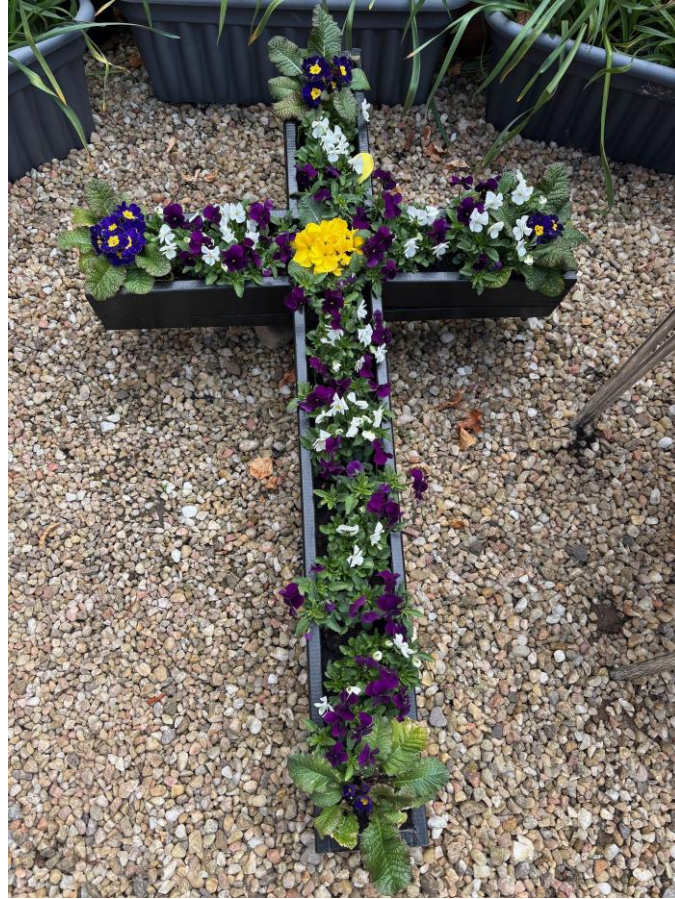


# THE RECORD



## Summer 2025



# A Word from Gillian Rooney

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It doesn't seem like three months since I last wrote my letter for the Spring edition of The Record. Yet here we are – almost in June.

First of all, in this letter, I would like to pay tribute to three members of our congregation who have given many years of service to the young people within our community – Mrs Margaret Howard, Mrs Judy Byrne and Mrs Barbara MacKenzie. All three have decided to take a well-earned rest and have retired from running church organisations.

After over 40 years of service, first of all in the Brownies and then in the Boys Brigade, Margaret has stepped down as an Officer. Having run the Junior Badminton for decades, Judy and Barbara have played their last games in their capacities as junior leaders. Their dedicated work over the years has enhanced the lives of so many of our local young people and, on behalf of The Church, I would like to thank them.

I would encourage you to think about the example of these fine ladies and determine if you are able to volunteer for any of our church groups or activities. Volunteering doesn't have to take over your lives – even an hour or so, once per week or month can make a huge difference to the smooth running of a church organisation. Your wisdom and presence can make a huge difference to those we engage with – whether this be a word of encouragement to young person lacking in confidence, or an overwhelmed new mother who would benefit from a kindly word, just to say 'you are doing a great job'.

We recently had a service to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Orchardhill and were delighted to see such a good turn- out from both congregations. It was lovely to welcome back old faces in the form of our friends and former ministers – John Miller and Grant Barclay.

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I am pleased to announce exciting news – we are updating Anna Blair’s wonderful book ‘The Kirk on the Hill’ to reflect the last 25 years of Orchardhill. Linda Moir has been working hard on this project, and we are aiming to get copies published in the next few months – keep an eye out for this.

It has been good to see the people from Orchardhill and Merrylea getting to know each other better. We recently held a well attended social evening which involved a quiz, in addition to our now familiar joint services. Another good opportunity to meet up will be at the Summer Garden Party which will be held at Orchardhill on the afternoon of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of June – please come along and support this community event.

There has been a huge amount of fabric work undertaken by our congregation in the last few months – in the creation of the Anniversary Garden, led by Dorothy Cartlidge and her dedicated gardening team, and in the replacement of the Memorial Hall Kitchen, led by Stephen Bennett and Jim Clark – both projects had many volunteers who assisted. I would like to express thanks to them on behalf of us all.

I attended parts of this year’s Church of Scotland General Assembly as a spectator. This is always a worthwhile exercise as the topics that are discussed have an impact on all of us. There is an excellent summary of this year’s meetings on BBC iPlayer, presented by Sheena McDonald, and I would encourage you all to spend half an hour watching this.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful and relaxing summer.

Yours in Christ  
Gillian

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# EASTER BREAKFAST JOINT WITH MERRYLEA

It's an Orchardhill tradition to enjoy early morning worship outdoors on Easter Day, before gathering together for breakfast and then family worship.

It was a particular pleasure this year to welcome our friends from Merrylea. And after a few days of very mixed weather, around 60 of us were blessed with glorious but chilly sunshine for a moving service and communion.

Then it was indoors for a well-earned bacon roll, a hot drink and plenty of chat. Thanks are due as always to the lovely ladies who prepared and served a delicious breakfast.

The main Easter worship was a joint service at Orchardhill at 11:00. How lovely to be part of a company of 217 worshippers hearing the good news: "Jesus has risen from the dead". From tinies - and there were nearly 40 children in the sanctuary - to our senior members, it was wonderful to join together in joyful song.







# 86<sup>th</sup> Company – The Boys' Brigade

Since the last Record we have had busy Friday evenings. From making Pancakes, Easter Activities, (making Easter Crosses and of course our Easter Garden made with biscuits and mini eggs) various Challenges, A Chocolate Night, Sand Rockets and Alkaseltzer 'Pops', Fitness Monopoly, Awards and finishing with a Badminton Night, all part of the Boys' Achievements. Of course, the evening usually started with a story, Bible Reading and closed with a Prayer.

We issued Invitations to boys in the Church and outside the Church to come along to our Chocolate Night. Unfortunately, only one boy came (from outside the Church). He really enjoyed his night and will come to Anchor Boys at the end of August.

The boys did really well putting the coloured sand into their 'rocket-shaped' bottles as you can see from the picture. Outside they had great fun with water in a tube, then adding an alkaseltzer then waiting for the chemical reaction as the tube lid popped.

We played Monopoly with a difference – 'Fitness Monopoly' The boys had great fun, and as we had a defibrillator outside and Dr. Park in attendance, we were well covered medically. The boys had to do:- laps round the hall, squats, side jumps, skipping, to name but a few. Great fun. After this the boys changed into their uniforms ready for their presentation of badges and Awards.



Oliver Mackie and Cian McLaughlin had their names engraved on the Anchor Boy Shield as being Best Boys in Anchors, while Daniel Brogan was awarded Best Boy for the Juniors. Oliver and Cian have been promoted to Junior Section and Daniel Brogan, having served 6 years in Anchors and Juniors, has been promoted to Company Section along with Aarin Dey.





In closing, I must sincerely thank Captain Bennett for his guidance and support throughout my time as an Officer. Thanks, must also go to our Visiting Elders, the late Ronnie Carswell, Ian Cartlidge and Richard Park who came along and took part where necessary, and gave encouragement to the boys and staff.

As I am 'hanging up my hat' at the end of August, this will be my last Report. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have spent 20+ years with the Anchor Boys and Junior Sections. I hope and pray that someone will step forward to assist Captain Bennett and Lt. Fraser Ellis. Volunteering is a very rewarding experience. 'Here I am, Lord, Is it I Lord, I have heard you calling in the night'

Margaret Howard





# Church Grounds

The Garden Group have been in overdrive since mid February, when work began on the Anniversary Garden. It is testament to the inspiration, expertise, utter hard work and dedication of the multi- talented group that the new garden was mostly completed in time for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service on Sunday 11 May. There are still some expected additions to the planting, and the garden will evolve over time. We were blessed with dry weather, fortified by the Orchard Café, supported by the BDS and Frank McQuilter's electrical work, and given assistance from Aviva in clearing the site.

