

THE RECORD



Spring 2024



A Word from Gillian Rooney



The season of Christmas and all of its excitement are now behind us and we are in to Lent. Like in Advent, Lent is a time of waiting and it represents the 40 days and nights Jesus spent in the desert fasting and being tempted and tormented by the Devil. During this time he prepared and steeled himself to meet his long prophesied fate – to die on that cross and then to gloriously rise again on what we now know as Easter Sunday.

‘What are you giving up for Lent?’ is a common question at this time of year. When asked this, as I always do, I answer – ‘you don’t need to GIVE UP anything, instead DO SOMETHING NEW.’

What ‘new things’ could we do? Pray more, think about how we could help others, think of meaningful ways we could increase our generosity to others through financial donations to charity. We can also consider helping people in practical ways such as checking that a vulnerable neighbour is safe, or asking them if they need any shopping to be picked up.

The reading on the 18th of February was from Mark Chapter 10. In verse 25, Jesus said *‘It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’*

For two thousand years Christians of means, have pondered this statement. Does it mean ‘give up everything and make myself homeless?’ I don’t believe it does – that would not serve anyone well in the long term. Instead, I believe it can tie in with doing ‘new things’ – give generously of your time, talents and, yes, money. Don’t be mean with any of them – do your absolute best.

If you are not already doing so, I would encourage you to think about this and maybe take some small steps in Lent – and then continue it beyond. Don’t allow yourself to be a camel that is unable to pass through the eye of a needle.

Yours in Christ,

Gillian

Bible Study

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.

Since the pandemic, there have been two groups, meeting fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons and on Thursday evenings, with these having lately been supplemented by the Minister's 'Chatty Cafe' at 11am on a Wednesday, lunch at 12 being followed by meditation on a Bible passage.

Recent studies in the house groups have included the Lord's Prayer, the wonderful book of Ruth, in the Old Testament, and the Parables of Jesus in the New, helped by published 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.'

Life and Work March 2024

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'OUR ULTIMATE FREEDOM'

Easter reflection from the Moderator

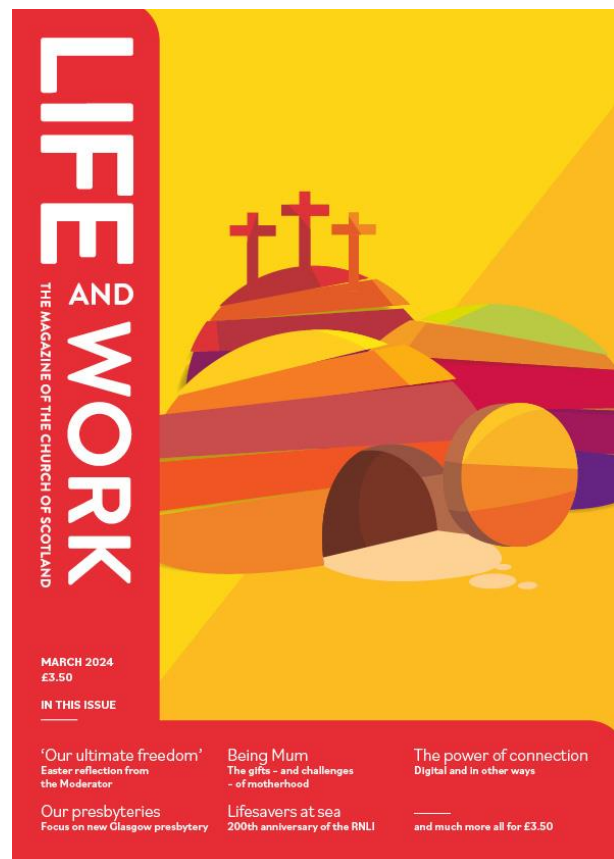
OUR PRESBYTERIES

Focus on new Glasgow presbytery

BEING MUM

The gifts - and challenges - of motherhood

And much more over 52 pages



Boys Brigade

86th Glasgow Boys' Brigade Anchor and Junior Sections

Since we returned after the Christmas & and New Year Holidays, the Anchor and Junior Boys have been busy with their various activities. We started back with an Activities night, so hopefully the boys were tired at the end. The following week we had a 'Bible Night' which included Wordsearch, Quiz and Bible Maths. At the end of January, we talked about Robert Burns, followed by Haggis and Irn Bru.

