# THE RECORD



## December 2022



## A Word from Gillian Rooney



Much has happened in the world since the last edition of The Record. There have been three prime ministers, two monarchs, the cost of living crisis rages on, Cop 27 has just taken place in Egypt and a controversial football World Cup – with many human rights issues hanging over it – has just kicked off.

Whilst there is much to be concerned about, changes and upheaval are not new. Despite an ever changing world, with many

uncertainties over the years, one constant throughout my lifetime was Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I was saddened by her death in September and it will take some time to get used to having a King.

It was only three months before Her Majesty's death that we had that wonderful celebration in the church, involving the local community, to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. May she rest in eternal peace and we pray for our new King to be blessed with similar attributes to his late mother.

At Orchardhill, we are planning our Christmas services and activities and I hope as many of you as possible can get involved.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when the time comes.

Yours in Christ,

Gillian

## **From the Choir**

Orchardhill Church Choir will be hosting a special evening on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm in the Church.

Come along for tea/coffee and home baking and browse/buy crafts at the Christmas Stalls.

At 7.15pm, we'll have some Carols to start the evening followed by the Choir's Cantata, 'Festival of Christmas'

#### – a beautiful inspiring celebration of the Christmas story and the first time it has been sung in the UK!

Well known Carols mixed in with original music.

Accompanied by David Fisher and Rebecca Keay, with narration by John Thomson.

We look forward to welcoming you all – Entry free.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you all, on behalf of the Choir, a peaceful and healthy Christmas

David Fisher



## Chaplain to the Queen

We were delighted to welcome our old friend, and former minister, Rev Dr Grant Barclay back to preach on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

Since leaving Orchardhill in early 2021 to take up the role of Presbytery Clerk, Grant has had a busy spell with issues such as the presbytery planning process taking up much of his time.

Rev Barclay's visit was timeous following the death of the Queen in September. Many tributes have been written about her, but through Grant, Orchardhill has our own connection to the Royal Family. In May of this year, he was delighted to be appointed as a Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland. The role is mostly a ceremonial honour with members of the Chapel Royal taking part in formal state occasions and conducting services at significant national events.



Grant wearing the robes of a Chaplain to the Queen

With her passing in September, Grant participated in the lying in state ceremony at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh.

Several years ago, Grant had the pleasure of meeting Her Majesty, The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales (now King Charles III) and other members of the Royal Household when he had the privilege of preaching at Crathie Kirk.

Staying overnight at Balmoral, Grant recalled the Duke keenly asking questions about his proposed sermon. Never one to mince his words, the Duke had some suggestions for Grant. At lunch following the service, Grant asked if his changes had met royal approval 'Oh I didn't have my hearing aid switched on and never heard it' retorted Prince Philip!!

Whilst still waiting on formal confirmation, Grant is expected to be appointed as a Chaplain to the new King.

We hope Grant won't be a stranger to Orchardhill, and we look forward to welcoming him back soon.



## Life and Work December 2022

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

'COME CLOSER' Life in Israel/Palestine at Christmas.

GOD HAS GIVEN US ALL TALENTS Environmental campaigner Maureen Potter .

'BE SOWERS OF SMALL SEEDS' Guild Annual Gathering.

A CHURCH UNDER RECONSTRUCTION Assembly Trustee's update.

And much more across 52 pages.



## **Congregational Roll**

Deaths

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

John Cox Date of Death – 9 September 2022

Cathy Tyson Date of Death – September 2022

Anna McCurley Date of Death – 31 October 2022

> New Members Carol and Iain Duncan

## **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 <a href="https://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk">https://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk</a>

#### East Renfrewshire Good Causes(ERGC) Achievements Yr 15 Second 6 Months Yr 15 – Apr 2022 to Sep 2022

With two donated organs <u>"Living On Inside Me"</u> and guided by my personal Christian faith, ERGC achieved the following in Sep22 – my way of thanking God and the organ donor for my second gift of life – Russell Macmillan

