

THE RECORD



December 2021



A Word from Gillian Rooney



Gillian's Letter

Around the time you read this, I will have been ordained and inducted into the pastoral charge of Giffnock: Orchardhill. For all of us, this is the start of a new ministry, and comes appropriately at the start of a new liturgical year in the church calendar. The season of Advent is upon us, a time of preparation and a time of waiting to celebrate the birth of the baby who would become the Saviour of the world.

As we enter this time, it is only natural that we reflect on the year that has passed. We remember those that we have loved and lost, we rejoice over new additions and new opportunities. Around this time of year, we often focus on our homes, making them welcoming places for the family and friends who may visit with us. As we do this, can we also consider whom we make space for in our community, our church and in our lives? There was no room at the inn, and yet the Holy Family found a welcome and a safe space in the most surprising of locations.

This Christmas you are all invited to join with us in our services of worship each Sunday at 10.30am, and for the special services which you will find detailed on our website.

There is a warm welcome waiting for you; come and join our community of hope and peace.

With my prayers and best wishes for a peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year

Your Minister

Gillian

Orchardhill Parish Church Choir

Would like to invite you to our

Christmas Carols

Service

Traditional Carols for all to sing

Christmas Readings

Followed by coffee/tea, mince pies and homebaking

ALL Welcome

Orchardhill Parish Church

Sunday 19th December 6.30pm



86th Glasgow BB Company Anchor Boys & Junior Sections

Although we are small in number (mainly due to Covid we lost 6 boys) all the boys are enthusiastic and their attendance is good.

Our programme is a mixture of achievements from both the Anchor Boy Programme and the Junior Section Programme.



All the Anchor Boys require to do 22 achievements in total while the Junior Section Boys have to do 22 achievements in 1st year, thereafter 28, which can be quite a formidable task. Their achievements can be completed under the headings of:

Active Adventure Bible Creativity Involved Learning

Plus 4 Extra from the above.

So far we have had a night of activities, discussion and games on Fairness, which we designed to help the boys explore the ways that poverty can harm people's ability to recover from a crisis. This was done with Christian Aid in mind. We have also had them climbing / crawling through a spider's web and attending a chocolate night. Needless to say the chocolate night was voted the best night so far.

Did you know that (a) the smell of chocolate increases the brain waves which make you feel relaxed, and (b) so many Toblerone are sold every year that if they were laid out end to end they would stretch further than the whole circumference of the world.

Returning after the October week we had achievements on William Smith (our Founder), Hallowe'en Night, when the boys can dress up, and Bonfire Night. The boys really enjoyed making bonfire cakes, toasting marshmallows then squishing them between chocolate digestives, and, of course, eating them, then we managed to enjoy some sparklers outside. On Friday 12th November, great patience was required, as the boys made a pom-pom poppy and learnt about Remembrance Sunday.

Later in November, we will hear about Jonah, then Advent and Christmas activities, finishing with a Party on 17th December 2021.

Reece Taylor and Callum Doherty are busy working towards their Queen's Badge in the Company section, and come to help with the smaller ones as part of their 'working in the Company' which will go towards their Queen's Badge.

The above is just a flavour of our activities on a Friday evening.

