

THE INFORMER

The Newsletter of Clincarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Church Website: www.clincarthill.org.uk



Issue 120: June 2026

Letter from The Marse

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.
(Romans 12 NIVUK)

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has been described in many ways. "Exciting", "enlivening" and "encouraging" are not usually among the adjectives used; and before I give you the wrong impression, I would say that, in general, the 2026 gathering could not really be described in this way either. Yes, there were matters of some significance and import discussed and decided upon; but the processes and proceedings are hardly inspiring.

Yet, there was one report which caught my attention in the lead up to the General Assembly: "Church Decline: Reflecting on the Causes and Building for a Better Future".

How can a report on the causes of decline be encouraging and inspiring?

I will admit, the sections tracking the decline of the Church of Scotland hardly inspire much optimism. Yet, I still found them refreshing: this, so far as I have been able to discern, is the first time at a national level that our denomination has acknowledged and been honest about the reality we have been living over the last 50 or so years. That the Church has been in a bad way for many decades; and while some of the decline can be explained away by changes in our culture and world, the Church needs to take ownership of our own failings, and our own poor decisions which have exacerbated the problem.

While uncomfortable, it was nonetheless refreshing to have such honesty presented in a report, and then on the floor, of the highest court of the Church of Scotland.

Of course, if the report did nothing more than acknowledge past failings, it would hardly be worth any attention. What moves this into the area of being potentially enlivening and inspiring is the call to action; the suggestions that the Church might consider – crucially, not more things we should "do", but rather, the kind of mindset changes we might adopt to better align ourselves with our main calling as followers of Jesus.

Here are some of the recommendations which stood out to me as particularly encouraging to see written in a General Assembly report:

- Call on Church committees and courts to embed prayer in the rhythm of meetings – not just at the beginning, but throughout.
- Encourage every member to speak more about Jesus than about the church.
- Affirm that every member has spiritual gifts, regardless of age or background, and is called to offer them.
- Urge members to ask, "who is disciplining me?" and "who am I disciplining?"
- Promote daily personal and regular communal practices of Bible reading, prayer and, spiritual curiosity.
- Encourage congregations to explore fresh worship practices as expressions of seeking God.

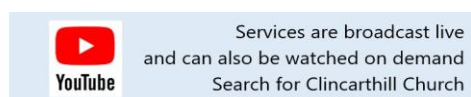
The report itself acknowledges that none of this is a quick fix for the Church of Scotland, but the first step in a process we hope and pray will bring about renewal: renewal of God's People, renewal of discipleship, and renewal of the Church. Which is the connection to the Bible passage I quote, above: Paul encouraged all who follow Jesus to submit themselves to God's transforming power, that He might transform us to better follow His ways, and be His hands and feet in our broken world. That is God's call, and indeed the call of this report, to all members of the Church.

And given that such renewal is only possible through the power of God, granted in and through the Holy Spirit; it seems particularly apt to be reflecting on and writing these things, as I am, on Pentecost Sunday.

With every blessing,

Stuart Email: slove@churchofscotland.org.uk

Tel.: 07916 176 873



Clincarthill Parish Church
a church for the community

everyone is welcome to our

GARDEN Cafe

Clincarthill Parish Church
1220 Cathcart Road
(Corner of Cathcart Road & Battlefield Road)

EVERY MONDAY FROM 10AM - 1PM
FROM JUNE 29TH - JULY 27TH

**In the church halls and grounds
A warm welcome awaits –
open to everyone in the community**

Scottish Registered Charity No: SC010138

This year the Garden Cafe will run every Monday from 29th June to 27th July. This has become a regular summer event and a sheet is available outside the Meeting Room for volunteers to sign up to.

Thanks

Stephen Kennedy

Mission and Community Outreach
Team

Church Role Update

Death: May Christie – 12th May 2026

Do you need prayer?

Contact:

0141 632 4206



YOUTH TEAM

Holiday Club

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help at this year's Holiday Club so far. This will now go ahead and will run from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August (10am till 12 noon). A meeting will be arranged over the next couple of weeks with volunteers to plan ahead. Thanks again for all your support.

Summer Sunday School

We are still looking for a couple of volunteers for the Summer Sunday School to give Elaine and others a well-deserved break! This would be for 5 weeks from Sunday 5th July until Sunday 2nd August. If you are able to help for one Sunday out of the 5, it would be great to hear from you. Please let either Elaine or myself know and a rota will be made up for volunteers. Thanks to those who have volunteered so far. Just a reminder that volunteers need to be PVG checked.

Gift-giving (formerly prize-giving)

This year's gift-giving (formerly prize-giving) for the children will take place on Sunday 14th June during worship when the children will be presented with either a book or bible.

Lorraine Kennedy - Youth Team



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



Services are broadcast live
and can also be watched on demand
Search for Clincarthill Church

A Thought for the Summer

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

- Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

Summer gives us an opportunity to slow down, rest, and appreciate God's goodness in both the big and small moments of life. As routines change and holidays begin, may we take time to draw close to God and find renewed strength and peace in Him.

Prayer:

Lord,

Thank You for the gift of summer. Help us to find rest in You and to recognise Your presence in each day. Refresh our hearts and guide us in all we do.

Amen.

Summer Break for The Informer

As we move into the summer months, this will be the final edition of The Informer until September.

During the summer break, our weekly Connect bulletin will continue to be issued each week, keeping everyone updated with important church news, upcoming services, events, prayer points, and notices.

We also regularly share updates, information, and encouragement through the church website and Facebook page, so please continue to check these throughout the summer to stay connected with church life. Thank you to everyone who contributes to and supports The Informer throughout the year. We look forward to bringing it back in September with more news and stories from across our church family.

Wishing everyone a restful, enjoyable, and blessed summer.



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



Services are broadcast live
and can also be watched on demand
Search for Cliccarthill Church

This is how God
showed his love
among us: He sent
his one and only
Son into the world
that we might live
through him



Clincarthill Parish Church
a church for the community

1 John 4 v 9

Registered Scottish Charity: SC010138

Next Issue Deadline: Sunday 23rd August – email: office@clincarthill.org.uk



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



Services are broadcast live
and can also be watched on demand
Search for Clincarthill Church