

Programme of Lectures and Events 2013 – 2014

**Cairns Church, 11 Buchanan Street, Milngavie
Orchardhill Parish Church, 12 Church Road, Giffnock**

INTRODUCTION

Scottish religion, down through the centuries, has generally been seen as overly orthodox and dogmatic. The strong influences of Calvinism touched most aspects of life, resulting in a general ease with all matters traditional, and an intuitive fear of ideas and convictions created “outside the box”.

Given such a historical background, it is somewhat surprising that as a nation we have managed to produce quite a number of distinguished thinkers; radical theologians who in their own way had the courage to think aloud and, more than that, were prepared to accept the consequences that followed.

Folk like Thomas Aikenhead, hanged at Leith in 1696 for sharing ideas gleaned from his University reading list, or John Mcleod Campbell, condemned by the General Assembly of 1831 for suggesting that Christ died for all, not just the elect. And as late as 1880, William Robertson Smith was sacked by his University for daring to raise critical questions about the Bible in an Encyclopaedia Britannica article!

All of these people shared an honest desire to express the truth as they saw it. None claimed to be without error. None of them believed that their ideas represented the last word. In the spirit of “Thinking Allowed”, they simply held to the view that new angles and fresh perspectives were the essential currency of Christianity. What was true then, is still true today. Enjoy our lectures!

Rev. Chris Vermeulen
Orchardhill Parish Church

Rev. Andrew Frater
Cairns Church

THINKING ALLOWED
IS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME BACK TO GLASGOW THE WELL KNOWN
PROGRESSIVE THEOLOGIAN OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, USA

BISHOP JACK SPONG



To deliver two separate but connected lectures linked to his latest book.

"The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic"

Bishop Jack Spong was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1952, and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1955 from the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. He has received honorary degrees from the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, Yale Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School and the Universities of Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge.

Before being appointed Bishop, Jack served as rector of several North American parishes and has held visiting positions at major American theological institutions, most prominently at Harvard Divinity School. He retired in 2000.

Recipient of many awards, including 1999 Humanist of the Year, Bishop Spong is a contributor to the Living the Questions DVD programme and has been a guest on numerous television broadcasts.

He is a prolific writer. A prominent theme in his writing is that the popular and literal interpretations of Christian scripture are not sustainable and do not speak honestly to the situation of modern Christian communities. He believes in a more nuanced approach to scripture, informed by scholarship and compassion, which can be consistent with both Christian tradition and contemporary understandings of the universe. He believes that theism has lost credibility as a valid conception of God's nature.

Jack Spong has also been a strong proponent of feminism, gay rights, and racial equality within both the church and society at large. Towards these ends, he calls for a new Reformation, in which many of Christianity's basic doctrines should be reformulated.

LECTURE 1 AT ORCHARDHILL

Wednesday 23rd October 2013 at 8 pm

"Exploring John's Origins: It is not a literal Text, but
an interpretive Portrait"

LECTURE 2 AT CAIRNS

Thursday 24th October 2013 at 8 pm

"Beyond Incarnation to Mystical Oneness: John's Story of Jesus"

Tickets £12 per lecture are available from

CAIRNS CHURCH, 11 BUCHANAN STREET, MILNGAVIE, GLASGOW, G62 8AW.

TEL: 0141 956 4868; EMAIL: office@cairnchurch.org.uk; WEBSITE: www.cairnchurch.org.uk

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served after each lecture when Bishop Spong will be free to meet the audience on a more informal level

Thursday 14th November 2013

VENUE: CAIRNS

8 pm

THE ROY PATERSON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Roy Paterson was minister of Cairns for 29 years. His ministry was considered the very embodiment of the New Testament idea of Christian living, clothed in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Sadly, Roy died five years after his retirement. It is entirely fitting that his ministry be honoured by holding an annual lecture in his name.

Speaker: Prof. T M Devine OBE, Personal Senior Research Chair of History, Director of the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies, University of Edinburgh

Lecture: "A Puzzle from the Scottish Past: Why did the Scottish Enlightenment happen?"



The Scottish Enlightenment is widely regarded as this nation's most influential contribution to the intellectual and cultural life of humanity. From philosophy to science, medicine to history, economics to geology, and beyond to numerous other subjects, Scottish thinkers of the 18th century helped create a new understanding of the contours of man's existence. Why this extraordinary movement happened in Scotland is a conundrum; the country seemed a most unlikely seedbed for intellectual revolution. In the decades before the creative flowering it was viewed as a desperately poor country on the outer fringes of European civilisation and in the grip of a Taliban-type culture of unyielding orthodoxy and intolerance. Prof.

