



# THE RECORD

## A Lesson from Jonah

Dear friends

The story of Jonah and the whale is famous. But many people – even good church-going Christians – dismiss it as just a tall story to entertain the children. But it taught me one of the most important lessons of my working life.

I had been a minister for more than 10 years. I found that I was spending too much time trying to raise money, mostly for the upkeep of the building complex. I couldn't give up on the building, but I sensed that I and the congregation were all dancing faster and faster to its tune. I knew that that wasn't what the church was really for, but I couldn't stop. I worried: I knew I had gone wrong.

I remember where I was when the solution came to me. And it was the story of Jonah. Jonah was furious with God for giving the city of Nineveh the chance to repent. Jonah wanted them punished for their sins.

He was livid when they listened to his

preaching and repented and were forgiven. But Jonah broke his heart over the death of a little plant, a gourd, which had been sheltering him from the sun. And God said to him: "You cry over a little plant that grew up in a night and died in a night? Should I not have a heart for that great city with its lost souls and all their cattle?"

So I knew that I needed to concentrate on the people and not worry about the building. From then on that was what I tried to do.

But you'll have to read the story, the Book of Jonah! It won't take you long. It's only 48 verses. Its truth boils down to this: We learn more important lessons from our times of difficulty than we do from our times of success. It was true for Jonah and true for me. I think it is a truth of human life.

A Blessing.

**John Miller**

## Eastwoodhill Coffee Morning

Eastwoodhill's annual coffee morning will be held in Giffnock South Church on Saturday 12 April. More information will be published in the April edition of the Orchardhill Record.

# SoundWaves' Show



SoundWaves' show this year is "Pirates" on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 March at 7.30pm in the Memorial Halls. The children are very excited about the show, so all we need now is an audience. Ticket prices are adults £3, children £2 and are available from Alexis Wallace on 585 7986 or any SoundWaves member. A booking form will also be available from the Welcome Table at church on Sunday mornings.

## Stepping Stones and Water Aid

On Sunday 2 February all the Stepping Stones children gathered together to learn a bit more about the charity that we are donating half of our collection to this year – Water Aid.

We watched a short film about the charity, which told us of the work they do and how our money will be spent to help children without clean, safe water or sanitation.

We had a true and false quiz about Water Aid and were very impressed that most of the children picked the right answers, proving they had listened carefully to the film commentary. After that we played a team game where each team member had to carry his or her bucket filled with water (shredded tissue paper) safely and quickly without spilling any! Abby was particularly good at this – slow and steady.

Fiona and Heather, from Bridges, had very

kindly volunteered to read a short drama for us comparing the lives of two girls – one from Scotland, and one from Ethiopia. Once again our Stepping Stoners listened intently.

We finished our morning by having a "water tasting". The children tried tap, sparkling, flavoured and bottled water then guessed, many correctly, which one was which.

We had intended that each child would decorate a bottle of water to take home, but as usual we ran out of time. So the bottles went home undecorated, along with a quiz or a word-search puzzle about hand washing hygiene, a topic which Water Aid work hard to promote in the countries where they work.

Hopefully, we all gained a little more knowledge about Water Aid and had lots of fun.

## Mary's Meals in Haiti

I am delighted to report that in January I sent the amazing total of £1954 to Mary's Meals for their work in Haiti. To everyone who made this possible, many thanks from Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, chief executive of Mary's Meals. In his letter he tells me that they are now feeding over 21,000 children in Haiti with a good meal in their place of education. These children now have a chance of an education, making a way out of their poverty.

The Orchardhill Guild will be continuing to support Mary's Meals in Haiti this year. As usual, we will be offering Sunshine Bags to the congregation in April for you to fill over the summer months. We saw a lot of sunshine last year, which perhaps helped the total. Maybe the same sunshine this year?

**Jeanette Birnie**

# DAVID FISHER

PRESENTS



A CONCERT OF MUSICAL DELIGHTS

## Orchardhill Parish Church Giffnock

Friday 7 March 2014 at 7.30pm

Tickets £7.50 (Suggested Donation)

Available from the Church Office (638 3604)  
or on the door

In Aid of Church Funds



# The Games are coming

## Get ready to run



**Orchardhill** and other churches in our area have a great opportunity to engage in Commonwealth Games outreach, with **one of the world's premier sporting events** coming to Glasgow in the summer of 2014.

By reaching out we can **impact the lives** of –

**Our own community** – children, youth and adults

**Guests from around the globe** – athletes, their families and international visitors.

Commonwealth Games outreach offers churches – including ours – a way to be the **hosts of the biggest party** Scotland has seen for a lifetime.

### What can a church like ours do?

There is something in the More Than Gold's tried and tested programme of radical **Outreach**, **Hospitality** and **Service** to meet the needs of every church – whatever their size, location or make up.

This includes –

**Providing volunteers** for the **Service** and **Hospitality** programmes.

**Engaging with our own community** including through guest events, running a water station or **community festival**.

**Hosting a mission team from overseas** to help you give extra impact to your activities.

**Welcoming the Queen's Baton Relay** as it passes through your community – including joining in local prayer events.

**Set up a Hospitality Centre** – if you are located where visitors will gather or pass through.

**Being inclusive to the whole community** by using inclusivity guidelines and resources.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Christian Aid

Christian Aid offers an opportunity to hear about Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories on Tuesday 25 March from 7.00 to 9.00 in St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Clarkston.

This will be an evening of stories from Christian Aid, the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church about recent trips to Israel and the occupied territories.

# Hospitality

*“Let’s be known for our amazing **Scottish hospitality - Comm’ on, open up your home**”*



Thousands of Athletes family members have been hosted over the years by the **Athlete Family Homestay Programme** and for Glasgow 2014, the Scottish Government have invited us to coordinate a **Volunteer Homestay Programme** for the official volunteers (Clyde-siders). Homes are needed in Glasgow and its surrounding area but also around the other venues. This is a unique opportunity to offer hospitality and friendship and we anticipate many will want to open up their homes.

Many churches in the immediate vicinity of venues are planning to host and support Games staff, volunteers and visitors. These churches have a tremendous opportunity to show hospitality and service in Christ’s name. Could **Orchardhill** be one of these **hospitality centers**? We have good transport links by bus and train to the city venues, we’re close to the Mountain Bike venue at Cathkin Braes, and the Neilston line (Williamwood, Whitecraigs) goes to Hampden Park (Mount Florida). So Giffnock / Clarkston / Whitecraigs is an ideal place for people to stay.

The **Queen's Baton Tour** is also a wonderful opportunity for churches to offer hospitality. How could we help to host the crowds who gather to celebrate? A local task force is being set up in each town where the relay stops to help run community events that support the official celebrations.

## How about organising a Community Festival?

Community Festivals are one of the best ways for churches to **engage with their wider community** and can also leave a legacy of **more local churches working together** to serve their community.

The **festivals** may include

- Big screen showing the ceremonies or key events,
- Fun for children including face painting, clowns and competitions
- Sport based games
- Free barbecue and tea and coffee
- Live music
- Sports Quiz and Curry Night?

## Let’s get involved

Orchardhill is hosting a **More than Gold** event for all churches in Giffnock, Clarkston and Newton Mearns to find out more. Please come along!

**How will you make the most of the 2014 Games?**  
Come & discover more about how you and your church can be involved.

Join Us: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm  
At: Orchardhill Parish Church, 12 Church Road,  
Giffnock, G46 6JR



Lodging House Mission

On Christmas day around 100 service users enjoyed a full three-course Christmas dinner with all the trimmings at the Lodging House Mission in East Campbell Street, served by 15 volunteers. Each of the service users received a gift-box before they left. Before the meal about 25 people attended the annual Christmas Day Carol Service at which Rev Graham Blount, the LHM's vice-chairman, spoke a word of challenge and encouragement. Gratitude is extended to the many generous congregations and individuals for their monetary and shoebox donations which contributed greatly to these festive efforts.

2014 has got off to a good start. The number of service users is gradually creeping up, which in one way is encouraging as people feel the LHM offers appropriate support, but it is also sad that more people need its help. However, it will continue to work and offer assistance to anyone who needs help and support.

The LHM's church services are still going well. Attendances at all the services remain constant. The number of individuals seeking chaplaincy support has gone up slightly, especially requests for prayer. Wendy, its ICC student, is a great source of encouragement and often brings a new and fresh approach to the way they look at scripture.

Classes have started up again and are doing well. There has been an increase in the number of speakers of other languages attending its ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes two days a week. The beginners' class is particularly busy with an average of 12 students attending each class. In addition, the learning centre open sessions have been very popular, allowing all service users to gain free internet access and the opportunity to improve their IT skills. The LHM Choir has started rehearsals in preparation for the return of Scottish Opera in February.

