

# The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinicarhill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 79: May 2022

## Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address [www.clinicarhill.org.uk](http://www.clinicarhill.org.uk)

***<sup>20</sup>Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1 NIVUK)***

I continue to be struck by how counter-intuitive our faith is, at least by worldly standards.

Last month, I reflected on God's call to "Be Still" and know Him: that the way for us to better know our Heavenly Father is not to push ourselves into ever greater busy-ness for our faith, but rather is to slow down and allow Him to work in our lives. In essence: less is more.

In the passage above, Paul further explores how our faith is counter-intuitive. The main issue to the Jews and Greeks is this - how can you proclaim a risen Saviour, if He died? That encapsulates the worldly perspective; everything dies and dead things stay dead. Indeed, death is rarely seen as a victory, and is often considered the ultimate defeat. Those enemies of Christ who saw Him die upon the cross celebrated: they thought they'd won!

Yet, the LORD proves that His ways are not the world's ways, and that He so often works in a way which is counter-intuitive to us. I could list so many examples; for now, let me stick with this one - that through death came new life. Death was not a defeat, it was a victory; the death of God on the Cross was not Him losing, it was Him winning! The Cross achieved salvation for all who believed, and gave way to new life in the Resurrection. Indeed, it would be fair to say that the Resurrection *can only* happen if first there is death.

We who follow Jesus know this; yet, we confess that we still struggle - precisely because it is counter-intuitive. It is hard to believe that good can come from bad, that new life can come from death, because we are surrounded by a world which tells us this is folly. Yet the Truth of our LORD stands firm: death gives way to new life; but to get new life, you first must die.

From this, I begin thinking about the Presbytery Mission Plan.

I think it is fair to say that, for the longest time, the Church of Scotland has been pursuing a policy of self-preservation (at every level, by the way - Nationally, and locally!). The irony is that, as the Church has poured ever more resource into this attempt at self-preservation, the faster the decline. These efforts have been wholly self-defeating, despite the wisdom of the world (which would say the more effort you put into preservation, the more likely it will save).

Can the LORD resurrect our denomination? Of course, He can! But (and you all know what I'm about to write here), before resurrection, there must be death. What that death and resurrection will look like, I do not know. But I am convinced that we all must be willing to embrace, first, death in order that we might enjoy the new life to come.

Now that is counter-intuitive. It may also be painful. But the one who calls us to this counter-intuitive embrace of death is also the one who promises that, through Him, we WILL receive new life. In essence, it's a call to trust Him.

Do you trust Him?

Stuart

## How to join us at Clinicarhill Church

see our online publicity at

[www.clinicarhill.org.uk](http://www.clinicarhill.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/clincarhillchurch](https://www.facebook.com/clincarhillchurch)



### In person

At Clinicarhill Church  
1220 Cathcart Road

### Zoom

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

### YouTube

Search for Clinicarhill  
Church



## THE GUILD

Guild members and friends are reminded about the Guild outing to St. Andrews on **Saturday, May 21 2022.** Those going are asked to be at the Battlefield Road entrance to the church by **10.15am.** This is also the day for the Scottish cup final at Hampden and the bus will leave at **10.30am PROMPT.** The next 'Coffee and Chat' evening will be on Monday, 23 May at 7pm in the large hall and the one after that will be in August. *Sheila Morrow, Convenor*

### Friday Senior Diners

We will be closed on Fridays 27<sup>th</sup> May and June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the School Holidays.

We will close on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June for the Summer Holidays and return on 19<sup>th</sup> August, when we hope to see you all.

Sheila Peachey



**Telephone Prayer Circle**

**0141 632 4206**



**Registered Scottish Charity SC010138**

### Lodging House Mission

If you would like to receive a copy of the Mission's regular newsletter please speak to Agnes McIntyre.

### Joint Southside Prayer Breakfast

Queen's Park Govanhill Church are hosting a prayer breakfast on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> May. Breakfast is at 8:30 followed at 9:00 by a time of prayer. All are warmly invited.

### Monday Morning Prayer Meeting

Please note the Monday prayer meeting starts at 9am not 8am.

### **Christian Aid Week—5-21 May 2022**

This years Christian Aid Week message is about getting us to help turn hunger into hope. Hope lives in you.

This years appeal features how the War in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe, and around the globe. Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger. But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

We are asking you to do 3 things at Clincarthill church.

1. Pray Faithfully for the work of Christian aid in the world, and for the success for all volunteers who are raising money this month ( and through the rest of the year of course ) .
2. Give Generously - we are going to provide envelopes in the church , and would ask you to place them filled in the box provided from 8th May onward at the entrance vestibule , give it to the welcome team , or Elaine Harvey directly.
3. Encourage others - to give or support this valuable work , either by word of mouth or sharing on social media to encourage giving.

**[www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week)**

Thanks, Elaine Harvey

### **Holiday Club 2022**

We are hoping to be able to run the Holiday Club this summer if we can gather enough helpers for the week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August,

We need people to lead and help with groups, lead games and activities, welcome and take the register at the door and provide refreshments. We also need your support through prayer so that our focus remains working together to teach and learn about God through his Son Jesus.

