

# The Informer

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland



Issue 104: December 2024

## Letter from the Manse

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

- <sup>16</sup>*This is what the Lord says - he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,*  
<sup>17</sup>*who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:*  
<sup>18</sup>*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*  
<sup>19</sup>*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*  
<sup>20</sup>*The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,*  
<sup>21</sup>*the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise (Isaiah 43 NIVUK)*

If you search the internet for "what does the Bible say about nostalgia?", this is one of the suggested passages!

Without wanting to sound too much like Ebenezer Scrooge (Bah Humbug!), I will admit to struggling with Advent/Christmas. This was not always the case: I remember when I was younger finding December a magical time, with frost, twinkling lights and decorations, and a feeling that this was a special time. Now, all these things continue to be around at this time of year... but they have lost something of their joy.

I wonder how much of that is because I do tend toward nostalgia. I remember previous Christmases: the sense of wonder, mystery and magic; and I feel a little sad because (as an adult) I just don't feel these things as strongly. I remember with sadness the traditions from years gone by, which do not happen anymore. Yes, new traditions are being built up, which are wonderful, but I do miss what once was (and I feel this especially keenly in light of our recent family bereavement).

I do not want to put a damper on anyone who is raring to celebrate the Advent season; but I do want to acknowledge those of us who do find this time of year brings a sorrow which intermingles with the joy. I also want to point us all toward a God who acknowledges our sadnesses; but who calls us to find our joy.

God loves us and holds us in times of sorrow, but He entreats us not to dwell on such things. Indeed, in v.18 He says just that: not a stern command to forget, but rather a gentle prompting not to become consumed by what once was. Indeed, that is the danger of nostalgia: we look back so fondly that nothing in the present nor future can compare (interestingly, noting v.16-17, there is reference to God saving the Israelites from **slavery** in Egypt; the same Israelites who, when faced with the trials of wilderness got nostalgic (!) about that time of slavery, and wanted to return!!).

Having nudged us not to be consumed by the past, God points us toward the new thing He is doing. He promises to turn wastelands into an oasis, with a water which will satisfy the thirst of His people. This is a vision of restoration, of things being returned to the way God intended. In another prophecy, in the book of Revelation, when God promises to make all things new, he says he will wipe away tears from eye, and there will be no more crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. We who believe in God wait expectantly for this to come true: looking ahead to a time which will be far better than anything that went on before. In this we can find our hope and joy.

And what shall be the sign of God making all things new? His coming to us, not in power and pomp; but as a vulnerable and lowly child, lying in a manger. God shows His willingness to make all things new for us in that He gave up everything for us: He left Heaven, descended to us, lived the lives we should but don't, took the punishment we deserve, set us free, reconciled us to Himself, declared us His beloved children, and promised us an eternal place in His home.

However you feel this Advent season, may you find joy in this: God came down so that He might lift you up. Do not dwell on the past - behold, He is making all things new!

With every blessing,

Stuart

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Tel.: 07916 176 873



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

### FEED THE FANS

A 'Feed the Fans' event took place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November providing hospitality for those attending the recent Scotland vs Croatia match at Hampden. A total of £115 was raised for the Queen's Park, Govanhill, Food Bank. A big thank you to the team of volunteers who helped make this happen, with a special thanks to Jack, Max, David and Stephen from the BB.

### BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST – CARING CHRISTMAS TREE

Just a reminder that the church will be open for tea/coffee and Christmas treats from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December for those collecting trees and for anyone in the community who wants to pop in. You will be made very welcome.

### CAROL SINGING– CHRISTMAS EVE

Due to last year's success, we will be carol singing in the garden/small hall again on Christmas Eve from 5.45pm until 6.15pm before heading into the church for the family service at 6.30pm. There will be hot chocolate available beforehand from 5.30pm. Please come along and bring a torch.

### WARM SPACE

We plan to run the Warm Space again for 4 weeks starting in January 2025. This will take place every Thursday from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January until Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January (1pm to 4pm). A sheet will be made available in the sanctuary (outside the library room) for anyone who would like to volunteer to help over this period.

Stephen Kennedy  
Mission and Community Outreach Team

### Friday Senior Diners

We will be off on Fridays 27<sup>th</sup> December and 3<sup>rd</sup> January for the Christmas Holidays. Best Wishes to everyone over the Festive Season and we will return on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Sheila Peachey.



### THE GUILD

#### The Guild in December

- 2 December — History of Mount Florida ( Open Night) - Douglas McLellan
- 9 December — Christmas craft night - On Our Own
- 16 December — Christmas Party Night



The Guild will not be on from December 23 till January 6<sup>th</sup> 2025. i.e. 3 weeks.  
The first meeting of the New Year will be on January 13, 2025 with Irene Hay and Armchair exercises.

Sheila Morrow

### Church Roll Changes

#### Deaths

14/11/2024 Mr Alan Wood 89 Mount Annan Drive Glasgow G44 4RX



Telephone Prayer Circle  
0141 632 4206



#### Next Issue deadline Sunday 29 December

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

## Christmas Gift Service

The Christmas Gift service will be on Sunday, December 15 at 11am. As usual we ask for gifts for the Preshal Trust, LHM and Glasgow City Mission.

### Preshal Trust

Toys for children from baby to a gift for a teenager.

### Glasgow City Mission

They are looking for cash to run their Community Night Shelter to help the homeless.

### LHM

They have produced a list of items they will use as Christmas gifts such as :- Hat, scarves and gloves, Women's and men's joggers/ leggings, underwear, pyjamas, toiletry gift sets, gift vouchers. Some food treats. A comprehensive list is available to be uplifted from the usual places.



GLASGOW  
**COSEN**

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

**Prayer and Worship Night**  
**Friday 6th December 2024**

7.00pm Coffee  
**7.30-9.00pm**

**St George's Tron Church**  
163 Buchanan St, G1 2JX

**Book Now**

<https://blt.ly/494Q9RF/>

COSEN is a network of evangelical Christians within the Church of Scotland. We provide support through opportunities to meet and to pray.



## Giving in 2025

Thank you to all who have supported the church during 2024, and I pray you will continue to make regular donations either by Standing Order, Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes or by open plate. All offerings are much appreciated.

For those who use the WFO envelopes for their regular giving, the 2025 ones will be available for collection at the Sunday morning services during December and if you are not able to attend, they will be sent out later this month.

Please let me know if you have not received your envelopes by the end of the month.

With best wishes for a happy Christmas.

Mary MacCallum

