

The Informer



The Newsletter of Cliccarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 78: April 2022

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.cliccarthill.org.uk

He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth.' (Psalm 46:10 NIVUK)

As unpleasant as it was, and as much as it is not something I would have chosen for myself, I really did learn a lot during my 4 months of being signed off. The LORD our God was good, and has shown me much about myself, my faith, and what really matters in terms of serving Him in ministry. I hope, over the course of the next wee while, to gradually share my insights with you, that you might benefit from my painful experience.

On this occasion, as I write this first pastoral letter in months, I am aware of the other document I have just completed - the update on the Presbytery Mission Plan and how it affects our congregation. I wrote that one first because it mostly just contains information and facts - easier to write than a more thoughtful reflection. But that acts as a backdrop of busy-ness to my wonderings here.

Busy-ness seems to be the way of things. I'm not sure when that became the expectation in our society, but it seems that, if you're not busy, you're somehow not "doing life" right. My suspicion is that this attitude is fuelled by secularisation: as increasingly large numbers of people believe that this life is all we get, there is greater pressure to fill it, make sure you get the most out of it, because once it's gone, it's gone.

As Christians, our approach ought to be different... but often is not. "Church" is a place of busy-ness, where we run to and fro, organising this, completing that, and then moving on to the next thing, exhausting ourselves in the process.

That should not be!

Contrasting all this, the LORD says, "be still and know that I am God".

Be still. Could you do that? Maybe you think, "I can't sit still!". Ok then - don't. Go for a walk instead. The point of this command (and notice, it is a command!) is not that we find a way to stay still. Rather, it is to seek a way to encounter the LORD: to allow His still, small voice to cut through the busy-ness of our lives. This takes intention and purpose: it doesn't just happen. We need to make a commitment to say, "yes, I will be still. Yes, I will take time to know You as my LORD and my God".

The antidote to busy-ness is not more busy-ness, thinking, "if only I could get these things done, then I might have time to stop!". I can tell you - no matter how hard you push yourself, there will always be something else.

The antidote, as counter intuitive as this is, is actually to slow down. To breathe slowly. To recentre our scattered senses upon the presence of the LORD. The be still and know that He is God. This is certainly one thing I have learned in recent months: our faith is counter-intuitive, and we are often called to do the opposite of what we think will work. Who would have thought that the broken, dead body of the Son of God was actually the greatest victory in history?

I don't know what the LORD will do when you slow down and are still. But I know what He did for me. And I have confidence that He will do something for you too. Do you trust Him enough to obey His command?

Stuart

A couple of house-keeping things:

This edition of the Informer and accompanying Presbytery Plan update are being posted to the entire congregation. **This is a one off.** It is to ensure that everyone received a copy of the Presbytery Plan update, as it is really important. Also enclosed is a card with my new contact details. Please keep a hold of this, and please use the number provided to contact me in the first instance. This is, in essence, my new "work" or "ministry" phone number. I have also copied the contact details below:

Phone (office): 0141 632 4206
Email: SLove@churchofscotland.org.uk

How to join us at Cliccarthill Church

see our online publicity at

www.cliccarthill.org.uk and www.facebook.com/cliccarthillchurch



In person

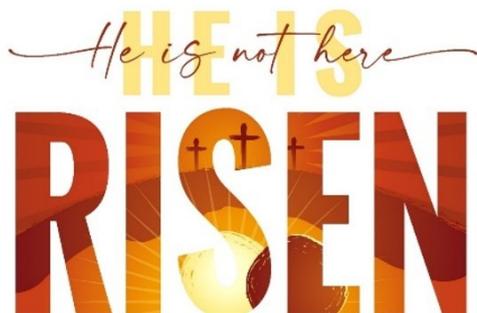
At Cliccarthill Church
1220 Cathcart Road

Zoom

Visit www.zoom.us and click
'join a meeting'
or dial: 0131 460 1196
(Meeting ID: 960 694 6264 : Passcode: 012230)

YouTube

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We have events in the build-up to Easter, through Holy Week and over the Easter Weekend, including:

Sunday 10 th April	11am	Palm Sunday Worship
Thursday 14 th April	7pm	Maundy Thursday
Friday 15 th April	7pm	Good Friday
Saturday 16 th April	8pm	Easter Film 'Risen' (doors open 7.30pm)
Sunday 17 th April	9am	Resurrection Celebration Breakfast
	10am*	Easter Morning Worship

**Note the earlier start than usual*



THE GUILD

The Guild has finished it's session for 2021/22, having held it's AGM on Monday, March 28. It has been an odd session in many ways due to the Covid crisis. Speakers cancelled due to positive testing or other circumstances, and we were also asked by the national Guild office to cancel meetings for the beginning of January due to an upsurge in infections. We managed to fill the gaps with other activities and the session was successful. We also had two fundraisers - our Coffee morning and Christmas fair - both of which raised a good amount of money allowing the Guild projects and other charities to benefit.

