

# The Informer



Issue 89: May 2023

The Newsletter of Clicarhill Parish Church of Scotland

## Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address [www.clicarhill.org.uk](http://www.clicarhill.org.uk)

<sup>3</sup>Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

<sup>4</sup>Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man.

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

<sup>6</sup>In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

<sup>7</sup>Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

<sup>8</sup>This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (Proverbs 3 NIVUK)

Proverbs is a simultaneously fascinating, but tricky, book of the Bible. It is very much focussed on the idea of Wisdom; that is, the True Wisdom which is from God, and if we want to receive or live by that Wisdom, we would do well to listen to God's direction, discerning His will and His way.

Proverbs is made tricky by the fact that it is a collection of sayings. It is not uncommon for a chapter of Proverbs to contain several themes, with these themes seeming to have little connection with one another; beyond the recognition that this is all God's Wisdom and we do well to heed it. Looking for a common theme in Proverbs for, say, a sermon series, is therefore a challenge.

The three couplets above could easily be read and meditated upon in isolation. Each is like a deep well, with the potential to quench even the deepest spiritual thirst. In this reflection, however, I would take the three together; for there is a common thread which runs throughout, and is relevant for our current situation.

Beginning with verses 3 and 4: here we have, stated plainly, God's call to those who follow Him. We are to live in love and faithfulness: indeed, these are to take such deep root in our lives that we might bind them on our necks (feeling the continual weight of love and faithfulness and being reminded to live them out) or write them on our very hearts (taking the call of love and faithfulness so deeply into ourselves they become fundamental to who we are).

This is followed by instruction in what *not* to do - do not lean on your own understanding! Oh, how often we do this, and how often it leads to calamity: we breenge ahead, believing we know the right direction, the correct action, only to leave a trail of destruction in our wake, all the while discovering we are no further forward. No, we are to trust in the Lord, submit to Him, and let Him make our path straight. This requires a counter-intuitive slowing down; purposefully choosing to wait until God's voice and direction is discerned.

If we take heed of verses 3 to 6, then what is recorded in verses 7 and 8 will become true of us. We will accept we are not wise, we will instead fear the Lord, being obedient to Him, rejecting all that is opposed to Him (in this context, fear does not mean to be afraid. Rather, it means to recognise God's overwhelming position over us; to feel awe and wonder at His glory and majesty; to respect Him as the ruler of all Creation; to love Him as our Saviour and Heavenly Father). In doing this, we will be healthy and nourished.

This does not mean living care-free lives of good physical health. Though, it does mean we are less likely to be stressed, anxious or overwhelmed by our world: if we are leaning on God's Wisdom and Understanding, and trusting He is directing us along the path of life, then we have nothing to fear. We are walking the way He wishes for us, whatever that way may bring. Our call is simply to live faithfully following Him and His way, wherever that leads us.

Which is the real way we are healthy and nourished. If we are leaning on God in this way, allowing His direction, and living faithfully - then we must know Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. We must know all the He has done for us, and all that we have been granted through Him: status as God's Children, the promise of the resurrection to eternal life. This brings us health and nourishment as we live in this hope in the present, awaiting the fulfilment in the future.

All this is my encouragement to you as we continue through dark and uncertain times; not least in the immediate future of our congregation. There is a path to walk, though it is indistinct. Let us, therefore, lean on God's understanding; trust that He is leading us down the right path; and commit to accepting whatever comes, knowing that no matter what, we will live faithfully, in response to the salvation we have received through Christ.

Yours in Him

Stuart



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



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

## The Guild

The Guild outing takes place on **Saturday 13 May to Peebles**. Those going on the outing are asked to be at the church at **10.45am** - the coach will leave at 11am prompt. We stop for a break outside Edinburgh then continue on to Peebles for our time there and High Tea. We leave Peebles for home around 6.30pm



## MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

### Pop up Church

We were delighted to welcome Maria Cockburn, community worker, from Govanhill Free Church and her colleague Leon, who works with the Roma community in Govanhill to our last pop up church. Maria talked about the work she does to support people from the Roma / Slovak community in Govanhill. This included supporting people as they settle into a new community and culture. It was a good opportunity to hear about the work the church is doing in Govanhill. We had 20 folk come along (from different churches) which was great!

