

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinicarhill Parish Church

Summer Edition—June 2020



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Registered Scottish Charity

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Letter from the Manse

June 2020



¹¹As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.

¹²Do you see a person wise in their own eyes?

There is more hope for a fool than for them. (Proverbs 26 NIVUK)

²¹It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. ²²Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud". (2nd Peter 2 NIVUK)

"The end is in sight". "There is light at the end of the tunnel". Phrases like that capture how we felt as, after nearly 10 weeks in lockdown, we finally saw our parents, Anna's grandparents. We had spent nearly 10 weeks isolated from family, missing the closeness and support from the early days of Anna's life. Yes, we'd been keeping up using phone calls, video calls and text chats; but it wasn't the same. How much relief we felt, to sit in the Manse back garden and actually **see** our mums and dads. Yes, we had to see them separately to abide by guidelines. Yes, we had to maintain social distancing, and were unable to share in a much desired hug, or allow them to hold Anna. That was hard... but at least they were there!

My heart was gladdened by this, as we entered Phase 1 of the roll-back of lockdown. That is, until I saw how others had responded to the relaxing of restrictions.

Now, I should say that I imagine that most people were thoughtful and sensible, and that what I saw was but the few spoiling things for the many. I still, nonetheless, saw images of packed parks and social areas, with no regard for the safety of others. I saw green spaces, recently allowed to bloom and blossom free of human influence, now strewn with the rubbish and detritus left by those too lazy to clear up after themselves. Add to this the prevailing feeling that Governments are more concerned with economies than people... and my gladdened heart was crushed with sorrow. It felt as though my greatest fear was being realised: that truly, we have learned nothing from the lockdown experience, and are set on course to return unthinkingly to the destructive normality of our pre-lockdown world.

Yet, in the midst of this: there is hope! In a recent webinar, the Assembly Trustees of the Church of Scotland presented their report on how the Church will respond to the issues raised by the COVID-19 lockdown. They highlighted how this situation has impacted the Church: it is looking like the denomination will have a financial "black hole" of several million pounds. In response, they are driving forward further Presbytery Planning, accelerating the General Trustees' programme of "Well Equipped Spaces in the Right Places", as well as exploring how new and fruitful ministries, which have been developing in lockdown, can be encouraged to flourish.

Finally, I thought: we have a commitment from the National leadership of our Church to grapple and deal with issues that the denomination has been "kicking down the road" for years (perhaps decades...?)! I was somewhat dismayed that the main motivation behind this is money (or lack thereof...), rather than a concern for growing God's Kingdom... nevertheless, I am glad that finally the leadership of our Church are grasping these issues and are committed to dealing with them. As a brief aside, I should warn that these changes on a National level will undoubtedly affect us at the local level. How, I do not know; but we would be wise to prepare ourselves for what is likely to come.

What about us? What about our local congregation, Clincarthill Parish Church? What do we do? From what I've presented above, I think we (broadly) have 2 options: either to expend time, energy and resources to get us back to the way things were; or we can grasp the nettle, acknowledge that we've talked about the need for the Church to change, and recognise this as a "blank slate" opportunity, given to us by God.

I caution against change for change's own sake (as someone who naturally shies away from change). Yet, this situation does present us with a unique opportunity to "re-think" Church from the ground up: since everything had to stop, as we look to restart, we can choose what it looks like!

How things will look remains to be seen: we are not yet at a place to work this out. Rather, we are still in a place of reflecting and learning from our lockdown experience. I encourage you to spend that time reflecting with God, seeking what He is trying to teach us from this. Let us not be foolish, like the dog who returns to its vomit, or the person who mercilessly seeks to "get back to the not-so-good normal of before". Let us be wise. Let us listen for God.

May He bless your thoughts, reflections, and prayers,
Stuart.



It feels strange writing as Session 19/20 draws to a close, as in reality the session ended back in March, though we have tried to keep some online and virtual activities going to engage with the boys and families during these strange times.

Though we have not been seeing each other, we have tried to keep in touch via our Facebook page and set up a WhatsApp group. Our most successful post lockdown activity has been when the boys drew BB Easter eggs and put them in their windows on Easter Sunday, then taking pictures and sharing them, maybe you spotted some of these as you were taking your exercise that day.



Anchor Boys

This session we have had a great group of boys, with around 15 attending each week. We have tried out some of the activities from the new programme packs, along with our familiar mix of games, and just before we had to finish we had been practising trampette for the Display.

Junior Section

Like the Anchor Boys we have been making use of the new Under-11's Programme material which was launched last summer. We've also had around 15 along each week, a typical Friday evening involves a mix of games, crafts, badgework activities, quizzes and a bit of figure marching. We will be promoting eight boys to Company Section this summer.

Company Section

Even before Covid-19, this had been a strange session for the Company Section, with nine boys we were already having to do BB a different way, trying to find different activities with the smaller numbers, but also taking the opportunity to get to know folk better. We had success in the District Quiz, with the team of Seniors winning, on what was a very enjoyable evening, even the Bible Knowledge round was accessible with the answers being books of the Bible, such as which book links Judith Sheindlin and Robert Rinder?

Queen's Men

We were delighted that Josh



Cameron, Callum Mackenzie and Fraser Mackie gained their Queen's Badges, we look forward to an appropriate opportunity that these can be presented.

