

THE RECORD



April

2020

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.



A Word from your Minister

Current restrictions on meeting together and using the church building go beyond anything experienced in living memory.

As a church community we are committed to obeying the law, contributing to the health of everyone - and supporting our NHS. At the same time, fellowship and togetherness are at the heart of our faith. We aim to combine these apparently contradictory demands in the following ways:

- * We are unable to permit the church premises on either side of Church Road to be used by anyone for the foreseeable future.
- * We shall offer an act of worship each Sunday at 10.30am available on-line through www.orchardhill.org.uk - while this is a limited substitute for worshipping together, if we each view the service around that time we can be sure that fellow worshippers are engaged with us.
- * We shall endeavour to offer a live broadcast of evening prayers every Wednesday at 7pm. You will be able to join this through the link at www.orchardhill.org.uk and you are likely to see (and possibly hear) all the others who join, too.
- * If you have any particular prayer requests, or know of situations where prayer would be appropriate, and email quiet-time@orchardhill.org.uk we shall include these specific items in the live prayer time on Wednesdays. We'll do so in a way which respects your confidentiality.
- * There is a wide, and increasing, range of half-hour online chats covering a wide range of subjects of general interest which you may join using your tablet, phone or computer. You're welcome to any of these spaces simply as a way of having conversation together. Details of all these are on the church website at www.orchardhill.org.uk.
- * All elders have been asked to be in phone contact with members in their districts, and the frequency of these contacts will vary according to need.
- * The Minister, and others, are endeavouring to be in regular phone contact with more senior members who are living alone as an additional token of friendship and concern.
- * If you would simply like to have a chat with someone, we encourage you to phone them. In these days, such contact is more likely to be welcomed than regarded as a nuisance. If you would like to speak to the Minister, feel free to phone whenever you wish on 07506 549 529. In the unlikely event that he is busy, he will be pleased to phone you back.
- * If you find difficulty in obtaining provisions because of movement restrictions, please contact the Church Office on 0141 638 3604 or secretary@orchardhill.org.uk, or the Minister on 07506 549 529. We shall be able to obtain necessities and deliver these to your front door.
- * If there are any other steps we could take which you'd find helpful, simply contact us and we shall do our level best to address your suggestion.

I encourage you to pray in these challenging times for a range of needs which face us as individuals, a community, a nation and a global coalition facing unprecedented difficulties. Resources to help you do this are also available on the Orchardhill website.

All this information, and all updates, will be available on the Orchardhill website at www.orchardhill.org.uk/coronavirus and I encourage you to check this for more details as the days pass.

Your Minister
Grant Barclay.

Notice on the use of Church Buildings

**DUE TO GOVERNMENT ADVICE REGARDING
CHURCH SERVICES IN THIS PERIOD OF COVID
19 RESTRICTIONS**

**Churches should be available to all in times
of need. If you wish to USE this building for
prayer or reflection, please call the Church
Officer Isabella Hood on 07988 983 967.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILST CHURCH
SERVICES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE HERE ON
SUNDAYS, YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN
ONLINE WORSHIP FROM ORCHARDHILL AT
www.orchardhill.org.uk
EACH SUNDAY AT 10.30am**

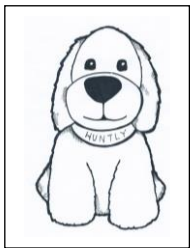
**If you wish to talk to the minister please
phone Rev Grant Barclay
07506 549529**

Soundwaves Show March 2020

In line with Government Advice regarding Covid19, the Soundwaves production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat” will be suspended for the time being.

Please hold on to your tickets – Soundwaves are in talks with the Licence holders to schedule a showing later in the year. Keep watching for further details – the children are very excited to be putting on this show and look forward to seeing you all there.

Save the Date: 10th – 14th August



Calling all primary school children. Come and Save the Planet with Huntly. Join us for great fun, games and activities. 10am-12 noon every day with optional drop in for breakfast.

Further details on how to register will follow.
We look forward to seeing you there.

Life and Work

Inside This Month

Easter

Reflection by the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning Prayer from the Rt Rev Colin Sinclair

Children and Communion

The experiences of churches actively involving children in their communion services

From D’oily Carte to Dunfermline

Interview with opera singer and church elder Frances McCafferty

A Celtic Pilgrimage

Gemma King describes her walk on the Columba Experience, a week-long pilgrimage for young adults.

Under Par

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers reflects on the importance of good mental health

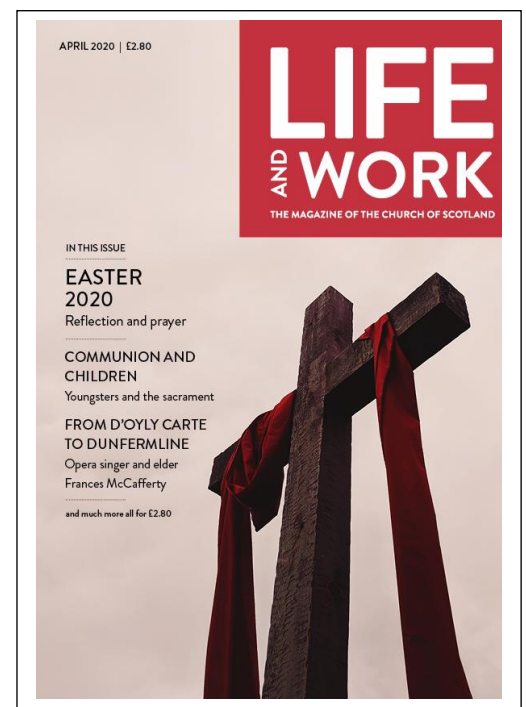
No Short Cuts

In his final column, the Moderator of the General Assembly explains why Jesus is still worth following

The Cruellest Month

Ron Ferguson reflects on the gift of April

Plus all the regular columnists, news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords



Reading the Bible in a year.

