

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinkarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 61: Mid-June 2020

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clinkarthill.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

Hello from the Manse

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'

³⁷Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' (Matthew 22 NIVUK)

In the last few weeks, Ruth and I began Anna's musical education ... which so far consists of us playing songs we think are of particular note, while Anna looks at us blankly, without comprehension. But who knows what's going on in the mind of a baby? Perhaps what she is hearing now will settle into her mind and one day she will make her parents proud with her music tastes!

As my part of this education, I obviously chose to introduce her to Queen and their best song (in my opinion). No, it's not Bohemian Rhapsody (though, I can assure you, it's on the curriculum!). I will concede that *technically* this isn't solely a Queen song, as it was written in conjunction with David Bowie. It is, of course, the song Under Pressure.

I know this song well: it is one of my favourites. Yet, listening to it with Anna, in our current context, brought a new significance to the lyrics.

The song itself captures the sense of society under pressure: something we can all relate to as we have endured lockdown. The repeated refrain of "people on streets" is oddly relevant, given the protests and demonstrations we are seeing in response to the murder of George Floyd. The song goes on, "It's the terror of knowing what this world is about, watching some good friends screaming, 'let me out'". I'm sure a few of us have wished we could just step away from everything that's happening and catch our breath.

Bear in mind, this song was released in 1981: yet it seems to capture the situation of 2020 so well. What struck me even more powerfully, however, was how the song suggests we deal with the issues it raises:

*Why can't we give love one more chance?
'Cause love's such an old-fashioned word,
And love dares you to care for the people on the edge of the night,
And love dares you to change the way of caring about ourselves.*

Love is the solution. But not love as the world understands it. Love as Jesus articulates it. Which led me to the Bible passage quoted above.

If we want to make a difference in our world, we first need to love God: putting God first gives shape to all our words, thoughts and actions. Then, we are called to show the same love to others as we would show ourselves. Love calls us to care for the least in our world; those on the "edge of the night". Love challenges us to care for others in the same way we would care for ourselves.

The implication of the song is that love is the solution, but humanity cannot embrace it because the "dares" of love are too much for us. We cannot love those on the edges, we cannot love others like we do ourselves. As Christians, we acknowledge we cannot, but we also believe in the one who can, and who can help us to do the same: our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The follower of Jesus, even one under pressure, who dares to love in the same way God loves us.

May God bless you, *Stuart*

Please Note: I will be taking a break from 23rd June—6th July (inclusive). During that time, funeral cover will be provided by Mr. Raymond Jenkins of Kings Park Parish Church. Pastoral cover is provided by your elder in the first instance. For more details, please phone the church office: **0141 632 4206**.

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Next Issue

Email any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter to the session clerk: sessionclerk@clinkarthill.org.uk or call 0141 632 4206

Congregational Register - Change of address

Margaret Hogg, 52 Kingsacre Road, Kings Park, Glasgow G44 4LP.

Holiday Club Alternative - Bags of Discovery is coming your way soon.

Watch this space www.clincarthill.org.uk and www.facebook.com/clincarthillchurch

Mary MacCallum

Mission and Outreach Team

As lockdown eases and we can use the gardens more in the church the idea was mentioned that at some stage we might hold worship outdoors. This made me think of having some kind of musical events outside in the gardens. Obvious these would ensure social distancing. If you would like to help us arrange a few events in August please let me know soon. I have spoken to the well known folk singer... Alastair McDonald, who shares the excitement of this idea. I hope you are all well.

Stephen Kennedy

Puppet Team

We continue to post a series of videos online every week called 'Crafty Sundays' which includes a bible story and craft activity. If you have children or know any who might like to take part please encourage them to do so, and to send photos of their crafts to us at puppets@clincarthill.org.uk for us to show online. You can catch up with these at www.clincarthill.org.uk/index.php/crafty-sundays/

Graham & Pamela Shankland

Finance Report at 31st May 2020

Thanks again to all those who have continued to give regularly, it has meant that the level of offerings has been maintained although the closure of the building has made a big impact on our Open Collection and Hall Let income for 2020. Altogether, the income to date is down nearly £12,000 compared to last year.

Offerings & Donations Income							
Week	22	31-May-20	Income to Date		Variance: +/-		Full Year
Income Type			2020	2019	£	%	2019
Offerings			22,798	22,082	717	3%	52,541
Tax Recovered			2,660	4,643	-1,984	-43%	14,511
Open Collection			881	6,244	-5,363	-86%	13,983
Donations (personal)			0	132	-132	-100%	232
Donations (church organisations)			175	1,690	-1,515	-90%	2,928
Hall Lets			960	5,120	-4,160	0%	16,113
Donations - weddings			0	0	0	0%	0
Donations - funerals			715	150	565	377%	150
Donations - baptisms			0	0	0	0%	0
Total Income			28,189	40,061	-11,872	-30%	100,458

In comparison, although we should have some savings on energy bills, most of our expenditure is still being incurred. At the end of May, the deficit was about £10,000. Fortunately, we had reserves from the recent legacies but we would rather have used them for mission and church growth.

Expenditure						
Week	22	31-May-20	2020 ACTUAL	% 2020 ACTUAL vs Full year BUD	2020 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL
National Ministry & Mission			23,725	40%	58,599	60,613
Local Staffing			3,448	37%	9,271	12,153
Buildings			9,909	43%	23,182	28,467
Other Local Costs			1,369	18%	7,470	7,809
Total			38,451	39%	98,522	109,043

Mary MacCallum, Chair of the Finance Team