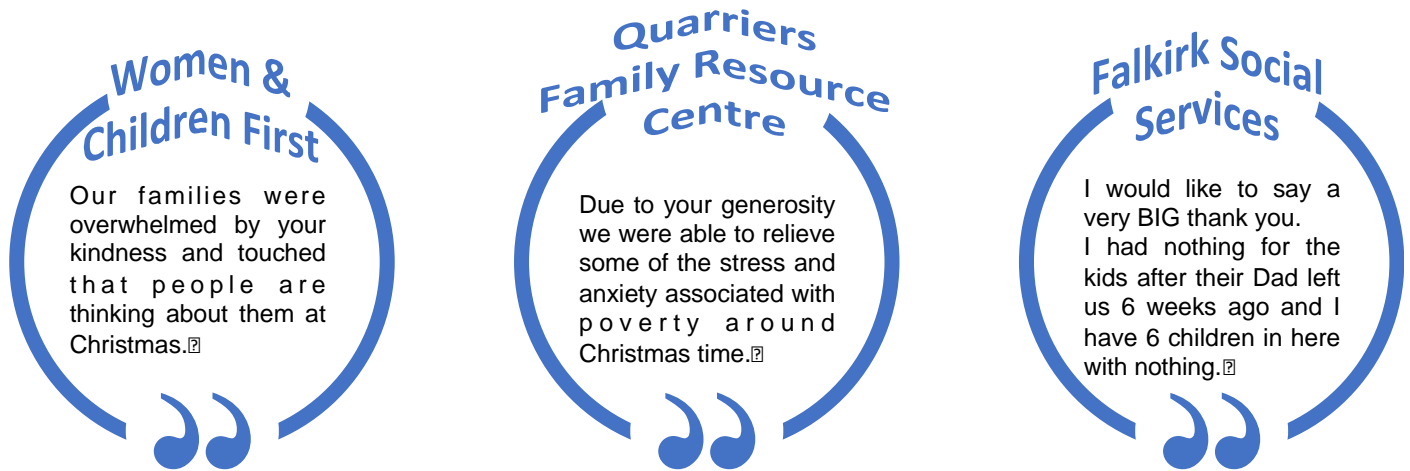
Margaret Howard
Anchor Boys & Junior Section Leader



Tree of Kindness 2021

It's that time of year again when we invite everyone in our community to give a present to a child or teenager in need, so that they will experience the joy of Christmas by receiving a gift. This is the fifth year of our community outreach project when **Orchardhill** partners with **KIND Scotland** to help tackle the grave issue of poverty affecting so many people in Scotland.

Last year we distributed presents to over 850 children, and here are some comments that we received



The **Tree of Kindness** is the living tree beside the church tower, and you will notice that it has grown since last year, but so has the need!

Step 1: Please select a **Tree of Kindness** gift tag from the tree

Step 2: go and purchase a suitable gift or toy for the young person on the card

Step 3: bring it back to the Church, with the card attached, so that it can be delivered to young people in need during the Christmas Season

Step 4: tell friends about the **Tree of Kindness**

Gifts should be returned unwrapped or in a gift bag please, with the tag attached, to the Church during opening hours: 10am – 12noon Mondays & Wednesdays or 7pm – 9pm Thursdays before 28 November.

We will be helping 14 organisations this year: -

Croftfoot Primary School; Quarriers Family Resource Centre, Ruchazie; Glasgow Association for Mental Health; Aberlour Child Care Trust; Women and Children First, Paisley; Falkirk Social Services; Castlemilk Parish Church; Glasgow's No.1 Baby & Family Support Group; RAMH (Recovery Across Mental Health); Ferguslie Park Nurseries; Crookston Medical Centre; Nitshill & Priesthill Parish Church; Ruchazie Parish Church; Carnwadric Parish Church.

Welcome Rev Gillian Rooney

With the ordination and induction of Rev. Gillian Rooney on 2nd December 2021, Orchardhill welcomes its first full-time female Minister, albeit ladies have previously provided pulpit supply, and the Rev. Pat Lang was locum during 2004-5.

The late Mrs Anna Blair, in her history of the 'Kirk on the Hill', made comment on the slow progress of our congregation in appointing ladies to positions of responsibility. When the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland suggested, shortly after the end of World War One, that parishes should consider and report back on the appointment of women deacons, Orchardhill's Kirk Session were not ready for this 'dire step' and 'declined to express an opinion'.

Glasgow Presbytery, in the early 1950s, declared itself to be against a barrier to women in the eldership, and, some 10 years later, got round to voting positively for their election. Here and there, after that, there appeared in the ordained list in Life and Work, a Miss or Mrs appointed to the Kirk Session in some Glasgow charge - but not at Orchardhill...

Eventually, in 1985, the Elders in this Church mothballed their required formal morning dress for Communion, as 6 lady Elders were ordained, including Mrs Marion Watson and Mrs Josephine (Jo)Weir. We're delighted that Marion and Jo remain active in the Church and in the Kirk Session, and even more delighted that Gillian Rooney has accepted the Call to blaze a trail here for lady Ministers.

