



THE RECORD

String Theory...

When is a '38' not a '38'? When it comes with a suffix which denotes the local bus routes. To an outsider it seems strange economy to use the same bus route number to cover destinations as diverse as Spiersbridge, Eastwood Toll and Newton Mearns, but a broader view makes things clearer. All 38 buses come to Giffnock Post Office, only thereafter do the routes split; there is similar diversity in the east, after Alexandra Parade. The core of the route is the same, with variation at each end.

That makes this bus route a helpful metaphor for our church at this time. We have a core of six issues which lie at the heart of our congregation's life. These are that we nurture disciples, develop the enthusiasm of young people, offer vibrant worship which connects with congregation and community, grow in generous and welcoming friendships with each other in Orchardhill, offer a strong and practical contribution to our community, and that we work in partnership with others far beyond our boundaries.

These principles of faith, worship, nurture, service, welcome and partnership all sit at the core of Christian faith. We can all agree on these, and they are things which bind us together. But we will each be moved differently and attracted to different expressions and approaches. So there is space for diverse expressions of these core aims.

It's rather like a string or a rope whose ends are made to fray a little. We have much which holds us together: we are unlikely to disagree very much on these six main issues, though we might each rank their importance differently. Alongside all that unites us is the exciting possibility that we might express our commitment to these principles in a variety of ways. The congregational conference will help us see where our range of interests might converge so that we can work with those who are like-minded to make real progress across a number of fronts.

A body is not made up of only one part, but many, Paul reminded the Corinthian church. Similarly we have opportunities to make good use of our varied skills and interests to work in partnership for things we hold in common. May we sense God's leading, in different ways, as we move forward together, led by Christ.

Grant Barclay
Minister

Junior Badminton Successes

Did you visit the World Badminton Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow last month? Have you been inspired to play badminton? The Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club season starts on 2 September, meeting in the Memorial Halls every Saturday morning from 10.00 until noon, and we would love to see you there.

All standards of play are catered for, and any boy or girl aged between 10 and 15 is welcome to join. The name of any child can be added to the waiting list by emailing the name, date of birth and a phone number to Barbara Mackenzie (neilmackenzie@msn.com) or by telephoning 638 0591.

As well as regular Saturday mornings, we hold a variety of events throughout the year: coaching, friendly matches, senior/junior mornings, a crazy tournament, and singles and doubles tournaments.

Last season finished well with our juniors winning the Mary Russell Shield for the club with the most points in the local inter-church Thornlee tournament. The photo shows Ruth Flockhart holding the shield, along with the other Orchardhill winners and runners-up (from left) Niamh Flockhart, Emily Worthington, Amy Harvey, Michael Senyk, Noah Fergusson, Johnny Knak, Louis Finn and Daniel Watson.



In addition, our BADMINTONScotland regional development officer organised a team competition at Williamwood High School for the five local junior badminton clubs. It was very successful, and we hope this format will be repeated this session. Below is the Orchardhill team.



The Guild's Syllabus

The Guild hope you have all had a very good and relaxing summer, and we invite you to join us in our new session. We have a varied and interesting syllabus this year and would like to welcome everyone to come to our meetings on Mondays in the Fellowship Room. Our group, although small, is very friendly, enthusiastic and forward-looking, and we hope to share laughter and tea with many of you. These are our upcoming meetings:

9 October	"Life at The Sunday Post": Jill Scott and Bill Hicks
23 October	"Reminiscence Box: The 1950s": Janice Hamilton from the Open Museum
6 November	Guild Theme, "Go in Love": Rev Grant Barclay
20 November	Carols, and Bring and Buy Sale
4 December	Christmas lunch
29 January	Celebration of Robert Burns: Bill Blackie
12 February	to be confirmed
26 February	Musical Bingo
12 March	Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela: Robert Nimmo
26 March	Developing imagination for school children: Irene Kinniburgh

All meetings are at 2.00pm except the Christmas lunch.

Orchard Community Café Re-opening



The Orchardhill Community Café doors open again on Tuesday 5 September at 10.00am. As usual, we will be serving teas, coffees and juice with a delicious selection of cakes and biscuits, all made by our loyal bakers. Fresh soup donated by our wonderful cooks and homemade bread will be served every Tuesday from noon till 12.55pm.

Coffees and teas are served each Thursday from 10.00am till noon.

Payment is by donation, and every month we give to a different charity as well as sponsoring a young boy from Ethiopia through Compassion UK.

Please pop in and say hello. We are waiting to welcome you!

On to the Ark with Huntly Hound

Huntly Hound is over for another year. At the start of the week we were heading into the unknown of how many children would attend with many hours to fill – and then it was passed.

At its peak we had 48 primary-school-age children along with team leaders and adults filling the Memorial Halls with cheers of support for their team, songs, laughter and chatter.

This year the theme was “On to the ark with Huntly”. We heard stories about snakes, whales, lions, frogs and sheep and then how they all went on the ark with Noah. It was a fantastic week seeing everyone working together and enjoying themselves.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the week: by attending, donating or praying for us.
Fiona Carmichael



Chips' Journey Through USA

A strong feeling of family develops over the Chips week in August. It is hard to explain, and we are planning this year to try one-off events either at Halloween or Christmas or both on the back of this year's Chips events. It is a week which is not easy to replicate in a day, but many young adults showed enthusiasm to do something.



USA: Upstate and Streets Ahead was this year's theme. The week depicted a journey across America – Las Vegas, Florida, Hollywood, Texas and New York.

This week's speakers were all very different and managed to capture the essence of a faith journey. We had science and belief illustrated from setting water on fire. We captured Indiana Jones while being lost and explored what it is that's important to us and what are our priorities in life such as whether to watch television or support a friend. From the story of David and Goliath the point was made not just to believe in God but challenged us to put faith into action, and we were simply left with more to do.

Activities included the return of a bucking bull as a highlight. Florida and Disney involved a game based on the Claw from Toy Story, and silent movies involved both dressing up and mannequins. The surprise event of the week was the hoedown, which was enjoyed by all. It is always a test of faith to be outdoors, and a window of opportunity came again between the rain to visit Troon, eat burgers, and play beach games.

The planning team are owed a big thank-you, and as Andy Gall aptly points out, Chips is not a paid activity but a labour of love. Plus there are many more people involved who give up their time to provide cars, cook food, manage money, and assist in many other ways. This all made for a great week at Chips in 2017.



Patrick Byrne

Letter from Prison

To the congregation of Orchardhill, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

This rather formal greeting seems oddly appropriate as it is contained in each of what are referred to as Paul's Prison Epistles. While incarcerated in Rome Paul wrote to the Ephesians, the Philippians, the Colossians and the letter to Philemon.

As most of you know, when I finished my placement at Greenbank Parish Church I began a new placement at Her Majesty's Young Offenders' Institution Polmont. While it was from prison I have written to you, I, of course, had the benefit of only being a visitor. Paul was not the only one who knew what it was like to be a prisoner. Jesus let himself be handed over for trial and was sentenced and punished. He knew and suffered the rejection of his community and possibly this gave him a different perspective when he forgave the robber on the cross beside him.

There are various injunctions in the Bible for us to consider the plight of prisoners. In Matthew 25:36, when Jesus is explaining the allegory of The Sheep and the Goats, he says: "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." It is also written in Hebrews 13:3: "Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them."

While there is a constant need for ministry in this area, all of us are encouraged to remember those affected by prison, particularly during Prisoners' Week, an annual event which this year falls between 19 and 26 November.

Prisoners' Week is not just a time to remember those in prison but also is an opportunity to remember all those affected by crime. Often the families of prisoners appear to suffer as much as the individual sent there. Prison officers and many other workers within a prison environment also are deserving of our thoughts and prayers, and, of course, we should not forget the victims of crime.

My time at Polmont has been extremely beneficial and has caused me to think about a number of matters. Working in an ecumenical partnership has allowed me to ask questions of the Roman Catholic Priest and the Muslim Imam alike and has allowed me to explore what, as people of faith, we have in common.