If your route to Church doesn't normally take you near the Anniversary Garden, please go and enjoy the ambience of the gentle water feature from which birds are already drinking. Pollinator friendly plants are key to the planting, and our hope is that there will be some colour most months of the year, and increased biodiversity within the grounds. The centrepiece of the garden is the brass Hornbeam leaf plaque, mounted on sandstone and inscribed with the dates 1900 – 2025, and the words "Love is eternal".

There are 2 vases sunk into the stone beside the plaque. These are for use of the congregation and community. Cut flowers only, may be placed to celebrate happy events, or to remember particular historical or personal occasions. A physical and online book will be available soon, where dates running from Sunday to Saturday can be booked. The garden group reserve the right to remove any fading flowers.

Summer planting of sunflowers and other pollinator friendly plants has already commenced, in the troughs and planters around the church and Memorial Hall. We hope that these flowers will produce an impressive show, highlighting our Kirk on the Hill and encouraging the community to share our garden. We would be grateful for additional helpers for this summer's watering and maintenance rota, which is available at church services.



# Octave – A Celebration!

Many of you will be familiar with Octave, David Fisher's critically acclaimed singing group, who have performed in Orchardhill many times. The group will be taking to the stage once again for their annual charity concerts. "Octave – A Celebration!" will be performed on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.30pm in the GLO Auditorium, Motherwell. However, these dates will be Octave's final performances, so don't miss this opportunity to see them for one last time.

For only the second time in their history, the group will present solos and ensembles taken from their back catalogue of over 400 pieces – the music is too good not to share with audiences again! The programme will feature some well-known numbers from Broadway shows such as Les Misérables, Annie Get Your Gun and Guys & Dolls, some pop classics/easy listening from the likes of Elton John and Billy Joel, and of course a bit of James Bond. Certainly, something to suit all tastes.



Tickets, priced £15, are available from Shona Fisher ([shona.fisher2@mail.com](mailto:shona.fisher2@mail.com) or 07747 758565). The tickets are selling fast, especially for the Saturday evening, so don't delay in ordering.

The group are entirely voluntary, and every year they select a local charity to support; to date they have donated £25,000 to these good causes. This year we are proud to be supporting Prostate Scotland with the proceeds from these concerts.





# Alec Cleland 1926-2025



Alexander Braid Cleland, or ABC, was born in Kilsyth on 28 March 1926 to Robert & Mary. He was older brother to Muriel who pre-deceased him.

He grew up in Knightswood and during the war he was evacuated to Kerrycroy on the Island of Bute, together with his mum & sister; his dad joining them at weekends. Despite the circumstances, he often shared happy memories of his time there.

In 1945 he was posted to Lagos, West Africa and served as a sergeant with the Royal Engineers in the Quarter Master's Dept. His commander wrote this reference on completion of his service:

***"He is of a very high order of intelligence and a keen sportsman. Smart in appearance and of sober and punctual habit. He has a very pleasant personality and deep loyalty to his Dept".***

In 1950, the minister of his church wrote ***"Mr Cleland is a very fine Sunday School teacher, much interested in the personality and character development of young people. He is a thoughtful and studious young man and extremely well fitted by temperament and nature"***. Surely all the hallmarks of his character.

It was in Knightswood that he met the love of his life, Betty McMath. As she lived round the corner from him, she was asked to deliver a strip to his house for a charity game of football and clearly there was a spark which led to romance. They married in 1953 and were very happily together for over 68 years before she passed away over 3 years ago.

Their first home was in Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, before moving to 58 Forres Avenue, Giffnock in 1957, when Sandra was 3 and Eileen a baby. Marion arrived around 6 years later.

He was employed by the Prudential Assurance Co for most of his working life and took early retirement in 1983, defying all actuarial assumptions by drawing his pension for the last 42 years.

Alec had several interests, and golf was certainly one of his favourites. He was a great player, a low handicapper, and initially he enjoyed membership of Caldwell before joining Whitecraigs some years later. He happily gave consent to the marriage of his 3 daughters knowing that his sons-in-law were fellow golfers.

He was also a very fine baritone singer, employed for years by Camphill Queens Park Church for Sunday worship, but he used his talents to entertain on many an occasion, his singing often accompanied by a few jokes. His material sometimes came from insurance claims submitted following motor accidents e.g. *"I pulled off from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law in the other seat, and headed over the embankment"*.

He had a repertoire of Scottish songs, and one of the favourites was 'Loch Maree' which is located in the west highlands of Scotland. In recent times he often regaled the residents and staff of 3 Bridges with a word-perfect rendition of the song, hopelessly out of tune as a consequence of his hearing loss, but with such volume that you couldn't help but appreciate his passion.

*Come with me to the land o' heather, come with me to the land o' green  
Take my hand as we sit together, watch the sunset o'er Loch Maree*

He was also a very keen gardener, and everyone admired the beautiful flowers which surrounded his manicured front lawn, cut every week with a push mower. In very rare acts of aggression, he would fire a water pistol at any cats who dared to foul the flower beds.

In his retirement, he took woodwork classes producing tables, bench seats and fruit bowls. He tried his hand at gemstone polishing and members of his family were often proudly presented with his produce.

In 2013, taking account of their advancing years, Alec and Betty downsized to a flat in Hazelden Park, Muirend. There, they enjoyed happy times in their comfortable home.

It was only in 2021 when both Alec and Betty succumbed to more serious ill health that a hard decision was made. They became residents in 3 Bridges Care home where Alec became part of the family, as one staff member put it. Although he really wished to remain in his own home, he came to accept his circumstances with customary grace. He became the Scrabble king, only occasionally losing to those who challenged him.

On Monday 28 April, just over 2 weeks ago he passed away having reached his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, a month before.

Hard to capture all these years in a short tribute but it wasn't so much the history of his life that was memorable, it was his character that defined him.

In the many messages received and family reflections, much mention has been made of his infectious & kindly smile, his contentment with life, his peaceful presence, his helpful guidance, his generous heart, his encouragement of others and his fun loving nature. He loved to laugh.

In many ways he was quiet and unassuming, but he really made an impression on everyone who met him. An encounter with him was unforgettable.

A few testimonies from family:

... to have a father-in-law who so clearly loved me was wonderful. He was a great Dad to me as well as his girls.

... he expressed kindness, humility & love for family. A shining example to me and I'm very proud & grateful that he was my father-in-law

... he was welcoming, gracious, supportive, and encouraging. A shake of his hand was an expression of his love and appreciation.

... Uncle Alec was a wonderful man, and I count it a privilege to have known him. I have a precious memory of him reading to our boys. He was a lovely man, and I have fond memories of his gentle manner and kindness. He was so kind and soft spoken, a real gentle- man. How blessed we all were to have known him.

The staff at 3 Bridges were clearly very fond of Alec. He was one of their favourites as he welcomed them into his room with a handshake and always expressed his appreciation of their care.

He took an interest in other residents, calling in to say hello or waving and smiling to them at their doors, even though latterly he struggled to see them. It was not unknown for him to wave into an empty room.

Alec had a firm faith in God, and although he didn't often share his beliefs, it was what governed his life. Pastoral care as an Elder was one of his finest attributes, shown to all in his district at Orchardhill, and he made a major contribution to the Church's finance and property requirements in acting as Clerk to the Congregational Board. He modelled his Christian faith by example, through his integrity, compassion, generous heart and a love for others. Eileen recently said to Sandra that Dad really exhibited **all** the fruits of the Spirit, as defined by the apostle Paul in the Bible.

***"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control".***

He is now enjoying his rich reward ... a place in heaven, in the presence of his Lord, Jesus Christ.



# Memorial Hall Kitchen

We are fortunate to have so many willing and able volunteers within our congregation. This was evident when, over the course of the Easter holidays, the old kitchen in the memorial hall was stripped out and replaced with shiny new units, sinks and flooring.

