



# THE RECORD

## A Christmas Welcome

It is all too easy to bask in a fond recollection of the story of the Nativity which not only bears little relation to what may have taken place but is largely unsupported by the texts. Part of that tradition is that Mary gives birth in a stable because “there was no room for them in the inn.”

However, the text itself suggests a different scenario. The word readily translated “inn” can also mean a room reserved for guests or for special occasions. It is the word Mark uses for the room where Jesus celebrates Passover the night before his death. In days when poorer people lived on a raised platform in their houses with animals at ground level the “guest room” would be a portion set apart for visitors.

There was a strong tradition of giving hospitality, and it is unsurprising that in Bethlehem at this time the guest room would be occupied by other visitors. Prior to the arrival of Mary and Joseph, this was in all likelihood already a hospitable home.

On this view, Mary does give birth amongst animals, in the lower portion of the house no doubt of one of Joseph’s relatives. If true, she is unlikely to be alone. It is probable other female family members would be around in what would be a recognisable, if humble domestic scene of its time.

The significance of this reading shouldn’t pass us by. The Christ Child is welcomed into a family home, one which had already opened its doors to others and was now willing to host a perhaps unfamiliar far-distant family member alongside the pregnant girl to whom he was betrothed or possibly married.

As we offer and enjoy hospitality to family and friends – and, perhaps, are challenged by the Christmas story to extend our welcome – let us not forget that Christmas very likely starts in a home, and one which is generous and hospitable in its welcome.

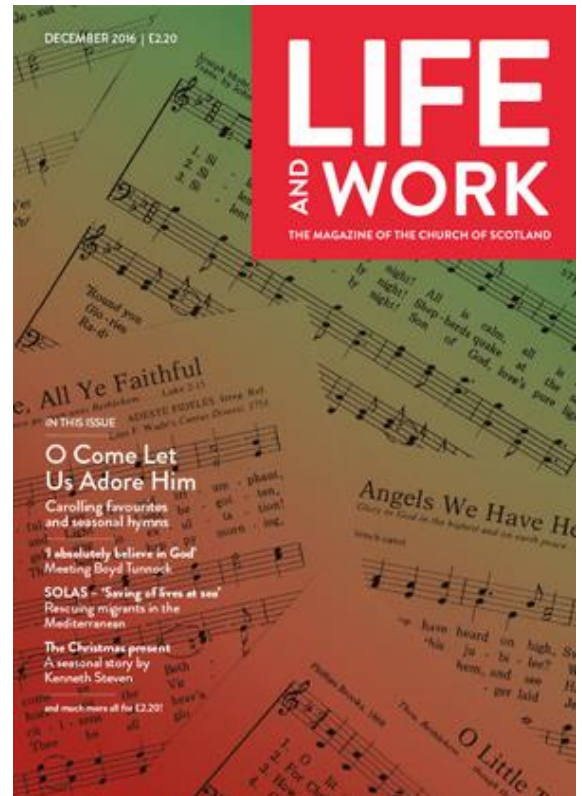
**Grant Barclay, Minister**

# Rescuing Migrants

Saving migrants at sea is featured in the Christmas edition of Life and Work, the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine. Rev Dr Marjory MacLean describes life on aboard a Royal Naval vessel rescuing migrants in the Mediterranean.

Other articles include:

- Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith looks at the history of some of the best-loved Christmas carols.
- Seasonal reflections by Ron Ferguson and Very Rev James Simpson.
- A Christmas prayer
- "I Absolutely Believe in God": an interview with Boyd Tunnock, managing director of the world-famous confectionery company and Church of Scotland elder.
- The major funding crisis facing Borderline, the Church-supported charity which helps homeless Scots in London.
- A parish church with strong Covenanting links.



# LHM Christmas Gifts

The Lodging House Mission leadership have advised us that they are no longer going to ask us for contributions of Shoe Boxes at Christmas. They are intent that each of their visitors will still receive a Christmas gift, and they say that the reason for the change in approach is that it will be easier to provide consistency and equality in gifts if the Mission is able to provide them all itself.

