

THE RECORD



June 2023



A Word from Gillian Rooney



We are fortunate in Orchardhill to have a congregation who have so many talents that can be used to the benefit of others. Whether these be in making soup and baking cakes to allow us to undertake our mission work, or whether they be medical skills used to improve people's quality of life, or legal wherewithal to ensure people have access to good advice or justice.

With talent and competence a person can rightfully develop self confidence in their ability. However confidence in one's abilities in their choice of career or in a hobby where they excel is one thing. Having the confidence to go up to a friend, neighbour or – heaven forbid – a stranger, to tell them about Jesus, and ask them to come along to church and learn more is something many of us find much more difficult.

As a church we are placing particular emphasis on our outreach mission work just now. We recently held a seminar, facilitated by Mr Michael Harvey of ACORN, who gave us some practical guidance on how we can approach inviting people to come along to one of our church activities. Michael and others spoke movingly of their own experience of being invited and inviting others, telling of the difference that this made. Michael also gave a summary of this in our Sunday service on the 30th of April. If you missed this service remember that you can watch this back on our YouTube channel!

The days of people turning up of their own accord and joining us in droves are gone. Unfortunately, I don't think they will return in my lifetime. It IS difficult - I know this from personal experience - however if we are to join in growing God's Kingdom, we need to think about taking positive steps to encourage others to join us.

Over the next few months, I would encourage you to think about inviting a friend, neighbour – or even a stranger - to come along and join us. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Yours in Christ,

Gillian

Church Choir

On Palm Sunday evening, the Choir welcomed a good number of supporters for tea and coffee, craft stalls and the Easter story in readings and song.

Well known hymns and readings mixed in with anthems from the Choir, made it an enjoyable and meaningful time of reflection as we prepared to enter Holy Week.

The Choir and myself thank you for supporting us and we hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did preparing it.

Our thanks to Bill Wallace for sound, Shona Fisher for screens, John Thomson as our narrator and Isabella for helping the Choir with set-up and refreshments.

The choir will be taking a well-earned break over the Summer months, and we return to rehearsing on Wednesday 6th September to prepare for an evening of song in October and our Christmas Musical offering later in December. New members are always welcome.

Best wishes for a lovely Summer



Ladies Badminton Club Golden Anniversary

It was a lovely morning of catching up, reminiscing, and chatting with friends old and new, over a cup of tea and cake.

44 ladies attended the Ladies Badminton Club 50⁺² anniversary celebration event on Tuesday 18th April 2023.



Nanette Davidson gave the welcome speech, including a brief history of the club, and a funny poem about badminton was read by Elspeth Tobin.

With founding members Jane Carmichael, Jean Carswell, and Mardae Gordon supervising from the side-lines, we enjoyed playing some crazy badminton; newspapers on the net and balloons tied to rackets. Overcoming the restrictions and with the luck of the dice, the winner of the crazy badminton tournament was Helen Lennox.

The Ladies Badminton club was started in 1971, and although faces have come and gone through the years, the strong sense of fellowship and support remains.

A fun morning with a friendly atmosphere was had and we look forward to celebrating our 60th anniversary in eight years' time.



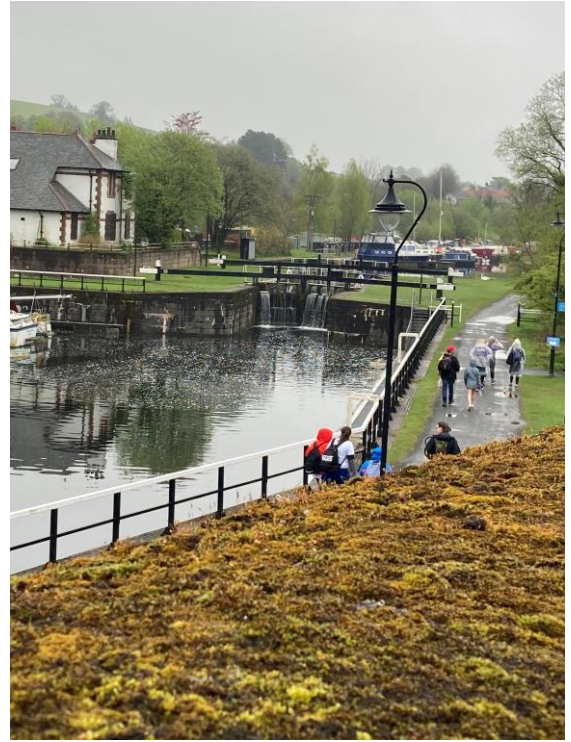
The Glasgow Kiltwalk

A record 13,500 people put on kilts or alternative tartan clothes, for the Glasgow Kiltwalk on the last day of April, with Christian Aid being one of 850 charities supported by sponsorship of the walkers.

Our grateful thanks are due to all those who contributed in person to Orchardhill's senior walker, David Howard, or via his 'Just Giving' page online - a total of nearly £1200 was raised at Orchardhill ahead of the Christian Aid week in May. With other walkers, Christian Aid has received some £13,000 in total from the event.

April 30th dawned dreich, drizzly and damp, but there was a festival atmosphere on the canal bank near Clydebank station, as Dorothy and Ian joined David at the start of the 'Big Stroll' to Loch Lomond. The 14 miles we covered were a happy medium between younger walkers who did a 'Mighty Stride' starting at Glasgow Green, and those older, very young, or less mobile, who did a 'Wee Wander' of 3 miles from Loch Lomond Shores shopping centre to the finish at Moss o' Balloch park.





The Forth and Clyde canal was followed through Old Kilpatrick to Bowling Basin, then the walk used cycle track and roads through Dumbarton to a welcome pit stop in a park. There was another brief pit stop near Renton, as we travelled north up the Vale of Leven, and grit and determination over the final 3 miles completed the journey to Balloch.



A photo at the start was sent to our Minister, who showed it to the Congregation at morning service that day. It is reproduced herewith, together with some other images along the way.

Easter Service

Easter Sunday 2023 fell on a bright, dry April morning, perfect for the early service again to be held outside in the Peace Garden.

Around 40 attended, presented on arrival with a daffodil to add to the floral cross - what a wonderful sign of spring and rebirth. Led by Gillian and with music by David from just inside the hall, the short service included hymns, prayers and readings. Communion was then shared. Following recent approval by the Kirk Session, the children of our Congregation were able to take Communion, and many of us felt it a privilege to share this with Orchardhill's youngsters for the first time.

As always, the early service was followed by a hearty breakfast, and many thanks are due to the kitchen team who welcomed us in with such a spread. Bacon rolls are always a highlight, along with the chance to catch up with friends old and new. And then on to the main morning service

A few years ago, there were concerns that the Easter early service and breakfast might end if not supported. It's been wonderful to see this go from strength to strength.



86th Boys' Brigade – Junior Section & Anchor Boys

We have now come to the end of our B.B. Session.

While it has been enjoyable, it has also been quite hard going, as we have only had 5 boys ranging from Primary 1 – Primary 6 and, as you can imagine, quite a difference in abilities.

We have covered all our 22 Activities in Anchor Boys and 1st year Juniors, and 28 Activities in 3rd year Juniors. These include:

Adventure
Learning

Get Active
Involvement

Get into the Bible
Extras.

Creativity

Under Adventure, we had 'building our own den' using a few chairs and a blanket. We also visited the 'lighthouse' and learned to decipher its Morse Code. To make the Bible a little more fun, we started to build a Noah's Ark. This was quite difficult, so it is a work in progress, and will be finished next year. At the Coronation weekend we had an evening of Coronation Activities plus a visit from our Elder Dr Richard Park, who entered into the evening's activities. The boys had fun with their r.c. (remote control) cars, learning how to manoeuvre through chair legs and other obstacles. Our last night was a water based one – water balloons, filling buckets of water through a pipe with holes in it, trying to roll tennis balls down gutters into a bucket – but the gutters were too short to reach the pail. The boys had to work out how to fill the gap, which they did.

Our new Session poses a problem for the 86th as there will only be 3 boys – 2 Anchors and 1 Junior. Come September, we will welcome any boy of Primary 1 age up to and including Primary 6 to come along and join us in our next Session of Fun and learning.

My thanks to Dr Park for his continuing interest in the Company and also to Captain Bennett for his help and support this last year.

Margaret Howard Lt. 86th BB.

ACORN

On the 28th of April Orchardhill played host to folks from the Acorn Faith Initiative. Michael Harvey, Rob Rawson and Paul Harrington travelled from across the country to lead the informative and inspiring 2-hour session. I first heard about ACORN during the lockdown when I attended a webinar on mission during the pandemic. I heard Michael speak about a spiritual practice that would revolutionise my view of evangelism. The basic premise of ACORN is to ask God to prompt you with a name of a person that you should reach out to, someone that you should call and simply ask how they are doing?

The next step is to obey that prompting and to make contact, checking in with them and really listening to what is happening in their lives. It could be said that the ACORN practice is faith sharing for introverts, as this is not about you speaking but about you listening to the person and to God. Looking for the ways that God is already at work in their lives, looking for the fingerprints of God. It might be that the conversation is over, and you are left wondering what next and that is the question that we should ask God. What is next for that person and for you? This is not rocket science and is perhaps a practice that many of you already do naturally. What I think is important about ACORN is that it gives people an opportunity to think and notice what God is doing with others. ACORN groups are ways to encourage one another, to look together for resurrection in the world and to support one another to keep going. If you are interested in being part of a small ACORN group please speak to me and I will let you know the details.

Michael Harvey, who founded this movement, preached on Sunday the 30th April and challenged each of us to ask God for a name, someone that God has placed on our hearts; this picture shows the outcome, a cross covered in names, people who we perhaps are already praying for. Maybe these people are just waiting to be asked to come along to church, asked to become part of something bigger than them, bigger than you and me. Let's take that next step and ask them, trusting that God is already at work and is longing for us to join in.



Life and Work

June 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

'Knowledge Feeds Our Souls'

Interview with Brother Guy, one of the Papal Astronomers.

Letter from the Holy Land

In the start of a regular series from the Church of Scotland's ministers in the Holy Land, the Rev Muriel Pearson reports on an event bringing together bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families.

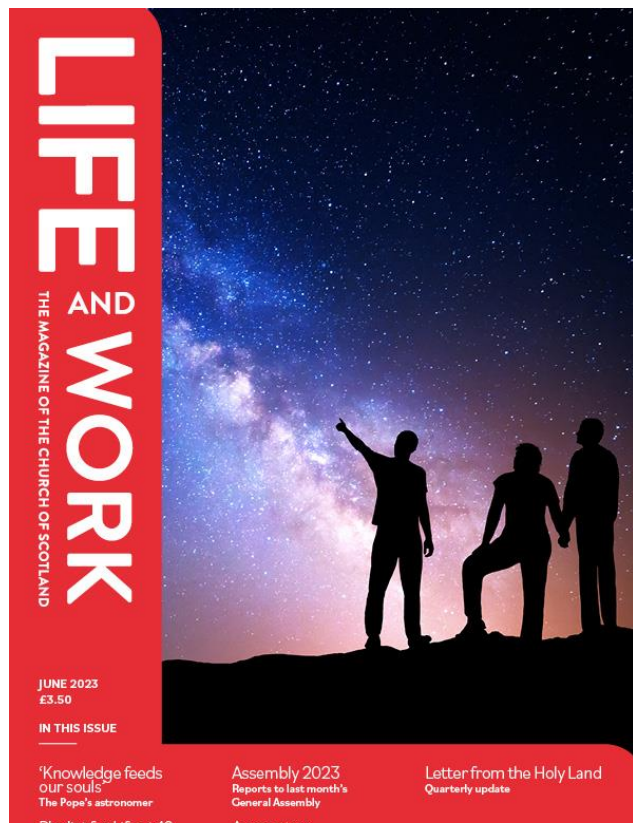
Assembly 2023

Four pages of reports to the Assembly.

The Procurator and Service

The outgoing Procurator to the General Assembly, Laura Dunlop KC, reflects on her 18 years in the role.

And much more.



Black Door Shop

Saltire Certificates

Week by week Clara, Sally, Sophie and Findlay have helped providing teas and more recently have been getting up early on Saturday mornings taking part in litter picking in Giffnock.

A few weeks ago while litter picking they found an iPhone that had been dropped at a shop front and handed it into the Police Office. This caused great excitement among them all.

On another occasion they received a gift of £5 to share between them from a lady who was inspired by their efforts lifting litter.

On Sunday 09/04/2023, I presented Saltire Certificates, representing 25 hours of working in the community, to them. Sophie couldn't be in the church that day, but her mum Lorna collected her certificate.

Seen below are our great ambassadors with their uplifted litter bags and the sweets they got from the gift of £5.



Kiltwalk 2023

On Sunday 30/04/2023 members of the 28th Giffnock Scouts took part in the Kiltwalk 2023 raising funds for our toilet project. When they set out at 7.30 they were inspired by donations received totalling £1391.

Some of the Scouts taking part are seen below with our Clara and Sally highlighting our new finger post.