If you want to help, even for only a couple of days during the week, please speak to Mary MacCallum or e-mail her at [mary.maccallum@clincarthill.org.uk](mailto:mary.maccallum@clincarthill.org.uk).

Volunteers working directly with the children will need a PVG check so if you haven't already been checked, please speak to Sheila Morrow or Rhona Gann.

### **Glasgow Presbytery Plan & Local Clusters**

I won't revisit the detailed information that Stuart gave to all of us in last month's Informer, but I can update you with progress and future plans. As you know I have taken part in a number of discussions with our neighbouring churches during March and April, starting with Langside, Shawlands, Newlands etc. and latterly with Cathcart Trinity, Cathcart Old, and Queen's Park Govanhill. We have formally agreed a cluster with the last 3 churches and this proposal came to a special meeting of Glasgow Presbytery on 3<sup>rd</sup> May for approval. So what happens next? Well it's all new territory for all 4 churches. We have 6 facilitated meetings to attend, with 4 representatives from each church. At these meetings we have to produce a "Mission Plan" for the cluster as a whole, for the next 5 to 10 years. It must be a plan for growth, for re-connecting to the people of our parishes and a plan that encourages people to return to a faith in God and Jesus Christ. I don't minimise the enormity of the problem, because during my lifetime as an elder we have not managed to accomplish that. We have come close a few times, but we need to knuckle down and bury rivalries between churches and work together building on each other's strengths. These meetings will take place during May and June and I hope and pray that at the end of that time we have a clearer picture to share with you all, and may the Holy Spirit guide us and his presence known in all of this.

### **Congregational Annual Stated Meeting**

What's that I hear you say? As we haven't had such a meeting for 3 years due to Covid restrictions! We have set aside the morning of Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June for the Congregational Meeting between 10.00 am and 12 noon. You are all invited to this meeting, which may well turn out to be a key meeting for the future of ministry in Mount Florida. We will present the 2021 Annual Accounts and we will share the very latest information we have concerning the "cluster" discussions mentioned above. At this meeting you will have the chance to share in the discussions and an opportunity for a light lunch afterwards. I do ask you all to come along. As I have said before it's a time of concern for all of us, but not a time of worry; God has plans for each and every one of us, and it's His plans we need to sign up to. God bless.

### **Congregational Register:**

The death of Mr. Hugh McDonald of Erskine Home, Bishopton, Renfrewshire, PA7 5PU, on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022, aged 91.

I'm very grateful to Rev. Mike Gargrave for conducting Hugh's funeral and for giving a wonderful tribute, full of humour, to which I'm sure Hugh, would have said 'what's all the fuss about'. A true gentleman and long standing faithful servant to the local church.

Roger Gann  
Session Clerk

The Mission and Community Outreach Team would like to update you on some upcoming events which will be taking place over the next few months:

### **'POP UP CHURCH'**

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May from 7pm to 9pm we are having our first 'Pop up Church' event in the Honey and Salt café, Carmunnock Road, Mount Florida. We are planning to do this over a 6 month period on a trial basis to see how it goes with different speakers every 6 weeks, This will be a relaxing evening where you can grab a coffee and hear about the work of Bethany Christian Trust.

### **GARDEN CAFE**

Our Garden Café will be running every Monday for 8 weeks from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> August, We look forward to seeing you there. A good opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones. Hospitality and a warm welcome are so important and we look forward to welcoming you back and to being church outdoors.

### **FEED THE FANS**

We are planning to have a few 'Feed the Fans' events in the gardens over the next few months. The first of these will be the postponed Scotland vs Ukraine match on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June,

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details.

Stephen Kennedy, Mission and Community Outreach Team

### **Jubilee Lunch**

Any excuse for a get-together. Join in the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and come to lunch on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – street party style. Invite family and friends to come along too and make it a community celebration.

If you want to help with the organising or catering, just talk to either Mary MacCallum or Sheila Morrow.

**JOIN THE NATION IN CELEBRATION!**

**JUBILEE**  
**the big lunch**

**Sunday 5 June**  
**at 12.30pm**

**Join us for Lunch**

THE QUEEN'S  
PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

## Clincarthill Parish Church - Bible Reflection May 2022

May brings two events for Jesus—His ascension to God the Father and the acknowledgement of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit—these will culminate in our celebration of the birth of God's Church as the power of the Holy Spirit was given to those first disciples and each of us.

There are so many ways to pray with these words and images, as many ways as there are people on this planet! Perhaps during this month it's a time to just reflect on all that has happened since Jesus' Resurrection as well as looking forward to the mystery, the wonder, and remembering all the promises kept and fulfilled.

### **Bible Reading: Luke 24: 50-53**

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them he left them and was taken up into heaven.

Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed



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### **Bible Reading: Acts 1: 1—5**

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit



The Trinity Icon by Rublev

### **Prayer:**

Everlasting and ever-faithful God, thank you for the reminders of all you have done through Jesus for me.  
Thank you for your Holy Spirit who empowers me in everything I do and say.  
Thank you for accompanying me through my life and leading me to eternity.  
Amen and Amen