As you can see, it is a busy time ahead. Please continue to hold the work of the Lodging House Mission in your prayers.

**Gus McKay**, Chaplain

## **The Guild's Guest Night**

Monday 10 March is Orchardhill Guild's Guest Night, when we invite members from neighbouring Guilds and churches to join us. Our entertainment at 7.30pm in the Church Hall will be provided by Mr Alastair Swan, a retired dentist and award-winning photographer from Ayr. His show, Window on the World, will give us a Magical Mystery Tour of different locations in sequences, set to music. His first visit to us impressed everyone with the beauty of his photography, and his new show has been well received.

On Monday 17 March at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room, Mr David McRoberts will give us an illustrated talk on the National Guild Project: Out of Africa... into Malta, describing the plight of refugees in the island's detention camps and the practical help the Guilds can give to lessen suffering and enable families to stand on their own feet again.

We close our session on Monday 24 March at 7.30pm in the Church Hall when we will allocate half of all the money raised to Orchardhill and the other half to Christian charities. We will also have a talk by Mrs Shona Cook on her work as a carer.

We look forward to welcoming everyone interested in these meetings.

# Congregational Register

## Baptism

On 2 February 2014 Archie Cooper Fleming, son of Stewart and Kirsty Fleming, 27 Inverewe Gardens, Thornliebank G46 8TJ.

# Collection Rota

## MARCH

2	Ian Anderson 638 0689, Roseanne Henderson 571 7375, Pauline Young 562 9906, Norma Hannah 638 7515
9	Ian Anderson, David Evans 571 7846, Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722, Ian Cartlidge 571 7839
16	Hilary Kennedy 638 6114, David Evans, Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722, Lisel Tait 638 8345
23	Fiona Cameron 571 7656, Peter Worthington 638 4316, Jim Kerr 638 2747, Lisel Tait
30	Fiona Cameron, Peter Worthington, Jim Kerr, Susan McQuilter 638 6936

## APRIL

6	Donald Carmichael 638 2555, Fergus Cook 644 1354, Shona Cook 644 1354, Susan McQuilter
13	Donald Carmichael, Fergus Cook, Shona Cook, Gillian Brogan 639 6269
20	Donald Carmichael, Fergus Cook, Shona Cook, Caroline Stuart 560 3335
27	Donald Carmichael, Fergus Cook, Shona Cook, Caroline Stuart

# Deadline for April Orchardhill Record

Sunday 19 March is the deadline for the April edition of the *Orchardhill Record*.

Contributions should be sent by email to [record-editor@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:record-editor@orchardhill.org.uk) before 1.00pm or left in the relevant slot in the rack in the church corridor no later than 10.30am. We prefer contributions to be sent by email, and we cannot accept any handwritten or typed item that does not identify the source.

The editor acknowledges every contribution. Please contact him before the deadline if he does not confirm that he has received your contribution.

# Orchardhill Calendar

## MARCH

Sun	2	10.30am	Family Worship and Sacrament of Baptism	Rev John Miller
Thu	6	7.30pm	Thinking Allowed with Iain Gray (God: Idea, Images and Idols) at Orchardhill	
Fri	7	7.30pm	Octave Concert of Musical Delights (for more information on page 3)	
Sun	9	10.30am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev John Miller
Mon	10	7.30pm	The Guild's Guest Night: Mr Alastair Swan, Window on the World,	
Tue	11	7.30pm	Congregational Board	
Wed	12	11.30am	Lunchtime Communion	
Thu	13	7.00pm	More Than Gold Presentation (more information on pages 4 and 5)	
Sun	16	10.30am	Youth Service led by Stepping Stones	
Mon	17	2.00pm	The Guild: Mr David McRoberts: Out of Africa... into Malta	
Mon-Fri	17-21		Spring Labyrinth (schools only this week)	
Sun	23	10.30am		Rev John Miller
Mon	24	7.30pm	The Guild: Mrs Shona Cook	
Mon-Fri	24-28	10.00am-noon & 7.00-9.00pm	Spring Labyrinth (open to everyone and the schools this week)	
Sun	30	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev John Miller

## APRIL

Fri	4	1.30pm	Giffnock Primary School Spring Service	
Sun	6	10.30am	Family Worship	