

THE RECORD



Winter 2024



A Word from Gillian Rooney



I can hardly believe we are approaching Advent and the festive period already. This year has passed so quickly.

A lot has happened since the last edition of The Record. Following a resounding vote by the congregations of both Orchardhill and Merrylea, and subsequent approval by Presbytery, we will formally form a Linkage of both churches in January.

These are exciting times as we move forward together, building a strong base for future generations to continue to worship as part of a vibrant, Jesus centred, community of worshipers in this part of the south side of Glasgow.

There will, of course, be challenges. We will all be required to adapt to the change, to embrace 'new ways of doing things'. There will need to be a greater level of congregational involvement from both congregations.

I firmly believe these are compelling times for us all. I would ask that you think, pray, and discern what Jesus is saying to you about how YOU can get fully involved in making this linkage the great success I know it can be.

As we look forward to the festivities, we should not forget that we are, in the main, a fortunate community. As always, members of our congregation - and our neighbours - have really stepped up to the mark with regards to our annual Tree of Kindness appeal. The response has been overwhelming, and the donations will make a real difference to many young people who live not so far from us.

I would ask that you check the weekly Orchardhill Enews for details of Christmas services and events – why not invite a friend or neighbour to come along with you?

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours in Christ
Gillian



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Hearing Sciences Scottish Section

www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/hs-glasgow

Can you help us by taking part in our hearing research?



Hearing Sciences – Scottish Section is a thriving research group dedicated to understanding and alleviating hearing difficulties, based at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Our special strength is linking hearing to behaviours in real-life situations, especially where communication is challenging.

We are always looking for more people to help us with our research. If you would like to participate, please send an email or call us at

 hs-glasgow@nottingham.ac.uk 

 **0141 242 9665** 

We will reply with an invitation to an initial induction session involving questionnaires and a few short tests (e.g., listening to speech in noise). After this initial session, we may occasionally invite you to participate in future studies.

We welcome adults of any age, whether or not they experience any hearing difficulties. Please note that your willingness to participate in this research will not affect your medical treatment in any way.

HEARING SCIENCES – SCOTTISH SECTION · LEVEL 3 NEW LISTER BLDG · GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY



participant recruitment leaflet

final version 1.2 01 Feb 2024

Our own Lindsey Steele, as part of her PhD research, is heavily involved in this project. Please note that this is separate from the NHS pathways and doesn't affect routine care.

Alex Mall

1946-2024

Amongst the many tributes to the late Alex Mall - who died in September aged 78 - a few words leap out continually: Kind. Thoughtful. A gentleman.

Alexander Lubhu Mall was born on 1st March 1946 in Martinpur, a Christian village then in India. Within 18 months, Indian independence and partition saw the family home become part of Pakistan. Like many in the area, the Mall family would have members on both sides of the border.

Alex was the youngest of nine children, some 20 years younger than his oldest sister. Although the age gaps made the sibling relationships a little unusual, the family was a close one, and young Alex grew up with many nieces and nephews nearer to his age than to their parents'.

Throughout his life, Alex remained close to his wide family, speaking often to various relatives by phone. Some might remember an occasional Sunday morning ring, perhaps mid sermon. Family in Pakistan sometimes miscounted the time difference, to Alex's mortification.

Success at school led to University. After graduating with a degree in economics, Alex considered entering the ministry. Instead, he came to the UK. After a short stint as a bus driver, he embarked on what would be his life's work and passion, his nursing career. Over the next 30 years, he would rise through the ranks, ultimately retiring from a role in hospital management.

Alongside his work, two things mattered to Alex: his family and his faith. He and Nora were blessed with four children, Fiona, Michael, Lani and Johnny. Alongside the happiest of times, including the arrival of their beloved grandchildren, the family saw tragedy with the death of Johnny. Through good and bad, they clung together and relied on their faith.

But for Alex, faith was very much a lived thing. A faithful elder at Orchardhill, he was also hugely active in the Scottish Asian Christian Fellowship, which he helped to found. And he found time to extend a loving hand to any friend who needed it.

Alex Mall will be remembered by many of us as a friend, a neighbour, an elder of this Congregation, and as an “Uncle” regardless of any claim of kinship. But those who loved him best will miss him most. Please remember in your prayers Nora, his beloved wife of 48 years, his surviving children Fiona, Michael and Lani, and his adored grandchildren.



A Thought.....

Unexpected events can knock us off our feet. And while some of us get knocked down and out, others get back up and go on. They refuse to accept defeat as being permanent.

They're like the man who said, 'I'm never down; I'm either up, or I'm getting up.' They see everything that happens in life as a learning experience.