It has been a great privilege to share experiences with people during times of great sadness and despair but also times of laughter, joy and hope. HM YOI Polmont is home to around 80

(Continued on page 7)

Letter from Prison

(continued from page 6)

females of all ages and 400 male young offenders who are in prison for crimes ranging from the relatively minor such as theft to the most serious crimes such as child abuse and murder. As might be imagined, the background story to every person is as individual and unique as each person is themselves. As a rule, in Chaplaincy, we never ask what someone is in prison for which reflects our attempts to treat everyone as a person who is of equal worth in God's eyes. Sometimes individuals are keen to share the details of why they are there.

One of the surprises for me, though in retrospect I shouldn't have been surprised, is the number of people who say they have never set foot in a church of any description before. This means much of our work is in introducing them to the concept of God and beginning by telling them some of the stories about Jesus that most of us heard in Sunday School as children. Others come with a clear church background and sense of faith but need to explore what that means for them.

Much of our role is getting alongside people and attempting to help them in practical ways, such as re-establishing links with family members. In my time there I have assisted one young man express his faith through baptism and one young female express her grief through a memorial service for her grandfather. The work there is interesting, varied and challenging in equal measures.

My time at Polmont was cut short by the unexpected illness of my supervisor who required an operation and unfortunately was unable to continue his duties. These circumstances, in part, have also led me to consider the nature of prison and who is in prison. A prison can take many forms, and while some are sent to establishments such as HM YOI Polmont, others in our communities may be a prisoner in their own home, a prisoner of their own body or even a prisoner of their own mind.

The theme for this year's Prisoners' Week is "Hope Within". As Christians, living our faith in our communities, let us try to think if we know of someone who is in a prison. Whether the prison is one of Her Majesty's or one created by society or by the individuals themselves, we should try to share with them God's love so that they too may find hope within. The lessons I have learnt about being alongside people in a physical prison during times of stress, worry and concern are equally applicable to the wider community. A visit to someone in hospital, a cup of tea with someone who is housebound or a listening ear to someone else's troubles are all ways in which we can get alongside someone who may be in their own personal prison. Letting people know that you are there and that you care, lets them know that they are not alone.

With best wishes from **Fergus**



Orchardhill's Scottish Love in Action team relaxing during their August visit to India to help at the Light of Love home in Tuni, Andra Pradesh. A report on the visit will be published in the October edition of the Orchardhill Record.

Soundwaves

It is time to have fun again learning to play music and singing. Soundwaves music group for boys and girls from P3 to S1 will start again on Tuesday 5 September (6.15-8.00pm) in the church hall.

There are also spaces for new members to join. So come along that evening or contact Alexis Wallace (0141 585 7986 or Soundwaves@orchardhill.org.uk or see the church website www.orchardhill.org.uk/whats-on/children/soundwaves/)

Christian Aid Donations

Orchardhill Church raised £2113.14 by door-to-door collection for Christian Aid in May. The Orchard Café added £300, making a total contribution of £2413.14 to this most worthwhile cause. Thanks to everyone who contributed time, effort, and money.

Remembering Srebrenica

Very Rev Lorna Hood OBE MA BD DD will open Orchardhill's 2017-2018 Thinking Allowed series with a lecture centred on the 1995 massacre in the Balkans War. Her lecture is titled "Srebrenica and the end of Ethnic Tolerance" is the subject of her lecture on Thursday 9 November (7.30 for 8.00pm)

When the former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours earlier this year she dedicated the award to the Mothers of Srebrenica.



In this talk she will discuss her work in Bosnia and the lessons learned from the evil and inhumanity which led to an appalling massacre based on religious and ethnic identity. She will also reflect on how to remember and learn the lessons to reject hatred and build good community relations.

The Thinking Allowed series in Orchardhill will continue on Thursday 23 November with Professor Bob Davis MA PGCE PhD talking on "Changing Realities of Christian Identity in Scotland 1918-2018".

This talk will chart and reflect on the evolving nature of Christian identities in Scotland over the last century. He will explore the impact on different faith communities of events such as the Great War and the 1918 Education Act – and what it might mean for Christians today.

More Thinking Allowed events at Orchardhill in the New Year:

Thursday 15 February

Two of "the best TED talks of all time":

"The danger of a single story" – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Nigerian novelist

"If a story moves you, act on it" – Sisonke Msimang, South African writer

Thursday 15 March

"Liberate not Literal": Pádraig Ó Tuama, Irish poet and theologian, on the Corrymeela Community's reconciling work in Northern Ireland

Offering Rota

SEPTEMBER

3	Bill McMurtrie 571 2512; David Howard 571 7854; Ann Pope 616 4809
10	Peter Worthington 638 4316; David Howard; Ann Pope; Hilary Kennedy 638 6114
17	Peter Worthington; Bruce Paterson 571 7862; Fiona Thomson 571 7153
24	Dorothy Cartlidge 571 7839; Bruce Paterson; Fiona Thomson

OCTOBER

1	Dorothy Cartlidge; Norma Hannah 638 7515; Susan McQuilter 638 6936
8	Irene Kinniburgh 638 3722; Norma Hannah; Susan McQuilter
15	Irene Kinniburgh; Joyce Winning 571 7617; Evelyn McMurtrie 571 2512
22	Alex Mall 585 7169; Joyce Winning; Evelyn McMurtrie
29	Alex Mall; Roseanne Henderson 571 7375; Dave Thomson 638 3289

Scripture Readers

SEPTEMBER

3 Gillian Irvine 10 Andrew Flockhart 17 Joyce Winning 24 Willie Hendry

OCTOBER

1 Fiona Thomson 8 Garry Crosbie 15 Irene Kinniburgh 22 Ian Anderson 29 Marion Simpson

Kirk a Rising Phoenix

What is the future of the Kirk? Very Rev Dr James Simpson, former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, takes a positive view. Writing in the September edition of the Church's magazine, Life and Work, he believes church history is a powerful reminder that the Kirk's apparent death spiral could once again turn to a rising phoenix.

Dr Simpson, a former member of Orchardhill, explains: "Confronted as we are today with a flood of secularism, we are called to enter into the struggle, to be a dynamic Christian majority."

Our own minister, Rev Grant Barclay, also contributes to this month's magazine with his thoughts on more moveable, modern celebration of Communion.

Communion Roll

DEATHS

On 25 June 2017 Mr Bill Miller, 11 Moorburn Avenue, Giffnock G46 7AN (district 40)

On 25 July 2017 Mrs Marion Miller, 11 Moorburn Avenue, Giffnock G46 7AN (district 40)

Octave Concert

Octave are performing four charity concerts in the atmospheric GLO Auditorium in Motherwell from Wednesday 6 to Saturday 9 September at 7.30pm. They would love and appreciate your support. This year their chosen charity is Pancreatic Cancer Scotland. Tickets are priced £12 (Wednesday and Thursday) and £13 (Friday and Saturday) – see David or Shona Fisher if you would like tickets.

Deadline for October *Orchardhill Record*

Sunday 10 September is the deadline for the October 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 the editorial team not just the editor. We prefer contributions to be sent by email, and we cannot accept any handwritten or typed item that does not identify the source.

NOTE that 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 November edition will be Sunday 14 October.

September Calendar

Sat	2	10.00am-3.00pm	Orchardhill Church Conference at Prestwick South Parish Church	
Sun	3	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Grant Barclay
Tue	5	10.00am	Orchard Café reopens	
		7.30pm	Kirk Session	
Sun	10	10.30am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	Rev Grant Barclay
Sun	17	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Graham Cartlidge
Sun	24	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev Graham Cartlidge

Sunshine Bags

Many of you took a Sunshine Bag in the springtime, and this is an early reminder that we look forward to receiving them back! The idea is that when you come across something you appreciate or are grateful for – in other words, when you see some sunshine of whatever sort – you pop a little money in the bag. This becomes a tangible way of recognising blessing, and the money which is collected goes towards bringing sunshine into others' lives. We support Mary's Meals through our Sunshine Bags this year.

You're asked to return your Sunshine Bag to church on any Sunday in October. So there's still time to be grateful and generous.

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