

# The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinkarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 91: September 2023

## Letter from the Manse

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

<sup>9</sup>[I]f you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup>As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.' (Romans 10 NIVUK)

Martin Lloyd Jones was the Minister of Westminster Chapel, in London, during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He was known for his expository preaching, and his ability to craft entire sermons from just one or two verses of Scripture. His magnum opus was a sermon series through the Book of Romans, which has been turned into a multi-volume set of books.

There is a story told of a man who, for whatever reason, needed to leave London for a year. Upon his return, and after being in Westminster Chapel for Sunday worship, it is reported he remarked, "When I left, we were in Romans chapter 9... when I returned, we were still in Romans chapter 9!"

I share this story to give you an insight into how many preachers view the book of Romans. Given how Paul outlines the story of salvation through the 16 chapters, it is seen by many as the climax of one's preaching career. It is the Everest of biblical books, and conquering this summit is the greatest moment a preacher can achieve.

Perhaps one day, I shall ascend this mountain myself. For now, I content myself with 3 verses from chapter 10; 3 verses which contain the essence of the letter to the Romans; 3 verses which, indeed, contain the very essence of our faith.

If you believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord, you are saved. That is, you are assured that you are now God's beloved child, rescued from the consequences of your rejection of Him, and guaranteed a place in His Kingdom in the New Creation.

In response to believing in Jesus in your heart, you declare it with your mouth, professing your faith. This is seen in what we think, say and do - our attitudes and actions. We acknowledge that our deeds do not contribute to our salvation; rather, we commit to living the Lord's way as a grateful response to what He has already granted us through Christ.

We who believe will never be put to shame. That is not to say the world won't try to shame us: in fact, we should expect to be belittled or treated with indifference because of our faith. Rather, this is a promise: that those who believe will not need to bear the shame of standing before a Holy God as a broken sinner. We need not bear that shame, because Christ bore that shame on our behalf. We, therefore, can approach God as His redeemed and beloved children; free of shame!

Why does all this matter? Well - apart from the fact it is at the very heart of our faith! - it matters because, in spite of all the upheaval and change that is to come, this remains our primary calling. We are called to faith in God through Christ, showing that salvation in the way we live, being reassured that this never changes, even if things are changing all around us. This anchors us, reassuring us, giving us a solid foundation to face whatever lies ahead.

It is also the most missional thing any of us can do - live lives that show the salvation we have received. Let us, therefore, believe in Christ in our hearts; and live that salvation with our words and deeds.

Stuart

Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

**Next Issue deadline Sunday 24 September**

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



**Telephone Prayer Circle**

**0141 632 4206**



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



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### **Splash Holiday Club**

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who was involved in this years' holiday club from the leaders, helpers, juice ladies, Roger (for the barbeque) and Jacqui.

The week went well, with 53 children attending over the week, although, fortunately with the limited numbers of leaders, the maximum on any one day was 36. I am especially grateful for Stuart who presented the daily story, Irene for the exercise routine, Elaine for organising the games and Calum who came up with water based experiments.

Thanks too for everyone who donated juice, biscuits and jam jars - there was plenty.

Following on from the Sunday holiday club service, if you feel drawn to helping out at next year's club, please let me know so Sheila and Rhona can make sure all the necessary PVG checks are completed in time.

Yours in Christ,  
Mary MacCallum

### **Friday Senior Diners**

We are now back, meeting again on Fridays. We will be off on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September as it is the September Weekend.

Sheila Peachey.



### **Harvest Festival—Service of Thanksgiving**

This year our Harvest festival will also be a special service of Thanksgiving, and will take place on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 11am. As usual our Harvest gifts will be distributed to the Lodging House Mission and the South Side Food Bank. Details of items required by the LHM, including those required urgently, are available on the reverse of the LHM newsletter available in the vestibule and the side shelves within the sanctuary.

### **Lodging House Mission**

Copies of the Lodging House Mission newsletter and Harvest Donation Request List are available for uplift at the front door. Additional copies can be collected from Agnes.

**Crafters** may be interested in a **Knit Together Project** being organised by the mission. It is hoped that volunteers will knit, quilt or crochet patchwork blankets (122 x 183cm) which will be displayed at the Christmas Carol Service on 13<sup>th</sup> December before being sold to raise funds for the mission's work with the homeless. Completed blankets should be handed in to the mission by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023. If you require additional information speak to Agnes.

Finally, there is a LHM poster on display outside the small hall advertising various upcoming events being hosted in East Campbell Street, to which all are welcome.

### **The Guild**

The Guild are holding another 'Coffee and Chat' evening on **Monday, September 18 at 7pm** in the **Small Hall**.

The new session of the Guild begins with a social evening on **Monday, October 2** in the Small Hall beginning at 7.30pm. A warm welcome is extended to all.

Sheila Morrow

### **Coffee Club**

The Coffee Club starts meeting again from Tuesday 5 September at 10:00. We look forward to seeing you there.

## GARDEN CAFÉ

Thank you to all the volunteers who so willingly gave up their time to serve others over the summer at our garden café. It is so important to make meaningful connections with people of all ages and develop good relationships within our community and beyond. Thanks also to our musicians and the Lodging House Mission choir who entertained us over the six weeks. We received £421.94 in donations (after expenses) which will be used for future events run by the Mission and Community Outreach Team.

It was great to see so many families, our regulars (who come faithfully every year) and visitors over the weeks who have all become like a big family to us. Friendship isn't a big thing – it's a million little things!

Stephen Kennedy  
Mission and Community Outreach Team

## Prayer Calendar – September 2023 – The Lodging House Mission

Throughout September, please pray for the work of The Lodging House Mission. This month sees the launch of their annual Harvest Appeal, so please pray particularly for a generous response to it. Copies of the most recent LHM Newsletter are being made available at the church door and more information can be found on their website:

<https://www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk>

### The Lodging House Mission:

We are a Christian organisation with a mission to provide care and support to those in need regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. Our team works to make a positive difference in people's lives.

### Some of what we do:

- Education services
- Day centre activities
- Food services
- Chaplaincy

Boys' Brigade has started back for the new session, our BB Company at Clincarthill is the 83<sup>rd</sup> Glasgow, we're open to boys all through the school age range. Anchors for P1 – P3 on Tuesdays 6.30pm – 7.45pm, Juniors for P4 – P6 is on Fridays 7pm – 9pm and Company for P7 & S1 - S6 is on Fridays 7.30pm – 9.30pm. We meet weekly from the start of September until mid-May except for school holidays.

We have a progressive programme across the age groups based on six activity areas - Get Active, Get Adventurous, Get Creative, Get into the Bible, Get Involved and Get Learning, with those in Juniors and Company gaining badges through the activities that they do.

Come along and join, or for more information search for 83rdglasgowbb on Facebook or email [83glasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:83glasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk)



## Congregational Roll

### Deaths

21/8/23: Mrs Martha Gough, Three Bridges Care Home, 108 Carmunnock Road, G44 4UN

### Change of Address

**July 2023:** Mrs Claire Johnston from 145 Mount Annan Drive, G44 4SA to 102 Earlsark Avenue, Newlands, Glasgow, G43 2HD

## Thanksgiving Service - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. While this service will include the usual gathering of gifts (see the note from Sheila Morrow!), we will also use this as an opportunity to celebrate our current identity, and give thanks to God for who we were in past congregations, and who we are as our current congregation: all in preparation for the changes which are to come.

To that end, I need some help from you all. I would like to include contributions from us all, expressing our thanks to God for all He has done for us, in us and through us.

I am hoping to create a video which captures our thanksgiving. The idea is to have a series of images playing, while we hear the voices of congregation members giving thanks to God. To help create this, I am looking for 3 things in particular:

On the slips of paper provided, complete this sentence: "I am thankful to God for this Church because..."  
Once you have filled this out, you can leave them in my pigeonhole.

If you are willing to have your voice recorded, can you please speak to me or Graham Shankland. The idea is to record each of the sentences, creating an audio record of the things for which we are thankful. If you are willing to record your own sentence, or read some sentences from others, please let us know.

If you have any photographs from Langside Hill, Battlefield East, Mount Florida or Clincarthill Church (ideally of the people in the congregations!) can you again pass these to me or Graham Shankland. If they can be passed on electronically, this would be very helpful; but hard copies of photographs are also fine.

Thanks in advance for your help!

Stuart



*"Oh give thanks  
to the LORD, for  
he is good, for his  
steadfast love  
endures forever!"*

*Psalm 107:1*

[www.facebook.com/prayerjournal](http://www.facebook.com/prayerjournal)

*The Thanksgiving Service will also mark the opening of the **Mount Florida Church time capsule**. This was compiled in 1995 by members and organisations at the time, sending messages to the 'church of the future' in our community. We would especially like to invite back former members of the church and it's organisations to the church service on the 8th October. We will be holding a special lunch in the hall after the service when people will be able to look at the memorabilia from that time and see a video that was made. If you know anyone who was about our earlier churches around 1995, please invite them along on this date.*

Graham Shankland

## **Presbytery Mission Plan Update**

With the implementation phase of the Presbytery Mission Plan beginning, I thought it would be helpful to try to give you a summary of how we arrived at this point and what to expect next.

### General Assembly 2020

It was at this General Assembly that the decision was made to cut the number of Ministry Posts in Scotland from around 1000 to around 600. This decision has been reaffirmed at subsequent General Assemblies – with the most recent GA acknowledging that, even with these cuts, the financial situation in the Church of Scotland is dire, with General Reserves being depleted by the end of 2026.

The General Assembly also determines how the 600 posts are allocated throughout Scotland. A total of 85 posts were allocated to Glasgow Presbytery (down from around 125). Presbytery was tasked with allocating these 85 posts through the creation of a Presbytery Mission Plan.

### Glasgow Presbytery

Allocating the 85 posts was not as simple as saying, “we will have 85 congregations”. Some posts were ring fenced for Priority Areas. Others were needed for Presbytery-wide roles. Once these were agreed, a total of 65 posts remained for allocation to congregations.

To allocate the remaining posts fairly, the Presbytery split into 5 Zones. Using raw population and congregational income, posts were assigned to Zones (we are Zone 5, which received 11.7 FTE Posts). The Presbytery, keen for local parties to have a say in how posts were used, organised Zones into local clusters. Our cluster includes Clincarthill, Queen’s Park Govanhill, Cathcart Old and Cathcart Trinity. Based on the combined parish populations and congregational incomes, we received 2.5 FTE Posts.

### Cluster

Representatives from each congregation gathered in 8 facilitated meetings. Our task was to determine how we would deploy the 2.5 FTE posts, ensuring that no one filling those roles would be unduly burdened. We were also to explore how to bring the congregations together in a way which would strengthen our ability to minister to our respective parishes.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the best approach was for 2 linkages to be formed, each under 1 minister: the Cathcart congregations would link; Clincarthill and Queen’s Park Govanhill would link. Ties between the congregations would be maintained through the formation of a Parish Grouping.

The additional .5 post is notionally appointed to the Govanhill area of the cluster, recognising this as the most complex part of our area of responsibility. There is hope that this post can receive additional funding, bringing it up to a full-time post.

The linkages are not an end in themselves, however: remaining in linkage places too high a burden on the Parish Minister. Therefore, it was agreed that the linkages would be maintained for up to 2 years: the purpose being to allow the congregations to build relationships with one another, leading to an eventual union by the end of 2025.

This plan was approved by the local Kirk Sessions (ours met and gave approval on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022). After some redrafting, Presbytery approved the Plan in April 2023, with the National Committees approving by May 2023. With an approved plan in hand, Presbytery now move to implement the proposals in the plan.

### Congregation

The next steps will take place over September and October 2023.

