

### **Christian Aid Art Show**

The Christian aid art show is on Friday 17 March at 7.30-9.00 pm and Saturday 18 March from 10.00-4.00 in Clarkston halls. Entry is £3.00 which includes a visit to the tea room! As this is the first art show for three years we are all very excited about it.

If anyone would like to help in the tea- room on the day, help set up show on Friday, or help dismantle screens on the Saturday, please get in touch with any member of the committee. We are also hoping to have a baking stall, so if anyone could donate baking to sell please don't be shy and contact a committee member. Looking forward to seeing everyone there at which we hope will be a fun day.

Vicky, Kay, Marjorie Russell and Sandra (The Committee)

### **Lent Resources**

Here is a resource to support your Lenten reflections:

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/lent2023/>

Marie Wilson

### **A Note of Thanks**

I wish to acknowledge with warmest thanks the many messages of goodwill received since my recent surgery. They are much appreciated.

Sincerely  
Jean Edgar

### **Pancake Day**

A huge thanks to all who supported Pancake day. £406 was raised for the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake appeal.

Barbara Cochrane

### **Cranhill Development Trust**

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The nearly new shop at Cranhill Development Trust continues to provide a need for some of the folks in that area of Glasgow. Donations of nearly new clothes and bric-a-brac for this, should be bagged and clearly labelled for Cranhill and left in the cupboard in the Welcome Hall.

If there is no storage space available could you please let me know and I can get back to you with 'alternative arrangements'.

If any further information or clarification is required please contact Gordon Lang.

## The Forum

If you weren't able to make it to the Netherlee and Stamperland Church Forum on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February you missed a treat. Members of the Harlequin Eastwood Theatre for Youth were on hand to inform and entertain the audience. To a back drop of photos from the last 45 years of triumphant shows Christine and Ruth gave us a run-down of the theatre group's history, the ethos of the group and some of the challenges faced in putting on a show. St Ninian's head boy, Matthew Ralph also came along to demonstrate just some of the musical talent that the group has to offer.

Christine's mum, Grace Smith was the founder of the group back in 1977. Harlequin originated from Giffnock Congregational Church when the Sunday school and Seekers (Junior Youth Fellowship) decided to put on a pantomime. 76 children took part and after the success of the show some of the members of the church discussed the possibility of starting a theatre group for young people. Eastwood District Council donated £100 to the cause and the group was off and running. It truly was a family affair with Dads building scenery and mums trailing round the local jumble sales for likely costumes. The very first show was 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves' and was performed at Clarkston Halls in 1977. The show was a roaring success and youngsters were queuing up to join. Tickets were 50p and the cost of producing the show was a mere £500. How things have changed with each production nowadays costing around £20,000 – £25,000.

Originally two shows a year were staged but this was changed to three in 1980 – to cope with the rising numbers of club members and it also gave the opportunity to perform some shows more suited to some of the older members of the theatre. Children can audition for the group once they are 8 but they must have had their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday by the time the show goes on and youngsters can no longer perform by the time they get to 22yrs old.

Over the years a huge variety of performances have been put on from Grease to Godspell, Oliver to Oklahoma as well as newer or less well know shows. In 1984 Andrew Lloyd Webber's highly successful Jesus Christ Superstar was released and Harlequin were honoured to be awarded the British Amateur Premier of the show. Christine regaled the audience with a number of amusing stories from over the years including singing at Brodick Ferry Terminal to encourage ticket sales, setting fire to the Grease Lightning Car on the beach in Brodick so it didn't need to go home in the van to the time when Grace Smith took the good luck comment of "Break a Leg" a little too literally when she fell down the auditorium steps. She did make it back out of hospital in time for the final performance though.

The job of choosing the next show is down to the reading group made up of members of the committee, musical director, choreographer and performing members. Some shows are only released occasionally or have a limited release or even have limits on them such as how many people the show can be performed to. As well as old favourites such as Bugsy Malone and the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, the group have also performed new musicals such as Eurobeat, Thirteen and The Adams Family. Many a now famous acting, directing or producing talent has been nurtured within the Harlequin doors with actors taking parts in Happy Valley, Call the Midwife or having directing roles in Scottish Opera or The National Theatre.

Matthew first joined the theatre group in S1 and is now applying for drama school places as he got bitten early on by the performing bug. He entertained us with renditions of "Luck Be A Lady Tonight" from Guys and Dolls and from Joseph's Technicolour Dream Coat - "Any Dream Will Do". From my position at the back of the Welcome Hall I could see a number of heads nodding, bodies swaying, and I am sure some feet were tapping. Opportunities that performing in Harlequin has given him.

Harlequin is one of the longest running youth theatre groups in Scotland. They have packed a lot into the last 45 years, and we hope they have many successful years to come.

## Autism Sunday celebrated with church gift at Glasgow service

A project to create church for the autistic community received almost £7000 towards its work as it celebrated Autism Sunday. Partick South Parish Church in Glasgow hosted the special service of thanksgiving and celebration for Autism Sunday, which is marked on the second Sunday of February.



*Partick South minister Rev Andy McIntyre (left) and St Thorlak's Community leader Steven Owens accept the cheque from representatives of Netherlee and Stamperland Church, including minister Rev Scott Blythe (centre).*

The service provided an opportunity to celebrate the gift of £6,831 from Netherlee and Stamperland Church to St Thorlak's Community. This will be used to help develop services for autistic worshippers and their families.

St Thorlak's Community is a pioneer initiative developed by a group led by Steven Owens, a ministry candidate in the Church of Scotland who has also worked for Autism Scotland. Together with Rev Andy McIntyre, minister of Partick South Parish Church, he aims to support churches in Scotland become more accessible to people with autism. To achieve this aim, St Thorlak's Community will develop a range of activities in consultation with the autistic community.

Mr Owens said: "St Thorlak's Community is in the very early stages of development but will aim to offer activity that will benefit autistic people. The community will provide an opportunity to provide support to autistic people and their families from a Christian community. We anticipate that a new worshipping community will develop over time as a result of this." St Thorlak is the Patron Saint of Iceland and, in recent years, an autistic group in the United States has called for the recognition of Thorlak as patron saint of autistic people.

The donation from the Netherlee and Stamperland congregation followed the sale of the contents of Stamperland Kirk in Clarkston, which closed last summer after the congregation united with Netherlee Church. Both congregations have well established links with the Isobel Mair School in Newton Means which supports children with autism and other special educational needs and is named after the wife of a former Netherlee minister.

Rev Scott Blythe, the current minister of Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church, said: "The idea to support the development of St Thorlak's Community came from the people of Stamperland. We are pleased that a

new community will be enabled to grow following the sale of items from the former Stamperland Church building."

The St Thorlak team will be developing a website in the coming months as well as a social media presence.

## **The Guild**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, as our speaker was still abroad, Willi read us a synopsis of the work of UNIDA --a leader in developing scholarship programmes in partnership with Brazil's programme. They focus on providing theological training for women.

Some of the members brought along mementos from holidays and told us about them.

The 9th February brought Marie Wilson to reflect on her time here in Netherlee & Stamperland. She explained it took a month or two to fully appreciate her role as it was a new experience for her. Gradually, as she met and spent time with members, she was able to begin understanding her role - providing pastoral care where needed and desired. She interspersed her talk with two hymns to illustrate the essence and source of her approach to her dealings with members. It was very well received and appreciated by those present.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February Mrs Macdonald gave us an interesting account of her life as an artist. Starting with a prize when at Hutchie School leading her to Glasgow School of Art. Not wanting to teach after graduating, she gained various short-term posts in London and the Highlands. She subsequently obtained commissions and has exhibited her work over the years. During Covid she wrote and illustrated short stories by local children and she is a guide at Holmwood House.

Her account of life as a painter showed that making a living from art is hard work and luck. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February we had fun trying to emulate the clever Eggheads on TV. As probably expected, I am not sure we quite managed it though it was enlightening trying to find the answers. Some of us were more successful than others. Enough said I think!

We are continuing to have good support from the ladies of the Congregation.

Margaret Fear  
Secretary

## **SE Foodbank report**

At Christmas we supported 200 households with presents for children and all adults. Each household got a "goodie bag" (biscuits, crisps, mince pies, chocolate etc) and £100 Farmfoods voucher. We also supported 2 local primary schools. For one we bought coats, shoes etc and for another all the kids were taken to the Tramway panto .

During the week before Christmas, as well as giving out food parcels (we doubled the amount), we gave out £20 Farmfood vouchers. Farmfoods are used as they don't sell alcohol or tobacco.

At this time of year we are well off for most items but toiletries and sanitary wear (pads) are needed as well as basic foodstuffs. The Foodbank are still running their fresh food initiative which enables clients to receive eggs, bread and fresh fruit and vegetables.

If you would like to donate to this initiative, please pass money in an envelope to Marjorie Lang.

The foodbank could not run without donations, and they are very grateful for all of them; both monetary and in kind.

Marjorie Lang

## **PoppyScotland**

The first event of 2023 ;The Beetle Drive, went well on Saturday 18th February. Good fun was had by all present. It was good to see Gordon and his friends from Daniel House.

The night raised £170, however thanks to some very generous donations, the sum banked was £385. Thanks to everyone involved. I now know the that £6384.88 was raised in the November 2023 campaign. A huge thank you to all who helped in any way. The next event is the Coffee Afternoon on 3rd June 2023 in the Church Hall.

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support.

Anne Mann

## **"ALMOST Everyone's a Winner!"**

Huge congratulations to Raymond Buchanan, who attended the Christmas Tree Festival way back in December, and guessed EXACTLY! that there were 234 books in the Book Group Christmas Tree. We hope he enjoyed his well-deserved edible prize.



## **Fun and Games Night**

Congratulations too, to the Four Amigos, the worthy winners of our Fun and Games Night on 28<sup>th</sup> January. A combination of skilful athletic prowess, serenity under pressure, but mostly dumb luck saw them outplay the strong competition at such games as toss the pigs, bagatelle, non-alcoholic beer-pong and jenga. Great fun was had by all, and we look forward to the Four Amigos defending their title next year. Better get into training now!

