

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 74: December 2021

Letter from the Session Clerk

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Advent has arrived; the church year is renewed and begins once again. It seems strange to think that as we're so focussed on the secular calendar with December as the final month of the year, but for Christians, December brings the expectation of new birth in Jesus Christ and an end to the silence of 400 years since the prophecy of Malachi. While trying to ensure our services through Advent and beyond are planned, and hoping and praying that everything goes smoothly, I have to remind myself to listen to God and pray for His wisdom and guidance and that His plans become our plans, and through everything we do, we glorify Him as we celebrate the birth of Christ. I hope and pray for our minister and his family that he regains his strength and fitness and has ample time for reflection and that the Lord will provide healing, wisdom and strength for him. Do keep Stuart and the family in your prayers.

Glasgow Presbytery has appointed Rev. Jim Teasdale of Eastwood Parish church as our Interim Moderator, during Stuart's absence. Jim has kindly offered pastoral support should the need arise, and he will chair any Kirk Session meeting that is required. If you do have any pastoral needs requiring a minister, please let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements.

Regarding Sunday worship we are blessed with the number of people gifted in leading us in preaching, praying, scripture readings and all age addresses. I am grateful to all who have stepped in to guide us Sunday by Sunday. Do please speak to me if you would like to read scripture or lead us in prayer at Sunday worship. We're not a 'closed shop' and always looking for more people gifted in this way. So to Joan, Sheila, Linda Walker, Willie Black and the Puppet Ministry (Graham & Pamela Shankland) and many more who lead us in prayer and with readings, please accept my thanks for all that you do, and God's blessing on you all.

Sunday Worship:

Advent services will be led by the Rev. Willie Black for the remaining Sundays in Advent with additional help from our Puppet Team and young people.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Friday 24th December at 6.30pm with mince pies etc. after the service. All are welcome.

Christmas Day at 11.00 am we'll have a short 30 minute service of carols greeting the birth of Jesus and the chance to meet up before family re-unions get going later on.

Boxing Day Sunday 26th will be a service of lessons and carols, a time to reflect on what's passed and the future that lies ahead. And that leads us into the New Year with Joan Kilpatrick leading us in worship. Rev. Linda Walker will lead us for the rest of January and we'll have the opportunity to celebrate communion on 9th January.

We plan to have the Christmas decorations in place for Sunday 12th December which is our Gift Service where we will be happy to receive gifts for Lodging House Mission/City Mission and toys for the Preshal Trust. We plan to look out the trees and decorations on Thursday 9th December and get the halls and sanctuary all decorated.

As we prepare for Christmas keep praying for God's guidance and help; I hope each and every one of you has a blessed and happy time spent with family and friends at Christmas, For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Roger Gann, Session Clerk.

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.

FILM NIGHTS

Our film nights over the last couple of months have been really appreciated and well attended by our local community. It has been great to see so many parents/children and these have been a good opportunity for us to meet and get to know families from the local area. Our tuck shop has also went down really well with the children (thanks Jim for your kind donation towards it). Also, thanks to everyone who has supported our film nights and to all who have helped on the night. It is very much appreciated – thank you!

Lorraine Kennedy, Youth Team

A Christmas Poem

BC-AD

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect

Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

Ursula Askham Fanthorpe (1929 - 2009)

CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE

Our Christmas Gift service is on Sunday 12th December at 11am. As always monetary gifts are much appreciated and these will go to the Lodging House Mission and Glasgow City Mission. Gifts in Kind are also appreciated. As always the gifts of toys for children from birth to teenage years will go to the Preshal Trust in Govan.

The Lodging House Mission will take toiletries and gloves, scarves and socks but a special plea has gone out on behalf of the male clients for shaving foam and boxer shorts sizes medium and large - items they seem to run out of. Sweets and chocolate are appreciated for both LHM and the Glasgow City Mission. The money we send to both these charities help fund meals over the Christmas and New Year season.

Thank you. Sheila Morrow



THE GUILD in December/January

December 6 - Christmas Theme On Our Own

December 13 - Christmas party night with Jordanhill Handbell Ringers

December 20 - No Guild

December 27 - No Guild

2022

January 3 - No Guild

January 10 - Armchair exercises - Irene Hay

The Guild welcomes anyone who wishes to come to any of the meetings advertised.



Congregational Register:

Death

Mrs. Anna Palfreman died 22nd November 2021

Change of Address

Mrs. Gloria Smith, change of address to Burnfield Care Home, 34 Burnfield Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 7PZ.

Next Issue deadline Sunday 26 December

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

Friday Senior Diners

The above Club will stop on Friday 17th December for the Christmas Holidays and re-open on Friday 7th January when we look forward to seeing you all back and hopefully some new Diners.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Sheila Peachey.

Puppet Team

The Puppet Team decided against a concert again this year in view of the current situation. However, a small group of us will be leading the all Age Talks throughout the season of Advent when we will be using sketches and songs to tell the Christmas story from the point of view of the angel Gabriel.

We will also be taking part in the Family Service at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve and hope that many of you will be able to join us then too.

Graham Shankland
Clincarthill Puppet team

Christmas is coming. More importantly Jesus has come into the world to show us he loves us and because of that we can have new life.

As we get busy it is good to stop and remember who we believe in. As we celebrate let's refocus on the real reason for the season.

The mission team look forward to serving you refreshments on Saturday 4th December between 10 till 1pm during our annual event to support the work of Bethany Christian trust. Come Along as we would love to see you.

On Christmas Eve we have our family service at 6.30. Before that we gather for Carol singing from 6pm. All are welcome. We will gather in the gardens.

At this time of year we think of local mission organisations who care for the lonely such as Glasgow city mission and Lodging house mission. They need your help both financially and practically throughout the year. Please pray for the staff and volunteers.

We also give thanks for the ongoing work in cities of the street pastors. A few of our own folk helped with this organisation during COP 26.

As we move into a new year pray for the mission of the local church as it changes. We pray for a church that is bold and courageous and not ashamed of who we believe in.

Pray for new opportunities to do things differently and to reach out to our community in new ways.

We give thanks for all who serve the community including the schools, community council, politicians and the many local folk who do so much to make the area a better place to live.

Merry Christmas

From the Mission and Community Outreach team

Stephen Kennedy



Telephone Prayer Circle
0141 632 4206



Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

Clincarthill Parish Church - Bible Reflection 11

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.

We are rapidly approaching Christmas, a time for celebrating the birth of our Saviour and Lord. For this month our reflection is on the words of John the Baptist in Luke 3 as he proclaims *who* is coming and how lives will be changed for the better through his life and ultimate sacrifice. John is also fulfilling the prophecy from Isaiah.

- What word or phrase stands out as you read these verses?
- What do you think Jesus is saying to you through what has struck you?
- Who is waiting for you at the end of the road below?

When you've read the passage 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 perhaps write or draw something that reminds you of your reflections. Finish your time with a prayer—perhaps the Lord's Prayer or the one below or something familiar to you.

Bible Reading: Luke 3: 1—6

John the Baptist prepares the way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

³ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God's salvation.'"

Prayer:

O Lord, my God,

God of the prophets and God of the now, You are
with me.

Your power gives me victory.

You take delight in me.

And in love, You give me new life.

Hear me as I come to You today. Amen

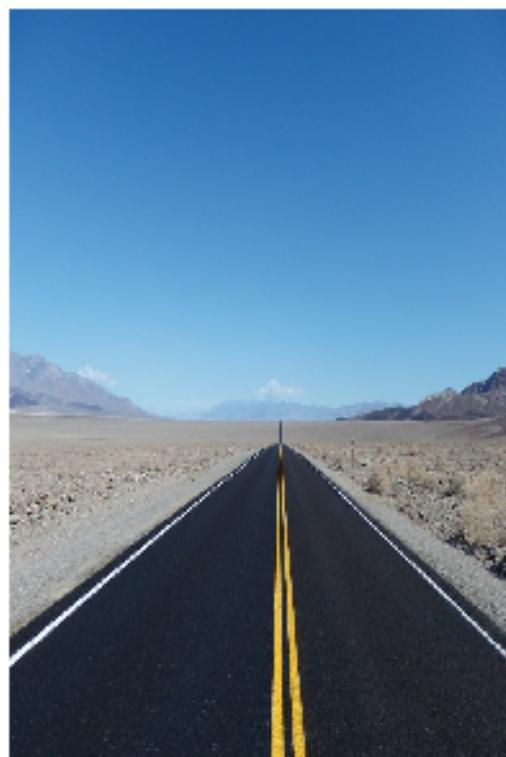


Image from Unsplash by Ilse Orsel