

THE RECORD



December 2023



A Word from Gillian Rooney



By the time you read this, Advent will be upon us and, whilst I can't speak for any of you, I can say that the excitement is building amongst the Manse children.

Advent is a time of preparing for the Christmas season when we remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in that stable in Bethlehem.

Whilst it is easy – and perfectly ok – to get caught up in the less religious aspect of this period, as Christians we must remember the true meaning of what 'Christmas is all about.'

One way we can remind ourselves of this, would be to attend our walk in nativity event on Friday 22nd of December, from 2.00pm onwards. Following the huge success of last year's event, we will be turning the Church into a scene from Bethlehem all those years ago. There will be carol singing, tea and baking to enjoy. I would encourage you to spread the news of this by inviting your family, friends and neighbours along.

The presbytery planning is still slowly moving forward and, as soon as there is any significant news from this, it will be shared with you all. I am pleased to say that Elders from our Church are now in the early process of meeting up with Elders from other churches in our cluster – just to try and get to know each other better.

Because of our change to a Unitary Constitution, we are currently in the process of agreeing the various working groups and I would urge you to speak to me if you have not already done so, if you feel you would like to get involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Gillian

Christmas Diary

Welcome to Orchardhill this Christmas Season

3rd December

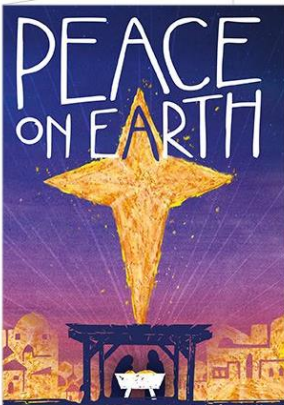
1st Sunday of Advent: Family Service at 10.30am

10th December

2nd Sunday of Advent: Communion Service at 10.30am
Christmas in Music and Carols with Orchardhill Choir at 2.45pm
doors open 2.00pm for tea/coffee

17th December

3rd Sunday of Advent: Family Worship at 10.30am
Blue Christmas Reflection Service at 2.00pm



22nd December

Community Christmas Celebration:
drop-in event from 2.00pm-5.00pm -
take a walk through the Christmas Story
and enjoy hot drinks and homebaking

24th December

4th Sunday in Advent: Nativity at 10.30am
Children's Christmas Eve Service at 6.30pm
Watchnight Service, doors open at 11.00pm



25th December

Christmas Day Service at 10.00am

31st December

Family Worship service at 10.30am

Church Car Park

On a wet and miserable Saturday morning in early October, a hardy group of workers – assembled from amongst the ranks of our congregation and friends – set about making repairs to the upper and lower car parks.

With several tonnes of stone and a wacker plate, they battled the elements and ensured that the pot holes were filled.



Afterwards, tea and rolls were provided and gratefully received by all. Many thanks to all who were involved in both the works and the catering.

If you're being tested today, you're in good company!

Job, the most righteous man on earth, was tested beyond what most of us will ever have to endure. When he emerged, he told God, 'I heard about you from others; now I have seen you' (Job 42:5 CEV).

In the heat of the furnace, you experience God up close and personal. Sheila Schuller Coleman says, 'Some tests are intended to assess what we've learned; others are intended to teach. We learn our most profound lessons when we're tested...Like what we're capable of...where we need to grow...and that there's still more to learn! When your faith is being tested, the last thing you're thinking about is learning a lesson...you just want to survive.

The lesson we learn from Job is that when we keep our faith in the most testing of times, we'll "come out as gold" (Job 23:10 NASB).

Think about it: did you ever hear a testimony that wasn't about someone surviving a test? James says, "Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials" (James 1:2 NIV).

When we suffer, when people say hateful things, when we lose our homes, when we encounter rifts in our family, when the doctor calls with a dire diagnosis – the last thing we feel is joy...If anyone could speak with authority on praising God in trials, it was Paul. He was beaten, thrown into jail, and run out of town. How does your week compare to his?'

When you get through this test, you will have a testimony to God's strength and faithfulness, and be able to say, 'The Lord is my God'.

The Black Door Shop

Litter Collecting

With a record 14 young people out most Saturdays comprising OY Members and Scouts we continue to uplift litter from the streets around the Church. Regularly we are bringing back, in total, between 6 and 8 bags of litter, which the council collects from the rear of the halls on Mondays.



Donations

Donations continue to be delivered on most afternoons during the week, with a growing number coming on a Saturday between 9.30 am and 2.30pm. For the first time this week I had to say NO to prospective donors, as we simply did not have room to take in any more donations. The van from Maslows comes every Tuesday and Thursday, and we cannot over supply to them, such is the need. We need more space to store the donated items.

On Saturdays we have the assistance of a growing band of regular Church members, Alastair, Anne, Bruce, Dave Ken, and Maureen, who provide a welcome smile and help visitors in with their donations.





We need more people to help sort through the donations to ensure that each bag is labelled accordingly. Not everyone can be there all day, so, if you could spare an hour on a Saturday, we would be delighted to see you.

Tea coffee etc is provided and, at lunch time, there is often soup.



Speak to any of those mentioned and I am sure they will tell you of their experiences at the BDS.

The Banana Box Trust - Malawi

Alastair has linked in with The Banana Box Trust a charity operating in Dundee who ship items to Malawi. Their web site proclaims, “ The Banana Box Trust works with people and organisations in Malawi, to bring expertise and support. We transport via containers, a variety of items that are needed, but we do not send items that would cause a Malawian business to fail “

We propose to send to their address in Dundee, four working Singer Sewing machines dating from 1928- 1934 that have been handed in.

Alastair explains that, through his personal experience, he is aware that one sewing machine could give a life time of employment for a family. This is because there is limited electricity in Malawi, and the sewing machine represents a reliable means of income .

The cost to ship each sewing machine from Dundee to Malawi will be £17.50 each. This cost £70 - we wonder if any one would like to share the expense with us.

Workshop

We continue to repair items handed in and develop the range of tools. We have been compiling tool boxes with an assortment of tools that we have refreshed and ensured that are working, to be made available to refugees and asylum seekers who have been allocated a home.

Community Work

Support from Aviva continued with 14 members from as far away as Norwich, and as far north as Dundee, and places in between, descending on the BDS on a dry Tuesday in October. They assisted with getting the donations out to the Maslow's van - a task that, every Wednesday, needs help, as there is so much to move. They formed a chain gang and had it done in no time.



Under the watchful eye of Dorothy and her eager gardening team, they were put to work clearing the area at the back of the Church, and the edging of the banking in the lower car park. Speaking at the end of the day Carl Mather, Special Investigations Unit Manager at Aviva, said *“It was a pleasure to fly my team up here to Orchardhill to see for myself all the work done at the Black Door Shop which is amazing - we will be back in the spring, so keep up the great work.”*



Laptop revival

We have been asking for donations of old lap tops, from which we are stripping all software, and are providing them fully working with Linux Mint and Libre Office which make the desktops run a lot better.

Through partnership with Thornliebank Resource Centre, Cristina Scheefer, a care worker, has been providing clients who are students at colleges with the laptops for their studies. We received a lovely letter of thanks from one student who mentioned that, without the laptop, study was impossible.

Cristina has also been sorting out children's books that we have, and has started a table in Thornliebank Resource Centre where children can select a book to take home to read. This has been well used and we continue to supply books as required.

Toilet

Work continues to bring an accessible toilet to the BDS.



Royal Horticultural Society

In September we had a visit from Angela Smith, Development Officer, Royal Horticultural Society, who had previously visited us three years before. At that time we received a Level 2 Improving notice.

On her visit this year, I met Angela with Dorothy Cartlidge, and, while I explained about the BDS work, Dorothy provided an insight into the work that is being done in the grounds by her team, which is developing our eco status in the community.

Overall we were awarded level 5 'Outstanding' which we were delighted to receive. The full report is available on the following three pages .

Join Us

The Black Door Shop continues to develop as a community resource and encourages visitors to the notion that this is part of the Church outreach. Through this we are aware of two people who are now coming to the Church through a chance meeting in the BDS.

We would encourage any reader to come along and see for yourself on a Saturday morning just how busy the BDS is, and it is quite possible you might want to become involved.

IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: The Black Door shop	Assessment date: 3rd August 2023
Name of assessor:	Angela Smith
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>The Black Door Community hub previously known as Giffnock Community Hub continue to grow their project, people and place. The hub continues to develop and evolve offering lots of opportunity for their community, linking with and supporting MASLOW By collecting and delivering a wide range of homeware, clothes and household items donated from their community for asylum seekers and people in the local community who are experiencing hardship.</p> <p>The Hub offers a community reuse children's shop, a meeting place for people to chat and socialise, an amazing workshop where items can be restored to their former glory, at the same time skills knowledge sharing on how to.</p> <p>Thursday gardening group maintain and care for the grounds surrounding their hub and local church. Support and engagement for their local community is driven from the Community hub and group.</p>	
<p>Section A - Community Participation (40%)</p> <p>The group continue to offer lots of opportunity for their community to engage with; offering a wide range of activities carried out from their hub, engaging closely with their community, local schools groups and organisations, a warm friendly atmosphere greets you on arrival;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community hub is a super meeting place for people to come along and chat, enjoy local coffee, supporting and sharing skills and knowledge. • Litter picking events where everyone can join in together cleaning up their local community – over 400 bags of rubbish has been collected! • Tool lending offer from the hub enables local community to borrow tools to carry out works in their own homes and gardens, skill sharing on how to is also offered along with the tools. • Repurposing, reusing and up cycling workshops offer opportunity for everyone to learn how to make the most of disposed unwanted items. • Children's toys and books are collected, recycled and offered in low cost shop • Regular collections from their community of household wares and items clothes then are distributed to MASLOW shop in Govan. • There is creative and artistic signage positioned throughout the garden areas and hub, made from recycled wood, a super addition to the garden areas. • Thursday Gardening volunteer club offers all wishing to engage opportunity to join 	



together to help grow care and nurture plants, developing their community gardens around their hub and church grounds, skill and knowledge sharing benefits all.

- On going improvements to hub facilities utilising the skills of the community.

Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30%)

The group host regular large-scale litter picks clearing their community and local neighbourhoods, thus massively reducing litter.

Weekly collections and of household wares, children's toys, books are collected from their local community and donated to MASLOW, benefiting many families.

Lots of innovative recycling and reusing of household items also providing enterprise projects for young people.

A wide range of healthy shrubs, perennials and annual flowers are being grown in various garden areas around the hub and church grounds.

A wide selection of the plants is grown from seed. Many of the selection grown are perfect for pollinators.

Mixed hedgerow planting on the boundary of the church provides homes and habitats for wildlife.

Shrub areas and log piles also provide homes, habitats and sanctuary for wildlife.

Plants are grown, gifted and shared with the community.

Selection of plants are grown and nurtured from seed.

Donations of clothes, household items are collected and donated to Maslow refugee centre in Glasgow – thus recycling and re-using.

Section C - Gardening Achievement (30%)

A wide selection of healthy plants is being grown in various areas around their hub and church grounds.

The planting areas, planters, structures and surfaces are all maintained to a very high standard.

Interesting and attractive planting pockets are well positioned with seating nearby for their community to enjoy.

Much of the planting also benefits wildlife.

Regular maintenance of plants ensures plants are in excellent condition.

OVERALL LEVEL ACHIEVED

Level 5 - Outstanding





Areas of achievement:

This year The Black Door Shop have shown to be Outstanding in all three key areas of Its Your Neighbourhood. The group have grown from strength to strength offering so much for their community and beyond!

The group continue to sustain, develop and evolve a smashing, much needed project which is to be commended.

400 bags of rubbish collected is not for the faint hearted! Well done.

Skills and knowledge are shared freely, benefitting all people, plants and being a place to grow in harmony.

Recommendations/suggestions from your assessor:

Continue to develop and evolve your fabulous project.

Consider throughout the growing year some relaxed mowing techniques, this will hugely benefit wildlife! [No Mow May](#) is perfect timings for this too. Or leaving strips/areas unmown for wildlife.

Trial a wider range of planting schemes introducing additional perennials to the mix and as planned perhaps some pockets of wildflower – best sourced from [Scotia seeds Scotland](#)

Might be worth a try at contacting local tree surgeon companies to offer free service to help maintain large shrubbery areas.

Continue to share your good practices locally and nationally.

Well done all! Be proud of your achievements.

RESULTS

Level	Description
Level 1	Establishing
Level 2	Improving
Level 3	Advancing
Level 4	Thriving
Level 5	Outstanding



YOUTH ACTIVITY AT HALLOWEEN

There have been lots of celebrations with the children of Orchardhill and the wider community over the past month.