East	Renfrewshire	Second 6 months					Running		Totals
Good	Causes -	Yr 1	5	Apr	-	Sep	after	15	Years
ERGoodCauses		2022					Sep 2022		
Goods Out purchased		£ 67,671					£ 800,787		
<b>Goods Out Donated</b>		Circa £ 68,239					Circa £ 808,950		
<b>Combined value out</b>		£ 135,910					<u>£ 1,609,737</u>		
Individual beneficiaries		1006		ре	ople	5,413 peo		ople	
	helped					helped			

Donations to East Renfrewshire Good Causes can be made directly to their website <u>www.ergoodcauses.co.uk</u> or by picking up an envelope marked ERGC at the Church entrance and leaving it in the Sunday collection , or handing it in to the Church Office.

745 – Working with a qualified physio, we provided a trial anti gravity Treadmill session at Ross Hall private hospital for a cancer patient who has had chemo and radiotherapy following a major operation which badly affected mobility, to aid independence. (100%ERGoodCauses) 744 – Working with an occupational therapist, we provided a Smart baby monitor for a low income family. Their child with complex medical needs requires oxygen. Parents need to monitor oxygen levels overnight. - we want the parents to know they are cared for (100%ERGoodCauses)

743 – Working through Care & Repair, we part funded a wet floor shower for a disabled pensioner on very low income to remain independent in their own home. (45%ERGoodCauses)

742 – Travel pass to enable a high school pupil to attend an ER school even though, due to family breakdown, they have had to move out of area to be temporally rehoused.in homeless unit (50%)

741 – Wet floor shower adaptation for a disabled pensioner to enable them to remain independent in their own home. Client paid towards cost – we gave a helping hand to show we care (38%)

740 – Grass cutting for a severely disabled ex services, who was injured whilst serving our country overseas. Client paid towards cost of gardener – referred by housing officer at ERC (38%)

739 – Working through Womens Aid, we provided basic kitchen items for a single parent moving from homeless accommodation into a permanent flat. Family under extreme financial and emotional stress – sometimes the gift of kindness is worth more than the items (100%ERGC)

738 – Working through Citizens Advice Bureau - Blinds for young adult - just received a permanent home after a period of homelessness - low income but client paid half (50%ERGC)

737 – Infrared heating installation for a severely disabled adult , living within single income household where carer and sole earner works for the NHS as a nurse . (100% ERGC)

736 – Working through a minister, we helped with the fuel costs of a cancer patient's frequent clinical visits whilst treating cancer at the Beatson over the next few months. (100%ERGC) 735 – Hospital costs for a low income family receiving cancer treatment in the Beatson to enable clinical visits without the additional worry of increased expense. (100%ERGC) 734 – A wet floor shower adaptation for a disabled immobility impaired pensioner to remain independent as possible in their own home. (33%ERGC)

The list of what ERGC achieved in 6 months was 9 pages long - the list above has been truncated for reasons of space

Thank you to the following business for their support of ERGC – please join them

Nicol Estate Agents – Lorne Greig Website Design – ESAS21 – Miller Homes Taylor Wimpey – CALA Homes – Sight & Sound Technologies Ltd.- Pringle Design & Build

Kick IT - Quiet Design Studio – Creature Comforts – Darcys Equine Centre Whitecraigs Tennis Club – Etellect – Johnny the Handyman – Kierras Sparkle Eastwood Rotary Club - Chauffeur Tour Scotland - Curtis Moore Limited Clarkston Toll Dental Practice – New Two Furniture – MCC Accountants Glasgow Kitchen Fitters Ltd - RJG Plumbing and Heating – RAMH – Gordon Yeates Elect.

