

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 72: October 2021

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

¹⁶You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. (Psalm 51 NIVUK)

⁶For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6 NIVUK)

The two issues rattling around in my head at the moment relate to concerns about our services of worship and our focus on the 5 Marks of Mission, asking what it means to be a missional Church.

I was speaking to a more experienced and far wiser Minister about these things, and he said something like this:

"In Church, we tend to think of Sunday worship as the 'be all and end all', when in fact, what most people are looking for is a sense of family. People want a place where they feel welcome, where they feel like they belong. If people feel like they are part of a family, they will be willing to put up with an awful lot."

The same Minister pointed me to some research conducted by Nicky Gumbel: creator of Alpha, and Minister of Holy Trinity Brompton, in London. He asked those who had left the Church why they did so. Around 10% of responders said it was because of something "up front" (i.e. during a service of worship). The other 90% said it came down to an issue between members of the Church family.

I have become aware of an attitude in our congregation which suggests that, unless our services of worship are of a particular style or quality, then will either lose people, or they won't come at all. The evidence - both anecdotal and statistical - would wholly contradict this.

I have said this before, but I am guessing people do not believe me, so I shall say this again. I intimately know two congregations, which are strong and thriving. One has very traditional services of worship, the other more contemporary. If style is the mark of growth, then how can both be thriving with such differences? It is because in both places, there is a strong sense of what it means to be a Church family: welcoming, caring, loving, providing a sense of belonging.

Into all this, God speaks. It is something of an anachronism, but we could read the above verses in this way, "I do not desire perfectly choreographed and produced services of worship. I take no pleasure in 'high production value'. My desire is that my People would humble themselves before Me, hear My call, and obey by going into the world to seek justice, love mercy, and share the Gospel."

If we want to be a "forward looking Church", then what we need to be chiefly concerned about is building this strong sense of belonging, of being part of a Church family, who care for and love one another. Indeed, it is this sense of family which should be our motivation for staying in a particular congregation. If you are only sticking around because you prefer a particular style then, frankly, we have failed you as a Church; because we have not succeeded in making you feel like a part of the family. If that is the case, please let me know, for we need to do better.

This does not mean if you have concerns you cannot share them with me. But therein lies another problem - I first became aware of these things, not because someone asked to discuss them with me, but through the grapevine in the build up to a meeting. I find this very disappointing, and I wonder how I am expected to address issues if they aren't actually raised with me?

In all this, we acknowledge that it is God who grows His Kingdom, it is God who calls people to faith. The challenge He issues us is that, if we want to be part of this, then we need to respond to His call, and be more concerned about how we build a Church family to which people want to belong.

In His Service,
Stuart

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

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. 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 Clincarthill Church.

You will be directed to our YouTube channel. The live stream will become available at around 10:55am.

HELP REQUIRED

Is it not nice to see the children back in Church amongst us and to have the sound of laughter and joy ringing round the Church as they join us for the conclusion of Sunday Worship? This has brought us a situation that we are now needing more help on a Sunday morning to help with the children in order that we can set up a rota system to allow the present leaders some free Sundays to join us in worship.

Please have a think if this is something you can help with for a couple of weeks at a time or would like some more information on what we are asking you to do. Please contact me Graham Kilpatrick either on a Sunday morning or at youth@clincarthill.org.uk

FILM NIGHT

The youth team are having a film night on Saturday 23rd October in the church. We are showing the film 'Luca' which is the new Disney Pixar film. Doors open at 6.15 (film starts at 6.30). FREE entry. There will be a small tuck shop but feel free to bring your own snacks. Hope to see you then.

Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team



Thank you to the family of Eleanor Wright (Mitchell) who generously donated £100 in her memory, to the Church Flower Fund.

L. Graham
Flower Convenor

THE GUILD

The Guild begins it's new session on Monday, October 4th at 7.30pm. With the Small Hall being out of use at present, we will be meeting in the Large hall. At present, Covid restrictions require that entry will be by the door from the gardens, and exit to Battlefield Road. Masks will require to be worn unless at tea/coffee time and Track and Trace will be in place. This is the start of a new three year programme and Projects under the title 'Look forward in Faith'. This year the theme is 'Lights and Bushels'. We have a full programme and will warmly welcome all those who come along.

