

THE INFORMER

The Newsletter of Clincarhill Parish Church of Scotland
Church Website: www.clincarhill.org.uk



Issue 116: February 2026

Letter from The Manse

¹⁰*This is what the Lord says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,' declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.'* (Jeremiah 29 NIVUK)

I am writing this pastoral letter not long after our service of linkage; and not long after having preached on Nehemiah 2, when I referenced this prophecy of Jeremiah.

In both services, we were reminded that we believe in a God who has a plan: for us as individuals; for communities of His People; indeed, for the whole world and all of creation. Since God has a plan, He will also ensure that it is fulfilled; even in the face of adversity and opposition.

As I have reflected on other occasions, this certainly matches our recent experience: of discerning God's plan, committing to follow it, experiencing the opposition which inevitably comes when God's People seek to follow His ways, and finally arriving at the point where God's promises and plans are fulfilled. To arrive at that point of conclusion is both a joy and a relief for God's People.

In light of this, I felt drawn to the prophecy of Jeremiah. As I have previously pointed out, verse 11 is usually misunderstood, and used to imply that, for those who have faith in God, His plan is that you will never face challenge or adversity, and that you will lead an easy life. When we read verse 11 in the broader context of the prophecy, however (and even just in the few verses around it!) we see that this is clearly not the case.

God promises good things to His People, but only after they have completed their years in exile: an exile they brought upon themselves because of their continual rejection of God! What most catches my attention as I write this is not so much God's actions here (in His enacting judgment in the exile; then grace by gathering the people together post-exile), but the way God's People respond to the things He has done.

Verse 12 suggests that, once the People have experienced exile, and then God's returning grace, they will turn back to Him: calling on Him and praying to Him. And crucially, God promises to listen! When His people seek Him, God promises that He will be found. What Jeremiah is prophesying here is something we who follow Jesus know well: we could do nothing to put right our rejection of God, so God, in His grace, came and put things right on our behalf – through the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Now, when we seek after God and His ways, we do so not because we have to (to earn His favour), but because we want to (having been granted that favour through the perfect and complete work of Christ). Our seeking after God and His ways is, therefore, a response to what God has already done.

Having arrived at a point where we feel God has fulfilled His promises to us (at least, in terms of Presbytery Planning); I wonder what we feel moved to do now? There is a risk, I think, that, having come to the end of this journey we think, "good, we can now rest and have a breather". And in one sense, yes, we absolutely can! But in another... this is when the real work begins! Because, having experienced the fulfilment of one aspect of God's plans and purposes, we are now to turn toward Him once more, calling on Him and praying to Him, seeking Him and His way with all our hearts, that He may be found and we might discover His plans and purposes for what is to come next.

This, then, is the encouragement of Jeremiah 29 to us all – to continue seeking after the LORD as one aspect of His plans are fulfilled; and the next part begins.

With every blessing,

Stuart

Email: slove@churchofscotland.org.uk

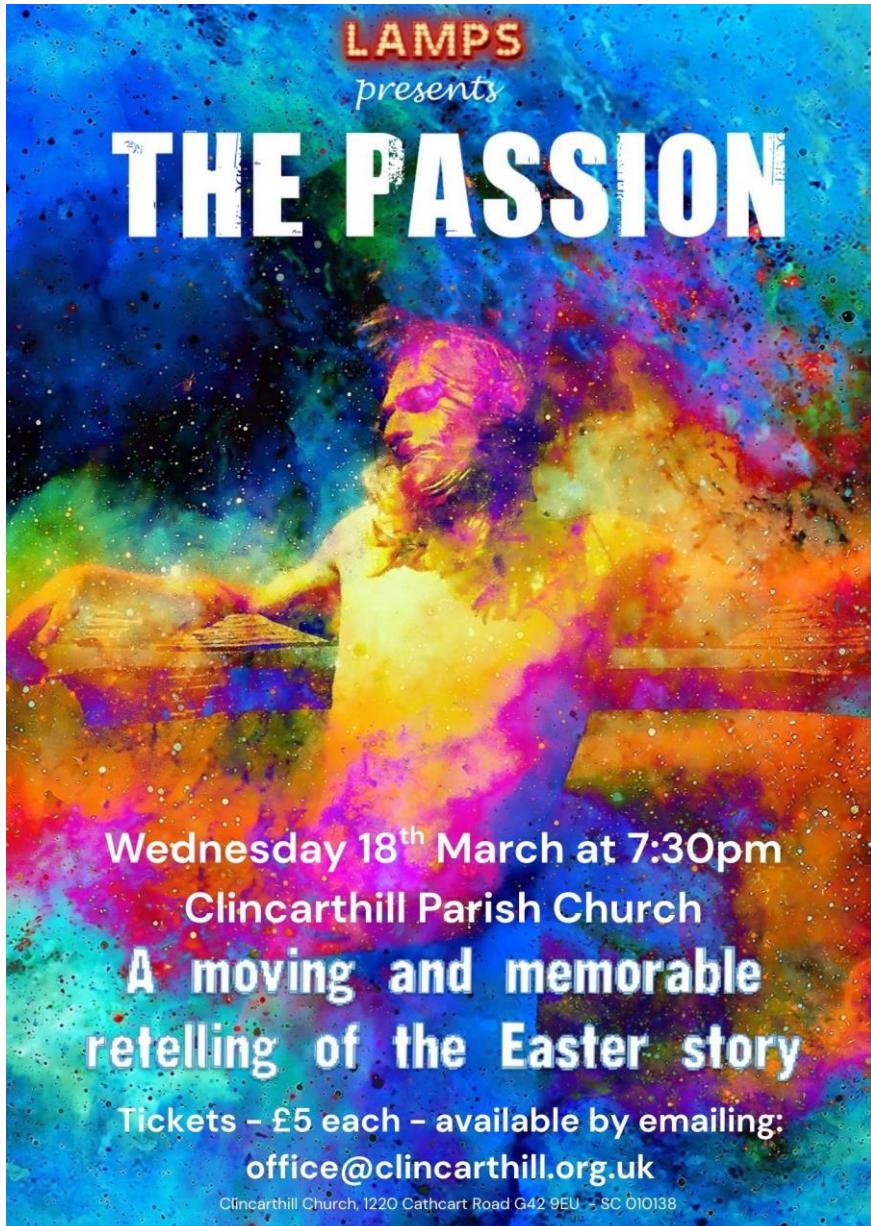
Tel.: 07916 176 873



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



Services are broadcast live
and can also be watched on demand
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We are delighted to announce that LAMPS Collective (theatre company) are coming to Clincarhill Church on Wednesday 18th March to perform a moving and memorable retelling of the Easter story - "The Passion".

This is the only Scottish date, so please put the date in your diary and let your friends and family know.

It would be wonderful to see the church filled that night.

Tickets are £5 each and are available by emailing: office@clincarhill.org.uk

Stephen Kennedy - Mission and Community Outreach Team



The Guild February 2026



2nd: Fish Supper - On Our Own

9th: Bible for Bairns - Jen Robertson

16th: Community Police - PC Gerry Stephen

23rd: Tobacco Lords - David Vennard

Date for your diary:

9th March: Community Quiz Night , 7.30pm in the Large Hall.



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Just a reminder
that the warm
space continues
to meet every
Thursday from
1pm to 4pm
until Thursday
12th February.

If anyone is an unpaid carer in the southside you can find useful information here:

[Carers - Glasgow City Council](#)

Or call:

0141 423 0728.

Other Warm Spaces are available across Glasgow. Go to:

[www.warmwelcome.uk/find-a-space](#)

for a list of venues

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](#)



East Renfrewshire Good Causes

For more information go to:
[www.ergoodcauses.co.uk](#)

East Renfrewshire Good Causes (ERGC) is a local charity founded by Russell Macmillan, a registered blind man who received a life-saving double transplant in 2007. Out of gratitude to God and in honour of his organ donor, Russell began this work to put "love your neighbour" into practical action.

What makes ERGC especially meaningful is its rootedness in Christian gratitude. Russell's work is not simply charitable—it is an ongoing expression of thanksgiving for the gift of life he received. Every act of kindness is offered in honour of his donor and as a reflection of God's love for every person. In this way,

ERGC becomes not just a charity, but a living testimony to grace.