The boys learned how to weigh out ingredients and follow a recipe to make a Pizza of their choice.

After the February holiday we go on to learning about Lent and the making of Pancakes with toppings of the boys' choice – sugar, lemon juice, syrup, chocolate spread, even pineapple was requested. Two old favourites later will be building a den with hairs and blanket, RCC (remote controlled cars), Mother's Day Gifts, Easter Activities, hopefully a treasure hunt.

Hopefully we can award their Achievement Badges early May and finish with a 'fun night'. We are still low in the number of boys attending, so any boy Primary 1 – Primary 6 will be made most welcome on a Friday night, 6.30 – 7.30pm in the Memorial Halls. Why not come along and try a couple of nights before committing to coming regularly on a Friday evening.

Leaders are also required to help on a Friday night – it is a tremendous feeling to see Anchor Boys come in slightly nervous, move up to Juniors more sure of themselves, then join the older boys in Company Section, and come out the other end as young men.

Please give this your prayerful consideration.

Margaret Howard
Officer in Charge
Anchor Boys & Juniors

Company Section

The Company Section has been active in its community work, regularly assisting in the Black Door Shop and working to the national badge programme.

At the start of the New Year, David Arthur, a registered leader in the Company Section, intimated his intention to resign following successful application with British Airways to start an 18 month sponsored course that will result in him becoming a British Airline pilot at the end.

David started the Anchor Boys at 5 yrs of age, and has attended the company through all sections, rarely missing a night, and earned the Queen's Badge prior to attending a young officer's course, and then on to become a young leader. We wish David all good fortune as he flies off to his new career.

Meanwhile on the ground I must thank David Howard for stepping in at short notice to ensure appropriate safeguarding was in place. I must also thank the members of Session and former Board members who have also volunteered to help on Friday nights between 7.30 and 9.30pm in the short term.

We have 7 Boys in the Company Section who work hard each week learning life skills and enjoying sports.

We are privileged in Orchardhill that young families are coming to the church. They deserve to have the choice that their son, when he grows a little older, has a BB company to join here. We cannot sit back and do nothing. Younger helpers are required to assist in all 3 sections. You may be reading this and thinking it's not for you, but think about who you know, and help us by asking the person if they would like to help.

Giffnock only has one BB company. The programme has never been better. The Boys that come enjoy their time at the BB. It shapes them for later life.

Please think and pray for us to get new leaders. They don't grow on trees and at present are not hearing our pleas.

Yours in Christ
Stephen Bennett
Captain

Church Accounts

Summary Account

The pages that follow are a summary of the full accounts to 31 December 2023, as presented to the Kirk Session on 30 January 2024 - they have still to be formally approved by the Kirk Session and the Independent Examiner, although the figures are not expected to change.

While the 2023 accounts only show a small deficit of £466 before an unrealised gain on the revaluation of investments, it is already known that in 2024, two specific areas have projected costs increasing by a total of almost £13,400 - (i) the amount payable to the Church of Scotland / Presbytery increasing by almost £5,900, and (ii) the cost of energy increasing by an estimated £7,500 as fixed rate contracts have expired and new ones have been agreed at almost double the cost previously applying.



Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 TOTAL £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 TOTAL £
Income and Endowments :							
Donations and Legacies	1	152,333	375	152,708	147,025	-	147,025
Charitable Activities	2	50,067	710	50,777	42,928	-	42,928
Investment Income		7,439	1,095	8,534	4,920	1,101	6,021
Total Income		209,839	2,180	212,019	194,873	1,101	195,974
Expenditure on :							
Raising Funds		-	-	-	(42)	-	(42)
Charitable Activities		(196,239)	(16,246)	(212,485)	(204,322)	(19,257)	(223,579)
Total Expenditure	3	(196,239)	(16,246)	(212,485)	(204,364)	(19,257)	(223,621)
Net Income / (Expenditure) before gains and losses on Investments		13,600	(14,066)	(466)	(9,491)	(18,156)	(27,647)
Net Losses / (Gains) on Investments							
Unrealised Gain / (Loss) on Revaluation		12,472	1,403	13,875	(24,607)	(5,654)	(30,261)
Net Movement in Funds		26,072	(12,663)	13,409	(34,098)	(23,810)	(57,908)
Total Funds Brought Forward		268,029	45,613	313,642	302,127	69,423	371,550
Total Funds Carried Forward		294,101	32,950	327,051	268,029	45,613	313,642

Notes:-

1 Donations and Legacies							
Donations		119,451	300	119,751	113,113	-	113,113
Gift Aid		28,354	75	28,429	26,960	-	26,960
Legacies		-	-	-	-	1,017	1,017
Contributions from Congregational Organisations		3,483	-	3,483	3,843	-	3,843
Other		1,045	-	1,045	2,092	-	2,092
		152,333	375	152,708	146,008	1,017	147,025
2 Charitable Activities							
Hall Rentals		45,407	-	45,407	41,799	-	41,799
Other		4,660	710	5,370	1,129	-	1,129
		50,067	710	50,777	42,928	-	42,928
3 Expenditure							
Giving to Grow (replaces Min. & Mission)		90,168	-	90,168	98,252	-	98,252
Salary Costs		51,049	14,490	65,539	38,731	17,279	56,010
Fabric Repairs and Maintenance etc		16,222	-	16,222	29,313	-	29,313
Heating, Lighting and Water		11,523	-	11,523	11,283	-	11,283
Insurance, Council tax		14,332	-	14,332	13,226	-	13,226
All other costs		12,945	1,756	14,701	13,559	1,978	15,537
		196,239	16,246	212,485	204,364	19,257	223,621

COMMENTS

While the budget had projected a substantial deficit, the result is only a small deficit prior to the unrealised gain on investments. The improvement is in part due to increased giving, extra Gift Aid and extra income from grants towards "warm spaces" and some fundraising.

2024 Budget

This is in the process of preparation although it is known that amounts payable to the Church centrally and to Presbytery will increase by £5,884 from the amount due for 2023 and also that energy costs will increase by an amount estimated at £7,500 as fixed rate contracts have expired and new ones have been agreed at almost double the cost previously applying.

Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 TOTAL £	:	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 TOTAL £
Fixed Assets :				:			
Tangible Assets	31,865	-	31,865	:	35,690	-	35,690
Investments	195,341	32,950	228,291	:	168,803	45,613	214,416
Total Fixed Assets	<u>227,206</u>	<u>32,950</u>	<u>260,156</u>	:	<u>204,493</u>	<u>45,613</u>	<u>250,106</u>
Current Assets :				:			
Debtors	11,393	-	11,393	:	12,379	-	12,379
Cash at Bank and in Hand	33,822	-	33,822	:	29,413	-	29,413
Deposit Fund	28,138	-	28,138	:	27,146	-	27,146
Total Current Assets	<u>73,353</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,353</u>	:	<u>68,938</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,938</u>
Liabilities :				:			
Due Within One Year :				:			
Creditors	(6,458)	-	(6,458)	:	(5,402)	-	(5,402)
Total Liabilities	<u>- 6,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>- 6,458</u>	:	<u>(5,402)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,402)</u>
Net Assets	<u>294,101</u>	<u>32,950</u>	<u>327,051</u>	:	<u>268,029</u>	<u>45,613</u>	<u>313,642</u>
The Funds of the Charity :				:			
General Funds	294,101	-	294,101	:	268,029	-	268,029
Restricted Income Funds	-	32,950	32,950	:	-	45,613	45,613
Total Charity Funds	<u>294,101</u>	<u>32,950</u>	<u>327,051</u>	:	<u>268,029</u>	<u>45,613</u>	<u>313,642</u>

Some further information from the Accounts

	2023 £	2022 £
Collections for Third Parties :-		
Turkey / Syria Earthquake Appeal	1,187	-
Lodging House Mission	469	292
St. Rollox Church	245	-
Maslows Community Hub (local refugees)	143	-
Scottish Love in Action	-	63
Quarriers	255	309
Glasgow City Mission	200	195
Reformed Church in Hungary Aid (for Ukraine relief)	-	968
Carnwadric Helping Hands Food Bank *	-	469
	<u>2,499</u>	<u>2,296</u>

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

Contributions from Organisations :-

	2023	2022
2nd A Giffnock Brownies	700	500
2nd Giffnock Rainbows	-	150
2nd A Giffnock Guides	400	300
86th Boys Brigade	200	200
Badminton Club	983	833
Orchardhill Café (2022 - £200 received used re cooker)	-	-
CrossWords	-	360
Ladies Badminton	1,200	1,200
Soundwaves	-	300
	<u>3,483</u>	<u>3,843</u>

NOTES

Restricted Income Funds in 2022 included £13,609 of Timothy Trust Fund which was being used to meet the costs of the Youth and Families Worker. This reserve was fully used up in 2023 and part of the costs of the Youth and Families Worker were met from the general resources. The remaining Restricted Income Funds includes a fund for future expenditure on the church roof of £28,270 and a fund to help those in restricted circumstances in the Parish of £4,680.

Glasgow City Mission



Orchardhill Parish Church
12 Church Road
Giffnock
GLASGOW
G46 6JR

02 February 2024

Thank you!

Dear Friends



Thank you very much for your kind donation of £200.00. This donation will support those affected by homelessness, poverty and addiction in Glasgow.

This year, there are many challenges. Elyse, our Overnight Welcome Centre manager, says, "There is a lot of pressure on the city. The cost of living crisis means more people will need assistance. Our Overnight Welcome Centre will help relieve the strain on services in Glasgow and as always, our priority will be our guests. Using our 14 years of experience running our winter project, we will be working again with our valued partner agencies to achieve the best outcome for each guest.

We send our best wish for a blessed new year.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Geddes
Marketing and Fundraising Manager
Email: jack@glasgowcitymission.com

* The name has been changed to protect anonymity.



Scottish Charity SC001499





Tree of Kindness 2023

The simplicity and effectiveness of the **Tree of Kindness** concept, coupled with the involvement of various community organizations and schools, has allowed the project to grow and expand its reach over the years. From providing gifts to around 300 children in 2017, to well over 1,600 in 2023, the tangible growth reflects not only the success of the initiative, but also the growing awareness and support from the community.

The germ of an idea was triggered by a deep concern for the critical issue of poverty affecting so many people in Scotland, where 1 in 3 of all children in our own city of Glasgow are estimated to be living in poverty – **that's over 37,000 children**. Many are homeless or living in temporary accommodation, and so they probably had little prospect of receiving presents at Christmas.

The concept was simple, ask people to collect a gift tag bearing a young persons' gender and age group from the living Christmas tree outside the Church Tower, and invite them to buy a gift and return it to the church for distribution. It captured the enthusiasm of everyone in Orchardhill Church, organisations using our halls, and people in the Giffnock community just passing by. Its popularity has grown and we continue to expand our campaign by involving local schools and organisations with their own **Tree of Kindness** at Giffnock Primary School, Thornliebank Primary School, Woodfarm High School and Whitecraigs Rugby Club, to increase the reach and impact of our initiative.

Partnering with organizations like **KIND Scotland** to help distribute the gifts further enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of our efforts. Leveraging our network of over 15 agencies ensures that the gifts reach those who are truly in need, maximizing the impact of the project.

Addressing the issue of poverty and bringing joy to children during the Christmas season exemplifies the power of community-driven initiatives. As Christians, fostering a sense of compassion and solidarity within the community, we not only provide material support, but also spread hope and love to those who need it most, because all the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.

You might think it was a small thing to do, but when Rhonda McKinney from Quarriers and Lisa Cameron from Castlemilk Parish Church spoke to the congregation on 21 January to recount stories from some of the people they support, it was heart-rending to hear just how much of a difference the gifts made in another person's life.

Thank you for your support and a special vote of thanks to our wonderful office staff, Isabella and Carol-Anne, and the willing *elves* who helped sort the gifts for distribution.

Lindsay Barr



Community Christmas Celebration

The question of how to keep Jesus at the very centre of Christmas celebrations in an increasingly secular world, is one the wider Church has struggled with for years. Orchardhill's solution? Throw open the doors and welcome in our Community to see and hear the Good News for themselves. And to enjoy tea, cake and fellowship with friends old and new.

Following the success of the first event, in 2022, there was a general feeling that 2023 had to be even better, and that some tweaks to the layout would improve the flow of visitors around the building. The event was again held on the Friday before Christmas, meaning many local families would have the opportunity to join us after school closed, and start their celebrations with a visit to Orchardhill.



Work started months before Christmas, with new sets and scenes designed and produced, and actors, singers, craft helpers and cafe servers all recruited. Costumes were procured, calls went out for gazebos and fairy lights, and the Church kitchen filled with tray bakes and tablet. With publicity at full pelt, all we could do was pray for reasonable weather and a healthy turnout.



And how those prayers were answered! An amazing 330 people came through our doors. There they met first with Santa, who explained to wide-eyed children - and to their parents - that he really *wasn't* the story. And then sent them off on a trail where they encountered characters from the Christmas story: angels and shepherds, a scary Herod and some chatty wise women, and finally Mary and Joseph in their lovely stable, pleased to introduce visitors to their new baby, Jesus.





Then it was into the Church for much appreciated refreshments served by an unfailingly cheerful team of ladies, all to the accompaniment of carols old and new sung by Crosswords and friends from the Church Choir.

There were crafts for the children and an escape room style puzzle for anyone brave enough to try it. Truly, something for everyone.

It was important to all involved that the event be free to enter, as a gift to our Community. But following a number of requests last year, it was agreed that facilities should be provided so that anyone who wanted to make a donation could do so.

And the response was overwhelming. A wonderful total of £400 was gifted, which has been split between Church funds and a donation to the City Mission.

Delighted and exhausted in equal measure, many of those involved and attending commented on how the event had kick started their own festive feelings, all ready for the Nativity service to follow on Sunday...



Air Training Cadets

Orchardhill was the venue for the annual Air Training Cadets' service for the West of Scotland Wing on Sunday 4 February. As chaplain for the local Squadron, Rev Gillian Rooney was delighted to see so many Cadets and Officers in attendance. Following the service a letter of thanks was received from Wing Commander Jim Haley.



From: Wing Commander JG Haley RAFAC
Officer Commanding



West Scotland Wing ATC HQ

The Cadet Centre
65 Hawkhead Road,
PAISLEY
PA1 3NE

Tel: 0141 887 9555
email: oc.wscot@rafac.mod.gov.uk
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets/>

Rev'd Gillian Rooney
Orchardhill Parish Church
12 Church Road
GIFFNOCK
G46 6JR

5 Feb 2024

Dear Rev Gillian

ATC SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE 2024

Just a short note to thank you for leading our annual ATC Sunday service in the most welcoming surroundings of Orchardhill Parish Church yesterday and allowing us to mark the 83rd anniversary of our organisation. The whole event went fantastically well, and I was extremely glad to be able to join our cadets on the day, even though they, unfortunately, missed out on the opportunity to undertake their normal march to church, due to the weather, but I am sure that this did not detract from the pride they felt in themselves, coming together as they did from multiple Squadrons around West Scotland Wing.

I would be very grateful if you could pass my thanks, and those of all our participants, to everyone from Orchardhill involved in supporting our attendance, and a special word of thanks, please, to the ladies who served the refreshments afterwards and which went down so well. I trust they have suitably recovered.

Finally, thank you, once again, to you, for your personal support to our service, for the second successive year (although occurring at Cathcart Old last year) and for your continuing assistance to 2452 (Shawlands) Squadron, who, I know, appreciate greatly your involvement with them.

Yours,



The Aims of the Air Cadets are:

- To promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force.
- To provide training which will be useful both in the Service and civilian life.
- To foster the spirit of adventure and to develop the qualities of leadership and good citizenship.



A Recognised Scottish Charity- No SC025823

Church Garden and Grounds

There has been much action over the winter, despite the weather not being especially kind. Thanks to those in the Black Door Shop, we now have two bird boxes – one in the shrubbery where there has been encouraging interest by blue tits, and one in the peace garden. Thanks to those who have donated cardboard, we have been able to make a start laying sheets in the shrubbery, as a weed suppressant, overlaid with leaves and twigs. In November, a flowering crab apple tree - 'John Downie' - was planted. We look forward to seeing white blossom and orange red autumn fruits in the coming years. Work is ongoing to remove brambles and ivy, which is strangling trees and shrubs.



Attention to the pollarded trees bordering Church Road and Claremount Avenue has been difficult, and time consuming, but hopefully will enhance the area, and improve general access. Thanks are due to Richard Park for keeping paths clear of ice during wintry weather. The 'Ukrainian Tree' in the peace garden has had a makeover by the BDS. Fiona McAslan, assisted by the Thursday gardeners, has produced new blue and yellow bows. We hope that this newly enhanced tree will be a reminder to the community, that despite all the ongoing atrocities worldwide, we have not forgotten Ukraine. The Lenten numbers are now in place, thanks to the artistic flair of Fiona Carmichael and Wendy Wallis, with number 40 being positioned when the new cross, made by Mark Rooney, is in situ.



KIDS PLANNER

KIDS ALWAYS WELCOME AT ORCHARDHILL

MONDAY

10.30AM - BOOKBUG
CHURCH HALL
PRE SCHOOLERS

TUESDAY

10AM - TOTS
CHURCH HALL
PRE SCHOOLERS AND
PARENTS/CARERS
11.30AM CAFE

WEDNESDAY

9.30AM - BOOKBUG
SESSION ROOM
PRE SCHOOLERS
3-4.30PM - COSY CAFE
SESSION ROOM
HIGHSCHOOLERS

THURSDAY

CAFE 10AM-NOON
SESSION ROOM
EVERYONE WELCOME
HOME BAKING!

FRIDAY

MESSY CHURCH
LAST FRIDAY OF MONTH
4-6PM
CHURCH HALL
FAMILIES

SUNDAY MORNING

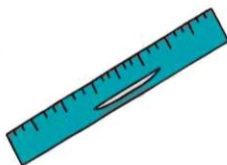
SUNDAY SERVICE 10.30AM
SUNDAY SCHOOLS FOR
ALL AGES
DURING SERVICE

SUNDAY EVENING

YOY! YOUTH GROUP P6-S6
SESSION ROOM
7-8.30PM
SUNDAY MONTHLY

CONTACT

YOUTHANDFAMILY@
ORCHARDHILL.ORG.UK
WWW.ORCHARDHILL.ORG.UK



Congregational Roll

Deaths

Matilda 'Tilly' Hornby

Date of Death 21 December 2023

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

New – 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@orchardhill.org.uk or hand in a hard copy to the office.

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email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk