

# The Informer

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland



Issue 98: April 2024

## Letter from the Manse

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

*<sup>26</sup>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*

*<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup>And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. (Romans 8 NIVUK)*

I suspect I am not alone in this. One of my traits which can often frustrate others (especially some in my family!) is when, in response to some kind of crisis or difficulty, I reply with great assurance, "it'll be fine!". I say this, despite not knowing if it will, in fact, be fine at all! I cannot know, so how can I declare with such assurance?

On the one hand, this is true, and I can understand why it is frustrating. I suspect this is one of those phrases I use as a kind of placeholder: I do not really know what to say, or how things will go so, for want of nothing better to say, I go for, "I'll be fine!".

On the other hand, and in the broadest sense possible; no matter what it is, I know it will be fine.

We have only just celebrated afresh the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ - which is the greatest possible sign that, truly, it all will be fine! Jesus took upon Himself the sin of the world, absorbed the justice of God, looked death full on in the face... and won! His rising to new life was the sign that truly the darkness has been defeated and we are saved. Yes, that darkness may yet reign for a time, but the clock is ticking: Christ will return and complete His work of putting right all that is wrong in the world. It will be fine.

Paul, in the above passage from the letter to the Romans spells out further the assurance that, in Christ, all will be fine. The Spirit is with us, helping and supporting us during the times of darkness. Jesus' death and resurrection give us the assurance that God works our all things according to His good purposes. Further, God did not make up this plan on the fly: He had this worked out from before time began, and it all came together just as He intended.

This gives us something completely secure on which to cling. Even if our whole world is falling apart, the fact we are saved in Christ and made God's beloved children once more will not change; our future with Him is completely secure. It will be fine.

It feels as though we are entering another period of uncertainty. After a time of quiet, the need to look at implementing our Presbytery Plan has returned. This raises issues around the future shape of our congregation; and has implications about my tenure. Added to this: I hear from colleagues an increasing pessimism about the future of the denomination, given this trajectory (though, we remain hopeful about the Kingdom and Church of Jesus Christ, against whom even the gates of hell will not prevail!). Then there is all the worldly uncertainty: cost of living, wars and rumours of wars...

All of which could easily have us with out head in our hands, despairing. I understand that temptation. I often feel like I want to do that myself. But, let me offer you some reassurance: in the sincerest way possible, and with a firm grounding in what Christ has done for us: it will be fine!

Whatever happens, thanks to Christ, we have a promise: it will be fine.

Stuart

Email: [slove@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:slove@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Tel.: 07916 176 873

**Next Issue deadline Sunday 28 April**

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



**Telephone Prayer Circle**

**0141 632 4206**



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



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

## **VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED**

**Holiday Club** - We are still looking for volunteers to help at our Holiday Club this summer from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August. As mentioned last month, this will only be able to go ahead if we can recruit enough leaders/volunteers for the week. If this is something you would like to be part of, 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 is now available for volunteers to sign up to just outside the library room in the church. Please note that all volunteers need to be PVG checked beforehand.

**Summer Sunday School** - We are still looking for a few more leaders/volunteers to help with the Summer Sunday School this year so that the Kids' Church leaders can get a break. This would be for 5 Sundays from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **YOUTH ALPHA**

Radiate Cathcart are launching a Youth Alpha on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Youth Alpha is an opportunity for anyone aged 11-18 to explore the Christian faith. It's relaxed, low key, friendly and fun. If any of our young folk are interested in going along, please let me know and I'll forward your name to Cara Wightman who is the Youth Worker for Cathcart Ministry Youth Partnership, or you can keep an eye on their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cathcartyouthministrypartnership/>

Lorraine Kennedy  
Youth Team

## **CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS April 2024**

We have had an interesting selection of books donated to the church library recently. Here's a review of some of them....perhaps one of these titles will whet your appetite!

### **HOW TO PRAY : a guide for young explorers by Pete Greig**

Pete Greig started the 24/7 Prayer movement and he has written this book for young prayer explorers ( I think adults may find it useful too). It will help teach you how to pray.....how to fight spiritual battles....how to hear God for yourself....and how to see more miracles. It will also answer questions about times when prayers didn't work.... with stories and illustrations...give it a go!

### **WHAT IF? And its sequel WHY NOT?**

Two books written for teens by Paisley author Caroline Johnston. Set in 3rd year in High School their are decisions to be made...new challenges...friendships to be developed....and where does faith come in....find out more by reading both of them!

### **LIFE WITH LUCAS : Daily readings throughout the year with Jeff Lucas**

Jeff Lucas is an author, speaker and broadcaster and in these readings he challenges us with his distinctive blend of humour and insight.

### **SCOTTISH COVENANTER STORIES : tales from the killing times.**

Between 1638 and 1688 Scotland was in an almost constant state of civil unrest because many people refused to accept the royal decree that the King was head of the Church. Many atrocities were carried out....this book gives accounts of these and insights into this grim period of religious persecution in Scotland.

### **MERE CHRISTIANITY by C S Lewis**

A modern classic on Christian belief by this renowned author.





## THE WELL MULTI-CULTURAL RESOURCE CENTRE

# GLASGOW KILTWALK

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024

WE'RE WALKING 14 MILES TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR WORK WITH  
DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHEAST GLASGOW

SPONSOR US HERE:



[HTTPS://WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/CAMPAIGN/THEWELLWALKERS2024](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/thewellwalkers2024)



If you can, please support The Well, who are undertaking this Kiltwalk to raise funds for their work with disadvantaged communities in the South East of Glasgow.

