



THE RECORD



**March
2021**



A Word from Gillian Rooney



Gillian's Letter

As I write this, we are halfway through February, and coping with another month of lockdown. We are also about to start in the season of Lent, a time when we traditionally look inward and reflect on our lives and our faith journey, as we walk with Jesus towards Jerusalem. Since the turn of the year, our sermons have been focussing on light in the Gospel of John, and, as we enter into Lent, we continue with this theme, to look outwards and upwards to the one who shines in the darkness. This year our Christian hope is needed more than ever. Watch out for another display outside the church that will share this theme more widely with our community!

Lent is often associated with giving things up, perhaps abstaining from treats or maybe reducing screen time. These are all healthy ideas, but rather than restricting ourselves further, maybe one way of reflecting and growing in faith would be to increase in our generosity. Over the last few years, a Christian group has provided resources for what is called 40acts. This group has grown widely in popularity, and, for 40 days in the season of Lent, there is a daily reflection and challenge that encourages us to think about what we can do in our families, in our communities and in our world to share the gospel values of love, justice and mercy. I have curated 40 of these reflections from over 10 years of this challenge, and will share them on the Facebook page and the website. I encourage you to take some time to look at these, and reflect on how you can engage.

As we walk through this next season of our lives together, let us keep our eyes focussed on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith. He shines brightly in the midst of the darkness, to guide and protect us. As the COVID restrictions continue to affect our lives, I pray that we can hold on to the hope that we are offered through Jesus, to give us the strength to keep going.

Gillian Rooney
Probationer Minister

Lodging House Mission



Orchardhill is deeply saddened by the death of Stephen Mitchell of the Lodging House Mission, from Covid, at the age of 60. He was a wonderful person who was dedicated to sharing his Christian faith and helping the vulnerable and homeless in Glasgow, every single day.

Here at Orchardhill, we have supported the Lodging House Mission for many years, and we will continue do everything we can to support them in these extremely difficult and challenging times.

On Tuesday night, the Congregational Board unanimously approved a substantial sum to be donated to LHM from church funds, to assist LHM at this difficult time, and we would encourage members of the congregation to also consider making a personal cash donation to LHM at this time, if your finances permit, as LHM find it very difficult to receive normal donations of food and other supplies, whilst maintaining a safe social distance and keeping staff safe. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Letter from Australia

Dear Ian,

Lovely to hear from you and I hope this finds you well – sending (truly!) warm wishes to yourself and the whole congregation at Orchardhill from down under! I'm currently quarantining in the Stamford Plaza Hotel in Adelaide, South Australia. We're on Day 12 of 15 now, so not long to go before we're released into the wild! Despite the recent developments in Melbourne, there are currently no confirmed Covid cases in SA – touching wood. So, while people still have to scan into every building they enter, for tracing purposes, otherwise there are fairly minimal restrictions in place for Adelaide, which is quite exciting...



Quarantine, on the other hand, has been a bizarre experience! The lack of in-person, human contact has definitely been strange, although I've made sure to keep in close touch with family and friends during the 2-week period. We also receive daily phone calls from a member of the police and a nurse, which goes some way into breaking up the solitude! The time itself has gone relatively quickly, I'm pleased to say, and now very much looking forward to soaking up as much sun and socialising as possible, while we can!



I trust that Orchardhill's weekly services are continuing in earnest. It's been rather strange not recording new hymns each week, although David assures me that the back-catalogue is being put to good use! One of the things I'm most looking forward to, over the next couple of months, of course, is being able to perform live for audiences again. The show I'm out here with, is called 'The Choir of Man', which is a 9-piece, all-male vocal ensemble. It will be quite a change of pace going from singing solo in the recording booth to full, 9-part harmony – but a worthy return to doing what we love!

One of the joys of my work has been enjoying the opportunity to travel and perform in some spectacular parts of the globe. My previous run with this particular group was a USA tour, which incorporated 32 states over 6 months! Back in my classical days, I also got to experience singing at the Smetana Hall in Prague & Amsterdam's Concertgebouw. This was on a European tour as part of the National Youth Choir of Scotland, whose activities shaped a lot of my formative years as a professional singer.

Another early, strong influence on my career was Glasgow's bustling amateur dramatics scene. I actually worked with David's club, Theatre Guild Glasgow, on 'Footloose' in 2012 – a musical that I would go on to perform again, 5 years later, on the professional UK tour! While David & I didn't get to work together on that particular production, we've been running in similar circles for about 8 years now. It's been a joy to work with him regularly over the course of 2020 and to contribute to Orchardhill's musical offerings.

My experiences in Glasgow prepared me for moving to London in 2015, to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Musical Theatre at the Royal Academy of Music. Since graduating, I have been based in London and been fortunate to meet and work with some amazingly talented people there. The pandemic has hit the creative industries particularly hard, of course. With the exception of a handful of outdoor/fringe productions, very little has been able to go ahead for the past 12 months. I'm hoping that the continued rollout of vaccines in the UK will allow for some much-needed relief in 2021, for both our industry and everyone's sakes. Until then – a chance to discover how Australian audiences differ from those back home!

Many thanks again, Ian, for getting in touch and for helping me to fill my quarantine-time! Hoping that everyone back home is keeping safe, well and finding solace in the little wells of joy that present themselves. With a bit of luck, Glasgow will start looking like Adelaide before too long, though perhaps a few less shorts and sunglasses on display...

Best wishes from down under,
Connor (Going)



Life and Work

March 2021

'Where God's Taking Us'

Thomas Baldwin explores some of the connections between faith and Scottish traditional music, speaking to members of Tide Lines, Skerryvore and Celtic Worship

The Golden Thread

Jackie Macadam meets Ruth Harvey, new Leader of the Iona Community

Lent Reflections

Continuing the series of reflections for each week in Lent

A Serving of Daily Bread

The Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair explains why not all habits are bad ones

The Healing Cross

The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the healing power of Lent

Epiphany on the Capitol

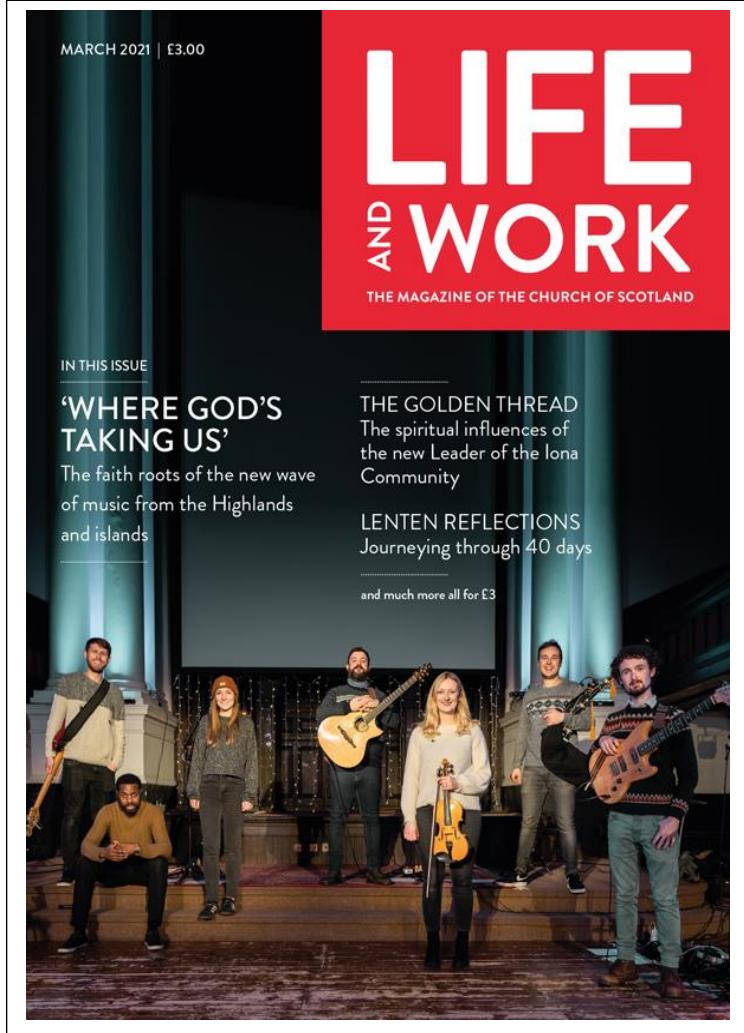
Ruth Harvey explains why the Psalms can hold the answers in times of uncertainty