We learnt about Jesus being the light, using the power of glow sticks, and made spooky cakes at Messy Church.



Lots of people participated in carving our Thankful Pumpkin patch, and even more came to admire it, and tell us jokes and enjoy a sweet and a cuppa on Halloween.

Then Orchardhill celebrated fireworks by serving hot dogs and hot chocolate to passers -by after school. All events were a wonderful chance to meet both old and new faces in the community.



Now it is full steam ahead to Christmas, and we are excitedly planning our

Community Christmas Celebration (2-5pm Friday 22nd December), our **Sunday morning nativity (24th Dec 10.30am)**, and our **Christmas eve Family service (24th Dec 6.30pm)**.

These events are a fantastic way to join our Christmas festivities. It would be fabulous to see you there!



The popular 'Thinking Allowed' series was relaunched on October 19th.

Our first talk was 'Heartbreak and Hope in Israel and Palestine' by Rev. Dr. Grant Barclay, formerly our minister and currently the Presbytery Clerk of Glasgow .

Grant had led a group, from Churches across Scotland, which visited Israel and Palestine in late 2019. The group who were on that visit to the Holy Land came from Churches all over Scotland (and further afield also) and a few from furth of Glasgow managed to come along on the 19th .



Covid prevented a talk to share experiences about this trip in 2020, and a lot has happened there since, so Grant's talk, which had been planned long before the current madness in Gaza, came at a very relevant time.

Grant shared some experiences from the visit with an update on developments since then, in a fast-changing part of the world.

If you missed Grant's talk, it is available on Orchardhill's website.

The second talk in the series was on 23rd November 2023:-

Interfaith Interactions - a conversation about the importance of dialogue across differences.

Sr. Isabel Smyth in conversation with Anne Anderson.

Sr. Isabel Smyth OBE is a Sister of Notre Dame who has been involved in interfaith work for more than 20 years. Isabel was previously a lecturer at St Andrews College, teaching future teachers about world religions. She was inspired both by her time studying at Lancaster University, where she encountered students of many faith backgrounds, and by her work with pioneering Church of Scotland Deaconess Stella Reekie, who started Glasgow's first interfaith meeting house. Sr Isabel gave a warm and engaging account of her life as a religious sister, including the dramatic changes following the Second Vatican Council, not least to dress! She also shared her faith journey from a traditional Catholic community to working with friends and colleagues from a wide range of diverse denominations and faiths.

To beat the January blues, the next Thinking Allowed event will take place on January 18th, where we will meet together to view and discuss two TED Talks, on **Happiness and Finding Joy**. Come and join the joy seekers at 7.30pm.

KNIT TOGETHER PROJECT

The Lodging House Mission (LHM) and their supporters who knit for them each year were inspired by Psalm 139: 13-16 which affirms that 'we are knit together'. This year they wanted to celebrate Christmas with an exhibition to demonstrate the ways we are knit together as a LHM community. The exhibition and sale of works will aim to raise awareness of Homelessness.

The knitters of Orchardhill were inspired to create a KNIT TOGETHER PROJECT and make our own blanket to donate to the exhibition in support of our work in the wider community. Around fourteen crafters got involved, knitting squares and contributing to the purchase of the wool to create the blanket you see in the photograph. A small group of the crafters handed the blanket into LHM on Tuesday 21st November.

The donated blankets will be exhibited in LHM during their Christmas Carol Service on 13th December, after which the blankets will be sold to raise funds for their work amongst people who have experience of homelessness.





HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY FOODBANK
CARNWADRIC PARISH CHURCH, SC030150
556 BOYDSTONE ROAD
GLASGOW
G46 8HP

19th October 2023

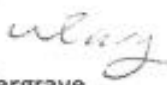
Mr Iain Anderson
12 Church Road
Giffnock
Glasgow
G46 67R

Dear Iain,

I am writing to thank you on behalf of the Foodbank for your recent donation to the Helping Hands Foodbank, G46 8HP.

We really appreciate your kindness to the foodbank and the people that we support.

