

THE RECORD



Spring 2025



A Word from Gillian Rooney



I do like this time of year – the days are getting gradually longer, the mornings a bit lighter and spring is hopefully just around the corner.

Since the last edition of The Record, Merrylea and Orchardhill have entered into a formal Linkage. This took place during a well attended service in January at Merrylea which was followed by a lovely tea in the hall.

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone at Merrylea and would encourage both congregations to do the same with each other – a good opportunity to do so is at the joint services held monthly. We are also proposing to hold a social event for both congregations in March – possibly a quiz night – so please look out for details in the next few weeks.

We are now approaching Lent, doesn't time fly? Lent is a time of preparing for Easter – the season upon which our faith is built. Like last year, I would encourage you to do something positive, maybe pray more, or do something to help others, as opposed to 'giving up' or denying yourself something you enjoy.

We are going to be setting out our labyrinth again in the Orchardhill sanctuary during Holy Week. Last year this was well received by both the congregation and members of our community – I would particularly encourage those from Merrylea to come along and experience this very spiritual and reflective exercise. In the final run up to Easter, it is a good way to re-set and get ready to celebrate that Christ died and rose again for us.

Yours in Christ
Gillian



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Hearing Sciences Scottish Section

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Can you help us by taking part in our hearing research?



Hearing Sciences – Scottish Section is a thriving research group dedicated to understanding and alleviating hearing difficulties, based at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Our special strength is linking hearing to behaviours in real-life situations, especially where communication is challenging.

We are always looking for more people to help us with our research. If you would like to participate, please send an email or call us at

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 **0141 242 9665** 

We will reply with an invitation to an initial induction session involving questionnaires and a few short tests (e.g., listening to speech in noise). After this initial session, we may occasionally invite you to participate in future studies.

We welcome adults of any age, whether or not they experience any hearing difficulties. Please note that your willingness to participate in this research will not affect your medical treatment in any way.

HEARING SCIENCES – SCOTTISH SECTION · LEVEL 3 NEW LISTER BLDG · GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY



participant recruitment leaflet

final version 1.2 01 Feb 2024

Our own Lindsey Steele, as part of her PhD research, is heavily involved in this project. Please note that this is separate from the NHS pathways and doesn't affect routine care.

Community Christmas Celebration

After three years, the Orchardhill Community Christmas Celebration has become a firm fixture in Giffnock's calendar. The Celebration - or "The Extravaganza", as we seem to call it - starts just as school finishes for the Christmas holidays, and Orchardhill is the first festive stop for many families.

The challenge for the organising team is of course to keep things fresh, as we seek to bring the Good News to our community in a way that is generous, giving, and relevant. A new lay out for Christmas 2024 seemed to help the flow of visitors, and many of our smallest friends enjoyed adding their own touch to the giant poster in the hall.

Cheerful elves, chatty wise women and helpful angels are always lovely to meet along the road leading towards Mary and Joseph, keen to show off their beautiful new baby. And also to point weary fellow travellers towards the wonderful tearoom, where a friendly team was waiting with hot drinks and a seemingly endless supplies of goodies.

It was particularly good to see some of our Merrylea friends among the crowd. And in these difficult times, lovely as well to have visitors from Giffnock Synagogue. And at around 330, the visitors were over all up a little on the previous year.

Although free to attend - which is considered vital by the Kirk Session and all involved - many of those attending felt moved to make a donation.





Junior Badminton Club

Orchardhill Junior Badminton Club was founded over fifty years ago by Mary Russell, one of our Church members. The club caters for children aged 10-15, offering a fun and supportive environment for young players to develop their badminton skills. We currently have 16 juniors and a small waiting list. Sixteen-year-olds progress to our senior club.

We meet every Saturday morning from 10am to 12 noon, from the start of September to the end of March (with a two-week break at Christmas).

The two current leaders, Judy Byrne and Barbara Mackenzie, are retiring after this session. If replacements cannot be found the club will close at the end of March. We are in talks with Badminton Scotland re the hiring of a coach but as yet this has not provided a solution, and we would still need a member of the Church to be present on a Saturday morning. This would not involve being present every week, but would be part of a rota with senior members.

If anyone feels they could help please get in touch with Barbara on 07960 162118.



Finance Information

There follows a 2 page summary of the accounts for the church for the year ended 31 December 2024. The full accounts will shortly be submitted to OSCR and the treasurer [Jim Kerr](#) is happy to supply a copy to anyone who requests these.

Orchardhill Parish Church of Scotland, Giffnock

Statement of Financial Activities

Year to 31 December 2024

	Notes (below)	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 TOTAL £
Income and Endowments :							
Donations and Legacies	1	167,725	-	167,725	152,333	375	152,708
Charitable Activities	2	46,718	-	46,718	50,067	710	50,777
Other Trading Activities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Income		8,970	1,344	10,314	7,439	1,095	8,534
Total Income		223,413	1,344	224,757	209,839	2,180	212,019
Expenditure on :							
Raising Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities		(222,599)	-	(222,599)	(196,239)	(16,246)	(212,485)
Total Expenditure	3	(222,599)	-	(222,599)	(196,239)	(16,246)	(212,485)
Net Income /(Expenditure) before gains and losses on Investments		814	1,344	2,158	13,600	(14,066)	(466)
Net Gain on Investments							
Unrealised Gain on Revaluation		13,275	1,487	14,762	12,472	1,403	13,875
Net Movement in Funds		14,089	2,831	16,920	26,072	(12,663)	13,409
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total Funds Brought Forward		294,101	32,950	327,051	268,029	45,613	313,642
Total Funds Carried Forward		308,190	35,781	343,971	294,101	32,950	327,051