Losing a loved one is heart breaking, but it can also be a wake-up call to live every day of your life to the fullest.

Losing a job can be traumatic, but it can also bring to the surface talents and abilities you never knew you had.

Struggling to overcome a bad habit can lead to reprioritising your life, and instituting healthy habits.

You can prepare for the worst by saving money for emergencies, taking classes about new products and technology, keeping your relationships and contacts current, so when you need to call someone for help, someone will willingly pick up the phone.

Doing so is like having a spare tyre and tools in your boot for changing a flat. You hope you never need to use them, but you keep them ready to go in the event you hit a bump in the road.

Above all, keep your relationship with God in good repair! 'The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand' (Psalm 37:23-24 NIV)

Treasures of the National Gallery

The Sanctuary was packed again on 6th November for another in Maureen Park's occasional series of art lectures.

Turning her attention this time to some Treasures of the National Gallery, Maureen took her rapt audience on a tour of her personal highlights of the famous London gallery. And as always, there is so much more to the paintings than might meet the eye. Maureen pointed out small details, explained various symbols, and even showed us where to stand to catch the *momento mori* in one particular artwork.

A voluntary collection was taken, with a generous response from the crowd. Over £1000 was raised, and - after a donation to Orchardhill for the use of the Sanctuary - this will again be passed on to charity. This time, the proceeds will be split between the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice and Prostate Cancer UK, two causes close to many of our hearts.



Important Financial Update & Appeal

At the recent meeting I reported that the likely outcome for the current year was a deficit of £6,000 on normal activities. This is a considerable improvement on the budgeted deficit of £20,500 and the reasons for this are that the church has received exceptional donations of some £8,500 and, barring unexpected costs, the fabric expenditure is likely to be considerably less than the original budget. However as most of you will be aware dry rot has been found in the floor of the church kitchen and this could involve a £20,000 cost to carry out repairs although this will not impact on the 2024 outcome but will be dealt with in 2025.

The initial indications are that, even without the kitchen floor issue, we will be looking at a substantial deficit for 2025. Our expenditure continues to increase - eg. gas and electricity, where our cost under our current contract is close to double what it was on our fixed contract that ended in the last year. While our hall rental income remains at a reasonable level, this has dropped recently largely due to the loss of a user who has moved to cheaper premises.

While our income from offerings has increased over the last three years by a cumulative 6%, over that same period inflation has been a cumulative 20% so there has been a substantial erosion - our expenditure has increased by 3 times more than our income. Over that same period state pensions have increased by a cumulative 20%, and earnings possibly by a similar amount.

I am sure you will agree that there have been quite a number of exciting initiatives in Orchardhill in recent years, and the church has a much higher profile in the local community than previously. If we are to continue and develop these further, other than eating into our limited reserves every year, it is important that we eradicate this financial deficit, and the only realistic way of achieving this is to increase congregational givings.

With the approach of Advent, when we all prepare to buy gifts for family and friends, could I ask you to consider reviewing and, if possible, increasing your gift to the Church?

Since I became treasurer almost 3 years ago, out of around 120 standing orders, only 14 members have increased the amount given. When did you last review yours?

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?

If every member giving by standing order gave an extra £15 per month (£3.50 per week, about the price of a cup of coffee), we would raise £20,000 in a year, enough to clear the projected deficit. While some would be unable to give that amount, others could perhaps give a bit more.

Would you please review and consider increasing your standing order? If so, please go online or contact your bank to make the change.

If you are not currently paying by standing order and / or by Gift Aid, please speak to me, call me on 07962 813330 or email me at treasurer@orchardhill.org.uk for the appropriate forms.

Thank you for your previous and ongoing support for God's work in Orchardhill.

Jim Kerr, Treasurer

The Old Schoolroom Museum

Have you paid a visit to The Old Schoolroom Museum? Located in the tower room, up a winding staircase from the Claremont entrance to the Church is a treasure trove, waiting to prod the memories of anyone with an interest in Giffnock's past.

Although the museum covers far more than the links between Orchardhill Church and Giffnock Primary School, its genesis lies in those connections, both historic and more modern.

Following on from the success of the Generation Stories project, which engaged a number of "Grandbuddies" from Orchardhill in social and creative activities with the school population, Lindsay Barr was keen to develop a project that would engage the children. Together with our then minister, Grant Barclay, he developed the idea of a museum that would celebrate the connections, which of course go back to the foundations of Giffnock School in the tower at Orchardhill.

Lindsay quickly enlisted the support of Fiona McAslan, whose gifts for the visual and background in display began to bring the idea into reality. The pandemic brought huge delays to the project, as to so many things, but Lindsay and Fiona worked away separately during those long months when they could not work together.

The museum finally opened on 11th November 2022, exactly 120 years after the opening of the school itself, and in that same room. How wonderful that Giffnock's modern pupils were front and centre on opening day, able to see and to share the history of their school.



But it would be a mistake to imagine that The Old Schoolroom Museum is only a museum of Giffnock Primary School. Although much of the material relates to it - and indeed amongst the museum's most cherished items is a series of log books and records on long-term loan from the school - the museum covers a much wider local history. A time line around the walls leads the visitor through the decades of the 20th and early 21st centuries, including social changes, technology, war, music and sport. There is genuinely something to interest everyone.



The ethos of the project has been to maintain and develop the close links between the School and the Church, both of which are central to our community. The children's involvement is everywhere. Their voices have been used on recordings of congregational memories, and the children made the beautiful marbled papers used as inlays for display frames and boxes, with help and guidance from Fiona.



But it is the historical artefacts which are the stars of the show, and anyone with an interest in local history and education will enjoy a wander around the displays. Support for the project came from a small award from Congregational funds and a grant from the National Lottery towards the work of the Generation Story. Thanks are also due to Amanda Robb, Local Studies Librarian at Giffnock Library and to our own Gillian Brogan for help with various resources.



Church Gardens

The Garden Task Group would like to thank the congregation for responding so generously to our Garden Fund Appeal. The magnificent sum of £912.00 has been realised. We would like to assure everyone that this money will be used carefully and appropriately, following the 5th Mark of Mission - "To strive to safeguard the integrity of the creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth."

Work will continue over the winter months, weather permitting, when the hedges will receive attention. Clearing perennial invasive weeds in the area between the two car parks is ongoing, and we would welcome plain brown cardboard, with sellotape removed, for use as a weed suppressant. Please flatten boxes and place on the floor of the shed, situated near the rear door of the church.

A Light-Hearted Thought on the Length of a Service.....

It isn't only operas that can be too long for many people, but church services.

Hugh Montefiore, the former Bishop of Birmingham, when asked whether he was high church or low church, replied: "I'm short church."

A Huge Thank You

James Aiton Primary school would like to say huge thanks to Stephen Bennett from Black Door shop for coming along to Primary 7, and teaching them how to make a pencil holder. The children all learned such valuable skills, and had lots of fun.



Congregational Roll

New members by resolution of the Kirk Session

Jethro Barclay

Andrea Jones

Lauren Heffron

Alice McGregor – Heywood

James Going

Phil Tyson

Alexa Mills

Lindsey Steele

Max Steele

New members by certificate of transference

David Crawford

Wendy Crawford

David Elliot

David Leslie

Marion Leslie

Alan McLaughlin

Lynsey McLaughlin

Deaths

Mr Alex Mall

Date of death 10 September 2024

Mrs Jean Kilpatrick

Date of death 16 October 2024

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

86th Boys' Brigade –Junior Section & Anchor Boys

Although we are small in number, the Junior and Anchor Boys are very enthusiastic and are keen to be their best in their Achievements and games.

The Boys are working hard through 'Being Active, Adventure, exploring the Bible, Being Creative (they made pizza, and we had fun with Hamma Beads, an old favourite). Being Involved & Learning.

As part of being Active, Involved and Learning, we had a Badminton Grade 1 Coach come along to give the boys an introduction to Badminton. The boys enjoyed hitting the shuttlecock over the net and it was surprising how they developed over the evening. At the end of November we have another favourite, needless to say, involving food when we have our Chocolate night.

December sees the start of Christmas Activities as well as the Christmas Story, ending the session with Christmas Activities followed by food.

We have vacancies in all our groups:

Anchor Boys	Primary 1, 2 and 3
Juniors	Primary 4,5 and 6
Company Section	Primary 7 up to and including S6.

We are always on the lookout for new members of Staff. It is a very worthwhile experience. Please give this your prayerful consideration. More information can be obtained from Captain Stephen Bennett.

All sections resume on Friday 10th January 2025

Margaret Howard



Tearfund Quiz Night

On the 26th of October we had a quiz night in aid of Tearfund. A nice buffet and good company contributed to an enjoyable evening where £525 was raised. A well done to everyone who took part. A special mention to our winning team consisting of Anne Anderson, Dorothy Bennett and Ian Anderson.