Understandably, LHM will be very appreciative of any cash we wish to provide in place of the boxes. The opportunity to do so is in direct giving and through Orchardhill's special Christmas collection. It should be stressed that the Mission is extremely grateful for all the very meaningful support that Orchardhill has given and continues to give.

**Archie Hunter**

# *David Clark*

*6 August 1974 – 14 October 2016*

On 27 October a private service for David Clark was held in Craufurdland woodland burial ground at Fenwick. Later that morning a Thanksgiving Service held in Orchardhill Church drew over 200 mourners to pay tribute to his memory.

Even before he entered Primary 1 in Giffnock Primary School David had overcome serious illness. A tumour requiring radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and serious surgery led to him losing an eye. To his class-mates he was simply “the boy with a patch over his eye”, not out of the ordinary. He made great friends with twin brothers, Alan and Graeme Robertson. All three shared a love of trains, and David knew Scottish railway routes and timetables off by heart before he was 10.

David’s mother Veronica was from Edinburgh. His father John, from Caerphilly in South Wales, had served in the RAF intelligence during the war and became Professor of Modern Languages at Strathclyde University. David was baptised with family names Elster (after John’s father) and Selway (Veronica’s family name). John Clark loved being father to David and Sally, and he enjoyed spending time with the children, especially on holiday. But David was 12 and Sally just 8 when their father died unexpectedly. David became the man of the house, a responsible figure in the family.

From Belmont House School in Newton Mearns, David went on to graduate with a 2/1 Honours Degree in Public Administration and Management from Glasgow Caledonian. He became an administrator in Glasgow City Council’s pensions department, where he worked for over 17 years.

Faith played an important part in David’s outlook on life. In Orchardhill church he was for many years a Sunday School teacher, a BB Officer, and a member of the Congregational Board, even when he moved to his flat in Cathcart.

With his mother and sister he travelled in France and in Italy as well as Germany when Sally was studying there. David pursued his interest in trains by joining the Scottish Railway Preservation Society (SRPS) in Bo’ness. Day-trips and tours took them around Scotland and England, often with historic engines and rolling-stock. In 2009 David became a volunteer steward with SRPS, serving meals to passengers in the buffet car and dining car. In his work and in the church he raised funds for a variety of charities.

David always had a great interest in food, and on his travels he enjoyed the local cuisine. But for many years the family cherished pet rabbits, and the family’s interest in the well-being of endangered species and a growing sense of the suffering caused to animals by the meat trade led them all to become vegetarian. Deeply concerned for the environment, they also became Vegan.

But two years ago cancer visited David again, and he had to retire from work. His colleagues gave him, a hero’s send-off, and David vowed to be invincible as he faced his illness. His mum and his sister Sally devoted themselves to enabling him to live life to the full and in the comfort and security of the family home till his dear life drew to its close.

David was dearly loved and will be fondly remembered.

# Presbytery Guests Banned

A planned visit by four representatives from the Diocese of Hyderabad to Glasgow Presbytery last month was called off after two of the visitors were refused visas. The refusal was based on financial grounds even though the visit was to be fully funded by the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council Faithfare Fund.

Four Glasgow Presbytery personnel visited the Hyderabad Diocese a year ago as the first positive step in a twinning arrangement, and a reciprocal visit to Pakistan was originally planned for May this year. That plan was scuppered because of visa problems, but it was rearranged for last month with more detailed financial information provided by Glasgow Presbytery for the UK Visas and Immigration agency.

Two of the visiting team have dual nationality, including the Bishop of Hyderabad. However, the two others' visa applications were again turned down. These two were "very depressed and shocked at the way the applications have been handled," it was recorded in the Glasgow Presbytery Business Committee's report to Presbytery's November meeting.

An extract from the visa refusal document stated: "I am not satisfied that you meet the requirements of paragraphs V4.2-4.10 of Appendix V Immigration rules. It is acknowledged that the Church of Scotland will bear the costs of your visit. In brief I am not satisfied the bank statement is an accurate reflection of your financial circumstances. Given the above, I am not satisfied you are genuinely seeking entry as a general visitor for a limited period as stated by you not exceeding 6 months. Unless financial circumstances change future applications are likely to be refused. The refusal is not subject to appeal or administrative review." The assurances and backing of the Church of Scotland, it seems, are not enough for a UK government panjandrum!

