

The Informer



The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 103: November 2024

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

(2nd Peter 3 NIVUK)

One of the biggest challenges I face, when it comes to writing this monthly pastoral letter, is inspiration. I often ask myself, is there a particular theme or topic which is relevant? A Bible passage which stands out? A circumstance in our world needing addressed?

The inspiration for this month comes from the fact I am very late in writing this! It just so happens that my October holiday ended on the deadline for the Informer: I am grateful to Carol and Julie for their patience as I scabbled to pull something meaningful together. One way or another, however, this letter is late. And that got me thinking...

Last month, I wrote about waiting upon the LORD, and the trust required of us as we wait upon Him. I noted that, at times, we can feel a sense of frustration when waiting upon the LORD; and I suspect this frustration stems from our sense that God is not acting (from our perspective anyway) in a timely manner.

This set me down the track of thinking on God's perfect timing. This is one of those phrases or ideas we often express ("Things happen in God's perfect timing"), but for which there is no direct, Biblical quotation. Rather, it is something often inferred from Scripture - and the excerpt from 2nd Peter, above, is an example.

Peter's focus here is the coming salvation of God. I suspect he is writing to those who are feeling impatient: either because they have loved ones who are yet to come to saving faith in God; or because they are fed up with the woes of this world and simply wish Christ to return, and God to restore all things. Peter's encouragement is that God is not being late, or slow, or failing to keep His promises. Rather, He points out, God's experience of time is vastly different for ours; and as such, God's plans and purposes will be worked out in a timing which is beyond our ability to fully understand or appreciate.

This resonates with me as we continue to live through the uncertainty as to the future of our congregation. We see and experience the good work God's Spirit is doing in and through us; yet, that encouragement is somewhat tempered by the looming shadow of the implications of the Presbytery Plan, and all the uncertainty this has brought. Often I have cried to Heaven, pleading that God would hurry up, sort things out, and implement His plan (not the Church's or Presbytery's plan, HIS plan!). Yet, here we are: still waiting, still uncertain. If last month was an appeal to trust God while waiting, this month is an appeal to trust God's timing; and to believe that when the time is right, God will act and His plan will come to fruition.

In the first Lord of the Rings film, the Fellowship of the Ring, when Frodo chastises Gandalf for being late to the Shire, Gandalf responds, "A wizard is never late, Frodo Baggins; nor is he early. He arrives precisely when he means to!". If you will follow my analogy, what is true of wizards is even truer of God: He is never late, and His plans are never thrown together at the last minute. He will fulfil His plans and purposes, according to His good timing. We are simply called to trust Him.

With every blessing,

Stuart

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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

FILM NIGHTS

The Youth Team are planning two film nights. The first one will be on Saturday 23rd November showing 'Inside Out 2' and the second one will be on Saturday 25th January, showing the film 'Brave'. Doors will open at 6.15 (film starts at 6.30pm) and entry is FREE! There will be a small tuck shop on the night with tea and coffee also available. Please note that both film nights are open to all ages and everyone is welcome. Look forward to seeing you there!

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

The BB are currently looking for new leaders to help run the organisation. If you are interested and would like to find out more information, please contact Stuart Buchanan at 83glasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk who will be really pleased to hear from you.

Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team

BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST - CARING CHRISTMAS TREES

On Saturday 7th December, once again Clincarthill Church will be a pick up point for people collecting a real Christmas tree from Bethany Christian Trust to help the work of the charity who need funds to support their work across Scotland with the homeless and other vulnerable groups. The church will be open for tea/coffee and Christmas treats from 10am to 1pm for those collecting trees and for anyone in the community who wants to pop in. You will be made very welcome.

THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT

Cathcart United Free Church, 7 Struan Road, G44 3AT are having a 'Big Quiz Night' on Saturday 16th November from 7pm till 9pm. A fun evening to raise funds for TEARFUND (an international relief and development agency). Come with your team or join one on the night! Refreshments provided - £5 per person voluntary donation.

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team

THE GUILD

The Guild in November

- 4 November - The Beautiful Baltic - Vivienne Macdonald
- 11 November - Quiz - On Our Own
- 18 November - Great Ormond Street Hospital-a special place - Janice MacKenzie
- 25 November - The Mercy Ships - Steven Flynn



Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre

Our annual Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre takes place on Saturday 16 November from 10am till 12noon. Tickets are priced at £3.00 or you can pay at the door. There will be the usual collection of stalls for gifts, knitted goods, cake and candy, crafts and the Guide dogs. So come and start your Christmas shopping, enjoy a good cup of tea and coffee with some home baking, and meet up with friends.

See you there!

Sheila Morrow

Church Roll Changes

Deaths

06/10/2024	Mrs Marie Dunn	Orchard Grove Care Home G42 OHS
15/10/2024	Mrs Isabel Mackie	14 Florida Square Mount Florida Glasgow G42 8XB



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Next Issue deadline Sunday 24 November

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

Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

Finance Team Report as at 30 September 2024.

With thanks to everyone who make regular offerings and to Julie for issuing the Hall let invoices each month, this has meant that our income to end September is on target although not nearly enough to cover our planned expenditure this year which included the employment of the admin worker as well as refurbishing the manse bathroom.

Offerings & Donations Income Table						
Week	39	30-Sep-24	Income to Date		Variance: +/-	Full Year
Income Type			2024	2023	£	2023
Offerings			37,966	39,462	-1,496	52,485
Tax Recovered			0	0	0	11,835
Open Collection			3,058	2,055	1,003	2,852
Donations (personal)			0	60	-60	180
Donations (church organisations)			1,120	1,595	-475	1,795
Hall Lets			23,988	16,104	7,884	28,537
Donations - weddings			0	0	0	100
Donations - funerals			911	700	211	1,000
Donations - baptisms			0	0	0	0
Investment Income			585	4,271	-3,686	10,394
Other			1,252	623	629	828
Total Income			68,880	64,870	4,010	110,005

Expenditure						
Week	39	30-Sep-24	2024 ACT	% 2024ACT vs FY BUD	2024 Bud	2023 Act
<i>National Ministry & Mission</i>			41,615	80%	52,019	49,669
<i>Local Staffing</i>			12,682	61%	20,920	7,895
<i>Buildings</i>			41,929	64%	65,189	34,545
<i>Other Local Costs</i>			7,984	85%	9,360	9,531
Total			104,210	71%	147,488	101,640

May I remind you that there are forms available, if you are considering increasing your standing order. If you are a UK tax payer, you can opt into the Gift Aid scheme where the church can recover the tax paid on your offerings. This year's GA claim has yet to be made but I expect about £11,000 to be recovered through the scheme.

Yours in Christ

Mary MacCallum - Treasurer

PS As the computer adds the bank transactions, It is ok to increase your offering by an odd amount, so adding 50p, £1 or £4.56 to your standing order would be gratefully received. Probably less welcome in the weekly freewill offering envelopes where the counting team have to cope with the change.

PPS -Volunteers for the counting team rota or the Finance and Stewardship team are always welcome, just ask.