October 4 - Opening social and AGM 2020

October 11 - Guild theme 'Lights and Bushels' Rev. Stuart Love

October 18 - Mission Aviation Fellowship Andy Martin

October 25 - Musical Tour of Scotland Sandra Middleton



THANKS

Thanks to everyone who came along to support our family fun day on Saturday 4th September. It was a huge success with around 80 families attending. Thanks also to our amazing team who helped put it all together. Great teamwork!

It was also great to see so many of our young folk and their families at our back to church service on Sunday 5th September and at our services since then. The life and energy around the church when the young folk are in is a blessing and we are so pleased to see you all again after a long 18 months away.

Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team.

Next Issue deadline Sunday 31 October

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

Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

Prayer Diary October

"When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you." ... Isaiah 43:2

In your prayers this month give thanks for the:

- # Growing knowledge and understanding scientists have of the Covid virus
- # Opening up and recovery of the economy as restrictions continue to be eased

Please also pray for the:

- # Financial implications and impact of the energy crisis on all
- # All struggling financially, especially those with children

World

- # Wisdom for governments as they continue to seek to find compassionate, sustainable support strategies for asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants
- # Our fellow Christians who continue to be persecuted for their faith in so many countries world wide
- # Upcoming Cop 26 conference will be a strong foundation for future actions in tackling climate crisis

The country of Venezuela

- # The unprecedented humanitarian crisis facing the population
- # The 5.4 million people who have fled the country seeking food, employment and shelter

An Update on Prayer

In response to a suggestion the Worship and Christian Growth Team developed a monthly prayer activity calendar that is hoped will have something for everyone.

The first activity took place in September. The theme was "How our church community responded to the challenges presented by covid restrictions."

It was uplifting to see how creative our Southside Church partners had responded to those challenges. Of course, use of modern IT and Zoom featured significantly, but so did good old-fashioned letter writing and letterbox conversations - amongst other things.

A copy of the proposed calendar is included but as this is very much a trial we would really appreciate suggestions for future inclusions. Please share your thoughts and ideas with Joan Kilpatrick or any other member of the team.

September : Southside Joint Prayer Breakfast hosted by Clincarthill

October : Parish perimeter prayer walk

November : Southside Joint Prayer Breakfast hosted by Queens Park/Govanhill

December : Advent Prayer Supper Evening

January : Prayer Labyrinth Open Afternoon to reflect on the new year

The Worship and Christian Growth team have mounted a Prayer Box on the railings next to the church gardens in Cathcart Road.

Please encourage anyone you know in need of prayer support to put their request in the box and they will be prayed for by the prayer team.

No names or personal details need be included and data protection procedures are followed.

The Prayer Box is emptied daily.



Telephone Prayer Circle



Telephone Prayer Circle

632 4206



The Telephone Prayer Circle has been in existence for at least 40 years. It began as a means of contact when something happened unexpectedly or in an emergency. A group within the congregation are committed to begin to pray immediately for the situation. In present times there are around 12 people who are contacted by TEXT to pray when notified.

The contact numbers for requests appear in the Orders of Service and in the monthly magazine. Remember there are always people ready to pray for you and urgent situations in confidence.

Please leave a message if no reply.

Clinarthill Parish Church - Bible Reflection 10

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.

October is the time in the church's calendar to remind ourselves of all that God has provided for us through His Creation. Psalm 67 is one of praise for God's justice and care, for a harvest of both food and people.

Once you've read the Psalm a couple of times, be aware of any word or phrase has struck you, then, use the following questions to help your prayer. The questions are just a guide over the following days and weeks, it may be that something else has come to mind for prayer, go with it as it's a sign God has something else in mind.

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

- What do you want to praise God for? Are you able to praise God at this time?
- What kind of harvest are you waiting for—crops, people, healing, or something else?

Bible Reading: Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
And make his face to shine upon us,
That your ways may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.

May the peoples praise you, O God;
May all the peoples praise you.
May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
For you rule the peoples justly
And guide the nations of the earth.
May the peoples praise you, O God;
May all the peoples praise you.

Then the land will yield its harvest,

Prayer:

Teach me, Lord, that the skills and ingenuity you have given humankind can either sustain your creation or destroy it. Remind me that the fate of the planet is in our hands, each having a part to play. Remind me that the fate of Your Kingdom is also in our hands. Help me to do my bit faithfully, and grant that others may do the same. Amen