Standing on the Giants of Faith

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers explains why those whose stories are remembered should encourage and inspire today

Online

Visit www.lifeandwork.org for news and exclusive features, including Coronavirus Diaries from Church of Scotland mission partners across the world. You can also find us at facebook.com/lifeandwork or on Twitter @cofslifeandwork



Tribute to Pauline Provan.

Orchardhill Church lost one of its brightest stars with the death of Pauline Provan last month, after a time of illness.

It is sad that so many of her friends were unable to attend her funeral, and share memories with her family.

Pauline was brought up in London until the family moved to Whitecraigs. Her mother was a doctor, as is her sister. Pauline had a clerical job at the Royal Infirmary, but it was at Whitecraigs that she met lovely Ron, and they started married life in Melford Avenue near Ron's Mum in Bulloch Avenue. That was the start of their connection to Orchardhill Church and when their family, Ann and David, came along, they also joined into church life.

Pauline was a very creative person, particularly with flowers and plants, and that is how most of us came to know her. She studied for her City and Guilds qualification in floral management, and joined the group of ladies who arranged the church flowers. After a while in 1983, she became Convenor of the Group just for a year! That position lasted 27 years!

I only got to know Pauline and her kind and generous nature, after my late husband Martin died in 1989, and I happened to mention to her how much solace and help I found in arranging all the many lovely flowers I had received. She asked me to join the flower group, where she continued to mentor and help me over the years.

At this time, Pauline was working part-time with her friend who had a Florists shop, so she was able to source flowers at a discount, which came in very handy when, at that time, at Harvest, we did 7 large arrangements and at least 70 small posies to go to care homes and members of the congregation. Changed days! Pauline also organised Flower festivals, displays at Christmas, and a few fund raising flower demonstrations. Her planning skills were amazing and always done with a smile and usually a laugh.

When I took over as Convenor in 2010, after Pauline's health began to slow her down, I inherited the notebooks and minute books she had kept since 1980. They are immaculate with no planning detail missed.

Beside and behind Pauline over these years was Ron. I can vividly picture him and Richie Johnston in the Church while we were busy preparing for Harvest or Christmas, always ready to climb a ladder, move seats, generally fetch and carry to make our tasks easier.

All of us at Orchardhill will miss Pauline greatly, especially her friends at the Orchard Café. Her smile and cheery laugh were a tonic to everyone.

Joyce Winning with help from some who have known her longer and better.

St Columba's, Blackhall in Edinburgh

The first of the following articles, reproduced by kind permission of the editors of Life and Work, gives a good description of the refurbishment of the Sanctuary at St Columba's, Blackhall in Edinburgh, where our friend and erstwhile Elder, Rev. Fergus Cook, was ordained as Minister last March.

Those members and friends, who do not subscribe to Life and Work, will be interested to read of the new Church at which Fergus and Shona have settled. We trust that lockdown will be eased later this year, so that their Sanctuary, as well as ours, may be opened for communal worship, as well as for visits.

One of the regular features of the magazine is an article, usually on its final page, by past Moderator, the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers. Entitled 'Meditation', his contribution in August 2020 was greatly appreciated by a number of readers, and is also reproduced below, under the heading 'Kindness Counts'.

Life and Work offers 52 pages each month of news, features and opinion on Christian life in Scotland and further afield. A digital subscription is available at www.lifeandwork.org for £11.99 (6 months) or £20.99 (12 months), while the print versions can be requested via the website or by 'phone (0131 460 7487). The cost is £36 for twelve months, but a special offer for 3 months trial, is available to new subscribers at just £6, and is highly recommended.

'WELL EQUIPPED TO FULFIL ITS MISSION STATEMENT' - Thomas Baldwin reports on the £1.1 million transformation of an Edinburgh church.

An Edinburgh church reopened for services at the end of last year following the completion of a £1.1m, two year renovation. Blackhall St Columba's, which welcomed back members of the congregation into the space for the first time since 2018, will now be fully equipped for 21st century worship.

The ambitious upgrade of the building, which was first built in 1900, includes the removal of pews to create a more flexible space, and an entirely refurbished sanctuary. Despite the scale of the project, the changes were funded entirely by the congregation, with just under half of the cost coming from the sale of a church property, and the rest from donations and fundraising.

The Rev Fergus Cook, who was ordained and inducted as the parish minister in March 2020, as lockdown began, said : 'The Church of Scotland is looking for church buildings to be well equipped spaces in the right places. Blackhall St Columba's Parish Church is well located, and I firmly believe that, due to foresight and the generosity of the congregation in managing this refurbishment of its sanctuary, it is now well equipped to fulfil its mission statement: to glorify God, to proclaim Christ and to serve others'.

He also paid tribute to the hard work of those involved, including the Building for the Future Group, Alan Thomson of Lee Boy Architects, and the project manager, Fay Stirling. Ms Stirling said: 'There were a few important principles which we wanted to adhere to. Firstly, we had to be good stewards of the money which had been so generously given, and spend it wisely. We also wanted to maintain the character of the building.' Despite Coronavirus throwing their plans into 'disarray' and inevitably delaying work, Ms Stirling describes the final results as 'transformational'.

Glass doors provide a welcoming well-lit entrance, with new underfloor heating added to ensure the building is efficiently heated. A sophisticated audio-visual system now allows for varied lighting, screens and livestreaming, with elegant and efficient LED lighting added to the nave. More space has been created for meetings, and the church office and vestry has been upgraded.

The original Blackhall Church was planted in the growing suburb of Edinburgh in 1900. Being made of iron, it was quickly found to be too small, and was replaced by the existing building, opened in 1904 and extended in 1935. The architect, Mr P. McGregor Chalmers, had connections with Iona Abbey Church and modelled aspects of the design on the Iona church. A piece of stone from Iona Abbey Church was placed at the foot of the South Aisle, and another piece, showing a Celtic Cross, in the wall outside the session room (now the church office).

In the early 1930s the church purchased a historic organ - reputed to be the first organ ever used in the Church of Scotland - from Greyfriars Kirk. This organ served the church until 2006, when the congregation raised £200,000 for a new bespoke pipe organ. The church is also home to the Cross of Monte Cassino, made by soldiers during the Second World War, and brought to St Columba's by the Rev R J Watson Matthewson.

Kindness Counts

The Very Rev. Dr. John Chalmers considers the importance of kindness in the ‘new normal’

In the grounds of the Abbey Church of Dunfermline next to the Palace of the ancient Kings of Scotland is the shrine of St. Margaret. Margaret, sometimes known as the ‘Pearl of Scotland’ married King Malcolm II in the year 1070, so becoming Queen of Scots. By all accounts, Margaret was a devout and pious woman; she persuaded the Benedictine monks at Canterbury to establish a monastery in Dunfermline, and Queensferry gets its name because Margaret endowed a ferry route across the Forth, which made it easier to make the pilgrim journey to St Andrews. We are told that, day by day, Margaret rose to serve food to the poor before she herself ate, and, evening by evening, she rose at midnight to attend the liturgy. It is for her prayerful devotion, kindness and humility that she is remembered; a Queen of Scots of whom not enough is known, and whose virtues are, perhaps, not celebrated as they should. She did not stand on her dignity as a monarch; instead she reigned from her knees, and, in imitation of Christ, she washed the feet of the poor, dedicating her life to the service of others. Humility, forbearance and kindness were her distinguishing marks, and for these, and other acts of piety and devotion, she was canonised by Pope Innocent IV in 1250. During the extraordinary times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, humility, forbearance and kindness have been the oil that has lubricated these difficult days. A patient willingness by the vast majority to abide by the lockdown rules, a multiplication of acts of neighbourliness, self-sacrifice on the part of frontline workers, and a generosity of spirit evident in countless acts of charity and fundraising – these have kept us going and kept us smiling. Now, as people begin to imagine what the new normal will look like, there is a great hope that we will come out of this a kinder and more considerate society. Dunfermline is also the birthplace of the world-famous philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, and it is home to the Trust that bears his name. Just a year or so back, the Carnegie UK Trust, in concert with the Joseph Rowntree Trust, published an important report on the Place of Kindness in building stronger communities

