

# The Informer



The Newsletter of Clinkarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 76: February 2022

## Letter from the Session Clerk

Church Website Address [www.clinkarthill.org.uk](http://www.clinkarthill.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

With the New Year firmly behind us now, February brings us through the final journey of the Epiphany season. Different churches treat Epiphany in different ways, and a few take the season to end just before Lent on Shrove Tuesday. I can't claim to have any sudden or great revelation and certainly nothing to compare with that of the Magi and many others at that time. For me it's more a realisation of the changing of seasons, as slowly life begins to stir hidden and unnoticed underground. It won't be long before the green shoots of bulbs and other plants appear, and buds on trees. It's a time of revival, new growth and hopefully a rise in one's energy levels! I hope and pray that with God's grace we see growth around us in our parish, and that we are guided to help people who are struggling and perhaps unaware of the gospel message of good news and salvation to all. Our house group held its first meeting in January after an absence of 22 months, and we picked up where we left off, studying the Holy Spirit. It was good to get back to meeting in person and setting aside the time to study and discuss issues of faith. Our weekly prayer meeting has continued throughout the Coronavirus lockdown often with a struggle as people got worn out with Zoom and being isolated at home. But I'm pleased to say that we are meeting once again in person in the church on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 pm, and we hope to use Zoom as well, for those who choose to stay home. So gradually I hope that your life and church life grow and flourish as the weeks and months move us forward into spring and that by Easter all restrictions are lifted and we can praise God without wearing a mask.

It's a very difficult time for all ministers and congregations right now, as we grapple with the Presbytery plan, reducing numbers of ministers and people. Glasgow is allocated a total of 84 ministry posts (that's not 84 parish ministers) and currently has 123 congregations; so you can understand the difficulties trying to tease out how to share about 75 parish ministers amongst the congregations, and that's not even considering the number of buildings too.

Our minister, Stuart has been involved in all of this at Presbytery level, as well as parish ministry and discussions with adjacent congregations. So do continue to keep Stuart and the manse family in your prayers. I hope that next month Stuart will be in a position to start a phased return to his ministry. You will be aware that our friends from the Pentecostal Church have been using our sanctuary since September, each Sunday afternoon, because of a problem with their roof. Phil, their pastor tells me that repair work has started, and they hope a couple of months should see it completed. It is good and right that different Christian denominations can help each other in difficult times, and I wish them well.

I thank God that so many of you are blessed with talent, and continue to help leading us in worship, prayer, maintenance, mission, children's ministry and so much more. Also the guest preachers who have blessed us with their presence, and now the good news that John McColl has handed in his 'L' plates and has officially passed his Word and Worship course and can preach and lead us in worship, along with Sheila and Joan. Not that John ever needed a certificate to preach, but that's another story. I hope that as we move through this year that the Presbytery plan along with our ministry will enable green shoots of growth to appear, and that we have the wisdom, faith and energy to nurture them.

God bless.  
Roger Gann, Session Clerk.

**The usual reminder that you can still connect with our services of worship online, in the following way:**

If you have a computer, laptop or smartphone, you can either use the Zoom app, or visit [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us).

Alternatively, on a normal telephone, you can dial 0131 460 1196. Either way, when asked, please input the following information: Meeting ID: 960 694 6264 Passcode: 012230

On YouTube Simply visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Clinkarthill Church.

You will be directed to our YouTube channel. The live stream will become available at around 10:55am.



**Telephone Prayer Circle**

**0141 632 4206**



**Registered Scottish Charity SC010138**

**Next Issue deadline Sunday 27 February**

Email any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter to [sessionclerk@clinkarthill.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@clinkarthill.org.uk)

## THE GUILD in FEBRUARY

February 7 : A Visit to Auschwitz - Roger Gann  
February 14 : "A Home for Good" ( Guild Project night) - Duncan Shelton  
February 21 : Bethany Christian Trust - Rachael Gilfillan  
February 27 : Congregational Soup and Sandwich Lunch  
February 28 : Community Quiz - Eric & Shirley McCuish  
March 7 : The Abdication Crisis - Roy Johnstone



The Guild continues with it's programme despite recent cancellations of both meetings and speakers. All meetings are open to any member of the congregation and some of the meetings this month may be of interest to the men in the congregation. Our old friend Roy Johnstone is returning to speak about the Abdication crisis and Roger Gann will share with us his reflections on his visit to Auschwitz two years ago.

On Sunday, February 27, the Guild is providing a Soup and Sandwich lunch, the proceeds of which will go to the charities we are supporting—"A Home for Good" and "Chocolate Heaven". It is some time since we all shared lunch together, so hope to see you there!

The following evening we are running a Quiz night for the work of the church and other charities. So think about coming along for a night of fun, bring a team or a friend if you wish, the more the merrier. Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening.

Sheila Morrow

## Reflecting Through Art

In March the Worship and Christian Growth Team are planning to mount an arts display in the small hall and would very much value your personal contributions. There is no one specific theme - variety is the key. The pieces will be displayed with an accompanying title, brief comment and prayer.

If you have a drawing, painting, photograph, embroidery, poem - anything that you would like to share please speak to Roger or any member of the team. All work will be returned at the end of the exhibition.

For planning purposes we are asking that contributions be handed to the team by the first week in March. Waiting in anticipation.



Agnes McIntyre

A Kemble upright piano - free to a good home, but you need to arrange for collection and delivery. Please email [sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk) for more information.

## **February Prayer Focus**

*"To clasp your hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world" - Karl Barth*

01/02/22 Pray for Stuart, our elders, teams and ourselves as we each plan for moving forward in worship in this time of further reduced restrictions.

08/02/22 Pray the music ministry vacancy will be filled and we will join in making a joyful noise to the LORD.

15/02/22 Pray for Kids Church and its leaders. May our church be filled with the noise and laughter of our little ones.

22/02/22 Pray for our friends no longer able to physically join us. May their Sundays continue to be special wherever they find themselves worshipping.

## **Lent Devotions**

*Tearfund has a free Easter Advent online calendar that starts on the 2nd March and runs for the forty days of Lent. You can sign up at anytime from now and receive daily reflections.*

## **Congregational Register**

The marriage of Miss Ruth McColl to Mr Matthew Coates on the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Clincarthill Parish Church - Bible Reflection 14

This month's reflection is a very simple one based on one of the well know Psalms, 139. It's a very personal Psalm concentrating on how intimately God knows you since He formed you, breathed life into you as you grew in the womb. As usual use only what is helpful, stay with whatever seems to linger as you pray, that will be God inviting you to pay attention to what He wants you to notice.

- ♦ How does it feel to know God wanted you to be part of His kingdom?
- ♦ What words or phrases catch your attention? And why?
- ♦ What else is God saying to you through these words?

With the help of the picture below, can you see God at the centre? What would you like to say to Him?

**Bible Reading:** Psalm 139: 2-6, 13-16 (The Message)

I'm an open book to you;  
even from a distance, you know what I'm  
thinking.  
You know when I leave and when I get back;  
I'm never out of your sight.  
You know everything I'm going to say  
before I start the first sentence.  
I look behind me and you're there,  
then up ahead and you're there, too—  
your reassuring presence, coming and going.  
This is too much, too wonderful—  
I can't take it all in!  
Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;  
you formed me in my mother's womb.  
I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking!  
Body and soul, I am marvellously made!  
I worship in adoration—what a creation!

You know me inside and out,  
you know every bone in my body;  
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,  
how I was sculpted from nothing into  
something.  
Like an open book, you watched me grow from  
conception to birth;  
all the stages of my life were spread out before  
you,  
The days of my life all prepared  
before I'd even lived one day.  
Investigate my life, O God,  
find out everything about me;  
Cross-examine and test me,  
get a clear picture of what I'm about;  
See for yourself whether I've done anything  
wrong—  
then guide me on the road to eternal life.

### Prayer:

Dear God, Creator of myself, I thank You for Your love  
which manifests itself in the depths of my being.

Help me to accept and live in this knowledge.

Help me to remember I have been made for Your  
purpose, enable me to fulfil Your plan through the  
days of my life

Amen

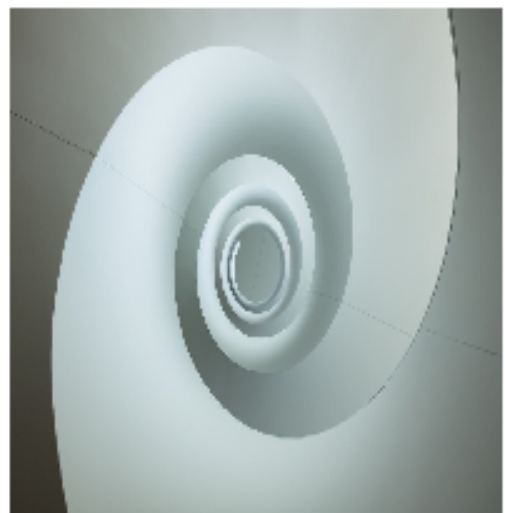


Photo by [Alex Eckermann](#) on [Unsplash](#)