

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinicarhill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 88: April 2023

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clinicarhill.org.uk

¹Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

¹⁰Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

(Isaiah 53 [select verses] NIVUK)

It was tempting to just reproduce the whole of Isaiah 53, but that would have left little room for me to write this month's pastoral letter (though, in fairness, if you are going to read one or the other; I would recommend reading Scripture over my thoughts any day!!).

We are approaching Holy Week: the time of year when we revisit the core events of our faith, which tell of the completion of God's salvation plan in Jesus Christ. As we do so, I am drawn, once again, to the prophet Isaiah. I have told often the story of the Old Testament Lecturer who argues that, if we were to have a "5th Gospel", it should be Isaiah. When you consider passages like the one I share above, it is easy to see why that argument might be made.

What Isaiah saw in this prophecy will be familiar to us: the One sent by the LORD, who had nothing to attract us to Him, who was despised and rejected, made to suffer; yet, in doing so, He took upon Himself the iniquity of us all, according to the LORD's will; all that we might be reconciled to God, set free from the consequences of our rejection of Him, and given assurance of eternal life to all who find faith in Him. It is a familiar story...

And that is one of my chief concerns with Palm Sunday/Holy Week/Easter Sunday etc. The familiarity. It can be easy to fall into thinking "well, I know this story, it's the same one I heard last year, and have heard every year of my Christian life. I know it, and I know how it impacts me; so I can put my mind in neutral." That may be somewhat of an exaggeration, but that is a real danger. It is said, "familiarity breeds contempt". I am not so sure about that, but I am convinced that there is the potential that "familiarity breeds complacency".

In the daily prayer liturgy I use, called "Be Thou My Vision", there is a regular "Prayer of Illumination", which precedes the reading of Scripture. The purpose of this prayer is to ask that the Holy Spirit would open me to receiving anew and afresh from God's Word. For, no matter how familiar we might be with a passage of Scripture, it is still the living Word of God, from which we can always gain some fresh insight and understanding - not least because we are constant works in progress; yes, becoming more Christlike each day, but always with some distance yet to travel.

I therefore thought to reproduce one of those prayers for you here, in the hope you might use it to invite the Holy Spirit to help you receive anew and afresh from the familiar pattern of Holy Week.

Stuart

Divine Spirit, illumine to me the words of the Lord. Show me the wealth of glory that lies beneath the old familiar stories. Teach me the depths of meaning hidden in the songs of Zion. Raise me to the heights of aspiration that is reached by the wings of the prophet. Lift me to the summit of faith that is trod by the feet of the apostle. Open my eyes, that I may behold the wondrous things out of your Law. Amen (written by George Matheson)



Join us in person
at Clinicarhill Church
1220 Cathcart Road, Glasgow



Services are broadcast live
and can also be watched on demand
Search for Clinicarhill Church

We invite you to join us at Clincarthill and neighbouring churches

For more details, see our online publicity at www.clincarthill.org.uk
& www.facebook.com/clincarthillchurch

Wednesday 5th April	at 2.30pm	Cathcart Old Parish Church
	at 7pm	Queen's Park Govanhill Parish Church
Maundy Thursday 6th April	at 7pm	Clincarthill Parish Church
Good Friday 7th April	at 12noon	Queen's Park Govanhill Parish Church
	at 7pm	Clincarthill Parish Church
Easter Sunday 9th April	at 9.45am	Breakfast at Clincarthill Parish Church
	at 11am	Clincarthill Parish Church
	at 6.30pm	Cathcart Trinity Church Praise Event

MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

GARDEN CAFE

The Mission and Community Outreach Team are pleased to confirm that we will be running the Garden Cafe again this summer. This will run from Monday 26th June until Monday 31st July (10am till 1 pm). We look forward to serving the community in this way and hope to make many new friends. We will have a sheet available after Easter for volunteers to sign up to. We look forward to seeing you there.

POP UP CHURCH

Our final Pop up Church before the summer will be held in the Honey and Salt cafe on Thursday 13th April from 7pm to 9pm. Our guest will be Maria Cockburn, Community Worker, Govanhill Church. If you haven't been to a Pop up Church before, why not pop along and enjoy a coffee in an informal setting. You will be made very welcome.

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team

HOLIDAY CLUB

The team are intending to run another holiday club this year. This will run from Monday 7th to Friday 11th August. If you would like to volunteer as a leader, or can help in any other way, a sheet will be made available over the coming weeks for you to sign up to. More details will follow soon.

THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

A big 'thank you' to Graham Kilpatrick for his time as Chair of the Youth Team. We are sorry to see him go, but wish him well in his new role as Session Clerk.

Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Next Issue deadline Sunday 30 April

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

Prayer Calendar - April 2023 - The Well Multi-Cultural Resource Centre

This month, please pray for the work of The Well, which is currently based in Albert Road but is about to move to new premises in Niddrie Road (see below). Here is some further information about the organisation, to guide our prayers. More information can be found on its website:

<https://thewell.org.uk>

The Well:

We are a multi-cultural centre that exists to serve the ethnic minority communities in the south side of Glasgow.

Some of what we do:

- Chai and chat - a woman's social and craft group
- English as a second language classes
- Bubbles - a toddler group
- One-to-one advice consultations
- Advance Advice Centre

News from the Well's website:

'The long-awaited big move is about to commence! On Thursday 6 April we will have our final advice sessions in our current building. We will then close for Easter as usual, and then the move will take place. We plan to open our new building at 58 Niddrie Road, G42 8NT, to clients for advice on Thursday 20 April at 9.15am.' Please pray for everyone involved at this time.

John McColl

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 Sunday 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.

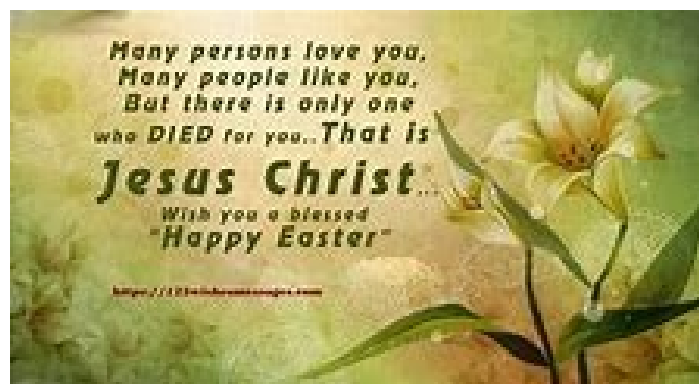


Zooming over to YouTube

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



Congregational Register:

Death

12 March 2023—Mrs Nancy Hughes, Tulach Ard, Hazelmere Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4JW