(<https://wwwcarnegieuktrust.org.uk/project/kinder-communities/>). The report highlights that there are factors in present day living, that can get in the way of engaging and encouraging kindness in both individuals and organisations. The report highlights the problem that formal and organisational rules often prevent the kind of informal contact that leads to a level of empathy and understanding, and it says, “modern definitions of professionalism and good leadership crowd out everyday kindness and intuitive human interactions”. Most of us have had experiences confirming that goodwill, affection, warmth, gentleness and concern can be crowded out by the application of formal procedures. A few months ago, The Scotsman newspaper published an article in which a good friend of mine, John Sturrock, posed the question: “Suppose we decide that the benchmark for success, a key performance indicator, was how kind we are to others? Suppose the only criterion for an annual (performance) review was “How kind have you been to your colleagues this year?” That takes me back to Queen Margaret, whose annual performance review would have placed her in a league of her own. I was brought up in the hard school of an old time religion, which never tired of reminding people that being a Christian was more than trying to be good, or trying to be kind, and no one, who understands anything of the depth of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, would demur at such teaching. But, as a first response to our faith in Christ the practice of kindness must be high on our list, and I hope that there will be more of it around the post-Covid world.

This article was first published in the August 2020 issue of Life and Work

Scripture Readers

MAR	
7	David Howard
14	Willie Hendry
21	Marion Simpson
28	Alan Daly

Orchardhill Calendar

The buildings may be closed but Orchardhill church is most definitely open.

Join us (virtually) as we continue to host many “gatherings” online, from prayers and reflection to coffee and a blether, with something to suit everyone. Details on the Church website.

A full service will be broadcast via the church website each Sunday from 10:30am.

Orchardhill Record

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the April edition of the Orchardhill Record is Sunday 14th March. Due to the ongoing situation with Covid19, the Orchardhill Record publication schedule may be disrupted.

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

www.orchardhill.org.uk

Dessert Island discs 6th March 2021

Here are the meeting codes to help you join the Zoom event

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91457043668?pwd=a2JsNUT1TVQyRkpoMIBMTWpiYWVSQT09>

Meeting ID: 914 5704 3668

Password: stranded

Or alternatively phone in on 0131 460 1196



For The Children

Spring has almost sprung. The days are getting longer and brighter. The trees are starting to turn green again and there are flowers popping up all over.

It is a beautiful time of year when we can truly see God's work happening in front of our eyes.

I hope you enjoy some of these Spring activities.

I would love to see some pictures of you on the scavenger hunt Or the answer to the wordsearch puzzle. You can email them to me at

[Youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk](mailto>Youthandfamily@orchardhill.org.uk)



Spring Scavenger Hunt

Things to listen for



Birds chirping



Raindrops



Spring breeze

Things to smell



Blossom



Fresh air



Soil

Things to see



Snowdrops



Sunshine



Daffodils

Can you find the words below hidden in the grid? Once you have them all the remaining letters will spell a special day in Spring.

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

APRIL

BLOSSOM

BUD

BULBS

BUNNY

CHICKS

CROCUS

DAFFODILS

EGG

GROW

HATCH

HYACINTH

JUNE

KID

LAMB

MARCH

MAY

SEASON

SNOWDROP

SPRING

SUN

THAW

TULIP

WARM

Does February like March?
No – but April May!!

What is the best season for going on a trampoline?
Spring!

When do monkeys fall from the sky?
During Ape-ril showers!

What did the tree say to Spring?
What a re-leaf!

What flowers do everyone have on their face?
Tulips!!!



Happy birthday to Rebecca who turns 6
on 23rd March

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