

The Informer



The Newsletter of Cliccarthill Parish Church of Scotland

Issue 83: November 2022

Letter from the Manse

Church Website Address www.cliccarthill.org.uk

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

⁸We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many. (2nd Corinthians 1 NIVUK)

For those of you who either attended, or watched, the service of worship on 30th October 2022, you'll no doubt recognise the first section of these verses: we used them as our call to worship. This set the foundation for our time of worship, as we reflected together on the theme of the Comfort of God (as presented in Isaiah 40).

It is interesting that, as we look to what follows in 2nd Corinthians, Paul goes on from talking about the comfort of God, to sharing about the troubles and trials he and his helpers faced in the province of Asia. A cursory reading of these 2 paragraphs may suggest that they are very much in contrast to one another - one of comfort, the other of pain. Yet, I do not think these paragraphs are a contradiction; rather, I think one flows naturally from the other.

Paul talks first about God's comfort because, in his experience, that is what allows him to persevere through pain and suffering. Indeed, despite feeling like he had "received the sentence of death", he is able to take a step back, experience the comfort of God, and thus reflect more clearly on his situation. He comes to understand that his suffering has a purpose: to increase his reliance upon God (and not himself); to broaden his appreciation of God's salvation (both temporal relief from his circumstances, and ultimate rescue from sin through Jesus Christ); and that many may be moved, not just to pray, but to celebrate when prayer is answered.

The comfort of God in difficult circumstances, therefore, is a means by which we can reflect more clearly on our situations, see God at work in and through them, and increase our reliance upon Him. We access the comfort of God, as Paul reveals in the opening verses, through our faith in Jesus Christ: believing that by His death and resurrection, the sin and darkness of our world is dealt with, and we are given the hope of relief - if not in this life, then definitely in the next.

Why share this message with you in this pastoral letter?

I remain concerned that we are on the cusp of some kind of modern-day exile. I think the signs point to things getting worse (culturally, in society, and in our denomination) before there is any hint of them getting better. If my perception is correct, that means we may well be in for a challenging and difficult time.

As tough as this may be to hear, I do not want any of us to be moved to despair! If the series in Isaiah has shown anything thus far, it is that there is great hope, even in the darkest times; and we who believe in Jesus Christ can live in the light of that hope, even as the world is consumed by darkness. That is the point of highlighting these verses from 2nd Corinthians - it is another reminder to us all that, thanks to Christ, when the darkness closes in, we need not despair. Instead, we fix our eyes all the more firmly on Jesus, receiving assurance of both comfort and salvation - all of which moves us to do as Paul does, and proclaim, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"!

Every blessing to you,

Stuart

How to join us at Cliccarthill Church

see our online publicity at

www.cliccarthill.org.uk and www.facebook.com/cliccarthillchurch



In person

At Cliccarthill Church
1220 Cathcart Road

Zoom

Visit www.zoom.us and click
'join a meeting'
or dial: 0131 460 1196
(Meeting ID: 960 694 6264 : Passcode: 012230)

YouTube

Search for Cliccarthill
Church

The Guild

Programme for November:

November 7: Aberlour Child Care Trust - Abby Parkhouse

November 14: Glasgow City Mission - Jack Geddes

November 21: 'Not Just Tigers' - Vivienne Macdonald

November 28: 'Have You Got It' - Rev. John Martindale



Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair

The annual Coffee morning and Christmas Fair will be held on **Saturday 19 November 2022 from 10am till 12 noon**. As usual there will be a variety of stalls, some old friends like the Guide Dogs, and Home baking to buy and to enjoy. Come and join us - tickets are available from Guild members or you can pay at the door. Price £3.

You may have noticed after 10 years; the main projector in the sanctuary has become less bright. The Kirk Session would like to replace it with a HD projector which will cost around £11,000. We are applying for grant funding towards the cost but if you appreciate the usefulness of having the big screen for worship, any donations are welcome, just let us know that your donation is for the projector fund.



Telephone Prayer Circle

0141 632 4206



Registered Scottish Charity SC010138

Next Issue deadline Sunday 27 November

Email any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter to:
sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk

MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Warm Welcome Space (Warm Bank)

We will be offering a warm welcome space using the large hall in the church each Thursday from Thursday 10th November until Thursday 26th January 2023 from 1pm till 4pm. This will be open to people in our church and community who may feel lonely or isolated over the winter months. We will be providing soup and tea/coffee and there is an opportunity to make new friends. If you know of anyone in the local community who may benefit from this venture, please encourage them to come along – there is no charge! Thanks also to those of you who have volunteered to help so far. If you have not yet done so, and feel you would like to help, there are still a few dates on the sheet in the sanctuary to add your name to, or alternatively speak to Stephen Kennedy.

