

The Informer



Issue 87: March 2023

The Newsletter of Cliccarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.cliccarthill.org.uk

- ¹⁶*This is what the Lord says - he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,*
¹⁷*who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:*
¹⁸*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*
¹⁹*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*
²⁰*The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,*
²¹*the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.*
(Isaiah 43 NIVUK)

Recently, I have been meditating a great deal on the idea of God doing something new. While this pondering predates the Asbury revival, in the USA, this event has certainly sharpened the focus of my thinking. Asbury is a fairly unknown town in the USA. For context, a friend of mine who is a Pastor near Boston described it as a town as "middle of no where" and "inaccessible without a car".

Through a movement of the Spirit of God, a group of students were called to begin an impromptu time of worship, on 8th February. As I write this on 26th February, that time of worship is still going: there have been 18 days of continual worship and prayer! Those drawn in have found faith in Christ, been reconciled with enemies, found healing and support. Crucially: this has been led by those called Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2012). There have been no "big names" or celebrity pastors: even the leadership team at the university have been in the background; supporting where necessary, but mostly keeping out of the way and letting this generation worship as they feel called.

And in a wonderful outpouring of God's Spirit, those most drawn to this are Gen Z!! Generation Z are considered to have mostly abandoned God, abandoned faith, and have wholeheartedly embraced secularism/atheism. But not here!! God, working through Gen Z is calling Gen Z back to Himself! Oh that this revival might take grip across the world, and those young people thought to have abandoned faith altogether might discover afresh the wonderful Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Here is what I wonder - suppose the Spirit of God did sweep through our part of the City of Glasgow, and drew a bunch of Gen Z folk to faith, and they turned up at our door. How would we react? Would we be willing to make space for them to experience and worship God in a way that makes sense to them and their generation? Or would we say, "this is how we do things around here", and expect them to "fit in" with our way?

It was William Ralph Inge who apparently quipped, "Whoever marries the spirit of this age will find himself a widower in the next". I'm sure you get my point: to be overly attached to a particular expression of Church is to set yourself up for grief; especially when the surrounding culture finds that expression obsolete, and is looks for God to do something new.

Which takes us to the passage from Isaiah, above. In this part of the prophecy, the LORD is pointing His people to the Messiah; the Saviour who would come. It opens with a reminder of one of God's greatest acts of salvation: the exodus from Egypt. This was celebrated annually in the Passover meal. Yet, God says, "do not dwell on the past" i.e. stop looking back to the exodus. Instead, behold, "I am doing something new" - in Jesus! Through Jesus, salvation will come; not from slavery in Egypt, but slavery to sin, death, and brokenness. All this will be redeemed and made new!

Because it is achieved by and through Jesus, we have deep assurance and security; one which means we can celebrate God doing new things around us in this age, for our true certainty is in the age to come.

This year, God will do a new thing among us, via the Presbytery Mission Plan. How that will play out exactly, we do not yet know. What I am sure of is this: if we embrace this new thing, knowing our true security is in Christ, then there is nothing God's Spirit cannot do in us and through us.

Who knows - He may even bring revival...?

Stuart

How to join us at Cliccarthill Church

see our online publicity at
www.cliccarthill.org.uk and www.facebook.com/cliccarthillchurch



In person

At Cliccarthill 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 Cliccarthill
Church

The Guild in March

March 6 : The Rise and Fall of Napoleon ----- Roy Johnstone. Roy comes every year and gives an interesting insight to various people or groups known to us historically. His topics are of interest to men as well as women so please feel free to come and join us.

March 13: The Jimmy Blair Accordion orchestra.. An open night in support of the Guild Projects.

March 20: Quiz night. On Our Own

March 27: AGM and Daffodil tea.

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

OPEN NIGHT: The Jimmy Blair Accordion Orchestra will be coming to Clincarthill Church on Monday, March 13 2023. They have been here before and this is a night of foot tapping, enjoyable music. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm and entry is £5 which includes refreshments. Money raised will go to the Guild projects - 'A Home for Every Child' and the missionary venture 'Chocolate Heaven'.



Prayer Calendar - March 2023 - CrossReach

This month, the congregational Prayer Calendar focuses on the work of CrossReach, which runs under the auspices of the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland. Here is some further information about the organisation, to guide our prayers. More information can be found on its website:

<https://www.crossreach.org.uk>

CrossReach: Supporting people to achieve the highest quality of life they are capable of at any given time.

Through sixty services and projects we offer care to people in need of a helping hand, supporting them to live life to the full whatever their circumstances. Some of what we do:

- Older people services, including specialist dementia care homes such as Williamwood House
- Residential childcare and education services for children with additional support needs
- Community Spirit Project - a project by residents for residents to give back to the community
- Threshold Edinburgh - offering support at home and day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities throughout Edinburgh
- Confidential counselling services, for example at The Tom Allan Centre in Glasgow

John McColl

REFLECTIONS FOR LENT

'Lent' is the six week period leading up to Easter (similar to 'advent' being the build up to Christmas).



While advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more often seen as a time of serious preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting, giving something up or abstinence. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, such as a wedding, or birthday; Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday (this year, the 22nd February), which is 46 days (40 fasting days and 6 Sundays) before Easter Sunday. We invite you take part (in your own time) in weekly reflections on the life and death of Jesus. These are being posted online at our website: clincarthill.org.uk/index.php/reflections-for-lent/ with new reflections being added weekly until Easter.



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Zooming over to YouTube

We mentioned previously moving our Sunday service broadcast from Zoom to YouTube. The majority of people have now switched and we therefore plan to cease the use of Zoom for Sunday services after Easter Sunday (9 April).

If you have any questions or concerns please speak to Carol, Graham Shankland or Stuart Buchanan.

The Communications Team

Next Issue deadline Sunday 26 March

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

MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Pop up Church



At our recent 'Pop up Church' in the Honey and Salt café we welcomed David McAdam, who is employed by Bethany Christian Trust. David works with men and women coming out of prison and we were able to understand some of the challenges and difficulties facing people trying to readjust to living in the community. He challenged us to think about how we, the church, should respond to their need for care and support.

Did you know:

- 16,000 children in Scotland have a parent in prison
- 50% of prisoners have been in care in childhood
- 25% of male prisoners have a mental health diagnosis
- 80% of female prisoners have a mental health diagnosis
- 97% of prisoners want to stop offending behaviour

Please keep the work of Christians working in prison settings in your prayers.

Our next 'Pop up Church' will be March/April, guest speaker and date have still to be confirmed. If you have never been to one of our 'Pop up Church' events, why not give it a try! It is very informal and you will be made very welcome.

Food and Toiletries Donation

A big 'thank you' to the Florida Park pub who donated food and toiletries (shower gel, toothbrushes and toothpaste) to be given out to people in need in the local community. We were able to make up 17 bags of food parcels which were delivered to the concierge staff in the high flats to distribute to those residents in need. We were also given 3 bags of nappies which have been placed in the baby changing room in the church for use by families/carers using the facilities (crèche, Bookbugs etc).

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team

A TIME TO *remember* A TIME TO *hope*

We are holding a short gathering to reflect on the past 3 years of the pandemic and to look ahead in hope.

It will be on Saturday 25th March at 10.30am in the church sanctuary, and light refreshments will be provided afterwards. We invite all in the church and in the community to join us

Congregational Register:

The death of Mrs Elizabeth Gray Flat 0-1 3 Ruel Street, Battlefield, Glasgow, G44 4RA on 29th January 2023

From the Session Clerk

The Presbytery Plan (our small part of it) has seen a few minor tweaks with a second Addendum and as I write, we wait to hear if our part is fully accepted and then if the entire Glasgow plan will be accepted or not by Faith Nurture Forum. Our immediate focus now lies in 3 areas; **Shared Worship** between the congregations at Easter, Pentecost and other times; in **Youth Work** learning from each other and the Radiate Youth Ministry; **Wellbeing** looking at the needs of our communities with Warm Spaces, Foodbanks, Trauma Healing and such like. Timescales are more defined with two linkages being in place by the end of this year, with unions following by the end of 2025. We have made clear that all 4 places of worship will be required through to 2028 and hopefully beyond that.

Time to Remember

A 30 minute service is planned for Saturday 25th March at Clincarthill where we will have the opportunity to reflect over the past 3 years noting the deaths of so many not only from our own congregation but the wider community too. We are all encouraged to invite folk along to this and we hope in some small way to bring healing for us all, coming to terms with how our lives have been changed so much. There is yet much to do in supporting both mental and physical health and faith has a huge part to play in all of that.

Security

There have been a number of occasions since the New Year where external doors have not been locked by people when they leave the building, leaving the place wide open in effect overnight until the problem is spotted the following day. IF you are a keyholder, please abide by the following procedure - when you enter the building to start your activity, having unlocked the door, please make sure you lock it again before closing the door. As other members of your group arrive it means you need to return to the door to let them in, or have someone stand inside the door for a period of time to do this. That way while your meeting or activity is underway, the doors are always locked preventing unauthorised access during your meeting and giving you a basic level of security. It goes without saying that you must check the door is locked when you finally leave the building and make sure all lights and electrical appliances are switched off. All 3 external doors operate the same way and when locked the outside handle spins freely and they can only be opened by the key or by someone from inside.

Session Clerk

I am pleased to let you know that Graham Kilpatrick who has been admitted to our Kirk Session has kindly accepted the position of Session Clerk and will assume office at our next meeting on Tuesday 21st March. I know you will all give him your full support and pray for him as he begins a new chapter in his life. This will be my final note for the Informer as clerk, and I wish to thank you all for the support that you have given me over the past 6 years. There's a well-known Frank Sinatra song that encapsulates some feelings for many people as they come to the end of a part of their life, especially concerning regrets, "of which I've had a few," but I would never ever say "my way" and only hope and pray that anything I did during my time as your clerk was "the Lord's way".
God bless.

Roger Gann, Session Clerk

Resurrection Breakfast

The Worship & Christian Growth team, with the help of Eleanor, is providing a simple continental breakfast of cereal, croissants, toast, fruit and yogurt available from 10:15 until 10:50 in the large hall on Easter morning.

For catering numbers and allergen purposes please collect your free ticket from either Eleanor or Agnes.

If you would like to help at the breakfast please speak to Eleanor or Agnes.

We look forward to sharing breakfast and fellowship with you on this the most special day in our Christian calendar.



One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman

He grew up in another village, where he worked as a carpenter until he was thirty

He did none of the things you usually associate with greatness

He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three when public opinion turned against him

He was turned over to his enemies and crucified

When He was dead He was laid in a borrowed grave

Twenty one centuries have passed and today He is still a central figure of the human race

No one has affected the life of man on Earth as much as that

One Solitary Life

