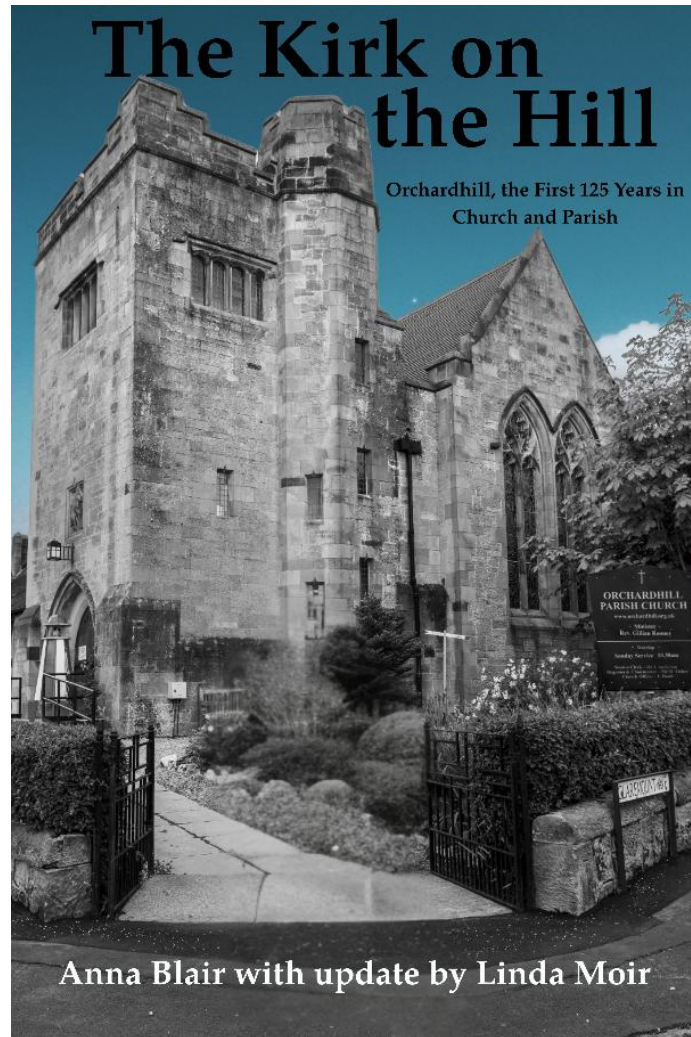


THE RECORD



Autumn 2025



A Word from Gillian Rooney



I seem to say this in every letter I write for the *Record*, but time is marching on—and here we are, nearly in September!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and were able to take a break and enjoy the beautiful weather we've been blessed with. The Manse family had a lovely holiday down south—though it feels a long time ago now.

The Summer Mission was a great success. Over the course of the week we welcomed more than 120 different children, as well as 35 older youngsters and teenagers who joined us for OY! Summer in the evenings. I was especially delighted to see so many parents and children at our Mission Week Sunday Service. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who helped make the week such a triumph.

By the time you read this, you will probably know that our Church Officer and friend, Isabella Hood, has handed in her notice and will be leaving us at the end of September to begin a new role as a funeral arranger. While this is sad news for Orchardhill, it marks an exciting new chapter for Isabella. I am sure you will join me in wishing her God's blessing and peace for the future.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events in the coming months. First, the amazing Philippa Hanna will be performing concerts on 3rd and 4th October here at Orchardhill. I would warmly encourage you to buy at least one ticket—and ideally more, so you can treat friends or family to a wonderful evening out. Hosting such a high-quality event involves a significant financial outlay, and to break even we need to sell around 450 tickets across both evenings. Please spread the word far and wide, both within other churches and beyond.

As part of our 125th anniversary celebrations, Anna Blair's much-loved book *The Kirk on the Hill* has been beautifully updated by Linda Moir. We will be hosting a book launch in November, where copies will be available. Afterwards, there will be a small cheese and wine buffet, followed by a screening of *Passing on the Cross*—the pageant written and performed by Orchardhill members in 1999 to mark the approaching centenary of the Church.

It has been wonderful to see members of both Merrylea and Orchardhill getting to know each other better and working together. The participation of members from both congregations in leading worship has been especially satisfying for me. As we move forward, I am confident that we will continue to see the Holy Spirit's presence in the work we carry out together.