COMMENTS

While the 2024 budget had projected a substantial deficit, the result has become a small surplus prior to the unrealised gain on investments. The improvement is due to increased giving, extra Gift Aid and particularly 4 generous one off donations totalling £7,000 + Gift Aid £1,750) and fundraising. The budget for 2025 is in the process of preparation although it is estimated that amounts payable to the Church centrally and to Presbytery will increase from the amounts due for 2024 and also that energy and water costs will increase by an amount estimated at £6,250 as there is no now benefit of earlier fixed rate contracts. We will also no longer receive 100% exemption on water charges

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON ABOVE ITEMS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 TOTAL £
INCOME						
Note 1 - Donations and Legacies						
Donations	123,090	-	123,090	119,451	300	119,751
Gift Aid	29,561	-	29,561	28,354	75	28,429
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions from Cong Organisations	3,700	-	3,700	3,483	-	3,483
Sundry other donations and related Gift Aid	11,374	-	11,374	1,045	-	1,045
	167,725	-	167,725	152,333	375	152,708
Note 2 - Charitable Activities						
Hall rental	41,141	-	41,141	45,407	-	45,407
Other	5,577	-	5,577	4,660	710	5,370
	46,718	-	46,718	50,067	710	50,777
Note 3 - EXPENDITURE						
Giving to Grow & Presbytery Dues	96,052	-	96,052	90,168	-	90,168
Salary Costs and Organ Supply	67,492	-	67,492	51,049	14,490	65,539
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance, & similar	13,071	-	13,071	16,222	-	16,222
Heating , Lighting & Water	16,525	-	16,525	11,523	-	11,523
Insurance , Council Tax	14,616	-	14,616	14,332	-	14,332
All other costs	14,843	-	14,843	12,945	1,756	14,701
	222,599	-	222,599	196,239	16,246	212,485

Orchardhill Parish Church of Scotland, Giffnock

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL £	:	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 TOTAL £
Fixed Assets :				:			
Tangible Assets	28,040	-	28,040	:	31,865	-	31,865
Investments	207,272	35,781	243,053	:	195,341	32,950	228,291
Total Fixed Assets	<u>235,312</u>	<u>35,781</u>	<u>271,093</u>	:	<u>227,206</u>	<u>32,950</u>	<u>260,156</u>
Current Assets :				:			
Debtors	12,007	-	12,007	:	11,393	-	11,393
Cash at Bank and in Hand	38,894	-	38,894	:	33,822	-	33,822
Deposit Fund	29,609	-	29,609	:	28,138	-	28,138
Total Current Assets	<u>80,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,510</u>	:	<u>73,353</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,353</u>
Liabilities :				:			
Due Within One Year :				:			
Creditors	(7,632)	-	(7,632)	:	(6,458)	-	(6,458)
Total Liabilities	<u>(7,632)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,632)</u>	:	<u>(6,458)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,458)</u>
Net Assets	<u>308,190</u>	<u>35,781</u>	<u>343,971</u>	:	<u>294,101</u>	<u>32,950</u>	<u>327,051</u>
The Funds of the Charity :				:			
General Funds	308,190	-	308,190	:	294,101	-	294,101
Restricted Income Funds	-	35,781	35,781	:	-	32,950	32,950
Total Charity Funds	<u>308,190</u>	<u>35,781</u>	<u>343,971</u>	:	<u>294,101</u>	<u>32,950</u>	<u>327,051</u>

Some further information from the Financial Statements

Collections from Third Parties

	2024 £	2023 £
Turkey / Syria Earthquake Appeal	-	1,187
Christian Aid Gaza	1,062	-
Lodging House Mission	503	469
St Rollox Church	-	245
Maslows Community Hub (local refugees)	-	143
Water Aid	154	-
Quarriers	-	255
Glasgow City Mission	145	200
Prostate Cancer	176	-
Carnwadic Helping Hands Food Bank *	207	-
Bible Society of Pakistan	110	-
	<u>2,357</u>	<u>2,499</u>

* The church has weekly donations of groceries and toiletries to support this cause.

Contributions from Organisations

	2024 £	2023 £
2nd A Giffnock Brownies	900	700
2nd Giffnock Rainbows	-	-
2nd A Giffnock Guides	400	400
86th Boys Brigade	200	200
Badminton Club	-	983
Orchardhill Café	1,000	-
CrossWords	-	-
Ladies Badminton	1,200	1,200
	<u>3,700</u>	<u>3,483</u>

Restricted Income Funds

The Restricted Income Funds are: (i) a fund of £30,890 for future expenditure on the church roof, and (ii) a fund of £4,891 to be used at the discretion of the minister for those in need.

A Guided Tour of Merrylea Church

Reproduced with the kind permission of the late Walter Crichton, written in the early 1970's:

Here we are at the entrance to our beautiful church, built of Auchenheath stone on ground gifted by Sir John Stirling Maxwell of Pollock. So in we go, exchange 'Good mornings' with the office-bearers on duty and proceed to our pews. But just a minute... have we not missed something? Indeed we have.

