

The Informer

Happy
New
Year



The Newsletter of Climcarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 85: January 2023

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.climcarthill.org.uk

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. (Hebrews 13:8 NIVUK)

As 2023 began, a YouTuber, whom I follow on Twitter, shared the following thought:

"Ok, I know 2020 was a disaster, and 2021 was a disaster, and 2022 was a disaster, BUT THIS TIME- " (<https://bit.ly/3iciDmo>)

This is someone I follow for entertainment. As far as I am aware, they have no religious outlook nor faith. Their main purpose for being on both YouTube and Twitter is entertainment. Hence the tongue-in-cheek manner of the tweet.

Yet, something about this stood out to me. While meant for comedy, it is true that the last 3 years have, in various ways, been disasters. First the pandemic which brought all manner of restrictions, anxieties, and concerns. As that eased, we then found ourselves in a fuel crisis, a cost of living crisis, political crises; all in front of the general backdrop of the Climate Crisis and goodness knows how many other global concerns. And this is to say nothing of the ongoing crisis in our denomination.

The point of the joke (and I realise that explaining a joke often robs it of its humour, but hey ho...) is that it is nonsensical to suggest, based on the evidence of the last 3 years, that somehow this time round, we'll get it right. That things will improve. That, somehow, all will be well this year.

What has been highlighted in this tweet, albeit in a humorous way, is the reality that we cannot know the future. It is folly to suggest that somehow this year, "things can only get better" when we cannot know what will happen to us even a few seconds into the future! Indeed, one of my wife's pet peeves is when I boldly assert, "it will be fine!"; when the reality is that I do not and cannot know if "it" will be even remotely "fine"!

Happy new year...!

I realise this is a bleak opener. But that is the point. What I have shared above is reality, from a worldly perspective. If you live your life apart from God, this is the best you can get. And it is important I point this out to you, for 2 reasons:

1. To help you better understand the perspective of your friends and neighbours who do not know God, that you might be able to relate to their situation, and minister to them accordingly;
2. To enable you to better appreciate what we have, with God. It is often the case that we are better able to appreciate what we have when we consider what life would be like without "it", whatever that may be.

Now, you know me - I do not approve of taking a single verse of Scripture, removing it from its context in the Bible, and giving it meaning. Doing so leaves us open to arriving at all sorts of wild conclusions. Hebrews 13:8, however, is likely the exception to this rule. While it flows as part of the chapter, it can still stand alone, and powerfully so.

When faced with an unknowable future, and surrounded by crises which continue from years past, what hope do we have? We have Jesus. Our salvation, made possible through His death and resurrection, is our hope. The love which motivated Jesus to do this for us remains constant. And, because He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, what we have in Him will always be there for us and will not change. That is our hope.

I do not know what this year will bring. But what I do know, and what gives me certainty and hope, is this: Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!

Stuart.

How to join us at Climcarthill Church

see our online publicity at

www.climcarthill.org.uk and www.facebook.com/climcarthillchurch



In person

At Climcarthill 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 Climcarthill
Church

The Guild in January

January 9 : Armchair exercises with Irene Hay
January 16: History of the Waverley - Gordon Wilson
January 23: Scottish night - Gaelic Waulking Group
January 30: Freedom from Fistula (Women's health) - Sue Hope
February 6: Poems and Memories of Old Glasgow - On Our Own



As usual if there is a topic which interests you, feel free to come along. You will be made most welcome.



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Next Issue deadline Sunday 29 January

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

Prayer Calendar - January 2023 - Release International

Our congregational Prayer Calendar for 2023 encourages us all to pray daily for one particular organisation each month of the new year. In January, we are praying for Release International. Here is some information about its work, to guide our prayers. More information can be found on its website:

<https://releaseinternational.org>

Release International: We love, serve, support and raise the voice of persecuted Christians around the world.

We are a Christian ministry working through local church partners in thirty countries across the world helping persecuted Christians prayerfully, pastorally and practically, giving them the tools needed to live for Jesus.

Some of what we do:

- Provide bibles and Christian literature
- Give financial and practical support
- Support families of martyrs with emergency food supplies, help with school fees, pastoral care and finance
- Care and counselling for the victims of trauma
- Support those displaced by violence

Agnes McIntyre, Prayer Secretary

Could you Zoom over to YouTube?

We have been streaming Sunday worship to both Zoom and YouTube since September 2020, over that time the number of people joining online has dropped, as more people have been able to come along to worship. There have been and continue to be many positive comments about our streaming, however we're now thinking about whether to use only YouTube in the future. The one advantage Zoom has is the ability to phone in to listen to a service, however we've only had that happen once since last summer and with YouTube people can join live or watch later at a time that suits.

If you have been joining worship with Zoom would you be able to switch over to YouTube? If you have a device which can run the Zoom app there should be a YouTube app too, we can help guide you. The Communications Team will be discussing this when we meet in mid-February and we'd like to hear your opinion. You can speak to me, Graham or Carol on the team, or the Minister or Session Clerk.

Stuart Buchanan

Congregational Roll

DEATHS

14/12/22: Mrs Georgina (known as Jean) Martin – Flat 18 Holmburn House, 177 Fenwick Road, Giffnock, G46 6JD

18/12/22: Miss Anne Stoddart – 0/2, 18 Old Castle Gardens, Cathcart, Glasgow, G44 4SR

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