Yours in Christ,
Gillian

Thanks From Willie Hendry

My Dear Friends,

This issue of the Record is an opportunity to thank you all formally for your extraordinarily kind gifts in recognition of my time as property convenor at Orchardhill.

It also offers the opportunity to thank you on behalf of Liz for the beautiful basket of flowers which she received on the day.

With your gift it is my intention to purchase a new laptop.

I have already expressed my thanks fully on the day the presentation was made, however, if there is anyone who missed my comments I have attached a copy below.

Once again I am very humbled by your very generous gifts.

Thank you all.

Yours aye.

Willie

It is important to understand that I could not have done this and achieved what we have, without the mini team of Gordon Thomson and David Evans and latterly Alan Daly, and also your help and prayers.

I remember very fondly the Friday morning coffees which started in the lounge by the office, where the team and others raised and solved, or not, as the case maybe, many problems be it church, church property or world, this only stopped by Covid.

Our breakfasts at Andiamos, and our various lunches.

I'm also minded of the alfresco tea and tiffin outside the memorial hall when working on the refurbishment in that building one sunny summer (2018) and the many people who stopped and joined us for a cuppa and a blether as they walked by.

In all of this the fundamental philosophy has been to have fun whilst doing the jobs.

It's at this moment that I need to mention Liz, without whom I just would not have been able to carry out the role. Her encouragement to take the role originally, and her support and general gentle poking in the ribs, has been paramount during my tenure and also essential to the enjoyment and success of garden workparties. Who can forget her garden workparty breakfasts. Oh, and the chocolate treats provided by Richard and Maureen Park....

I should say at the outset that the idea of workparties came from Lindsay Barr.

The care of the gardens is now in the hands of a very capable and willing team made up of members and non-members from the local community led by Dorothy Cartlidge.

The willing volunteer resource we have in the church and abroad is quite extraordinary, and to name them all would take forever and knowing me I'd forget someone. Thank you all.

I do hope that the new team will remember that the volunteer resource remains in place and to ask for help when necessary or not as the case maybe. Asking for assistance is not a weakness, it's part of fellowship.

If you feel you'd like to be part of the fun, please let them know and join the fun.

Once again I am indebted to Liz and my team's friendship, support, advice and counsel throughout my convenorship, and to all of the members of the church family who have helped where possible and prayed.

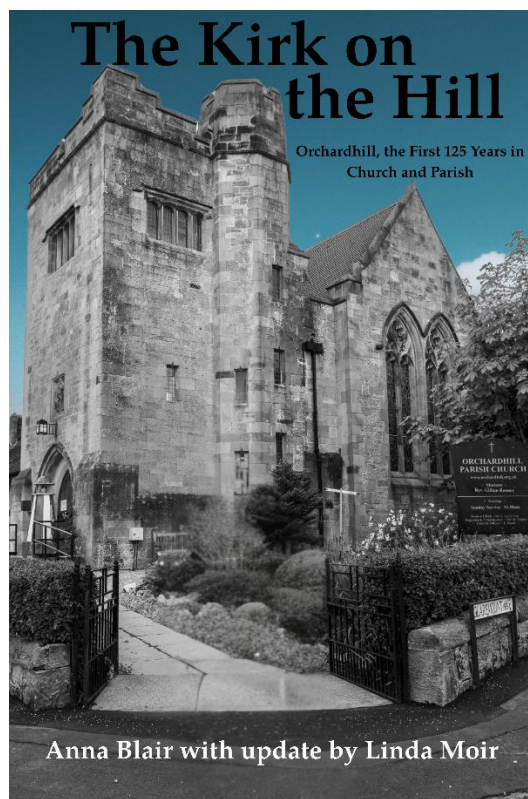
I look forward to many fun meals together in the future.

And finally, to paraphrase Bugs Bunny - "that's definitely all folks."

Book Launch & Film Night

As part of our 125th anniversary celebrations, we are delighted to invite you to a very special afternoon on Sunday 16 November—a chance to take a trip down memory lane together.

The afternoon will begin with the launch of Linda Moir's wonderful update to Anna Blair's much-loved history of Orchardhill Parish Church, *The Kirk on the Hill*. Linda's new edition brings the story up to date, covering the years from 2000 to the present day, and beautifully complements Anna's earlier work.



Copies of the book will be available for a donation rather than a set price. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who covered the printing costs, all proceeds will go directly towards supporting the Church's Youth and Family work.

After the launch, there will be time to relax and enjoy some cheese and wine, with an opportunity to chat and share memories.

We will then round off the afternoon with a much-anticipated screening of *Passing on the Cross*—the pageant written and performed by members of the congregation in November 1999 to mark the Church's centenary.



This promises to be a warm and memorable occasion—an **afternoon not to be missed!**

Junior Badminton

Judy Byrne and Barbara Mackenzie have led the Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club for a number of years and at the end of last season put down their badminton rackets and retired from leading the club.

Judy and Barbara were a fantastic team each bringing their unique skills to the role. The children not only learned badminton skills, they learned life skills including fair play, compassion and kindness to each other and those working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award also developed their leadership skills.

Many children have passed through the Junior Badminton Club and have benefitted from the dedication, love and nurturing environment created by Judy and Barbara through their years of service.

The club ran from September to March each year on every Saturday morning throughout the season; however there was additional time spent organising the administration of the club, and Judy and Barbara are looking forward to having more time to spend with their families.

Their retirement was marked with a presentation at the last Junior Club morning session followed by a lunch. We all wish Judy and Barbara a very happy retirement.

Shona Fletcher
Secretary, Orchardhill Senior Badminton Club

An Evening with Philippa Hanna

Friday 3 October & Saturday 4 October at 7.30pm

Join us at Orchardhill Parish Church for an unforgettable evening of music, inspiration, and community. Internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter Philippa Hanna will uplift us with her soulful voice, heartfelt lyrics, and powerful storytelling. This is a special opportunity to experience Philippa live in concert—an evening not to be missed!



Tickets are available online (link below) or from the Church Office.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-philippa-hanna-tickets-1585452253369>

Hosting an event of this quality involves a significant financial commitment, and in order to break even we need to sell around **450 tickets across both nights**. Please help us by spreading the word—invite friends, family, and members of other churches and communities.

Even better, why not buy more than one ticket and then invite someone else along as your guest.

Come along and share in what promises to be two inspiring evenings together.

Summer Mission 2025

Wow! What an incredible week we had for Summer Mission 2025.

The theme for the morning summer club – for primary age children – was the Orchardhill Desert Island, and our own tropical storm certainly helped to set the scene. That and the excellent palm trees, which even made it across to the Sanctuary for the end-of-week service.

In a world where many churches struggle to see children over the door, 123 different castaways were registered during the week, and had a ball with various themed crafts, games and bible stories. And singing. So much singing. Particular musical favourites this year were “Great, Great, Brill, Brill” and “My Lighthouse”, each with its own actions, though old favourites like “With Jesus in the Boat” and “The Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rocks” still raise the roof too.





Marshalling that sort of number of children around the halls and safely across Church Road is no small operation, and it could never be achieved without a veritable army (or perhaps Navy?) of volunteers. The teenage Young Leaders wrangled the tinies with enthusiasm and energy, and the Congregation turned out in force to serve breakfast, juice and snacks, to tell stories, to run games and crafts and generally to do whatever needed done.

Come the evening, around 35 youngsters from *OY! Summer* headed for the Memorial Halls to enjoy nights filled with challenges, games, speakers and fellowship, finishing

up with their legendary Water Games Night in Huntly Park. It was a privilege and a joy to watch them and join in some of the fun.



The volunteers who gave their time are far too numerous to list here, but you know who you are, and the Congregation is grateful to all of you for gifting your time to our youngsters in this way. We are very blessed to have a long history of summer mission here at Orchardhill, and it is wonderful that we are still able to put on such an amazing community event with no charge to families.

Particular thanks are due to Lorna Buchan and to Fiona Carmichael (and her whole family) for all their efforts in bringing together another week filled with joy and the love of the Lord.

Our summer week may be over for another year but there plenty of things still happening for youngsters at Orchardhill:

Sunday

Sunday school as part of our Sunday Service.

Check website to confirm time – all ages

Monday

10.30-11.00am Bookbug (church) – pre- schoolers

12.20-1pm – Hot Chocolate Club (Woodfarm High) – Woodfarm pupils

Tuesday

10-11.30am Orchard Tots (church hall) – pre- schoolers & families

11.30am-12.30pm –Café – for all

Wednesday

9.30am-11.30am Bookbug/Toddlers (Memorial Halls) –pre-schoolers & families

3.00-4.30pm Cosy Café (church) – P7 to S6

Friday

5pm-7pm – OY! Youthclub (church hall) – P6-S6

Monthly

Messy Church – quarterly Sunday afternoons. Next session 2nd November 12.30-2pm
-families of all ages and stages

All are welcome!!

Finance

The Orchardhill treasurer, Jim Kerr, has prepared the table below and the notes on the following page to update the congregation on how he expects the results for the year to turn out. The notes explain some of the figures in more detail and then give an overview and conclusion.

	Current Year		Prev Year
	Year to	Year to	Year to
	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
As at August 2025	Updated	Original	Actual
	Projection	Budget	Full year
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Donations and Legacies			
Donations	127,989	128,000	123,090
Gift Aid	30,750	30,750	29,561
Contributions from Cong Organisations	5,700	3,700	3,700
Sundry other donations and related Gift Aid	4,500	4,500	11,374
Subtotal	168,939	166,950	167,725
Hall rental	37,500	37,500	41,141
Other	2,200	2,200	5,577
Investment income and interest	9,200	9,500	10,314
TOTAL INCOME	217,839	216,150	224,757
NORMAL EXPENDITURE			
Giving to Grow & Presbytery Dues	96,651	96,651	96,052
Salary Costs and Organ Supply	70,900	70,900	67,492
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance, & similar	14,145	13,700	13,071
Heating, Lighting & Water	22,750	22,750	16,525
Insurance, Council Tax	14,523	13,550	14,616
All other costs	17,475	17,475	14,843
TOTAL NORMAL EXPENDITURE	236,444	235,026	222,599
"NORMAL" SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(18,605)	(18,876)	2,158
ONE OFF ITEMS			
Fire Alarms / Sensors upgrade	(7,537)	(7,376)	-
Church kitchen/ ladies toilet renovations (after grant)	(12,000)	(11,110)	-
Memorial Hall kitchen renovations	(5,006)	(4,050)	-
Memorial Hall unexpected electrical work	(2,868)	-	-
Upgrading electricity supply to kitchen / rear area	(6,364)	(6,364)	-
TOTAL ONE OFF ITEMS	(33,775)	(28,900)	-
OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) pre reval'n	(52,380)	(47,776)	2,158

* The final cost of the kitchen and toilet is expected to be a little higher as there were some additional expenses. The actual cost will depend on VAT recovery which is in the process of being claimed from the Listed Places of Worship scheme (which allows recovery of VAT incurred on expenditure on the church building).

Notes on Income and Expenditure

Offerings in the year so far have increased and are slightly lower than reflected in the budget. Hopefully income will increase slightly so at least the budget income figure will be achieved

Hall rental income, while down on the PY due to the loss of a user during 2024, is in line with the budget.

Contributions from Congregational Organisations appear higher as they include £1,000 from 2024.

Expenditure seems to be on budget in most areas, although there has been a substantial increase in insurance which is costing around 10% more than the previous year.

Overview and Conclusion

When the budget was prepared and presented to the Kirk Session, this showed the above deficit of £47,776 including the one- off items of £28,900. This was mentioned to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting in March.

The updated position is worse than the original budget as it reflects increases in certain costs - both those of a "normal" nature and those of a one-off nature .

When work starts on projects like the kitchens and ladies toilet, there is always the risk that issues are discovered that add to the expected costs, and this happened. Extra plastering was required and removal of the Memorial Hall kitchen highlighted wiring that was not only below current specification but really quite dangerous so this had to be fixed.

Both the church and Memorial Hall kitchens are considerably improved and this has been appreciated by everyone. Given the improvement in the facilities, a few individuals have made one off gifts towards these costs. It would be hoped that others may wish to make additional contributions on the same basis. Such contributions would not be taken into account in the figure of income used to work out what we pay to the Church of Scotland.

Ctd...

Even excluding the one- off nature of certain expenses, the underlying position is that normal expenditure exceeds normal income by a considerable margin, and, in this year this is around £18,000. This depletes reserves and cannot continue year to year.

Most members make their giving by monthly standing order. When did you last review yours? Would you please review and consider increasing your standing order? If so, please go online or contact your bank to make the change.

How does what you give compare with your monthly Sky / Virgin TV / broadband subscription or your gym / sports / golf club subscription, or a meal out?

We have limited scope to reduce our expenditure so the reality is that unless we can generate increased income from activities, our only way of reducing the deficit is to increase our congregational givings.

Jim Kerr, Treasurer, August 2025

Life and Work

After 146 years of monthly publication, Life and Work, the printed magazine of the Church of Scotland, has issued its final edition, that of August 2025. Like many newspapers, printed magazines are approaching the end of their days, but the work of communicating Christ's message to a mass audience will go on - in online worship, social media and podcasts.

Our quarterly Record has published a copy of the front page of Life and Work in recent years, together with a summary of magazine content. Those wishing a free copy of the commemorative final edition are invited to email admin@lifeandwork.org.

August 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Church of Scotland's 'Little Star'

A short history of Life and Work.

'Our' Magazine

Long-time readers, ministers and a former editor reflect on what Life and Work has meant to them.

Endings and Beginnings

The Moderator, the Rt Rev Rosie Frew, bids farewell to the magazine.

The Moderator's Gift

An appeal for Christian Aid.

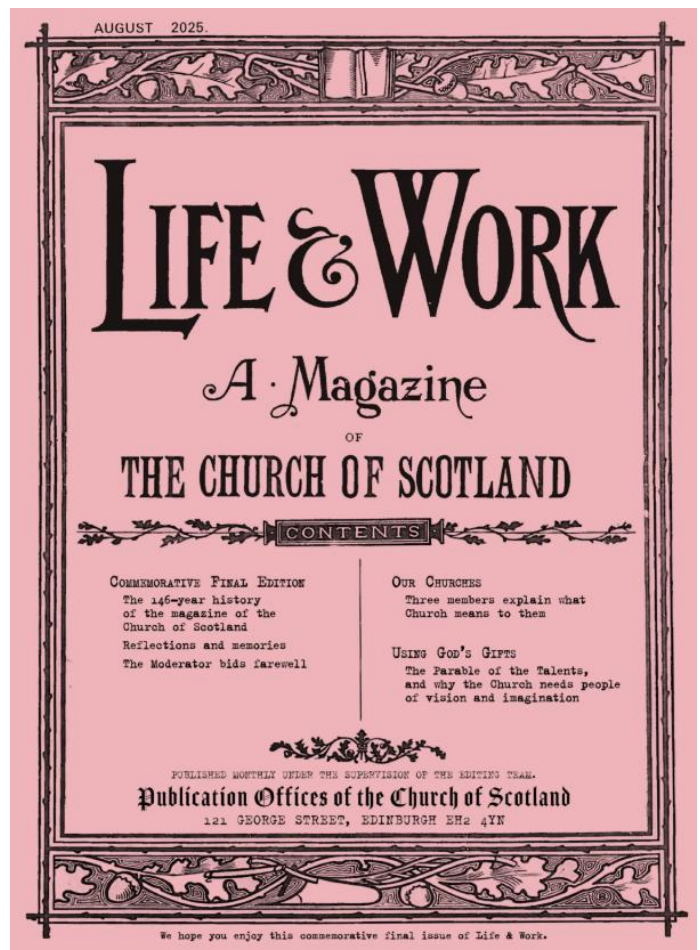
Our Churches

Members from Kilwinning, Ochiltree and Rotterdam conclude the series.

Regulars

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church
Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton
Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer
Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter.

The Life and Work team would like to acknowledge all our readers, co-ordinators, and ministers and magazine editors who have supported the magazine over the years. Thank you all.



David Reid Memorial Trophy

This annual golf tournament was special last year as the winner was the grandson of the outstanding golfer in whose memory the event is held.

David Reid was an active elder and BB Captain in Orchardhill and an honoured member of Pollok Golf Club. When his grandson, Ali Reid, was sitting next to one of our Orchardhill golfers, Neil Munro, at the convivial meal in Whitecraigs afterwards, Neil suggested that it would be good to have the competition held at Pollok this year – where there is a lounge named in honour of David Reid and where Neil is a member.

Ali, being last year's winner, had the task of organising this year's competition so he managed to negotiate with their Club's Captain – Eddie Prentice – a generous arrangement whereby Pollok kindly hosted our outing on the afternoon of Sunday August 24th. Many thanks to Ali for all his work behind the scenes.

After a few unfortunate but necessary call-offs, 16 golfers took to the course in mostly overcast but dry weather, including a keen member of Pollok from the Merrylea congregation.

This year's winner was in fact that member of Merrylea, Maurice Paterson – an entirely appropriate winner who, in his acceptance speech, mentioned he knew David Reid quite well and had played against him in a Club Championship.

Various other prizes were won by Andy Gall (nearest the pin), Dorothy Cartlidge (2nd prize) and Thomas Crooks, Aileen Scudds, and Max Steele (sharing 3rd prize).

The awards were announced during an excellent meal enjoyed at the Club by twelve other friends and relatives, as well as our golfers.

Congratulations to Maurice and we look forward to his organising next year's outing!





Hello From Robert Newth

I wanted to write a few words to introduce myself and to thank the congregation for making me feel so welcome at Orchardhill over the past few months!

To help us get to know each other better, I thought I would share some facts about myself: some of you perhaps already know that I play the French Horn- I'm sure it won't be long before you find me practicing in the church sanctuary before the service! Away from music, I am a huge Doctor Who fan, I've been learning Dutch for four years, and I love cooking (I even applied for Masterchef last year). My guilty pleasure is a mini sausage roll, so if there are ever any leftover in the church from parties or other events, I shall gladly take them off your hands!

I've had a connection with Orchardhill for a very long time as I used to live with my grandmother around the corner on St Anne's Drive. I have memories of attending the church cafe with her, and recall visiting the church for services with my primary school class... I admit those memories are a little hazy now.

In 2003 we moved to Kilmarnock, and my grandmother to Pollokshields, but she maintained good friendships with some members of the congregation and continued to frequent the cafe!

So, in a sense, playing here feels a bit like coming home, and I am looking forward to becoming a part of the church family. By the time you read this, the choir will have resumed rehearsals for an exciting Christmas musical- please do speak to me, Gillian, or any choir member if you would like to be a part of it (I would love to have more singers, particularly altos!). I am excited to get stuck in to it, and will share more details about the event soon!

Robert

The Golden Grass

The swaying grass, each golden blade, turning hues of green.

A fleeting grass ,a tall grass, a grass that glows each day.

But each golden kiss, each blade, fades with passing days.

Like flowers in the earth ,they temporarily hold their sway.

But deeper truth lies within, God's own outreached hands.

A lasting strength and truth, beyond the fading grass.

A community, a connection, a resting place it is.

For on and in the grass, a lesson therein lies.

Of fleeting beauty in each flower, a temporary covering of our land.

But our hope, it is eternal, in our Father's Hands.

@Yvonne Tough 2025

Based on Psalm 103:15



The Black Door Shop



Your charity inspiring action for our environment

It's Your Neighbourhood report

Name of group: The Black Door Shop

Date of visit: Wednesday 3rd July Name of volunteer assessor/mentor: Angela Smith

Introduction

The Black Door Shop is a vital community hub dedicated to fostering a warm, inclusive, and supportive environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds can come together to connect, learn, and address the evolving needs of their community. Over time, the space has grown and adapted, expanding its services and strengthening partnerships with local organizations to maximize its positive impact.

The Black Door Shop offers a variety of essential services that cater to different aspects of community life. These include garden spaces where expert volunteers nurture plants and people, a community kitchen and social space that encourages meaningful social interaction, as well as the management and organisation of donations in collaboration with MASLOW, supporting vulnerable members of the community. It also provides children's toys and games to promote play and development, alongside a tool library and workshop area that enable residents to access practical resources and engage in skill-building activities. Additionally, the initiative runs a laptop refurbishment and distribution programme aimed at bridging the digital divide and improving access to technology. The Black Door Shop also maintains garden and outdoor spaces, contributing to the wellbeing and environmental stewardship of the local area. Regular community litter-picking efforts further demonstrate its commitment to fostering a clean, safe, and welcoming neighbourhood. The Black Door Shop is supported by Orchardhill Parish Church.

Pillar A – Community Participation

The Black Door Shop offers many opportunities for community participation, placing a strong emphasis on skill-sharing across its diverse activities. This ethos is reflected in practices ranging from exchanging gardening knowledge and repairing laptops, to sewing and cooking. Central to the organization's mission are the environmental and social principles of sustainable planet-friendly gardening, reducing, reusing, and recycling, which underpin all its initiatives.

The project benefits from robust local, and many across-Scotland, networks that actively engage various groups in environmental stewardship. For example, youth groups such as those from S5 and S6 have demonstrated their commitment by organising items for reuse through MASLOW's collection programs, while young members from various organizations like the Boys Brigade consistently participate in regular litter-picking efforts to enhance the local environment's appearance and wellbeing. The group support East Renfrewshire Good Causes - referrals are signposted to The Black Door Shop who equip homes across the west of Scotland with household necessities.

Volunteering opportunities are abundant, with the Black Door Shop fostering an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere that encourages individuals to contribute, whether they bring specific skills or simply wish to support the day-to-day management of the space. The dedication of volunteers is clearly visible throughout the site, as evidenced by the ongoing maintenance and improvement of both indoor and outdoor facilities.

Moreover, the Black Door Shop continuously strives to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all community members. This commitment is demonstrated through practical measures such as the installation of an accessible toilet, the introduction of culturally diverse cooking sessions including Indian and Ukrainian cuisines, and the provision of free tool lending services. These efforts highlight the organisation's determination to create a space that is open and welcoming to everyone.

The group share what's going on and when, via social media,- the group have a very healthy following.

Pillar B – Environmental Responsibility

The Black Door Shop actively promotes environmental stewardship through ongoing initiatives aimed at reducing litter and enhancing sustainability. Regular weekend litter-picks not only help clear debris across the site but also serve as educational opportunities to engage the community in broader environmental discussions. Weekly collections of household items, clothing, and toys extend the lifecycle of these goods while encouraging young people to connect local environmental actions with wider societal issues.

Volunteer expertise, combined with resources from the tool workshop, reinforce the site's commitment to sustainability. For example, when the main roadside sign was damaged, volunteers repaired it using recycled materials, exemplifying the project's environmentally responsible approach.

Significant efforts have been made to cultivate the outdoor spaces with biodiversity and sustainability in mind. A dead hedge has been introduced to provide shelter and nesting for wildlife, alongside the planting of native trees, both beneficial for pollinators and birdlife. The installation of a large rainwater harvesting barrel collects water from the main building, supporting water conservation efforts. Composting practices are carried out, with bins accepting café waste such as tea bags and coffee grounds, complementing existing leaf mold bins that enrich soil quality for a diverse range of plants.

Additional features include bee hotels, bird boxes, and raised planters constructed from recycled materials in the tool workshop. The grounds showcase a rich variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals, with flowers grown from seeds collected in previous seasons and plans to propagate cuttings for future planting. The site's planting styles vary from cottage garden aesthetics to patio boxes and woodland areas featuring foxgloves, hostas, and ivy, reflecting a thoughtful and multifaceted approach to environmental care. Crops are grown on from seeds, and seed saving plant sharing takes place throughout the year.

Pillar C – Gardening Achievement

The grounds of the Black Door Shop are exceptionally well maintained by a dedicated team of knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers. Their thoughtful development of diverse garden spaces harmonizes seamlessly with the built environment, creating an inviting and cohesive setting. The volunteers' commitment to reflecting the organisation's values and fostering community engagement is evident in initiatives such as the annual planting of sunflowers, which brighten the area and uplift passersby, as well as the dedication of a peace tree in support of Ukraine.

Thanks to the sustained efforts of these volunteers, the site is visually appealing, featuring meticulously cared-for shrubs, trees, and expansive planted areas. Planting choices are clearly deliberate and strategic, resulting in garden spaces that are varied, imaginative, and flourishing. This careful stewardship not only enhances the aesthetic quality of the site but also reinforces the Black Door Shop's role as a vibrant community hub.

Areas of achievement

The group continues to develop and advance their project by leveraging the strengths and expertise of their volunteers, while remaining responsive to the evolving needs of both participants and the wider community. They demonstrate a keen ability to identify areas where they can effectively contribute solutions, such as facilitating connections between individuals downsizing their homes and those moving into their first homes in the UK. This adaptability and community-focused approach have earned the Black Door Shop outstanding recognition across all categories of the It's Your Neighbourhood award.

I am thrilled to share that Stephen Bennett of The Black Door Shop was recently invited to attend His Royal Highness King Charles' Garden Party at Holyrood Palace. This prestigious invitation was extended in recognition of the outstanding work they do, and I warmly congratulate Stephen and the team on this well-deserved honour.

Recommendations/suggestions

Continue developing your project.

Keep doing the amazing work you are doing, developing and evolving your project and growing people and place, be very proud, a massive well done.

Overall level achieved: Level 5 - Outstanding

New Church Kitchen

The church kitchen has been completely replaced over the summer.

Sparkling new units and worktops have made this a wonderful work space that is fit for a church in the 21st century. A new dishwasher has already made a considerable difference to those who have been on the Sunday tea rota and the hot water heater is now much more practical and allows for easy filling of the tea and coffee urns.

If you have not already done so – go and have a look for yourself.

Many thanks to all who were involved in arranging the works.



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.

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

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 or hand in a hard copy to the office.

Orchardhill Congregational Roll

Death

Derek Cousin 21.7.25

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

Church Grounds

Imagine if we treated the whole world as a garden, spreading across our cities, communities and landscapes nourishing people, plants and animals.

Less than 100 years ago, vast forests covered 40% of the Ethiopian Highlands. As the population grew, more farmland was required, the forests were cleared, leaving only the groves surrounding the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Churches. (Gillian's sermon – 2nd June 2024)

Symbolically, these groves provide a protective canopy for the sacred buildings at their centre and represent the Church's belief that humans are caretakers of nature. They are also areas of biodiversity, sustaining the region and by extension the welfare of the local farming communities.

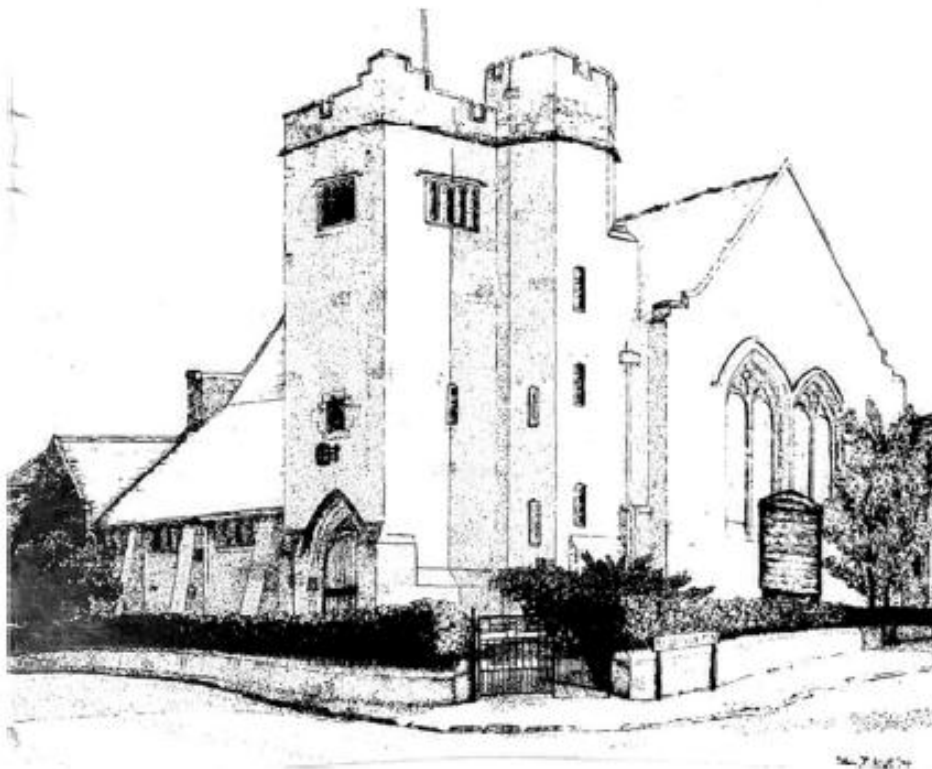
It struck me that Orchardhill's journey is not dissimilar. The Orchard was removed, but our forebears had the sense to retain land around the church. We are seeking a return to a more harmonious relationship with nature through innovation, scientific and traditional knowledge. Expanding our idea of what a garden can be, creates possibilities for all of us to grow a liveable future for everyone and everything.

A big thank you to everyone who watered and cared for plants this summer, and helped in this process.

*The*KIRK *on* *the*HILL

*Orchardhill, the First Ninety Years
in Church and Parish*

Anna Blair



Orchardhill

THE KIRK ON THE HILL



The First Hundred Years
in Church and Parish

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