

THE RECORD



October
2020





A Word from your Minister

A thin veil

We approach a time of year of stories and ideas we may think reside only in the past. We will celebrate All Saints' Day on 1st November, and Hallowe'en the evening before. This, though, is more than remembering. In the long Scots tradition extending back before Christianity, Samhain was the Gaelic post-harvest festival before the darker half of the year began, and it was one of those times when the border between this visible, tangible world and the world beyond was thought to become thinner and more permeable.

It's enough to give you a shiver of excited fear but, especially this year, it might do more. We long to be together again – not in any grand way but just to be friends, meeting and chatting and laughing as we used to do. As I write this, there is the increasing possibility that gathering shall again be restricted, and it looks as though our autumn festivals and even Christmas may be far more isolated than we could have imagined last December.

The central truth of the Christian message is, however, that we are not alone, not abandoned, not left by God to our own devices. God, whose bias is always towards togetherness, has drawn a weary and wandering world back to God's-self. In Christ, all things are being wonderfully united, things both in heaven and on earth. Part of our privilege of being in Christ's Church is the truth that we belong, even now, with the saints; and we hold on to the promise that we shall, one day, be united with them and all God's people in praising God's glory.

They say of Iona that the veil is thinner there, and the presence of God accordingly can be the more keenly felt. If true, it merely demonstrates a long-time truth. We are not alone. During our continued separation may we know this unity in Jesus as something strong and real, and may we express it creatively and continually so that many may experience such togetherness, welcome and belonging as we are able.

'There is nothing in all creation able to separate us from God's love in Christ,' Saint Paul writes to the Romans. In other words, God has it all together – and that includes us. May this truth encourage us in what may well become darker days ahead.

Your Minister, Grant Barclay.

The Orchardhill Record is Going Digital

For a variety of reasons, including the difficulty of distributing the Orchardhill Record during the time of COVID restrictions, and the aim of widening our readership to a greater geographical area than can be managed by volunteers delivering by hand, we will now be distributing the Orchardhill Record electronically.

We are aware that it might not suit everyone to have their Orchardhill Record delivered by email. Therefore we are asking that anyone who wishes to have the Record hand-delivered by a volunteer, (as at present), should please leave a message with the Church Office, with their name and address, so that arrangements can be made to hand-deliver the Record to those who request it.

Please leave a message saying that you would like to continue hand delivery, with your name and address and a contact telephone number, on the church office message recording system at 0141 638 3604.

Finally, if you find that your OR hand delivery ceases, and you are not receiving a Record electronically, this could be because we don't have your email address. If this happens, please Email either

Dave Thomson at dave@g46.co.uk or

Ian Anderson at session-clerk@orchardhill.org.uk to let us know.

Zoom Art Evenings

We start our season on 6 October with Garry Crosbie as he looks back at Giffnock of yester year with a collection of interesting historic photos of Giffnock

Then our Art Evenings resume -

13 October – George Webb will give us his professional experience to discuss the refurbishment of Kelvingrove Gallery

20 October – Maureen Park – 10 must see paintings from the Kelvingrove Gallery

3 November – Gordon, Fiona and Rachel Thomson – Illustrated Highlights of Sicily

10 November – Gareth Griffiths – Introduction to Mount Stuart House on the Isle of Bute – architecture, paintings, and other items in the collection

Zoom login details can be found here nearer the time
www.orchardhill.org.uk/meeting-upvirtually/

Fergus and Shona at Blackhall St Columba's

The Congregation will remember the news, back in February, that our Elder and friend Fergus Cook was preaching as sole nominee to the vacant charge of Blackhall St Columba's Church, Edinburgh. I was privileged to attend that service, and to be there when the Congregation voted unanimously in favour of Fergus' appointment, and I was looking forward to his Service of Induction and Ordination, set for 22nd March.



Although intervening events prevented a large-scale service and social, Fergus was duly inducted and ordained into his new role. Coronavirus restrictions meant attendance was restricted to those absolutely required for Church legal purposes - Shona was only able to be there in her capacity as videographer, capturing the service on her iPad.

Since then, Fergus has been settling into his charge, a new minister presently without a physical Church; not only is worship currently online, but the Sanctuary is being extensively redeveloped. At the same time, after expecting to be in Edinburgh for only a few days on that first trip, Shona has set out on foot to learn all about her new surroundings; and together they have dealt with the temporary cessation of works on the manse, where the kitchen had just been ripped out when lockdown occurred.



Blackhall St Columba's is on Queensferry Road on the West side of Edinburgh, very close to Shona's early childhood home, and convenient for trips back to visit the girls and Fergus' mum. It is a beautiful stone building, dating from 1904. The Sanctuary has been closed for several years for extensive refurbishment, which has of course been delayed by COVID-19, and the Congregation is looking forward to completion of those and a rededication of the Sanctuary, hopefully in October this year.

Blackhall St Columba's gain is, of course, Orchardhill's loss, and both Fergus and Shona will be much missed from our Church community. Both serving elders, Fergus and Shona also served Orchardhill as Clerk to the Congregational Board, Shona replacing Fergus in the position when he began his ministerial training. Both have in addition been hugely involved in Church life, from A Beer and a Blether to Dessert Island Discs, and many other social evenings. Who can forget the Orchardhill Olympics? Or the fun of Summer Outings and Winter Innings? Shona also latterly ran the Bridges group for our young people, and acted as choreographer for Soundwaves.

Orchardhill was Shona's family Church. As a young woman she taught in our Sunday School, and it was through Youth Fellowship that Shona and Fergus met. They were married at Orchardhill Church by John Spiers in 1995.

When I caught up with Shona and Fergus in Edinburgh recently, they were healthy, happy, and excited about the challenges ahead. They send every good wish and love to the Congregation of Orchardhill, and a warm welcome for visitors from the West, once that is allowed again. Shona especially would be delighted to share the lovely walks she has discovered.

Linda Moir



Life and Work

The Call of Louisa Jordan

The journey of the spiritual care team called to work in Scotland's emergency Covid-19 hospital

'The Virus Has Not Shaken My Faith'

Interview with Scotland's National Clinical Director of Health Quality and Strategy, Jason Leitch

Healing Wounds

Jackie Macadam discovers the work and impact of trauma healing

Recognising our Limitations

The Moderator of the General Assembly on a prayer journey up the four 'Cardinal Munros'

Surveillance and Social Justice

In the continuing series marking the 50th anniversary of the Church of Scotland SRT, Eric Stoddart explores the ethical implications of surveillance in daily life

Salt and Light

Ruth Harvey considers the issues of transformation and social change in Matthew 5-7

A Compassion Which Knows No Boundaries

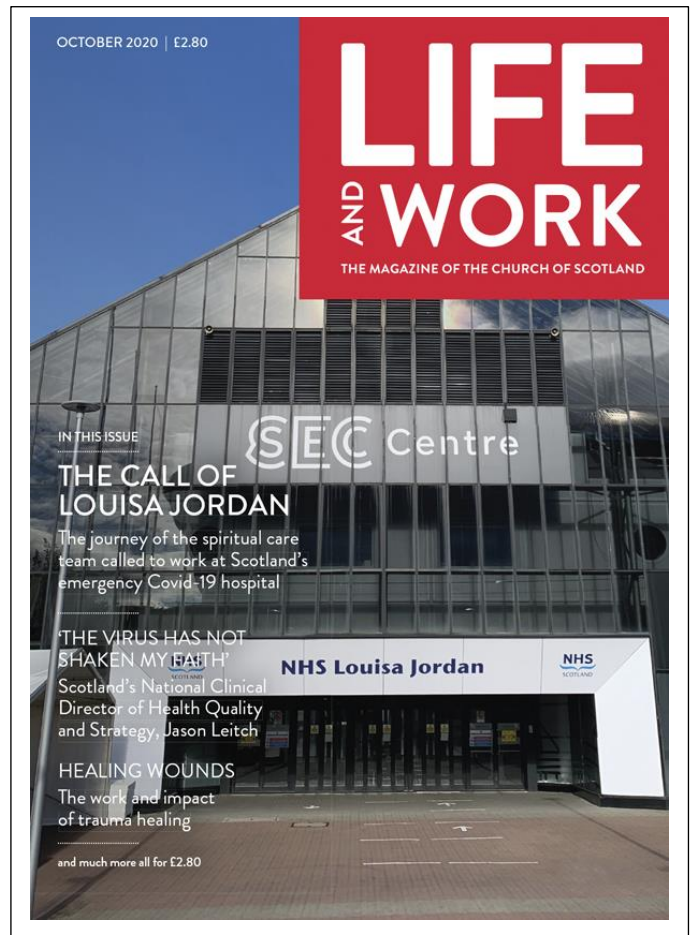
Ron Ferguson explains why Christianity is uncomfortable

Letting Go

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers emphasises the importance of letting go of the past and living in the present.

Online

Visit www.lifeandwork.org for news and exclusive features, including Coronavirus Diaries from Church of Scotland mission partners across the world. You can also find us at facebook.com/lifeandwork or on Twitter @cofslifeandwork



Orchardhill Record

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the November edition of the Orchardhill Record is Sunday 11th October. 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

Tribute to Evelyn McMurtrie

Remembering Evelyn one year on

Evelyn was born Evelyn Cook in May 1944 in Knightswood, the eldest child of Charles and Janet Cook. Two sisters – Alison and Rhona – followed, and the family was then blessed by the arrival of Alistair, well known to us all. Around then, the Cooks moved to Church Road in Giffnock, and so began Evelyn's long association with this congregation. Young Evelyn attended morning worship with her family, and then returned for Sunday School in the afternoon. She was proud of her perfect attendance there, over an incredible seven years.

As a child and a young woman, Evelyn's social life was centred around the Church, with badminton and singing both figuring largely. She also attended Brownies and later Guides, the start of what would become a lifelong engagement and passion.

Another lifelong relationship started in December 1962, when 18-year-old Evelyn attended a dance at Whitecraigs Tennis Club. She happened to run into a tall, handsome young reporter named Bill McMurtrie. The rest, as they say, is history. Love blossomed through the winter of 1963, and it was no surprise to family or friends when their engagement was announced - on the weekend of the Melrose Sevens!

They were married in September 1964 and moved into their new home in Simshill. Evelyn's commitment to Orchardhill remained, though, and she busied herself with the establishment of a brand-new Guiding unit for the youngest girls. So it was that the Tweenies here were started.

In 1968, Bill and Evelyn were delighted to welcome the arrival of their first child, Andrew. Kirsty followed in 1970 and the family was completed in 1977 by the arrival of the baby, Morag. By then a couple of moves had brought the young family to Eastwood Avenue, which remained the family home until Evelyn and Bill downsized to the bungalow on Eaglesham Road.

Family life continued through the 1970s, 80s and 90s, punctuated by Bill's travels for the rugby, the children's various activities, and Evelyn's commitments to Girl Guiding. She was a devoted guider, leading many trips and holidays, and became a Trainer for the District, as well as an active member of the Trefoil Guild.

The 1990s brought weddings and the joy of grandchildren. Evelyn was a devoted Grandma to Cara, Ross and Grant, to Ruth, Niamh and Alistair, and most recently to Ryan and Scott. The oldest ones in particular have been a great support to her and to Bill in recent years.

Although she had actually been a hairdresser to trade, Evelyn was, in the past decades, much more likely to ply her dressmaking scissors than her hairdressing ones. She was a keen and able seamstress, and an active member of the Church's Housekeeping Group. I was privileged to work with her in that, and I have fond memories of a series of Sunday afternoons when a group of ladies toiled together to cut and stitch the new curtains for the Memorial Halls.

Nothing in life mattered more to Evelyn than her faith, her family, and her Church. Some time ago, she told me that one of the greatest joys of her later years was to worship in this place with her daughter and grandchildren around her. That, she said, was the greatest blessing.

Linda Moir

October 2020

Family Worship Service - Worship Services	Bible reading	Leading Prayers
04-10-2020 10.30 AM	Dave Thomson	Anne Barr
11-10-2020 10.30 AM	Marion Simpson	Lindsay Barr
18-10-2020 10.30 AM	George Robertson	Linda Moir
25-10-2020 10.30 AM	Margaret Howard	Alan Daly
01-11-2020 10.30 AM	Donald Carmichael	Angela Peacock

Welcome Team 1	Welcome Team 2	Welcome Team 3
George Robertson	Norma Hannah	Dave Thomson
George Robertson	Gordon Ross	Bruce Paterson
George Robertson	Linda Moir	Bruce Paterson
George Robertson	David Evans	Alan Daly
George Robertson	David Evans	Donald Carmichael

Church Service

Please note that whilst church services will take place here on Sundays at 10:30am with limited numbers in attendance, you can still participate in: -

online worship www.orchardhill.org.uk

or listen in by dialing 0141 465 5678

If you wish to talk to the minister, please phone: Rev. Grant Barclay 07506 549 529

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