

The Informer

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland



Issue 84: December 2022

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

⁷But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.

⁸Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.

⁹Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and upholds my cause. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

(Micah 7 NIVUK)

I've been in a bit of a prophetic phase these past months. First, reading through the Major Prophets during my times of personal prayer; then feeling called to lead us through a sermon series, picking out key moments from the Prophet Isaiah; and finally, reading through the Minor Prophets during my times of personal prayer, as a way of leading up to Advent, which has now begun.

Both the Prophets and the season of Advent carry an air of expectancy.

One aspect of the Prophet's ministry was to critique the world around them. If you have been reading through Isaiah these past couple of months, you will have a sense of what I mean - Isaiah regularly points out the fault, not just of Israel and Judah, but of the many surrounding nations. He then goes on to explain how it is that God intends to take that which is wrong with the world and will put it right. He is, therefore, waiting expectantly for God to act.

Advent is a season of expectant waiting, but one where we already know for what (or for whom) we are waiting. The Prophets waited for God to do something - we know He has already done it. He came into our world as Jesus Christ, living the perfect life that we cannot, showing us how imperfect we are; He died the death we deserve, absorbing those consequences; in turn, we receive His status as a child of God: a status assured in Jesus' resurrection - eternal life now waits for those who believe in Him.

The seasons in Church life have a purpose, and the season of Advent is to be a reminder of this expectant waiting upon God - waiting expressed by the Prophet Micah above. We wait upon God our Saviour, waiting for Him to act in His good time; assured that He will act according to His good purposes. For the Prophet, and for us, the greatest act of God is salvation: rescuing us from darkness and bringing us into light, through Christ.

The Prophet also expresses God's promise - you are saved, but darkness may still surround you for a time. In those moments, I the LORD, will be your light. When we have the light of salvation in Christ, even the deepest darkness of our world will not have the same hold on us. For nothing can separate us from the salvation we have received.

Our call, then, is to live in the light of Christ, and shine our light into our dark world. Someone helped me imagine something recently: imagine you have 2 rooms, one lit, the other dark. What happens? The darkness from the second room cannot enter first, but the light from the first can spill out into the second, dispelling the darkness. When we live in the joy and light of our salvation, we are like little lights for God, dispelling the darkness around us.

As we grapple with numerous issues, both outwith and within our Church, God's calling upon each of us remains the same: live in the light of my salvation. Let my light shine from you. Make living joyfully for me your highest priority. When you do that, My Spirit can work through you, helping dispel the darkness.

It is when followers of Jesus live this way that we begin to see a difference. What we do as followers of Jesus is secondary. What really matters is not *what* we do, but *how* we do it (joyfully) and *why* we do it (grateful obedience to God for the salvation He gives us through Christ).

Advent reminds us what God has done for us through Christ. Let us, therefore, making living joyfully in light of this salvation our highest priority; and leave the rest up to His Spirit.

Stuart.

How to join us at Clincarthill Church

see our online publicity at

www.clincarthill.org.uk and www.facebook.com/clincarthillchurch



In person

At Clincarthill 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 Clincarthill
Church

The Guild

December Programme

December 5: Christmas Craft Night. On our own

December 12: Christmas Party night with the Jordanhill Handbell

December 20: This is a **Tuesday**. Visit to the pantomime. The bus will leave the Battlefield Road entrance at 6.15pm prompt. Panto begins at 7pm.

December 26: No meeting

January 2, 2023. No meeting

Guild resumes on January 9, 2023 with Armchair Exercises taken by Irene Hay.



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Next Issue deadline Sunday 1 January

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

MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Warm Welcome Space

The warm welcome space café continues to be a success. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped to make it happen. We are into our 4th week and have had between 12 and 19 people attending each week, who have found a safe, warm space to meet new friends and enjoy a bowl of soup provided by 'The Roll Shop' in Polmadie. It is open to all ages at no cost.

Recently we had the Lodging House Mission Choir who provided an afternoon of music. Thanks to Hugh McIntock for arranging this. It was much enjoyed by all. If you know of anyone who would enjoy some company in the Warm Welcome Space, please encourage them to try it. They will be made very welcome! It is open to anyone in the community on a Thursday from 1pm to 4pm until the end of January. Some of our new friends who have been coming along on a Thursday also joined us for the Christmas Pop-up Church Event in No 10 Hotel.



Christmas Pop-up Church Event – No 10 Hotel

Thanks to everyone who came along to support this event. We had around 50 people attend from different churches and from the local community. Everyone seemed to have a good time enjoying meeting up and having a chat over food, music provided by Alistair Tweedie (who some of you will know from the Garden Café) and a presentation by the Street Pastors.



Bethany Caring Christmas Tree Event – Saturday 10th December

As you will be aware, our church is a collection point again this year for those who have pre-ordered a Christmas tree through Bethany Christian Trust. All funds raised by Bethany go towards the varied work that they do to help vulnerable people across Scotland. The sanctuary will be open between 10am and 1pm for tea/coffee and Christmas treats and if you are free please pop in between this time and have a tea/coffee and enjoy the atmosphere. It would be great to see you!

Carol Singing – Christmas Eve (5.45pm to 6.15pm)

Just a reminder that if you are coming along to carol sing in the church garden on Christmas Eve, please bring a torch with you. There will be hot chocolate from 5.30pm. Again it would be great to see you!

Stephen Kennedy, Mission and Community Outreach Team

FILM NIGHT

The Youth Team are planning a Film Night on Thursday 29th December in the church sanctuary from 4.30pm. The film is called 'Nativity' and it's open to everyone. If you are looking for a nice uplifting film, or a giggle or two, please come along. There will be a small tuck shop as well as tea/coffee. Hope to see you then.



Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team

Friday Senior Dinners

We will be off on Fridays 23rd and 30th December for the Christmas Break and will return on Friday 6th January. Hope you all have a Happy Christmas and we will see you in the New Year.

Sheila Peachey



Church Library News

Dr Stephen McQuoid's examines the issues facing Christian men in a pithy, plainly written and highly enjoyable way in *A Bloke's Guide to Walking With Jesus*.

Being a man and a Christian can often be challenging in the 21st century. As established gender norms are challenged and materialism and rationalism diminishes the role of God and His church in society, some Christian men begin to wonder what our role is and what God has called us to do in His creation.

Dr McQuoid examines the issues facing Christian men in today's society - striking a balance between work, family life and our Christian life, the Bible, prayer, worship, fellowship, service, witnessing and stewardship - and provides plain and simple answers alongside practical advice, rooted in lessons from scripture and written in a highly readable way.

As a recent follower of Jesus and as a working husband and father, I found this book enormously helpful and enjoyable and heartily recommend it to my fellow men, whether they are considering making a commitment to Christ, have recently made their commitment or are long accustomed to walking beside Him.

Matt Coates

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Since the pandemic we have been posting the Informer newsletter to members of the congregation who we do not hold an email address for. Now that we are meeting regularly for worship it would be helpful if people could pick up their copy when at church, unless of course they are not able to attend church on a regular basis. Eleanor Campbell will continue to post out copies but please let her know if you are able to collect your copy in person or if you have an email address please send details to sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk

Many thanks

The Communications Team



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