



THE RECORD

An Election Remembered

Dear members and friends of Orchardhill,

This coming election stirs memories. On 27 April 1994 my wife Mary was in South Africa for that country's very first all-race elections. For three months in the run-up to Election Day she had been part of the team of Ecumenical Peace Monitors, attending rallies and political confrontations in KwaZulu Natal as the election approached. People like Mary, from churches across Europe and round the world, did whatever they could to ensure a peaceful outcome to the process. No one knew what might happen. Dreadful things were done in the years leading to the end of apartheid, and there were widespread fears that whites would violently refuse to relinquish power and that blacks would repay centuries of injustice with bloodshed.

The peace monitors were distinguished by their UN-blue tabards and hats. Small groups of them stood as observers in places of tension, to witness whether the security forces were acting impartially. Their greatest weapon was their visibility in these exposed situations, and they were armed only with their courage. Often they were caught in cross-fire between armed demonstrators of different political parties, at other times confronted by gun-fire between demonstrators and the security forces.

As Election Day approached many dreaded "a blood-bath".

Mary remembers the briefing she and other monitors received two days before their assignment to their polling station. The security commander told them: "I can give you five armed police. But when my five men are dead there is nothing more I can do for you."

The day came. The tensions remained. But peace reigned. The monitors were able to report that the election had been "relatively free and relatively fair."

Was it in answer to prayer? Many in the churches believed it to be so. And the powerful influence of one man, Nelson Mandela, cannot be over-estimated.

So what of our Election on 7 May? I won't pray for my choice of party to be elected. But I will pray for the winners to prioritise care for the poor. That was the hope in South Africa, and remains so. And the same here and now.

A blessing.

John Miller

Boys' Brigade Quizzes

Six of the seven Anchor Boy sections took part in the Boys' Brigade Eastwood District's recent Bible and General Knowledge Quiz, and the staff of the 86th Glasgow Company are delighted to report that our boys won with a score of 19 out of 20. Well done to all of the boys.

The boys do not do any preparation. An officer from the district goes round each company and asks the same questions.

The district's Junior Sections' Bible Knowledge Quiz was held at the end of March. All boys who took part answered well and each received a certificate. As neither section had a full team it was decided not to award the trophy. Robert Worthington, an Orchardhill boy, came first in his age group. Well done, Robert, and also thanks to his mum and dad for going over the various passages with him.

Guild Allocations

In March, at the end of the session, the Guild decided on the allocation of the money we had raised throughout the session. The allocations are:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Friends of Eastwoodhill..... | £50 |
| Orchardhill Church: | |
| Fabric fund | £150 |
| Heating and Lighting..... | £300 |
| Guild Projects: | |
| Julius Project | £125 |
| Comfort Rwanda | £70 |
| Lodging House Mission | £50 |
| National Bible Society | £25 |
| Church House, Bridgeton..... | £50 |
| Yorkhill Foundation..... | £40 |
| Dwelling Places (rescuing Uganda's street children)..... | £40 |
| Total allocated from Guild Funds..... | £900 |

As usual, half has been allocated to Orchardhill Church.

In addition, earlier in the year, the Guild sent £1610 to Mary's Meals (Haiti) and £10 to South-East Council.

Jeanette Birnie

Going Forward in Vacancy

On Monday 13 April 25 members of Orchardhill's Congregational Board met with three members of Glasgow Presbytery's Superintendence Committee. The Committee are undertaking a review of the legal procedures applying to the recent case and were keen to talk with members of the Board about the legal process the congregation have been through and any difficulties which the process itself has created. A report will be given to Presbytery in due course.

Board members spoke with great clarity about how the procedures seemed to take too long a time to complete, and during the long, drawn-out process there had been added problems because some people knew the facts but could not speak of them because of legal confidentiality whereas most people did not know the facts and heard only rumours. Most difficult of all was that office-bearers and congregation received no official information. The Committee listened carefully to these observations and said that they expect the procedures will be simplified and improved because of the kind of problems the process caused here in Orchardhill. They hope that no other congregation will have to face the same difficulties.

The Committee then spoke about how Orchardhill might now move forward. The Committee recommended that Orchardhill should begin the process of setting up the Nominating Committee to search for a new minister and that Orchardhill should at the same time ensure that work is done to help to ease any tensions which might still remain in the congregation. The Presbytery's Vacancy Procedure Committee will set this plan in motion, and an Advisory Committee will come to meet with the Kirk Session in the near future.

The Committee and the people from the Congregational Board welcomed an offer from the *Locum* Minister, who said that if it was acceptable to the Presbytery and to Orchardhill he would be glad to continue as *Locum* and Interim Moderator at Orchardhill beyond the currently agreed six-month period in the hope of helping the congregation during this period of vacancy.

John Miller Interim Moderator

Just a Thought (with Orchardhill in Bloom in mind)

And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover,
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.

A C SWINBURNE (1837-1909)

Service Over

Sunday services at the Victoria Infirmary came to a close on 5 April with a very uplifting service being held in the Café Fleure. About 100 people attended this service, which was led by the chaplain, Rev Ishaku Bitrus.

Many of those present were team leaders, some of whom had been coming to the Victoria for over 20 years, and many were members of the local churches who had been attending the services as part of their team. Everyone present and those unable to be present were thanked for their faithful service to the patients, to the hospital, to Ishaku and his predecessors and also for their commitment to God.

The Memory Tree, to which we were encouraged to "add a leaf", is in the Queen's Park entrance of the hospital and eventually all those memories will be placed in a book and placed in the new South Glasgow University Hospital.

On behalf of Orchardhill we would like to thank Marion Simpson for having been an excellent team leader for 20+ years. Even if few in number, Orchardhill was always present on their allotted Sunday.

Christian Aid Book Sale

The annual Christian Aid Book sale, run by the four Giffnock churches, will be held on Saturday 16 May from 10.00am to 1.00pm at Morrison's supermarket. Once again we ask for your wholehearted support on behalf of the Christian Aid Committee.

We are also looking for new volunteers to deliver and collect envelopes for a street during Christian Aid Week, which runs from 10 to 16 May. If you are able to help please contact Ian Anderson (563 2395) or David Howard (571 7854).

Christian Aid runs projects throughout Africa, South America and Asia. So your support translates into lives transformed all over the world. Learn about what Christian Aid does at www.christianaid.org.uk.

Rev Chris Vermeulen

Rev Chris Vermeulen, our minister here in Orchardhill from 2005 until this year, was inducted on 26 March as minister of two seaside parishes: Fairlie linked with St Columba's, Largs. The Induction Service was held in the evening, and the church was crowded with members and friends of both congregations and a good contingent from Orchardhill.

Orchardhill in Bloom

Hopefully by now your calendar has a great big circle around Saturday 23 May – the afternoon of Orchardhill in Bloom.

As the big day draws near a small army of dedicated helpers is busy looking after plants and seedlings or making crafts and produce. There are some who can't even go away for a few days without enlisting "plant sitters"!

Such dedication deserves to be rewarded. So now can we all do our bit to support them – and help make Orchardhill in Bloom a successful event?

What we need you to do

We hope the event will raise significant funds, but we want it to be much more than a fund-raiser. It's a great opportunity to promote Orchardhill as a church for the whole community – and to let everyone see why we value our connections with Orchardhill so much.

We'll be distributing leaflets and posters. But the best publicity is word of mouth and personal recommendation.

Every member of the congregation can be part of the sales and publicity team. We all belong to a range of different networks such as workplaces, clubs, and interest groups. Let's all use those networks to promote the event.

Please be enthusiastic about the event, and invite your friends, family, neighbours and acquaintances to come along.

We will be distributing tickets for sale at services in the Sundays leading up to the event. If everyone could sell six tickets we'd be guaranteed a roaring success.

Bring a houseplant

Not everyone has a garden, but we can all enjoy indoor plants. We plan to have a houseplant stall and on the next few Sundays we'd ask you to bring a plant to help augment our stocks.

Volunteer - there's lot of ways to help

There's always a lot of work needed behind the scenes. Perhaps you could volunteer to:

- Make items for sale
- Donate plants
- Donate funds for compost etc.
- Help set up the day before the event
- Help out with an activity or staff a stall.

If you can help in any way, please contact Dorothy Carlidge (dotplot231@gmail.com) or Fergus Cook (ferguscook505@gmail.com).



Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club Members

Junior Badminton Club

Saturday morning badminton at Orchardhill's Junior Club has come to an end for another season. The club has been well attended with 21 children aged 10-16 playing most weeks. During the year the juniors have enjoyed a Crazy Tournament, received coaching, visited the Scottish Badminton Grand Prix at the Emirates Stadium, and played with members of the senior club. They competed against junior clubs from Barrhead and from Giffnock Maccabi, giving them the chance to play in different venues and against new opponents.

The annual mixed doubles tournament for the Tricia Murray Trophy was held in February and was won by Callum MacLeod and Heather Stewart. The runners-up were David Sinclair and Ruby Yuill.