Best regards


Mary Gargrave
Deaconess



Lodging House Mission

35 East Campbell Street,
Glasgow G1 5DT

t: 0141 552 0285

e: enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk

www.lhmglasgow.org.uk

Ian Anderson,
Orchardhill Parish Church,
12 Church Rd,
Giffnock,
Glasgow
G46 6JR
9th October 2023

Dear Ian,

Heartfelt Thanks from the Lodging House Mission

I am writing to acknowledge and thank you and the congregation of Orchardhill Parish Church for the generous **Harvest donations** of dry and tinned foodstuff delivered to assist us in our work with people who have lived experience of homelessness, vulnerability and social exclusion and are guests of our centre at the Lodging House Mission here in Glasgow.

Be assured that these will help replenish our food store and enable us to continue to provide hot meals throughout the coming winter months. Our Day Centre offers shelter where people know they can receive a warm welcome, just as they are, and can always find companionship for the journey.

At LHM, we seek to share life, hope and meaning with people who find themselves on the margins. As the good news says, "Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks." (*Matthew 4:4 GNT*) The provision of vital sustenance, by way of healthy and nutritious breakfasts and lunches, is often the beginning of a trusted relationship which allows our team to offer interventions and support to individuals preventing and assisting in times of crisis.

We are very aware that we can only carry out the work we do at LHM thanks to the generosity of supporters such as yourselves. On behalf of everyone at LHM, please pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed and continues to support our work through prayer and awareness raising.

So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. (*Gal 6:9 GNT*)

Yours Sincerely

On behalf of LHM
Deacon Claire Herbert
Chaplain LHM

Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Like many Churches across the country, Orchardhill took part in the 'Big quiz Night' on Saturday October the 7th to raise funds for Tearfund in order to assist them with their excellent work in tackling poverty.

Tearfund is a Christian charity which partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty and injustice through sustainable development, by responding to disasters and challenging injustice. They believe an end to extreme poverty is possible.

Thousands of people needlessly suffer and die every day because of poverty. Tearfund partner with local churches and organisations who have a crucial role to play in the places worst affected by poverty.

There was a good turnout, and the hall was packed. Our Minister, Gillian, compered the evening and acted as quiz master. A lovely buffet – including pakora – was enjoyed by all and almost £400 was raised.



Question: how do you fill the Sanctuary with people on a rainy Wednesday in November?

Answer: you announce that Dr Maureen Park is going to give a talk on the Treasures of the Burrell Collection.

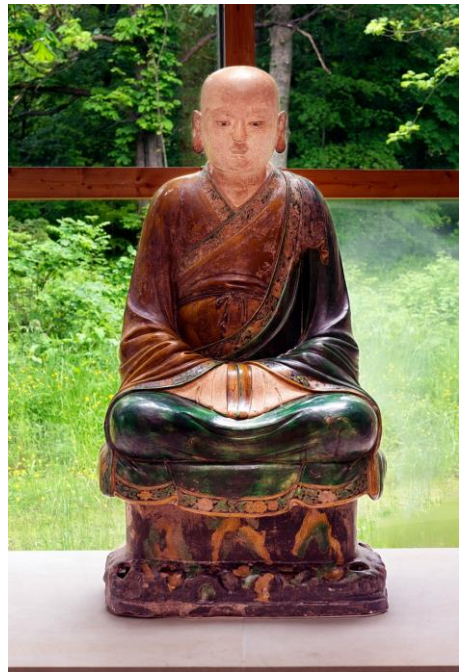
And so it was that nearly 200 people filled our Sanctuary - briefly causing traffic chaos around the Church - and settled in to see items and hear stories about the world class art collection right on our doorstep.

We learned of Sir William Burrell's decision to bequeath his beloved collection to the city in which he lived and worked, and of his complex negotiations with Dr Tom Honeyman, Director of Glasgow Art Galleries, and famously the man who bought Christ of St John of the Cross for Glasgow. We heard a little about the history of the building, opened in 1983, then closed for such a long time because of problems with the roof. And then Maureen took us on a virtual tour, introducing us to special items like old friends, her wit, knowledge and affection for the collection shining through.



Tea and biscuits followed, and the Sanctuary was filled with happy chat and Burrell anecdotes. Surely more than one trip was planned?

Generous donations from the audience raised £1,120 in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Orchardhill Church.



Images reproduced courtesy of The Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums.

Tuesday Afternoon Communion Service

Once a month on a Tuesday afternoon, a group of people gather to share in the Lord's Supper together. This service began as an opportunity for those who could not make a Sunday morning service to gather in worship and friendship.

The plan was a short act of worship and then a light lunch - all enjoyed in the sanctuary.

This has been a lovely time for all involved, so much so that people who are routinely out on a Sunday morning also come and enjoy this time together. We tend towards a traditional communion service with familiar and well loved hymns - and then spend some time catching up with old friends and making new ones over the delicious lunch which is prepared by the pastoral team.

If you think this sounds like something you would enjoy, get in touch with Gillian or the Church office, just so we have enough cakes for everyone!

If you need transport to this service please get in touch and we would be delighted to organise this - family and friends are welcome to come with you too.

Jesus commanded us to partake in the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Him, as often as we can. This is an additional opportunity to share around the table, and is for everyone who loves the Lord. You don't need to be a certain age or stage to come. All are welcome!



Congregational Roll

Deaths

Janet MacArthur Reid (Shiona)

Date of Death 3 November 2023

Anna Thompson

Date of Death 6 November 2023

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

Baptisms

Erin Elizabeth and Henry George Hill

3 September 2023

Charlotte Jasmin Norah Aderonke Sheriff-Mall

24 September 2023

Jamie Davidson

19 November 2023

86th Boy's Brigade

Anchor and Junior Section Report.

We are working with 6 boys – 3 in Anchor Boys, and 3 in Juniors. Not ideal, but we are coping.

The boys are coming each week, and are enthusiastic and very keen to earn their badges.

At long last, we finished our Noah's Ark – It was certainly challenging, but the boys worked hard at putting the animals together, and then into or around the Ark. The boys also managed to complete the Noah's Ark Jigsaw.

At the end of October we had our Hallowe'en activities quickly followed by our Bonfire Night activities, ending with Sparklers and toasted marshmallows. This is followed in November by Poppies, Chocolate night then a Remote-Controlled Car night.

Come December, it is Christmas Crafts – stained glass cards, Christmas robins, Christmas baubles to name a few.

On our 'Poppy' night one of our boys brought in his father's medals and explained how his father had earned them. This made remembering much more real to the BB boys.

We finish this session on Friday 15th for a well-earned break, restarting back on Friday 12th January 2024.

My thanks to the parents for their support in sending the boys each week, and also to Mr. Bennett who comes along each Friday, as we must have 2 officers present in the building. To ensure Safeguarding, would any parent be willing to put their name down to help on the odd night that one of us needs to be off? If so, please contact Mr. Bennett – BB@Orchardhill.org

Margaret Howard



A Christmas Week in the Life of... Gillian Rooney

The Reverend Gillian Rooney was inducted and ordained into the parish of Giffnock Orchardhill on 2nd December 2021, meaning this is Gillian's third Christmas here. The Record caught up with Gillian in the midst of her preparations for the busiest week in the life of every minister, most mums, and anyone involved with any school, anywhere...

In some ways, Christmas week will be like any other, and the pattern of Church life will continue, albeit with a festive twist, and around family Christmas preparations and activities.

Monday is the day for Cosy Cafe at Woodfarm School, where around 30-40 teens share hot chocolate, chat, and a chance to develop relationships with the youngsters. Gillian feels strongly that it's vital for them to have a safe space to open up, and says it's a real privilege to be involved in their lives. And all of the teens will be invited to the Community's Christmas Celebration on Friday, which is one of the biggest events in the Church's year.

Tuesday will see Gillian with Lorna, their lovely group of helpers, and all the tinies of Orchard Tots, along with their various grown ups. A Christmas party for pre-schoolers? Bound to be a quiet, relaxing affair... We're told stories and games will feature highly, and the Record has heard that there just might be a special visitor. Again, all the Tots and their parents and carers will be invited to come along on Friday 22nd to learn more about the miracle of Christmas.

Wednesday brings the teens again - Cosy Cafe at the Church, which is quite a different group from Monday's cafe. This tightly knit group draws about 25 youngsters from various secondary schools in our community, again providing a safe space to share and enjoy fellowship together.

Things are really ramping up by Thursday, when it's time for the primary school children to come along and see the Church in all its festive glory. Orchardhill's relationship with Giffnock Primary School has never been stronger, and many of the children are swift to identify with "their" Church. Gillian will be leading the children, their teachers and carers in the school's Christmas service, and again inviting everyone along for Friday. And in any spare time, she'll be finalising arrangements for Friday's event.

And so to Friday. Following the success of last year's inaugural event, this year's Community Christmas Celebration is set to be even bigger and better. It's all hands to the pump ready to open our doors and welcome the community in for carol singing, home baking, hot drinks, crafts and the amazing Interactive Nativity Trail. Santa might even be on hand to encourage visitors to learn a bit more about the real reason for the season.

Hopefully Gillian might get a chance for a breather on Saturday, after a hectic week of festive events, because she'll not get another one for a while...

Christmas Day falling on a Monday can only mean one thing: four services in 24 hours! Whatever you want from festive worship, there's bound to be something for you. Or come and join them all! Christmas Eve at 10:30 is family worship including the children and young people presenting their take on the nativity story. This is an annual highlight for many in the congregation, who say that the nativity service marks the proper start of Christmas.

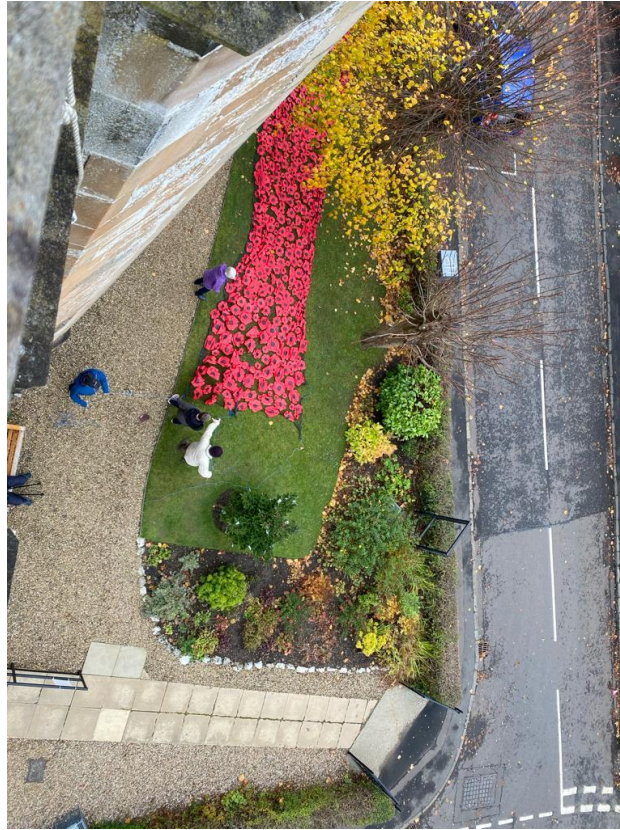
Those who prefer their Christmas Eve service at a family friendly time should come along at 6:30 for Worship In Your Onesie, which will include a Pop-Up nativity, singing and huge excitement all round, while those who keep later hours and a more traditional approach, will be welcomed from 11:00 for the 11:30 Watchnight service. How special to wait in silence for the midnight hour, and the eternal news that He is born.

And then it's Christmas Day! A short service of celebration will be held in the Church at 10:00: and everyone is very welcome to join in worship. After which a tired and happy Reverend Rooney will make her way home for Christmas dinner - and maybe to lie in a darkened room for a little while...

The Community Christmas Celebration will be held in and around the Sanctuary and Church Hall from 2:00 to 5:00 on Friday 22nd December. All will be made very welcome.

Poppy Fall

Our poppy fall was on display again this year. After a significant amount of repair work, it was ready to be raised on Friday 3rd of November and, as always it provided a fitting reminder of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice.





Life and Work

December 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

REACHING OUT AT CHRISTMAS Churches and charity support for local communities. '

'WE MUST CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE' Why campaigning for those living with HIV and AIDS matters

VIEW FROM THE PULPIT Team ministry in Aberdeen

LETTER FROM THE HOLY LAND Reflection on the message of the birth of the Prince of Peace

'NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD' The Moderator urges readers 'listen for the Spirit' during Advent

Plus much more over 52 pages...





Merry Christmas

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email: secretary@orchardhill.org.uk

Orchardhill Parish Church: Scottish Charity number SC 009774