

THE RECORD



May
2020





A Word from your Minister

A month of Sundays?

To pass some of this restricting time I cycled one day into town and back. What a pleasant experience, with hardly any traffic on the road! I walked, recently, in the other direction and found a maze of paths I'd never discovered, sitting just behind the stone wall along Rouken Glen Road. Without the constant drone of traffic, it was a paradise of pleasant tweets in the birdsong of spring.

The absence of meetings and events has given time to read or think, or – how shameful! - not do very much at all. Life's pace has slowed and people now have time to greet those they pass (at a safe distance) in the street. Clapping on Thursdays, we have made greater contact with our neighbours through mutual applause than we managed in forty months of 'ordinary' life here. I know this can't continue. The economy cannot bear prolonged lack of activity; we cannot indefinitely postpone elective procedures and I suspect that, like me, you are increasingly missing the chance to meet friends for a coffee and a chat. What, though, if we determined to keep a practice of pausing, looking around and slowing down? In an otherwise hectic world could we manage this, say, once a week?

That's the idea of sabbath. Not the caricature of chained swings and prohibited pleasures but, rather, a communal commitment to recognise, celebrate and nurture our relationships, environment and sense of the divine. It's an ancient idea, but one whose time may not have passed.

I mention this merely as one of many potentially positive flipsides in the present difficult time. These are challenging days, but also ones when we may learn, anew, perhaps old ways. The idea of a regular period of rest may be one. Foregrounding relationships may be another. Listening to our life's beat may be a third.

There are many others. Might we seek to discern God's leading in all this? Might we see where, in a time of crisis (from the Greek krisis, or turning-point), we may turn towards better, healthier, richer ways? God's mercies are new every morning, including the mornings of these strange times.

Your Minister, Grant Barclay.

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.*



Let's not beat around the 'burning' bush, reading the whole Bible in a year was a daunting challenge but on reflection one well worth undertaking. At the beginning I had only a limited knowledge of the Bible and that was focused on the books of the New Testament. So the first thing I took away from this was a much better understanding of the Old Testament and its structure. To me it was valuable to be able to understand more about the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the Bible), the books covering the history of the Jewish people.

Everyone approaching the Bible will do so with their own knowledge and perspective. Being a History graduate and now a lawyer, I was especially interested in how we could see a society develop in the Old Testament - creating rules (both social and legal) to bind society together and help it function.

The Bible is a multi-layered set of books so there is much you can learn from it. For example, the biggest surprise for me in the Old Testament was the book Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon). Maybe not a direct parallel but it reminded me of Ancient Roman Ovid's love poems! It was these types of surprises that got me thinking about what is included in the Bible (and why) and the messages of the particular books. There are many narrative themes that I took from the Old Testament, like the rise and fall (and rise again) of a nation, with years wandering in the desert, tribal wars that then escalated into 'national' wars. Ultimately, I read this as a story of the relationship between God and his people.

Moving to the New Testament, reading the Gospels made me feel closer to the core message of God as expressed by Jesus both in his words and actions. Without some form of personal enlightenment, I think this is the closest a person can come to understanding what God expects of us as Christians in the way we should conduct our lives. However, what surprised me on reading the whole of the New Testament was how much was dominated by Paul and his writings and in my view how some of Pauline Theology does not fit so neatly with the core message of Jesus as found in the Gospels.

Sunflower Spectacular



Sunflower Growing Competition

There are a few remaining seed packets available free of charge. Contact Dorothy Cartlidge to get some for your street. Registration for the competition is still open via the Church website.

We hope to have the second video, showing the planting out stage, available online toward the end of May.

Sunflower Installation Around the Church and Memorial Halls

This is going ahead albeit with some modifications likely, due to difficulties procuring the necessary equipment at the moment.

Art and Craft Exhibition and Sale

This part of the Sunflower Spectacular has been **postponed from 29th August 2020, until Spring 2021**, when hopefully large numbers will be able to gather together again.

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**

Every Cloud

Historians of the future will principally record the negative impacts of the present Coronavirus pandemic, upon health, the economy, recreational activities including sport, and on all types of work and social interaction.

It is hard, while not yet at the peak of the pandemic, to discern positive aspects to our present situation, but already a major reduction in domestic and international travel has reduced carbon emissions, and helped in efforts to combat climate change.

Closer to home, many of us have been able to use our time to undertake long-delayed projects in house and garden and bans on face-to-face meetings have spurred the older generation to embrace and attempt to understand the many wondrous aspects of the Internet.

Microsoft Teams and Zoom Room have quickly become familiar to many, and we are blessed with a Minister who has mastered audio and video technology, to bring us excellent online Sunday services, morning coffee gatherings, evening reflections during Holy Week, and the interactive Quiet Time services on Wednesdays.

Easter Sunday brought new hope and new life. Let us give thanks in the weeks to follow, and trust that the pandemic will pass.

Life and Work

Inside This Month

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Reflection on foodbanks and impact of Covid-19

'GOD HAS NOT FINISHED WITH SCOTLAND'

The Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Martin Fair

ASSEMBLY CANCELLATION

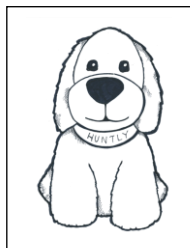
Church's business meeting cancelled for first time in over 300 years

WAR'S END

The role of churches in peacebuilding across Europe on the 75th anniversary of VE day



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.

Orchardhill Record

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the June edition of the Orchardhill Record is Sunday 17th May. 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 produce an online copy available via the church website:

www.orchardhill.org.uk

Orchardhill Calendar

The buildings may be closed but Orchardhill church is most definitely open.

Join us (virtually) as we continue to host many “gatherings” online, from prayers and reflection to coffee and a blether, with something to suit everyone. Details on the Church website.

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.

Keep in touch

To enable better communications in these strange times please submit your email address to secretary@orchardhill.org.uk you can also sign up for the Orchardhill Enews via the church website or you can find us on Facebook.

Please share this information with other church members, friends and family.

Welcomers

Entrance	Sanctuary	Greeters/Ushers
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MAY

3	Anne Barr	David Howard	Neil MacKenzie
10	Neil MacKenzie	Ian Anderson	Gordon Thomson
17	Gordon Thomson	Ian Anderson	Jim McKinnon
24	Jim McKinnon	Hilary Kennedy	Gordon Thomson
31	Gordon Thomson	Norma Hannah	Jim McKinnon

JUNE

7	Jim McKinnon	Norma Hannah	Evelyn Borland
14	Evelyn Borland	Dave Thomson	Anne Craig
21	Anne Craig	Gordon Ross	Evelyn Borland
28	Evelyn Borland	Susan McQuilter	Anne Craig

Offering Teams

MAY

3	David Howard	Valerie Clarke	Ian Cartlidge
10	Ian Anderson	Valerie Clarke	Ian Cartlidge
17	Ian Anderson	Neil Mackenzie	Shona Fletcher
24	Hilary Kennedy	Neil Mackenzie	Shona Fletcher
31	Norma Hannah	Maureen Park	Lisel Tait

JUNE

7	Norma Hannah	Maureen Park	Lisel Tait
14	Dave Thomson	Ann Pope	Colin Williamson
21	Gordon Ross	Bruce Paterson	Colin Williamson
28	Susan McQuilter	Andrew Flockhart	Roseanne Henderson

Scripture Readers

MAY		JUNE	
3	Linda Moir	7	Margaret Howard
10	David Howard	14	Garry Crosbie
17	Judy Byrne	21	Irene Kinniburgh
24	Donald Carmichael	28	Colin Williamson
31	Gillian Irvine		

Isaiah 12:2

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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