

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinkarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 58: May 2020

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clinkarthill.org.uk

Hello from the Manse

I hope that this May newsletter finds you well. In this edition of the Informer, I want to update you on what is happening, and encourage you as we persevere through lockdown.

Worship

It is a sad time that we cannot meet for worship. We are, however, doing our best to offer what we can. We have been able to produce a number of online resources, which you can find on our website. Simply visit www.clinkarthill.org.uk, and click the "online ministry" button, and you'll see what we've been up to!

I know that some of you are not able to connect with our online ministry, but unfortunately that is all we can offer under the current circumstances. Thankfully, there are other options: I imagine Songs of Praise on the BBC is seeing some of its highest ratings in a long time!

It is very unlikely that we will be able to "return to normal" in terms of Sunday worship any time soon. We will, however, keep listening to government advice, and exploring ways to ensure as many of us as possible are able to worship God together.

Pastoral Care

I am trying to keep in touch with people over the phone, which is the best I can do under the circumstances. I am encouraged to hear of many cases of you all checking in on one another - which is great! If you, or someone known to you, is having any difficulty, please do get in touch: I and a number of others in the congregation are standing by, ready to offer assistance to anyone who is in need. And by all means: feel free to give the manse a call just for a chat - we'd love to hear from you!

Being Church

It is unfortunate that we cannot meet in our Church building. But, let me encourage you: we do not need a building to be God's Church! In many ways, I see these circumstances as God giving us an opportunity to show those living around us what *being Church* looks like.

Ask yourself: how can I *be* the Church in my street and community? How can I reach out in Christ-like loving kindness to those who live literally right next door? The hope is that if Christians do engage in this way, and live as the Church in their own homes/street/communities, then it opens the way for God's Spirit to move powerfully and bring people to know Him in a way we haven't seen in a long time! So, ask yourself, and ask God, "how can I live as Your Church to those living round about me?"

These are difficult times, I know, and many of us will be getting impatient for this to be over. I implore you to be patient - it does the witness of the Church no good if we are seen to break the guidelines and put people at unnecessary risk.

Remember: if you are in need of any support, or just need a chat, please do get in touch: I'd be happy to talk with you. Also get in touch if you have anything positive or encouraging you'd like to share - it's good to encourage each other at this time!

May God bless you,
Stuart



Congregational Register

Death

6 April 2020 - Mrs Muriel Paris
26 April 2020 - Mrs Margaret Lawther

Next Issue

Email any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter to sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk

Communications Team

Although the church has been closed for about a month now, we have been very active on the social media front. 41 posts were made on Facebook between 18th March and 19th April, with 7,619 reached. Between Palm Sunday and Easter Monday (9 days) we made 19 posts including every day of Holy Week giving encouragement to the congregation and beyond. These included the Minister's 'Study in the Study' series plus various new and older puppet team performances. The majority of these have been on the Church's website as well.

A number of the posts (and posters on the church noticeboards) are offering practical support to anyone who needs it. An Easter card was sent to every church member household to let folk know that they were being remembered. Thanks to everyone involved in all of these efforts.

Graham Shankland
Communications Team

Bible-Based Trauma Healing - COVID-19 Session

How are you managing in these strange and uncertain times?

Would you, or do you know of someone, who might benefit from exploring the difficult questions arising from the impact of COVID-19 crisis, e.g. loss, fear, the changes to our daily lives? If you are, we are offering online sessions, through Zoom, when we will reflect and discuss how this virus affects the way we are living and feeling just now.

Please contact, either of the following for more information and to sign-up:

Rev Stuart Love SLove@churchofscotland.org.uk
Mrs Joan Kilpatrick je-kilpatrick@sky.com

Mission and Outreach Team

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the local groups and organisations that are reaching out to care for the vulnerable in the community around the church. The **David Cargill Centre** continue to deliver food parcels to the vulnerable and isolated. We have requested some deliveries to folk we know but there are no doubt others in need at this time. If you do need help or support the church is available as is the David Cargill centre. David Cargill is part of the organisation 'Glasgow's Golden Generation'. To continue this important work if anyone can assist them financially or practically please contact them on...0141 632 7391. If you want to suggest a person that would benefit from a food parcel delivery call this number.

Our own **Seniors Friday Dinners** has temporarily stopped but we are still available to offer any help, if required.

We plan to resume **Alpha** as soon as it is possible to do so. We are keeping in touch with those who attended.

We still hope to have **Robin Mark** in concert at a later date and have been in close contact with Robin. This will be a real blessing to all.

I would also want to thank the **Mount Florida Community Council** for all the work they do at this time and throughout the year.

We look forward to welcoming all the children and adults back when we reopen. The work of the church, which is the people of God continues in the unseen ways supporting the weak and poor.

Please pray for us and if you would like to join our team there is much to do.

Stephen Kennedy

Mission and Community Outreach team



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206

Phone and leave a message!



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