We have our 'Coffee and Chat' evenings on Monday April 25, May 23, August 22 and September 19 from 7pm till 8/8.30pm here in the church and the Guild outing to St. Andrew's is on Saturday, May 21. Reminders of these will appear in the next Informer.

Sheila Morrow, Convener

Friday Senior Diners

We will be off on the following Fridays due to School Holidays 1st, 8th and 15th April and look forward to see you back on Friday 22nd April.

Sheila Peachey



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

EASTER PROJECT

A couple of years ago, our YPC at the time started a project to clean 3 stones (which were hidden away in a corner of the garden) with the idea of painting them in time for Easter. Unfortunately, just as we were about to start, everything came to a halt as the world shut down due to the pandemic. So, we thought it would be a great idea if we could pick this up again in time for Easter.

On Saturday 19th March we met up with some of our youth (those who could manage-) to finish the project we started. It was lovely to catch up with them over some pizza and the stones were painted. A big thank you to David, Rhona, Abby and Shanneil for coming down to help on the Saturday night and making it happen. They did a great job! We hope to have the stones in place in the garden for Easter Sunday. The words on the 3 stones....'JESUS IS LORD'.

Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team

FILM NIGHT – SATURDAY 16th APRIL

We are looking forward to Easter and are showing the film 'RISEN' on Saturday 16th April at 8pm. Doors open from 7.30pm for tea/coffee. All very welcome.

FEED THE FANS

Thanks to all those who helped with the recent 'Feed the Fans' event (Scotland vs Poland friendly) where we were able to offer hospitality to visitors. We raised £86 which will go towards supporting the relief effort in Ukraine.

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach team

Congregational Register

DEATHS

26/3/22 Mr Hugh McDonald Pearson House, The Erskine Home, Bishopton, PA7 5PU

Clinarthill Parish Church - Easter Reflection 2022

As April begins we find ourselves moving swiftly towards Easter, that time when we celebrate our Risen Lord Jesus, a time for remembering what He gave so we could experience forgiveness and new life in Him.

Some of us have been following the life of St Ignatius of Loyola through Lent using material, from what is called, the Spiritual Exercises, these are for our spiritual lives rather than our physical ones—thankfully!!

By the time St Ignatius gets to Easter he suggests we pray our way into *The Contemplation to Attain Love*. *The first (point) is that love ought to manifest itself in deeds rather than words. The second (point) is that love consists in a mutual sharing of goods, for example the lover gives and shares with the beloved what he possesses, or something of that which he has or is able to give; and vice versa . . . Thus, one always gives to the other.* (Spiritual Exercises, Nos 230-231 from *The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius*)

As much as there is nothing we can do to 'attain' love since it's a gift from God through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, and, because He loved us first, there is something we can do about sharing that love—Jesus gave of Himself, therefore we must give to those around us through the gifts and skills we've been given. The most precious gift each of us has is our story of God's unending love for us—this is the story we have to share.

"Love consists in a mutual sharing of goods," Ignatius says. Share with several others today your faith, joy, and appreciation for the life-giving gift of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Bible Reading: John 20: 2-3, 5-9 Mary Magdalen, Simon Peter, and the Disciple Jesus Loved

(Mary Magdalen) went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Prayer:

Lord, inspire me with the courage, the devotion, and the energy of Mary Magdalen, who was the first witness to others—even to the Apostles themselves—of your resurrection. Never let fear or ridicule or rejection block me from living openly and sharing warmly the Good News I know! Amen

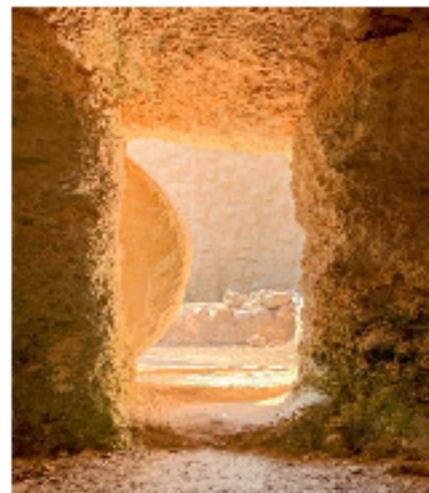


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