

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 60: July 2020

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

¹⁰And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1st Peter 5 NIVUK)

I was trying to find a Bible verse that captured the sentiment of "light at the end of the tunnel", and this was the closest I could find. From the outset, I should say that isn't really how you're meant to approach the Bible (that is, going in with a pre-conceived idea and finding a passage to justify it).

I would also add that, while the last few months have certainly been difficult and challenging for many reasons, I would hesitate to use the word "suffering". Has it been inconvenient? Yes. Has it been isolating, frustrating, anxiety-inducing, worrying, upsetting? Absolutely! Have we been suffering? No, I don't think so (certainly not in the way Peter has in mind in his letter - he is writing to a Church which is facing persecution in the extreme!).

My point, though, is this: there is light at the end of the tunnel! We're now moving through the "phases" of lifting lockdown. Things are opening up again, and it is becoming easier for us to see friends and family. In many ways, we can breathe a huge sigh of relief, and rightly so. I must, however, share a word of caution: we're not out of the woods yet. And we're certainly not back to normal.

I share this mainly because, as you will have seen and heard, Church buildings can open again! I know many of you have missed meeting together to worship God in our building. And, with grateful thanks to our Covid-team (as we're affectionately calling them!) and the Kirk Session, we are going to be able to open our building soon. This is a wonderful step! I do, however, need to manage your expectations. Because this isn't us opening the building "as normal".

For starters, the building will only be open at set times on set days. When you arrive, you will need to do things like sanitise your hands, put on your mask, sit in a particular place, distanced from anyone else in the building. For now, we are opening to allow people to come for private prayer and reflection: we're not ready to try a service of worship yet. While things are loosening, there are still many guidelines for us to follow, and procedures to put in place. Please be patient with us: it's a lot for us to digest, and we are doing our best to be safe.

While we have to persevere a little longer, we can look to God for help. Although we may not be suffering in the sense that Peter meant, the rest of his words remain true for us: God will restore us, grants us strength, helps us to stand strong and firm. I encourage you to look to God, and know that He is with you and will help you.

In the mean-time, our online ministry continues to develop, and you can see updates for that on the website. We have also begun fortnightly Sunday@7 Live services. We are using the online platform Zoom: which you can still join, even if you don't have internet! If you want to join in, you can either:

Email me: SLove@churchofscotland.org.uk

Call the Church office: 0141 632 4206

The next Sunday@7 Live service will be at 7pm on Sunday 2nd August 2020. I hope you can try and join us for some praise, prayer, reflection, and the celebration of Communion (you need to provide your own bread and wine!).

As always, if I can be of service, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

God bless,

Stuart.

Congregational Register

Deaths

10/06/2020 Mrs Elizabeth Smith

08/07/2020 Miss Margaret Matheson

Next Issue

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

Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

Letherby Triangle Consultation

Mount Florida Community Council has been consulting with the local community for a number of years on how to improve the Letherby Triangle, the space at the junction of Cathcart and Carmunnock Roads beside Mount Florida Primary School. Previous public events and discussions with Glasgow City Council have shaped the outline design, but the community council are keen that local people can provide their thoughts on how the square should look and have designed an online consultation.

You can access it here [Letherby Triangle Consultation](http://www.surveylegend.com/s/2gcd) (www.surveylegend.com/s/2gcd)

The survey is open from Monday 20 July to Monday 3 August. Please complete it and share with you friends and neighbours.

It is good to see life returning to some kind of normality. Last week a few of us did a prayer walk round the community. It was a special time as we prayed for and talked with some of the local shopkeepers and cafe owners. What a privilege to give over to God the needs of the community that God cares for. We need to reflect carefully over the next few months how God wants us to serve the community. This will take time to listen to God and people who live in the parish.

I have kept close contact with staff at the David Cargill centre who are still urgently in need of tinned food. For example, tins of soup, rice. They provide a vital service to older people in the community and value our support. The centre is right across from our friends at Langside church.

We look forward to coming together for worship and being a central meeting point for the community again.

Stephen Kennedy, Mission and Community Outreach Team



Clinicarhill Church Holiday Club 2020

With the Covid 19 restrictions, we have had to change how we deliver the holiday club this year

Using the Bags of Hope material from the Scottish Bible Society, we are planning a virtual holiday club for the week beginning **Monday 3rd August**.

We will be running a daily online (Zoom) event, full of stories, games and fun! Each of the **five online events will begin at 11.30am and last for 30 minutes**. We will also deliver a Bag of Hope to each child with activity cards and craft materials to help them join in the week's activities.