The season finished with the club singles tournament which was well attended by members and their parents and supported by our Elders, Jim Kerr and Colin Williamson. Ruth Flockhart retained the girls' singles title by beating Chloe Irwin, and in a very exciting match Jack Fletcher beat Callum MacLeod. The Mary Russell Rose Bowl was presented this year to Emily Worthington.

(Continued on page 7)



Orchardhill Championships' winners Ruth Flockhart (front left) and Jack Fletcher (back right) with runners-up Chloe Irwin and Callum MacLeod and Mary Russell Rose Bowl winner Emily Worthington.

Several of our players have to be congratulated on qualifying for the finals of the local churches' Thornlee Tournament. The finals will be held on Saturday 25 April from noon to 4.00pm at Newton Mearns Parish Church (entry at the back of the Avenue shopping centre), and parents are very welcome to attend.

Junior badminton restarts at the end of August. Anyone aged 10-16 interested in joining should contact Barbara Mackenzie (638 0591: neilmackenzie@msn.com).

Kirk's New Survey

The Church of Scotland is launching a major survey to understand the size and impact of its congregations in parishes the length and breadth of Scotland. 'What Counts?' is the question being asked by the Church's Mission Statistics co-ordinator, Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie.

Dr Tweedie, who is an expert statistician, is designing what will be large scale information gathering exercise for the Church. She explains: "For years we have asked congregations to tell us the number of members and elders, yet the impact of our congregations in their communities goes far beyond that. 'What Counts?' is an exciting opportunity for us to find out what people are doing right across Scotland!"

As a first step towards discovering the effect our congregations are having, Dr Tweedie wishes to hear views from across the Church at all levels:

- What congregational information would help you do your work?
- Why?
- How would you collect that data?
- What do you want to tell the wider Kirk?

The answers she receives will help to shape the survey which will be piloted this December. The pilot will be followed up with formal suggestions for change being offered to the General Assembly in 2016 before the full survey is conducted.

'What Counts?' is being described as an important initiative for the future of the Church by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev John Chalmers. "During my Moderatorial year I have witnessed first-hand the energy and dynamism of many congregations who draw on significant numbers of volunteers to make a real difference in their communities," he observed.

"I have also noticed the number of people withdrawing from their physical communities into the world of social media, and we must reach out to them too. Collecting more accurate data on the wide scope of our Church will present us with challenges as well as opportunities, and we must be ready for them. This is an initiative we must all do our best to make succeed."

Comments and responses to Dr Tweedie's questions should be sent by email to statistics@churchofscotland.org.uk or posted to her at Mission Statistics, Church of Scotland, 121 George St, Edinburgh EH2 4YN.

Church Treasurer

Lindsay Barr, as Orchardhill's treasurer, has looked after our congregation's accounts for the past three years. This work has had its complications, and we are extremely grateful to Lindsay for his meticulous care over it.

At the most recent meeting of the Congregational Board he indicated that he would be stepping down from his post when he had finalised the figures for 2014. Our sincere thanks are recorded to Lindsay for all he has done.

We are very fortunate that two people are now ready to step forward into the post. Our new treasurer will be Donald Carmichael, a life-long member of Orchardhill, and our assistant treasurer will be George Robertson, who became a member of Orchardhill last year. Both are professionally qualified accountants. These appointments will have to be confirmed officially at the Congregational Board's next meeting.

We give thanks that these men have been willing to serve the Lord in the church in this way. Please remember Lindsay, Donald, and George in your prayers.

2nd Giffnock Guides

2nd Giffnock Guides are looking for a new leadership team for an enthusiastic and lively Guide unit, meeting on Monday nights from 7.30 to 9.00pm in the Memorial Halls. Due to increasing work commitments, the current leadership team are leaving after many years of service.

Ideally, the new team would start in September this year, with support from the existing leaders until a satisfactory handover has been carried out.

Previous experience of running or being involved with children's clubs/events would be useful, but not vital, as training and support would be provided.

Please phone Allison Bell on 632 9955 for further information, and visit www.girlguiding.org.uk for everything you need to know about volunteering. It is a very exciting and rewarding opportunity either for developing leadership skills or just helping out and helping the girls to have fun and develop their skills.

