

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinicarhill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 68: May 2021

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clinicarhill.org.uk

²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard?

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no-one can fathom.*

²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

³¹But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

(Isaiah 40 NIVUK)

I'm weary. And not just because I am naturally a night owl, yet my dear daughter usually chooses to wake up before 6am each day (though, I would say that doesn't help!). No, I'm weary because of the situation through which we are continuing to wade. Yes, it has been good to see restrictions easing and celebrate the possibilities of a much happier and freer summer. But the reminders of the Covid pandemic remain around us, curtailing our lives and our freedoms. From things like mask wearing, to our lack of ability even to hug one another.

Now, let me be clear: I am not about to advocate that we abandon these restrictions! Don't get me wrong; in the throws of weariness, it is certainly tempting to give in and ignore the guidelines. But remember; these things are in place for our good, and for the good of others. When we give in, we make a selfish choice which potentially puts others at risk. As Christians, we in particular must strive to follow the selfless choice.

Here's the question: how can we keep going, keep persevering, when we are tired and weary? To answer that, I suggest the above passage of Scripture. I was interested to realise this is the second time this year I've turned to Isaiah 40 in one of these letters. It reminds me once again about the importance of Isaiah's prophecy: especially how the prophet was able to share such a hopeful message in dark and dreary circumstances.

His overall point is this: those who put their trust in worldly things will stumble and fall. Do you trust your own strength? One day, it will fail. Or your intelligence? Eventually you will meet someone smarter than you. What about family and friends? Sadly, no one is completely reliable. What about the economy or our job? Well, recent circumstances have demonstrated that these things are fragile and cannot be trusted.

Those who put their trust in the LORD, on the other hand, will not suffer from the same disappointment. In God, we find one who is totally dependable, completely trustworthy, eternally loving, and who cares for us more deeply than we even care for ourselves! He loved us so much that He was willing to come down to our level, reconciling us to Himself in Christ, so that all who put their faith in Him are brought back to Him.

When we live for God instead of ourselves, suddenly we can persevere through difficult times because we know the LORD is on our side! He gives us His strength. More than that, thanks to His love for us, we have a place waiting for us beyond death: a New Creation, living as God intended, free of all the evils of this world.

My message to us all (and believe me, this is one for me as much as for you!) is to trust in the LORD. Lean on Him. Share honestly with Him. Let Him fill you with your strength. Let Him help you keep going, even if you are tired and weary. May the strength of God keep us all going until better days, which are coming.

Stuart

The usual reminder that you can still connect with our services of worship online, in the following way:

On Zoom

If you have a computer, laptop or smartphone, you can either use the Zoom app, or visit www.zoom.us.

Alternatively, on a normal telephone, you can dial 0131 460 1196.

(Remember - if you have a phone package which grants you a free-hour, you may need to hang up and dial back in to avoid being charged for the call).

Either way, when asked, please input the following information:

Meeting ID: 960 694 6264

Passcode: 012230

On YouTube

Simply visit www.youtube.com and search for Clinicarhill Church.

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2021

Christian Aid is a charity who have a belief that poverty can be ended based on our understanding of scripture and the work of a creative, loving God. They were established so that the sponsoring churches and others 'could respond to Christ's command to care for all in need'. Clincarthill Church of Scotland are one of the sponsoring churches.

Jesus called his followers to 'love God and love your neighbour'. Through His life and teaching, His death and His resurrection, He inspired His followers to love God, love their neighbours and long for justice

Our faith in God, and in His loving relationship with us, gives us confidence and hope that poverty can be ended, despite all that might stand in the way.

Film—clip <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/appeals/christian-aid-week-churches-film>

This year's annual appeal focuses on climate change and the impact of drought. Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water. Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. The people in our film need every drop to survive the drought.

