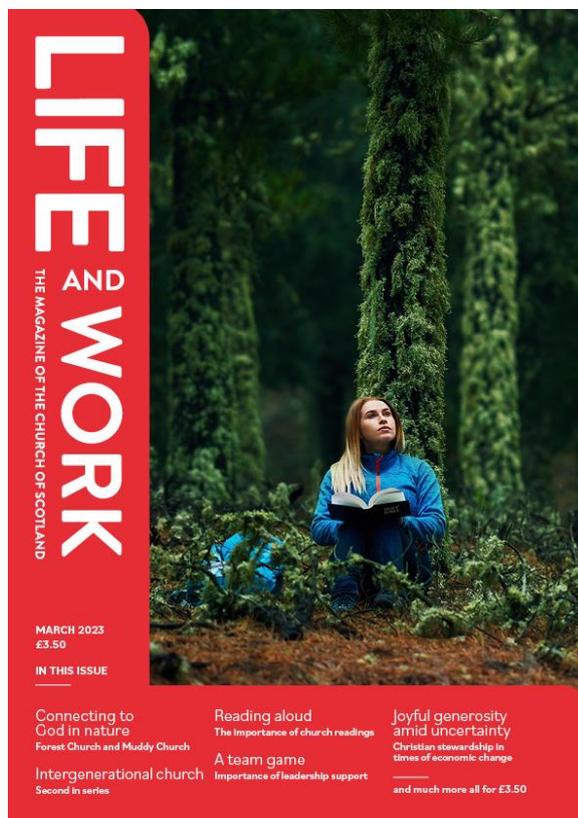
#### Intergenerational Church

In the third of the series, Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip consider mutual relationships and learning.

#### Joyful Generosity Amid Uncertainty

The National Stewardship Team reflects on exercising Christian stewardship in times of economic challenge.

And much more.



## Congregational Roll

### Deaths

May Liddle  
7 February 2023

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

# The Kids



**More great fun was had at our January Messy Church – with old and new friends!**

**We learnt about leprosy, and how we should never isolate people because of their differences.**

**We played reverse musical chairs where everyone was to be included – 15 people on 2 chairs was fun!**

**Have you ever tried to button up a shirt with rubber gloves on? A fun way of seeing how people with disabilities can face extra challenges in their every day lives.**

**All finished off with Joyce’s legendary macaroni cheese– a great time was had by all.**

**Families are most welcome to join us for this enjoyable , regular event**



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