

The Informer

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland



Issue 86: February 2023

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10 NIVUK)

This is the second month in a row I've been drawn to the book of Hebrews for my pastoral letter! Hebrews is a helpful book, toward the end of the New Testament. If you are looking for a book of the Bible which gives a decent summary of the Old Testament, and which explains the relevance of the Old Testament to Christ and the New Testament - this is the book! It's only 13 chapters long - a chapter a day and you would get through it in less than a fortnight!

Last month, it was Hebrews 13:8 and the reminder that we have absolute assurance in Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. This passage picks up a similar theme in verses 19-22: our assurance of salvation comes through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Since our salvation is dependent solely upon His completed and perfect work, it is assured. Since Jesus achieved salvation for us, nothing I can do will change my standing before God - it is dependant upon Christ, not me. All I need do is place my faith in Him.

What I find interesting is how the writer of the letter to the Hebrews takes that theme and applies it. Verse 23 reinforces the assurance of salvation - since it was achieved by Christ, who is faithful, we can hold unswervingly to the hope of our faith. This speaks into how we are called to live in the present. Our future is secure - and nothing in our present can change that. Let us, therefore, live lives of hope and joy: shining like stars against the backdrop of worldly darkness. Of course, we can be moved to grief by the darkness of our world, but we are not consumed by it - the light of Christ, instead, shines from us, lighting up the darkness of this world with His love.

Then, the writer encourages us to "spur one another on toward love and good works" (verse 24) and suggests that we should be "encouraging one another" (verse 25). Here is the outworking of our faith. If we believe all that Jesus did, we should support one another to live that out, demonstrating Christ's love and sacrifice to our world through our actions and deeds. When we think about what we are to do as a Church, we are to glorify God through Christ; one of the ways we do that is to show and share Christ's love in our living, all the while encouraging our fellow believers to do the same.

All this leaves me with two questions, which I hope you will ask of yourself.

First: am I living in the hope and full assurance that faith brings? Have I fixed my eyes on Jesus, the one who has achieved salvation for me? And in doing so, am I seeking to increasingly become like Him, out of a joyful and grateful obedience for all He has done for me? Am I seeking to glorify God through Christ as my highest priority?

Second: how am I encouraging my fellow Christians? How am I building others up in their faith, spurring them on to live out their faith by sharing Christ's love? Jesus warns us against criticising one another in the parable of the speck and the log (deal with your own log of sin, before evening thinking of trying to "help" someone with their speck of sin!); but He says nothing to dissuade us from encouraging one another! How wonderful it would be if we could be more encouraging of each other, spurring one another on in our walk toward Christ.

What a truly splendid vision of what Church could (should?) be...!

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 in February

February 6—Poems and Memories of Old Glasgow - On Our Own

February 13—Visit to Oberammergau - Sheila Morrow

February 20—Project Night - Chocolate Heaven - Ruth Box

February 27—Scottish Bible Society - Jen Robertson

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

ADVANCE NOTICE The Guild are hosting the Jimmy Blair Accordion Orchestra on the evening of Monday, March 13, 2023. Keep this evening free and come along to enjoy the music and tap your feet.



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Next Issue deadline Sunday 26 February

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

Prayer Calendar - February 2023 - Alzheimer Scotland

This month, the congregational Prayer Calendar focuses on the work of Alzheimer Scotland. Here is some further information about the organisation, to guide our prayers. More information can be found on its website: <https://www.alzscot.org>

Alzheimer Scotland: A voice for the people of Scotland with dementia.

We aim to:

- Provide and secure the provision of high-quality services for people with dementia and their carers
- Improve public policies for people with dementia and their carers

Some of what we do:

- Day and weekend centres/home care/befriending and carer support
- 24-hour free phone National Dementia Helpline
(0808 808 3000 and helpline@alzscot.org)
- Information and publications for carers, professionals and people with dementia
- Network of Dementia Advisors across Scotland
- Quarterly newsletter

Agnes McIntyre, Prayer Secretary

Church Library News — February Fiction Feature



The Persian Gamble by Joel C Rosenberg

A suspense-filled novel tracking a terrifying nuclear alliance among three world powers - Russia, Iran and North Korea - and the deadly mission former U.S. secret service agent Marcus Ryker must risk to halt their deadly strategy! Combines political thriller, action and adventure with matters of faith.

Lineage of Grace by Francine Rivers

This book is a collection of imaginative and fictional stories created by the author, that tell us about the lives of the five women mentioned in the lineage of Jesus.....Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary. Each faced extraordinary challenges....each were destined to play key roles in the bloodline of Christ. Includes Bible Study sections at the end of each section for further study.

Fame [Firstborn series 1] by Karen Kingsbury

Dayne Matthews returns to Hollywood and is caught up in the dangerous world of fame and paparazzi. Katy Hart is delighted when she learns she can play opposite Dayne in a Hollywood film. The choices these two people make will change their lives forever..... An easy and engrossing read while curling-up in your favourite chair with a hot chocolate!

Church Flower Fund

If you would like to donate to the Flower Fund, perhaps to commemorate a particular anniversary or other occasion, our Flower Team will be happy to choose and arrange flowers on your behalf. You can choose a Sunday which is suitable from the Flower Fund Diary situated in the entrance vestibule.

If you are interested please speak to Linda Graham, Flower Convenor, for further details.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM



Over the last 12 weeks we have provided a warm welcome space on a Thursday from 1pm to 4pm for people in the community of all ages. During this time we have welcomed over 40 different people (between 12 and 20 each week) and provided a soup and roll lunch with tea/coffee etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who helped make this happen and who created a friendly and welcoming place for people to meet with others and make friendships. The feedback from those attending has been very positive and encouraging. One comment we received was **'sadly tomorrow ends the warm space which I dearly loved. Met you lovely people and had great fun'** (which has made this work all worthwhile). Over the 12 weeks we have welcomed the Lodging House Mission Choir, several musicians, had a Christmas party and a special Burns lunch on the last day.

We are grateful to Queens Park Community Foundation who have helped fund and support this event with their very generous donation of £1,400, which will also help us plan future outreach events. They also supplied us with food parcels at Christmas which were delivered to people in the community. We are also grateful to The Roll Shop in Polmadie who supplied soup and rolls each week at a low cost and to the Co-operative Funeral Parlour for their donation of biscuits and coffee.

At Christmas we were delighted to see so many people / families at our community carol singing in the church garden before the service on Christmas Eve. We welcomed around 40 people and served hot chocolate which was enjoyed by many.

We look forward to serving the church and community over the next year and would ask that you continue to pray for the Mission of the local churches in the area.

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team

Bible Reflection February 2023

The year 2023 has begun and we face all that it will hold for us. Thinking on the year ahead our reflection focuses on the much-loved Psalm 23 and its promises.

Begin your time of reflection by slowing your breathing, stilling the chatter in your mind and inviting the Holy Spirit to lead you afresh through the psalm line by line, promise by promise, image by image, and allow him to draw your attention to that which He wishes to personalise for you.

Spend some time reflecting with Him on why He has drawn your attention to particular words/images and draw strength, direction and comfort from what He has shared with you.

Psalm 23 - A psalm of David

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness, for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

From the Session Clerk

I realise I haven't written anything for the magazine for some considerable time and an update is long overdue. After some thought I decided that my time as session clerk had come to a natural conclusion and it was right for someone else to take on the responsibility and help shape the future direction of the congregation. I believe that is the right decision having served since 1st March 2017, so 6 years in total. Reflecting over this period, many good things were achieved, a lot of hard work put in by all elders and by you the congregation. We dealt with presbytery planning through Local Church Review which took the best part of a year, then Future Focus and finally in 2018 re-organising ourselves into the unitary constitution the following year. I saw 2019 as a year of preparation for mission not anticipating how our lives would be turned upside down in March 2020 by Covid and that this upset would derail us for the next 2 and a half years! So for me, my time as your session clerk has been challenging in all the wrong ways. Covid put an immense strain on us all, particularly ministers and office bearers, but we all suffered in health, both mental and physical, and coping with the death of loved ones, and we have not yet recovered fully from this. Alongside all of that, we seen a continued decline in membership of the church and we all struggle with how to reverse that trend. Having said all that I feel blessed with the support that you gave me and I remain encouraged by the work that so many of you do around the church. We are placed here in this time to worship and glorify God and to serve our local community, in the hope that we can bring more people to faith. We have strengthened our ties with Mount Florida school and it was great to see the building full when they held their end of term service here last December.

Glasgow Presbytery Plan & Local Clusters

2022 was largely taken up with local discussions and the Glasgow Presbytery Plan (this must be at least the 4th or 5th in my time as an elder). I have to say I despair with governance of the national church for a long time going back to when I was treasurer in the 1990's. In my view it always demanded more financial resource than was justified, it was always too good at talking and not doing, and stubbornly refused to acknowledge declining membership problems over 25 years ago.

The Glasgow plan was rejected by the Faith Nurture Forum last October, meaning our cluster of 4 churches had to meet and discuss the way forward. Thankfully all 4 churches get on very well and there is a willingness to work together and try to grow our churches locally, sharing resources and ideas. That work will continue and I am confident that between us we can continue to do good work and grow in faith.

Warm Space, Garden Café & Pop-Up Church

A huge thank you is due to Stephen & Lorraine Kennedy for their energy and work in promoting and organising these events. So many of you have helped each week and I see these three events being a fixture in our church calendar for years to come. Covid was ironically the spur for the café relaunch in 2021 and the energy crisis and success of the café led to the Warm Space initiative. Now that we have operated both, we need to learn from them and how we can operate them even better this year. We have the building resources for the community, let's supply the people resource to make our church a centre for faith and always with a warm welcome for everyone who comes our way and Pop-Up church in local venues helps with this.

Coronation

Our new king, Charles III will be crowned, an event that most of us will have never seen. I've always felt specially blessed to have been born in 1953 as a 'coronation' baby so to speak. I believe our country is unique and our form of governance, which has stood the test of time and will adapt as required, scandals and incompetence notwithstanding, with the monarchy as a steadying hand. There is an opportunity on during the weekend of Saturday 6th to Monday 8th May for us to celebrate the event and I hope many of you will pass on your ideas for this so we can start to make arrangements and involve other community groups. Do let elders and team members have your ideas.

So what of the future?

By the time you read this news, the Kirk Session will have met and hopefully my successor been appointed. I hope and pray that together we continue to support each other and the new Session Clerk looking always for the opportunity to serve Christ however and wherever we find him.

God bless.

Roger Gann, Session Clerk

Congregational Register:

The death of Mr Andrew Jamieson Greyfriars Care Home, 2 Hamilton Road, Glasgow on 8th January 2023