Those stands for the offerings merit more than a passing glance. They are of unique design, and are made of heavy black oak originally part of Glasgow Bridge, which was taken down in 1345, so the wood is probably well over seven hundred years old. Along with several other items they were given by Mr James Ogilvie, of whom more later.

The Flower Fund box, an anonymous gift in light oak was made by ex-servicemen at the Lord Roberts Workshops in Dundee.

And there is that little window. It is by Mrs Nina Miller Davidson, who greatly influenced the establishment of Eaglesham as a conservation village. Doesn't it remind you of something? Yes – it is based on the famous painting "The Light of the World" by Holman Hunt and depicts Jesus knocking at the door. He is, as is Merrylea, standing on the mound and His "I am the Way" surmounts the picture. Together these themes represent the opening of worship under the leadership of the Rev. Julius McCallum, whose ministry is commemorated. Other allegories are the corn and the wine, representing the Communion Bread and Wine; while the Phoenix symbolises the replacement of the original "Tin Church" by our present edifice. Not that it was burned, no, no – this is just a little artistic licence.

You should also know that our kirk was designed by the celebrated architect, P. MacGregor Chalmers. It was started in 1914 and was dedicated on 11 September 1915. It was intended that there should be a tower but this has always been too costly to build. And that wee door in the corner of the vestibule would have given access to it.

So now you know! You are moving from the vestibule into the chancel. Up the steps we go – forward – left turn – and a bee-line for "our" pew (they used to carry names of members paying pew rents – but that was a long time ago). STOP!

Turn to your right and look up. At what? At the magnificent three light west window.

This multiple window commemorates the Rev Hugh Sutherland who succeeded Mr McCallum when Merrylea became an independent Parish Church. He was our minister from 1911 to 1919. We had previously been a Chapel of Ease dependency of Cathcart Old. It also forms the memorial to those members who fell in the First World War. Their names are inscribed on a bronze plaque below the centre panel, which was unveiled on 19 March 1922 by the Rt. Hon Thomas Paxton, Lord Provost of Glasgow. The windows were dedicated by the Very Rev. Dr. Wallace Williamson C.V.O. Dean of the Chapel Royal of the Order of the Thistle. He had laid the foundation stone of the Church in 1914. Do you know where that is? Have a look around for it.

The glass work was carried out by Stephen Adam and although the records do not show the name of the artist experts consider it likely to have been Alec. Walker. The theme is from Matthew 2:20 where we read of the ambitious request of James and John, through their mother, for preferential treatment in Jesus' kingdom. At the top of each of the outer panels angels adore the enthroned Christ in the centre. Many of Merrylea's windows have supporting panels. These ones depict the Baptism of Jesus (left); the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (centre); and the Rending of the Tomb (right)

At the top there are some texts in Latin. Of course there is English but we shall find another language in one of our windows. I wonder where?

Having studied the West windows you turn round and the right hand side of the of the building is of course, the South Aisle and Transept. These were completed at a cost of between six and seven thousand pounds and were dedicated on 12 September 1925 by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt. Rev. Dr. John White. The four windows in the aisle all relate to the childhood of Jesus and comprise:

The Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:25) Old Simeon takes the infant Jesus in his arms and praises God saying "Now let me Thy servant, depart in peace for I have seen Thy salvation of Israel." It was presented in memory of William C. Finlay by his widow and family in 1947.

The Flight into Egypt (Matt.2:13) Joseph and Mary take baby Jesus away to escape jealous Herod's "Slaughter of the Innocents". Given in memory of Inez Ritchie

(died 24 April 1929) and William Ritchie (killed in action with the RAF on 2 October 1943) by their parents, Mr and Mrs A. Ritchie.

The Boy Jesus (Luke 2:39 and 40) This illustrates our Lord's apprenticeship in the carpenter's shop at Nazareth and was in memory of the late Alexander Colville Brown, MC, an elder and Clerk to the Congregational Board. It was given by his family.

Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem (Luke 2 : 46) Like the McCallum memorial window in the vestibule, this was designed by that remarkable lady, Mrs. Nina Miller Davidson. It shows twelve year old Jesus debating with doctors of the law. The three day search by Joseph and Mary is indicated by the starry sky, showing the hour they found Him as the evening. You have seen some Latin and English – here some of the lettering on the scrolls is Hebrew, some is simply stylised artistic licence.

The almond shaped faces of the characters are typical of Mrs. Davidson's very individual style and the glasswork was executed by Guthrie and Wells Ltd.

The other three windows in this aisle were all done by the St Enoch Glass Co. This window was erected by the Fraser family in memory of their father, Mr. Tom Fraser, their mother and their brother. Mr. Fraser was for many years a member of the Congregational Board

We move along to the South Transept, which is dominated by the windows commemorating the Rev. John MacLagan, DD, our much loved and respected minister from 1919 to 1949. They are by the late Douglas Hamilton whose work can be seen extensively in West Scotland.

The subject of those on the left is that of the Good Shepherd against the background of the Valley of the Shadow of Death (Psalm 23). The right hand pair illustrates the Risen Christ saying three times to Peter "Feed my lambs". The small panel depicts today's application of these themes – the work of the pastor at which our minister excelled.

The other supporting panels show the miraculous draught of fish ("I shall make you fishers of men" sums up Dr MacLagan's work with the Church and Nation Committee of the General Assembly) – the Ark of the Covenant represents the Old and the New Testaments as well as life hereafter (Rev. 11:9), symbolising his ministry – and David with the Sword of Goliath is allegorical of his service as a combatant army officer and of his convenorship of the Committee on Chaplains to

H.M. Forces.

