

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinicarhill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 101: September 2024

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clinicarhill.org.uk

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

(Galatians 5 NIVUK)

This section of Galatians 5 precedes what is likely the best known part of the letter: the fruits of the Spirit (which Paul describes as love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). Given our recent series in the letter to the Philippians, it should perhaps not surprise us that Paul, in this letter, also reflects on the importance of Christian conduct.

We see Paul drawing on the words of Jesus. When Jesus was asked "which is the most important commandment?", He replied, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and love your neighbour as yourself". This was, of course, followed by the question, "but who is my neighbour?"; and so followed the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Why does Paul neglect the first of Jesus responses, but highlights the second? I think because Paul is taking it as given that those receiving this letter have heard the call to love God with their whole selves, and are seeking to do this to the best of their ability, and under the strength of the Holy Spirit. We can know this because of verse 13: the fact that the Galatians know the call to be free. That freedom comes from knowing salvation in Christ. Further, Paul says in verse 16, "live by the Spirit". These are, therefore, a people who have come to know salvation in Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

How does anyone know if someone has truly come to knowledge of salvation, and received the power of the Holy Spirit? Through their conduct! Hence why Paul draws attention to "loving your neighbour as yourself" and develops this further in Galatians 5 with the list of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. This again reflects the words of Jesus, when He says, ³⁴A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 15 NIVUK); or "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:16 KJV).

I believe this to be particularly important because of the level of conflict and discord in the Church at this time. Thankfully, not internally, within Clinicarhill itself (other than the usual level of gripes we might have with one another!). I am thinking more broadly: across the Presbytery, or Denomination; or even between different Christian groups. I have heard it said that, for all the good the Reformation brought, the greatest casualty was Church unity. And while I would certainly not hold a position of "unity at any cost"... I cannot help but wonder how the witness of the Church is being damaged as the world watches on, seeing groups of Christians "biting and devouring one another".

For this reason, I see this section of Galatians as a necessary reminder for such a time as this. We must seek to live by the Spirit, being mindful of and obedient to the Spirit's leading as we minister to our community, and endeavour to work alongside other Christian groups and Churches. We should attempt to avoid conflict and discord, though never at the cost of an authentic expression of the Gospel. And we should live out our freedom in Christ: not, as Paul says, freedom to do as we please; but rather living knowing we are free from the burden of our rejection of God, we are accepted as God's dearly beloved children, and we seek to live His way as a grateful response to all that God has done for us in Christ.

In this, may the witness we are already establishing in our community, build into something great for the Gospel!

With every blessing,

Stuart

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at Clinicarhill Church
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Established in March 2024, Galilee Books is a small independent Christian Bookshop.

We see the shop as a support ministry for individual Christian people - providing access to books and study material to help in all aspects of life. We believe that good books can become trusted friends!

However, we would also hope to be a support to churches, in some of the following ways:

Book of the Month

We are happy to recommend a Book of the Month for churches to offer to their congregation. Alternatively, we can provide a book of your choice for use alongside a preaching/teaching series. A sample copy can be shown, then orders taken, and the books provided at a 10% discount.

Book Groups

We can order multiple copies of titles for church book groups, at a 10% discount for 5+ copies.

Book Stalls

When churches are having special events, we can provide small, specifically tailored book stalls. This obviously requires some notice.

Bible Study Materials

We are happy to provide Bible study materials, and stock a range of commentaries, study books etc. We are able to order specific titles to support both group leaders and participants, again at a 10% discount for 5+ copies.

Sunday School Prizes

We stock a range of children's books which would make great prizes/gifts for Sunday Schools, toddler groups, or kids' clubs. We are happy to help with choosing age-appropriate books.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Over the summer we held a 'Feed the Fans' event for the Pink concert at Hampden. Thanks to all the volunteers who provided hospitality and a warm welcome to the many visitors to the local area, who came from all over the country. This was very much appreciated by everyone. We raised a total of £458.70 from tea/coffee, snacks and donations. From the money raised, £250 was given to Queen's Park Govanhill Food Bank, with the balance to our church funds.

Also, I would like to thank everyone who came along to support our Garden Café over the 5 weeks in July, and to say a big 'thank you' to the amazing team of volunteers who helped each week, musicians (Colin, Johnny, Caleb and LHM Choir) and to those who donated baking every week which helped make it a huge success! It has been a pleasure serving our community.

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team

Thank you all for my *Get Well* card, it really brightened up a few miserable days.

Love from
Pat English

Friday Senior Dinners

We will be off on Friday 27th September as it is the Holiday Weekend..

