

Netherlee and Stamperland Church

Kirk Session at Netherlee

7.30pm on Monday 28th February 2022

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe with Prayer.

2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

There were 48 Elders present with apologies from 8 Elders as per the Sederunt Sheet.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with 8 additional items under AOCB.

4 DISCUSSION TOPIC(S) – *Managing our transition to one building*

Scott stated that following the congregational vote in support of the Kirk Session proposal, we now need to move forward making sure we sensitively manage this period of transition.

1) We have at least 5 tasks ahead, but Scott was open to more if Session identified others.

1. To organise the final service at Stamperland, likely to be sometime in June –
 - a. Scott asked for 2/3 volunteers to help him with this task – *John Montgomery, May McFadyean and Anne MacKenzie volunteered* – if others wish to help with this task they would be most welcome.
 - b. Scott intimated he was hoping to get the Presbytery Moderator, or perhaps Moderator-elect to preach at this service.
2. With the closing of the building will come a large number of logistical issues, for example –
 - a. Working with the groups that use the building so that they can plan the removal of their equipment and materials – we will need to help where we can, and a final date for this task will need to be communicated. *A concern was raised that the people using the building should be considered and not just their equipment. Communication could have been better, and although we have a process to follow, it was intimated that in the weeks either side of the congregational vote the Moderator and the Session Clerk had meetings with representatives of the 278 & 231 BB and the 79th Scout Group. We are awaiting the Guides getting back to us to organise a meeting.*
 - b. What to do with significant historical documents – e.g. registers of births, marriages and deaths – Scott intimated that the Mitchell Library will store these (for researchers to access) but others such as the Cradle Roll may need another solution and storage space is not limitless. *Several comments were made that a rationalisation of both (previous) congregations materials of this nature should be archived, leaving room only for more recent and relevant documents. It was further suggested we might create a heritage space to contain some of these items, an idea that was warmly received.*
3. At some point there will be a transfer of items from Stamperland to Netherlee which will require discussion and planning.
4. Once the items in point 3 have been identified and/or removed it is likely that there will be some items that are not required and these will need to be disposed of.
5. To remain in touch with Presbytery and the General Trustees as they process this matter.

Scott asked if Session had any suggestions, question or comments to make.

- Iain Alexander (Fabric Convener) reminded Session how work on improving the space in the Netherlee building in the past had helped it become vibrant and busy place. He felt that two obvious things to consider going forward were –
 - To remove the pews in the main sanctuary to create a massive multi-purpose space.
 - To convert the gallery into a small hall, this was previously considered and has been done sensitively in similar buildings.
- Sheena Wurthmann – to consider the environmental impact and reduce our carbon footprint.

2) Formation of the Transition Working Group.

Stuart intimated and thanked those who had already volunteered to form this group, and Scott asked having heard the above were they still willing to serve – all agreed.

Scott asked for further volunteers to enlarge the group which now contains 11 members of Session – Alan Fairlie, Helen & Niall Illingworth, Marjorie Lang, Norrie Bolton, Connell Cranston, Jane & John Curror, Elaine Murray, Neil Planner and Alison Macfarlane – the group met after Session to set the date for their first meeting.

3) What are our expectations moving forward?

Scott asked Session to split into informal groups and take about 15 minutes to think where they would like to direct their energies, from say September 2022. Feedback listed below –

Pastoral Care / Dementia

Monday Lunch Club** & Heart For Art* both worked well – consider restarting?

** lost their funding – requires £6.5 to £13k pa – we could not afford to fund this*

*** hopefully restart this year after Easter without masks*

Open days

- Within the sanctuary and/or halls
- Serve tea/coffee etc
- Organisations can promote themselves bringing in families / community
- e.g. Spring Fair / Christmas Tree Festival

One – off events

- Spring Fair (with money raised going to dedicated funds of youth organisations)
- Reinstate the Fiddler's Rally and the Choral Concerts
- Raise our profile locally with litter picks / days of service
- Longer term
 - Monday Lunch Club
 - Support for isolated folk – Minibus shop / open church with coffee/soup and dominos!

Bereavement counselling service

Not only for immediately after the event, but providing support say 1 to 2 years on

Improve communication

Adopt a model and/or technology similar to Netherlee Neighbours

Utilise our space

- Within the sanctuary and/or halls
- Serve tea/coffee etc
- Monthly (or regular)
- Bringing folk together
- e.g. Village or Farmer's Fair

Scott welcomed so many great ideas and encouraged further thought as to exactly which initiatives and when we would like to get started.

