

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinicarhill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 81: September 2022

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clinicarhill.org.uk

¹³Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. ¹⁴For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12 NIVUK)

I really enjoy the book of Ecclesiastes. It has a kind of bleak outlook which just appeals to my sense of humour. From the opening lines of, "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. 'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.'" (Ecclesiastes 1 NIVUK) through to the conclusion quoted above, I find some enjoyment from this gloomy exploration of reality and the human condition.

I think my appreciation goes deeper than just finding humour in the bleakness (I should explain, this stems from my opinion that it is always better to look at the darkness and laugh, than look at it and despair). I appreciate the writer's honesty throughout the book. He seeks to find meaning and fulfilment in life; he seeks wisdom and Truth. In the end, he arrives at the conclusion that the purpose of any of our lives is to "fear God and keep His commandments". It is possible this is what the Reformers had in mind when writing the Westminster Shorter Catechism, with the famous question and answer:

Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

All this speaks to our need for fulfilment; our need for purpose; our need to feel that we are somehow living worthwhile lives and doing worthwhile things. The trouble we face is that we often seek fulfilment and purpose in things which are liable to change. Suppose you seek purpose in your job, but are made redundant: your purpose is lost. Suppose you seek fulfilment by being part of a particular institution, but that institution folds: your need for fulfilment is unmet. This can lead to despair, sadness, feelings of failure.

This problem extends into Church. We seek our sense of purpose, fulfilment, in things other than God. We seek fulfilment by identifying with a particular fellowship, congregation, or denomination. We seek purpose in the things we do in Church - activities, tasks, or events. What happens, then, when a congregation closes, an activity stops, or the desired outcome of an event is not achieved? The same result as above: a purpose lost, fulfilment unmet, feelings of despair, sadness, failure.

What should our purpose be? Where should we find fulfilment? By seeking to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. We struggle to do that because sin tempts us to glorify things other than God. That is why we need Jesus Christ: through His death and resurrection, we are brought back to God; by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are gradually shaped and empowered to seek God's glory as our highest priority.

In seeking this, we are granted joy and freedom. Joy because we know we are accepted by God thanks to Jesus, not our efforts. That means we can never be failures in God's eyes. He will delight in us as, with the Spirit's help, we seek to glorify Him in all that we say and do. Knowing we have God's guaranteed delight brings us joy.

Freedom because our we are no longer bound by thinking God is judging us by our performance. We are judged through Jesus Christ; therefore, we are judged to be forgiven and accepted by Him. Nothing I do can affect this, so now I am free to live glorifying God to the best of my ability, knowing that no matter what I do, I am always His.

All the rest, the writer concludes, is up to God. He will judge all things. All I need be concerned about is living to glorify Him and enjoying Him forever. If I can do that, to the best of my ability under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that is all that matters; all else is secondary.

Why do I share all this? Because, as has been shared before, and will become apparent; we are in for a tumultuous time thanks to Presbytery Mission Planning (to say nothing of the situation in the wider world). My concern for you is that, if you are seeking purpose and fulfilment in the things of Church, then you are in for a tough time; but if you are seeking purpose and fulfilment in glorifying God... then it may still be a tough time, but at least you will still have the joy of the LORD in your heart, and the knowledge of His freedom, to sustain you through it.

Stuart

How to join us at Clinicarhill Church

see our online publicity at

www.clinicarhill.org.uk and www.facebook.com/clincarhillchurch



In person

At Clinicarhill 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

Search for Clinicarhill
Church

The Guild

The Guild begins its new session on **Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7.30pm in the small hall.** We have a full and interesting syllabus. So why not come along and join us, you will be made most welcome.

- October 3 : Opening meeting
- October 10: Theme ' Wee Seeds, Big Trees' - Rev. Stuart Love
- October 17: Elsie Inglis - Pioneering Doctor - Liz McIntyre Allan
- October 24: Life and Work - Thomas Baldwin
- October 31: Bingo Night - Violet Robertson



There is also the last of our 'Coffee and Chat' evenings on **Monday 19 September at 7pm in the small hall.** All are welcome. *Sheila Morrow (Convener)*

Friday Senior Diners

We have started back on Fridays at 12 o'clock and we would like to welcome new members. We meet in the Small Hall for a two course meal and a cup of tea.

Sheila Peachey



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



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News from the Session Clerk

Glasgow Presbytery Plan & Local Clusters

Our final facilitated meeting between representatives of the 4 churches took place on 24th August and I'm pleased to say that we agreed on a final draft of our Presbytery Mission Plan cluster document which has been sent off to Glasgow Presbytery. The plan is for 5 years (2023-2027) and will see the 4 congregations working together in 2 pairs with us working more closely with Queen's Park Govanhill and the 2 Cathcart churches doing likewise. This means an increase in workload for both incumbent ministers as they gradually get to know the other congregation and begin their journey of team ministry. It also gives office bearers and members of all churches an opportunity to get to know each other better and share resources together. I'll give you more information later once we know the Glasgow Presbytery plan is approved and our small part in this is accepted.

Warm Banks

This is probably a term many of us don't recognise, but it is becoming known to more and more people. We all face challenging times ahead with energy costs and general inflation. So try and provide some help, we are looking at how we could make the church available to people throughout the week during the winter months, giving folk a place they could drop into for warmth and maybe a cup of tea or coffee or even soup and a sandwich. We will have our heating on for a number of hall lets, and our energy costs remain unchanged until spring 2023, so it seems quite feasible to do this.

The main problem is asking you and others in our congregation and their friends, if you can help by coming along one morning or afternoon a week to staff the building and provide basic refreshments. It would be useful to know from each of you, who could do this and once we know then a small group can meet to make the arrangements and the publicity. Apart from the school, Langside library and Hampden, there really are no other public spaces where people could gather. So do give it some thought and let me know if you would be willing to help.

