

THE RECORD



September 2023



A Word from Gillian Rooney



The months are really flying past and we are already at the start of September – who can believe that?

Whilst many of the organisations closed down for their traditional summer break, the summer has still been a busy time in the Church. We enjoyed a playful breakfast church with time to wonder about change. The Mission Week took place from the 7th to 11th of August and this year's special focus was on Super Heroes of the Bible. I

was delighted to see such large numbers of children attending and it was super to have so many of them come with their families on the Sunday morning. We had lots of fun at CHiPs in the evening and again were delighted to welcome new volunteers this year to join the team.

Since the last edition of The Record, our new Unitary Constitution has been formally put into place and this means we no longer have a Board and Session – just a Session. However, we should not be fearful of this change, we should look at it as a new opportunity.

Instead of the Board, there will be a number of working groups formed and these will work on behalf of, and report to, the Session. I would urge all members to consider volunteering to serve on one of these groups so that the Church may benefit from your wisdom and experience. There will be a role for everyone to play, from finance and church management to the group in charge of organising the social life of the church community.

In Saint Paul's letter to the Romans, we are encouraged that we are part of the body of Christ and there is a place for us all to use our giftings. As we start this new year of activities, I would urge you to look for ways in which you can serve.

Yours in Christ,

Gillian

The New Lectern in the Church Sanctuary

“Be Still And Know”

Those are the words facing a speaker from the beautiful new lectern now gracing our chancel.

The new lectern was a gift from the late Eunice Johnston, who also chose the inscription. In characteristic style, Eunice wanted no fuss or recognition, but her family are delighted that her generosity can now be known.

Designed to be fully height adjustable, for ease of movement the lectern also comes apart into three pieces. There must surely be a sermon in that at some point! It was created by the wonderful Grassmarket Community Project in Edinburgh, which is a social enterprise initiative set up by Greyfriars Church.



The lectern was made from recycled wood from an Edwardian dinner table, the materials thus in keeping with the age of the Church itself. The octagonal column matches the existing lectern in shape, with details on the base influenced by the surrounding woodwork. The letter style for the inscription, which was burnt into the wood, is as close as we could get to the lettering on the “Evangelists Window” at the rear of the Sanctuary.

Please take a moment to step onto the chancel to admire this lovely object, and to remember Eunice.

Summer Mission A Busy Time

Orchardhill has a long and proud tradition of Summer Mission. Many of us have happy memories of the Huntly Hound Club in the park, though the memories of those lucky enough to fit into the Huntly costume are perhaps not entirely positive. And it has been a blessing to witness generations of teenagers, some encountering faith for the first time, learn through games, stories, chat and movies, that Christ indeed Has Incredible Powers.

Mission Week 2023 passed for some in a blur of toast crumbs, scavenger hunts and sticky craft work, but after a couple of days to gather their respective breaths, the Mission Teams caught up with the Orchardhill Record for a debrief.

Monday morning at 8:30 saw the Breakfast Team braced and ready to serve the first of the 250 breakfasts which would come out of the Memorial Hall kitchen before the week was over. The week's theme was Superheroes in the Bible, and the breakfast production line was a reminder to us all that sometimes superheroes wear aprons, not capes.

With breakfast over, around 80 children each day learned about the Bible's Superheroes with a daily story. And, fuelled by regular snacks, there was singing, dancing, crafts and games. Scavenger Hunts in the Sanctuary were a big hit with all the children and many of the teenage helpers, whose enthusiasm and competitive streaks were infectious. Wet games were a great chance for messy fun.

A special visitor was promised for Friday, and the excitement level was off the charts when the children discovered he was an ice cream man, armed with 99s for all. Yes, it really was "great, great, brill, brill"!

If mornings were full of the sounds of Primary age children, the evenings certainly belonged to our teens. This year's theme for CHIPs was "Out Of This World". In a uniquely CHIPs sort of a way, the Team managed to combine deep thoughts about space, climate change and the meaning of life, with construction challenges (brooms, anyone?), a cookery competition and an inflatable planetarium.

Thought-provoking speakers including our Minister, Gillian, tik toks, and wet games, all topped off with a barbeque at the Memorial Halls. Around 16 teens attended nightly, and finished the week secure in the knowledge, both that God will provide opportunities, and that we can all find a way to be out of this world!

A wonderful week of Mission ended and was celebrated with a genuinely family friendly service on Sunday 13th August. With the Congregation and Choir joining in the actions to some songs from the week, an impromptu dance demo from the teens, and our Minister quietly rejoicing in the imminent return to school, it was no ordinary Sunday worship. And it was lovely to see so many of the children who had been with us during the week, bringing their grown-ups along to see and hear what had been happening.