Please continue to pray for their work. It needs the support and prayer of other churches. This was our last pop up church until after the summer.

### Garden Cafe

Our garden cafe will run over the summer from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June until Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July from 10am till 1pm. Volunteers will have the opportunity to sign up to help over the next few weeks. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Sanctuary from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

We look forward to having this community outreach which has been welcomed by many in the church and wider community.

Stephen Kennedy  
Mission and Community Outreach Team

## Church Library News—May 2023

Here's a taster from some of the recent additions to the Church Library:



*A Little Bird Told Me: everyday expressions from Scripture* by Timothy Cross

*A drop in the ocean / The writing on the wall / From strength to strength / Head and shoulders above the rest.....these are just some of our everyday expressions which find their roots in the Bible! The author reveals the origins of 52 of these sayings whilst considering their meaning and how they apply to us today.*

*Specks and Planks* by Jeff Lucas

This collection of short stories by Jeff Lucas will amuse, challenge and hopefully, motivate all of us to show more kindness and be less swift to judge.

Perfect for early readers....

*VeggieTales: LarryBoy and the foolish fig from faraway...a message on making wise choices.*

*VeggieTales: LarryBoy and the reckless ruckus.....a message on saying you're sorry.*

## Prayer for Young People

Please pray for all young people within our church and communities who are sitting their exams over the next month.

Please pray for the teaching staff and school staff as they support the young people.

Please also pray for the families of the young people as they support them at home.

Lorraine Kennedy, Youth Team

Registered Scottish Charity SC010138



Telephone Prayer Circle

01 41 632 4206



**Next Issue deadline Sunday 28 May**

Email any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter to [sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk)

# Christian Aid Week: 14-20 May 2023



[Christian Aid Week 2023 - Christian Aid](#) Link to website

Dear Clincarthill friends

We are arriving at May now which sees the annual Christian Aid week appeal. We have a long history in our church family of supporting the congregational envelope collection every year. This year I am asking on behalf of Christian Aid for your continued support of the envelope collection.

Please pray for the success across the UK of this year's collection against the challenges of the cost of living and the call from many other causes which desperately need our support.

Christian Aid say "We won't stop until everyone has the chance to live a full life, free from poverty. We are united in hope that, with your help, more people will be able to transform their lives".

This year's appeal from Christian Aid focuses on Malawi. Families in Malawi are paying the price of this global crisis. Food, fuel, fertiliser, and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months. And hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather. The impact of the recent Cyclone Freddy in Malawi has been devastating. Floods have washed away crops, over 500,000 people have been displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. Malawi experienced a year's worth of rain during the 4-week cyclone. The number of people affected by the Tropical Cyclone in Malawi continues to rise. Over 508,000 people are displaced, and hundreds have lost their lives. There's also an increased risk of malaria and cholera in the immediate aftermath.

Christian aid partners and team in Malawi have been responding to the immediate recovery needs of communities. This includes:

- Corn soya blend for porridge for breastfeeding mothers and children under 5 years
- Mosquito nets for families to provide protection against malaria
- Providing temporary toilets and bathrooms, water containers and water treatment to help prevent the risk of cholera
- Mobile clinics to help people process the emotional trauma of the cyclone

Christian Aid is at its most powerful when a disaster happens. Through us, they will be there long after the flood waters recede, helping families build back. Your gifts this May will continue to support vital work around the world.

**Envelopes will be distributed around the church over the coming weeks, I can also collect any envelopes from those who wish to participate but can't make it to church, or you can donate online if that is more convenient. You can pop the envelope in the collection plates or ask an elder to take it for you or pass it directly to me. I will collect throughout the following weeks.... Until the end of May.**

Elaine Harvey CA week co-ordinator

## **Prayer Calendar – May 2023 – Christian Aid Scotland**

This month, please pray for the work of Christian Aid Scotland. As usual, Christian Aid Week takes place this month, from 14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May. This is a busy time for staff and volunteers and an important opportunity to publicise the work of Christian Aid and raise funds. More information can be found on the Christian Aid website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/scotland>

### **Christian Aid Scotland:**

We support individuals, partners and churches to stamp out the global scandal of poverty. We inspire people of all faiths and none to challenge the root causes of poverty.

### **Some of what we do:**

- Raise awareness - speakers visit schools, churches and other groups
- Run campaigns - highlight and challenge injustice
- Encourage 'Talking Climate Justice' events
- Fundraise - particularly, but not only, during Christian Aid Week
- Publish a monthly prayer diary

## Thank You

I write on behalf of Doreen Walker and myself when on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April both Doreen and I were very surprised being invited onto the chancel and received tokens of appreciation for the work we have done over recent years for the kirk session and the congregation. Doreen has been the associate clerk for 10 years and for me 6 years as session clerk. You the congregation were most generous in giving us both such kind gifts of cards, money and flowers and we thank you all most sincerely for your kindness and generosity. Both of us remain elders and we hope to continue in that capacity doing other work as God calls to do, but inevitably as age catches up with us and our energy levels are not quite the same, so the nature of voluntary work changes, but is none the less important.

As well as scripture I often turn to that well known gentleman from Stratford upon Avon, who always provides words for any occasion - *"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages"* - from As you Like It. I'm not sure yet if for me anyway, it's "exit stage right, pursued by a bear" or not as the case may be, only time will tell. So once again, thanks very much we do appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Graham Kilpatrick of course continues the work of the session clerk, and I have no doubt whatsoever that God will bless him and guide him in this work, and I ask you all to give him your full support in what are challenging times not only for us locally but for the church nationally. Support and encouragement too, for Stuart our minister as we continue to work more closely with Queen's Park Govanhill church and the Cathcart churches. Ministers across the land face the hardest time and most difficult challenges lie ahead in an uncertain future, but we have our hope and faith to support us. God bless.

Roger & Doreen

## 83rd Glasgow Boys' Brigade Annual Inspection, Friday 12th May, 7.15pm.

Anchor Boys, Junior and Company Sections will be joining together for our first full Company Inspection since 2019! It's in the large hall, and will give a taste of the activities we've done throughout the session, the evening will include our prize-giving and presentation of awards, followed by tea / coffee. We extend an invitation to all in the congregation, there is no charge for tickets, there will be the opportunity to make a donation at the end of the evening.



A big THANKS to everyone who helped decorate the church for our Easter services. There were two beautiful Easter crosses (one at the front door and one on the chancel) as well as daffodil flower decorations on all the window-ledges. These were lovely and really added to the atmosphere of the sanctuary at this special time. Thanks also to all who knitted daffodils and assembled the daffodil cross, every flower was unique, rather like nature itself, and it was wonderful too that people could take flowers away to brighten up their own Easters.



## Thy Kingdom Come

This year's annual TKC event takes place from 18<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May. You are encouraged to pray daily for five people you would like to see coming to faith. There are information sheets on how to become involved beside the Thy Kingdom Come booklets in the church entrance area and in the sanctuary. Alternatively speak to any Worship and Christian Growth team member.

## BIG PRAYER PICNIC

The Worship and Christian Growth Team are planning a Prayer Picnic on Saturday 27 May from 11am -2pm. Bring a picnic and enjoy fellowship and prayer together on Pentecost weekend.

## Congregational Register:

### Death

15 April 2023 - Mrs Irene Warren - 906 Aikenhead Road, Glasgow, G44 4QF