However, the Bishop and his wife (who also has a high position in the Diocese) now plan to visit Glasgow in February next year.

The visa problem could have an effect reaching beyond Hyderabad. If that visa problem were to continue then it could severely damage would-be visitors to the World Council of Churches General Assembly for which Glasgow had been proposed as the venue. Rev Dr Graham Blount, joint Presbytery Clerk, reported that Glasgow City Council members were very keen to see that event held here.

Presbytery's November meeting confirmed a commitment to twinning with the Diocese of Hyderabad, expressed sympathy and support to those who had planned to come to Glasgow, expressed deep concern at the UK Government's refusal of visas to two invited partners, instructed the Presbytery Clerks (working with the World Mission Council) to make concerns known directly to the UK Government and local MPs, encouraged Presbytery members and congregations to write expressing concerns to their MPs, and noted that this refusal threatened to frustrate not only this twinning but also the possibility of the World Council of Churches General Assembly and other international events coming to Glasgow.

# CrossWords' Thanks



CrossWords would like to thank everyone who came along to their Believe! concert on Saturday 29 October. It was a great night, enjoyed by all, and we thank everyone who helped make it such a success by welcoming guests, organising the interval refreshments, and tidying up at the close: this was much appreciated. There was a great turnout, and the magnificent total of £800 was raised for Church funds: we thank you for your support and generosity.

## Saturday help for LHM

Glasgow Presbytery have asked congregations to consider providing a team of volunteers to allow the Lodging House Mission to operate on Saturdays (9.00am to 3.00pm). Four people are needed at any one time to work with an LHM staff member in proving meals, clearing dishes, and engaging with service users. More information is available from the Glasgow Presbytery office (0141 332 6606: [glasgow@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:glasgow@churchofscotland.org.uk)).

# TED Talks

Following the well-received TED Talks of last year's Thinking Allowed programme, this session's event will feature Jody Williams and Scilla Elworthy giving lectures, respectively "A Realistic Vision for World Peace" and "Fighting with Nonviolence". These will take place in Orchardhill on Thursday 2 February.

In more than 100 years of Nobel Peace Prizes, only a dozen women have ever won. Civil-rights and peace activist Jody Williams received the award in 1997 as the chief strategist of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which established the first global treaty banning antipersonnel mines.

Williams believes that peace is defined by human (not national) security and that it must be achieved through sustainable development, environmental justice, and meeting people's basic needs. To this end, she co-founded the Nobel Women's Initiative, endorsed by six female Peace laureates. She chairs the effort to support activists, researchers, and others working toward peace, justice, and equality for women and thus humanity. Williams also continues to fight for the total global eradication of landmines.

How do you deal with a bully without becoming a thug? In this wise and soulful talk, peace activist Scilla Elworthy maps out the skills we need — as nations and individuals — to fight extreme force without using force in return. To answer the question of why and how nonviolence works, she evokes historical heroes — Aung San Suu Kyi, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela — and the personal philosophies that powered their peaceful protests.

Finally, on Thursday 9 March, Very Rev John Miller, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, returns to Orchardhill to deliver his lecture on "What Shall We Tell the Grandchildren?"

Cairns Church, Milngavie, also hosts Thinking Allowed lectures:

Thursday 17 November – Rev Scott McKenna, Minister of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, Edinburgh: "The Most Important Journey in Life is the Inner Journey".

Thursday 12 January – Myra MacDonald, author and former Reuters Bureau Chief for India: "Pakistan: Politics and Religion".

Thursday 23 February – Rev Julie Nicholson: Roy Paterson Memorial Lecture.



Our next event is **Celebrate Christmas with Soundwaves** on Sunday 18 December at 6.30pm in the church.

Please put the date in your diary and join us that evening for our Christmas celebrations with the usual tea, coffee, shortbread and chat afterwards in the hall.

## Café's Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 13 December is day of the Orchard Café's Christmas lunch. Booking is essential: so reserve your place at the table without delay.

After that date the Café will be closed until the New Year. Look out for the re-opening date in the Sunday intimations.

The Café's charity this month is Robyn House, CHAS.

# Bereavement Service

As the mourners sought out the names of their loved ones departed, illuminated by the barely flickering candles in the stillness of the sanctuary, tears, sadness and despondency were clearly evident. These feelings were soon banished by the service which followed, one of hope and faithful certainty that the end of life on this earth is not the end of the story but merely the end of a chapter in that story: a truly uplifting experience.

*Life is a great sunrise. I do not see why death should not be an even greater event.*

VLADIMIR NABOKOV



## Orchardhill Record in Large Print

Three years ago the editors offered to produce large-print copies of the Orchardhill Record for those who wished that facility. No one took up that offer. Now, however, it has been suggested again that a few Orchardhill members would welcome a large-print copy.

If you wish such a copy of the church newsletter each month or if you know of anyone who would appreciate such a version, please advise the Church Secretary ([secretary@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:secretary@orchardhill.org.uk): 0141 638 3602).



# December Welcomers

	Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Greeters/Ushers
4	Jim Blair	Fiona Bissett	Isabel Vance	Sandra Cherrie and Jo Weir
11	Shona Cook	Fiona Bissett	Jim Blair	Ann Craig
18	Willie Hendry	Fiona Bissett	Anne Barr	Jim Blair
25	Shona Cook	Fiona Bissett	Catriona Cook	Jim Blair

# Offering Rota

## DECEMBER

4	Fiona Bissett 638 6394; Andrew Flockhart 586 8867; Dave Thomson; Norma Hannah 638 7515
11	Fiona Bissett; Andrew Flockhart; Richard Park 638 0273; Anne Anderson 563 2395
18	Fiona Bissett; Andrew Flockhart; Richard Park; Anne Anderson
25	Fiona Bissett; Andrew Flockhart; Richard Park

## JANUARY

1	Angela Peacock 638 0026; Sandra Cherrie 638 9702; Allan Rennie 882 0703
8	Angela Peacock; Sandra Cherrie; Allan Rennie
15	Shona Fletcher 639 4523; Sandra Cherrie; Willie Hendry 644 0351
22	Shona Fletcher; Sandra Cherrie; Willie Hendry
29	Bill Yuill 638 2400; Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512; Norma Hannah

# Scripture Readers

**December**    4: Ian Cartlidge            11: Linda Moir            18: David Howard            25: Judy Byrne

**January**        1: Margaret Howard            8: Fergus Cook            15: Angela Peacock  
                       22: Donald Carmichael        29: Shona Cook

# Communion Roll

## DEATH

On 11 November 2011 Elizabeth Shaw, 15 McLaren Court, Fenwick Place, Giffnock G46 6UF (district 14)

# Congregational Register

## MARRIAGE

On 30 September 2016 Julia Katie Park, 1 Melford Avenue, Giffnock G46 6NA, and Stephen Peter Gray, Flat 1-1, 21 Craigend Court, Anniesland, Glasgow G13 2US

# Deadline for Orchardhill Record

Sunday 11 December is the deadline for the January's edition of the Orchardhill Record. Because of the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays, the editors would be grateful if you could help by submitting contributions well in advance of the deadline if possible.

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. 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. But jpg files are OK.

The editor acknowledges contributions via his personal email address. Contact him before the deadline if he has not confirmed that he has received your contribution.

