

THE INFORMER

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Church Website: www.clincarthill.org.uk



Issue 115: January 2026

Letter from The Manse

¹*Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong;*

²*for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.*

³*Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.*

⁴*Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

⁵*Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:*

⁶*he will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.*

⁷*Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Psalm 37 NIVUK)*

If 2025 taught me anything, it would be to trust in the LORD's timing. The story of learning this lesson is long, and one many of you know (even if just in part), so I will not be rehashing it here; but as we move from the end of one year into the beginning of the next, I share some of the lessons I learned, which I hope will be helpful for you too.

I have often said that, while it may be frustrating waiting on the LORD's timing, we must trust that He knows what is best, and is conforming all things to achieve His good plans and purposes. While I absolutely still do believe this, and would continue to say this to any who ask; I have a renewed appreciation for just how difficult the waiting can be. It can take real focus in prayer to believe that God is still present and is at work; He has not abandoned nor forsaken us.

I also have a deeper appreciation of some of the tensions we can feel in the waiting – especially when part of that waiting/trusting is rooted in a sincere understanding of and belief in God's call and command; yet the surrounding circumstances would strongly imply that God's vision is impossible, and will not come to pass. In that situation, what do we do? Hold on to the promises of the LORD, or give in to the "wisdom of the world".

It is with great thanks to God that I am able to write something of a conclusion to these events, as the LORD's promises have been proved true, and my holding fast to Him, believing in His timing, has been vindicated. Indeed, even as other challenges have presented themselves, I have felt the LORD saying to me, "Have you not learned? In what do you place your security? I have not brought you this far to abandon you now. Your security is in Me"!

My lived experience of 2025 seems to reflect that which David records in Psalm 37. We are not always privy to the circumstances which moved David to write each of his Psalms; nor do we need to. We simply acknowledge that David led a life littered with challenging circumstances (granted, some also by his own making...); and in those challenges, he fought hard to hold fast to his faith in God and God's promises. And many times, David's prayer was answered, the LORD came to his rescue, and all things were well (though, we must again admit there were times when God, quite rightly, allowed David to feel the consequences of his wrongful actions).

If there is an even greater example of God answering the prayers of those who follow Him, we need only look to Christ. Our deepest need is salvation (a need we likely, and somewhat ironically, overlook...); and God has answered that need through the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Whatever circumstances lie ahead for you in 2026, may the sure knowledge of your salvation in Christ act as an anchor, which helps you to persevere.

I am glad to be able to share with you my experience of God fulfilling His promises; and point to other examples of God doing just that, not least in Christ. This makes the call of Psalm 37 far easier to hear and follow: when I step out in faith to trust the LORD, no matter my circumstances, I do so based on the evidence of Him keeping His promises and answering prayers of those in the Bible and those around me.

As we step into 2026, may we do so by "committing our way to the Lord and trusting in Him" (v. 5, paraphrased).

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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A Prayer for January
The Serenity Prayer of Reinhold Niebuhr

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
Accepting the hardship
as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that you will make all things right,
If I surrender to your will,
So that I may be reasonably
happy in this life,
And supremely happy
with You forever in the next.
Amen

Do you need prayer?

Contact:

0141 632 4206



The Guild in January

January 5: No Guild

January 12:
Armchair exercises ----- Irene Hay

January 19:
Board Games ----- On Our Own

January 26:
Erskine Hospital ----- Jim Watret



Bethany Christian Trust are a national charity dedicated to ending homelessness in Scotland, one person, one family and one community at a time.

Their mission is to relieve the suffering and meet the long-term needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Scotland. To do this they partner with communities, churches, organisations, local and national government, to offer tailored support and services.



One of their services is the Care Van.

The Care Van Glasgow supports vulnerable individuals in the community through a partnership with Glasgow City Mission and local churches.

Care Van Glasgow currently operates in Royston and Parkhead engaging with individuals in these areas that may be affected by poverty, isolation, poor health and homelessness. Volunteers on the Care Van help relieve suffering by providing food and hot drinks, a friendly listening ear, encouragement, compassion, local knowledge and information, general advice and signposting to appropriate services. This service is free to attend with no referral process required.



More information about Bethany Christian Trust can be found on their website

<https://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/about/>



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CLINCARTHILL PARISH CHURCH

WARM WELCOME SPACE



Our Church building will be open to all in the community on Thursday afternoons from 8th January until 12th February.

You will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

1PM-4PM

**SOUP, TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE
(FREE OF CHARGE)**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, FIND US AT:
WWW.CLINCARTHILL.ORG.UK AND
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CLINCARTHILLCHURCH

WARM SPACE

Just a reminder that the Warm Space will run every Thursday from 8th January until 12th February.

We will be open from 1pm till 4pm and anyone in the community is welcome to come along for some soup, tea and coffee. It's a great way to meet new friends as the winter can be a lonely time for many. Being an open and welcoming church is one of the highest priorities of the mission and community outreach team as we share God's love with our neighbours. If you would like to help on any of the Thursdays, please let me know or you can add your name to the sheet in the church (outside the library corner).

Stephen Kennedy - Mission and Community Outreach Team



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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On Saturday 6 December we held our 'Breakfast with Santa' event in the church. The hall was 'buzzing' as families came together for their breakfast.

The children enjoyed a morning of crafts, writing letters to Santa, storytelling with Mrs Claus, face painting and of course there was the excitement of meeting Santa himself!

The large hall was full of life and there was such a happy atmosphere. Around 40 attended, which was a good number, with many families from the local community. The feedback we received from families was very encouraging.

Thanks to the team and volunteers who made the day really special for those who attended, not only on the day itself but in the lead up to the event by helping to decorate Santa's grotto, decorating the hall and setting up the tables for breakfast on the Friday night. Thanks also to our Santa (Graham Kilpatrick) and Mrs Claus (Sheila Morrow) for taking part in the event and to Julie for her admin support.

Lorraine Kennedy
Youth Team



Registered Scottish Charity: SC010138

Next Issue Deadline: Sunday 25th January – email: office@clincarthill.org.uk



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