The windows are linked by a bronze plaque which carries a most appropriate quotation. It was made by Arch'd Hamilton & Co. and the whole project was approved by the General Assembly's Committee on Artistic Matters whose convenor was The Rev. Humphrey Hamilton.

The theme for windows in the North Aisle is “.The work and witness of women in the Christian Church.” The first of these lights to be completed is a Virgin and Child by C. Payne, A.R.C.A. executed by Guthrie and Wells Ltd. It was presented in 1922 by the family of Thomas Hill and his wife Jessie Wardrop. It was Mr. Hill's father who built Merrylea House.

The second window illustrates the story of Mary Magdalen anointing Jesus with precious oil. It was designed by Douglas McLundie, carried out by the City Glass Co. and gifted in 1961 by Mrs. Isabella Watson Hamilton in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Watson and their daughters Janet, Agnes and Annie, who were founder members of Merrylea.

Moving along to the right we come to the Baptistry where there is a very beautiful little window. The central panel shows another Virgin and Child and the surround carries a Paschal Lamb together with numerous Christian symbols such as chalice, crown of thorns, nails, etc. It was given by Margaret R.P. Small in memory of her husband John small Gemmill and was dedicated on 9 September 1917. It is a reproduction of Raphael's painting in the Pitti Palace in Florence. The embellishment by such wealth of symbolism suggests Dr. Robert Anning Bell, R.A. as the author.

Below this window is a stone font which also bears many interesting symbols. It was paid for by the children of the Sunday School raising a “Mile of Pennies” and is still used for some of our Baptisms. In our journey round the church we went from the North Aisle to the Baptistry. Just turn left and we find two delightful pairs of windows. These are both the work of John Blyth whose artistry is to be found all over Scotland.

The centre pair are in memory of the Rev Ironside Simpson MC, TD, MA, BD, and are adjacent to the pulpit. Equally appropriate is the main theme of the Sermon on the Mount, referring to the Ministry of the Word. The Lord's command “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works” was followed by

him and surely bids us do the same! The The lower panels relate to Mr Simpson s parish work (the Parable of the Good Samaritan) and his distinguished service as chaplain to H.M. Forces (the Faithful Centurion)

To the left, the Ministry of Service inspired the memorial to the Jessiman family who gave long and unstinting support to Merrylea in a variety of ways. Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and the text “I am among you as He that serveth” were their examples. They loved this House of God so the smaller subjects are the prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the Temple (1 Kings 8) and the joy of King David at worship (‘Psalm 122). This design received particularly warm approval from the Church of Scotland’s-Committee on Artistic Matters.

We have now arrived at the chancel. Did you ever find the Foundation Stone? Well here it is at the base of the left hand column. Marked with a little brass plate, it is in the North-East corner of the building which is the traditional place.

On the floor is a beautiful royal blue carpet bearing the Burning Bush emblem of the Church of Scotland. It was specially woven by Templeton’s for our Golden Jubilee, and was dedicated on 7 November 1965 by the Very Rev. Charles L. Warr, KVC0, DL, DD, LD, Dean of the Thistle and Chapel Royal who had preached at a “Coming of Age” celebration in 1936.

At the left you will see an oak font (we are fortunate in having two fonts) which commemorates Miss Muriel Hay. She was a Sunday School leader of distinction and was killed in an air crash in Switzerland.

Nearby is a seat and prayer stool for use by assistant ministers etc. It was given by the family of a former Session Clerk, Mr Fraser Farquharson MBE, Deputy Chief Constable of Glasgow.

A bible given by the Rev Ironside Simpson rests on the lectern which was another gift of Mr James Ogilvie, and is made of oak taken from the roof timbers of Glasgow Cathedral (1136A.D.), – more history! Yet again we are indebted to Mr Ogilvie for the little black oak reading stand on the Communion Table. It is made from oak from the Bishop’s Well of 1258A.D. which was near the Cathedral.

And do examine the pulpit. There is a wealth of detail in the carving – look for the Ark and the Triquetra (see the dictionary for what that is!)

Having gone all round the church we are now at the Chancel. Everyone sees it, but do we take time to look at its detail closely? In particular, the three windows are especially beautiful.

The centre light depicts the Crucifixion and was given by Margaret P. Small in memory of her parents, James and Elizabeth Small. Those to either side were gifted at the same time, by Miss Small's sister in memory of her husband, James Shanks, and feature the Baptism of Jesus and His Ascension. The supporting panels illustrate respectively the Lord's Supper, the Adoration of the Magi and the Rending of the Tomb.

As with most of the windows there are borders of vine and allegorical symbols – the hand is the Hand of God, the Dove representing the Holy Spirit and there is “The Pelican in her Piety” - also to be seen in the woodwork of the choir screen. This refers to the legend that pelicans pluck open their breasts to provide blood to feed their starving families, in the way that the Lord gave His blood for us all.

These windows were installed in 1916 by Guthrie and Wells and the design is understood to be by Alec Walker.

Well you have now completed your tour. He that hath eyes to see—.

To mark the centenary of the congregation, we were blessed with the gift of a new stained glass window, placed at the west end of the south aisle. This features scenes of Glasgow, ancient and modern. At that time the Chancel was remodelled to make it more accessible, with ramp access. Sadly, this involved the removal of the original Choir Stalls, with the Pulpit being re-sited upon the new Chancel floor. If you look carefully at the steps at the front to the new Chancel, you will note that the bull-nosed steps are made from the seats of the now removed Choir Stalls. The updated Chancel was recarpeted to match the remainder of the church with the original carpet, bearing the Burning Bush emblem, incorporated as a central panel. At the same time, a number of the side pews were replaced by individual seats, upholstered in blue to match pew cushions which were also installed. These give certain flexibility to the space without detracting from the overall beauty of the Sanctuary.

In the early 2000s an Audio-visual system was installed, featuring a retracting screen above the organ to minimise visual impact when not in use, along with additional screens being placed ahead of the north and south aisle pews along with two Chancel - facing screens mounted on the front pillars. These enable all

members of the congregation to have an unobstructed view of the service, no matter where they sit.

Having been served by only seven Ministers through the life of the congregation, Merrylea entered its first period of extended Vacancy when Rev David Hood demitted office in March of 2019. By that time General Assembly had passed a Radical Action Plan for the future of the Denomination which meant we were unable to immediately move to seek a new Minister, and discussions started taking place to find a congregation where we felt we could share time and talents for the benefit of everyone.

Following years of seeking God's guidance, and after much prayerful consideration, the congregation of Merrylea voted to enter into a Linkage with our friends at Giffnock, Orchardhill Church. Endorsed by Presbytery of Glasgow in November of 2024, a Service of Linkage took place, within Merrylea on 16th January 2025. We go forward in faith, in the knowledge that God will guide us through whatever is to come, as we seek to serve the community in which we are immersed.



Merrylea Parish Church's Singing Group for People with Dementia and their Carer

'It's a good time to get acquainted, it's a good time to know who is sitting right beside you, just smile and say hello....' That is the first verse of the opening song of the singing group. A warm welcome awaits everyone who comes along to our monthly meetings.

Dementia can be an isolating condition for both the sufferer and the carer. The Singing Group provides an opportunity to sing and socialise. It also encourages a sense of belonging which helps to counter negative feelings, by giving a positive view of life, and helps relieve tension and isolation.

Our main aim is to enhance well being and provide fun and enjoyment for everyone who comes to our meetings. Even if you don't have dementia, but would enjoy some company and like singing, you are most welcome to join us. Our meetings are held on the first Friday of each month through the year in Merrylea Parish Church, main hall from 2pm to 3.30pm. We start with afternoon tea and then have our singalong.

At our February meeting we celebrated St Valentines Day and included in our themed section of the programme romantic songs such as Ain't She Sweet and I Could Have Danced All Night. We always sing some Scottish songs too and at our February meeting we sang These are my Mountains and The Road to the Isles which were two the Scottish songs for the day. Among the other songs we sang were My Grandfather's Clock and The Black Hills of Dakota.

Our next meeting is on Friday the 7th of March starting at 2pm. There is no charge but a donation towards afternoon tea is appreciated.

If you would like more information, please contact myself, Margaret McLellan on 0141 639 6853 or contact the Church Office. Thank you

Orchardhill Ladies Toilet and Kitchen Improvements

The Orchardhill Building Team have been looking into the issues that have come to light with regards to the flooring in the church kitchen and the ladies' toilets and found that the floors have been badly affected by wet rot, which has also affected the kitchen units and toilet cubicles. It has been the Teams aim to replace the affected floors and upgrade the ladies' toilets and kitchen to improve the experience of not only the congregation, but also the external users of our facilities. Additionally, we hope that the improved facilities will encourage greater use of the church by the wider community.

We are delighted to have been granted funding from the East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund towards the improvement of both our kitchen and ladies' toilets in the church building. The grant application was made for the replacement of the rotten floors, the kitchen units and equipment in Orchardhill Parish Church's Kitchen and the replacement of the flooring, sanitary ware and cubicles in the ladies' toilets.

We are aiming to carry out the work in the ladies' toilet around Easter, followed by the kitchen repairs and upgrade during the school summer holidays, to minimise disruption to users.

The grant money comes from renewable energy projects in East Renfrewshire. East Renfrewshire Council operates the fund with contributions from Scottish Power Renewables, Whitelee Windfarm and Middleton Windfarm. The East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund aims to help projects that benefit East Renfrewshire communities with the aim to help improve community facilities and services.

We are very grateful for the support of East Renfrewshire Council during the application process and Scottish Power for the award of the funding.

Orchardhill Congregational Roll

Disjunction

Mrs Christine Dunn

New Members

Mr Iain and Mrs Christine Young

Orchardhill New Elders

The following were welcomed to the Kirk Session at Services of Ordination/Admission on 29 December and 12 January

Anne Anderson
Dorothy Bennett
Evelyn Borland
Dorothy Cartlidge
Valerie Clark
Fiona McAslan
Bruce Paterson
Ann Pope
Jaqueline Taylor
Margaret Thomson
Yvonne Tough
Margaret Webb

86th Boys' Brigade –Junior Section & Anchor Boys

We are almost halfway through our programme before the Easter Holidays.

At the start of the year the boys had an evening of 'Challenges' which they completed in any order, and enjoyed the fun of finding the answers.

The end of January saw our very informal Burns' Night, and everyone took part in eating their Haggis, neeps & tatties along with Irn Bru.

