

The Informer



Clincarthill Parish Church
a church for the community

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 96: February 2024

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

²²*The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;*

²³*The Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.*

²⁴*The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.*

²⁵*Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!*

²⁶*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.*

²⁷*The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.*

(Psalm 118 NIVUK)

For some of you, Psalm 118:24 might be more familiar as rendered in the King James Bible: *this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it*. Others still may remember this line from the old Sunday School Hymn, which notes key moments like "when He rose again" or "when the Spirit came".

This Psalm is believed to have been sung around the time of Ezra, with the return from Babylonian exile, and the establishing of the Second Temple. In that context, some of the language can be interpreted literally: the stone in the building of the New Temple, which becomes the "house of the Lord" in v.26.

For us, who live after days of Jesus' earthly ministry, the context is somewhat different: we see in this a Psalm which points to Jesus. v.27 is an allusion to Palm Sunday, with the words of v.26 being used to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem. Jesus himself used v.22 as a way of articulating that He is the one through whom salvation comes. It is the act of salvation through Christ which the Lord has done, and which causes His People to rejoice.

I share this as a preface to the season we are entering. Later this month, we begin the season of Lent, which builds toward the celebration of the central moments of our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The purpose of Lent is to reflect something of the suffering of Jesus during his 40 days in the wilderness; itself a prelude to the ultimate suffering He would experience for us on the Cross. Lent, therefore, tends to have a much darker and weightier feel to it, especially when compared to the other season of preparation: Advent. Lent reflects something of the brokenness of our world; the struggle, the pain, the grief. For any of us who go through times of darkness, we can find a companion in the Lenten Jesus in the wilderness: for He knows the challenges of living in such a world as this.

Yet, even those dark days of Jesus: wilderness, or Cross; were days that the LORD had made. Purposefully and deliberately, to assure us that Jesus knows what it is like to live in this world; and to enact the salvation we so desperately need. This ties perfectly with what we are learning through the book of Esther: that God can (and will) use even the most tragic and darkness of circumstances for His good purposes, and for His glory. We may not see or understand how this side of the New Creation, but we have this assurance.

Being able to rejoice in the LORD, especially during the dark days, is very counter-cultural, and is something which makes us Christians stand out as lights against the darkness of our world. As we enter Lent, therefore, acknowledging the darkness in the present and the uncertainty of the future: may we rejoice in the LORD, and be glad in Him. For, no matter what happens: this is the day the LORD has made, for His good purposes and for His glory.

Stuart

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Next Issue deadline Sunday 25 January

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



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



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at Clincarthill Church
1220 Cathcart Road, Glasgow



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MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

Last Thursday we celebrated the success again of our warm space which finished with a Burns' lunch, a quiz and some fun which were enjoyed by everyone who came along.

Over the last 8 weeks we served the community with food and friendship building good relationships with visitors (of all ages) and other agencies. This was especially important over the Christmas and New Year period which can be a very lonely time for many and was well attended. Serving others is an essential part of our Christian life and reaching out to others through the gift of hospitality is very special. During the 8 week period we welcomed just over 30 people to our warm space.

Connecting with other agencies is very important as it not only broadens our vision of the community we serve but also opens up new opportunities. One such opportunity was when we were approached by the local college's supported learning department and as a result of that contact some staff and students helped us at the warm space for our last 3 weeks. This was a great success and we will continue to keep close links with the college. Another new relationship that is developing is with Jade West, who is the new community development worker based with Queens Park Community Foundation. We have also worked hard to build relationships with staff at the local pub and snooker club who do an immense amount of good work in the community.

Looking ahead, the church has plans to carry out a community survey. It has become increasingly clear that there is a need for churches to be better connected to the needs of their local communities.

Our ministry of welcome and hospitality gives us opportunities to meet visitors to the area, so we will be 'feeding the fans' for some events at Hampden in the next few months.

I want to thank again the amazing team of volunteers who gave up their time to serve others and make the warm space a great success. Working together as a church is the way ahead to support one another and those we seek to serve.

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team

The Guild

February Programme

Monday 5 February 'Mary Magdalen' Nan Steele
Monday 12 February Project night - 'The Vine Trust' Robert Alexander
Monday 19 February 'Trip to America' Roger Gann
Monday 26 February Down Memory Lane Roy Johnstone



Parish Register

Deaths

December 2023: Mrs Doreen Brown, 51 Kings Park Road, Glasgow, G44 4TX

8/1/24: Miss Moira McDougall, Peach Unit, Orchard Grove House, Prospecthill Circus, Toryglen, G42 0LB

22/1/24: Miss Jean Marley, Mearns View Care Home, 416 Mearns Road, Newton Mearns, G77 5TY

THANK YOU

A great big thank you to all the friends in my church family for the lovely cards and gifts I received to celebrate my recent birthday. Also all those who responded on Facebook. I don't do Facebook, but your good wishes were all passed on to me. THANK YOU all so very much.

Sheila Morrow

Wishing Grace Clark a belated Happy 90th Birthday. Grace celebrated this milestone occasion back in October.



Many Thanks to our "Church Family" for all the kind messages and thoughts and continuing prayers on our behalf over the last few weeks. All very much appreciated.

Anne and Ian Ritchie.