House Group

Our House Group will restart in September meeting monthly on Thursday evenings at 7.30. This time we're doing something completely different and going to the movies each month. We're going to look each month at an episode of a YouTube phenomenon called "The Chosen" which claims to be the first serialised dramatization of the life of Christ. If you would like to join us do let me or Rhona know.

Thank You

I want to thank all who were involved in running the Garden Café over the summer months, also the many entertainers who provided the music. We were blessed with good weather on the whole, and many people came along each week, so well done to all. And last but not least a big thank you to Jackie who keeps our buildings spic and span, especially after having recently done the kitchen deep clean and then a deep clean of all our carpets; a mammoth task indeed. Thank you.

Roger Gann
Session Clerk (sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk)

Wonderzone Holiday Club

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make this year's holiday club such a success. Everyone enjoyed learning about the wonder of science with science experiments including the giant bubbles, dissolving egg shells and elephants toothpaste, Along with the bible stories and crafts we even managed some parachute games. The junk modelling went down a treat so thanks to everyone who brought donated their rubbish!



Using the sound system in the large hall was a bit of a learning experience – an improvement project for the future. All in all it was a great week and I hope everyone who came along had a great time. Can I add a special thanks to Roger Gann who prepared the barbeque on the Thursday and George Peachey who answered a late plea for helpers at the barbeque.

Mary MacCallum.

Holiday Club co-ordinator.

Jubilee Lunch

It seems ages since the Jubilee Lunch but can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who joined us in the celebration, with a special thanks to Eleanor Campbell, Sheila Morrow and Lorraine Kennedy who encouraged me by supporting the planning, setting up the hall and preparing the food. Eleanor especially as she made all the flags



for the table decorations, It was good to get together and catch up after the last couple of years. It raised net proceeds of £188.43 of which £100 is for the Queens Canopy



cover buying 10 trees and £88.43 for the youth fund towards the costs of the holiday club. The donation for the trees should help to the carbon offset for the plastic bunting used for the occasion.

Thanks again,

Mary MacCallum

Praise and Prayer Evening

On Thursday 6th October 7pm - 8:30 in the large hall we are having an evening of traditional and contemporary Christian music, hymns and songs. The evening is an informal cafe format with nibbles available from 7pm before the music begins at 7:30. Linda Fraser and Graham Shankland, who are leading the music, are being joined by a few other familiar faces, old and young. You are invited. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Although a free event, it is ticketed to for catering purposes. Tickets are available from Eleanor, Graham Shankland and Agnes.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

Our Harvest service will take place on **Sunday 2 October at 11am**. As usual food donations will go to the Lodging House Mission (LHM) and the South Side Food Bank. Forms itemising the donation requests from the LHM will be available from the middle of September at the usual pick-up points. LHM have also given information on purchasing vouchers for those who wish to do so allowing them to purchase food as and when required. **Sheila Morrow**

Help Required

We are looking for people to volunteer to help out on the sound and projection systems in the sanctuary. At the moment we only have a few people able to operate the technology and it puts a lot of pressure on those who make it all happen every Sunday. We are looking to train up a number of people so that we can put a rota system in place. It would be a commitment of one Sunday in four if we can get enough volunteers. If you are interested can you speak to Graham Shankland, Carol Bolland or Stuart Buchanan. We can then get the training organised.

The Communications Team

The Garden Café—Mission Complete

It's Summer, it's July, it's August
It's Monday morning and so you must
Pay a visit to the Garden Café
Receive a welcome at the open doorway
From Stephen and his volunteer group
They are a smiling, cheery, chatty troupe
Now take a seat and study the menu
Tea and Coffee is offered too
Fabulous is the choice of cakes,
Lots and lots of scrumptious home bakes
Many thanks to all who donated
Your culinary efforts were truly appreciated
And so to the servers, always on call
Plus the kitchen, helpers all
Going back and forth with a friendly smile
You make the Garden Café go with style
An extra treat was the musical play
We hummed to the beat, it made our day
Alas the Garden Café time has now gone,
But happy memories with linger on and on
It was a time of social gathering and much more
The purpose of Mission was at its core
To all who participated—many thanks again
Your efforts were most definitely appreciated then.

Anne Stoddart



Prayer Bench

Our prayer bench is the perfect spot for anyone looking for a quiet place to spend some time in prayer - a place to reflect, relax and recharge.

Prayer Breakfast

Clinicarhill is hosting the southside joint prayer breakfast on Saturday 10th September. We meet in the large hall for breakfast at 8:30 and then have a time of prayer from 9:00 - 10:00. All are welcome.

Next Issue deadline Sunday 25 September

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

Cincarthill Parish Church - Bible Reflection September 2022

As we begin new church year, how are we feeling as a church community? How are you feeling at this time?

There are many things, known and unknown, that we will face with some being easier than others—that's life!

Reflecting on all that God has done in creating our amazing world might help us to take stock on all he's provided over the past year, and how he, too, took time out to rest.

As the people of God we do need to take the same time out so sit and reflect, to listen, to be still and know that he is God.

The Genesis reading takes us back to the very beginning of time when God created everything we would ever need. His generosity is overwhelming, unending, because of his great love for all people. There is always a lot of work to be done in church life, but there needs to be time to rest and just be.

Bible Reading: Genesis 2: 1-2

The heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. Amen.



Prayer:

Creator God, I thank you for the world in which I live, for being chosen by you to share in your creativity as I work for your Kingdom.

Help me to rest in you. Help me to be still with you when all around is chaos and uncertainty.

Amen