5 WRITTEN REPORTS

Scott asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose or highlights to mention:

John Montgomery (Finance) read the Session a response that had been drafted in reply to an email enquiry from Norrie Bolton – **please refer to Appendix A**. After further comments from Norrie and Alastair Graham, they were advised that the appropriate opportunity for further questions and explanations would be at the Trustees meeting on Wednesday 9th March to be held at Stamperland.

Scott Blythe (Worship) intimated he wanted to do a “different” service for Maundy Thursday this year and asked for volunteers. *Helen Illingworth, Anne MacKenzie and Diane Levey volunteered*. The details of the CCT Pilgrimage have yet to be confirmed.

Alistair Gow (Mission) informed us Michaela (Starchild) is going to Uganda (raising awareness of autism) in early April and before she goes she would like an opportunity to help with fund raising. Stuart suggested a Retiral Offering. Scott suggested March 27th, Mothering Sunday. The majority of those present agreed. Advance notice to be given so folk have cash/cheques with them on the day

Marie Wilson (Pastoral Care) informed Session that recent Elder resignations had decimated the membership of this group. Until such time that this changes, she urged Elders during this time of transition to let her know of any folk who need help.

Stuart Buchanan (Session Clerk) highlighted the following correspondence –

- Presbytery Citation (16.11.2021) and Extract 18.11.2021) in relation to Netherlee sanctuary roof works and the sale of the surplus manse, and General Trustees Application and Annexation (02.12.2021) in relation to the sale of the surplus manse.
- Letters of thanks to Anne MacKenzie (FWO envelopes) and Liz Robb (retiral) for their contributions to the Session and wider congregation over many years
- Request from Robin Webster (Trustee of the Scottish Stained Glass Trust) concerning the stained glass in Stamperland which was made by this gentleman’s father in memory of his father; to, at their expense, remove the glass to preserve and possibly display it with other stained glass from churches all over Scotland. The majority of those present agreed. Stuart to reply and copy in Presbytery and the General Trustees.

Scott asked the Trustees if they had any further questions. There were none.

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. The majority of those present agreed.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Kirk Session minute of 24/01/2022 was approved.
- Minute of the congregational vote of 20/02/2022 was approved.

7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUISINESS

- 1) **Jim Crawford (Common Good Fund)** – This was set up in 2017 with £25,000 from the sale of Kirk House. Since then it has distributed £21,800 to 115 applicants, and it is anticipated that the remaining £3,200 will be distributed by June/July 2022. Give where we are financially, Jim suggests the fund should cease at this point, whether this be temporary or final. He has notified the Finance Committee. Jim is delighted that we have helped so many, has enjoyed working with East Renfrewshire Good Causes, and wished to thank his committee of Elinor Mair, Alistair Gow, Donald Henderson and Ruth Henderson for their great support.

- 2) **May McFadyean (Convener of Flower Delivery Team at Netherlee)** – May has tendered her resignation. She has fulfilled this role for more than 15 years. She records her thanks to all the members of the team for their willing help and cooperation over the years. We are grateful to May for her service, and the fact that the work is planned to the end of this year. If you wish to volunteer for this role, or perhaps suggest a suitable candidate, then please contact the Clerk.
- 3) **Congregational Roll** at 31st December 2021 stood at 779 members. (21 less than 2020) **Please refer to Appendix B** for a commentary on recent resignations from Stamperland.
- 4) **Bruce Young & Margot Young (Insertion for the Inspection of Records)** – It is certified that Safeguarding recruitment procedures are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons doing regulated Work with Children and Protected Adults in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the Congregation's Safeguarding Coordinators are appropriately trained to allow these persons to be accredited as authorised signatories for PVG record checks.
- 5) **Stuart Buchanan (Eldership)** – The number and workload of our Elders is now such that the current district structure we operate is no longer sustainable. We need to visit this soon and come up with a new model that is fit for purpose. As always please encourage members to share their email address with the Church Office to help us distribute information effectively.
- 6) **Stuart Buchanan (Communion)** – additional elder for Sunday 6th March? *Alison McKean.*
- 7) **Alan McDonald & Helen Illingworth (Transport)** –
 - a. Alan (Minibus) – reminders for Duty Team Conveners –
 - i. Bus departs at 9.45am sharp
 - ii. Elder supporting driver needs to be “able bodied” to assist passengers
 - iii. Niall Illingworth suggested looking into whether older youths could help with this
 - b. Helen (Cars) – for members out with the Minibus route
 - i. Coordination required – should this be via the Church Office?
- 8) **Zak Gilmour (Tables & Chairs)** – For the 12 weeks commencing Sunday 27th February this lad will be setting out and clearing away the tables and chairs required for tea/coffee after morning worship. This community service is part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Kirk Session as Trustees at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at Stamperland.
- Stated Annual Meeting after morning worship on Sunday 20th March 2022 at Netherlee.
- Kirk Session at 7.30pm on Monday 4th April 2022 at Netherlee
- Kirk Session at 7.30pm on Monday 6th June 2022 at Stamperland.
- Group and Committee meetings as per schedules issued.