Her husband Mark is warmly welcomed to the editorial team for the Orchardhill Record, and we thank him for taking on formatting and publishing roles from Mrs Lesley Hemsley, who has been a stalwart, but is now demitting office in order to travel more with her husband, and continue, when at home, to care for her disabled sister. Lesley stepped into the breach some 7 years ago, and, before the present team was established in 2019, she, and our secretary, Carol-Anne, undertook full responsibility for publishing the Record over many months.

We record our grateful thanks to her for all her work, and wish her and her family well for the future.

What's Good for the Goose!

Look at the birds of the air! (Matthew 6.26) (3)

In the world of geese, the aged, very young, and infirm are kept protected in the rear of the formation. But they aren't isolated, discounted or considered useless; in fact they fulfil a vital role. They become the honking section and cheer for the leaders. Inevitably, bad weather threatens the mission. The going gets tough and the tough are struggling. From the rear of the formation a lone honk sounds, initiating a geese chorus honking encouragement to the point goose. Paul understood this: '...Encourage one another and build each other up...' (1 Thessalonians 5:11). He knew we need a 'honking section' supporting us with uplifting words and prayer. We need those who say, 'We are behind you. We've got your back covered!' 'But... you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing good' (2 Thessalonians 3:13). Many a servant of Christ has crossed their deepest valley on a wing, a prayer and a honk from some old, scarred, battle-hardened, straggle-feathered, half-bald honker of encouragement who was too stubborn to let a brother or sister quit on their watch! Occasionally, a strident, out-of-tune goose complains loudly and irritatingly. Within moments the honking section kicks in, drowning out the grumbler, restoring order and unity. The church's problem isn't too many people speaking negatively, it's too few speaking positively! When someone cries, 'defeat', honk back, 'victory' When they cry, 'fear', honk back, 'faith'. A few words of encouragement can overpower a storm of complaints. So join the honking section and be known like Barnabas, whose name means 'Son of Encouragement' (Acts 4:36).



Look at the birds of the air! (Matthew 6.26) (4)

With geese, their relationship is 'till death do us part'. They take it seriously. They're fully committed. When the ravages of time or circumstances make it impossible for a bird to continue the trip and it begins to lose altitude or fails to keep abreast of the formation, the gaggle provides it with comfort, nurture and protection. Two strong geese leave the formation, flying with the 'patient' safely between them, find a sheltered location with food and water and make a home for the needy bird. They'll stay with their ward until it either recovers or dies, before joining another formation. For them, everything goes 'on hold' to care for another bird! What an example of Christ-like relationship and self-sacrificing love. '...God has combined the members of the body... that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part

suffers with it...' (1 Corinthians 12:24-26). In today's culture, we discount and marginalise the needy, including those no longer functioning as they once did. But God demands that we 'have equal concern for each other', especially with those suffering. If a gaggle of birds can do it, surely God's family ought to do it too. 'Look at the birds of the air!' Jesus directs. If they can do it for each other, '...Aren't you worth more than birds?' (Matthew 6:26). One of the two greatest commandments (not suggestions) Christ gave us is, '...Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater...' (Mark 12:31). When word circulates that we love each other in this way, they'll beat down the doors of our church to get in!



Look at the birds of the air! (Matthew 6.26) (5)

Lost and stray geese are always welcomed into the formation. It's not an exclusive club for the elite. Birds separated from other formations, isolated by weather, accident or infirmity, are given full family status. The formation will alter its plans, reschedule its arrival time and inconvenience itself to accommodate any strangers seeking its acceptance. Many newcomers arrive dirty, bedraggled and ill-fed. They're never turned away. In the same way, God's church isn't a museum for masterpieces - it's a hospital for those who have been hurt by life, even self-inflicted hurt. Jesus said, '...All... who are weary and carry heavy burdens...' are accepted (Matthew 11:28). 'I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also... there shall be one flock and one shepherd.' (John 10:16). Christ has no higher agenda than to recruit, save and adopt the stranger into His flock. Some might say, 'But they're not my kind of people; they don't look, talk or smell like me!' So what? We don't get to choose our biological or spiritual siblings; God does. If they rub us like sandpaper they're helping rub off rough edges and polish us up. Want to see the material God builds the church with? Prepare yourself for a shock. '...The immoral.. idolaters... adulterers... thieves... greedy... drunkards... revellers... extortioners... And such were some of you. But you were washed, and you were sanctified, and you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God' (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We were taken into the formation - we were washed, sanctified, justified and given full family status!

Dates for your Diary

December

- 5 2nd Sunday of Advent – Service led by Rev.Jim Teasdale
- 12 3rd Sunday of Advent – Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 19 4th Sunday of Advent – Nativity Sunday
- 24 6.00pm Family Service
11.30pm Watchnight
- 25 Christmas Day Service
- 26 Family Service

January

- 2 Family Service
- 9 Family Service
- 16 Family Service
- 23 Family Service
- 30 Family Service

Messy Church



We would absolutely love to see more families at our future Messy Churches. We will be running on the first Friday of the month (except January). For catering purposes, it would be great if you could email youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk to let us know if you will be coming along from 4pm until 6pm on: -

Friday 3 December

Friday 4 February

Friday 4 March

Friday 1 April

Congregational Roll

DEATHS

John Alexander

Well done thou good and faithful servant. Rest safe in the Lord

Church Rotas

READING ROTA

DECEMBER	
5	Margaret Howard
12	Colin Williamson
19	Garry Crosbie
26	TBC

WELCOME ROTA

DECEMBER	
5	George Robertson Jim Kerr Dave Evans
12	George Roberson Ann Pope Norma Hannah
19	George Robertson Maureen Van de Gavel Norma Hannah
26	George Robertson Valerie Clark Susan McQuilter

PRAYER

DECEMBER	
5	Linda Moir
12	Lindsay Barr
19	Irene Kinniburgh
26	Joyce Winning

Life and Work December 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Moderator considers the message of Christmas carols.

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the bitter-sweetness of a changing Christmas.

A new carol for Christian Aid.

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers explains why kindness – and the counselling and support of CrossReach – are needed now more than ever.

John R Hume outlines the history of a Glasgow church overlooking the Clyde.

And much more



Orchardhill Record Deadline

The editorial team enjoys the Christmas holiday, so that the Record is not published in January. The deadline for inclusion of articles for the February edition of the Orchardhill Record is Sunday 16th January 2022

Please continue to submit your articles for inclusion and we will produce an online copy available via the church website.

www.orchardhill.org.uk

For the Children



What does a snowman eat for breakfast?

Frosted Flakes

What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with an Ipad?

A pineapple

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

Do you smell carrots?

What falls at the North Pole and never gets hurt?

Snow

What kind of photos do elves take?

Elfies

See if you can find all the nativity related words in the grid.
 Once you have them all the unused letters will spell out a
 special message! Can you work out what it is?
 There are 24 - just like the days in December on your advent
 Calendar

M	E	F	L	O	C	K	R	R	Y
C	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	H
W	M	A	N	G	E	R	R	T	I
I	J	N	D	O	R	E	H	A	P
S	O	K	L	S	T	M	R	B	E
E	S	I	O	A	R	S	R	L	E
M	E	N	G	M	A	R	Y	E	H
E	P	C	F	R	T	O	M	M	S
N	H	E	A	L	S	L	A	S	S
L	G	N	I	K	T	O	R	L	T
O	C	S	B	A	B	Y	D	E	H
R	H	E	Y	L	O	H	O	G	G
D	R	E	P	E	E	K	N	N	I
R	U	O	I	V	A	S	K	A	L
A	R	D	H	S	U	S	E	J	I
N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	L	L

Angels
 Baby
 Donkey
 Flock
 Frankincense
 Gold
 Herod
 Holy
 Innkeeper
 Jesus
 Joseph
 King

Lights
 Lord
 Manger
 Mary
 Myrrh
 Nativity
 Saviour
 Sheep
 Shepherd
 Stable
 Star
 Wisemen



Connal who turns 10 on 18th December

Tony who is 3 on the 26th December

Abby who will be 12 on 12th January

Cassidy who turns 3 on 4th January

We hope you all have very happy birthdays

**And to everyone at Orchardhill, we would like to
wish you**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR**

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