

The Informer



Cliccarthill Parish Church
a church for the community

Issue 97: March 2024

The Newsletter of Cliccarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.cliccarthill.org.uk

¹⁷But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." ¹⁹These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

²⁰But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

²²Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. (Jude 1 NIVUK)

Jude is one of those books of the Bible I suspect we would struggle to find. The New Testament letter would fall into a similar category as the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament - we know roughly where to find the books if we needed to look them up, but would need an extra moment just to locate exactly where it is.

If you do want to look up the whole letter (it is only a single chapter, and can be read in about 5 minutes), and need help finding it, here are the directions: find the book of Revelation, and go back one!

In the opening, Jude says he is the brother of James (who also wrote a letter, found in the latter part of the New Testament); and although Jude says he is a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, he was (along with James!) a half-brother of Jesus. Jesus, obviously, was born of Mary and God's Spirit: James and Jude were also born of Mary, though we would surmise that their father was Joseph.

I wonder what it was like to be a half-brother of Jesus? Certainly, from the Gospel accounts, we know that the relationship was sometimes fraught. How would Jude have reacted when he saw his brother Jesus preaching in the Nazarene synagogue, for example, only to see him face down a crowd threatening to stone Him for alleged heresy? Or what would he have felt at the news that not only had his brother been put to death on the cross, but has also been raised to new life again?

Clearly, at some point, Jude became convinced of his brother's status as Son of God, Messiah and Saviour. This letter is a testimony of Jude's faith. We know little else about him, other than he was clearly moved to write this letter advocating that others find faith in his half-brother: for it is faith in Jesus Christ which reconciles us to God, saves us from sin, assures us of our place before Him as beloved children, and of our place in His future New Creation.

For this reason, the tenor of Jude's letter is one of encouragement. We see that in v.20 above, as he advocates that the Church be in the business of "building [ourselves] up in [our] most holy faith and by praying in the Holy Spirit". He wants to see this kind of discipleship in the Church, as we build one another up in our faith, encouraging one another on in the journey to becoming more and more like Christ.

One theme which has emerged from our reflections in Esther, and a theme on which I have been meditating, is the importance of how we conduct ourselves as Christians. Our conduct matters, for Christ-like conduct makes us useful to God's Spirit in building His Kingdom; it increases the perceived credibility of our faith; and it shapes our community of faith in a way to make it attractive to others.

Our conduct is shaped by our discipleship: how we encourage one another to be more Christ-like in our daily living. This month's pastoral letter, then, is a call to us to seek ways in which we can be the Church Jude envisages: one where people are encouraged and built up in their faith, moved to pursue Christ-like conduct, all that God might use us to "snatch people from the fire" - that is, through us, they are brought to see Christ.

Stuart

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Next Issue deadline Sunday 31 March

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



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



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



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

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Holiday Club - We will shortly be looking into the possibility of running our holiday club again this summer and are looking at week beginning Monday 5th August to Friday 9th August. Unfortunately, this will only be able to go ahead if we can recruit enough volunteers for the week as last year we struggled for volunteers. Is this something you would like to be part of this year? If so, please let either Mary MacCallum or myself know if you are interested in being part of the team for either part, or all of the week. A sheet will be made available in the next week or so for volunteers to sign up to. All volunteers need to be PVG checked beforehand.

Summer Sunday School - We are also looking for volunteers to help with the Summer Sunday School this year so that the Kids' Church leaders can get a well-deserved break (especially Elaine). This would be for 5 Sundays from Sunday 7th July to Sunday 4th August. If you are able to help on any of the above dates, please let either Elaine Harvey or myself know so that a rota can be put together to arrange cover. Again, all volunteers will need to be PVG checked beforehand.

Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team

Maintenance & Eco Team

Our remit is the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings and grounds, and this involves the team organising regular servicing and repairs and where appropriate doing some odd jobs around the building and gardens. We also organise the Christmas trees, poppy wall and such stuff. This month should see the installation of 3 new doors to the church - the car park door, and the two side doors in the vestibule. Inside we're erecting two handrails at the chancel steps to give folk some support when coming up on to the chancel area to lead worship. We hope they will prove to be a big help and enhance the building too. Looking further ahead, we have repair work to organise for guttering at the main hall entrance, and with spring just around the corner, the gardens need some attention too.

We're always happy to receive suggestions about improvements and any problems or issues. If you would like to help out in any way, potter in the garden etc. you would be most welcome to join us, do come and speak to me or Eleanor Campbell, Kevin Hughes or Hugh McLintock, to name a few, and find out how you can help.

