

The Informer

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland



Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.clincarthill.org.uk

¹ *Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.*

² *How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?*

³ *Know that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.*

⁴ *Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.*

⁵ *Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord.*

⁶ *Many, Lord, are asking, 'Who will bring us prosperity?' Let the light of your face shine on us.*

⁷ *Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.*

⁸ *In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.*

(Psalm 4 NIVUK)

I was recently reflecting with someone about an unusually present sense of weariness among a few of us. In that conversation, I came to remember something we were taught in the "Leading in Church Change" course a couple of years ago: that the longer a group remain in a change-cycle or change-process, the more exhausting it becomes. The longer a change project, which seems to have no clear end in sight, continues, there is a cumulative effect of fatigue which sets in.

Given we have been in the midst of a change management project (i.e. the latest iteration of Presbytery Planning) for around 3 years now, it is perhaps no surprise that many are feeling the effects of this, and there is a greater than usual sense of exhaustion. Although we are, God willing, approaching the end of this, the cumulative effect is still present (not least as this all started at the tail end of the Covid pandemic lockdowns... remember those?!).

Into this sense of weariness and fatigue, many sources speak. As I shared recently, I am reading *Renewable Wellbeing* by Ruth Rice: her movement (Renew Wellbeing) is seeking to transform Church culture to help us recover a more sustainable, restful and (frankly!) more Jesus-like rhythm to our lives. I also hear the voice of Eugene Peterson, reminding me of his idea of the unhurried pastor: a minister who follows the gentle and grace-filled living of Jesus, not the hectic, run-ragged rhythm of the world.

Most powerfully (at the moment anyway) for me - there is the Lectio 365 prayer app (which I have found so helpful and transforming in my prayer life recently, that I cannot imagine I will stop promoting, endorsing, and speaking about it!). As part of the Night Time Prayer liturgy they offer, they always include verse 8, as a final declaration before turning in for the night. It is a wonderful reminder of why the follower of Jesus can sleep peacefully, even in the darkest night.

Yet, the peace and rest of God are for more than just the nighttime. Part of our calling in following Jesus is to live lives of peace, in every sense of that word: peace as in freedom from conflict; and peace as in at ease, not carrying worries or anxieties. The latter is not an invitation to plaster on a grin, singing, "forget your troubles, come on, get happy!"; rather it is an invitation to be serious and acknowledge the ills of the world... and with the next breath say, "but all will be well, for I am God's."

This attitude of peace is captured in the lives of many Christians, such as Horatio Spafford who, despite his life falling apart, was able to pen the words, "it is well with my soul": such was his trust in God, and so transformed was he by salvation in Christ, that he could write this with confidence and peace, despite his circumstances.

So God, through this Psalm, and through salvation in Jesus, offers us the same peace: to come away from the worries and the exhaustion, and to really rest with Him, trusting that thanks to His salvation, all will one day be well; and until that day, we rest and rely on 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
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Youth Team Update

Holiday Club - We are still looking for leaders/volunteers to help at our Holiday Club this year from Monday 4th August to Friday 8th August (10am to 12 noon). This year's Holiday Club 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 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 also looking for leaders/volunteers to help with the Summer Sunday School so that the Kids' Church leaders/helpers can get a break over the summer (especially Elaine). This would be for 5 Sundays from Sunday 6th July to Sunday 3rd 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. Again, all volunteers need to be PVG checked beforehand.

Summer Trip to Briarlands Farm - Due to the success of last year's summer trip to Briarlands Farm in Stirling, we are returning again this year on Saturday 21st June. The cost of the trip is £10 per adult and £10 per child. If you would like to come along, please let me know as soon as possible as a form needs to be completed and returned by **Sunday 18th May (at the latest) along with payment!** It would be great if we could fill the bus again this year!

Gift-Giving - This year's gift-giving for the children (formerly known as prize-giving) will take place on Sunday 15th June during morning worship.

Exams – Please pray for all young people who are sitting exams and their teachers. We wish them well!

Lorraine Kennedy—Youth Team

Christian Aid Week 11-18 May 2025

Dear friends, Christian Aid week has come around again, and we are looking for your support during the following weeks to raise as much as we can as a church family for this year's appeal.

There will be envelopes available for donations in the church over the next few weeks and you can pass these to the elders on door duty or put into the collecting box at the front vestibule of the church.

Christian Aid aims to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. The campaigns against climate change and to restore God's creation, alongside special appeals for countries such as Myanmar that need critical support following devastating earthquakes.

Thanks to everyone who has supported this wonderful charity and we look forward to seeing what we can achieve this time.

Elaine Harvey

Christian Aid week co-ordinator

The Boys Brigade

Our Annual Inspection takes place on Friday 16th May at 7.15pm, in the large hall. Anchor, Junior and Company Sections will be joining together to give a taste of the activities we've done throughout the session, the evening will include our prize-giving and presentation of awards, followed by tea / coffee. We extend an invitation to all in the congregation, there is no charge for tickets, there will be the opportunity to make a donation at the end of the evening.

Volunteers Required

We are looking for people who would be willing to be part of the Tech team on a Sunday—helping with the sound desk and/or the recording of the services. Training will be provided. Please speak to Carol, Graham Shankland or Stuart Buchanan if you are interested in this service.

ALPHA

The Mission Team have just recently finished an Alpha course which ran from Wednesday 5th February until Wednesday 9th April. This was held in the church and although we had a small number attend it was really worthwhile.

Our thanks go to those who led the sessions and to those who put so much effort into the catering and serving the meal which is an important part of Alpha.

Stephen Kennedy

Mission and Community outreach Team

Please can I thank everyone involved in the Easter service (20th) from the puppet team and their brilliant performance, as usual, to the Easter eggs and lovely knitted Easter egg covers beautifully knitted for the children such a lovely idea and appreciated.

The thoughtful Easter decorated boiled eggs from our Romanian friends, it made you reflect on Jesus's blood shed for us.

The lovely hand decorated and meaningful biscuits handed out to everyone at the end of the service.

Not to forget the Easter eggs handed to the adults

Thanks to everyone involved, Sheena



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Next Issue deadline Sunday 25 May

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

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