

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 70: August 2021

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

*⁶A voice says, 'Cry out.'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'*

*'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.*

*⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.'
(Isaiah 40 NIVUK)*

What will be your legacy?

An atheist friend of mine argued that this was what gave her life meaning: the fact that, many years from the point of her death, she would be remembered. The problem with this is that, eventually, people fall out of memory. True, there are some from history who are remembered today, but that is usually the tyrants, not the saints. And it is rarely ordinary people. Most everyday folk will pass out of memory within a generation or two; and I would certainly guess that by the time a century has passed, they are forgotten.

How can we leave a legacy which will be remembered?

Some have tired: monuments, statues, buildings, testaments to who they were and what they did. Perhaps these things work for a time, but if recent events show us anything it is that these things are no guarantee of being remembered. Some become targets as modern evaluations of history highlight the troubling contribution of these figures. Others simply become obscure, forgotten, lying unattended in the corner of some park or museum. Eventually, without due care, attention or interest, these things decay and collapse; the legacy is forgotten.

We cannot, therefore, trust in either memory or bricks and mortar to stand as our legacy. Truly, the prophet was right. We are like grass: it grows in its time, but so easily withers and dies when that time passes, only to be forgotten and replaced by whatever grows next.

What lasting impact can we have on our world?

Only with the LORD. The prophet assures us that the Word of the LORD endures forever. God existed in eternity past, and will exist for eternity to come. He alone endures, He alone can have a truly lasting impact. If we want to leave a legacy, if we want to be remembered, if we want to have a lasting impact on our world: we must stand with Him.

First, we know we will last forever with God because He promises this will be the case. In the death and resurrection of Christ, our separation from God is healed and we are promised new, eternal life beyond death. When we rise again, never to decay or die, we will last forever. Our concern for "legacy" will become obsolete. If we never die, we never need worry about being remembered, or our impact, for we will live on and on, contributing for all eternity to God's New Creation.

Second, as followers of Jesus, our legacy or impact is seen in the next generation of Christians. We follow Jesus today because the previous generation realised the need to share the faith with us. You can track this process back through history, as one generation shared with another, right back to the moment Jesus first taught the faith to His disciples. The greatest legacy we can leave is by allowing God to work through us to bring the next generation of people to faith.

As we prepare to undertake the work required of us in the development of a new Presbytery Plan, I hope we can realise the above, and know that the impact and future of our congregation is not dependent upon decisions of officials within our denomination, but on our desire to allow God to work through us to share the Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In His Name, Stuart.

From the Session Clerk

Covid-19 Restrictions:

From 19th July Covid-19 restrictions eased once again moving to Level 0. Therefore from Sunday 25th July worship arrangements are as follows:-

- Social distancing is 1 metre within the building
- Centre Pews can accommodate 4 couples or 6 singles
- Side Pews can accommodate 2 couples or 3 singles
- Family groups can all sit together, so 3 to 6 people in a household can sit in 1 pew
- Face masks must still be worn inside the building, unless exempt
- Singing is permissible but you must still wear a mask while singing

Our Physical Distance-Based Capacity Limit (PDBC) notices have been adjusted to accommodate increased numbers with effect from 21st July as follows:-

- Sanctuary Downstairs 72 positions
- Sanctuary Gallery 22 positions
- Large Hall 50 positions
- Small Hall 30 positions

A further relaxation of regulations is likely sometime later in August and I'll let you know in due course.

Covid-19 Track & Trace:

We had people worshipping on Sunday 18th July who subsequently tested positive by Monday. To ensure Clincarthill dealt correctly with the matter the Church of Scotland Covid-19 team in Edinburgh were contacted on the Tuesday and provided all the necessary information for us to continue church activities safely. To that end the sanctuary was thoroughly cleaned on the Friday morning, with all seats and surface areas thoroughly cleaned and wiped. We were advised that no further action was required and we did not need to contact people who were at worship on the 18th. The Scottish Track & Trace system will contact the church if they feel it is necessary, either contacting me or through Law department. As I write on Sunday 25th July there has been no such contact, therefore I must assume the risk is regarded as minimal and no further action is required. I hope that explains the position. Should anyone test positive who has attended worship within 10 days, please do ensure you contact Track & Trace via the NHS and explain you attended church on whatever date. If they deem it necessary, they will contact us and I will then let you know what action if any is required.

The Future:

We continue with our Monday Garden Café each week between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. If you haven't tried it, do come along. It's a really good place to meet safely with other folk in the garden (weather permitting), and absolutely free.

Sunday Worship teas and coffees were enjoyed in the garden on Sunday 25th for the first time in 16 months and much appreciated. I'm hoping folk can volunteer to continue with this from now on, using the Large Hall when required.

The weekly prayer meeting continues on Zoom, but we hope to return to a physical meeting in August.

Blessings, Roger Gann, Session Clerk, sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk

Notes/personal prayer topics/answers to prayers

Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

Next Issue will be at the end of August

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



Telephone Prayer Circle

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