Together we STOP this climate crisis.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

Our desire is to continue to support this annual appeal for Christian aid. Envelopes will be included with the Informer distribution and will also be available to be collected at the church throughout May. Please leave with the Elders who meet you at the door of the church or pass on to one of the Elders to bring it to church for you. If you are not able to do that due to shielding reasons, please let me know and I will collect it for you (0790 80 10166)

If you still wish to donate to Christian aid, and this is not practical for you, please use the website or phone **020 7523 2269** to donate by telephone. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate>

We are hosting a special Christian Aid breakfast to share fellowship

Clincarthill Christian Aid Breakfast

Saturday 15th May 2021 at 10am on Zoom

Join Online:

Visit: www.zoom.us Or open the Zoom App on your laptop/tablet.

Meeting ID: 993 3118 0287

Passcode: 012230

Join by Phone:

Dial: 0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 993 3118 0287

Passcode: 012230

Thanks for your continued support

Elaine Harvey

Christian Aid week coordinator



Garden Cafe

We plan to have an outdoor garden cafe on a Monday and will need volunteers. It is hoped this can start in June and run till August if we get enough volunteers.

We will need 3 volunteers each Monday from 10am till 1pm. Depending on restrictions improving tables will be socially distanced outside as we have plenty space. It will be an important opportunity to reconnect with each other and our neighbours.

Please let Stephen Kennedy know if you can assist.

Next Issue

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



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

From the Session Clerk

The latest news about our church and the Covid-19 restrictions since 26th April is complicated but good news. We have been operating on Sundays using the sanctuary and the large hall and this works quite well. We can now use our Gallery for a limited number of folk – around 8 to 12 spaces, but before we do this we need to prepare the space. We'll do this as soon as we can. The restriction of a maximum of 50 people no longer applies, BUT we are still restricted with the 2 metre distancing requirement and a new capacity calculation is required. This means our numbers for the sanctuary remain restricted; in total to around 65 – 70 people; similarly with the Large Hall. When you come to worship, please do book a seat in advance by calling or e-mailing Eleanor Campbell (569 7346 eleanor.campbell@clincarthill.org.uk). And, remember we continue to pray for each other and for you and your families each week on Wednesdays at 8.00 pm for one hour. You are very welcome to join us on Zoom for this. We pray for a different elder's district each week, along with prayers for this who are ill or bereaved. We pray for all the church family groups too, especially thinking of the children and younger folk who've had such a difficult 15 months to cope with. If Zoom isn't your thing, then you can still come along to the church on Friday afternoons between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm and sit in quietness for personal prayer.

I do hope and pray for that day when all restrictions are lifted and we can sing our hearts out. Do keep well and keep safe. God bless.

Roger Gann

THANK YOU

The Pastoral team would like to take this opportunity to thank Grace Dobbins as she steps down from her role as the Flower convenor.

Grace has given so much of her time and talent to ensure, with her team, that week after week for over 20 years there has been a wonderful display every Sunday and for every festival and special occasion. It never went unnoticed, there were always comments on how colourful and uplifting the arrangements were. Your service has been a blessing to the people of the church and because of that service you are blessed of God. We are all given a talent or gift to use in the service of God and you have most certainly given of yours, we thank you and pray for you as you continue to share your faith in other ways.

[1 Peter 4:10 NIV](#)

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Prayer Diary April

"... I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 9:24

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121

In your prayers this month give thanks for the ongoing re-opening of schools, churches and businesses

This month please also remember:

The Queen and her family as they mourn the death of Prince Philip

Each team as God's will is sought for the ongoing work of the church in Mount Florida. Teams are: *Communication, Finance and Stewardship, Maintenance and Eco, Mission and Community Outreach, Pastoral, Worship and Christian growth and Youth*

Peace and stability in Northern Ireland

Upcoming Scottish elections

Covid-19

Countries still struggling to bring Covid- 19 under control

Ongoing vaccination rollout throughout the world

World

A resolution to the continuing political unrest in Myanmar

The country of Israel

Pray for the peace, prosperity and salvation of Israel

Resolution to the tensions between Israel and Iran over Iran's uranium enrichment programme

Notes/personal prayer topics/answers to prayers

2020 Annual Report and Accounts

It has been some time since I have managed to in on time to contribute to the newsletter but since the annual accounts have now been approved and audited, here is an extract from the Annual report and accounts. If you want to read the full report, please let me know and I'll send you a copy.