Life and Work

December 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EMMANUEL - GOD IS WITH US
Christmas in danger

PAUSE FOR A MOMENT
Moderator's seasonal message

'THE CHRIST STORY MATTERS'
The growth of Christingle services

'THIS IS THE TIME TO ACT'
World AIDS Day

OUR PRESBYTERIES
Forth Valley and Clydesdale

And much more over 52 pages...



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, helped by published study guides suitable for those at any and all stages in their Christian journeys.

In September our afternoon group were lucky enough to be able to meet outside in the lovely sunshine. We can't guarantee the weather, but we can assure you of a warm welcome.



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

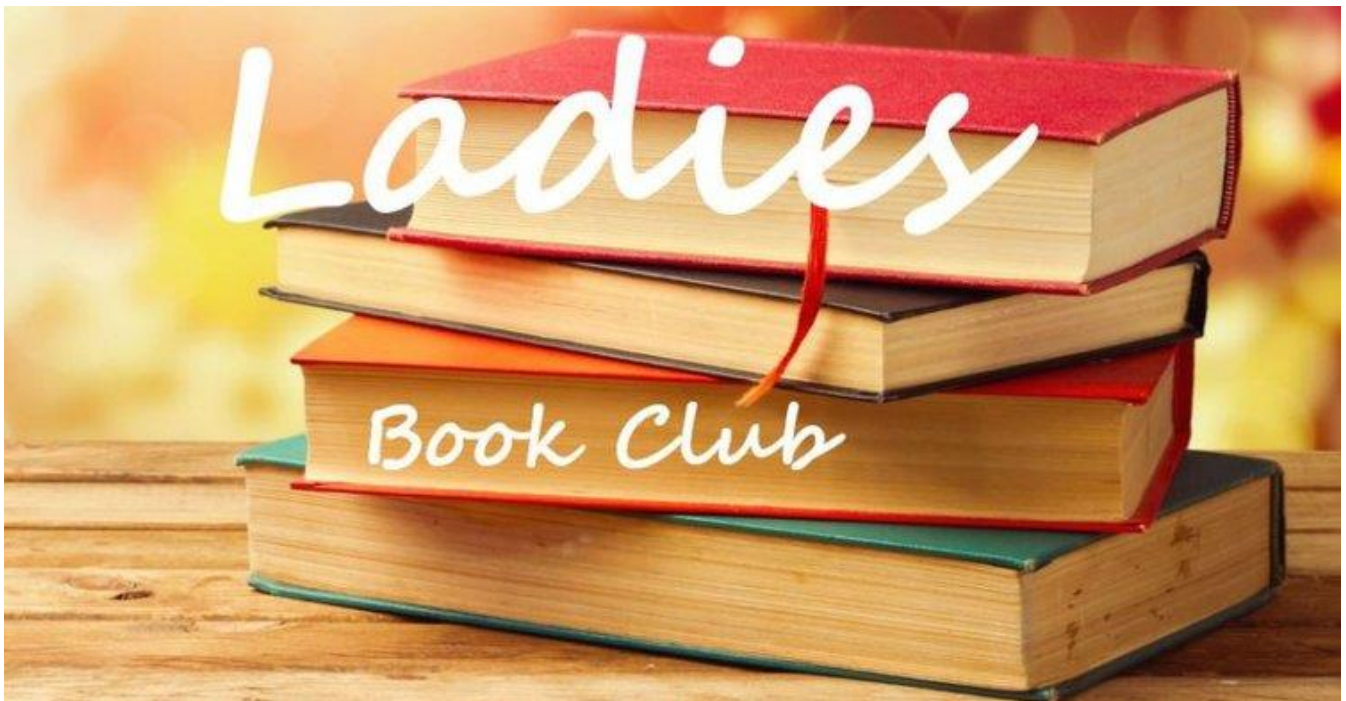
Orchardhill Ladies Book Group

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, Orchardhill 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.



Christmas Extravaganza

Our annual Christmas Extravaganza takes place on Friday the 20th of December between 2pm and 5pm. Come and see our interactive walk through Nativity, listen to Christmas carols and enjoy some mince pies and festive cheer. Of course, Santa will also be in attendance.

This has been a huge success in recent years and a great way for our community to kick start the Christmas holidays.



Christmas Calander 2024

Saturday 30 November	Christmas Fair	11.00am – 3.00pm
Sunday 1 December	1 st Sunday in Advent Family Worship	10.30am
Sunday 8 December	2 nd Sunday in Advent Family Worship with Communion	10.30am
Thursday 12 December	Café Christmas Lunch	
Sunday 15 December	3 rd Sunday in Advent Family Worship	10.30am
Friday 20 December	Christmas Extravaganza	2.00pm-5.00pm
Sunday 22 December	4 th Sunday in Advent Family Worship with Nativity	10.30am
	Orchardhill Choir Christmas Carols	2.00pm – 3.00pm
Tuesday 24 December	Family Christmas Eve Service with Community Christmas Carols after	6.00pm
	Watchnight Service	11.30pm
Wednesday 25 December	Christmas Day Service	10.00am

Tree of Kindness



From its beginnings in 2017, the Tree of Kindness campaign has gone from strength to strength. There has been another outstanding response this year. Because of your generosity and kindness over 1,750 children living in poverty will receive a gift this Christmas. The charities **YOU** helped are:-

Castlemilk Parish Church, Croftfoot Primary School, Women & Children First, Renfrewshire Women's Aid, Glasgow Association for Mental Health (GAMH), Glasgow's No.1 Baby & Family Support, Recovery Across Mental Health (RAMH – East Renfrewshire), Recovery Across Mental Health (RAMH – Paisley), Aberlour Child Care Trust, Carnwadric Parish Church, Young Persons Befriending Service, Helenslea Nursery

Thank you.



Spooky Halloween

The clocks changed and Orchardhill celebrated the light
In the dark!!

Great fun was had at Messy., OY! and our Halloween pop up



Delicious chocolate
sparklers!!

Spooky pumpkin



Halloween helpers



Painted pumpkins



Glow sticks lighting
up the darkness



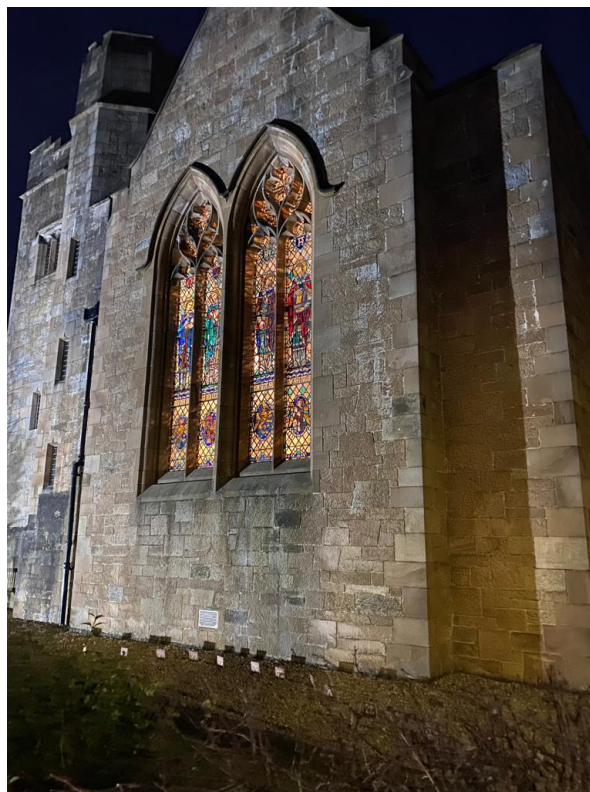
Spooky biscuits

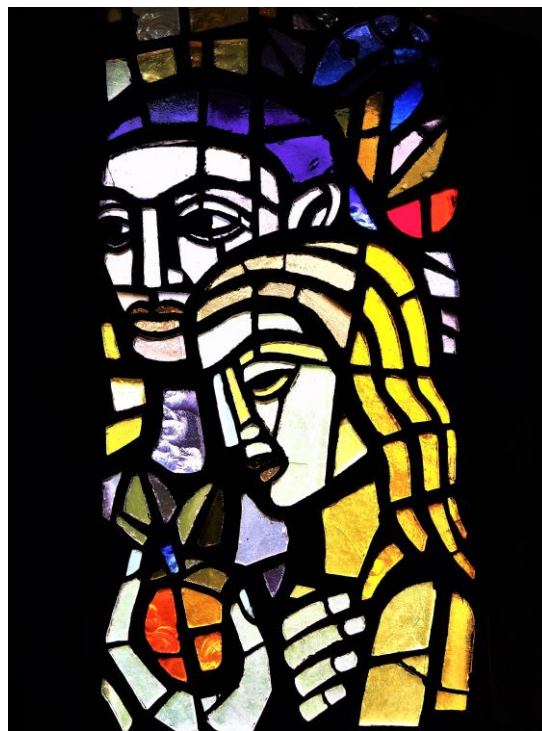
Check Orchardhill.org.uk for all the fun events
happening here for Christmas.



Photos of the Church

We are always looking for stock photographs to use on the front cover and throughout The Record. Can you send any photos from in and around the church to record-team@orchardhill.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.

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