Devine's lecture will consider this challenging paradox and seek to resolve one of Scotland's most enduring and fascinating historical mysteries.

Prof. Devine started his career at Strathclyde University, ending as Professor of Scottish History and Deputy Principal. In 1998 he was appointed Glucksman Professor of Irish and Scottish Studies and Director of the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies at Aberdeen University. He became the Sir Wm Fraser Professor of Scottish History and Palaeography at Edinburgh University in 2005 (regarded as the world's premier Chair in the field).

From 2011 till the present, he is the author or editor of more than three dozen books on various aspects of Scottish history at home and abroad since the sixteenth century, most recently The Scotland Trilogy for Penguin Publishers (The Scottish Nation: a Modern History; Scotland's Empire: the Origins of the Diaspora; To the Ends of the Earth: Scotland's Global Diaspora 1750-2010).

Prof Devine has been awarded the Royal Medal presented by HM The Queen, Scotland's supreme academic accolade, the only historian winner to date. He is the only Humanities and Social Science scholar elected to all three national academies in the British Isles, FRSE, Hon MRSA, and FBA. He is Winner of the Saltire Prize for Scottish History, the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Henry Duncan Prize and Lectureship, the RSE/Beltane Senior Prize for Public Engagement across all disciplines, the RSE Sir Walter Scott Medal for excellence in the Humanities and Creative Arts. Prof Devine has also been awarded honorary degrees from several universities.

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served after the lecture when the speaker will be free to meet the audience on a more informal level

Thursday 28th November 2013

7.30 pm for 8 pm

VENUE: ORCHARDHILL

Panellists: **Stuart McMillan, MSP**
Ken Macintosh, MSP
Kathy Galloway, Head of Christian Aid in Scotland
Sally Foster-Fulton, Convener, The Church of Scotland's
Church and Society Council

Panel Discussion: "Enough Food IF Campaign"

Nearly one billion people go to bed hungry every night and two million children die from malnutrition every year. We've made progress in other areas, but hunger is still the great scandal of our age. All around the world, even in the UK, people are struggling to feed their families. In 2013 Scotland's politicians, institutions, organisations, faith groups, private companies and individuals have campaigned to end this scourge. This event is designed to reflect on their role and ours in tackling global hunger and to take action to ensure that Scotland plays its part in ensuring that every family and every child has a life free from hunger.



Stuart McMillan MSP

Stuart was born in Barrow in Furness in 1972, graduated with an MBA (European) from the University of Abertay Dundee in 1997. After graduating, Stuart began employment with IBM UK Ltd., then left to work for the SNP group in Westminster before returning to Scotland to be the Office Manager for Bruce McFee MSP in 2003. He is a keen piper and plays with the London Scottish Pipes and Drums. He likes watching and playing sports and supports Greenock Morton F.C.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Before entering the Scottish Parliament, Ken was a television producer for BBC News. Ken also worked on programmes including Breakfast with Frost and as a researcher for both David and Jonathan Dimbleby. Ken was elected to the Scottish Parliament in 1999 and has held the Eastwood seat ever since.

Kathy Galloway, Head of Christian Aid Scotland

Kathy is an ordained Church of Scotland minister and was, in 2002, the first woman to be elected leader of the Iona Community. She is, along with John Saxbee and Michael Taylor, patron of the Student Christian Movement.

She is also a published poet and hymnwriter – her songs have been widely published in church hymnaries and those published by the Iona Community.

Sally Foster-Fulton, Convener, The Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council

Sally Foster-Fulton is Associate Minister at Dunblane Cathedral and the Convener for the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland. Church and Society is responsible for social, political and ethical interface between the Church of Scotland and wider society.

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served from 7.30 pm

ADVENT AT CAIRNS

The Four Sundays Before Christmas
at 8.00 pm
'Journey to Bethlehem'

Advent was supposed to be a time for peaceful preparation, a period of insight into the drama of Christmas day by day.

Today, the opposite seems to be true. This wonderful festival has become so compromised by the feverish clamour of commercialism, and as a result, the true meaning of Bethlehem has been discarded.

Why not reverse this trend and take time to journey in the company of wise men and shepherds as they follow their star to a stable.

Join us in the silence of our sanctuary each Sunday of Advent.

Sunday 1 December 2013

Sunday 8 December 2013

Sunday 15 December 2013

Sunday 22 December 2013

ADVENT AT ORCHARDHILL

The Four Sundays before Christmas
at 10.30 am

Advent is about the anticipation of the birth of Christ and this year we will peel away some of the sentimentalism that has built up over two thousand years around this most well-known of all stories to reveal the truth of what the Gospel actually says. What do these stories mean?

From the perspective of both the first and the twenty-first centuries – the story in its original context, is far richer and more challenging than you might imagine.

Sunday 1 December – Advent Communion

Sunday 8 December – CrossWords 'Expecting Jesus'

Sunday 15 December – Choir Christmas Cantata

Sunday 22 December – "The Nativity" All Age Worship

Thursday 23rd January 2014

7.30 pm for 8 pm

VENUE: CAIRNS

Speaker: Dr. Carol Craig, Chief Executive of the Centre for Confidence and Well-being

Lecture: "Enlightenment in the Age of Materialism"



In her lecture on the excessively materialist nature of contemporary culture, Dr Carol Craig draws on psychology, politics and economics to analyse many of the big issues of our time – the rise of celebrity culture, the loss of individual well-being, rising debt and inequality, political apathy, and an erosion of standards in public life. Carol argues that materialist values are not just promoted in the media but also by politicians from across the political spectrum and even by the big charities.

The lecture will draw on Carol's book "The Great Takeover: How materialism, the media and markets now dominate our lives". This is the second in a series of books called Postcards from Scotland and Carol is the commissioning editor. The series aims to stimulate new thinking and new ways of living. The first book in the series is called "AfterNow" and was co-authored by Professor Phil Hanlon.

Carol Craig is Chief Executive of the Centre for Confidence and Well-being which she established in 2004. She is author of "The Scots' Crisis of Confidence" (2003 and 2011) and "The Tears that Made the Clyde: Well-being in Glasgow" (2010). Carol gives many talks and lectures and is much in demand as a speaker.

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served from 7.30 pm

Thursday 6th February 2014

7.30 pm for 8 pm

VENUE: ORCHARDHILL

Speaker: Professor Alison Phipps OBE,

Professor of Languages and Intercultural Studies, University of Glasgow

Lecture: "The Iona Community and the birth of the Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNet)"



Alison is Professor of Languages and Intercultural Studies and co-convenor of Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network at the University of Glasgow. She is also a writer, gardener, poet and regular international keynote speaker. Alison has a commitment to hospitality, healing and intercultural justice for asylum seekers and refugees. She received an OBE for services to Education and Intercultural and Interreligious Relations in 2012. She lives and works in Glasgow, and is a member of the Iona Community.

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served from 7.30 pm

Open Night Lectures

Two successful proposals were received from lecture attendees to give an Open Night Lecture: David Keddie and Iain Gray. They will both present their lectures on 6 March, one at Cairns and the other at Orchardhill. Iain Gray will repeat his lecture during the 2014/15 session at Cairns.

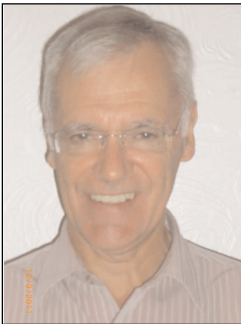
Thursday 6th March 2014

7.30 pm for 8 pm

VENUE: ORCHARDHILL

**Speaker: Iain Gray, Former Lecturer in Religious Education,
University of Strathclyde.**

Lecture: "God: Idea, Images and Idols"



In this illustrated lecture Iain will explore contrasting ideas about God: the supernatural being who created the universe and continues to oversee it through intervening in the natural world and in human affairs; the impersonal source of Life, Love and Being. Iain will also consider the implications of each in terms of beliefs, worship and 'secular' issues. Given that these ideas also feature prominently in the Hindu tradition, Iain will draw upon Hindu scriptures and images, as well as children's literature and film classics, to help illuminate the issues involved.

Iain, in addition to his role in Universities has led Elders' Development groups, has led Lenten Bible Studies and has served as Elder Moderator during the recent vacancy at New Kilpatrick Church.

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served from 7.30 pm

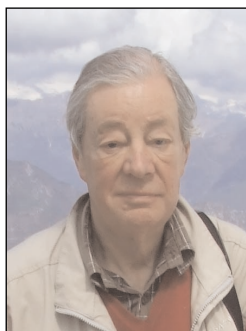
Thursday 6th March 2014

7.30 pm for 8 pm

VENUE: CAIRNS

Speaker: The Rev. David Keddie, Retired Church of Scotland Minister

Lecture: "In Memoriam Dei"



If the sixteenth century saw the dissolution of the edifice that was the medieval Church of Western Christendom it was the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries that saw the dissolution and collapse of traditional belief. In this lecture we will look at some of those scholars and thinkers whose writings and work subverted forever received belief and also the reappraisal and new understanding of scripture that arose in the divinity halls of Europe. In other words, how we came to be where we now are. But more crucially – where do we go from here in the dying days of the Church in Scotland.