As ever, the Mission Teams could not do anything without the support of the Congregation, including the large number of volunteers who gave willingly of their time and energy. Whether serving breakfast, manning the road crossing, welcoming, crafting, storytelling or clearing up – or any of the many, many other tasks required – that help is vital if we are to continue this successful week into the future.

So don't forget to pop the week of 6th to 10th August 2024 into your Diary. Everyone has something to give for Summer Mission...







Church Garden and Grounds

David Attenborough advised “To restore stability to our planet we must restore biodiversity...the very thing we have removed...we must rewild the world”.

This year cornflower and corn marigold were planted in the planters at the front of the Memorial Hall, specifically to attract pollinators. It has been a difficult few months for gardeners, but thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers giving care and attention to the grounds on a weekly basis from May until August, most plants have survived.

Late Summer/early Autumn is an important time for our pollinators as new bumblebee queens need to be well fed to last through hibernation. Ivy is a very late-flowering and important food plant for solitary bees, wasps and hoverflies. Other late-flowering pollinator friendly plants include Globe Thistle, Heathers and Sunflowers.

We are all different - some like things tidy, some less so, but, in the garden, even a small amount of scruffiness can be beneficial for wildlife.

Work will continue over the autumn, winter and early spring in the ground between the two car parks, and the trees in front of the church, which were pollarded years ago, will be given attention in the dormant season.





A Week in the Life of ...The **Black Door** Shop

If you haven't popped into the Black Door Shop recently, you'll be amazed at everything going on.

For anyone who hasn't noticed the quiet revolution taking place under the Memorial Hall, the Black Door Shop and Community Hub is the nerve centre of some of Orchardhill's vital outreach work. In partnership with a number of other organisations, Stephen Bennett and his small band of volunteers work hard to provide focussed support for issues in our community and beyond.

Firstly, and central to the work of the Black Door Shop is the partnership with Maslows, a small charity based in Govan which provides essential items to around 12,000 refugees, asylum seekers and others facing extreme hardship in Glasgow. The Black Door Shop gathers donations of clothes, shoes, household items, baby equipment etc, which are picked up twice weekly by Reza and his van, which trundles off packed with donations from the Congregation and the wider community.

In a recent report to Glasgow Presbytery, Maslow's manager Reza paid tribute to the support of the Black Door Shop, saying "our work would not be possible if we didn't have our supporters, especially Orchardhill Parish Church and Stephen from the Black Door Shop – they kindly provide 1-2 full vanloads of donations every week, which we sort out and make ready for people in need".

Early Saturday morning sees a small band of young volunteers armed with grabbers and sacks setting out from the Black Door Shop on their regular litter-picking expedition. As well as lifting multiple sacks of rubbish from the streets of Giffnock, the Team has identified a real problem with gas canisters and balloons being discarded in places where youngsters gather. The information has been passed on to Giffnock Police, and to local schools to enable them to provide proper education as to the danger of misuse.

The Team was also able to liaise between residents around Giffnock Library, local shops and the District Council leading to the shops moving their dumpsters to a more obvious location – hopefully that will cut down on the amount of rubbish simply dropped rather than safely binned.

Stephen and the Team inspired the Special Investigations Unit at Aviva Insurance Group to a terrific fundraising effort. Having heard of the great work happening,

and visited to help on a team volunteering day, they knew about the fundraising effort to enable a toilet to be installed within the Black Door Shop and the team of 17 set off on a sponsored million step challenge. Stephen was delighted to receive what he thought was a lovely mock up of the Black Door, and then completely bowled over to discover that the reverse was a cheque for £3,000!

And the Aviva Team is keen to continue the partnership. They are coming back – from all corners of the UK – and this time they are going to help with the Black Door Shop's latest project. Liaising with the Gardening Group, the Black Door Shop are thinking of installing growing frames into the Church grounds to begin a community vegetable garden.

In short, it's safe to say there's plenty going on at the Black Door Shop, even before considering the wooden items, signage etc made for the Church, and the work carried out developing the cellar itself. And yes, there are plenty of way you can help with this vital work in our community:

- Keep those donations coming! Maslows is supporting people with literally nothing, and they need a continued supply of clothes etc to enable the work to go on.
- Could you help on a Saturday or a Monday afternoon? Many hands make light work, and there is plenty to do sorting out the donations received and getting them ready for collection. It would be amazing if we could share the load and maybe have a rota of volunteers for this vital work. Even an hour or so would really help.
- If you enjoy an early walk – and one with a purpose – join the litter pickers at the Black Door Shop at 7:45 on Saturday mornings. Hot drinks and lively chat are supplied on return.



