

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clicarhill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 94: December 2023

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clicarhill.org.uk

⁷The path of the righteous is level; you, the Upright One, make the way of the righteous smooth.

⁸Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.

⁹My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness. (Isaiah 26 NIVUK)

Waiting. There is a stereotype that we in the UK are adept at waiting (well, at least queuing). Whether true or not, this is very much in contrast to the prevailing culture of the day, which seeks instant gratification: everything from fast food to binge watching programmes on the latest streaming service. There is an expectation that we get what we want now.

Before we fall down the rabbit hole of blaming current generations for their lack of patience or inability to delay gratification; I must point out that this reality has been a part of human experience for most of our existence. Yes, our culture may be shaped by this desire for instant gratification more than previously, but it is too simplistic to think of this as a modern-day phenomenon. Impatience runs deep in the human race, and has been a mark of our dealings with one another and with the world for a long, long time.

Consistently in Scripture, human impatience is presented as a negative force in the world. Whether it is Abraham sleeping with his wife's servant, Saul consulting a medium before battle, or Judas agreeing to betray Jesus: each demonstrates a lack of faith in God, not trusting Him to act; so taking matters into their own hands, seeking a particular outcome; but in their impatience, and impertinent acting, causing pain, misery, even death.

Advent is a time of expectant waiting. It is a time to encourage us to reflect on God calling us to wait on Him: to trust that His plans are in motion, and will be brought to fruition at the right time. Rather than trying to pre-empt God's plans, or circumvent them with our own agenda, we are to trust and wait.

That is the encouragement from the part of the prophecy of Isaiah, quoted above. What are the righteous of God to do while we wait on Him? Simple - we walk in the ways of His laws. What were the People of God to do while waiting for Him to enact His plan of salvation? Wait, and walk in the ways of His laws. What are we, the People of God, to do today, while we wait for Him to establish the reality of His Kingdom? Wait, and walk in the ways of His laws.

We walk in the ways of His laws not to earn God's favour - that is impossible. Rather, we do this as a grateful response to what God has already done for us through the complete and perfect work of Jesus, through whom we are saved. In walking the ways of His laws, we are declaring our allegiance to Christ, who saves us, and representing Him and His ways to our world, all to the glory of God. Our living may not necessarily save anyone; but walking in the ways of His law at least make us useful should the Spirit need us to be part of the building of God's Kingdom in this world.

As another year approaches its close, and we look ahead to a year of further uncertainty, with the contents of the Presbytery Mission Plan being implemented, we may ask, "what are we to do while we wait upon the Lord to enact His plans for us?". Simple - while walking in the ways of His laws, we wait for Him.

Presbytery Mission Plan Update

I wanted to add a brief note to highlight something many of you may already have heard. Recently, our friends in Cathcart Old Parish Church made the brave, but difficult, decision to give up their building, thereby accelerating the process of union between their congregation and Cathcart Trinity Church; with Cathcart Trinity's building being the designated place of worship for the united congregation. While some procedures still need to be followed, it does seem that the move to union will happen far faster than was originally anticipated in our plan.

This does not materially change anything in our part of the mission cluster; but it is important we keep in mind what is happening with our neighbours and do what we can to prayerfully and practically support them, especially as the situation for them moves far more quickly than was initially anticipated.

Stuart

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



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Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and support upon the passing of my father, Bill Shankland. It has been much appreciated at what has been a difficult time for the family.

Graham Shankland.

Prayer Calendar - December 2023 - Bethany Christian Trust

In December, the Prayer Calendar reminds us to pray for Bethany Christian Trust. Homelessness across Scotland is a serious problem throughout the year, but the need to support homeless people is especially acute in winter. Read more about Bethany's work on its website: <https://bethanychristiantrust.com>

Bethany Christian Trust:

We aim to relieve the suffering and meet the long-term needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Scotland. We tackle the complex causes and consequences of homelessness.

Some of what we do:

- ◆ Welcome Centre - rapid re-accommodation for rough sleepers.
- ◆ Bridge to Freedom - addiction recovery programmes run in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Aberdeen.
- ◆ Inspiring Leith - empowering local people to bring about change in their local community.
- ◆ Supported Housing Service /Fife Housing Support /Bethany Homes - empowering independent living.
- ◆ Care Van - feeding the homeless in Glasgow, Perth and Edinburgh.
- ◆ Anne Hope House - therapeutic residential community for females coming out of homelessness.
- ◆ Upstream - a therapeutic, befriending and counselling service within secondary schools.

The Guild

The Guild thank everyone who supported their Coffee morning and Christmas Fair on November 18. The final sum raised was **£1030.00**. A great effort, so thank you again.

December Programme

Monday 4 December—Outing to Rosebank Garden Centre. The bus will leave the church at **11am** and leave Rosebank to return the church at **4.30pm**

Monday 11 December—"All I want for Christmas"- Sheila Morrow

Monday 18 December—Christmas Party begins at 7pm.

December 25 and January 1 2024 - No Guild

Guild resumes Monday 8 January 2024



Sheila Morrow

CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE

The Gift service will take place on **Sunday 10 December at 11 am**. As usual we will give to gifts for teenagers to the families supported by the Preshal Trust. The Lodging House Mission and Glasgow City Mission have concerns for the increasing number of people who will be sleeping rough this winter on Glasgow's streets. They are asking for monetary donations, (some of which I will change into vouchers for hot drinks or clothing) warm hats, gloves, socks, toiletries and selection boxes/packs.