David A Keddie grew up in Helensburgh and after school at Glasgow Academy took an MA with Hons in History at Glasgow University before doing his BD with Hons in Church History at New College in Edinburgh. He served in a number of parishes in the West of Scotland before obtaining a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education from Jordanhill College of Education and teaching for nearly twenty years. For many years he was on the Higher Religious Studies Panel of the SED and was Principal Examiner of the Certificate of Sixth Year Studies in Religion and Moral Education. He was Chairman for a number of years of the Local Research Ethics Committee at the Southern General Hospital. Brought up fairly conservative theologically, he has moved ground over the years to a much more radical position but still enjoys conducting services where the sermons tend to ask more questions than provide answers.

A glass of wine or soft drink will be served from 7.30 pm

HOLY WEEK AT CAIRNS

"Beyond the City Wall"

At different times in history walls of significance have often been erected. The names come easily to mind - the Berlin wall, the Great Wall of China and Hadrian's Wall.

The thing about walls is that they include some and exclude others; indeed, one side is usually occupied by the powerful and the other by the oppressed.

At Easter, by being crucified beyond a city wall, Jesus chooses to belong among the powerless and, as a result, says much about the nature of salvation. Even more important, however, is the sense of where God chooses to be permanently present.

Let us journey to the place "beyond the city wall" and discover a renewed sense of perspective around the events of Holy Week.

Each Evening in the Sanctuary

Sunday 13th April 2014

through to

Saturday 19th April 2014

Easter Day Celebrations

Sunday 20th April 2014

Service at Preaching Brae on Barloch Moor

at 7.00 am

followed by breakfast

Easter Family Service

at 10.45 am

HOLY WEEK AT ORCHARDHILL

Lent Labyrinth

See~Hear~Touch~Taste~Smell

The Prayer Labyrinth will be opened in the Church sanctuary at Orchardhill Parish Church during Lent from

Monday 24 March – 30 March

10.00 am – 12 noon and 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Maundy Thursday: 17 April 7.00 pm Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church

Good Friday: 18 April 7.00 pm Giffnock United Reformed Church

Easter Breakfast Service: 20 April at 9.00 am at Orchardhill

Easter Family Communion Service: 20 April at 10.30 am at Orchardhill

LIVING THE QUESTIONS at CAIRNS



Living the Questions at Cairns will introduce a new, six-session small groups series this autumn which celebrates the communion of science and faith, entitled PAINTING THE STARS: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith.

Featuring a dozen leading theologians and progressive thinkers on video, this new series of discussions will provide a

creative launch pad for stimulating personal engagement and conversation on science and faith.

Times and dates of meetings will be announced later.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS at ORCHARDHILL

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer humanity. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

Living the Questions is a source of curriculum and media for both seekers and "church alumni" convinced that Christianity still has relevance in the 21st century. Living the Questions can help people explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

At Orchardhill we are preparing for our seventh Living the Questions group and you can be part of it. We meet every two weeks.

Starting on Wednesday, 6 November

Time: 8.00 pm

Where: Orchardhill Manse

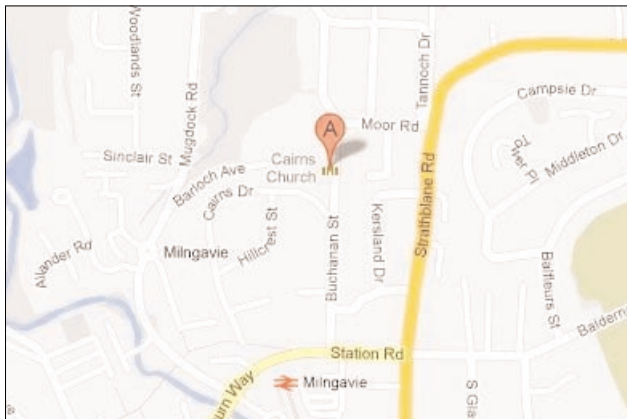
Register your interest and book a place by emailing Chris Vermeulen at: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk or by phone on 0141 638 3604 (Office).

For further information on any of the events please contact:
the Cairns Office at 11 Buchanan Street, Milngavie G62 8AW

Tel: 0141 956 4868

Email: office@cairnschurch.org.uk

or on the website: www.cairnschurch.org.uk



OR

Orchardhill Office at 12 Church Road, Giffnock, G46 6JR

Tel: 0141 638 3604

Email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk

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