The gas canisters that are found weekly.



Reza, Maslow's Manager, with a full van.



Stephen with Aviva staff, receiving the cheque for £3000.



Some of the young litter pickers in action.

Life and Work

September 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

'SCOTLAND WAS EFFECTIVELY RUINED' 325th anniversary of the Darien Expedition

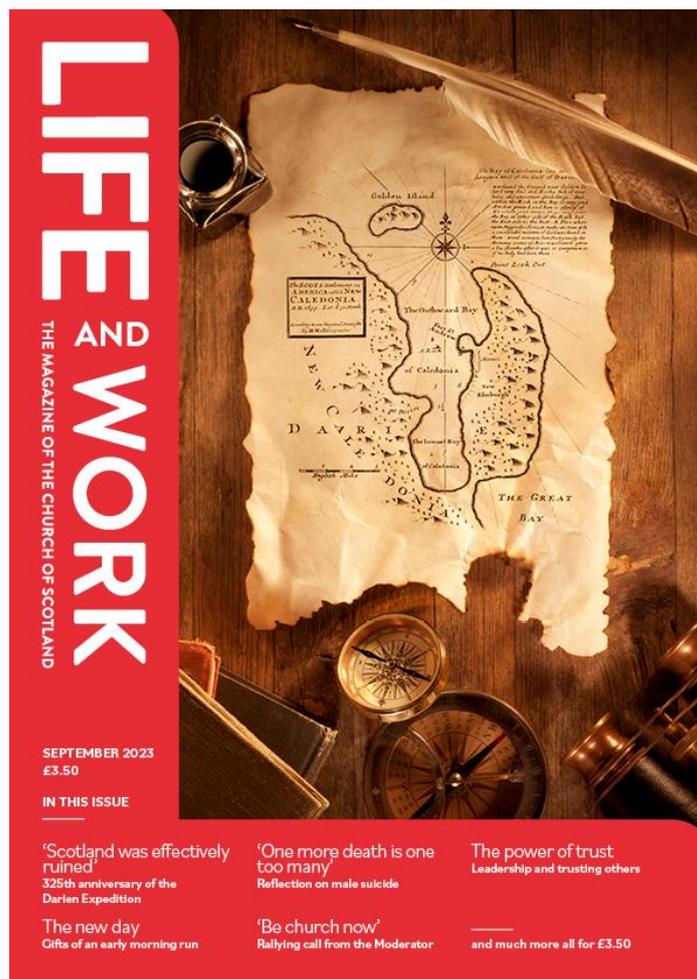
THE NEW DAY Gifts of an early morning run

'ONE MORE DEATH IS ONE TOO MANY'
Reflection on male suicide

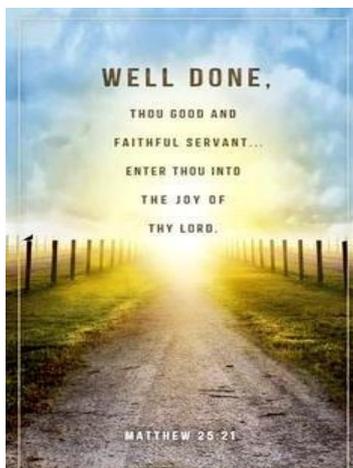
'BE CHURCH NOW' Rallying call from the Moderator

THE POWER OF TRUST Leadership and trusting others

And much more.



Congregational Roll



Deaths

Vivien Howie

Date of Death 3 June 2023

Eunice Johnston

Date of Death 2 July 2023

Rest safe in the Lord.

Vivien Howie 1931-2023

Vivien Watt Howie was born in Hillhead in 1931 - the only child of Evelyn and James Clements - and she was baptised in Hillhead Parish Church. Her parents owned a newsagents on Argyle Street, but the family moved to Croftfoot after the death of her father when Vivien was 12 years old.

Vivien had a keen mind and, after leaving school, went to Skerry's College where she achieved good results in her exams. This was followed by work in an insurance office before working as a civil servant at what was to become Centre 1.

She was an active member of Croftfoot church, with her faith being an important part of her life and identity. One of the highlights of her younger years was the time she spent at the Billy Graham Crusades in Glasgow.

She met Willie at the dancing in Shawlands and they courted for a time before becoming engaged in 1960, and then marrying in 1961 at Croftfoot Parish Church. They went on their first cruise for their honeymoon and this would start a pattern that they followed throughout their lives. They then moved into their first and only family home together in Whitton Drive where they stayed together for many happy years until Willie's death 7 years ago.

Derek came along in 1965 and Vivien left her job, happily embracing the life of a housewife and mother. She made many close friends along Whitton Drive and enjoyed coffee mornings and trips to the shops. The family was complete when Stewart was born in 1972. Vivien looked after her mother, Evelyn, who lived with the family until her death in 1988.

Willie and Vivien loved their holidays, especially cruises, but a particular stand out trip for them both, was the church trip to Israel in the year 2000. This was a spiritual highlight for them both.

Vivien's faith was central to her throughout her life. She and Willie joined Orchardhill shortly after moving to their home, and became happily involved in church life. Willie and Vivien both attended study groups and participated in an Alpha Course. Vivien was ordained as an elder in 1994 and was an active member of the Kirk Session until her health precluded her from attending meetings.



Vivien was also very involved in the Woman's Guild where she and her friend were famous for running the Red and Green stall at the Christmas Fair and the Yellow and Green stall at the Spring Fair. Her good friend and sister in law, Rena, also helped her to come up with interesting speakers for the Guild. As a Guild member, Vivien was the mission convenor and often represented Orchardhill's Guild at a district level.

Despite not being able to get out to church on a Sunday since the pandemic, Vivien was still very interested in what was happening, and enjoyed the Orchardhill Record and receiving updates from visitors.

At the funeral service Stewart read a famous passage from Saint Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth. Paul was talking about love, and love was something that Vivien practised throughout her life. She loved Willie and their sons deeply and she loved her Lord and showed this in her faithful service throughout the years.

At the heart of Vivien's life was her family and her deep love and pride in them was evident to all who knew her. Vivien was delighted when the family expanded and she was extremely proud of her grandchildren, Colin and Susan, and their achievements. When talking to people about Vivien the words faithful and content were repeated often - she was a woman who was happy with her life, who loved her family deeply and, in return, was loved back. The Christian faith, at its core, holds hope that death is not the end, but that life continues in a new and different way in God.

We thank God for Vivien and for the life that she lived.

The BDS & 86th Glasgow Boys' Brigade

The Black Door Shop (The BDS) is the trading name of the 86th Glasgow Boys' Brigade and started as a children's charity shop in 2015. It has developed into taking in community donations of all household items except large furniture donating them for the benefit of asylum seekers every week.

The BDS provides an opportunity for young people to earn Saltire Awards through assisting in sorting donations, taking part in our weekly litter picking and learning skills in our workshop.

The BDS also provides a resource that allows people to pop in for a chat, to play table games, to work in our workshop or to assist other community members by taking on helpful tasks such as shopping or changing a light bulb.

The 86th Glasgow Boys' Brigade and The Black Door Shop operates from Orchardhill Parish Church Memorial Hall with its main area being in the basement accessed from the rear car park.

The 86th Glasgow Boy's Brigade Glasgow Company operates every Friday when local schools are on. It provides a varied nationally constructed program of activities for young people aged 5 - 18. Dividing into 4 areas Anchors, Juniors, Company and Seniors, we provide a fun filled programme that builds up confidence in our young people, who can work towards obtaining the new Kings Badge which will be available to those starting the course next session.

Stephen Bennett
Captain
86th Glasgow Boys' Brigade
bb@orchardhill.org.uk

Find us at the far gable end of Orchardhill's Memorial Hall Rosslea Avenue Giffnock
G46 6JW.

David Reid Golf Trophy

Our friend, Shiona Reid, presented a beautiful Memorial trophy after the death of her husband in 2002, and, following suspension of the annual golf competition during the Covid years, we reconvened at Whitecraigs G C on Saturday 19th August 2023.



None of the 12 entrants could hope to match the quality of golf shown by David in his earlier years, when he won the Scottish Boys Championship at North Berwick, was a finalist in the British Boys, and captained the Scottish Boys against England, nor did Whitecraigs have a Reid Memorial Lounge, as that honour is preserved at Pollok G C, David's home course.

Eighteen holes on the 'Wee' Course were played in changeable and challenging weather conditions, then we were joined in the Clubhouse by non-playing partners and friends, for a convivial meal and fellowship, prior to the prize-giving. Honourable mentions were due to Mary Kerr, Neil Mackenzie and Robin Mair for accurate shots and good scores, and third and second prizes were respectively awarded to Anton Heffron and Aileen Scudds.

The winner of the Memorial trophy, with a net score of 55 shots, was Rev. Graham Cartlidge, and, after acknowledging the congratulations of the company, he has undertaken to have his name suitably engraved, and to take over the organization of the golf competition in 2024.

Images below show the group of golfers, and the principal prizewinner.



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