*In 2019 a number of our congregation undertook to **Read the Bible in a Year**. Over the coming months each of the readers will write a short article about their experiences and their thoughts post reading.*



I often find it difficult to put into words my feeling of being called to lead the life I lead and do the work I do, especially when discussing my faith with non-believers. I wondered if reading the whole bible might better equip me to explain where I'm coming from. I had attempted it before but my approach of starting at the beginning and ploughing my way through soon led to me giving up! This approach sounded more manageable and indeed it was.

We decided to attempt it as a couple, reading and discussing each section together. Due to our busy work schedules and family life, we quickly realised that we wouldn't be able to keep up with the daily readings, so instead we moved them to the weekends (the opposite of what the plan proposes but you can adapt it to suit). We also had the challenge of keeping this up when one of us was working away from home, but we managed this with the use of Skype.

We found this method of reading the whole bible to be really helpful. The bite sized pieces made the task less overwhelming. Sharing the challenge as a couple helped us keep motivated (a bit like having a gym partner!). Reading aloud enabled us to focus, especially when working our way through the more difficult sections. It was helpful being able to discuss the confusing or thought-provoking parts with someone.

We also found it helpful to meet up with the others. These meetings were like goals, helping us to keep up-to-date with our reading and not fall behind. They were also an opportunity to discuss with others if they were having similar struggles, and to hear different viewpoints.

Yes there were struggles, both in the practical sense (finding the time and keeping on track) and with the content, particularly in the Old Testament. The repetitive nature of some Old Testament books made it difficult to remain focused at times. However the most difficult thing to read for me was the violence and the way women are viewed in the Old Testament (at times I even had to stop reading). The positive side of pushing on and completing the Old Testament was that I now have a better general overview, knowing where the little nuggets are, understanding the tradition that Jesus was coming from and how radical his message must have seemed arriving within that context. Reading about Jesus in the New Testament was a relief, not just in a practical sense (easier to read) but the familiarity and the messages.

Reading the Old and New Testaments alongside each other helped to break up the challenging parts. It also highlighted two very different concepts of God – the Old Testament God seemed to be feared, at times portrayed as an angry, vengeful, jealous god. I struggled with this as it was not my experience of God, but thankfully this was balanced with our more familiar idea of a loving, forgiving, inclusive God in the New Testament.

Sunflower Spectacular



Sunflower Growing Competition

Please encourage all your neighbours to take part. It would be great to see sunflowers spreading some joy and happiness around Giffnock, especially in gardens adjacent to the church.

Sunflower installation around the Church and Memorial Halls

Allegedly slugs don't like the smell of chives, and so the intention is to put a chive plant in each trough. If you have chive plants in your garden, please divide, and keep a few plants for the church.

Also, please save 2 litre clear plastic bottles which are required to protect our young plants. There will be a collection point available on Sundays.

Art and Craft Exhibition and Sale

By now your sunflower seeds should be snuggled safely in their pots and so we move onto the next stage of our Sunflower Spectacular - our Art and Craft Exhibition and Sale.

We are looking for artwork of any medium - photography, jewellery, felt work, paintings, embroidery, woodwork . . . the list is endless - to exhibit and sell.

We're not expecting Van Gogh, Picasso or Cartier (although if you have those hiding in the loft we will happily sell them for you!)

If you haven't mastered a craft yet give it a try, it doesn't need to be expensive and can be very rewarding.

For details of how to enter your pieces into the exhibition please refer to the church web site.

Place2Be

Orchardhill has been supporting the children's mental health charity Place2Be (www.place2be.org.uk). The children of Stepping Stones are donating their collection this term to the charity. The young people of Bridges held a very successful cake sale which raised a fantastic £222. Gillian Griffiths spoke to the congregation about the work that Place2Be does in schools in Scotland. The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week was 'Finding Your Brave', so Gillian took part in an evening of challenges culminating in a Firewalk. Gillian would like to thank the members of Orchardhill who sponsored her and helped Croftfoot Primary raise over £1,000 for Place2Be. All sponsorship money has to be collected by Easter so if anyone would still like to contribute please see Gillian or donate online at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/croftfootfirewalk>



QUIZ



If Genesis equals 84 what do Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy each equal?

Orchardhill Record

Due to the ongoing situation with Covid19, the Orchardhill Record publication schedule may be disrupted. Please continue to submit your articles for inclusion and we will endeavour to produce an online copy available via the church website:

www.orchardhill.org.uk

Orchardhill Calendar

It was hoped that the Church would be open for Quiet Time, Prayer and Reflection each Wednesday from 6:30pm-7:30pm, but Govt. guidance demands no gathering of more than two persons, so that online prayers will be substituted, via the church website and 'Zoom Room' available using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/814617245>.

A full service will be broadcast via the church website each Sunday from 10:30am.

All Session and Board meetings are postponed until further notice.

Amoretti LXVIII: Most Glorious Lord of Life

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin;
And having harrowed hell didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win;
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
And grant that we, for whom thou didest die,
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,
May live forever in felicity.
And that thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love thee for the same again;
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,
May love with one another entertain.
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought,
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Edmund Spenser 1552-1599

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phone 0141 638 3604

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email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk