



# THE RECORD

## Anyone for Desert?

This may be a time of year when we plan how to spend warm, summer days in sunny spots overseas or actively exploring some of the world's historic treasures. Among the various offerings in travel agent brochures, though, you're unlikely to find sojourning in the Sahara or camping in the Kalahari. Perhaps unsurprisingly, deserts don't really float our holiday boat! It's not that we dislike sand, particularly if it is sun-soaked and beside the sea. So why are deserts unpopular tourist locations? It's probably because they are, well, deserted. Dry. Barren.

Lent is approaching, that time when we remember Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness of Judea. The Evangelists connect this event with the 40 years spent by the Hebrews who, having fled through the Red Sea from oppression in Egypt, wander until a generation died out and relied each day on God's providing what the desert, in its barrenness, could not. Both for the people of Israel and for Christ, desert seems to be a place of patient preparation, but it is not a permanent residence.

It is therefore alarming to recognise that the world's deserts are growing. Land degradation affects one quarter of the world's population, around 1.5 billion. Increasing numbers of people are discovering that there once fertile fields have become a wilderness. The desert is engulfing the lands which once sustained them.

In the lenten desert, Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Later, in the Lord's Prayer, he encourages his disciples to pray for their daily bread: "Give us, this day, our daily bread." This may mean that where our daily bread, our enjoyment of the Earth's resources result in other people going without food, water or security then we are not living up to the vision we take on our lips in prayer. If Lent is a period of re-aligning ourselves with the priorities of God's kingdom seen in Jesus, then perhaps this Lent may usefully be a time to recognise the desert challenge which is literally faced by many. And perhaps the fruit of a period of personal reflection, though not merely private introspection, may enable us live more generously towards others, and towards God. For we believe God works in us, individually and together, to produce fruit which will not only endure but which will increase to the benefit of many.

**Grant Barclay**  
Minister

# Contributing to Ministry

*"Each one must give as he has decided in his own heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 CORINTHIANS 9: 7

Within Orchardhill we require to make a contribution to our ministry - locally, in Scotland and beyond. We do this by giving of our time, our talents, and our money.

As far as monetary donations are concerned the most common ways are via standing orders or weekly freewill offering (WFO) envelopes. Standing orders are an arrangement with your bank to give a specific sum, usually monthly. This is a very secure system and only needs a simple form to be completed. WFO envelopes provide an opportunity to contribute weekly, and the amounts are known only to the WFO treasurer. Giving through the open bag each week is, of course, always an option.

Also, you can increase the amount you give to the Church by 25% at no extra cost to you! Through the Government's Gift Aid scheme, if you are a UK tax payer, Orchardhill can reclaim the tax on your giving. This can be used in conjunction with your standing order, WFO envelope or other specific donations. All you have to do is sign a simple declaration form, and for every £1 you give Orchardhill will be able to claim a further 25p.

Regardless of how you choose to give, if you haven't done so recently, why not give some prayerful consideration to reviewing your givings and help sustain the ongoing work of our Church?

If you have questions or wish to start using any of these methods, please contact Shona Fisher or Susan McQuilter (Gift Aid convenor and WFO treasurer).

**Shona Fisher**

## Open Invitation

**Glasgow Presbytery will meet at five venues on 18 April with a different discussion topic at each meeting. These will be open meetings, with all members of congregations welcome to attend.**

**Discussion themes are likely to be "From Contact to Faith", "How Young People Learn", "Supporting and Recruiting Volunteers", "Communications", and "Inter-faith Relations". The venues will be announced later this month.**

# Save the Date

David Fisher and his colleagues in the award-winning ensemble, Octave, will be giving a concert next month to raise funds for Orchardhill's Scottish Love in Action team's upcoming visit to India.



The concert will be in Orchardhill on Friday 28 April. Everyone is welcome to hear Octave's programme of music from West End shows, the classics, and some pop. Something to suit all tastes!

## John Miller's Return

Our former Interim Moderator and Locum Minister, Rev John Miller, returns to Orchardhill on Thursday 9 March (8.00pm) to complete this season's programme of Thinking Allowed lectures. His subject will be "What Shall We Tell the Grandchildren?"

## Eastwoodhill Coffee Morning

The annual Eastwoodhill Coffee Morning will be held in Giffnock South Church on Saturday 8 April (10.00am-noon). This year the Friends of Eastwoodhill are fundraising to equip a new games room for the home.

Jeanette Birnie and Evelyn McMurtrie have coffee morning tickets (£2) and the ever popular quizzes (£1).

## Sunshine Bags 2016

I am delighted to tell you that in January this year I sent a total of £1885 raised from last year's Sunshine Bags (the highest amount for some years) to Mary's Meals to help the work they do feeding destitute children throughout the world. Very many thanks to everyone who made this total possible.

**Jeanette Birnie**

# Hyderabad Visitors Welcomed

After weeks of hassle and doubt Glasgow Presbytery's visitors from the Diocese of Hyderabad have been to Scotland. The most pleasing aspect of their visit was that they came in full strength. Two who had initially been refused visas were able to join the Bishop of Hyderabad, Rt Rev Kaleen John, and his wife. The four were warmly welcomed to Glasgow Presbytery's meeting in Pollokshields Parish Church on Tuesday 14 February.

Bishop John not only thanked Glasgow Presbytery and others in the Church of Scotland for hosting the visit. But he also related some of the Diocese's work in and around the Hyderabad area, providing assistance to the marginalised communities, not only for Christians but also for all faith groups. That succour extends to those afflicted by the likes of HIV/Aids.

Yet that work is being done in an atmosphere of antagonism that is, at times, brutal and murderous. Through our own media we hear occasionally of the more extreme examples of the victimisation of Christians, not only in Pakistan but elsewhere on the sub-continent. But it is all the more realistic when it was here at home from the voice of one who has experienced it and yet leads a community willing to turn the other cheek and to continue to offer helping hands.

## First for Church of Scotland

Rev Aquila Singh, the Church of Scotland's first Asian female minister, was among those welcomed to Glasgow Presbytery last month following her induction to Fernhill and Cathkin Parish Church in Rutherglen in January. Though born in Pakistan, she has lived in Scotland since she was two, and she was a teacher at Belmont House School in Newton Mearns before her ministry training.

## Presbytery Moderator

Rev Ian Galloway, Minister of Gorbals Parish Church, is to be Glasgow Presbytery's next Moderator. He will take over from Rev Jeanne Roddick at Presbytery's June meeting.

The Moderator Designate is currently convener of Presbytery's Superintendence Committee and a former convener of the General Assembly's Church and Society Council.

His wife, Rev Cathy Galloway, is about to retire as head of Christian Aid Scotland. Her successor will be the current Church and Society Council convener, Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, who will step down as Associate Minister at Dunblane Cathedral at the end of this month.



Picture courtesy of Rockin Vans

Soundwaves' show this year is "Magical Musical Midnight". It will take place in Orchardhill's Memorial Halls on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 for an adult and £2 for a child and can be obtained from the church office or Alexis Wallace (0141 585 7986).

Please put the date in your diary, and come along to experience the magic.

## The Guild

On Monday 6 March at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Room the Guild will have a brief allocations meeting followed by an illustrated talk on the Eaglesham Quilt. We would gladly welcome anyone interested in this meeting.

# March and April Welcomers

	Entrance	Sanctuary	Welcome Desk	Greeters/Ushers
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## MARCH

5	Gordon Thomson	Ian Cartlidge	Nanette Davidson	Marion Watson and Alex Mall
12	Marion Watson	Dorothy Cartlidge	Gordon Thomson	Nanette Davidson
19	Alex Mall	Dorothy Cartlidge	Marion Watson	Gordon Thomson
26	Jim Blair	Jim Kerr	Alex Mall	Jo Weir

## APRIL

2	Jo Weir	Jim Kerr	Jim Blair	Alex Mall and Shona Fletcher
9	Shona Fletcher	Joyce Winning	Jo Weir	Jim Blair
16	Jim Blair	Joyce Winning	Shona Fletcher	Jo Weir
23	Jim Mackinnon	Fiona Thomson	Ann Craig	Shona Fletcher
30	Isabel Vance	Fiona Thomson	Jim Mackinnon	Ann Craig

# Offering Rota

## MARCH

5	Ian Cartlidge 571 7839; Hilary Kennedy 638 6114; Ian Anderson 563 2395
12	Dorothy Cartlidge 571 7839; Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722; Lisel Tait 638 8345; Norma Hannah 638 7515
19	Dorothy Cartlidge; Irene Kinniburgh; Lisel Tait
26	Jim Kerr 638 2747; David Evans 571 7846; Susan McQuilter 638 6936

## APRIL

2	Jim Kerr; David Evans; Susan McQuilter
9	Joyce Winning 571 7617; Roseanne Henderson 571 7375; Bruce Paterson 571 7862
16	Joyce Winning; Peter Worthington 638 4316; Bruce Paterson
23	Fiona Thomson 571 7153; Peter Worthington; David Howard 571 7854
30	Fiona Thomson; Margaret Howard 571 7854; David Howard

# Reading Rota

**March** 5 Colin Williamson 12 Anne Barr 19 Andrew Flockhart 26 Gillian Irvine

**April** 2 Jim Blair 9 Shona Fisher 16 Bill McMurtrie 23 Joyce Winning 30 Lindsay Barr

# Congregational Register

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr Andrew Gall from 98 Hillend Road, Clarkston, to 37 Sunnybank Drive, Clarkston G76 7SS (district 20)

## Glasgow's World Bid

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland are drawing up a bid to bring the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the World Council for Churches to Glasgow in 2021. The bid has the support of Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Churches Together among others.

## Record's April Deadline

**Sunday 19 March is the deadline for the April edition of the Orchardhill Record. 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. **A 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 every contribution via his personal email address. Contact him before the deadline if he has not confirmed that he has received your contribution.

The deadline for the May edition will be Sunday 16 April.

# Orchardhill Calendar

## MARCH

Sun	5	10.30am	First Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Mon	6	2.00pm	The Guild: Allocations meeting and illustrated talk on the Eaglesham Quilt	
Thu	9	8.00pm	Thinking Allowed: Rev John Miller ("What Shall We Tell the Grandchildren?")	
Sun	12	10.30am	Second Sunday in Lent Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev Grant Barclay
Sun	19	10.30am	Third Sunday in Lent Family Worship with Stated Annual Meeting	Rev Grant Barclay
Fri-Sat	24-25	7.30pm	Soundwaves' show: Magical, Musical, Midnight	
Sun	26	10.30am	Fourth Sunday in Lent Youth Service: Stepping Stones and Bridges	
Tue	28	7.30pm	Kirk Session	
Wed	29	11.30am	Lunchtime Communion	
		1.30pm	Giffnock Primary School: Spring Service	

## APRIL

Sun	2	10.30am	Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Sun	9	10.30am	Palm Sunday Sunday Worship	Rev Grant Barclay

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

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