

THE INFORMER

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Church Website: www.clincarthill.org.uk



Issue 118: April 2026

Letter from The Marse

*9'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. 13Greater love has no-one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command. 15I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17This is my command: love each other.
(John 15 NIVUK)*

The Gospel according to John is a somewhat unique account of Jesus. While Mark, Matthew and Luke all focus on trying to give an over-arching account of the life and ministry of Jesus, John focusses very much on specific moments which convey Jesus' identity as God in human form, the Saviour of the world. Further, John gives particular attention to Jesus' final days – just under half of his Gospel account is devoted to the lead up to Jesus' death (chapters 12 through 19: that is 8 of 21 chapters!). At the heart of this focus on Jesus' final days, there is also particular attention given to Jesus' teaching (chapters 13 through 17); and in the middle of all this teaching, we have this section from John 15.

That was quite an introduction! So, why this passage for this pastoral letter?

I have recently been meditating on Jesus' words in verse 13 – greater love has no-one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. I most often use these words during Remembrance Sunday; indeed, we now often associate these words with remembering those who have lost their lives in conflict, usually in a "dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" (it is a sweet and fitting thing to die for one's country) sort of way. (I should not that I know this phrase from the poem of a similar title by Wilfred Owen – and Owen's intent in using this phrase is to deliberately highlight that dying in war is rarely "sweet" or "fitting" – in fact, he calls the phrase, "the old lie").

Yet, as we read this verse within the context of Jesus' teaching, and especially in light of the fact He is preparing to give His life for the salvation of all who would believe in Him, we can perhaps see that this image of "a heroic death" is far from Jesus' mind.

The laying down of one's life for one's friends can be seen in a few different ways here. First, and perhaps most obvious, is Jesus' laying down His life for the salvation of all those who follow Him. There is also the response we can make when receiving that salvation, in the laying down of our lives for Jesus. Jesus Himself expresses this, "24Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it" (Matthew 16 NIVUK).

Then, there is the way we lay down our lives for one another. This is not necessarily in the sense of literally dying for one another, but rather thinking of the needs of others before our own; being mindful of the impact of our words and actions; seeking to encourage and support one another, especially in the building up of our faith. And we are called to extend this love to all; even our worst enemies. Although in this passage, Jesus is talking about the greatest love one can have for friends, elsewhere He calls us to, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44 NIVUK).

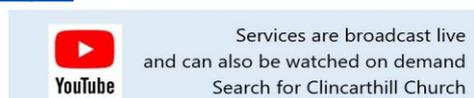
Jesus is not calling us to something He did not do Himself. For, although Jesus talks about dying for one's friends in this passage, surely we can see that He came into this world, and died a criminal's death, not because we were His friends, but while we were His enemies? As Paul puts it, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners [i.e. God's enemies], Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NIVUK).

I write this on Palm Sunday, at the beginning of Holy Week. My earnest hope and prayer, as we make this familiar journey, is that we appreciate anew the love Christ has shown us in bringing us salvation through the laying down of His life; and that we, in turn might learn to lay down our lives for one another, and for Him.

With every blessing,

Stuart

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



YOUTH TEAM

Easter Breakfast – We are having an Easter breakfast on Sunday 5th April between 10.30 and 11.15 in the large hall. Please come early and enjoy a roll with sausage or bacon, cereal etc. A lovely way to meet together before the service to celebrate this special day.

Any donations received will go towards the cost of the bus for our summer trip to Briarlands Farm.



VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Holiday Club - We are looking for volunteers to help at our Holiday Club this year from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August (10am to 12 noon). This 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 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 (please speak to Rhona Gann or Sheila Morrow).

Summer Sunday School – We are also looking for volunteers to cover Kid's Church over the summer holidays from Sunday 5th July to Sunday 9th August (6 weeks) to give Elaine and others a well-deserved break! If this is something you would like to help with, please speak to either Elaine Harvey or myself. Again, all volunteers need to be PVG checked.

Lorraine Kennedy - Youth Team

83rd Glasgow BB Update

Thanks to everyone who came along to our soup and sandwich lunch after worship on 22nd March, it was great to see you all and you were very generous with your donations, after costs we added around £275 to Company Funds. Thanks also to the boys from Company Section who came along to help.