Sheila Peachey

Next Issue deadline Sunday 29 September

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



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



UpBeat Holiday Club 2024

This year's holiday club was based around the stories referred to in the sings we sing.- Joshua, David, Daniel, Jonah and Zacchaeus. It was well attended with an average of 35 children attending each day,

It was a week to celebrate answered prayer, from new helpers in the team, donations from the congregation of juice biscuits and enough junk for the crafts and dry weather for the games and barbeque. With a special thanks to Stuart for leading the stories and songs, Elaine for the games, Laura for the exercises, Eleanor who make bunting and produced examples of junk musical instruments, Roger and Andy for the barbeque and all the leaders and helpers who make it possible. As always, a great team effort,

Thank you.

Mary MacCallum.



YOUTH TEAM

Trip to Briarlands Farm - At the beginning of June we had our trip to Briarlands Farm in Stirling. This was our first trip in almost 10 years and we were delighted that we were able to fill the bus with parents and children from the church and community. There was so much to do from the jumping pillows, group tractor ride, archery, go-karts, animal petting barn and so much more! We finished the day with some races before heading home. If you have never been before, it is certainly worth a visit and they have a great tearoom too! The day went really well and everyone returned safe and sound for which we give thanks.



Family Fun Day - We are having a Family Fun Day on Saturday 7th September from 11am to 2.30pm in the church gardens and halls. There will be a bouncy castle, face painting, story-telling, games and much more. Please come along and bring your own picnic lunch. Tea, coffee and juice will be provided. All ages welcome.

Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team

Puppet Team Videos

The Clincarthill Church Puppet Team have been going now for over 12 years. Since the early days we have videoed most of our performances and put them online on the Church's **Facebook** page and on our own **YouTube channel**. We have now reached the milestone of **100 videos** on <https://www.youtube.com/ShanklandVideos> 95 of these are puppet team performances and there are also 5 non-puppet audio/visual presentations that have been shown in the church over the years. This consists mainly of songs, some sketches, and includes quite a lot of Christmas songs from past concerts. There are also a number of 'craft' videos when we encouraged the children to make and send in crafts during lock-down.



The channel has 264 subscribers i.e. people who want notified when new videos are posted. Over the years we have had over 139,000 views on our videos. The most popular individual video (for some reason we don't quite understand) is 'Walk like a Christian' (parody of 'Walk like an Egyptian') with over 36,000 views. 22 videos have had over 1,000 views each. Viewers have come from all round the world (Malaysia strangely has the third highest viewers after the US and UK). Our latest video 'I am made in the image of God' from Sunday 25th August is there already at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnhFaCD2nYI>

We are encouraged to know that people are seeing and enjoying the videos. It is good to think that the Christian message is continuing to be spread long beyond the actual performance in Clincarthill, and I suppose that we'll never know the effect that they are having. Our own grandchildren enjoy watching them, so we'd encourage you to tune in and show them to your friends and family.

Best wishes, Graham, Pamela and the Puppet Team

THE GUILD

The Guild will be providing the tea, coffee and home baking for the congregation after church on Sunday 15 September, the proceeds of which will go towards the Guild projects.

The next 'Coffee and Chat' evening will be on Monday 16 September at 7pm in the small hall, to which all are welcome.

And the new session of the Guild begins on Monday 7 October at 7.30pm in the small hall when we will have our registration and opening social.

Come and join us at all these events, you will be sure of a warm welcome. If unsure come and give it a try - there is no registration fee for new members.



Sheila Morrow

If Prison Walls Could Speak, Burnside Blairbeth Church, Sunday 6th October at 6.30pm

Hebrews 13:3 says "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them"

We would be delighted if you could join us to watch the Artless production of 'If Prison Walls Could Speak' which is a one man play described as "bold, innovative and shocking to the core".

The drama is inspiring, and movingly recounts the experience of Release International's associate ministry worker Petr Jasek, who was imprisoned in Sudan in 2015 because of his Christian work.

Artless write "Through Petr's story we want to shine a light on the suffering faced by millions, but rather than wishing away their struggles we want you to take a moment to reflect on their perspective. Through devising this programme we have stopped considering these persecuted Christians as merely powerless victims, but rather of beacons of resilience and of passionate, selfless and costly love."

We are hosting the performance at Burnside Blairbeth Church on Sunday 6th October, starting at 6.30pm. It is recommended for age 12 and above. There will be a short interval during the show. Tickets are £8 (free for 18 and under) and can be booked at

<https://burnsideblairbethchurch.churchsuite.com/events/h46cd7tb>

Please email theoffice@burnsideblairbeth.church if you wish to attend but cannot book online.