1<sup>st</sup> Active Security – The Avenue Shopping Centre – Eastwoodmearns Taxis Woodstock Contracts Ltd - Austin Lafferty Solicitors - Sidey Solutions Ltd Mearns Opticians – Clarkston Carpets - The Mobility Centre East Kilbride Glasgow All Trades GAT – Lion Leaflets – COOP – Mclean Dog Walking Services Currys PC World – Community Magazine – ABC Ambulance Services – Sarabec Ltd Selectamark Security Systems – All Utility Solutions Ltd – Peaky Blinds Ltd The Community Fund National Lottery – Intelligent Land Investments Valentinis Fast Food & Pizzarea

A thanks, to all friends/supporters who helped us, Love our neighbours. Anyone wishing to join or help ERGoodCauses, can do so by contacting Russell via the following <u>www.ergoodcauses.co.uk</u> or <u>info@ergoodcauses.co.uk</u> T 0141 639 8230 M: 07714293256

Please become a regular Standing Order donor to support the incredible work we do, in raising the local standard over and above our existing state provision. We are fortunate to have our welfare state and we respect the great work our state does, and our community pulls together through ERGoodCauses to raise the standard just a bit more – Community and State work together to make our neighbourhood a more caring and inclusive place – Come and join us and play your part R Macmillan, ERGoodCauses, 8 Blackfarm Road, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire, G77 5HT

E <u>– info@ergoodcauses.co.uk</u> T – 07714293256 W – <u>www.ergoodcauses.co.uk</u>

## A Week in the Life of ... Youth and Families Worker Lorna Buchan

When she joined the Team at Orchardhill, Lorna's experience in youth and family work was limited to volunteer activities in Church and in her children's schools. On reading the advert, though, she had a strong feeling that she and the role were made for each other. The interview panel felt the same, and Lorna started her job in November 2019.

None of us could know then how completely the world would change in a few short months. Having made it through on-line Sunday School, Easter and Christmas closures and all the various pandemic challenges, Lorna took a moment to sit down with the Orchardhill Record to describe her "normal" week.

Normal, though, is maybe the wrong word; one of the things Lorna loves about her work is that no two days are quite the same. There are one-off events – individual visits to schools, special projects at Christmas, Easter and other times, and a Jubilee Party amongst them – as well as the vital work of taking the time to chat. It's easy to dismiss that, but relationships develop through those conversations. And when a teenager, or a young mum, or any member of our community wants a listening ear, Lorna will always do her best to be there.

Broadly, though, that "normal" week looks something like this:

**Monday** is centred on the Cafe at Woodfarm School. Around 40-60 youngsters are coming along each week for hot chocolate and chat, and getting to know Lorna and Gillian. Historically, Orchardhill has always struggled to have much of a presence in our local high school, so it's great to see this fledgling initiative taking off.

**Tuesday** is Orchard Tots, which Lorna considers the biggest single success of her work to date. Started during the pandemic, Orchard Tots proves a welcoming space for parents and very young children to come together for play, chat, a cuppa, and that very necessary adult contact many of us will remember needing in those early days. Around 15-18 parents and their tinies descend on the Church Hall each Tuesday morning, many staying on for coffee and a bowl of soup afterwards in the Orchard Cafe.

**Wednesday** sees more children on the premises for Book Bug, story time, songs and nursery rhymes. More often run out of libraries, Book Bug gives parents and children another opportunity to come together within the community of Orchardhill.

If that's not enough, Wednesday is also Cosy Cafe day at the Church, with around 20 teens from our local secondary schools welcomed for hot chocolate, pancakes, and a safe place to chat.

**Thursday** is focused more on the adults of our community, all of whom are welcome at the Orchard Cafe. It's an inviting and friendly place, and there is always a smile and a listening ear, as well as hot drinks and baking.

Once a month on a **Friday**, Messy Church brings around 15-20 children with their responsible adult along for a story, various (messy!) crafts and a shared light supper. Joyce's cheesy pasta is a firm favourite.

And on **Sundays**, Lorna delivers a Children's talk during morning worship, and then takes up to about a dozen children out to Stepping Stones.

Amongst all that, Lorna has to find time to plan and organise all those activities, as well as thinking of the next new initiative. It's fair to say that time is not hanging heavily on her hands.

When she came to Orchardhill for her interview back in 2019, Lorna says she immediately felt "at home". And her burning ambition is that anyone coming into the Church buildings - perhaps making a first tentative step into any Church - has that same feeling of belonging. All are, indeed, welcome in this place.

If you think you would like to lend a hand in any of the initiatives mentioned here, please have a word with Lorna or Gillian, or contact the Church Office for more information.

# **Any Questions**

The live Radio 4 'Any questions' broadcast took place on the evening of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The event was an undoubted success for the image of the church and its position in the local community – not only as a dedicated house of Christian faith but also as a venue for other events that are compatible with the values of Orchardhill. Indeed, the BBC representatives in attendance stated that they would keep Orchardhill in mind when considering future venues for similar BBC programmes.





The evening itself was well attended with over 150 people and was hosted by local Glaswegian Adam Fleming. The panel consisted of Robert Jenrick currently Immigration Minister at Westminster, Emily Thornberry, Labour Shadow Attorney General, John Nicolson the SNP MP for Ochil and South Perthshire, Blair Jenkins a political journalist, and Professor Sir John Curtice, the well known political pundit.

As the event took place the day after Liz Truss resigned as Prime Minister, most of the questions revolved around that and the desired qualities which her successor should possess.

It was a very successful evening enjoyed by all who attended.

# **Running Costs Crisis**

The following article, featuring Stephen Bennett, the Black Door Shop and the BBs was in the October 2022 Edition of Third Force News <u>https://tfn.scot/magazine/october-2022/read</u>



Running costs, the cost of living - sadly, the crises we find ourselves facing are painfully intertwined, making the lowest paid the hardest hit, and leaving those who offer lifeline support with little option but to cut back on services.

We're now months into the muchdiscussed cost of living crisis, with sticking plasters being applied from all angles on a wound that has festered for years, if not decades. As readers of TFN will no doubt know, those bandages are often applied, if not held on, by the third sector, with community groups, charities and other gatherings of volunteers stepping in where the state has failed, providing lifelines in every corner of Scotland and beyond.

But what happens when these grassroots, community-run services themselves face oblivion, cuts and dwindling volunteer numbers as low-paid workers are forced to take on second or third jobs to make ends meet?

The answer: a perfect storm.

Since late in the summer, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has been bringing together support and advice during the #RunningCostsCrisis into one place, campaigning on behalf of shorthanded voluntary groups who are struggling with rising bills.

While larger charities and prominent campaigns may be able to cobble together donations, manpower and the other essentials needed to continue operating, the reality for smaller organisations is much starker – particularly given the bleak situation facing those they support on a daily basis.

Stephen Bennett is captain of the 86th Glasgow Boys' Brigade (BB). As well as being a youth organisation, providing a safe space for people aged five to 18, the charity operates as the Black Door Shop from Orchardhill Parish Church in Giffnock.

Without the support of the church, whish provides the premises, the charity says it would not be able to continue with its community outreach.

The BB company works closely with other charities, with key work done in providing donations directly from the community to refugees, with as many as ten families supported every day.



Members of the 86th Glasgow Boys' Brigade

Even with the provided accommodation, the rising cost of heating, a lack of a rise in benefits from the government, and other worries for the future are weighing heavily on their minds.

Stephen said: "The rising cost of heating is a major concern as the benefit system does not reflect the rise in fuel prices.

The refugees we support are provided with clothing, toiletries and household items of all types. This support pales away when people cannot afford to use gas or electricity to heat food far less heat their meagre allocated homes.

"As a youth organisation we focus on providing a balanced programme for members aged between five and 18, providing life skills and offering an opportunity to have an enjoyable experience.

"Our concern is that at the moment the church where we meet has been fortunate to be in a locked-in fuel tariff but once this goes the cost of heating key impacts on the hall availability."