Finance Report:

Income: Normally, our principal sources of income are regular weekly and monthly offerings from members, tax refunds through Gift Aid along with rental income from use of church premises by outside organisations.

The Income graph shows the trends in income from 2016 to 2020 and reflects the impact of the Covid19 restrictions.

During 2020, unrestricted income from Offerings, Gift Aid Tax Refunds, legacies and donations amounted to £74,703 (£267,457). We relied on the regular offerings from members as our main source of income as Hall Rental income decreased to £1,700 (£16,113) and the income from Charitable Activities decreased to £1,754 (£4,651) as the donations from the church organisations were reduced.

Total Income across all funds for 2020 was £85,188 (£303,086), the decrease emphasised due to the receipt of a large legacy in the previous year.

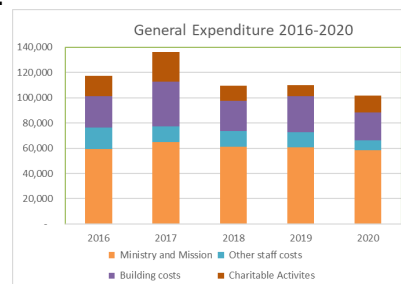
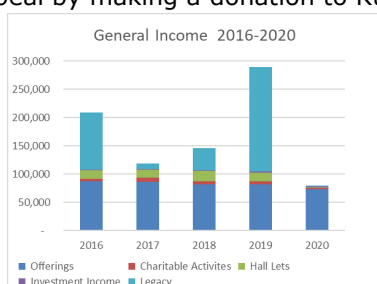
Expenditure: Expenditure from unrestricted funds totalled £101,759 (£109,687). Our Ministry & Mission and presbytery dues were £55,746 (£60,613) and although less than the previous year, it remains the largest charge on the General Fund and at the current level is a major concern for the trustees.

This year, the general expenditure was less than the previous year as we saved on Gas and Electricity although we incurred additional office costs as we sent regular newsletters to members who do not have digital access as well as sending Christmas cards to the whole parish for the first time. Further expenditure was incurred to enable us to record and live stream the services.

Overall, the General Fund incurred a deficit of £21,358 (£5,189) which was funded by the Legacy Fund.

Our principal restricted fund is the Building Fund, £4,625 (£568) was spent carpeting the gallery early in the year when we were expecting to be celebrating our 10th anniversary and installing cabling to upgrade the WiFi throughout the church buildings. This fund continues to be supported by regular monthly donations from a few members.

We had only one regular retiring offering before the covid restrictions but the Kirk Session agreed to make a donation to the Lodging House Mission in lieu of the retiral offerings at Communion as well as responding to the Glasgow Presbytery appeal by making a donation to Kurni School.



Movement of Funds	At 1st January 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Unrealised Gains (Losses) £	Transfers £	At 31st December 2020 £
Endowment Funds						
Miss Mills' Legacy	763	29	-	13	(29)	775
DP Hood Bequest	983	23	(23)	(37)	-	946
Mrs JP Hood Bequest	915	22	(22)	(34)	-	880
	2,661	74	(45)	(58)	(29)	2,601
Restricted Funds						
Building Fund	6,984	1,984	(4,625)	-	29	4,372
Art & Craft Group	17	30	(40)	-	-	7
Coffee Club	2	141	(134)	-	-	9
Guild	2,484	626	(1,250)	-	-	1,860
Luncheon Club	54	502	(410)	-	-	147
83rd Boys Brigade	462	1,333	(619)	-	-	1,176
	10,004	4,616	(7,078)	-	29	7,571
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	-	79,409	(100,767)	-	21,358	-
Legacy Fund	330,038	1,000	-	-	(21,906)	309,132
Assets Fund	245,485	-	-	(873)	-	244,612
Designated Funds						
Flower Fund	141	40	(175)	-	-	7
Worship and Christian Growth Fund	1,383	-	-	-	-	1,383
Mission & Community Outreach Fund	228	50	(60)	-	-	218
Maintenance and Eco Fund	200	-	-	-	-	200
Pastoral Care Fund	200	-	(75)	-	75	200
Communications Fund	200	-	(473)	-	473	200
Finance & Stewardship Fund	200	-	-	-	-	200
Youth Fund	1,673	-	(209)	-	-	1,464
	579,748	80,499	(101,759)	(873)	-	557,615
Total Funds	592,412	85,188	(108,881)	(932)	-	567,788

Donations to support other charities in the year totalled £1,518 (£3,675), this money was collected through the congregation and organisations and included the following donations from the Baird Penny Collection which Doris Stott kindly helps to collect and bank.