Pop up Church Christmas Event

We are having a Pop up Church Christmas event in No 10 Hotel, 16 Queen's Drive, Glasgow on Thursday 24th November from 7pm to 9.30pm. There will be some music, a light supper and a presentation from the street pastors. We would love to see you there! It is an opportunity for us to come together in a relaxed and informal setting to enjoy each other's company as well as those from other local churches in our cluster. We hope you can make it. If you are planning to come along or need transport to get there, please let Stephen know as soon as possible.

Bethany Caring Christmas Tree Event – Saturday 10th December

Our church will be a base again this year for folk picking up pre-ordered Christmas trees on Saturday 10th December from 10am to 1pm. There will be tea/coffee and some Christmas treats in the sanctuary during this time, so please come along and enjoy the atmosphere. Thanks to those of you who have offered to help with unloading the trees on the day – it is much appreciated!

Carol Singing – Christmas Eve

Due to the success of last year's outdoor carol singing, we will be doing this again this year in the garden (conservatory area) from 5.45 to 6.15pm on Christmas Eve. Please bring a torch with you. We will be serving hot chocolate from 5.30pm. Again, we would love to see you!

Stephen Kennedy
Mission and Community Outreach Team

Finance Report

The income for the year to date is better than this time last year mainly due to the recovery of the hall let income. The year-to-date deficit at the end of September was around £20,000 although the claim for the Gift Aid recovery this year has still to be made and that should add another £11K of income by the year-end. This will offset planned expenditure regarding the installation of low energy lights in the Halls and repairs to three of the external doors.

As always, any increase in offerings and one-off donations are always welcome.

Week	39	30-Sep-22	Income to Date		Variance: +/-		Full Year
Income Type			2022	2021	£	%	2021
Offerings			40,876	40,767	109	0%	56,000
Tax Recovered			0	0	-0	-144%	11,337
Open Collection			1,492	1,570	-78	-5%	2,176
Donations (personal)			29	189	-159	-84%	5,189
Donations (church organisations)			2,270	30	2,240	7467%	230
Hall Lets			15,568	2,140	13,428	0%	6,420
Donations - weddings			0	0	0	#DIV/0!	0
Donations - funerals			100	660	-560	-85%	810
Donations - baptisms			0	0	0	0%	0
Other			705	199	506	0%	633
Total Income			61,041	45,555	15,486	34%	82,795

Expenditure						
Week	39	30-Sep-22	2022 ACT	% 2022ACT vs FY BUD	2022 Bud	2021 Act
National Ministry & Mission			43,443	81%	53,676	49,312
Local Staffing			5,363	58%	9,245	8,517
Buildings			28,300	112%	25,294	28,209
Other Local Costs			4,469	55%	8,110	7,721
Total			81,575	85%	96,325	93,759

Over the next couple of months, in addition to all the regular tasks, the Finance Team will be making claims for Gift Aid and grant to recover VAT; preparing next year's budget, counting rota, and WFO envelopes for distribution; then starting on the annual accounts. If you would like to volunteer from helping with the weekly count to joining the Finance team, please let me know.

Yours in Christ

Mary MacCallum - Treasurer

Harvest Offerings

Your donations at the Harvest service have been passed on to:

The Pakistan Appeal - £276

The Lodging House Mission - £65

Glasgow City Mission - £60

Baird Penny Collection

With thanks to Doris Stott who continues to help gather in the pennies which has allowed the following donations to be made

The Well - £20

Tearfund - £20

Leprosy Mission - £20

Church Library News

Look out for this recommended DVD "Overcomer"

This family film depicts triumph over adversity. About a young girl with a poor start in life who manages to overcome many obstacles and finally succeeds to become a great success...and also find her Christian Faith.

Well worth a watch. Reviewed by Linda Graham.

The Informer

Since the pandemic we have been posting the Informer newsletter to members of the congregation who we do not hold an email address for. Now that we are meeting regularly for worship it would be helpful if people could pick up their copy when at church, unless of course they are not able to attend church on a regular basis. Eleanor Campbell will continue to post out copies but please let her know if you are able to collect your copy in person or if you have an email address please send details to sessionclerk@clincarthill.org.uk

Many thanks

The Communications Team

Bible Reflection November 2022

As we approach the season of advent our thoughts turn to celebrating the birth of our Saviour and Lord. Over this period many carols will be sung and this is a good time to reflect upon and consider afresh the lyrics and the theology behind them.

In this reflection we are going to consider the relatively new Christmas Carol "Mary, Did you Know?", written in 1991.

Begin with a moment of silence to still your busy mind and then ask God, by his Holy Spirit, to help you hear what he wants to say to you. Read slowly over the lyrics and be aware of any word, phrase or image that particularly catches your attention and consider why this is so. You may wish to write or draw something to remind you of your reflection. Finish your time with a prayer.



Mark 10:46-52
Luke 8:22 -24
Luke 8:51-56
Mark 6:45-51
Luke 13:10-17
Isaiah 53

Mary, Did you Know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God.

Mary, did you know? (Did you know?)
Mary, did you know?
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am.