Towards the end of September, just

days after support packages were announced for households, businesses and charities, Volunteer Scotland published new research warning the poorest areas in Scotland could be worst hit if the ongoing cost of living crisis engulfing households leads to a reduction in volunteers across the sector.

The potential that there could be a reduction in services in Scotland's most deprived communities, if not full closures of community groups key to supporting some of the most vulnerable people in the country, is being seen very clearly.

"The irony of these 'perfect storm' conditions," the report writes, "is that those organisations which are critical to supporting society's response to the cost of living crisis are the ones most adversely affected by the crisis.

"There needs to be targeted and effective support for third sector organisations addressing the financial and societal challenges associated with the cost of living crisis.

"Without this support they will be delivering fewer services to fewer people, which will inevitably lead to a

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#### #RunningCostsCrisis

more severe and more drawn out crisis than would otherwise be the case."

There may be one glimmer of hope for organisations hoping to keep running during the winter though, as Volunteer Scotland stated that volunteering may be more attractive during the winter as people take the opportunity to get out of the house and into a warm volunteering environment, as rising costs hit household bills.

Winter is often a time when depression and other mental health problems come to the fore.

This year, with financial stresses, cold homes and a lack of food facing thousands across Scotland, the country could see the situation worsen.

As October ushers in the latter part of the year, communities are already coming together and doing what they can.

The charity Space, whish operates the Broomhouse Hub in the south west of Edinburgh, is a community anchor organisation supporting hundreds of local people and families, with some of its services stretching city-wide.

The charity told TFN it has faced a 255% rise in utility bills, questioning how charities will survive this – particularly those in older premises.

"In the short term, we are confident of riding this out, but longer term, it will significantly impact our delivery," said Neil Hay, CEO of Space () The Broomhouse Hub.

He added: "While our primary concern is for the people of Broomhouse and south west Edinburgh, the deepening cost of living crisis presents real challenges for our diverse communities across the country.

"In Broomhouse, we are blessed with a modern hub with green efficiencies yet are subject to a 255% rise in utility bills – how will others survive in older premises?

"There is a reason that the Broomhouse Hub exists; we are here because many in our community have support needs. We deliver services for all ages, from toddlers to seniors; we have programmes for diverse cultures; we provide projects driven by care and kindness, and we are open for the public to walk through our doors whenever.

"Space is not unique; community hubs like us exist in many similar areas - nobody else does this work, and if



local centres disappear, then we betray the people who need us most.

\*The current crisis will hit the lowest earners the hardest; the Westminster fiscal policy, by design, hangs our more modest communities out to dry. People, including some of our staff, are already working jobs – plural – to survive.

"Our members are facing unprecedented challenges that will impact their mental and physical health; the team, who are there to support them, are being asked to work to an exceptional level while under increasing pressure at home. The entire setup is unsustainable.

"The third sector stood up first in Covid; we carried society while other sectors procrastinated over how to act. We stood out front, and when people wanted leadership, we said, 'follow us'.

"The reality is, however, Covid-19 responses were funded and deliverable, but unless the third sector is appropriately supported and funded now, then organisations that stood at the coalface over the last 30 months will be allowed to struggle, diminish and disappear with no one else able to pick up the pieces.

"As a community organisation, we fill a valuable space locally – we are not the only support for the community, but we are a sizeable component. As a support hub, we have a role to play, but we cannot take the place of the state.

"It is fundamentally the responsibility of the state to house, heat and feed people – they are fundamental human rights that any



western world economy can deliver if it chooses to. Not doing this is a political decision, as opposed to a lack of resources.

"As an organisation, Space is bracing ourselves for the impact upon us as an organisation and our community.

"Furthermore, with rising stress and mental ill-health, it is a rising likelihood that the sector will lose staff hours to sickness.

"Space is sufficiently well resourced and managed that we do not anticipate closing services.