9 CLOSE

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

Appendix A – Finance Convener comments
Appendix B – resignations (S) Jan-Feb 2022

Scott Blythe
Minister

Stuart Buchanan
Session Clerk

Response to Norrie Bolton's email of 26/02/2022 at 17.32**PROVISIONAL ACTUAL OUT-TURN**

1. Per my email and the heading on the schedule – This is actual - v- budget for the general fund only.
2. £21,027 is not considered the deficit of the General Fund as there is a transfer in from the Reserve & Trust Funds of £7512 which reduces it to £13,515
3. The £7,512 is a contribution to M&M as the whole of our M&M contribution is paid by the General Fund.
4. The value of the transfer has no bearing whatsoever on our M&M allocation as that is based on income only which includes our Investment Income. Following the advice of Allan Mathieson and Dennis it was decided that a proportion of what had been received from our Investment Income in our R&TF account could be used to offset the M&M allocation. At the Committee meeting in September 2021 the Committee agreed to this treatment subject to limiting it a figure of 5%.

REVISED BUDGET.

1. The forecast budget for the 2 sets of buildings in 2022 is £22,151 after recognising the transfer of £8,026. It is not £30,177
2. The Forecast budget is based on us having 2 sets of buildings for calendar 2022.
3. For Gas and Electricity we are part of the CofS fixed price tariffs which for Gas is a 4 year contract with SSE from April 2020 and a 3 year contract for Electricity with OPUS from April 2020. Therefore in terms of costs per unit there will be no increases for either in 2022.
4. I have no idea where the £50,000 comes from that Norrie refers to. If the truth be told the figure of £70,449 is only M&R expenditure through the General Fund for the 2 sets of buildings. . We should remember that we spent c£40,000 on electrical works in Stamperland in 2020 and £16,000 on the manse garden in 2021. Both were charged through the Fabric Reserve Fund as Capital or major Revenue expenditure.
5. If push came to shove we believe that 121 or Presbytery would allow expenditure in addition to keeping the premises wind and water tight . e.g.
 - Electrical works,
 - Health and Safety Requirements
 - Plumbing
 - General maintenance to prevent higher costs in future.

We may have to clearly argue a strong case with Presbytery or 121 for such expenditures, but we would do so. I am not aware that we have breached any of the General Assembly restrictions on essential repairs in 2021 and if we were in any doubt we would check first with Presbytery or 121 before proceeding in 2022.
6. I do not welcome questions of this nature which divert us from much more important matters to consider going forward and I am not just referring to Finance (important as it is) but also and more importantly what we need to do about our Mission. These questions from Norrie suggest to me that there is no confidence in the work of the Finance Committee and have really upset at least 2 of the members of that Committee.

John Montgomery

27 February 2022

Bill Paterson

Bill Paterson has been actively involved in the life of Stamperland Parish Church for a very long time. Bill's initial involvement was probably as an officer of the 231st Glasgow Company, The Boys' Brigade. He was ordained as an Elder at September 1988 and served on a wide variety of Kirk Session committees including as Convenor of the Youth and Youth Education Committees. In 2010 Bill became the Roll Keeper and, in addition to maintaining the church membership lists, he was also responsible for organising elder's districts. With a background in telecommunications and electronics Bill undertook installation and maintenance of the church payphone (which, subsequently, became the office phone) and of the church Fire Alarm System. In recent years Bill has been one of the volunteers tending to the church grounds and flower beds.

Bill was one of the elders who was happy to sit at the communion table on Communion Sundays, read the Bible on a Sunday morning, an act as Beadle carrying the pulpit Bible in and out of the church.

May Paterson

May, like her husband, Bill, has been active in church life for many years. She was a member of the Young Women's Group and assisted at numerous fund raising events held by both the church and Boys' Brigade. May was convenor of the Flower Committee at Stamperland. In recent years May has been one of the volunteers tending to the church grounds and flower beds.