Glasgow City Mission -£20

The Well- £ 20

Blythswood Care -£20

Leprosy Mission Scotland £20

Tearfund - £ 20

And for this year - Finance Report as at end March 2021

Offerings & Donations Income Table							
Week	14	31-Mar-21	Income to Date		Variance: +/-		Full Year
Income Type			2021	2020	£	%	2020
Offerings			13,542	14,368	-826	-6%	56,791
Tax Recovered			0	0	-0	-	9,452
Open Collection			274	881	-607	-69%	1,608
Donations (personal)			50	0	50	-	549
Donations (church organisations)			0	175	-175	-100%	275
Hall Lets			0	0	0	0%	4,038
Donations - funerals			100	310	-210	-68%	865
Other			1,023	76	947	0%	1591
Total Income			14,989	15,809	-820	-5%	75,168

Expenditure							
Week	14	31-Mar-21	2021ACT	2021 ACT vs FY BUD	% 2021ACT vs FY BUD	2021	2020
National Ministry & Mission			10,451	37,861	22%	48,312	58,399
Local Staffing			586	8,504	6%	9,090	1,269
Buildings			4,146	20,432	17%	24,578	0
Other Local Costs			2,430	5,680	30%	8,110	718
Total			17,613	72,477	20%	90,090	60,386

We are currently forecasting a deficit of about £15,000 for the year which is after a reduction £10,000 in our annual ministry and mission contribution. Hopefully, the lifting some of the Covid restrictions will allow hall lets to resume as well as enabling us to have some social activities which will be good for our mental and spiritual health.

Further news from the Finance Team –

When you are back in the church -you will see posters with this paypal QR (quick response) code. If you have the paypal app on your mobile phone, you can scan the code to make an on-line donation to the church. Please feel free to try it out to check it works!

Now the wifi is working throughout the church buildings, we will be purchasing contactless card readers to enable cashless donations especially for all of you who have converted to the cashless society during the lockdown!! We are finally catching up with the 21st century in 2021.

Thank you for your continued support with makes my life a lot easier.

Mary MacCallum – Treasurer.



Scan. Pay. Go.

Clincarthill Parish Church - Bible Reflection 8

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.

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.

This passage from Luke's Gospel lends itself to the imagination—to put yourself in the two disciples' place, to be aware of *you* feel being in this situation. Then use the following questions to help with your conversation with God. You don't need to use all the questions at once they can be gone through over in the following days and weeks.

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 or something familiar to you.

- How are you feeling when you read this familiar story?
- What helps you to recognise Jesus in your everyday life?
- What would you like to say to Jesus now you know who He is?

Luke 240: 13-32 *The Road to Emmaus* (from *The Message*)

That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was. He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?" He said, "What has happened?"

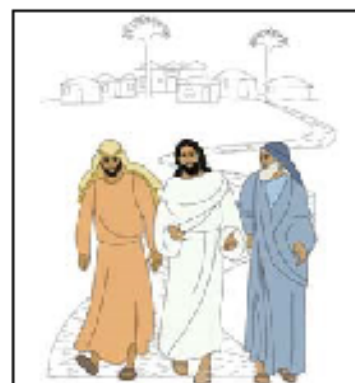
They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."

Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?" Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?"

Prayer: God of resurrection, ever renewing, ever reviving, we adore You for Your life-giving presence. Son of Man, newly risen, sorrow made joy, we adore You for Your sacrificial living and dying. Holy Spirit, breeze among us this Easter, we adore You for breathing new life into us. Amen.



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