The Presbytery will call and chair a joint meeting of the Clincarthill and Queen’s Park Govanhill Kirk Sessions, to draft the basis of linkage – essentially the rules explaining how the linkage relationship

will work. Once this is agreed by both Kirk Sessions, it will be brought back to the congregations. We will have an opportunity for discussion, followed by two weeks of announcements, which lead to a vote.

Clincarthill will vote on the Basis of Linkage; QPG will vote on this, as well as vote on whether they accept me as their Minister. Once the votes are taken, the results are reported to Presbytery who will, if approval is received from the congregations, give final approval.

The vote is primarily about the Basis of Linkage – i.e. do we support the way the relationship will work. Assuming we have done our work well, and listened to Elders and Members in the drafting, then most should be able to support the basis of linkage, I think.

This vote is also an opportunity for Presbytery to gauge support for linking. While the decision to link has, in principle, been made by the Kirk Session through the Mission Plan process, it still requires ratification by the congregation.

It is here I realise that some who were not part of the journey of discussion to reach this point may feel this has come out of the blue, and therefore be inclined to not support this. I can understand that: change is unsettling. There are, however, some things we need to keep in mind.

The first is that remaining “as we are” is simply not an option. As I have outlined above, the decisions to reduce ministry numbers, and correspondingly reorganise to ensure those remaining ministers are not unduly burdened, have been taken by higher Courts of the Church. There is little we can do to reverse those decisions now; all we can do is make the best with what we have been given.

Which is what the Cluster discussions aimed to do. What is being proposed is a genuine attempt to do the best with what we have been given. So far, I have been encouraged by what we have achieved: we are already seeing the fruit of stronger ties with our cluster partners, and the closer relationship with QPG is already creating new opportunities for ministry and fellowship. I have reflected before, and do so again here, that if this is handled well, we have a real opportunity to do something great for God in this mission cluster – but that does require us to take a step of faith and embrace this change.

For what it is worth, if done well, on day 1 of the linkage, no one should notice any difference. Then, with time and effort over the ensuing 2 years, I hope we will build such a relationship with QPG that, when we arrive at the point of union, it will feel like a natural next step.

The last thing to mention here is that it is unclear what Presbytery would do if a congregation, committed to action through the Mission Plan, did not follow through on that commitment.

This is not the last word, by any means – nor do I intend it to be. This is simply my attempt to make sure we are all aware of the journey undertaken to reach this point, so that we are all as informed as we can be when we reach the point of discussion.

As ever, if you have any questions about any of this, please contact me. Please do not rely on third hand information, which can be misunderstood in the retelling! And do look out for the days/times of meetings for discussion and decision.

Stuart.

## September 2023 Reflection - Matthew 21: 12 - 17

**As the holiday period comes to a close and we go back to the business-as-usual our bible reflection focusses on another business-as-usual day that invoked a very strong reaction from Jesus**

Before you begin to read this familiar scripture take some time to quieten your mind and invite The Holy Spirit to refresh and deepen your understanding.

Read Matthew 21: 12 – 17 and paraphrase it to get to the heart of what was happening and why Jesus was so angry and disappointed.

Re-read the passage.

As you do so you may find it insightful to visualise the scene. Hear the hubbub of the bazaar-like interactions that meet Jesus as he enters the Temple courts. Ponder the reactions of the characters present as Jesus overturned the tables and rebuked their treatment of his Father's House.

Compare the difference between the cleansing scene and the scene presented in verses 14 and 15. Take a moment to consider the characters introduced here and their reactions to Jesus.

### Matthew 21: 12 – 17

#### Jesus at the Temple

12. Jesus entered the Temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves.

13. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers." (Jeremiah 7:11)

14. The blind and the lame came to him at the Temple, and he healed them. 15. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the Temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

16. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "Have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise." (Psalm 8:2)

17. And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

#### **Ponder**

**In 2023 how do we prepare ourselves for Sunday worship and how zealous are we in our prayer lives?**