They have also committed to praying while they are walking, so we have sent them a couple of prayer requests from Clincarthill (praying for the Presbytery Mission Plan process, and our efforts to undertake some Missional Listening in our parish).

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Just wanted to keep you updated about a couple of things coming up in the next few months.

First of all, there is a play called Titanic (the last hero and the last coward) which is touring Scotland with a show that they took to the Edinburgh Fringe last year. It will take place in Cathcart Trinity Church on Saturday 20th April at 7.30pm, performed by Searchlight Theatre Company and comes highly recommended. If you would like a ticket please let me know. Tickets are £10 (no charge for under 18's)

Secondly, an event is being run by Keswick Ministries and there is a chance to hear a visionary minister from Stornoway. His name is Tommy McNeil and he has much to share about mission and renewal in the church. The event will take place on Friday 31st May, Saturday 1st June and Sunday 2nd June in the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock. Doors open at 6.30pm and it starts at 7.30pm. If you are going, I would advise you to arrive for 6.30 as it is expected to be very busy.

Finally, due to popular demand we plan to run the Garden Cafe every Monday during the month of July (over 5 weeks). If you would like to volunteer to help on any Monday in July, there is a sheet available for you to sign up to a date that suits you best. We value all the volunteers who have helped in the last few years to make it a great community outreach.

Closer to home, I recently had the privilege of attending a presentation at the local college by students from the supported learning department who shared their positive experience of volunteering at the Warm Space during the winter. The presentation was heard by around 50 students across the supported learning department. This included gaining confidence by serving and welcoming people, listening to people's life stories and having a chance to share what they were doing at college and how it would help them develop more skills in the future. Most of the students as a result of their experience were keen to do more voluntary work in the future. Staff at the college also felt it was a really positive experience. I thanked the college for contacting the church to look at how we could provide a good experience for the students.

Stephen Kennedy

Mission and Community Outreach Team

## Presbytery Mission Plan Update. (PMP)

### Background

As I sit here on Easter Saturday and mull over how to put this update of how the PMP is progressing, I thought I would just start with a short piece of background to how it all came about.

The General Assembly of 2021 brought forth this plan into Church law to help the ever-decreasing membership of the Church, and the greater number of vacant charges around the country. Glasgow Presbytery had at that time 123 parishes under its control. The General Assembly had allocated 84 posts to Glasgow of which 12 were allocated to priority areas, which left 70 posts to fill 123 parishes, you do not need to be a mathematician to realise that does not work. To help this process along, Churches were all grouped into clusters. We were allocated cluster 5d along with Cathcart Old, Cathcart Trinity, Queens Park Govanhill and ourselves with 2.5 posts to cover the 4 Churches. This following plan was drawn up by the cluster after many meetings and changes to it. By the end of December 2023 Cathcart Old and Cathcart Trinity will have gone into linkage, and Queens Park Govanhill and Clincarthill will have gone into linkage. By the end of December 2025, the 2 Cathcart Churches will have gone into union and Queens Park Govanhill and Clincarthill will have done the same. That is a very brief outline of how the plan initially looked.

### Update

As you will have realised by now the initial plan has not been fulfilled as we stand in April 2024. Due to unforeseen circumstances Cathcart Old and Cathcart Trinity have agreed to go into Union this year 2024, due to the old Kirk's building being no longer fit for purpose. The Kirk Sessions of both Clincarthill and Queens Park Govanhill have been meeting regularly to discuss the way ahead, this has been done as joint meetings and on our own with Clincarthill devoting a conference in January just to this matter. There have been several positives and several barriers to us progressing the linkage. We are now well passed the deadline for the linkage, and at a meeting of the Kirk Session and Paul Cathcart, the Presbytery representative, we were given the following suggestions, have the linkage agreed by the summer and carry forward in what would be a shortened time to a union, or miss out the linkage and go straight to union. This has been suggested for several reasons, but primarily because our Minister is on a reviewable tenure which means that at the end of 2025 Stuart will not have a post, unless the PMP has been agreed by the end of 2024 at the latest. As you will appreciate Stuart has his family to consider and with Anna going to school next summer, Stuart needs to know that he is settled. This is where we stand at present, and the Kirk Sessions of both Churches will be meeting together in April to try and push this forward.

If you have any questions on this issue, please email me at [sessionclerk@clincarthill.ork.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@clincarthill.ork.uk)

Graham Kilpatrick (Session Clerk).

### Cinnamon Network.

On a brighter note, I would like to let you know of an exciting piece of news relating to the Mission and Outreach of Clincarthill Church. At a meeting of the Worship team several months ago, they were talking about how to progress the healing and wellbeing ministry of the Church. After much discussion a plan to take on the let of a vacant shop in the Mount Florida main street and turn it into a Wellbeing café and Resting place was brought to Session for approval. However, after discussion it was agreed that a community survey should be done to make sure that this idea was the correct mission for the area. At the same time a fund has been made available to help congregations willing to try a new type of ministry in their Parish, which they could apply to for funding to help this process. We have now received the first £1,000 to help us do a community consultation. We have agreed to use this money to be guided by the Cinnamon network, a Christian organisation who will help us with the first part of the plan, as we go about finding out what our community really needs. We look forward to the next few months as we move forward and ask that you keep this plan and that of the PMP in your prayers in the coming months.

Graham Kilpatrick (Session Clerk)

### Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who supported Eric during his recent health scare. Special thanks to Sheila, Ruth and Ann—the nursing team and to Roger to waited in the pouring rain for the paramedics to arrive. Thank you to Stuart for the spiritual support and to everyone who has prayed for Eric and our family.

Eric and Shirley McCuish

### Friday Senior Dinners

The Friday Dinners 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