# Orchardhill Calendar

## DECEMBER

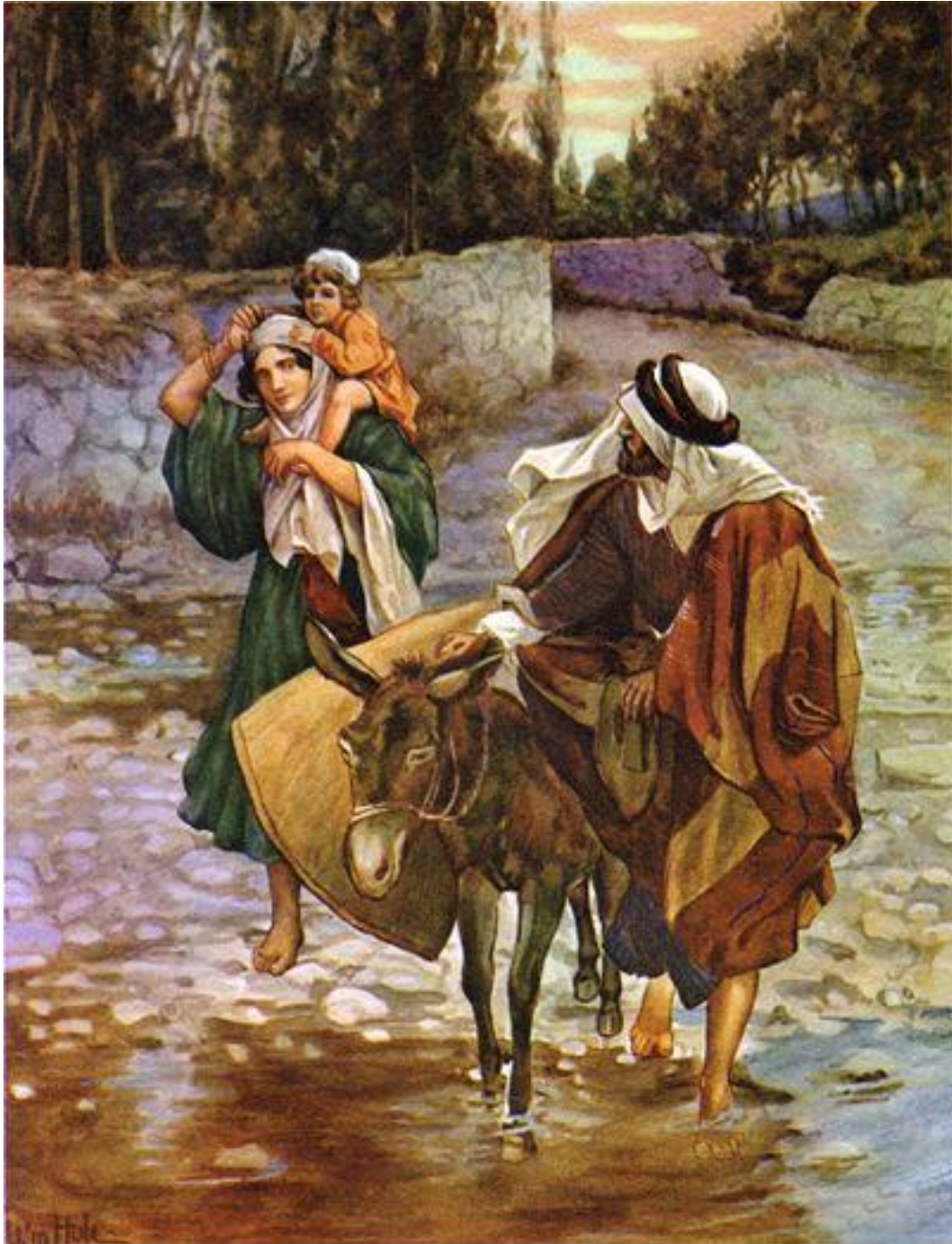
Sun	4	10.30am	Second Sunday in Advent Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev Grant Barclay
Sun	11	10.30am	Third Sunday in Advent Choir Christmas Cantata	Rev Grant Barclay
Tue	13		Orchard Café: Christmas Lunch	
Sun	18	10.30am	Fourth Sunday in Advent Stepping Stones' Nativity Service	Rev Grant Barclay
		6.30pm	Celebrate Christmas with Soundwaves	
Wed	21	1.30pm	Giffnock School Service	
Sat	24	6.30pm	Christingle Service	
		11.30pm	Watchnight Service preceded by mulled wine and mince pies at 11.00pm	Rev Grant Barclay
Sun	25	10.30am	Christmas Day Service	Rev Grant Barclay

## JANUARY

Sun	1	10.30am	Family Worship with Sacrament of Lord's Supper	Rev Grant Barclay
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**Orchardhill Parish Church, Church Road, Giffnock Glasgow G46 6JR**  
 phone 0141 638 3604)  
 website: [www.orchardhill.org.uk](http://www.orchardhill.org.uk)  
 email: [secretary:Orchardhill.org.uk](mailto:secretary@Orchardhill.org.uk)

# Refugees Too!



The Flight into Egypt by William Hole