February saw us talk and explore about having a 'Healthy Heart'. It was interesting to note that some of the older boys had spoken about this topic at school. As all of us were unable to find our pulse, we decided that we were all dead. It was reassuring to see everyone back on 14th February when we spoke about God's abundant love for us, and we made an 'All Year Round Valentine' card. The rest of February will be taken up with an old favourite – 'Building a Den' which leads us into 'Spies and Secret Agents' at the end of the month.

March of course, brings the start of Lent when we make Pancakes, something for Mother's day, and decorate a cork mat with shiney penny pieces, cleaned by sitting in brown sauce, so we wonder what this does to our insides!!

After Easter, we will have another Badminton Night and of course 'A Chocolate Night'.

Our last night is on 16th May when we will have fun outside, weather permitting, with Rockets, Sand and Alka seltzer.

All boys will gain their Badges and Awards. Two boys from Anchor Boys will be promoted up to Junior Section, and 2 boys from Junior Section to Company Section.

We are always looking for new boys to come to Anchors (Pr. 1 – Pr.3); Juniors Pr. 4 – Pr. 6) and Company & Senior s (Pr. 7– S6). Any boy interested is invited to join us for a tester evening on 7th March (Pancake Night) or 25th April (our chocolate night). Like all organisations we are always looking for new members of Staff. If you feel this is for you, please contact Stephen Bennett at bb@orchardhill.org.uk. Don't wait to be asked. Being a leader is very rewarding.

Margaret Howard, 86th Boys' Brigade

Church Gardens

Winter in the garden is a time of pruning, patience and planning. In January the Kirk Session approved a grand plan for the church garden, designed by Richard Wallis, who is a valued member of the garden task group. Work has already started on the project, with turf being lifted and utilised in the area between the two car parks. A trench for drainage has been dug. The new garden will include a small water feature, and shrubs and perennials which can tolerate heavy clay soil, and are attractive to birds and pollinators.

It is anticipated that the majority of plants will come from the gardens of those in the Garden Task Group. However, we would like to source *Euphorbia griffithii* Fireglow, Geranium 'Ivan' and Patricia 'Brempat', Geum of any colour, Helenium 'Sahin's early flowerer' and 'Moorheim Beauty', Phlox paniculata (maximum height 90cms) and Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm'. If you have any of these plants please make contact with The Garden Task Group.

Weather permitting, it is hoped that the majority of the work will be completed in time for the Anniversary Service on Sunday 11 May, but some planting is likely to be delayed.

Meanwhile, snowdrops have made a good show, and the violas in the urns at the front of the church are providing some winter colour, with narcissus to follow.



Life and Work

March 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Served with Soul

A partnership between a West Lothian church and a charity offering companionship and meals to the local community.

Healing Brokenness

The work of mental health charity Kintsugi Hope

Spiritual Journeying

The Church of Scotland and Lent

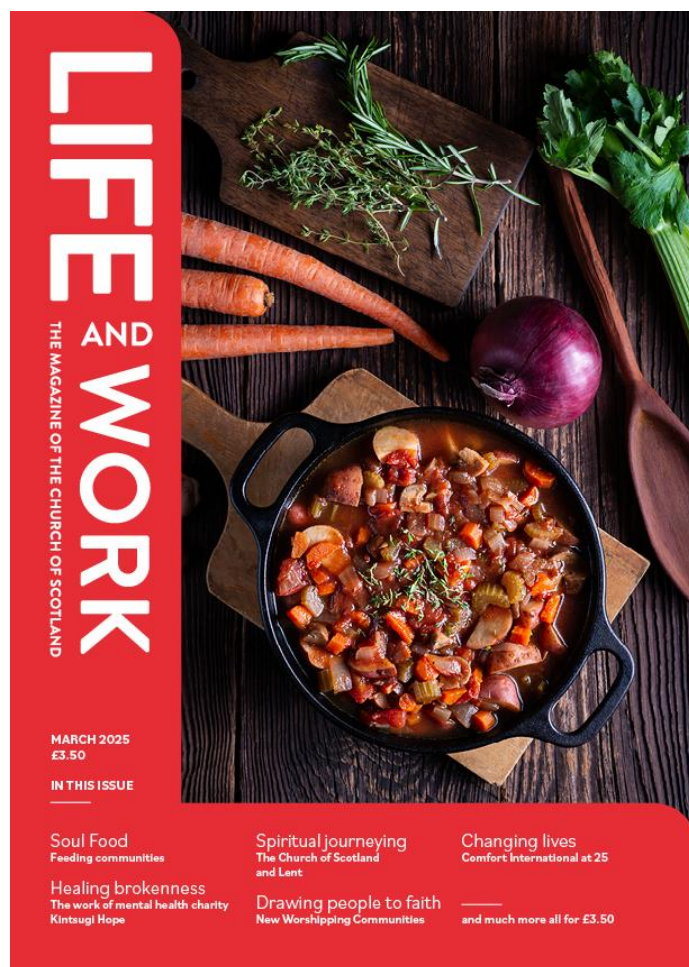
Drawing People to Faith

Two more of the Church of Scotland's New Worshipping Communities

Shining the Light of God's Love

The story of a life transformed by one of the Church's Priority Area congregations.

And much more over 52 pages...



Thank you



Isabella, Orchardhill's church officer, is now back at work following her 2 hip operations. She would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported her during her recuperation. All the lovely flowers, meals, and goodies were gratefully received.

The Black Door Shop

The following article appeared on the website of Keep Scotland Beautiful and is testament to the fantastic work of our gardening team.

It's Your Neighbourhood



The Black Door Shop

East Renfrewshire

2024 Certificates

Level 5 - Outstanding

In 2024, The Black Door Shop was recognised by Keep Scotland Beautiful with a Runner Up Certificate of the Scottish level of the Sustainable Gardening Award, one of five new RHS Community Awards.

At The Black Door Shop their ethos is to reduce waste and work to bring the area greener. They continue to collect litter every Saturday, cleaning up their locality - over 500 bags of litter annually. They divert, through household donations, over 75 tons of material from landfill for second users use. They develop their garden area to reflect natural growth to enhance use by wildlife etc. They are a happy team and welcome new volunteers.

In 2023, the group received a Certificate of Recognition in the NatureScot It's Your Neighbourhood Pollinator Friendly Award for the Orchardhill Thursday Gardeners.

We were recently awarded an 'It's Your Neighbourhood Award 2024'
at Level 5 - Outstanding



Keep Scotland Beautiful

Your charity inspiring action for Scotland's environment

It's Your Neighbourhood Award 2024

Level 5 - Outstanding

Awarded to

The Black Door Shop



Community Participation



Environmental Responsibility



Gardening Achievement

Thank you for keeping Scotland beautiful



Barry Fisher, Chief Executive, Keep Scotland Beautiful

www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org

In partnership with:



We support the ambitions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



The following letter was received from our Local MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Black Door Shop
Orchardhill Parish Church
Church Road
Giffnock
East Renfrewshire
G46 6LT

Blair McDougall MP
Member of Parliament for East Renfrewshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 0207 219 1435

06/02/2025

Dear The Black Door Shop,

I recently read about your achievements with the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' initiative in the Barrhead News and wanted to congratulate you on your efforts.

I understand that validation isn't the reason why you undertake these initiatives, but it is important to me that groups like yours are recognized when you go out of your way to make a positive difference in the community. Efforts like these genuinely inspire me to work harder to help sustainability efforts and climate action in the local community.

I look forward to seeing what you achieve in the future!

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blair McDougall".

Blair

Blair McDougall MP
East Renfrewshire

Contact the Constituency Office:
blair.mcdougall.mp@parliament.uk

The following article appeared in the local news

Local News | November 2024

BLACK DOOR SHOP AWARD JOY



A small charity that offers a range of facilities for the local community has won a prestigious award.

The Black Door Shop, which is run under the banner of the 86th Glasgow Boys' Brigade, has been named as the Alliance Healthcare Self Management Digital Innovation Winner 2024.

The accolade was presented to charity founder Stephen Bennett and trustee James Going at a special ceremony at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

Stephen said: "We were very surprised to learn that we had been

selected as one of three charities in our category for these annual awards.

"James and I attended a ceremony at the Scottish Parliament, where the winner was announced.

"When the envelope was opened and The Black Door Shop was read out, I could not believe it.

"We were delighted to receive the award on behalf of the charity. This award is for all those

who contribute donations every week and for all the volunteers who tirelessly give their time so willingly."

The Self Management Awards take place each year to celebrate the best of Self Management support across Scotland.

It was in 2015 that The Black Door Shop was established by Stephen at Orchardhill Parish Church in Giffnock. The aim was to introduce a children's charity shop where people in the community could swap toys, bikes, prams or school uniforms, or make a donation and borrow or keep the items.

The charity went from strength to strength until Covid lockdown put a stop to the work and it was decided they needed a change of direction.

Stephen, who is also captain of 86th Glasgow BB, said: "Orchardhill Church very kindly gave us the use of an area under the church hall. This area was only ever used as a store and with a keen group of volunteers, we worked to improve the empty space that we now occupy.

"This allowed us to emerge from the lockdown offering a new range of services and facilities, including laptop and computer refurbishment; pre-used household item collection and redistribution; and litter collecting.

"We also share skills on life, cooking, woodworking among community members.

"We are a friendly group of volunteers who go the extra mile to bring a little happiness to often very sad members of our community."

To find out more about the charity, see [The Black Door Shop on Facebook](#).

Local boys Edwin and Will recently received Saltire awards for 50 hours voluntary service – well done and many thanks for your hard work!



The following article is taken from the Keep Scotland Beautiful website

Derek Ritchie is a Clean Up Scotland Hero



30 October 2024

We are delighted to recognise Derek Ritchie with a Clean Up Scotland Hero award for his efforts to reverse the country's litter emergency.

Derek, scoutmaster of 28th Giffnock Scouts in East Renfrewshire, is a keen litter picker and has got his scout group involved too.

He was nominated by The Black Door Shop's Stephen Bennett, who said Derek and the commitment of his scout group "demonstrating the negative impact litter is making in our community helps others to see the gift of keeping the area free from litter".

Derek said: "If we can do our bit, for the people who are behind us on a Saturday morning or walking their dog in the park, it might make their day a little bit nicer.

"The primary thing is to pass on the volunteering message to the scouts. This [award] really isn't just for me, this is for the boys and girls who go out as well."

Barry Fisher, our Chief Executive, said: "I am incredibly pleased to award Derek with our Clean Up Scotland Hero award. He is a great role model for everyone and really deserves this recognition for his enduring determination.

"Scotland has a litter emergency, so it is more important than ever that we look after our beautiful country and keep it clean and tidy.

[Our latest report](#) found that 87% of people believe litter is an issue across the country, so we all have a responsibility to play our part.

"We know how much people care about our environment, and I hope that Derek's award encourages others to get involved and help us keep Scotland beautiful."

Chrissie Jeffery, Scottish Lead for Helping Hand, said: "As the UK's leading manufacturer and supplier of quality, sustainable litter clearance tools and equipment, our commitment to environmental responsibility is at the forefront of our mission. Since 2014, we have taken immense pride in championing the Hero of the Month Award, a platform that recognises the extraordinary dedication of individuals and organisations striving to Keep Scotland Beautiful.

"Today, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the latest winner, Derek, and we will be sending him a sustainable litter picking kit to help continue his remarkable efforts in contributing to the collective goal of fostering a cleaner, greener Scotland.

"We believe in empowering those who share our passion for environmental stewardship, and it is truly inspiring to witness the positive influence these heroes have on their communities."

Quarriers/Tree of Kindness

Quarriers has been one of Orchardhill's Tree of Kindness partners since the beginning of the project, working closely with Lindsay and his Team to ensure that suitable gifts are provided to some of the very poorest children in our city.

Sadly that partnership will not continue, following the cessation of the Quarriers' service in Glasgow's East End as a result of funding cuts. Lindsay received the following email from Rhonda:

"Dear Friends

Writing this feels like the end of an era, not only for me but I'm sure for the whole Congregation.

Our children in the East End of Glasgow have been receiving gifts from the Tree of Kindness and donations from your parishioners for goodness knows how many years.

I loved coming to the Church and seeing all the toys ready for us to collect. The sense of excitement was real and made me truly believe that Santa had left them for us. I may have already told you all this but I would like to remind you just how important your kindness is.

"I just can't believe people who don't even know us think about me and my children. All these beautiful toys, that I could never in a million years afford, bought by kind people ... Thank you seems too small a word." (Amy, mum of Jae age 4 and Layla age 8)

"Last year, myself and my 3 children ended up in a homeless flat the week before Christmas, due to fleeing horrific domestic violence. Rhonda brought us toys given by your Church. We were able to have a lovely calm Christmas morning with no violence or shouting, and my kids were able to open presents I would never have been allowed to give them. The screams of happiness, not fear, from my kids that morning will stay with me forever. Thank you – I will never forget your kindness." (Sharon, mum of Thomas age 10, Andrew, 5 and Leon 2)

It is so wrong that our Service closed due to lack of funding, and the anger I feel is immeasurable. Our most vulnerable families yet again have been let down. It is so sad that, in this day and age, we still see children who have so little. It is so wrong.

Never, ever underestimate the difference you have made to the children's lives with your care, kindness and compassion.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked alongside you. We will never, ever forget you all.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Lots of love

Rhonda
(Previously Quarriers)

Bible Study Groups

Members and friends of Orchardhill have gathered, over the years, in groups at Church, or in our homes, to study sections of the Bible, and share hospitality and fellowship.

We currently have one study group who meet in the afternoon and another who meet in the evening – each group generally meets every 2-3 weeks.

Recent studies in the house groups have included Ephesians, the Lord's Prayer, the wonderful book of Ruth, in the Old Testament, and the Parables of Jesus in the New. We are currently studying the Holy Spirit. To assist us, we use study guides suitable for those at any and all stages in their Christian journeys.

New participants are always welcome, and are invited to seek more information from our Minister, Rev. Gillian Rooney, or from Ian Cartlidge -

iancartlidge@doctors.org.uk

Ladies Book Group

Are you a keen reader of (mostly) contemporary fiction? And would you enjoy friendly chat - sometimes even book related - with a lovely group of ladies?

If this sounds like you, our book group might be what's missing from your life. We meet about every six weeks at the home of any one of our members. Previously we have always met in the evening, but we are starting some afternoon meetings in the New Year.

Books are chosen by the group - so no pressure to be the one to choose! One of us puts together a shortlist of 5 or 6 books, we exclude anything anyone has read, and take it from there.

If you'd like to know more, or just to talk about books, catch Linda Moir at coffee some Sunday, or call 07968 793437.

Family News, Announcements etc.

We would like to include a section in The Record where you can share your news. This could be the arrival of a new baby, the graduation of a loved one, or the announcement of an engagement or marriage.

In addition to the joyful events, we would like to include a 'remembrance' section where we can publish tributes and life stories of deceased members of your family who were members or attendees of Orchardhill. Such information can act as important records for future generations. If you would like assistance in producing the articles, please let us know, and we can help with this.

To submit an article, please email to record-team@orchardhill.org.uk or hand in a hard copy to the office.

Kids

There are lots of things happening for children, young folk and families – here are some of the things we've been up to over the past few months

MESSY CHURCH

Last Friday of the month 4-6pm

Fun, faith and food for children and their families



OY!

Friday evenings during school term, 5-7pm



You are welcome to come along to these or some of the Other activities that we have for young folk in the church

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sundays during service

**ORCHARDHILL BOOKBUG
PARENT & TODDLERS**
Wednesdays
9.30-11.15am
Memorial Halls

ORCHARD TOTS AND CAFÉ
Tuesdays
Tots 10-11.30am
Café 11.30-12.30pm

See www.Orchardhill.org.uk or email youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk for more info

Orchardhill Parish Church, Church Road, Giffnock Glasgow G46 6JR
phone 0141 638 3604
website: www.orchardhill.org.uk
email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk

Orchardhill Parish Church: Scottish Charity number SC 009774