Stephen

Community Wall Hanging

Towards the end of last year it was suggested that Giffnock Primary School and Orchardhill Church may like to work together to celebrate the opening of Giffnock Primary School in the tower room of the church 120 years ago. One part of this was the creation of a museum in the tower, and now the second part is ready - a commemorative fabric wall-hanging.

In January each child at the school was given a homework project to complete - researching, talking and recording ideas with friends, family and neighbours about what they would like to celebrate about belonging to the Giffnock community.

Homework complete, I visited each class in the school to explain more about how we were going to go about designing the wall hanging. Each of the fourteen classes would have their own panel, designed and sewn by them, along with one panel made by the nursery, and one panel made by the volunteers at the church.

Within each class, designs were discussed and drawings made until the pupils were happy with how their individual class panel would look, and how it would be constructed. Materials were gathered and purchased, volunteers from both the church and school were recruited, and we started.

Drawing, tracing, cutting, threading a needle, hand sewing, machine sewing, glueing, needle felting, cross stitching, learning how to sew on a button and beads - many new skills were learnt! When all the panels were complete they were stitched together to make our wonderful wall hanging.

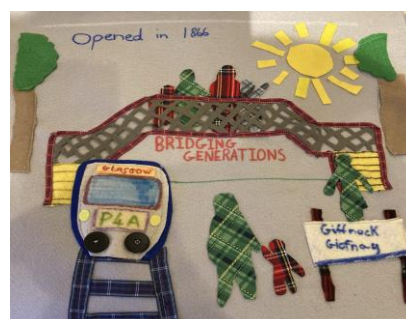


The wall hanging was unveiled at the 120 years Celebration Tea Party at the school on May 25, but will be brought to hang in the church over the summer months.

Please take the time to have a look and admire the children's handiwork.



From children's original artwork to finished panel:



Easter Egg Collection 2023

The Congregation and Community of Orchardhill responded with their usual generosity to Stepping Stones' request for help with their collection of Easter Eggs for children who might otherwise go without.

Over 200 chocolate eggs were received, and the haul was split between families supported by our friends at Carnwadric Foodbank and the Lodging House Mission

Thanks from Stepping Stones to everyone who helped reach this wonderful total.



A Qualified Workforce

Two of our congregation have recently undertaken extensive training and development and have gained a Level 6 Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Construction Occupational Work Supervision. This nationally recognised qualification is awarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Stephen Bennett and James Going, who run the Black Door Shop, had investigated qualifications that people supervising construction-based works would generally be required to hold if they were working in industry.

They found that, in the construction industry, supervisors are expected to undertake a recognised supervisory qualification – typically in the form of an SVQ. The SVQ is a prerequisite for someone to gain a Gold Supervisors CSCS Card (Construction Skills Certification Scheme). CSCS is recognised as the benchmark for competence - and both Stephen and James have since gone on to gain their Gold Cards.

Stephen said ‘Under health and safety legislation, there is a requirement for works to be planned, supervised, and undertaken by competent people. Whilst James and I had extensive experience, we were aware that competence is generally defined as being experienced AND qualified. As such, we wanted to undertake a recognised qualification. The SVQ was undertaken by providing evidence to an assessor that demonstrated we were doing certain things in a certain way. We were both delighted to receive our certificates and, subsequently our Gold CSCS Cards, which are recognised throughout the UK construction industry as the hallmark of competence’.



Community Lunch on Coronation Weekend

On Sunday the 7th of May we were able to enjoy lunch together as a congregation. This was in common with many communities and groups across the UK in order to mark the Coronation of King Charles III the previous day.

A wonderful spread of sandwiches, rolls, wraps and, of course, home baked cakes were enjoyed, with not an empty seat to be found.

Many thanks to all who were involved in making this possible.





A Week in the Life of ...

Church Officer Isabella Hood

The longest served member of the Orchardhill Team, Isabella came to us in December 2000. John Spiers was our minister, and Isabella's children, Lynda and Andrew, were just seven and two. So many things have changed along the way, but the highlight of Isabella's week is still welcoming the Congregation in for Sunday worship.

Isabella came to Orchardhill already knowing the role of a Church Officer, since her late mum, Margaret, was Church Officer at the then Govan Parish Church. The family lived "above the shop", and Isabella remembers knocks at the door at all hours. In fact, she was surprised and more than a little concerned to be left largely undisturbed, when off duty at her new home. Though nowadays urgent congregational contact is likely to be a text or a WhatsApp.

Through the week, you'll find Isabella in and around the Church buildings, making sure every room is spotless and ready for the next meeting, and that the toilets and kitchens are just as organisations and users would hope to find them. She's also busy in the office, liaising with Carol-Anne regarding hall bookings, and with Dave to make sure the online calendar is accurate and up to date. The Team works hard to accommodate any requests to use our premises, and anyone who pops in at any time will notice that the buildings thrum with activity all day every day.

There are so many different aspects to Isabella's work:- keeping us safe by checking the fire alarms and extinguishers, keeping us warm by ensuring the heating is on at the right times, and keeping the building secure via the door entry system.

The Church obviously plays a vital role in many of the big events of life, and Isabella says it's been her privilege to be with families at special moments. Christenings, weddings, funerals - Isabella has been there to cuddle the babies, help calm the brides, and to offer a tissue and a kind word to those saying goodbye to a loved one.

Welcoming visitors is always a treat, and Isabella admits she loves it when people compliment the beautiful sanctuary, or our lovely garden. And in her "extra" role as Presbytery Officer, she loves to get to visit other Churches around Glasgow. And, over the years, it has been a treat to see generations of children celebrating the end of term with school services at Orchardhill.

If you ask Isabella about her work, she'll talk mostly about her pride in keeping the Church clean and ready. She doesn't realise how important the role she plays is, as our ambassador, our key link to visitors and hall users. Quite simply, for many of our users, Isabella is the face of Orchardhill. And we would not be able to achieve that high level of rentals and hall usage - vital both for the Church's mission to the community and for our income - without her friendly helpfulness.

Gillian agrees that Isabella doesn't see herself as a vital part of the Ministry Team. "She helps me to do my job, and to do it better. Isabella knows absolutely *everyone*, so she knows who to ask for something, who can help and who maybe needs some help. That's completely invaluable".

Congregational Roll

Deaths

Colinette Allan
May Storrie

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

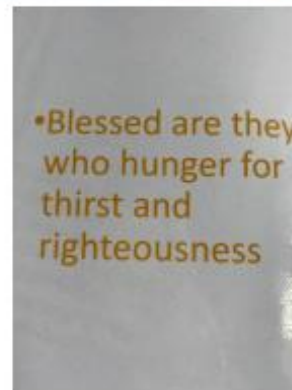
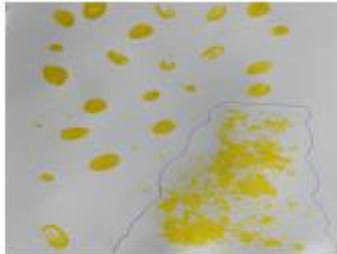
Disjunctions

Margaret Forsyth
Moirra Peebles

Baptisms

Charlotte and Cameron Fell

The Kids



The pictures above are great clues to what we Learned about at our Last Messy Church.

The Beatitudes.

We had great fun learning All 8 of them, followed by bee related crafts. And to keep the yellow theme going it was all topped off by absolutely delicious mac & cheese

Our next Messy Church is on Friday 26th May so if you would like to come along for lots of fun, faith and food it would be lovely to see you!!

Register by emailing youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk

Why do bees go to church

Cause they are believers !!!!



Old Schoolroom Museum



Explore Giffnock from 1900
to the present day.

Find out the link between
Orchardhill Church and
Giffnock Primary School.

In collaboration with



Giffnock
Primary School

**The
Generation
Story**



Opening Times

Thursday 8 June 10am – 12noon

Thursday 15 June 10am – 12noon

Thursday 29 June 10am – 12noon

The Orchardhill Church building opened its doors on 13th May 1900 and as the Giffnock community continued to develop, there came the need to open a public school in Giffnock, under the Education Authority.

The only available premises were the rooms in the church tower and so Giffnock Primary School was opened with twenty-seven pupils at 10am on 11th November 1902.

Started in 2018, *The Generation Story* is a project that embraces diversity through our intergenerational activities with children from Giffnock Nursery and Primary School and Orchardhill members. These social and creative engagements bring together younger and older generations for a common purpose. They build on the strengths that different generations have to offer, nurture understanding, mutual respect, tackle isolation and challenge ageism.

The original Giffnock Primary School started in the tower rooms of the church and so this has led to a joint project to recreate the Old Schoolroom and establish a small museum charting the changes from 1900 to the present day in learning, technology, family life, toys, pastimes, community life, etc.

Following the Grand Opening on Friday 11th November 2022 – exactly 120 years since it first opened in 1902, it is open to our community and we look forward to welcoming you to visit.



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