"Still, as a charity, we are preparing to reach fewer members – we will undoubtedly be unable to cope with the exponentially rising demands of our services – given our current funding levels and are concerned about our staff, volunteers and community in the months ahead."

## **Christmas Concert**

To be held in Orchardhill Parish Church, 12 Church Road, Giffnock G46 6JR – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Doors open 6.30pm – Concert starts 7.00pm

A Christmas Concert shall be presented in the Church by the Glasgow Philharmonic Male Voice Choir under the baton of newly appointed Principal Conductor, David Fisher. The accompanist is Silviya Mihaylova, and guests for the evening are the award-winning singing ensemble 'Octave'.

The evening promises to be an eclectic mixture of Christmas and inspiring music – Tickets £10.00 available from 'eventbrite', Choir members, or at the door on the evening with tea/coffee & home baking served at the interval.

The Philharmonic Male Voice Choir was founded in 1925 when Sir Hugh S. Roberton was appointed Honorary President, a post he held until 1941. They are celebrating their centenary in 2025 with events planned throughout Glasgow. We look forward to entertaining you!



# You are warmly invited to join us this Christmas

27th November - 1st Sunday of Advent Service at 10.30am

4th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent Service at 10.30am

11th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent -Communion at 10.30am Doors open 6.30pm for tea/coffee and Christmas stalls followed by Nine Lessons and Carols by Orchardhill Choir

18th December - 4th Sunday of Advent -Nativity at 10.30am & Christmas Bereavement Service at 2.00pm

23rd December - Community Christmas Celebration drop-in event 2.30pm-5.00pm

**24th December** - Children's Christmas Eve Service at 6.30pm open 10.30pm for mulled wine and mince pies, followed by Watchnight Service at 11.45pm

25th December - Christmas Day Service at 10.30am

1st January - Years Day Family Worship and Communion service at 10.30am

## A Strange but True Story

In 1929 the NELSON LINE a shipping company which traded between Argentina, Uruguay and Britain primarily frozen meat and passengers ordered five new identical passenger/cargo ships for that trade. All NELSON ships were prefixed with the word Highland; the five ships were named Highland Brigade, Highland Monarch, Highland Chieftain, Highland Princess and Highland Hope. With the exception of the Highland Hope they were built by Harland and Wolff Belfast and the Highland Hope at their Govan yard in Glasgow.

Shortly after entering service en route to South America the Highland Hope struck rocks and ran aground at the entrance to Lisbon harbour in Portugal; she was a complete loss and sank and was very quickly replaced by an identical ship the Highland Patriot. Shortly after the Nelson company was taken over by the Royal Mail line.

Fast forward to the Second World War – all the five vessels were requisitioned by the government and served either as troopships or armed merchant cruisers and with one exception survived the war unscathed the exception being the replacement vessel the Highland Patriot which was torpedoed by a German u-boat in the North Atlantic in 1940.

After the war ended shipping companies placed orders to replace war losses and he Highland Patriot was replaced by a slightly larger modernised version of the 1929 design; the ship was named MAGDALENA in accordance with Royal Mail tradition which gave its ships Spannish names.

On its return maiden voyage from Buenos Aires it struck rocks just outside Rio de Janeiro split in two and sank.

Royal Mail did not replace her - strange but true



## The Kids











Spooky, sparkly fun was had at our October Messy Church when we learned that Jesus is the light that overcomes all darkness. We also had great fun with human body parts feely boxes!!!

Believe it or not our next Messy Church is going to be our Christmas Party so come along and hear about the greatest story ever told and celebrate the good news with us. This is on Friday 26th November from 4pm-6pm.

Email youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk or speak to Lorna to register your place

We are delighted to be opening our doors to the community On Friday 23rd December for a fabulous immersive Christmas Experience. Keep an eye out on our website for more details



Orchardhill Parish Church, Church Road, Giffnock Glasgow G46 6JR phone 0141 638 3604 website: www.orchardhill.org.uk email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk

Orchardhill Parish Church: Scottish Charity number SC 009774