Working alongside churches, schools, health professionals and community groups, ERGC supports individuals and families facing hardship. Help is offered through both purchased items and donated goods or services, ranging from essential household items and mobility aids to educational support and emergency assistance.

Since its beginning, ERGC has provided more than £2.7 million worth of help to over 9,600 people, sharing compassion and hope throughout East Renfrewshire and beyond.

The charity continues to invite supporters to join in this mission of kindness, ensuring that those in need receive practical care at the right time.

East Renfrewshire Good Causes is based in East Renfrewshire but now operates all over Scotland including the parish of Clincarthill.

As we look around our own community, may we be inspired by the work of East Renfrewshire Good Causes and encouraged to play our part in building a place where no one is left to struggle alone.



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Finance Team Report – December 2025

I am still working on the 2025 final accounts but the expected deficit has materialised and across the funds, we are looking at a loss of around £17,000 for the year.

Significant Expenses During the Year

We have had some significant expenses during the year including:
 Fees incurred in preparation of replacing the rear boundary wall – £3,900
 Replacement of the sanctuary projector – £8,760
 Annual energy bills – nearly £17,000
 Thankfully we have the legacy fund to assist us in covering the costs.

Looking Ahead to 2026

For 2026, as well as expecting a reduction in the Giving to Grow contributions as we are now sharing the minister with Maxwell Mearns, we are having discussions about sharing the costs of the administrator and manse upkeep.

Banking Changes

We also are now facing monthly bank charges. We had been told as a charity we would continue to receive free banking but in December, this changed to reduced charges for electronic payments and we are now being charged for cash and cheque deposits. The Finance team still have to consider the effect of this so watch this space for further information on the best ways to donate to the church.

If you want to start a standing order, the forms for your bank are available.

Mary MacCallum – Treasurer

Offerings & Donations Income Table			
	31-Dec-25	Income to Date	
Income Type		2025	2024
Offerings	49,579	50,769	
Tax Recovered	12,017	10,104	
Open Collection	4,951	4,352	
Donations (personal)	70	0	
Donations (church organisations)	1,850	1,990	
Hall Lets	37,148	32,448	
Donations - weddings	40	0	
Donations - funerals	285	1,121	
Donations - baptisms	0	0	
Investment Income	13,935	15,295	
Other	3,124	2,428	

Expenditure			
Week	31-Dec-25	2025 ACT	2024 Act
<i>National Ministry & Mission</i>	57,000	49,669	
<i>Local Staffing</i>	21,548	7,895	
<i>Buildings</i>	47,556	34,545	
<i>Other Local Costs</i>	16,071	9,531	
Total	142.175	101.640	

Funds Analysis & Balances					
	31-Dec-25	Op Bal 1st Jan	Income	Expenditure	Current Bal
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	0	122,999		142,175	-19,177
Legacy Fund	340,193	0		0	340,193
Designated Funds:					
Flower Fund	0	0		163	-163
Worship and Christian Growth Fund	200	0		419	-219
Mission & Community Outreach Fund	3,067	670		690	3,046
Maintenance and Eco Fund	200	0		0	200
Pastoral Care Fund	200	586		523	263
Communications Team fund	200	0		0	200
Finance & Stewardship Team fund	200	0		0	200
Youth Fund	1,203	533		1,077	659
Restricted Funds:					
BIF	12,379	2,803		0	15,181
Endowment Funds:					
Bequest Funds	2,844	83		46	2,880
TOTALS	360,686	127,673		145,094	343,264



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December Donations

In December, from the Christmas lunch and the retiral offerings at the Christmas services we were able to send the following donations:

Glasgow City Mission – £300
Lodging House Mission – £303.28
The Preshal Trust – £75
And from the Baird Penny Fund:
Tearfund – £20

Do you need prayer?

Contact:

0141 632 4206



February — Love & Unity

Prayer:

Lord, teach us to love as You love. Help us to see one another with compassion, patience, and grace. Strengthen the bonds within our church family and let Your love be the foundation of all we do.

Amen.

Verse:

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

— 1 Peter 4:8



Registered Scottish Charity: SC010138

Next Issue Deadline: Sunday 22nd February – email: office@clincarthill.org.uk



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