Thank you.

Sheila Morrow

MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

Feed the Fans

We re-started this for the recent Scotland vs Norway match at Hampden and had a warm reception from those that came along, some visitors coming from as far away as Inverness, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and even the USA! Those who visited commented on the friendly welcome and hospitality they received from the team of volunteers. We raised £80 which will be given to the Boys' Brigade for their funds. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped on the night, it was very much appreciated by everyone. We look forward to doing a few more events for concerts at Hampden in the summer. If you would like to be part of the welcome team for these events, please let me know.

Warm Space

We are running the Warm Space again this year during the months of December and January. This will take place on a Thursday from 1pm to 4pm, beginning on Thursday 7th December until Thursday 25th January. There will be soup and a roll and hot drinks at no cost, which is open to all in the community. The winter months can be a lonely, difficult and sad time for many people, so if you know of anyone who would benefit from coming along, please encourage them as they will be made very welcome. Last year we enjoyed welcoming people of all ages and once again we will have a small play area for children.

Bethany Caring Christmas Tree Event

On Saturday 9th December we are a pick up point for Bethany Christian Trust and their Caring Christmas Tree event. This is an event we have supported over the last few years where folk pre-order a tree and proceeds support the work of Bethany who work with homeless and vulnerable people across Scotland. We will be providing hot drinks and Christmas treats from 10am till 1pm in the sanctuary for those collecting trees, but this is open to anyone who wants to pop in for a tea/coffee, so we would love to see you. This is an important outreach to welcome visitors.

Carol Singing – Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve we will be carol singing in the gardens from 5.45pm with hot chocolate being served from 5.30pm. This was a great success last year and we had a good turnout from the community. Please come along and **don't forget to bring a torch with you**. After this we will go into the warmth of the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Family Service.

On behalf of the Mission and Community Outreach Team we would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team

I have received this lovely email from the Rev Hugh Wallace, expressing his gratitude at being invited to the special service unveiling the time capsule which was put together during his years at Mount Florida Church.
Graham
Session Clerk

Please convey our thanks for the invitation to the Special Service yesterday at Clincarthill Church. It was wonderful to meet up with folk we hadn't seen for a long time, and to know that the witness and life of the congregation continues faithfully under the leadership of your present minister and the Kirk Session.

Also, a lot of preparation had gone into the day, setting up through in the hall with the various displays, and of course the lunch organised and served so caringly by your teams.

It was fascinating to watch, if not briefly, the video which Graham (Shankland) had organised. We hope to be able to see it more at our leisure, to pick out our own children and other people's children too.

I was just thinking as Stuart said at one point that he had been the minister at Clincarthill for 8 years, that I had been the minister at Mount Florida for a similar time when we set up the Time Capsule. I also was taken back to my years at the front of the church when Stuart's little girl came forward to hug and hold onto him. I remember - fondly - my youngest son holding onto me round my leg like a limpet when I led worship or the Holiday Club. Always "Dad".

Thank you again for allowing us to be part of a lovely experience of nostalgia, but also of thanksgiving as the work of Christ continues.

*With warm affection to you all.
God bless.
Hugh and Rae*

Events and activities at Clincarthill Church this Christmas

- everyone will be given a warm welcome -

Date	Time	Event
Sun 3 rd Dec	11am 7pm	Morning Worship , the first Sunday in Advent Sundays @7 , a reflective service inviting you to step away from the busy-ness of the season
Sat 9 th Dec	10am to 1pm	Caring Christmas Trees (Bethany Trust) While you're collecting your tree, or if you want to just pop in, we'll have refreshments and Christmas treats in the Church. Families are welcome
Sun 10 th Dec	11am	Morning Worship, Gift Service & Family Lunch Bring your gifts (goods or cash donations) for the Glasgow City Mission, the Lodging House Mission and the Preshal Trust. With family lunch afterwards
Sun 17 th Dec	11am 7pm	Morning Worship , the third Sunday in Advent Sundays@7, Advent Evening Worship
Sun 24 th Dec (Christmas Eve)	11am 5.45pm 6.30pm 11.30pm	Morning Worship , a family service, including children's nativity events Community Carol Singing in the grounds from 5.45pm to 6.15pm (with hot chocolate from 5.30pm). All are welcome to join us. Please bring a torch Family Service , including carols, the Puppet Team & the lighting of candles. There will also be tea, coffee and mince pies served afterwards Watchnight Service , to welcome Christmas Day
Mon 25 th Dec (Christmas Day)	11am	Christmas Morning Worship Join us for a café church service and to think about the real meaning of Christmas Day
Sun 31 st Dec (Hogmanay)	11am	Morning worship A short service of praise & thanksgiving to round off the old year & look ahead to the new one



Celebrations all round at the Tuesday Coffee Club

Three ladies celebrated their 90th birthdays recently—Mabel Dickson, Violet Robertson and Margaret Taggart. It was also a very special occasion for Betty Tucker, who celebrated her 100th birthday.

We celebrated the birthdays by having a lunch for Mabel, Violet and Margaret in September and had another lunch on 21 November for Betty's 100th. It was a very special occasion and we were so delighted to share it together. Congratulations and Happy Birthday ladies.

Next Issue deadline Sunday 31 December

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



Telephone Prayer Circle

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