Looking ahead

Thoughts are already turning to plans for the next session and how to do BB and create a sense of Company against a background of still being physically remote. Hopefully we can get some things on to go over the summer too.



#BBatHOME

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Since the beginning of lockdown, the BB nationally has produced weekly resource packs for each Section with six activities to take part in at home during the week. The six activities reflect the six strands of the Award programme - Get Active, Get Adventurous, Get Creative, Get Into The Bible, Get Involved and Get Learning. These are freely available for anyone to download and use from the BB website, and we have been putting them on our Facebook page, please feel free to have a look and make use of them. There are also short devotional videos and various competitions.

We also made up a virtual treasure trail (trailbb83.wordpress.com) with clues leading to a final railway station destination somewhere on the Strathclyde rail map. Feel free to have a look at that if you have internet access.



Over the last few weeks, food parcels have been delivered to a number of people who attend our Friday lunch club. A big thank you to the David Cargill Centre for delivering these. They were very much appreciated by those who received them. If you still want to refer anyone for a parcel the David Cargill Centre phone number is 0141-632-7391.

Looking ahead we pray for our parish and local community - for local businesses, shops, school and Hampden. There are many people who have gone the extra mile for others during this period - staff at the Minnesota Snooker Club who have been delivering hot meals to those in need, the concierge staff in the high flats helping many in need and Mount Florida Community Council. We also give thanks for all the acts of kindness shown by many in the church and wider community."

Stephen Kennedy

Mission and Community Outreach Team

Grateful thanks is given to Eleanor Campbell who hand wrote all the Easter cards to the whole congregation this Easter. That was a big job and the time you gave to it is much appreciated by everyone. Thanks also Eleanor for sending out all the Informer newsletters too. Your writing-hand must be very sore by now.

Janice Hughes, Pastoral Team

In the Community

In the first month of the pandemic the local community council (MoFloCoCo) held weekly on-line meetings. This was a good opportunity for residents to share time together and discuss our community and our hopes and ideas for the short and longer term. Local Councillors have also joined the calls to give updates and listen to residents' views. During these uncertain weeks, the community has been strengthened by hundreds of acts of kindness. For example, the local snooker hall, Minnesota Fats, has been delivering thirty free 3 course meals every day to local residents. MoFloCoCo has now returned to its local monthly meetings (on-line) and is liaising with the Glasgow City Council to promote social distancing in our community as lock down eases. Another area of activity is the future landscaping of Letherby Triangle, the space across from Tesco (a survey will soon be shared with local residents to get their views on the plans for the space).

Robert Pollock



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



From the Finance Team

It's going to be a tough time for the church this year- instead of celebrating our 10th anniversary with lots of social and hopefully fundraising activities - we face the loss of social contact and isolation and the church will see a drop in income from weekly collections, hall lets and other donations. Whilst there will be some savings on heat and light, the bulk of the costs still need to be met, so your financial and prayerful support will be much appreciated.

Those who regular donate through the weekly freewill offering envelopes and open collections contributed over £20,000 (including gift aid refund) in 2019 so please either keep filling the envelopes for the missing weeks or contact me if you want to donate sooner either by sending a cheque to me or by transferring money into the Church bank account. You could set up a standing order, last year the Church received over £47,000 from the monthly standing orders and without them in the current crisis, I would be really worried.

Thanks also to those who have sent your envelope/cheques to the church and I am able to confirm that these have been gratefully received and banked.

Yours in Christ from a suitable anti-social distance.

Mary MacCallum, Chair of the Finance Team



The Informer Newsletter July Deadline

Sunday 28 June

Magazine Editor

Carol Bolland

Contact via the Session Clerk

email address:- sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk

Puppet Team News

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in the Puppet Team's Crafty Sundays. We are posting a series of those on the Church website and Facebook page on a weekly basis. These are short programmes for children including a puppet telling a Bible story, a link to a craft activity and maybe a song. Children are encouraged to make their own version of the craft and email it to us, so that we can show their creations the following week. Please pass the word to any families you know who might enjoy taking part in this.

Graham and Pamela



Last month I emailed the YPC to let them know about a lockdown event Powerpoint Scotland were having for youth in S1 and upwards. If you are not familiar with Powerpoint, Powerpoint Scotland is a Christian youth event supported by local churches, Scripture Union Scotland and Alpha Scotland. The last event was such a success that another one is planned for Friday 26th June - 7.30-8.20pm. The event includes worship, prayer, a talk and a bit of fun! The talk last month was excellent and so relevant for our young people during these strange times that I would recommend it. This is the link if anyone missed it and would like to watch it back.

<http://www.youtube.com/PowerpointScotland>

Lorraine Kennedy, Vice Chair, Youth Team



Prayer Walking

As you are aware our monthly Prayer Walks have been suspended due to the Lockdown. However, walking hasn't been and many of us are out and about in the community on a daily basis enjoying the exercise. Stephen has come up with the idea of combining our daily walk with prayer. There are so many people who are isolated, anxious, lonely, missing family grieving loved ones, on furlough, concerned about employment and finance and, of course, the business community is suffering dreadfully. Lifting others and their situations to God in prayer as you walk will bring comfort and make a difference to so many. It's always nice to know that someone is praying for you and that you are not forgotten.