March was a busy month with two of our Anchor Boys taking part in the District Collage and Junk Art Competition, they did a space collage and built a robot from junk and they won the trophy! At the other end of the age range Cameron was away at his King's Badge Completion Residential, a weekend at Lapwing Lodge, Renfrewshire Scouts Outdoor Centre just outside Paisley, with just the finishing touches remaining we should be able to present him with our first King's Badge (since the early 1950's) at our Inspection next month.

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



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



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MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

LAMPS

We were blessed to have LAMPS theatre company perform the Passion a few weeks ago. This was a powerful account of the Easter resurrection story performed by 3 actors. Over 100 folk attended from different churches and some folk came along who were just curious.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who made it possible including the accommodation hosts (Stuart and Ruth Love, Mike and Mary Gargrave and Gordon and Karen Palmer), Julie in the office, Graham Kilpatrick and the mission team. This was an important outreach and significant event in the life of the church. We were also delighted that Galilee books were able to be there.

The mission team will continue to find ways to share our faith. Please keep an eye on the church website page as we hope to have Searchlight theatre company perform "Return to the Hiding Place" in October this year.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Stephen Kennedy

COMMUNITY NEWS

Keeping in touch with and listening to the community is important.

I was fortunate to attend a breakfast with Robert Pollok for local businesses and interested people in the Mount Florida area in Queen's Park Football Club way back in February.

This will be a regular event which will help all in the community to connect with and learn from one another.

There are lots of local shops and businesses in the area that are trying to make a difference, so meeting with one another and learning from one another is so important to help us understand our local community better.

Stephen Kennedy

Mission and Community Outreach Team

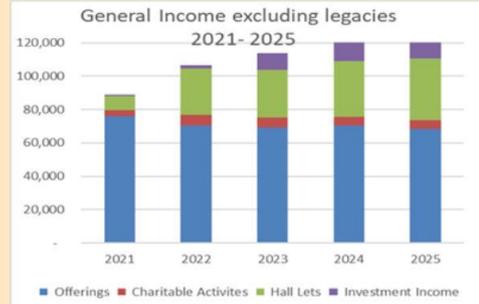
FINANCE REPORT

The full annual report and accounts for 2025 is now available and please ask Julie if you want a printed copy. Short printed extracts will be available for the annual business meeting on the 26 April but in the meantime these three graphs show the general trends. Income not increasing, expenditure increasing and a growing net deficit which is funded by the legacies received in previous years.

With the recent increases the state pension and freeze in tax allowances, some of you may now be paying tax, can I remind you that if you are a UK taxpayer and sign a gift aid form, we can claim back 25p for every £1 you give. Just ask for a form and give to either myself or Julie.

Yours in Christ

Mary MacCallum - Treasurer.



The Guild

The Guild has come to the end of another session and will be having a break over the summer months. There will be a visit on Saturday, June 6 to Erskine Veteran's Village, followed by a High Tea at the Clockwork. The bus will leave the church at 11am and return around 5pm.

Our 'Coffee and Chat' evenings will take place on Monday, August 17 and September 14 at 7pm in the small hall.

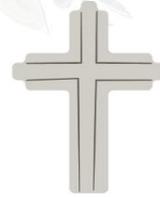
Our new session will begin at the beginning of October.

Sheila Morrow

Do you need prayer?

Contact:

0141 632 4206



Used Stamp Collection

Elaine Harvey has been collecting used stamps on behalf of the congregation for many years. These were sent to the Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Appeal, where they were sold to raise a small amount of money to support the work of the World Mission team overseas.

The volunteer who coordinated this appeal has now retired, and the project has come to an end. As a result, the stamp collection box has been removed.

Elaine Harvey would like to thank everyone who faithfully contributed stamps over the years. Your support has been greatly appreciated. We will no longer be continuing with the used stamp collection.

Thank you!

I would like to thank all my friends and those in my church family for all their cards, gifts and Good Wishes given to me on celebrating my recent 90th birthday. It was all very much appreciated.

God Bless everybody

Louise

For Information:

Healing Rooms are now open at Croftfoot Parish Church 318 Croftpark Avenue, Croftfoot Glasgow, G44 5NS – see their website for details.

HE IS NOT HERE



He is Risen



Registered Scottish Charity: SC010138

Next Issue Deadline: Sunday 26th April – email: office@clincarthill.org.uk



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