Allison Bell

Welcome Rota

| Entrance | Sanctuary | Welcome Desk | Ushers |
|----------|-----------|--------------|--------|
|----------|-----------|--------------|--------|

MAY

| | | | | |
|----|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 3 | Callum Hunter | Fiona Thomson | Isabel Vance | Jim Mackinnon and Jo Weir |
| 10 | Isabel Vance | Fiona Thomson | Jo Weir | Callum Hunter |
| 17 | Jim Mackinnon | Ann Pope | Callum Hunter | Isabel Vance |
| 24 | Callum Hunter | Ann Pope | Isabel Vance | Jim Mackinnon |
| 31 | Ann Craig | Hilary Kennedy | Jim Mackinnon | Sandra Cherrie |

JUNE

| | | | | |
|----|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7 | Anne Barr | Maureen Park | Ann Craig | Irene Kinniburgh and Sandra Cherrie |
| 14 | Anne Barr | Maureen Park | Sandra Cherrie | Ann Craig |
| 21 | Fergus Cook | Shona Fletcher | Ann Craig | Sandra Cherrie |
| 28 | Shona Cook | Shona Fletcher | Catriona Cook | Irene Kinniburgh |

Collection Rota

MAY

| | |
|----|--|
| 3 | Fiona Thomson 571 7153; Peter Worthington 638 4316; Valerie Clarke 638 6148; Colin Williamson 571 9119 |
| 10 | Fiona Thomson; Peter Worthington; Norma Hannah 638 7515 |
| 17 | Ann Pope 616 4809; Bill McMurtrie 571 2512; Margaret Howard 571 7854; Joyce Winning 571 7617 |
| 24 | Ann Pope; Bill McMurtrie; Margaret Howard; Joyce Winning |
| 31 | Hilary Kennedy 638 6114; Anne Anderson 563 2395; Alex Mall 585 7169 |

JUNE

| | |
|----|---|
| 7 | Maureen Park 638 0273; Anne Anderson; Alex Mall |
| 14 | Maureen Park; Roseanne Henderson 571 7375; Norma Hannah 638 7515 |
| 21 | Shona Fletcher 639 4523; Neil Mackenzie 638 0591; Lisel Tait 638 8345 |
| 28 | Shona Fletcher; Neil Mackenzie; Lisel Tait |

Congregational Register

Baptisms

On 1 March 2015 Daniel Martin Brogan, son of Gillian and Martin Brogan, 98 Hillend Road, Clarkston G76 7XT (district 20)

On 1 March 2015 Rhys Carter Robertson, son of Steven Robertson and Cheryl Doherty, Flat 3/1, 2 Saucel Place, Paisley PA1 1UE

Change of Address

Jean Montgomerie, from 24 Crathes Court, Hazelden Gardens, Muirend G44 3HE (district 17) to Wellmeadow Lodge Care Home, Meadow Way, Newton Mearns G77 6XJ (district 17)

Deadline for June's *Orchardhill Record*

Sunday 17 May is the deadline for the June edition of the *Orchardhill Record*.

Contributions should be sent by email to 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. Using that email address ensures that every contribution goes to both members of the editorial team. We prefer contributions to be sent by email, and we cannot accept any handwritten or typed item that does not identify the source.

Any photograph or logo must not be embedded in the article. Please send photos and the like as separate attachments to allow flexibility in laying out pages. Nor can we accept pdf files.

The editor acknowledges every contribution. Contact him before the deadline if he has not confirmed that he has received your contribution.

The *Orchardhill Record* will, as usual, take two months' summer holiday and will not be published in July and August.

Orchardhill Calendar

MAY

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Sun | 3 | 10.30am | Family Worship | Rev John Miller |
| Tue | 5 | 7.30pm | Congregational Board | |
| Sun | 10 | 10.30am | Family Worship | Rev John Miller |
| Sun | 17 | 10.30am | Family Worship | Rev John Miller |
| Sat | 23 | 1.00-4.00pm | Orchardhill in Bloom | |
| Sun | 24 | 10.30am | Family Worship | Rev John Miller |
| Sun | 31 | 10.30am | Family Worship | Rev John Miller |

JUNE

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Sun | 7 | 10.30am | Family Worship | Rev John Miller |
| Sun | 14 | 10.30am | Sacrament of Lord's Supper | Rev John Miller |

Interview with New Moderator

Rev Dr Angus Morrison, minister of Orwell and Portmoak in Kinross-shire, will become Church of Scotland Moderator on the opening day of the General Assembly on 16 May. Appropriately, Life and Work, the Kirk's month magazine, includes an interview with Dr Morrison.

Summaries of General Assembly reports also are published in the magazine.

**Orchardhill Parish Church, Church Road, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6JR
(phone 0141 638 3604)**

**Website: www.orchardhill.org.uk
email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk**