

## **Netherlee and Stamperland Church Newsletter May 2023**

### **Cranhill Development Trust.**

The nearly new shop at Cranhill Development Trust continues to provide a need for some of the folks in that area of Glasgow.

However, donations of nearly new clothes and bric-a-brac for this cannot be accepted at this time. At present, storage for these items is currently full.

Could you therefore, if possible, retain your items meantime. The shop closes at the end of June for the school holidays and reopens in mid August.

Notification of when donations can be accepted will be given in due course.

Many thanks to everyone who continue to support this cause. It is genuinely appreciated.

Gordon Lang

### **SE Foodbank**

The Foodbank would like to thank all regular contributors. They could not do the work they carry out on a daily basis without you.

I will receive a monthly 'wish list' from the foodbank. Priority items required each month will be intimated on the AV screen every Sunday. Basic foodstuffs and toiletries are always welcome.

Thanks for all your support. It makes a massive difference.

Marjorie Lang

### **Christian Aid**

The Christian Aid committee would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to our fund-raising activities over the last week; whether attending the brunch, coffee afternoon or doing door-to-door collections.

With a few envelopes still to be counted, the total raised this year is £1963.76

A great effort!

Thanks again.

The Christian Aid Team.

## **Poppyscotland news.**

Hello everyone.

The next Poppyscotland event is the Coffee Afternoon. This is being held in the large hall on June 3rd 2023 from 2 to 4pm.

There will be the ever-popular tombola. Donations for this can be left in the Poppy Box which is situated in the Welcome Hall. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Looking forward to the 2023 Poppy Campaign, I am as always, looking for help with all aspects. As yet, artificial intelligence has not taken over, so we have to make do with real people! I am looking for volunteers to help with can delivery, collecting in Sainsbury's, and general help with any events. If you feel that you can give time to help, please contact me.

The more help we get, the better the campaign and, therefore, the more help can be given to our veterans.

If anyone has any ideas for future fund-raising events, I would love to speak with you.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Anne Mann

## **A Word of Thanks**

I would like to thank Liz and Alan Fairlie for taking Helen and I shopping and to church when I had a broken hip and fractured wrist. Helen and I have been blessed with kindness from members of Netherlee and Stamperland Church.

Marion Cochrane

## **Thank You**

May McFadyean would like to thank everyone for the many letters, cards, flowers and expressions of condolence that she and the family received at the time of Gavin's death .They were very much appreciated.

## **Sunday Club**

The Sunday Club have been enjoying following the lectionary from Easter through Ascension to Pentecost. Through crafts and activities, we have been learning how the disciples moved from doubt to spreading the Word and starting the early church. We hope you like our new Welcome Poster in the Welcome Hall. Thank you again to everyone who donates brown pennies for Starter Packs. We will be going shopping for essentials needed by the charity very soon and will let you know what we buy. Please keep them coming as every penny really does count. All children, regulars of visitors are welcome to join us any week, and we hope to continue for until later in June this year.

Elaine Murray

## Memories of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth

In a borrowed, very nearly white dress, I sat on the back of a coal lorry with some other little girls. I was one of the ladies -in -waiting for a big girl, who sat higher up on an upturned beer crate covered with her mammy's old curtains. The best of the net curtains were on her head, with someone's wedding flower tiara (artificial) and the rest as a bouquet in her hands.

I didn't want to be there, smart enough to know when I was being patronised by grownups. My pink plastic National Health Service specs, with the patch over my left lazy eye, marked me out as being the sympathy case.

It was the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second of England and the First of Scotland. Grown men were going around scraping one of the Roman numerals off the pillar boxes (the red things where we sent snail mail). I just wanted down- off the lorry to watch the real thing on the television. I had much better things to do. Miss Henderson up the stairs from us had won a television set on "Spot the Ball" and all the children up my close had been invited to watch it.



Since we had a tin tray with Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip on it, commemorating their Wedding Day, I knew who was going to be crowned and I'd heard about a Golden coach and wondered if it would be like Cinderella's in the Disney version.

The Henderson house was one floor up from us, where Miss Henderson lived with her father, who even kept his cap on indoors. The main room: there were only two, was set up with rows of chairs borrowed from every house up the close, an apartment block of twelve homes. We sat in rows and watched every detail. At some point adults crammed in behind us, more amazed by our silence than the spectacle on the twelve - inch black and white screen.

How much I actually remember from then, or have watched since, over the last seventy years, I have no idea. It's hard for me to believe that my husband had a Coronation medal from being present and lining the processional route when I was a little girl and he a young man serving in the Royal Navy, is to me quite extraordinary.

Muriel Baker.

 **A chance to SPRUCE up your act....to** **SPARKLE and SHINE!** 

We are hoping to make this year's  CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL  a bigger and better community event. To this end we need to gather a small group of festive folk to form an organising committee which will coordinate the various stalls, events, refreshments etc.

If you would like to be involved in this merry group please contact the church office, or Helen Illingworth.

## **Finance Committee Report May 2023**

At a recent Pension Trustees meeting I listened to a presentation from Dave Kendall Chief Officer of the Church of Scotland. I thought it worth sharing with the membership of Netherlee and Stamperland some of what I heard.

### **The Church of Scotland - a Church under reconstructiuon.**

#### Church Numbers

1. 1270 congregations; 979 charges; 283,600 members
2. 659 ministers - 320vacancies ; 110 MDS and 200 Central Staff.

#### Latest Congregational Statistics.

- Our membership declined by 4.6% in 2021 with a similar decline in 2022
- there were 453 Professions of Faith – compared with a 10,000 reduction in our membership each year. In 1925 there were just under 45,000 Professions of Faith.
- 60,000 of our membership worship in person ; 45,000 worship on line and 8.750 in “other ways”
- The average age of our membership is 65.
- Ministers by age and gender shows we have 160 males in the age range 50-59 and 70 females. That is the most significant age group from 25-75+
- Baptisms peaked in 1960 at 50,000 and is down to 1280 in 2021
- Trend in Membership showed in 1925 we had 1.3 million and by 2025 we expect it to be 225,000. The number of Elders in 1975 was c50,000 and by 2025 it is expected to be just over 22,000

#### Finance

Income	2022	£50.2m	2027	£40.0m	Down £10.2m
Expenditure	2022	£53.9m	2027	£44.3m	Down £9.6m
Ministry costs	2022	£37.8m	2027	£28.2m	Down £9.6m
Deficit	2022	£ 3.7m	2027	£ 4.3m	

Since 2019 the church has driven and continues to drive our need for change

- Since the 1950's we have lost 80% membership and we are now half the size we were in 2020 i.e. Losing 4.0% per year.
- Concerns over increased centralisation; wasteful duplication of roles and resources
- Anticipation of a smaller church with reduced resources
- The 121 George Street layout not conducive to inter-team collaboration
- No clear priorities
- Presbytery reform can only succeed if accompanied by simultaneous reform of the central church
- Fully implement the Giving to Grow scheme
- Roll out the £25m Seeds for Growth Fund from 2023
- Mission and wider work of Councils and Committees resulted in expenditure exceeding income by £4.4m.

There is a huge amount to do and our focus needs to be on key priorities :-

- We need to invest in the future eg. the growth fund
- In finance terms we need to balance the books and use our resources wisely
- We need to enable change like reforming the number of Presbyteries, improving training, better communications, more recruitment to ministry, supporting local congregations and much more
- On governance we need to be leaner and fit for purpose

There is a **Faith Action Plan**. Part 1 is to be a Church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ, supported by inspirational leadership. Part 2 is to have enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving Communities.

We need to move forward together with a common understanding and sense of purpose. Each congregation needs to find the solutions with our own reform agenda under a common vision and no longer look for solutions from the Centre or Presbytery

In finance terms what does this mean for us in Netherlee and Stamperland ? Well, based on the national church statistics, if we carry on as before our deficit on the General Fund of £15,500 in 2022 could grow to £121,000 by 2027. Our numbers could drop from 651 at the end of 2022 to 530 by 2027. We can't do nothing as to do so could result in us having to close our doors in less than 10 years. We need to support the national church initiatives and get out into our parish for face-to-face initiatives with our Community and encourage them to support their local church and what it has to offer. It will not be easy but we need to try our hardest.

At the end of April our General Fund showed a deficit of £3,022 which is better than the budget by £4,621 due, mainly, to savings in expenditure.

John Montgomery

21 May 2023

## **Newsletter.....and finally!**

I am signing out as editor of the Newsletter this month and handing the pencil and rubber to Karen McQueen so thanks to her!

It's been a pleasure!

Diane Levey