Roger Gann

The Guild in March

Monday 4 March Dogs Trust—Kayleigh MacLean

Monday 11 March OPEN NIGHT—Community Quiz—Eric & Shirley McCuish

Monday 18 March Cathcart Conservation Group—Douglas McLelland

Monday 26 February AGM—Daffodil Tea



Community Quiz Night

Two years ago, the Guild held an Open Night which was open to the congregation and the community round about. We are doing the same on Monday, March 11 at 7.30pm and are delighted that Eric and Shirley have again agreed to host the event. So come along and bring your friends and neighbours. We will for teams of around 6 people and refreshments will be served. We had a fun time last time - so do come and join us.

Thank You

We're writing a short note of thanks to all who have so generously given cards and gifts celebrating the birth of our first grandchild, Magnus Attwell born on 31st December. At 8 weeks old, Magnus is doing very well, though I'm not so sure about his mum and dad! Anyway, a huge thank you to all from Haydn & Pamela and of course grandpa Roger and grandma Rhona. We've all been overwhelmed by your kindness, prayers and generosity.

God bless.

Roger & Rhona

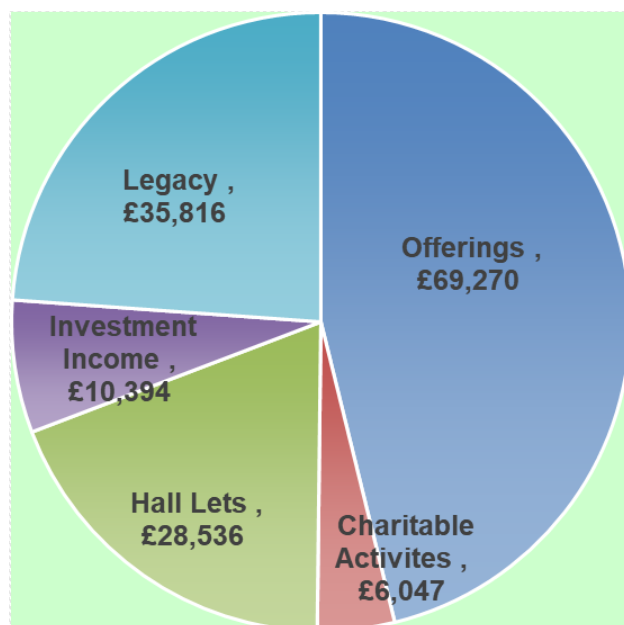
EASTER EGGS

The Lodging House Mission have put out an appeal for the donation of Easter eggs for their clients. If you would wish to donate there will be a box available at the front of the church to receive your donations. Thank you.

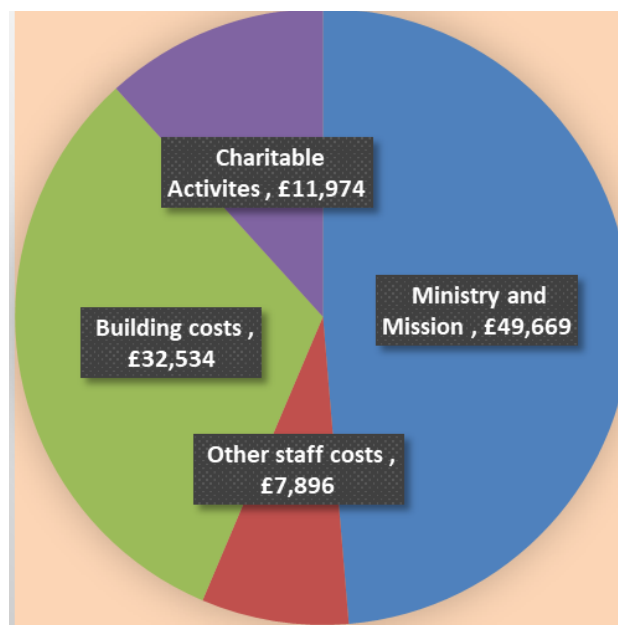
2023 - Finance Report

Good news on the finance front for 2023. As we made another surplus of £12,174 on the General Fund and the legacy from John and Muriel Paris meant that the Legacy Fund grew by £35,816.

Income - £150,063



Expenditure - £102,073



However we cannot be complacent as we have plans this year including employing a part time administrator, renovating the manse bathroom, new side doors at the church and boundary wall repairs which means that this year we plan to spend £140,000.

With this in mind, I've attached a standing order form and a gift aid form in case you wish to review and increase your offerings as we do rely on your offerings to continue God's work in the Parish

Yours in Christ
Mary MacCallum
Treasurer

Parish Register

New Members by Profession of Faith

11/2/24: Mrs Stephana Franklyn

11/2/24: Mr Naveen Newton Samuel both at Flat 1-2, 38 Garry Street, Glasgow, G44 4AU

New Member by Certificate - Church Lines have been requested from Cathcart Old Parish Church

Ms Gillian Pollock - 46 Queens Drive, Glasgow, G42 8DD

Friday Senior Diners

The Friday Diners will be on holiday on 29th March, 5th April and 12th April for The Easter Holidays. We hope to see you all back on 19th April.

Sheila Peachey

Registered Scottish Charity SC010138