



THE RECORD

Friendships across the Faiths

Dear Members and friends of Orchardhill,

For several years I have been aware that I have no Moslem friends. It is difficult to find occasions for meeting and discussion. I usually meet Moslems when they are at their work, in a shop or on a bus or in a taxi.

Recent months have seen the conflict in the Middle East intensify. Huge numbers of refugees have been fleeing into Europe. The Paris attacks in December have raised fears of IS-inspired assaults in public places. In this atmosphere I have sensed the need for making friendships with people of other faiths in order to counteract suspicion and fear. Yet how are such friendships to be started and how are they to grow?

Last month I learned of a programme of meetings being organised by Interfaith Glasgow. The Festivals Exchange project provided opportunities for people from different faith and belief backgrounds to gain a better understanding – and first-hand experience – of each other's religious festivals. The first festival was celebrated at the home of Glasgow's Sikh community at the Gurdwara and the second at Gorbals Parish Church on Christmas Eve. Mary and I put our names down to go to the third.

On 7 January we were among the 25 or so guests at the local mosque in Pollokshields. It was the festival to celebrate the birth of the prophet Mohammad. We were invited to be present at the evening prayers, to learn something of the history of their community, and to share the meal that was provided for us all.

Warmly welcomed, we were invited to remove our shoes, and we received a suitable covering for our heads. Then, seated on the floor, we watched everyone pray: bowing their heads to the ground and reciting and singing the words of worship and prayer. With the prayers completed, the Imam explained some of the community's history. Then a doctor who works in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital related some stories of the Prophet.

While everyone ate vegetarian pizza, quiet discussions continued into the evening. For me the strongest memory is the warmth of the welcome. Friendships are surely beginning.

A blessing.

John Miller

The Guild

At the Guild meeting on Monday 1 February we will learn more about the work of Mission International in Haiti, one of six new Guild Projects.

Rev Bill Ferguson will speak to us on Monday 15 February about "Saints and sinners I have known".

On Monday 29 February we will learn about the work of Canine Partners and the imaginative ways in which dogs make life easier for people.

All three meetings will be in the Fellowship Room at 2.00pm. We look forward to welcoming everyone interested in these talks.

Lodging House Mission

The Lodging House Mission continues to work closely with Glasgow City Mission and the other services caring for rough sleepers over the winter period – till the end of March. Rough sleepers and people with nowhere to sleep are welcome to use the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter for emergency accommodation. The service operates from the LHM in East Campbell Street.

In the mornings the LHM will connect people to Glasgow City Council's homelessness care team in order that homeless accommodation can be found. But also, in the morning, users of the service can remain in the LHM and take advantage of free food, accommodation, warmth, and a host of support facilities such as health improvement, legal advice, form-filling, and many other services and activities.

Orchardhill received the following message of thanks from the Lodging House Mission on Christmas Eve:

Dear friends,

We have just banked the combined contributions we have received from Orchardhill. Including the proceeds from the cards, the collections and individual's contributions, we have received the magnificent sum of £1479.50 plus Gift Aid to come. This achievement is quite outstanding, and we are very grateful to everyone at Orchardhill for their kindness.

On behalf of everyone at LHM, do have a very meaningful Christmas season and a healthy 2016.

With best wishes,

Gus Smeaton - Mission Manager

Retiring offerings at Orchardhill's Christingle Service and the Watchnight Service on Christmas Eve raised the sum of £429. A generous donation brought this up to £600.

Rev John Spiers

John Spiers needs no introduction for he was the Minister in Orchardhill for over 27 years. I am very pleased that John has accepted my invitation to come as the visiting preacher on Sunday 21 February at our 10.30am service of Family Worship.

For several years in the 1980s, during John's ministry here, the congregation of Orchardhill brought monthly deliveries of excellent nearly-new clothing for the weekly sale held in Castlemilk East Parish Church, where I was minister. During those same years Orchardhill's then newly formed SoundWaves donated the proceeds of their summer show to our Youth Work in the church.

I am recalling John's kindly role in all that as I take this opportunity to welcome him back to the pulpit in Orchardhill.