Ann Bruce

Ann has been a stalwart of Stamperland Parish Church from the late 1970s. She served as a Brownie Guide leader and assisted in the Sunday School. She was involved in the Drama Club, the Young Woman's Group (and their Concert Singing Group). Ann led the Social and Fundraising Committee for many years and we enjoyed events as diverse as Jumble Sales, Cream Teas, Spring Fairs, concerts of all kinds including Fiddler's Rallies, choirs, ceilidhs, car treasure hunts, stalls at Govan Market, sponsored walks and much more.

Ann was ordained as an Elder at September in April 2001. In 2005 Ann transferred from Stamperland Parish Church to Greenbank Parish Church with her husband, Stuart, who subsequently became an Ordained Local Minister and served in various Glasgow churches. Ann returned to be a member at Stamperland in 2021.

Margo Neilson

Margo's active involvement with Stamperland Parish Church would have started in the 1970s with attendance at Mother and Toddlers and Playgroup. Margo was a Sunday School teacher and took on the post of Superintendent at a time when there were a number of serious issues to be resolved. With a son in the Junior BB and a daughter in Brownies, Margo was involved with all kinds of supporting activities and would have participated in fund raising activities, coffee mornings, BB displays, etc..

Margo was ordained as an elder at Stamperland in February 1984. In May 2001 Margo took on the role of Deputy Session Clerk on a temporary basis but, fortunately, remaining in that post until recently. In this capacity Margo assumed responsibility for all aspects of organising and serving Communion. Ministers and visiting ministers would always comment on the professional way in which the elders acted during communion services. The reason for the excellent conduct was largely

what went on behind the scenes in terms of preparation and explanation to individual elders of their specific duties.

Margo was the first Child Protection Coordinator at Stamperland. The early days of Child Protection were difficult. Child protection was a new concept; there was a lot of documentation and a lot of different procedures; many of these were amended quite significantly in the early years of the implementation. Over time, the original scheme has developed and has extended to cover all vulnerable groups.

I greatly appreciate all that Margo has done as deputy Session Clerk and all the support she had given particularly at critical times such as the death of Fiona Cherry and the departure of Alastair Cherry and other significant times in our church's life.

For many years Margo undertook the tasks of printing the weekly Order of Service and Intimations, the proof reading and printing of the church magazine, Focus, and many other printing jobs.

Fraser Neilson

Fraser was involved for more than 30 years with the 231st Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade, most of them as the leader of the Junior BB which comprised around 60 boys. Running the Junior BB was a significant task at that time with responsibility for a Minibus, a Tuck Shop, events ranging from weeknight and weekend activities, annual displays to annual sponsored walks and, the highlight of the year – the annual outing to Millport!

Following his retirement from BB activities Fraser took on the task of Halls Manager at Stamperland and also head groundkeeper. Fraser also volunteered to be the editor of the church magazine, Focus, and, subsequent to the linkage of Netherlee and Stamperland the joint magazine, Connections.

Margo and Fraser Neilson - Garden Open Day

For more than 25 years the Neilson family have organised a "Garden Open Day" at their house and garden raising over £50,000 raised for charities. With help from family, friends and church members the Garden Open Day was very much part of the Stamperland Church calendar.

Evelyn Graham

Evelyn has a long history of being active in the life of Stamperland Church. Evelyn was a Brownie Leader and active in Young Woman's Group. Like many ladies in Stamperland she was caught up in "volunteering" to help with organisation coffee mornings and Sunday School events. Evelyn was a leading figure in The Guild. Ordained an Elder at Stamperland in November 1998 Evelyn served on many session committees. In recent years she was very much involved with Fair Trade, Lodging House Mission, Clarkston Peace and Justice Forum, East Renfrewshire Food Bank and the Wednesday Morning Open Door at Stamperland Church.

William Phillips

Bill was the auditor of the Stamperland Parish Church Accounts for many years prior to the introduction of the OSCR procedures. Bill was very regular in his church attendance on Sundays and Wednesdays and was a most generous supporter of Stamperland Church

Sheena Skelton

Sheena was ordained an elder at Stamperland in May 2013. Sheena was a member of several session committees but is probably best remembered as a leading member of the team of ladies who prepared the floral arrangements on the chancel every Sunday.

Catherine Carson

A faithful member of Stamperland

Catherine Coutts

A faithful member of Stamperland

Norman Bolton