Due to the many volunteers involved, this project was carried out on budget – saving the church many thousands of pounds over having a contractor undertake the work.

Many thanks to all who were involved.



# Bill Muir 1929-2025



William Menzies Muir was born on the 29th of January 1929 in Saltcoats, younger brother of Isobel to John and Annie. Bill's paternal grandparents had been missionaries working in Morocco and his father was born out there returning to Scotland after the death of Bill's grandmother. Initially staying with relatives, Bill's parents then moved their young family to Melford Avenue in Giffnock when he was 4. Meaning that Bill began his formal education at Giffnock Primary and then on to Hutcheson's Grammar following in the footsteps of his older sister. He had a happy childhood making many friends in the area, attending scouts, the scripture union and Sunday school. The family holidayed throughout Britain spending time in Ayrshire, Aberdeen, Arran, Cornwall and Hampshire all photographed and carefully documented by his father. Bill's early teenage years were spent during the second world war, and he remembered vividly being at Orchardhill Church the day that war broke out and the minister Hamish McKenzie announcing the beginning of hostilities and urging folks to return home. On leaving school Bill was called up to serve his national service first billeted to Stirling Castle and then to Aldershot. Bill enjoyed these years and would always remember his army number 21055347 even in these last years of his life, saying that anyone who served would never forget their number.

After returning home from national service Bill stepped out of the family tradition of going to university and instead began working with the Northern Insurance company. The Northern Insurance company became the Commercial Union and was based in St. Vincents Street in Glasgow. Bill worked his way up to being an underwriter and would work here until his retirement in 1989. Bill was fond of saying that he had been retired for nearly as long as he worked.

Beadnell in Northumberland was to play an important role in Bill's life, he began going there in the 1950s enjoying golfing holidays and made lifelong friends. He met Jean one night at the Albert Dance Hall in Glasgow and they swapped telephone numbers, but Bill did not follow this up until one Saturday night when his best friend couldn't go out as he had caught mumps, he decided to call Jean and this led to the start of their romance. Their courtship also included a trip to Northumberland where she could meet Bill's friends, and they could meet her. This obviously went well, for the couple were married in Renfrew North Parish church on a sunny July day in 1963. The newlyweds then moved into their new house in Dorian Drive which would be their home throughout their married lives. The couple were delighted when the family grew - first Graham in 1966 and then Alison in 1968.

Bill continued to work in the city centre, taking the train in the morning, always waiting for a 6-coach train to arrive, so that he could sit and read his paper. He refused to get on a three coacher because he would have to stand. Much to Alison's dismay as her friends all had their dinner at 5.30pm Bill arrived home on the 5.55pm train after going, as he did every day, for one pint (just the one!) in the Toby Jug just in time for dinner to be served at 6. Bill was a good and loving father taking his children swimming, and once to their amusement picked up the bag of silver paper for the guide dogs rather than his trunks which he never discovered until he was getting changed (back in the 70's people collected silver paper for an appeal to fund guide dogs), taking them to sledge down the hills at the golf club on snowy days. He and Jean were proud of their children and celebrated their successes and joys. He was delighted to become a grandfather and was proud also of the grandchildren - Amy, Eilidh, Mairi, Grace, William, Eve and Alex.



Jean and Bill bought a caravan in Beadnell in the 1970s which would give them a base for their family holidays. Bill loved to golf and joined East Renfrewshire Golf Club on 14 June 1955 - a member for 70 years. Jean was not a golfer and when Bill would complain about having sore feet, she would suggest that he put on his golf shoes as his feet were never sore when he was wearing them! Bill was also a member at Seahouses Club, and it was here with Graham in attendance he got a hole in one. Bill was a serious golfer always trying to improve his game.

In his retirement Bill continued to golf and he liked to swim and would go to Eastwood pool for a swim every morning right up to 2014. This was the year that Bill lost his leg in his mid eighties and the medical team said that he probably would not walk again but his golf and swimming meant that he was in good shape physically and Bill was a determined man, even thrawn, the family said, but this determination meant that he worked hard to regain his mobility and this he did. He also had his car adapted so that he could continue to drive. Two years later in March 2016 Jean died suddenly at the caravan in Beadnell and the family feared that Bill would not cope but again his determination shone through. Not long before she died Jean had made a list of everything that she wanted done in the house and Bill worked through this list making sure all was done. Bill was a regular at the Orchardhill Cafes and afternoon communion services, continuing to travel to Beadnell as often as he could.

Up until the covid years Bill continued to drive and maintained his independence. Unfortunately, it was during the pandemic in common with many in this age bracket Bill began to need a little more help at home and lost some of his independence. Bill remained at home until his very last days with the support of his family Graham and Joan, Alison and Glen, his carers and his many neighbours and friends.

Bill was a principled man who could be determined but was also funny. He knew a lot, was fond of reciting literature and enjoyed a wide variety of music, he was always willing to share his knowledge especially with the younger generations. He was a kind man who cared deeply for his friends and family and they for him. We celebrate his long life that was well lived. We give thanks for the man he was and ask that God will be especially close to those who knew him the best and loved him the most.

# David Reid Memorial Golf Trophy

The David Reid trophy was won last year by his grandson, Ali Reid, who plays at Pollok Golf Club, following in his grandfather's footsteps.

Golfers of all ages and stages are invited to join Ali at Pollok on Sunday afternoon 24th August 2025, for 9 competitive holes, followed by a 2-course meal in the clubhouse, at which non-golfing relatives and friends from Merrylea as well as Orchardhill are most welcome. David was a very fine golfer in the middle of last century, and we hope to gain access to his Memorial Lounge in that clubhouse for the trophy presentation, for the awarding of additional prizes, and for much fun and fellowship.

Details of timing and costs are not yet known, but all those interested in the golf and/or the meal are requested to give their names to Ali at [alidavidreid@btinternet.com](mailto:alidavidreid@btinternet.com) or to Graham or Ian Cartlidge as soon as possible. E-news will carry further information as the summer progresses.



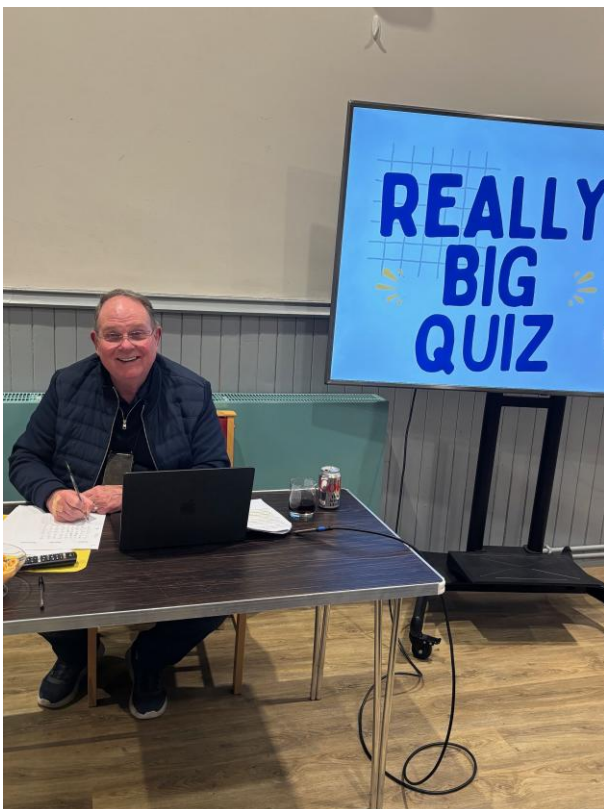
# Quiz Night

With the linkage between Orchardhill and Merrylea formalised in a service of linkage on 16th January, activities are well underway to bring the two congregations closer together. Joint services, joint Kirk Sessions meetings, and a joyful shared Easter breakfast all help form that picture.

And on 22nd March, around 70 members from both congregations joined in a first shared social event. Orchardhill has enjoyed a fun and occasionally very competitive quiz for a number of years, and it was a pleasure this year to welcome so many of our friends from Merrylea.

Quizmaster Dave Thomson stewarded matters with a rod of iron and a twinkle in his eye. Every team had to include members from both churches, Quizmaster's decision was final, no heckling would be accepted...

A fun evening was had by all, buoyed by a degree of competition and a wide range of snacks. We are happy to report that your Record Team was well represented on the winning team.



# Life and Work

## June 2025

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### **VITAL VOLUNTEERS**

The value of the Church's unpaid team of helpers.

#### **'GOD HAS GUIDED MY JOURNEY'**

Snapshot of a 36-year journey

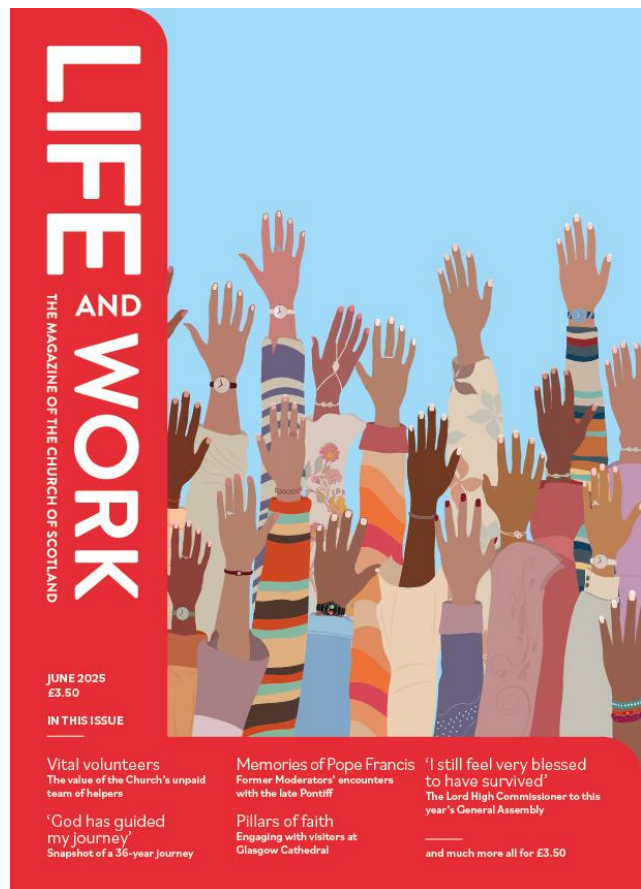
#### **MEMORIES OF POPE FRANCIS**

Former Moderators' encounters with the late Pontiff

#### **'I STILL FEEL VERY BLESSED TO HAVE SURVIVED'**

The Lord High Commissioner to this year's General Assembly

And much more over 52 pages...



## 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.



# 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 are currently studying the Holy Spirit. 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 - [iancartlidge@doctors.org.uk](mailto:iancartlidge@doctors.org.uk)

## 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 starting some afternoon meetings in the New Year.

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.

# Kids



SUMMER IS NEARLY HERE!



**Planning for our mission week is well underway and we are excited for a week of songs, crafts, snacks, games and stories**

**100 kids are signed up to join in our desert island adventure  
Would you like to come along for the adventure?**

**If you would like to come along and help please let me know  
[youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk)**



**Or if you are starting P6 or above come along and join us at  
OY! Summer Café 4TH – 8TH August 7pm-9pm**



**If you are in this age bracket and would like to come along  
Please let me know. Or if you are interested in helping that  
would be very much appreciated!**

# Orchardhill Congregational Roll

## Deaths

Bill Muir

*Date of death – 27.4.25*

Alec Cleland

Date of death – 29.4.25

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

## Disjunction

Christine Dunn

District 37

## New members

Mr Iain and Mrs Christine Young

Mr Jubemi Iyiku

Mrs Emily Jess Anderson

## Baptism

Rèmi Alba Roli Anderson-Iyiku

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**phone 0141 638 3604**

**website: [www.orchardhill.org.uk](http://www.orchardhill.org.uk)**

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Orchardhill Parish Church: Scottish Charity number SC 009774