To note your interest, e-mail Youth@clincarthill.org.uk, telling us how many children will be joining in from your household and your address. This will allow us to deliver the Bags of Hope and the invitation to join the Zoom event.

Please pass on the invitation to other interested parents

Mary MacCallum

Holiday Club Co-ordinator

(E-mail: youth@clincarthill.org.uk)

Session Clerk's Update

It's been a difficult time for all of us since Coronavirus first burst on to the scene in March. Not least the fact that we were isolated from each other and Sunday worship was no longer possible. Seventeen weeks later, and things are easing regards lockdown and we can meet folk within certain limits. The Kirk Session has met twice using Zoom and the Internet, and we have agreed plans to re-open Clincarthill. Initially this will be for personal private prayer, where individuals can come to church for prayer and reflection. It will be different from what we're accustomed to, but I believe we have the ability to do it and do it safely.

We plan to re-open Clincarthill Church for individual private prayer from Monday 27th July and to make the church available for all on Monday 10.00am to 12 noon, Wednesday 7.00pm to 9.00pm and Friday 2.00pm to 4.00pm. These days and times will stay the same, throughout July and August. If these arrangements work well, then we hope to open for Sunday worship from late August/early September onwards. All of the above is subject to receiving Presbytery approval and any changes in guidance. So before coming along to the church, please check notices displayed at the church to confirm the opening times or contact your elder, myself or the minister for the latest information on opening times.

On entering the church by the front door and vestibule, you will be required to give your name, address and phone number and this information will be logged for each visit, and kept for 4 weeks. Should anyone who has attended subsequently take ill with Coronavirus, then we have a record of who to contact using the "Track & Trace system" thereby alerting them of the situation. The vestibule will have hand sanitiser, tissues, disposable masks and gloves and rubbish sacks, all available for use by visitors and welcome team. You should use the sanitiser on entry and exit, and preferably bring your own mask to wear if you can. Seating will be arranged to allow for social distancing, with some pews blocked off. There will be a one way system in operation entering the sanctuary by the left hand door/aisle and exiting by the right hand door/aisle and the side door into the garden. The vestibule toilet will be available and we can provide bottled water if requested. Family groups can sit together, but otherwise social distancing should be observed.

I know all of the above sounds daunting, but rest assured we will have people on hand at all times to help you and guide you through the process safely. Please bear in mind the current Scottish Government guidance regarding shielding and those who may be vulnerable with lower immune systems and so on. If you feel you are in such a category, then you should not attend the building, but continue to stay at home and stay safe.

Roger Gann, Session Clerk. Email: sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk, Call: 0141 632 4206

You are invited to join with each other in a new reflective / prayer experience with the enclosed / attached Bible Reflection. The intention is to send this along with the Informer. The hope is that we will be aware of one another as we use the material over the two weeks. If you have any suggestions / questions please don't hesitate to contact Joan Kilpatrick on je-kilpatrick@sky.com or 07751110305. May God bless you as we pray together.



Telephone Prayer Circle

633 5020 649 6733



Bible Reflection 1

This is an opportunity for us to engage, in a prayerful way, with a passage from the Bible. It might be helpful to have a notebook handy so you can write down what comes to you during this reflection.

We begin with a prayer inviting God to be present with us through His Holy Spirit, asking for what He wants us to hear and pay attention to.

The suggested method is to read the passage a couple of times and be aware if there is a word or phrase which grabs your attention. Allow that word / phrase to 'sit' in our minds for a few moments, then use the following questions to help listen to God, you don't need to use all the questions at once they can be gone through over the next few days:

- What is this word / phrase saying to me in my life just now?
- What feelings come up when I reflect on this passage?

What do I need to help me respond to God's Word?

When you are ready note down what God has been saying through this passage. Finish your reflection time with a prayer—perhaps the Lord's Prayer or the one below.

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory
Above the heavens.
From the lips of children and infants
You have ordained praise
Because of your enemies,
To silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens,
The work of your fingers,
The moon and the stars,
Which you have set in place,
What is mankind that you are mindful of him,
Human beings that you care for them?
You made them a little lower
Than the heavenly angels
And crowned them with glory
And honour.

You made them rulers over the
Works of your hands;
You put everything under their feet:
All the flocks and herds
And the beasts of the field,
The birds of the air,
And fish of the sea,
All that swim the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name in all the earth.

Prayer:

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you and praise your
name.
For in perfect faithfulness
you have done marvellous
things,
Things planned long ago.
Amen.

(Isaiah 25: 1)