

THE INFORMER

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Church Website: www.clincarthill.org.uk



Issue 114: December 2025

Letter from The Manse

*1The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?*

2When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

3Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

4One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

5For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

13I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

14Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27 NIVUK)

3I thank my God every time I remember you. 4In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1 NIVUK)

I am continuing to reflect on the theme of confidence. I have shared on a few occasions why this has been in my mind, with one of the main sources of my reflections being an apparently renewed confidence in the Bible. This has prompted me to reflect on where we place our confidence.

As we live, we are regularly called upon to put our confidence in things. “I am confident the bus will be on time” – and our confidence is justified when the bus does turn up (though I suspect this is a poor example – I imagine most of us are confident that the bus probably won’t turn up, and are then pleasantly surprised when it does...!). We have to place our confidence in other, larger things, which allow our society to function – governments, institutions, banks, businesses. I suspect a great deal of the anxiety felt in our present time stems from the fact these things have proven a poor recipient of our confidence, as we have been let down and our world made a worse place.

The two Scripture readings I have chosen, above, confirm what I suspect many of us already know – that we, as followers of Jesus, are called to place our confidence solely in Him. Psalm 27 begins with a powerful description of God, His love and protection; and concludes with an assurance that, no matter what we face, we will see God’s goodness – not at some future point, but right now, in the land of the living.

Similarly, Paul promises in his letter to the Philippians, that God who began a work in us shall carry it out to completion until “the day of Christ Jesus”; i.e. the moment when Jesus returns. When we place our faith in Christ, and surrender ourselves to His way, God begins working in us to conform us into the likeness of Jesus – a work in which He will persevere until we are brought face to face with Christ.

As I have wrestled with the idea, and my own feelings of confidence (or, sometimes, lack of...), I am reminded by these passages that the best place we can place our confidence is in God. We trust that He will work us into His good plans and purposes; and that when this involves us facing difficulty, He will strengthen and sustain us; all the while we are assured that, thanks to Christ, we will one day see Him face to face.

As we begin our Advent 2025 journey, I wonder if we can do so praying that the LORD would increase our confidence in Him? Not that we might become arrogant, thinking we know better than the world around us; but rather having a quiet confidence that cannot be shaken by the challenges and difficulties of the world, and which points back to the One whom we celebrate coming into our world at this time of year.

Let us be confident this Christmas time – in Christ.

With every blessing,

Stuart

Email: slove@churchofscotland.org.uk Tel.: 07916 176 873



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



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"We are pleased to share that the results of the vote on Sunday 30th November were as follows:

**Maxwell Mearns Castle Church: 50 for, 0 against.
Cliccarthill Church: 52 for, 4 against.**

This means our linkage will go ahead.

Presbytery will be in touch in due course to organise the service of linkage, and we will share details as soon as they are known. Thanks to all those who have worked extremely hard to help us reach this point".



Maxwell Mearns Castle Parish Church

The Guild in December

Dec. 1.

Quiz night - Gordon Macfarlane

Dec 8.

Christmas. Party

The Guild will then be off for the next 4 weeks and will restart on:

Jan 12 2026

Armchair exercises with Irene Hay.

3rd Glasgow BB Update

It's been a busy first half of the session for us at the 83rd. We have around 50 boys coming along each week across our three sections. Seven of our Anchor Boys went along to the Battalion's Lego Activity Morning at the start of November for 90 minutes of Lego fun, and the bus trip sounds like an adventure too with the same driver both ways who was 'leading the singing'. Juniors haven't been out anywhere yet this session but we have our Christmas trip to LaserQuest coming up shortly. Four of our younger Company Section boys took part in the Battalion Badminton competition recently, they did well with three of them making it to the quarter final stages. Our Seniors once again took part in the City's Remembrance Ceremony on Remembrance Sunday, this year at Glasgow Cathedral, they act as wreath bearers for the VVIP's, several of our Seniors also attended leadership courses as they work towards their King's Badge. Not wanting to leave the leaders out from this article we welcomed Callum McKenzie to the staff team last session and he has recently completed his officer training, Callum gained his Queen's Badge in 2020 and it's been great having him back, if anyone else is interested please get in touch.

Can we also thank those within the congregation who supported the Battalion Secretary's 140km walk for the 140th Anniversary of Glasgow Battalion in October, by their donations and also coming along as he visited the church, it ended up being 149km due to local knowledge, short-cuts and road/footpath closures. It was good to have a reception committee of Ian, Jim, Julie and Stephan here at the church when Jim passed by on the Wednesday, tea and cakes at the previous stop at Shawlands Trinity meant he was running a bit behind and didn't have much time to chat. It was also good to see ex-members of 3rd and 83rd along with some of our current leaders at Glasgow Cathedral for the Battalion's 140th Anniversary service on 19th October.



Stuart Buchanan, 83glasgow@boys-brigade.org.uk

Do you need prayer?

Contact:

0141 632 4206



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MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

WARM SPACE

We plan to run the Warm Space again over the winter starting in January 2026 providing soup and a roll for anyone who wants to pop in. This will take place every Thursday from 8th January until 12th February (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. This continues to be an important outreach as it supports many in our community who feel lonely or isolated.

FEED THE FANS

A 'Feed the Fans' event for the Scotland v Denmark match at Hampden was held on Tuesday 18th November in the church. This was a last minute decision due to the importance of the match but we managed to pull a team of volunteers together to help provide hospitality for those attending the match from as far away as Orkney (the couple in the photo gave us permission to share this) and Ullapool! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the night, especially Max, Stephen and David from the BB and Dana, a student ministry apprentice who came all the way from Alloa! It was a special night in many ways. Money raised from donations etc was £130 and will be split between Mount Florida Primary School and Queen's Park Govanhill Food Bank.



CAROL SINGING

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



Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team



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Events and activities at Clincarthill Church this Christmas

Date	Time	Event
Sat 6th Dec	10am	Breakfast with Santa (contact office@clincarthill.org.uk for details)
Sat 6th Dec	10am	Bethany Trust—Caring Christmas Trees Crofoot Parish Church, 318 Croftpark Avenue, G44 5NS
Sun 7th Dec	11am	Morning Worship —will include puppets This is also our Gift Service—bring your gifts (toys, goods or cash donations) for the Preshal Trust, the Glasgow City Mission and the Lodging House Mission. With Family Lunch afterwards
	7pm	Sundays@7 —Advent Prayer Supper
Sun 14th Dec	11am	Morning Worship
Thurs 18th Dec	7.30pm	Christmas Concert 7:30pm Maxwell Mearns Castle Church Waterfoot Road, Glasgow G77 5RE
Sun 21st Dec	11am	Morning Worship —including Nativity
	7pm	Sundays@7 —Space to breathe, reflective service
Wed 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)	5.30pm - 6.15pm	Community Carol Singing (with hot chocolate). All are welcome, please bring a torch.
	6.30pm	Family Service , including carols and 'pop up nativity' come dressed as a character from the nativity. With tea, coffee & mince pies served afterwards.
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service to welcome Christmas Day
Thurs 25th Dec (Christmas Day)	10.00am	Christmas Morning Worship Join us for a Christmas Café Church from 10am for tea & coffee with a short time of reflection at 10.30am
Sun 28th Dec	11am	Morning Worship A time of worship to round off the old and look ahead to the new year.

The Church will also be open as a 'warm welcome space' for people to meet each Thursday, 1—4pm, from 8th January until 12th February, with soup, tea & coffee available. It is free and all are welcome.

Registered Scottish Charity: SC010138 Next Issue Deadline: Wednesday 31st December – email: office@clincarthill.org.uk



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