Rev John Miller

New Day Musical

Act of Faith Productions presents an inspirational musical, New Day, at Eastwood Theatre this month and three other venues within the Glasgow area.

New Day follows the experiences of three friends in their search for answers as they are faced with grief, a struggle with identity, and unexpected illness. Performed by an enthusiastic cast of young Christians, the musical tackles these hard questions in such a way that may cause you to consider each day in a new light.

The Eastwood Theatre presentations will be on Thursday to Saturday 18-20 February. Tickets are £10 each, and booking forms are available in Orchardhill from Susan Taylor and at the welcome desk.

Other venues are the Mitchell Theatre in Glasgow (5 and 6 February), the Village Theatre in East Kilbride (26 and 27 February), and Motherwell Theatre (18 and 19 March). Tickets can also be bought at any of the four venues. All performances start at 7.30pm.

Kirk's Same-sex Marriage Vote

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is to debate whether congregations should be allowed to consider calling a person in a same-sex marriage as a minister or deacon. The discussion will take place in May this year after a majority of Presbyteries voted in favour by approving an Overture amending the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships Act (Act I 2015).

A total of 25 Presbyteries, including Glasgow, voted in favour and 19 against with one Presbytery tied. A total of 1207 presbyters were in favour and 1096 against. Glasgow's vote in December was 115-72. Regardless of the Presbyteries' vote, the General Assembly will have the final say on this matter.

At the General Assembly in May last year the Church of Scotland approved legislation which gave leave to individual congregations to call a minister or appoint a deacon who was in a civil partnership. This legislation, however, did not include recognition of ministers or deacons who might be in a same-sex marriage. An amendment was proposed which would extend permission to allow congregations to consider inducting or appointing a minister or deacon who was in a same-sex marriage.

However, the General Assembly was careful to note that the matter under discussion was simply to permit ministers in same sex marriages to be inducted or appointed on the same basis as those in civil partnerships. This acknowledgment of legal standing is quite separate from and does not prejudge the Church's theological understanding of marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman. Nor is the question of the theology of marriage under discussion in relation to consideration of this Overture.

The proposed legislation was sent to Presbyteries as an Overture for consideration under a process known as the Barrier Act. Returns from Presbyteries were due to be received by the Principal Clerk, the Very Rev John Chalmers, by 31 December.

A Church of Scotland spokesman said: "Now Presbyteries have returned their votes, we will begin making arrangements to report the outcome of the vote to Commissioners at the General Assembly next May. They will hold a debate and vote on whether to make this proposed legislation into standing Church Law through the passing of the Act."

Email Address for Intimations

The new email address for intimations to be included in the Sunday service sheet is intimations@orchardhill.org.uk

Thinking Allowed

Thinking Allowed's next event will be on Thursday 4 February at 7.30 for 8.00pm in Orchardhill Church Hall – a discussion titled "On Being Connected to One Another".

Following last year's successful evening of discussion prompted by TED talks we will repeat the experiment this year. If you are new to TED, it is a non-profit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short powerful online talks. Some of these talks have been viewed by millions of people across the world. The two talks we will watch together are highlighted below.

Why would God create a Tsunami?

Rev Tom Honey, Canon Pastor of Exeter Cathedral, is unafraid to take on some of religion's tougher issues. In the days following the tragic South Asian tsunami in 2004 Canon Honey pondered the question, "How could a loving God have done this?" Here is his answer.

The Power of Vulnerability

Brené Brown studies human connection – our ability to empathise, belong and love. In a poignant, funny talk she shares a deep insight from her research, one that sent her on a personal quest to know herself as well as to understand humanity. A talk to share. Voted one of the best of TED talks of all time.

FURTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

At Cairns Church, Milngavie, on Thursday 11 February (7.30 for 8.00pm)

Speaker: Rev Iain Whyte, BA, BD, STM, PhD, Honorary Post Doctoral Fellow, Diaspora Studies, University of Edinburgh

Lecture: "Faith, Fiction and History: How Can We Deal with our Roots?"

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At Orchardhill Church, on Thursday 3 March (7.30 for 8.00pm)

Speaker: Margaret Webb, BSc, Dip Ed, Dip Counselling

Lecture: "Tell Me The Old, Old Story: Where Christian Spirituality and Psychotherapy Converge"

Many of us enjoy hearing others tell a good story. But what about the stories we tell to ourselves? In this talk Margaret uses themes from Christian Spirituality and theories from Transactional Analysis psychotherapy to explore how the nature of the stories we tell to ourselves in the privacy of our own minds will ultimately determine our capacity to live life in all its fullness.

At Cairns Church, Milngavie on Thursday 10 March (7.30 for 8.00pm)

Speaker: Prof Stuart K. Monroe, Geologist and former Scientific Director of Our Dynamic Earth

Lecture: "A Geologist Reflects..."

Confronted with the concept of "deep time" as uncovered by James Hutton in 1788 and that of evolution by Natural Selection proposed by Charles Darwin, how should theology respond?

Welcome Rota

Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Ushers
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FEBRUARY

7	May Liddle	Bill Yuill	Willie Hendry	Neil Mackenzie & Shona Cook
14	Neil Mackenzie	Bill Yuill	Nanette Davidson	Fergus Cook
21	Marion Watson	Bill Yuill	Neil Mackenzie	Irene Kinniburgh
28	May Liddle	Ian Anderson	Nanette Davidson	Neil Mackenzie

MARCH

6	Linda Moir	Ian Anderson	Marion Watson	Irene Kinniburgh & Shona Cook
13	Fergus Cook	Jim Kerr	Linda Moir	Marion Watson
20	Marion Watson	Jim Kerr	Linda Moir	Gordon Thomson
27	Alex Mall	Dorothy Cartlidge	Gordon Thomson	Linda Moir

Offering Rota

FEBRUARY

7	Bill Yuill 638 2400; Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512; Jim Mackinnon 638 2123
14	Bill Yuill; Gordon Ross 638 1207; Jim Mackinnon
21	Bill Yuill; Gordon Ross; Jim Mackinnon
28	Ian Anderson 563 2395; Ian Cartlidge 571 7839; Jim Mackinnon

MARCH

6	Ian Anderson; Ian Cartlidge; Lisel Tait 638 8345
13	Jim Kerr 638 2747; Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722; Lisel Tait; Norma Hannah 638 7515
20	Jim Kerr; Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722; Roseanne Henderson 571 7375
27	Dorothy Cartlidge 571 7839; David Evans 571 7846; Susan McQuilter 638 6936; Hilary Kennedy 638 6114

Communion Roll

DEATHS

On 9 December 2015 Betty McKenna, 33 Huntly Avenue, Giffnock G46 6LW (district 23)

On 28 December 2015 Jean Mair, 36 Homeglen House, Maryville Avenue, Giffnock G46 7NF (district 30)

Congregational Register

BAPTISM

On 3 January 2016 Rebecca Marion McLeish, daughter of Donald and Fiona Carmichael, 26 Claremount Avenue, Giffnock G46 6UT

Deadline for March edition

Sunday 14 February is the deadline for the March 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 deadline for the April edition will be Sunday 13 March.

Orchardhill Calendar

FEBRUARY

Mon	1	2.00pm	The Guild: Mission International in Haiti	
Thu	4	7.30pm for 8.00	Thinking Allowed: TED Talk	
Sun	7	10.30am	Family Service	Rev John Miller
Sun	14	10.30am	First Sunday of Lent Family Service	Rev John Miller
Mon	15	2.00pm	The Guild: Rev Bill Ferguson ("Saints and sinners I have known")	
Sun	21	10.30am	Second Sunday of Lent Family Service	Rev John Miller & Rev John Spiers
Wed	24	7.45pm	Congregational Board	
Sun	28	10.30am	Third Sunday of Lent Family Service	Rev John Miller
Mon	29	2.00pm	The Guild: Canine Partners	

MARCH

Thu	3	7.30pm for 8.00	Thinking Allow: Margaret Webb	
Sun	6	10.30am	Fourth Sunday of Lent Youth Service	Rev John Miller
Sun	13	10.30am	Fifth Sunday of Lent Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev John Miller

Orchardhill Parish Church, Church Road, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6JR

(phone 0141 638 3604)

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email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk