

KIRK SESSION MEETING
Held on Monday, 26th March 2001 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Session House, Stamperland Parish Church

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading from Matthew Chapter 6, the reading of a personal commentary on the passage by David Suchet and prayer.

2 APPOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Edith Moseley, Mrs Nancy Fisher and Miss Janet Stewart and Messers Stuart Bruce, Jim Currie, George Fraser, Fraser MacKintosh and Bill Porter.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 24 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minute of the meeting held on Monday, 11th December 2000, having been previously circulated, was accepted as read. The Minute of the meeting held on Sunday, 14th January 2001, having been previously circulated, was accepted as read. It was noted that the meeting scheduled for Monday, 26th February 2001 had been cancelled as a result of heavy snowfall.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Review and Reform meeting at Orchardhill Parish Church.

The Session Clerk reported that approximately a dozen members of Stamperland Church attended the meeting on Sunday, 14th January. That meeting heard an introduction from Mr George Hart of Greenock, a member of the Assembly Council. It was explained that the meeting was part of a consultation exercise being undertaken by the Assembly Council, the body which been tasked by the Assembly with looking at the future of the Church of Scotland. In the limited time available for comment and discussion a variety of points were made but, overall, there was little general consensus or feeling that significant progress had been made.

5.2 CHOK, Church of Scotland Year of the Child.

Margo Nielson agreed to be the contact person for CHOK in Stamperland Church. The Moderator thanked Margo for taking on this role.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Church Membership Class

The Moderator intimated that two people had come forward in response to the intimation that a Church membership class was to be held. The Membership class would start after the Easter holidays.

6.1.2 Ordination and Admission of Elders

The Moderator intimated that on Sunday 8th April 2001, Mrs Ann Bruce, Mrs Grace Scott and Mrs Dorothy Wood would be ordained as elders and that Messers David Cochran, Alf Dunbar and John Halliday would be admitted as elders. Mr Dunbar had previously served as Session Clerk at Queens Park Church, Mr Cochran had been an elder at Queens Park Church and Mr Halliday had been an elder at Mount Florida.

6.1.3 Elders suffering from Illness

The Moderator announced that several elders were suffering from various illnesses. Bill Porter and Fraser MacKintosh were mentioned in particular and elders were asked to remember them in their prayers.

6.1.4 Letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

The Moderator read extracts from a letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in which he recalled his visit to Annandale and Eskdale where he had seen, at first hand, the impact of foot and mouth disease on members of the farming

community. It was suggested that Church of Scotland members might wish to demonstrate their concern for those most deeply affected by making donations to the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Association. The Kirk Session approved the suggestion that members be given the opportunity to donate to a Retiring Offering after the Sunday morning service from now until Palm Sunday.

6.1.5 Moderator's Holiday

The Moderator intimated that he would be on holiday from Easter Monday for a week.

6.1.6 Pulpit Supply

The Moderator announced that he had arranged for Rev Dr James Cunningham to take pulpit supply for the three Sundays in June when he would be on Study Leave and also for the first Sunday in August.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Correspondence with Presbytery of Glasgow

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received and dealt with various items of correspondence from the Presbytery of Glasgow. The items included the Annual Return of Congregational Statistics, the notification of Quinquennial visitation, a request for information about the Church magazine and a request to agree the parish boundary. The reply agreeing the description of the parish boundary was sent to the Presbytery after the Kirk Session had inspected the map showing the boundary following the conclusion of the March communion.

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received a copy of a report which was approved by the Presbytery on 13th March. The report was headed "Glasgow Presbytery Advisory Committee *'Church Building for the Future Report'*". The accompanying letter from the Presbytery Clerk requested that the report was presented for consideration at the next meeting of the Kirk Session and that a copy was passed to the Clerk to the Congregational Board for consideration by the Board.

6.2.2 Erskine Hospital

An acknowledgement was received from the Director of Finance of the Erskine Hospital thanking the church for the donation of £63.81 being the retiring offering on Remembrance Day, 2000.

6.2.3 Muscular Dystrophy Campaign

A letter had been received from the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign with a request that we consider supporting the charity through a donation. It was agreed that this charity would be considered in December when the distribution of the Others Fund was being considered.

6.2.4 Jubilee 2000

A letter had been received from Campaign Co-ordinator of Jubilee Scotland, the successor to the Jubilee 2000 Scottish Coalition, writing from 121, George Street, Edinburgh. The letter gave thanks for the various efforts made last year for debt relief for the poorest nations. Whilst the campaign had achieved significant success only about one third of the un-payable debt has been cancelled. Support was being sought with a request for churches and members to lobby MPs and opinion formers and take actions to ensure that pressure is maintained for the cancellation all un-repayable debt. It was noted that the local MP, Jim Murphy, is very sympathetic to the cause and that he had arranged for Ms Clare Short to give a presentation to an audience made up largely of members of local churches. It was agreed that the Session Clerk should approach Mr Tom McPherson and seek his assistance in preparing a letter which would be published in the May edition of Focus and which could be signed by individual members and sent to Jubilee Scotland. The Clerk was asked to reply to Jubilee Scotland on behalf of the Kirk Session.

6.2.5 East Renfrewshire Council

East Renfrewshire Council had advised the church of an application to convert the shop premises at 143 Stamperland Gardens to a hot food shop. A letter listing objections to this application had been signed by the Moderator, the Session Clerk and the Clerk to the Board. Additionally a letter of objection had been sent by the Church of Scotland Legal Department. Copies of the objection had been sent to the local councillor, MP and MSP.

7 ROLLKEEPER

The Rollkeeper reported the attendance at the Communion on 4th March as follows:

	Morning	Afternoon	Total
Members	210	27	237
Visitors	1	0	1
Total	211	27	238

Number of members Communicated	237.
Number of members on Roll	496.
Percentage Communicated	48%.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

A printed report of Presbytery meetings in February 2001 had been circulated to members. The report was accepted and was filed as an Appendix.

The Moderator reported that at the March meeting of the Glasgow Presbytery there had been a lively debate over a report on the proposed union of the Scottish Episcopal Church with the Church of Scotland. The report had been remitted back to the committee for further consideration.

9 APPOINTMENT OF PRESBYTERY ELDER for Session 2001 - 02

Gordon Robertson agreed to serve as presbytery elder for session 2001 - 02. In accepting the role Gordon Robertson paid tribute to the very onerous tasks which had fallen to Mr Cherry as Convenor or the Superintendence Committee. The committee was short of 12 members and during the past year there had been difficult cases for the committee to deal with.

10. PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Business

The Business Committee suggested the following future dates for Kirk Session meetings.

2001

Monday,	30th April	Quinquennial Visitation
Monday,	14th May	
Sunday,	24th June	Study Day
Wednesday,	5th September	
Monday,	1st October	
Wednesday,	14th November	
Monday,	10th December	

2002

Sunday,	13th January	After Morning Worship
Wednesday,	13th February	
Monday,	11th March	
Wednesday,	10th April	
Monday,	13th May	

These dates were agreed by the Kirk Session

10.2 Community

Sam Esler stated that he had seen notices in the local newspaper regarding the application to turn the premises in Busby Road which had been formerly occupied by John Menzies into a public house and also the application to open yet another hot food shop in Busby Road. There was some agreement that the method used by the local council to make the public aware of such developments was not very satisfactory. The proposed premises were outwith the parish but the Kirk Session agreed that a note would be included in the next Sunday intimation sheet advising the congregation that they could object as individuals

10.3 Mission

The Mission Committee reported that the front page of the Easter Card to be delivered to all houses within the Parish had been designed by Bob Hutcheson who has been an active member of the committee for many years. Members of the Kirk Session were requested to help with the delivery of cards.

The committee reported its disappointment at the poor response to the use of the pew cards as a means of informing the committee of new residents moving into the Parish. The committee will try to develop a fresh approach to obtaining this information.

10.4 Nomination

The Convenor, Pat McIlraith, reported that six people had agreed to serve as Elders (see Item 6.1.2). Of three other members who had been approached, one was giving the matter serious consideration, one had not responded recently and there had been no recent contact from the third member.

No one had been found for the post of Stewardship Convenor. Elders were reminded that they should endeavour to assist the Nominations Convenor by suggesting possible nominees. The Moderator thanked the Convenor for her on-going work.

10.5 Worship

No report

10.6 Youth

No report

11. REPORT ON STUDY WEEKEND AT BALVONIE

The Session Clerk gave a brief summary of the content of the study weekend. The aim of the weekend had been to define the purpose of our church and to develop a vision for the future development of our church. The weekend began with consideration of where we had come from and where we were. The Rev Martin Johnston, the church's organiser for evangelism encouraged us to look at our local community, to identify key issues facing our community. He made the important point was that we should undertake quantitative research before deciding any action. Thus, for example, we should discover what a particular group actually wanted rather than assuming that we knew what it is that they should have. Monica Walker led us to consider the world in which we live and the major changes over the last 20 to 30 years. Examples considered included changes in working patterns, types of work and nature of work. The typical family is no longer 2 parents and 2.4 children. We were faced with the question "Has the church changed to meet today's "real world"? Whilst God's message is constant the methods of communication must change. With these themes in the background, the Elders at Balvonie began to define the purpose and to develop a vision for the way ahead. A preliminary summary of the purpose was encapsulated in the following paragraph written by Dorothy Wood.

"To bring God's message, to be the focus of people's lives. To be seen as something people want to be a part of; to reach out to people, supporting them, showing care, compassion, love and fun. The Church should be a joy to belong to, and be a meaningful part of the community. The Church should move with the times and always be relevant ... both here and in the wider world."

At the conclusion of the weekend the elders at Balvonie agreed that the whole Kirk Session should agree the purpose of the Church and be involved in developing the vision for the future of the Church. The purpose and vision should be agreed by all elders and all elders should be committed to working to translate the vision into practical reality. The Session should bring-on-board all Members of the Congregational Board, all church members and adherents so that everyone in the Church becomes committed to the future.

12. TEAM ELDERSHIP

The Session Clerk reported that the Team idea worked well during the run up to the last communion. Three elders, Bill Porter, Janis Herriot and Janet Stewart had been unable to

undertake visitations and members of the Team had taken over their duties. New team lists were distributed.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 30th April as part of the Quinquennial Visitation
Monday, 14th May

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed with a benediction by the Moderator.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING
Held on Monday, 14th May 2001 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Session House, Stamperland Parish Church

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading from Daniel Chapter 2 and prayer.

2. TRIBUTE TO BILL PORTER

The Moderator paid tribute to Bill Porter who died on Sunday, 6th May. The Moderator then led the Kirk Session in prayer, thanking God for Bill's life and work and asking God to give courage and strength to Bill's wife, Betty, at this time of sadness. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the Tribute to Mrs Porter. A copy of the Tribute is appended to this Minute.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Ann Bruce, Mrs Jennie Fraser, Mrs Sandra Halliday, Miss Grace Scott and Miss Janet Stewart and Messers John Curror, John Dodds, David Dundas, George Fraser, Fraser MacKintosh, George Paterson and Gordon Robertson.

4 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 24 ruling elders.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minute of the meeting held on Monday, 26th March 2001, having been previously circulated, was accepted as read.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising that was not covered by the agenda items.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Illness of Deputy Session Clerk

The Moderator intimated that Fraser MacKintosh was ill and was presently in the Southern General Hospital waiting for a transfer to Leverndale Hospital. Margo Nielson had agreed to undertake the duties of the Deputy Session Clerk during Fraser's absence.

6.1.2 Student Assistants

Monika Walker was coming to the end of her placement at Stamperland. The Moderator said that it had become standard practice to present the student with a gift of money and the Session approved a gift of £100.

A new student had been appointed and would begin her placement at Stamperland at the start of the autumn university term. The new student was Mrs Hillary McDougall, a member of Cambuslang Old Parish Church.

6.1.3 Quinquennial Report

The Moderator intimated that he had received a draft copy of the report prepared by the Quinquennial Team of Rev Mr Colin Renwick, Convenor, Rev Mrs Jennifer Macrae and Mr Stuart Roy and he read the report to the Kirk Session. The report was very positive. It said that, as a congregation, we were in good heart, financially sound and were not only conscious of our role to serve the community at large but worked actively to ensure that we were a force for good within the parish and beyond. The visiting team reported that the congregation, as a whole, worked well together in its support of the office bearers and minister and that there were deep bonds of trust and affection between the minister and office bearers.

It was agreed that the Report should be read to the congregation one Sunday morning and that a summary should be published in Focus.

6.1.4 Moderator's Study at Princeton University

The Moderator gave a short presentation about his studies for the degree of D. Min. He said he would be attending a three week study session at Princeton University starting on 28th May. In advance of this he had had to undertake extensive study of a wide range of books and publications, prepare a number of study papers and draft a Forward Plan for his final Thesis which was provisionally entitled "Leadership, Vision and Management of Change". Sam Esler stated that the Kirk Session commended the Moderator's work and would wish him a safe journey to and from Princeton.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Correspondence with Presbytery of Glasgow

A report entitled '*Church Building for the Future Report*' had been received from the Presbytery Clerk with a request that it be considered by the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board. It was agreed that a joint meeting of Board and Session would be arranged in the Autumn to discuss the report.

6.2.2 Letter from East Renfrewshire Council

A letter had been received from the Head of Planning and Development at East Renfrewshire Council intimating that the application for permission to open a hot food shop at 143 Stamperland Gardens had been refused. It was stated that the proposal was contrary to Policies Sg and Sh of the Eastwood District Local Plan and Policies S1, S4 and DC1 of the Finalised East Renfrewshire Local Plan in that the Stamperland neighbourhood centre is not identified as being an area where a hot food shop is considered acceptable.

6.2.3 Letter from Church of Scotland Committee on Ecumenical Relations

A letter enclosing a study booklet and video had been received from the Secretary of the Church of Scotland Committee on Ecumenical Relations. It was agreed that the video and booklet would form the basis of a future study period.

6.2.4 Letter from Sam Esler

A letter had been received from Sam Esler expressing the thanks of himself and his wife for the gifts presented to them at the Dinner in the Busby Hotel held to mark Sam's ten years of service as Session Clerk.

6.2.5 Letter from Jess Thomson

A letter had been received from Miss Jess Thomson in which she intimated, with regret, her resignation from the Community Committee. The Session thanked Jess for her service on the committee.

6.2.6 Petition Registering Concern over Shops in Busby Road

A letter enclosing a petition signed by over 130 members of Stamperland Church had been sent to Mr Steve Rogers, Head of Planning and Development Services at East Renfrewshire

Council on 29th April. The petition expressed concern about the possible closure of the Post Office, over problems which may result from the granting of a licence to open a public house in the former premises of the shop leased by John Menzies and asked that the Local Authority promotes policies which will encourage the development of a more vibrant shopping centre with a mix of retail outlets which will better meet the needs of local residents, improve trade for shop-owners and promote feelings of pride within the community. A copy had been sent to our local councillor, Mrs Mary Montague.

6.2.7 Elder training

Edith Moseley and Pat McIlraith are attending a series of meetings entitled "Learning Living Prayer Together". It was agreed that their £5.00 course fee be paid by the church.

6.2.8 Letter from Church of Scotland Committee on National Mission

The National Mission Committee intimated that they are offering multiple copies of their newsletter "Link Update", free of charge, provided that they are picked up from Elmbank Street, Glasgow on a week-day. It was agreed that the Clerk should find out when the publications would be available. Evelyn Graham and Anne MacKenzie offered to pick up copies if the times were convenient.

6.2.9 Spring Fair

The clerk thanked all of the Elders who had assisted with the Gardening Stall at the Spring Fair and also the many elders who had contributed in many different ways to the success of the fund raising event.

6.2.10 Elders Roll Books

The clerk intimated that Elders' Roll Books and Communion Cards were available.

6.2.11 Kirk Session Social Fund

The balance in the Kirk Session Social Fund stood at £83.51 on 30th November 2000. The Moderator explained that the account had been opened in 1996 with the balance of money remaining after an evening bus tour of Glasgow. It was proposed and agreed that the signatories of the account be changed to include the new Session Clerk.

7 ROLLKEEPER

In the absence of the Rollkeeper the Moderator intimated the deaths of two members. They were:

Mr Bill Porter on 6th May

and Mrs Margaret Ferries on the 7th May.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

A printed report of the Presbytery meeting in April had been circulated to members. The report was accepted and was filed as an Appendix. Copies of the report for May's meeting were not available but Moderator read report to the Session. A copy of the report is filed as an Appendix. Some aspects of the report were elaborated by the Moderator.

It was evident that many of those attending Presbytery did not speak in debate. Amongst the recommendations made in the Report "Silence in Court" was that Presbytery meeting should begin at 7.00 o'clock rather than 6.15 o'clock.

9 PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Business

No report.

9.2 Community

No report. With the illness of Fraser MacKintosh the Moderator asked whether anyone was willing to volunteer to act as convenor of the committee. There were no volunteers.

9.3 Mission

Edith Moseley intimated that she wished to relinquish the post of Convenor and that Robert Dunsmuir was willing to take over the position. Edith was thanked for all her work as Convenor and Robert was unanimously confirmed as Convenor.

9.4 Nomination

The Convenor, Pat McIlraith, reported that she had had no response from anyone willing to

serve as Stewardship Convener. The Moderator stated that it was incumbent on the Kirk Session to find a Stewardship Convenor and that we should pray that a post-holder can be found.

The Moderator proposed that a meeting of all Committee Convenors should be held after Summer to consider the membership of all committees. This proposal was agreed

9.5 Worship

No report

9.6 Youth

No report

10. STUDY DAY, Sunday 24th June

Elders were reminded of the Study Day on Sunday, 24th June. Elders were asked to confirm their attendance with the Clerk so that the catering could be organised.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next regular meeting was 5th September, 2001. The meeting would commence at 7.15 p.m. with the celebration of Holy Communion.

12 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed with a benediction by the Moderator.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
Held on Sunday, 27th May 2001 at 10.40a.m.
in the Session House, Stamperland Parish Church**

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading from Psalm 23 and prayer.

2 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 26 ruling elders.

3 ADMISSION OF NEW COMMUNICANTS

Mr Cherry introduced the two new communicants, Mrs Louise Dunbar, residing at 35 The Oval and Mrs Valerie Stewart, residing at 9 Stamperland Hill, to the members of the Kirk Session. The Kirk Session then proceeded to morning worship and the admission of the two new communicants. After the service all returned to the Session Room where Sam Esler gave a speech welcoming the two new members into the church

4 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed with a benediction by the Moderator.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION STUDY DAY
Held on Sunday, 24th June 2001
at Stamperland Parish Church

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with Morning Worship led by The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D.

2 ATTENDANCE

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 29 ruling elders.

3 INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY DAY

3.1 Plan for the day

Mrs Nancy Fisher outlined the format of the Study Day. The intention was to take the statement of the purpose of our church which had been formulated at the Balvonie Weekend, derive a vision for our church and list actions which would enable us to fulfil the intent inherent in the statement of purpose.

3.2 Getting to the Purpose

In the first session entitled "Getting to the Purpose", Nancy outlined some of the activities and discussions which had taken place at Balvonie. Those present were split into groups and fun, fellowship, vision and action were used to jog the memories of those elders who had attended the Balvonie weekend and give those who had not attended a flavour of how the study weekend had been tackled. Each Group was asked to present an aspect of fun, fellowship and vision to the whole gathering. In so doing, memories and experiences of the weekend and of the history of the Church in Stamperland were highlighted, the opportunities for the future were glimpsed, the aspirations behind the purpose appreciated and the need to move "one more step along the road" made obvious.

3.3 From Vision to Action

Norman Bolton introduced the afternoon session entitled, "From Vision to Action" in which the groups considered various actions which could be taken to develop the goals implicit in the purpose. Each group was asked to discuss aspects of the "Purpose" and decide on three actions which elders and members could take in order to ensure God's message is brought to our community, three actions which we could take to improve the interaction we have with our community and reach out to the people within the community, three actions we could take to ensure the church is a joy to belong to and three actions through which could ensure the church is a meaningful part of the community. The ensuing discussions were found to be thought provoking. All of the responses from all of the groups were recorded and it was agreed that they would be analysed and prioritised at a further meeting with a view to implementing actions before the end of the year.

4 CLOSURE

The study day was closed with a Service of Holy Communion, led by the minister. All of the elders who had helped in the preparation and serving of the lunch were thanked.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING
Held on Monday, 1st October 2001 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Session House, Stamperland Parish Church

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading from 2 Timothy, Chapter 2 and prayer.

2. TRIBUTE TO FIONA CHERRY

The Session Clerk paid tribute to Mrs Fiona Cherry who had died, very suddenly, on Wednesday, 29th August. The Session Clerk then led the Kirk Session in prayer, giving thanks for Fiona's life and work and asking God's blessing on her family and, in particular, her husband, Alastair, our minister. A copy of the Tribute is filed in an Annex to this Minute.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Pat McIlraith, Willie Anderson, Jim Currie, Jack Halliday, Fraser MacKintosh and David Stewart.

4 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 37 ruling elders.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 14th May 2001, Sunday, 27th May 2001 and Sunday, 24th June, having been previously circulated, were accepted as printed.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Quinquennial Report

The Clerk read a letter dated 12 September 2001, received from the Rev Alex Cunningham, MA, BD, The Clerk of Glasgow Presbytery with which was enclosed an Extract Minute and Summary of the recent Quinquennial Visitation carried out at Stamperland. The letter concluded with an instruction to "convey to the minister and elders a warm expression of support from the Presbytery of Glasgow for their diligence and commitment in their mission task." The extract minute stated that: "At Glasgow, the 11th day of September, 2001, the Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.

Inter Alia:

481 Quinquennial Visits

Quinquennial visits have been made to the following congregations, Stamperland,...

It is recommended that the Presbytery accept the Reports as set out in Appendix III to these Reports and declare the congregation to be in a satisfactory state.

The Presbytery received the Report and approved the recommendation."

It was recorded that the above minute was "Extracted by me this 12th day of September 2001" and was signed, Alexander Cunningham, Clerk of Presbytery.

The Session Clerk read, to the meeting, the Report which was referred to in the Extract minute as being set out in Appendix III. The Report reads as follows:

Stamperland

This congregation exercises a vibrant and forward-looking ministry, and much goodwill exists towards the Church in the community. Organisations cater well for all age groups. The Church is financially secure and the buildings are in good order, although the question of disabled access to premises built on a slope is one which the Congregational Board seeks to address.

The Minister's workload is considerable both in the parish and in the wider work of the Church, but there is an excellent support from Office-Bearers. His ability to encourage others in the leadership of worship is much appreciated. There is a realistic

view of the challenges facing the Church as a whole and a recent retreat for Office-Bearers provided much food for thought regarding the vision for the Congregation at the threshold of the 21st century. Deep commitment was obvious, summed up by one Elder who said “we can’t stand still”. The Congregation is in a satisfactory state and is to be commended for its ongoing work and witness.”

5.2 Moderator’s Study at Princeton University

Mr Cherry said that he worked very hard during his time at Princeton and had found it worthwhile. The effort required to complete the course would be considerable.

5.3 Petition Registering Concern over Shops in Busby Road

The Clerk said that he had received a reply from East Renfrewshire Council acknowledging receipt of our petition and stating that the council is aware that the vitality, amenity and choice of shops within Clarkston Town Centre has declined over recent years. In a bid to arrest the decline the Council has commissioned a study. This study is at an early stage and it is intended to involve the community and local traders.

6. Correspondence / Intimations

6.1 Moderator

The Moderator indicated that he had no items to report under this heading but wished to say how he appreciated the support which he had been given by Elders and members following Fiona’s sudden death.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Bird Semple, Solicitors

A letter had been received at the end of June intimating that Mrs Ruth Steel had bequeathed a legacy of £1000 to Stamperland Parish Church. The solicitors anticipated that they would be in a position to settle the legacy within six months.

6.2.2 Letter from Convenor of Superintendence, Presbytery of Glasgow

A letter had been received giving advice to Ministers and office bearers within the church on precautions they should take when faced with the possibility of an approach by a bogus callers. Specific advice included advising that a minister should never meet with a person whom he does not know on his own. Whether on the church premises or elsewhere, the minister should ensure that he is accompanied by an assistant.

6.2.3 Life and Work

The clerk reported that he had received a letter from the editor of Life and Work. This advised that the September, October and November issues were featuring articles on the theme “Church without Walls”. Elders were being given a special offer of these three issues for the price of one. Elders wishing to take up this offer were asked to contact Sheila McIntosh.

6.2.4 Application for a Hot Food Takeaway at 143 Stamperland Gardens

The clerk advised that he had received a Notification of an Application for Planning Permission for a Hot Food Takeaway at 143 Stamperland Gardens. He stated that he had sent a letter objecting to the Application to east Renfrewshire Council. A letter had also been sent by the Legal Department at 121 George Street, Edinburgh.

6.2.5 The Leprosy Mission Scotland

A letter had been received from Ms Linda Todd of the Leprosy Mission Scotland requesting the use of church on Wednesday, 5th December 2001 for a meeting to be addressed by Peter Laubscher, National Director, South Africa. The clerk stated that he had responded positively and was now seeking the permission of the Session retrospectively. It was pointed out that arrangements would need to be made to open the church and ensure the safety and smooth running of the meeting.

6.2.6 Hyndland Parish Church

The clerk read out to the meeting a letter from Hyndland Parish Church expressing their deepest sympathy to all at Stamperland Church on the death of Fiona Cherry.

6.2.7 Fraser MacKintosh

The clerk read to the meeting a letter from Mrs Elspeth MacKintosh in which she said that, owing to his current illness, Fraser wished to tender his resignation from the post of Deputy Session Clerk. Fraser sent his best wishes to the Kirk Session.

The Moderator stated that Fraser had been unwell for some time and was not making progress. Fraser had been very diligent in his post as Deputy Session Clerk. Fraser had attended to the organisation of the Communion Duties for many years and had gone about his duties in a methodical and effective manner. The Session accepted Fraser's resignation. It was agreed that a nomination for the post of Deputy Session Clerk would be brought to the next Session meeting.

7. ROLLKEEPER

The Rollkeeper reported the attendance at the Communion on 3rd June 2001 as follows:

	Morning	Afternoon	Total
Members	197	23	220
Visitors	4	0	4
Total	201	23	224
Number of members Communicated		220	
Number of members on Roll		495	
Percentage Communicated		44.4%.	

The Rollkeeper reported the attendance at the Communion on 2nd September 2001 as follows:

	Morning	Afternoon	Total
Members	205	21	226
Visitors	1	0	1
Total	206	21	227
Number of members Communicated		227	
Number of members on Roll		491	
Percentage Communicated		46%.	

A printed report giving the names of new members, deaths, removals by certificate and notification of change of address was circulated to members and is filed as an Appendix. It was reported that Mrs Lorraine Lawrie had moved to Moscow in Ayrshire. Mr Sam Esler said that he could obtain her new address and the Moderator undertook to write to Mrs Lawrie to ascertain whether she wished to remain on the roll of Stamperland Parish Church. It was reported by the Moderator that Miss Donna Marie Cockburn wished to remain on the roll. She had recently been married and the moderator undertook to inform the Rollkeeper of her married name and current address.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

A printed report of the Presbytery meeting on 11th September was circulated to members. The report was accepted and is filed as an Appendix.

8. PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no permanent committee reports

9. BALVONIE FOLLOW UP

A document, summarising the comments made at the Study Day on 24th June was circulated to those present and there was discussion on some of the initial points regarding Worship. It was soon realised that there would be quite insufficient time to discuss the comments and derive consensus views on the various aspects. It was decided that the Moderator and the Session Clerk should prepare a series of documents grouping together related comments and

task various committees and groups of elders with developing a coherent series of recommendations.

10. ELDERS DISTRICTS

Lists were circulated showing the name, address, phone number and district(s) of each elder. Sheets were issued listing the names of elders in each of the eight Eldership Teams.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Learning Living Prayer Together

Mrs Edith Moseley and Mrs Pat McIlraith had attended a six-week course on Learning Living Prayer Together organised by the Glasgow Presbytery Worship Committee and taken by Rev David Easton and Mrs Greta Doig. Mrs Moseley reported that much good material and new ideas had been presented. Some of the material was being used in the House Groups and would be printed in future issues of Focus. It was suggested that certain ideas, such as “prayer collages” and “prayer walks” should be considered for future adoption.

11.2 Seekers Club

Mr Stuart Bruce intimated that Mr Derek Brown and Mrs Karen Brown had agreed to lead the Seekers Club. It was agreed that the Congregational Board should be asked to provide financial support for essential materials.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was intimated to be Wednesday, 14th November 2001 at 7.30 pm.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed with a benediction by the Moderator.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
Held on Wednesday, 14th November 2001 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Session House, Stamperland Parish Church**

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading and prayer.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Hillary MacDougall, the Student Assistant to the meeting. Apologies were received from Miss Jan Barr, Mrs Ann Bruce, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Douglas Brown, David Cochran, John Curror, David Dundas, Robert Dunsmuir, Robert Hutcheson, Fraser MacKintosh, David Stewart and Ken Stewart..

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 29 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1st October 2001, having been previously circulated, were accepted as printed.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Appointment of Deputy Session Clerk

The Moderator indicated that Mrs Margo Neilson was willing to undertake the duties of Deputy Session Clerk if the Kirk Session were in agreement. With the members of the Kirk Session being unanimous in agreeing the choice of Mrs Neilson, Mrs Neilson accepted the appointment and took the "oath de fidele".

5.2 Application for Hot Food Takeaway at 143 Stamperland Gardens

The clerk advised East Renfrewshire Council had refused the application. There was, however, a belief that the applicant might appeal against this decision.

5.3 The Leprosy Mission Scotland

The Leprosy Mission Scotland have confirmed that they will use the church on Wednesday, 5th December 2001. Miss Grace Scott and Mrs Edith Moseley agreed to liaise with Ms Todd of the Leprosy Mission and to ensure that the arrangements in connection with the hosting of the event are undertaken.

5.4 Contact with Two Members Living Outwith the Parish

The Moderator indicated that he now had the current address of Mrs Lorraine Lawrie and that the married name of Miss Donna Marie Cockburn was Mrs Donna Marie Baker and Miss Grace Scott undertook to obtain her current address when visiting Mrs Baker's parents. The Moderator would write to both ladies enclosing copies of recent issues of Focus and asking them whether they would like to receive regular copies and thereby maintain their connection with the church.

6. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Carol Singing at the Southern General Hospital on Christmas Eve

Members of the church would not be invited to sing Christmas Carols at the Southern General Hospital on Christmas Eve. In recent years the number of people volunteering had declined and several people who had attended regularly in previous years had indicated they would not manage. There were many churches located much closer to the hospital than our church and there may be a request or an opportunity for volunteers to sing carols at the Victoria Infirmary.

6.1.2 Christmas Services

Services over the Christmas Season would be as follows:

Sunday, 16th December	11.00	Words and Music for Christmas
Sunday 23rd December	11.00	Nativity Play
Monday, 24th December	23.15	Carol singing
	23.30	Watchnight Service
Christmas Day	11.00	Service with Communion
Sunday, 30th December		Morning worship at 11.00 only
Sunday, 6th January		Morning worship at 11.00 only

6.1.3 Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards giving the times of the church services were being printed ready for distribution to every house in the parish.

6.1.4 Changes to Serving of Communion

The Moderator intimated that at the Communion in December, the wine served in the individual glasses would actually be grape juice. The cost of the unfermented wine had increased dramatically and its taste was not to everyone's liking. Additionally, it was proposed that rather than serve small cubes of bread, the bread passed round in the trays would be cut into fingers. Elders serving bread would pass a finger to the first person in the pew, who would take it, break off a piece and pass the finger to the next person. The elders serving bread would collect the "used" fingers and place them in the wooden bread tray. This change might make it easier for some elderly people who had difficulty picking up a

small cube. It also heightened the symbolism of breaking bread. Elders were requested to report back to the Session any comments from members regarding these changes.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Bird Semple, Solicitors

A cheque for £1000 had been received at the beginning of November. This was in full and final settlement of the legacy bequeathed by Mrs Ruth Steel.

6.2.2 Letter from Presbytery Clerk

A letter had been received from the Presbytery Clerk in which he brought certain matters to the attention of Kirk Sessions. Two booklets were enclosed with the letter. One was entitled, "The Stained Glass Ceiling! - Report of the Gender Attitude Project (GAP). The other was entitled, "Church without Walls". It was stated that this latter booklet would be useful in considering remits and notices from the 2001 Assembly. The Session Clerk intimated that it would be the intention that the Kirk Session would consider the remits of the 2001 Assembly at future Study Sessions.

Commenting on the letter from the Presbytery Clerk, the Moderator indicated that Kirk Session meetings were no longer private and were now open. However, the Session could agree to meet in private where the matter under discussion is of a confidential nature. It was agreed that this matter would be brought to the attention of the congregation.

The Moderator also intimated that the Church Hymnary was being revised and placed a list of the proposed content on the table for elders to inspect.

6.2.3 Other Correspondence

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received letters giving information about various courses for elders and for members and information would be summarised in the Focus magazine. Various organisations were seeking assistance with fund raising and, where appropriate, this information would be publicised within the church.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion Duties

The Deputy Session Clerk intimated that Communion Duties were displayed on the notice board in the Session Room and elders were asked to confirm that they could undertake their allocated duties.

7. ROLLKEEPER

The rollkeeper had prepared a printed report giving notification of change of address as follows.

Name	From	District	To	District
Mr Donald Wood Mrs Dorothy Wood	50 Stamperland Drive	16	24 Midcroft Ave Glasgow, G44 5RG	59
Mrs Elaine Foster	24 Midcroft Ave Glasgow, G44 5RG	59	12 Calderside Grove East Kilbride, G74 3SP	59
Mrs Jennifer Templeton	50 Stamperland Drive	16	44 Semphill Gardens East Kilbride, G74 3UH	59
Mr Charles Hamill Mrs Catherine Hamill	24 Nethercliffe Avenue	50	D/2 River Court 203 Busby Road, G76 8DR	56

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Gordon Robertson stated that Presbytery had met the previous evening for well over three hours. Topics of potential interest to the Kirk Session were that the ministers of both Cathcart South Parish Church and New Cathcart were leaving their charges; a new chaplain had been appointed to the Victoria Infirmary; it was proposed that there would be a reduction in the number of presbyteries in Scotland. It had been announced that The Rev Alastair Cherry will be a commissioner to the General Assembly in 2002. The presbytery had a new

web site www.glasgowkirks.org.

9. PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Business Committee

No report

9.2 Community Committee

No report. With the continuing illness of Fraser MacKintosh the committee did not have an active convenor and Mrs Sheila McIntosh was the only other committee member. It was agreed that the Business and Nominations Committees would consider the membership of this committee.

9.3 Youth Committee

The Convenor, Jim Currie stated that Derek and Karen Brown were leading the Seekers and had established a rota of helpers. Quest would start on Sunday, 18th November, under the leadership of Tom McPherson and with assistance from Miss Jill Russell and Mrs Catherine Drew.

It was stated that no one was now in charge of organising the creche and volunteers were being sought.

The Moderator brought the situation regarding the Leadership problems of the Scouts to the attention of the elders. At present there were eleven scouts but only one Scout Leader - Joe Mailley, who was once more building up the number of boys. The District Commissioner had stated that a Scout troop could not function with only one leader and it was proposed that the Scouts had an association with the troop in Netherlee or the troop in Crookfur. Volunteers were being sought to assist with leading the scouts.

9.4 Nomination Committee

No report.

9.5 Worship Committee

It was reported that the worship committee were considering whether it might be worthwhile trying to have an opportunity after Sunday morning worship to discuss the sermon and would report their deliberations at a future Session Meeting.

9.6 Mission Committee

No report.

10. STUDY PERIOD - BALVONIE FOLLOW UP

For the Study Period the Kirk Session was divided into four groups and each group considered one of the following four questions:

- How we could improve the way in which we bring God's message to people?
- How could we improve how we reach out to people, supporting them, showing care, compassion, love and fun?
- How we could make sure that we are a joy to belong to?

and How we could make sure that we are a moving with the times and being relevant?

Each group reported back to the meeting summarising the main points discussed. The scribes for each group were requested to hand their notes to the Session Clerk so that the members of the Balvonie Committee could study them and prepare a summary.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next regular meeting was intimated to be Monday, 10th December 2001 at 7.30 pm. The Session would next meet at 10.40 am on Sunday, 2nd December, 2001 prior to the Communion Service.

12 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed with a benediction by the Moderator.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING
Held on Monday, 10th December 2001 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Session House, Stamperland Parish Church

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading from Isaiah Chapter 55 and prayer.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Moderator welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Mrs Kay Bolton, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Jennie Fraser, Mrs Dorothy Wood, Miss Janet Stewart, Jim Currie, Connell Cranston, Robert Dunsmuir, Alastair Graham, Sam Esler, Fraser MacKintosh, Eddie Paterson, Gordon Robertson, David Stewart and Ken Stewart...

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev Alastair J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 27 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 14th November, 2001, having been previously circulated, were accepted as printed.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 The Leprosy Mission Scotland

Miss Grace Scott and Mrs Edith Moseley were thanked for having completed all of the arrangements in connection with the meeting of The Leprosy Mission Scotland held in the church on Wednesday, 5th December 2001. It was reported that approximately 30 people had attended the meeting.

5.2 Changes to Serving of Communion

Several elders indicated that there had been a number of comments regarding the serving of bread as a finger as being unhygienic. It was decided to continue serving bread in finger format and review the practice at a future date.

5.3 Application for Hot Food Takeaway at 143 Stamperland Gardens

The Session Clerk advised that an appeal had been lodged by the applicant against the decision made by East Renfrewshire Council to refuse the application. The reasons for the Church's objections to the application would be considered in any appeal.

6. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Register of Fabric and Gifts

The Moderator showed Elders the Register of Fabric and Gifts which Sam Esler had prepared and had presented to the church. The Register contained many photographs and gave comprehensive description of the fabric, furnishings and gifts.

The elders present requested that the clerk write to Sam Esler thanking him for his gift and expressing appreciation for the hard work and dedication evident in its compilation.

6.1.2 Maintenance Work Undertaken at the Manse

The Moderator said that he was pleased to report the successful completion of a number of maintenance projects at the manse. These included replacement of the bathroom shower, re-decoration of the kitchen following damage from the leaking shower, the laying of chips on the paths in the rear garden and the fitting of new carpet on the hall and stairs.

6.2 Session Clerk

The Session Clerk stated that he had received no correspondence relevant to the business of the meeting.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

The Moderator informed the Session Meeting that Margo Neilson had been taken to hospital during the previous week. She was back home and had been instructed to "take things

easily”.

7. ROLLKEEPER

The Roll Keeper presented the statistics for the attendance at the December communion as follows

	Morning	Afternoon	Total
Members	193	26	219
Visitors	2	0	2
Total	195	26	221

The total number of members who communicated represents 44.6 per cent of the membership.

There were three new members: Mr Graham Drew and Mrs Catherine Drew, 16 Balvie Avenue, Giffnock and Mrs Catherine Nicholson, 34 Netherhill Avenue.

David Dundas intimated the death of one member, Mr Daniel MacKissock.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

No report

9. PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Worship Committee

A printed report of the previous two meetings of the Worship Committee was circulated. Two topics, the format of the 10.00 a.m. Sunday Morning Service and the provision of an opportunity for the congregation to discuss the Sermon, were considered in some detail.

The Moderator stated that the format of the early morning service had not changed since the pilgrimage to Iona in 1992. The Sunday School, the Youth Group and the BB Bible Class all met during the 10 a.m. service and it was opportune to consider whether the Sunday School and the Youth Group could participate in some part of the early morning worship. It was reported that Orchardhill Parish Church hold an early service which is attended by the older Sunday School pupils and that it was the intention of the Worship Committee to attend the service at Orchardhill on 10th February 2002 with a view to seeing whether aspects of the format of the service could be adopted by Stamperland Parish Church.

The moderator stated that the Worship Committee had considered the discussion by the congregation of the sermon but had not come to any firm conclusions. Following discussion, it was agreed that the views of the congregation should be sought in a section of the questionnaire which should be issued as part of the follow-up to Balvonie.

9.2 Mission Committee

No report. Elders present were asked to assistance in delivering the remaining Christmas Cards to all homes within the parish.

9.3 Nomination Committee

It was reported that Dorothy Wood was joining the Nominations Committee.

9.4 Business, Community and Youth Committees

There were no reports from the Business, Community and Youth Committees.

10 DISTRIBUTION OF OTHERS FUND

The Session Clerk intimated that there was £631.38 in the other's Fund. It was proposed that £200 should be transferred to the Benevolent Fund and that £400 should be donated to St Paul's Church, Provanmill. The Moderator stated that St Paul's Church was facing severe financial problems and that our support would be very much appreciated.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Moderator stated that metal trays for holding communion wine glasses had been stored in the Session Clerk's Office for many years. The trays were of no real monetary value and were not required. The trays bore the name "South Shawlands Church" and had either been gifted or lent by South Shawlands Church some time in the past. It was suggested that the

trays be returned to South Shawlands and this was agreed by the meeting.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as Sunday, 13th January 2002 immediately following Morning Worship and Wednesday, 13th February at 7.30 pm.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed with all elders present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING Held on Sunday 13th January 2002 Immediately after Morning Worship in Stamperland Parish Church

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a prayer.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Moderator welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Miss Janet Stewart and Alastair Graham.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev Alastair J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 28 ruling elders.

4 ATTESTATION OF ROLL

The Roll Keeper, David Dundas, made the Communion Roll was available for inspection. A table showing the Communion Roll Statistics for the year ending 31st December 2001 was circulated to the Elders and the figures are reproduced below. The Elders present agreed that the Communion Roll Statistics be recorded as tabulated.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2000	496
Number removed from Roll during 2001	
by Death	11
by Certificate	2
by Otherwise	0
	13
Number added to Roll during 2001	
by Profession	2
by Certificate	5
by Otherwise	0
	7
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2001	490
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31 st December 2001	25

It was reported that sixty four per cent of members communicated at least once during 2001. The Moderator thanked David Dundas for all of the work which he undertook as Roll Keeper.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Review of Supplementary Roll

David Dundas stated that elders with Districts in which members on the supplementary Roll were recorded as dwelling had been asked to check that the members addresses were correct and inform the Roll Keeper of any changes.

5.1 Address of a Member

David Dundas stated that Mrs Rosemary Morrison had moved and her new address was not recorded. The Moderator said that he had Mrs Morrison's address in Aberdeen and would pass it to the Roll Keeper.

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed with a benediction by the Moderator.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING Held on Wednesday, 13th February 2002 at 7.30 p.m. in the Session House, Stamperland Parish Church

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading from Joel Chapter 2, a meditation for Ash Wednesday and prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Dorothy Wood and from Messers. Jim Currie, John Curror, David Dundas, Sam Esler, Bob Hutcheson, Fraser MacKintosh, Bill Paterson, Eddie Patterson, John Russell, David Stewart and Ken Stewart

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 28 ruling elders. The Student Assistant, Mrs Hilary MacDougall was also present.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Draft Minute of the meeting held on Wednesday, 10th December 2001 was read and accepted as a true record. It was noted that there were two errors in the Draft of the Minute of the meeting held on Sunday, 14th January 2001 which had been circulated to Elders. References to "December 2002" should have been to "December 2000". With this amendment incorporated, it was agreed that the minute would be a true record.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

The Moderator stated that the metal trays for holding communion wine glasses had been returned to South Shawlands Church.

6. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Clarkston Disaster Memorial Service

The Moderator intimated that a request had been made by the local council to hold a Memorial Service to mark the Clarkston Disaster. The Service would be held in Stamperland Parish Church on Friday 5th April at 11.15. The Council had also requested that the church should be open on the morning of Friday 5th April and from 10.00 until 14.00 and on Saturday 6th April to allow people to sign a Book of Remembrance. The Session unanimously agreed these requests.

The Moderator said that a plaque would be unveiled by Councillor Hutcheson during the memorial service. At a later time, the plaque would be placed in the vestibule of the Clarkston Hall. Following the church service, trees would be planted outside Clarkston Hall as a visible memorial.

The Moderator said that he had asked representatives from other churches to participate in the Service. Dr Angus Stewart, who had been minister of Greenbank Parish Church at the time of the disaster, would preach a sermon and representatives from St Aidan's and St Joseph's would also take part.

6.1.2 Moderator's Holiday Arrangements

The Moderator intimated that he had made the following holiday arrangements.

14 – 23 March. Pulpit supply: Monika Walker

1st Sunday in May Pulpit supply: Rev David Lunan, Presbytery Clerk Designate

Sundays 11th, 18th and 25th August.

6.1.3 Moderator's Arrangements for Study Leave

The Moderator intimated that in relation to his Study Leave at Princeton University he would be away from home from 31st May until 22nd June.

6.1.4 Funerals

The Moderator commented that, since the start of the year, he had conducted three funerals and that he would be conducting three funerals later in the week. The circumstances pertaining to certain funerals were sometimes very difficult and could be the source of considerable stress and strain.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Miss Janet Stewart

The Clerk read a letter which he had received from Miss Janet Stewart. In her letter Janet stated that her father, Mr Ken Stewart, had been experiencing some difficulty in carrying out his elder's duties. With regret, he wished to be relieved of his elder's district and have his name placed on the Retired Elder's List.

The Moderator and elders understood the reason for Ken's wish to retire and agreed to his request. The Moderator and many of the elders present commented on Ken's faithfulness in undertaking his elder's duties and the fact that he had continued to carry them out long after failing eyesight must have made the task rather difficult.

6.2.2 Letter from Mr John Russell

The Clerk read a letter which he had received from Mr John Russell. In his letter John gave notice that he wished to resign from the eldership at the end of May 2002. He stated that he and his wife, Sandra, intended to join Cartsbridge Church at the beginning of June, a decision which had been taken after much thought and prayer. In his letter, John thanked the Kirk Session and members of the church for their fellowship and support throughout the last twenty years.

The Moderator said that Mr and Mrs Russell and their three daughters would be sadly missed; the Russell family had been actively involved in the life of the church.

6.2.3 Letter from Scottish Executive

The Clerk intimated that he had received a letter from the Inquiry Reporters Unit of the Development Department of the Scottish Executive. The letter informed that, further to the

Planning Appeal lodged in connection with the hot food shop at 143 Stamperland Gardens, arrangements have been made for a Reporter to make an accompanied site inspection at 3.30 pm on Monday 4th March 2002. The visit was to acquaint the Reporter with the physical aspects of the site and no discussion would be allowed on the merits of the case.

6.2.4 Elder's Districts and Elder's Teams

It was pointed out that several elders including Fraser MacKintosh and Eddie Patterson were unwell and would not be able to visit their districts before the March Communion. Elders were reminded to ensure that team members would arrange to visit the homes of members normally covered by any incapacitated elders.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion Duties

The deputy clerk advised that she was seeking confirmation from elders of their availability for duty at the March Communion Services

7. Rollkeeper

The Rollkeeper's report was printed and circulated to elders prior to the meeting and is filed an Annex to the Minutes. The report recorded the deaths of three members - Mr Denis Stewart, Mr Alan Robertson and Mrs Lily Cherrie. The Moderator announced two further deaths, Mr Douglas Tulloch on 20th January and Mrs Maisie Smith on 7th February.

The Moderator intimated the transfer of a new member, Mrs Ray McNiven, from Kelvin Stevenson Memorial Church.

8. Presbytery Elder

A printed report of the Presbytery meeting on 11th December 2001, was circulated to members. The report was accepted and is filed as an Appendix. A verbal report was given of the proceedings of the Presbytery on the previous evening, 12th February. Aspects which were highlighted included the following:

A service to mark the retrial of Revd Alex Cunningham as Clerk to the Presbytery of Glasgow would be held in Renfield St Stephens Parish Church on 10th April.

The editor of the Presbytery Newsletter died, very suddenly, on 19th January.

Langside Parish Church was purchasing a new organ at a cost of £8000.

Toryglen Parish Church had been given permission to call a minister.

Cathcart South and New Cathcart Churches – re-appraisal was being considered.

The announcement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that VAT would be charged at a reduced rate for repair work carried out on churches only applied if the church had been designated as a Listed Building.

9. Permanent Committee Reports

There were no permanent committee reports.

10. Stated Annual Meeting, 10th March 2002

The Moderator proposed that the Stated Annual Meeting should be an integral part of Morning Worship on Sunday, 10th March. The service would include interviews with the convenors of the four main board committees and with four members of the congregation. The minister would give a short address. The proposal was unanimously approved.

11. Baptismal Arrangements

The Moderator expressed concerns which he and others had regarding the control of children at morning worship. At a recent service of baptism, a number of children belonging to families who were friends or relations of the baptismal parties became unsettled and this had highlighted a number of problems. Several young children cried or shouted and at least one walked around the church. Whilst the behaviour may have been distracting to the congregation, the very real potential danger to young children falling down the chancel steps or managing to pull the font down on top of themselves was a major concern.

Elders were aware that many young children might have difficulty remaining seated and

silent for an hour and agreed that children should be encouraged to go to the Sunday School or crèche. It was mentioned that on the particular Sunday which had raised this concern, the duty team had not escorted visitors to the pews reserved for the Baptismal party and, as a consequence, members of the families and their friends were scattered around the church.

The Moderator said many people attending a baptismal service might not be regular churchgoers and might not understand the format of morning worship which included baptism. To this end, he was considering preparing a booklet which could be given to the family of the child to be baptised, well in advance of the service. The booklet could contain information about the arrangements for the Sunday School and the crèche and would invite children (and their parents, if appropriate) to leave the church and attend Sunday School or the crèche. It would be explained that all Sunday School children came back into church for the christening and that no one would miss the sacrament of baptism. One idea might be to have a "Baptism Person" who would be responsible for following up the minister's initial visit to the family. This person would discuss the practical arrangements associated with friends and family attending the christening, explain the opportunity for young children to attend Sunday School or crèche and leave a copy of the booklet. The "Baptism Person" could also ensure appropriate information was given to those responsible for organising the presentation of the flowers and prayer book and to the leaders of the crèche and Sunday School departments.

Mrs Nancy Fisher said that this subject was one which the ad-hoc committee on Baptism should consider. It was agreed that the ad-hoc committee should meet and report back to a future Session Meeting.

Arising from the discussion on the role of duty team members in escorting people to a pew, the Moderator stated that on several recent occasions no duty team member had been present to cover the early service at 10 o'clock. The Clerk was asked to write to the Clerk to the Congregational Board raising the matter and requesting that steps be taken which would ensure there was always at least one person on duty.

11. Balvonie / Church without walls

It was planned to watch the Video "Church without Walls". However, the video player would not operate and it was agreed that study of the video would be postponed to the next meeting.

12. Elders visits to organisations

The clerk reminded elders who had responsibility for visiting organisations that they should not forget to undertake a visit and report back to the Session, (via the Youth Committee, if appropriate) at the May meeting. Several members stated that they had found their visits to various organisations very useful and that they were building up good relations with the leaders. They suggested that it might be beneficial for elders to continue visiting one organisation for several years rather than visiting different organisations on a rota basis.

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business

14. Dates of Next Meetings

The dates of the next regular meetings were confirmed as Monday, 11th March, 2002 and Wednesday, 10th April, 2002. The date of the March Communion was Sunday, 3rd March.

15. Closure

The meeting was closed with benediction by the Moderator.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING
Held on Monday, 11th March 2002 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Session House, Stamperland Parish Church

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading from John Chapter 16 and prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Ann Bruce and Mrs Jane Curror and from Messers. Sam Esler, Alastair Graham and Eddie Patterson.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 32 ruling elders.

4 TRIBUTE TO DENIS STEWART

The Moderator read a tribute to Denis Stewart who died in January.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Draft Minute of the meeting held on Wednesday, 13th February had been circulated previously. It was noted that there was an error in item 6.2.1 where the spelling "Stewart" should have appeared rather than "Stuart". With this amendment incorporated, it was agreed that the minute would be a true record.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Clarkston Disaster Memorial Service

The moderator stated that he had more information about the Memorial Service to be held in the church on Friday, 5th April. Approximately 200 people were anticipated to attend. TV cameras would be present. There would be at least one pew reserved for special guests including the Lord Lieutenant, the Police Chief, the Chief Fire Officer and the Provost. At the end of the service the congregation would walk, in procession, to the Clarkston Halls. There was a request for elders to be in attendance prior to the service to welcome people and show them to their seats. Names were given to the Clerk after the close of the meeting. The moderator said there would be a Book of Condolence in the vestibule which those attending the memorial Service would be invited to sign. The Book of Condolence would also be available for signing on Saturday, 6th April from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon and from 1.00 p.m. until to 3.00 p.m. and on Sunday, 7th April following Morning Worship. Pat McIlraith and Grace Scott volunteered to be present on the Saturday morning; Sandra Halliday and Janis Herriot volunteered to be present on the Saturday afternoon.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Stated Annual Meeting

The Moderator said that he considered that the experiment of holding the Stated Annual meeting as part of Morning Worship had been a success. Elders were in general agreement and there was praise for the way in which the four members of the congregation who had been interviewed by John Curror had spoken.

David Stewart commented later during the meeting that several of the speakers at the Stated Annual Meeting had been rather inaudible and that some of the members who read the intimations and Bible readings on Sunday mornings were also indistinct. It was agreed that all people who were speaking from the lectern or using a microphone should be advised that the microphone was simply an aid to communication and that they did require to speak out loudly for the microphone to have a useful effect.

7.1.2 Pulpit Supply

The Moderator said that the Rev Martin Johnston would lead Morning Worship on the first Sunday in June.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Playgroup

The clerk informed the meeting that he had received a letter from the secretary of the Playgroup intimating that it was likely that the playgroup would cease to exist at the end of the summer term.

7.2.2 Presbytery Inspection of Records

The clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Convenor of the Presbytery Superintendence Committee intimating that the Annual Inspection of Records would take place on Monday 18th March at Busby Parish Church.

7.3 Deputy Session Clerk

Margo Neilson thanked Elders for the efficient way in which they had all carried out Communion duties.

8 ROLLKEEPER

8.1 Report

The Rollkeeper, David Dundas, gave the following report:

Deaths:

Mrs Maisie Smith, Avonhaugh Nursing Home, Stonehouse.	District 60
Mr Douglas Tulloch, 9C Fairfield Court.	District 56

New members:

Mrs Rachel McNiven, 78 Moray Drive. (From Kelvin Stevenson Memorial Church)	District 1
Mr J Lawrence Grant, Flat 1, Strawhill Court (From New Cathcart Church)	District 46
Mrs Charlotte Thornton, 60 Stamperland Avenue (restored to the Communion Roll from the Supplementary Roll)	District 14

Members Removed:

Mrs Eilidh Gray, 8 Holehouse Road, Eaglesham, G76 6JF, had requested a Certificate of Transference to Eaglesham Parish Church

8.2 Review of Supplementary Roll

David Dundas presented the following information.

Restored to Communion Roll

Mrs Charlotte Thornton, 60 Stamperland Avenue	District 14
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Removed from Supplementary Roll by the Kirk Session

Mr John Sleigh	93 Stamperland Avenue
Mr Angus Kean	19 Randolph Drive
Mrs Irene Kean	19 Randolph Drive
Mr William Kennedy	41 Monteith Drive
Mrs Irene Kennedy	41 Monteith Drive
Mrs Agnes Brown	Bonnyton Nursing Home

The total number of names on the Supplementary Roll was 18.

8.3 Calculation of Communion Attendance Statistics

David Dundas stated the percentage of members attending communion was expressed as a percentage of the total number of members on the Communion Roll. Since a number of members were not able to attend as a result of disability he wondered if it would be more appropriate to calculate the percentage attendance excluding members physically unable to attend. Following some discussion it was agreed that the Business Committee should check to see whether there is any specific requirement to produce such figures.

9. PRESBYTERY ELDER

There was no report since the Presbytery had not met since 12th February

10. PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Worship Committee

There was no report from the Worship Committee.

10.1.1 Summer Services

David Dundas said that three people had told him that they felt they were not getting a “proper church service” when elders or other lay people conducted Worship during the summer. The Moderator said that there was a shortage of ministers. There were 23 vacant charges in the area. In two years time, with the impending retirement of a number of ministers, there would be insufficient ministers in the Church of Scotland in relation to the number of charges. In five years time it was anticipated that every minister would be an interim moderator. Whilst there was an increase in the number of church members being trained as lay readers, many of the existing lay readers were rather old and there would be a shortage. The Moderator said that Church of Scotland members would have to recognise that there were simply insufficient ministers for every church to have full-time ministry and full-time ministerial cover.

10.1.2 Communion Bread

Willie Anderson and David Stewart said that they had heard complaints following the serving of bread in finger form at Communion. Disappointment was expressed that there had been complaints – breaking bread was symbolic of the breaking of Christ’s body. It was pointed out that the Elders on duty at Communion were served with a piece of bread, broke a piece and passed it on. There were suggestions that the bread be served in napkins but this would be messy and also inappropriate. The Moderator said that if there were deep-rooted objections to bread fingers within the congregation we should revert to the cubes of bread.

10.2 Nomination

There was no report from the Nomination Committee.
 The Moderator reported that following the Stated Annual Meeting, Mrs Jane Curror had volunteered to be the Stewardship Convenor. The Moderator expressed his thanks to Jane on behalf of the Nominations Committee, the Business Committee and the whole Session.

11. BALVONIE / CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

The Moderator introduced the video, “Church without Walls”, by saying that in many ways the Session’s discussions at Balvonie mirrored the ideas behind the “Church without Walls”. In Scotland, 86 per cent of the population did not attend church regularly – they were “beyond the walls”. The church had to work out how to reach these people. New formats of worship may be needed. As had been said at the previous day’s Stated Annual Meeting, some families have problems with the timings of church services and Sunday School. Our discussions which were initiated at Balvonie were aimed at ensuring that our church was relevant and reached out to the community. The video was then shown.

Following the video there was some discussion relating to attracting young people into church. Margo Neilson said that she and Grace Scott had visited the Seekers. Within the Seekers there was a group who were keen to be involved in music making at church. This was welcomed by Mrs Jennie Fraser.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next regular meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 10th April, 2002.

14. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING
Held on Sunday 7th April 2002 in Stamperland Parish Church,
immediately following the close of Morning Worship

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Ann Bruce and Mrs Evelyn Graham, and from Messers. Willie Anderson, Stuart Bruce, James Currie, David Dundas, Eddie Patterson and Gordon Robertson.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 24 ruling elders.

4 APPOINTMENT OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator stated that Gordon Robertson had indicated he was agreeable to serve as Presbytery Elder for a further year and asked whether any other elder wished to serve as Presbytery Elder. With no one present indicating any desire to serve, the Moderator asked those present if they were minded to elect Gordon Robertson as Presbytery Elder. There was unanimous approval and the moderator declared Gordon Robertson to be duly elected as Presbytery Elder.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with benediction

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
KIRK SESSION MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 24th APRIL 2002
AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted a reading from Psalm 63 and a prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Miss Jan Barr, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart and Miss Jess Thomson and from Messers. John Dodds, Sam Esler, Gordon Robertson and David Stewart.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 27 ruling elders.

4 TRIBUTE TO GEORGE PATERSON

The Moderator paid tribute to George Paterson who died on Monday, 22nd April. The Moderator then led the Kirk Session in prayer, thanking God for George's life and work and asking God to give courage and strength to George's wife, Winnie, at this time of sadness. A copy of the Tribute is kept on file.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 11th March, 2002 and Sunday 7th April 2002, having been previously circulated, were accepted as printed.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising which would not be covered by the Agenda items.

7 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

The Moderator stated that he was pleased with the Memorial Service which was held to mark the Clarkston Disaster. Around 500 people attended and all of the comments which he had received had been very positive. Whilst many of the congregation had been deeply moved by the service they had also found it to be a source of comfort and uplift. These sentiments were agreed by several of the elders present.

The Moderator stated that he had responsibilities regarding Greenbank Church and that he was being kept very busy attending to these matters as well as other cases being dealt with by the Presbytery Superintendence Committee.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Letter from Robert Dunsmuir

The clerk read a letter which he had received from Robert Dunsmuir announcing that he was moving to Leeds to take up a position at the Infirmary and would consequently no longer be able to fulfil his duties as an elder or as Chair of the Mission Committee. The letter expressed his thanks for the kindness and welcome shown to him, his wife and family by church members and he offered his prayers and best wishes to everyone and the future of the Church in Stamperland.

Robert's resignation was accepted. Elders were sad that he had to move away from the Glasgow area to find a post where his particular surgical skills were required.

7.2.2 Census

The Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Scottish Church Census requesting that Stamperland Church take a Census of members attending Church on Sunday, 12th May. The Census was supported by all of the major churches in Scotland. It was agreed that the Census should be undertaken as requested.

7.2.3 Erskine Hospital

A letter had been received from Erskine Hospital thanking the congregation for their donation of £95.48. Representatives from the Hospital would be pleased to come and give a presentation to a Church Group.

7.2.4 Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution

A letter had been received from the RSABI thanking the congregation for their donation of £281.18.

7.2.5 Hot Food Shop

Letters had been received from the Scottish Executive and the Church of Scotland Law Department advising that the appeal for planning permission to open a hot food shop at 143 Stamperland Gardens has been dismissed by the Reporter and that planning permission has been refused. The Reporter's decision is final subject to the right of any aggrieved person to apply to the Court of Session within six weeks of the decision.

7.2.6 Dramatic Club

A letter had been received from the secretary of the Stamperland Church Dramatic Club advising that, after an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Club on Tuesday, 5th March, the Club was disbanded due to a lack of active members. Disappointment was expressed by elders who hoped that at a future time the club may become active.

7.2.7 Spring Fair

The Clerk reminded elders that the Kirk Session would man the "Plant and Gardening Stall" and asked that elders who were not occupied in helping at other stalls endeavour to assist.

7.2.8 Reports from visitors to organisations

Elders with responsibility for visiting organisations were reminded that they should have reports ready for the next meeting.

7.3 Deputy Session Clerk

The Deputy Session Clerk asked that elders complete and return a small questionnaire regarding their availability to help with communion preparations and their willingness to read the welcome and scripture lessons on a Sunday morning.

8 ROLLKEEPER

The Rollkeeper intimated that Mr Thomas Pearston and his wife Mrs Elizabeth Pearston had moved from 162 Randolph Drive (District 22) to 34 Fordyce Court, Capelrig Court, Newton Mearns, G77 6TW. They wished to transfer to Newton Mearns Parish Church and had requested a Certificate of Transference.

Mrs Sandra McLintock, 9 Pollock Ave, Eaglesham (District 56) had informed her elder that she is no longer interested in membership of Stamperland Parish Church.

David Dundas intimated that Mrs Addie Dodds had died on 18th April and George Paterson had died on 22nd April.

In response to a question from the Moderator it was confirmed that Dr Whitehead of Stamperland Gardens was on the Communion Roll.

The Moderator stated that John and Sandra Russell were planning to attend Cartsbridge Church from the beginning of June. As that church did not recognise Certificates of Transference he recommended that no immediate action should be taken to remove John and Sandra from the roll.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder's report was read to the meeting by the Clerk. A copy of the Report has been filed.

10. PERMANENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Business

10.1.1 Course for elders and members on leading worship

The Moderator intimated that Mrs Sheila Steven was willing to present a six-session course for elders and church members interested in leading worship. The course is designed to equip members to lead church services with their minister's permission. Mr Cherry recommended that a course be held in Stamperland Church in the Autumn, probably on Sunday afternoons. It was agreed that the course should be held and Mr Cherry undertook to contact Sheila Steven to initiate arrangements.

10.1.2 Covenant Players

Mr Cherry said that he had been approached by a representative of the Covenant Players. The Covenant Players are a small group of actors who have a huge repertoire of short plays suitable for incorporating into worship services. They were available to come to Stamperland Church on the 15th or 22nd September. The Moderator suggested that it might be appropriate to have the Players at the Annual Dedication Service. The Players charged a fee of £150 and would wish to be offered accommodation by members of the church. It was agreed that the Covenant Players should be invited.

10.2 Community

Grace Scott had attended an information meeting of the South Glasgow University Hospitals NHS Trust on local faith communities. Grace's notes of the meeting were read by the clerk. At the meeting, Janet McMahon, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator, described aspects of the multi-faith Chaplaincy Centre at the Southern General Hospital. She said that the Trust and its staff respect everyone's religion and the religious needs of all patients and that it is recognised that spiritual care is an important component in health care for all patients. It was stated that Bibles are readily available.

10.3 Mission, Nomination and Youth

There were no reports from these committees.

10.4 Worship

10.4.1 Future Development of Early Morning Worship and Sunday School

The Moderator introduced the topic of possible changes to the format of the early Sunday Service. In general, attending Sunday School was not a fashionable activity and, in most churches, teachers struggled to get children to attend. The Moderator said that several months ago he had attended the Family Service at Orchardhill Parish Church. The service starts at 10 o'clock and is attended by all of the Sunday School. Many children come and sit with their parents at the start of the service. Before the sermon starts the children leave and go to the hall(s) to carry out "activities" before returning for the final part of the service. After the service members can meet for a cup of tea or coffee. A second service begins at 11.15; the format of the later service is more "traditional". The family service was described as being very lively. There was a large youth orchestra. Since its introduction three years ago the service has attracted new people to attend church.

Stuart Bruce stated that a about half-a-dozen of the Sunday School teachers would be leaving at the end of the session. The reduced number of teachers would make it very difficult to maintain the present format of Sunday School. The type of activity carried out by the young people at Orchardhill could be supervised by fewer adults and Sunday School teachers could be used on a rotational basis, e.g. one month the teacher would supervise activities and the next month would remain at morning worship.

A range of questions and points were raised by various elders. These included whether all of the Sunday School teachers had been fully-consulted on possible changes and what their views were; difficulties which might arise regarding hall accommodation for all ages of Sunday School, BB Bible Class, etc.; the views of the members who liked the format of the present early morning service.

It was decided that a joint meeting be held of the Worship Committee and the Sunday School staff to explore some of these issues

10.4.2 Time of the Morning Service during summer

Elders were asked to decide the time of the morning service during the summer months. The meeting decided that members would be balloted on the next two Sundays with the choice of a 10.00 a.m. service or an 11.00 a.m service. The time nominated by the majority would hold.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alf Dunbar made a request that members of the choir should not be selected to serve communion at the morning service since this depletes the number in the choir. Margo Neilson said that she tried not to select choir members for duty but that this was not always possible. Several of the elders within the choir had a desire to serve communion at least on an occasional basis and should be given the opportunity. Whenever possible, the number of choir members chosen to serve communion on a particular Sunday would be kept to a minimum.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 13th May.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY, 13th MAY 2002
AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted a reading from Colossians and a prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Miss Jan Barr, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Jess Thomson, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Dorothy Wood, Messers Douglas Brown, Connel Cranston, David Cochran, Jim Currie, John Curror, Alf Dunbar, Sam Esler, Alastair Graham and Gordon Robertson.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 22 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 24th April 2002, having been previously circulated, were accepted as printed.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Robert Dunsmuir

Whilst Robert Dunsmuir's resignation as an elder had been accepted at the previous Session Meeting he would remain on the Communion Roll until he wrote informing of his wish to transfer to a church close to his new home.

5.2 Scottish Church's Census

A census to record the number of people attending church was conducted in most churches in Scotland on Sunday, 12th May. The Session Clerk stated that at Stamperland Parish Church 13 people attended the 10 o'clock service and 153 had been present at the 11 o'clock service giving a total attendance of 166 people. There were 45 men and 121 women. Over 70 per cent of those attending were aged over 45. It had been noted that there were probably about a dozen people who normally attend on a regular basis who were not present on the 12th May. The typical attendance on a "normal Sunday morning" would thus be about 175. At the start of the Service on 12th May there were over 80 Sunday School children in church plus five teenage Sunday School helpers and five girls from Quest. When the BB is in session around 30 Boys and officers would normally attend BB Bible Class on the Sunday morning.

5.3 Spring Fair

The Moderator thanked the elders who had assisted at the Spring Fair. The Plant Stall, which was manned by elders, had sold over £600 of plants.

5.4 Course for Elders and Members on Leading Worship

The Moderator stated that following discussions with Sheilah Steven she was willing to come to Stamperland to present the training course for elders and church members on Wednesday evenings. Provisional dates were agreed as 23rd and 30th October and 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November.

5.5 Time of the Morning Service during Summer

Jane Curror announced that the votes cast in the ballot on the time of the morning service during summer were as follows.

In favour of a 10.00 am service	117
In favour of an 11.00 am service	60
Spoiled papers	1

The Session agreed that Morning Worship would be held at 10.00 am during the summer.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

The Church Officer had written to the Minister and the Session Clerk seeking a reduction in the time during which he was contracted to be present at the Church from 18 hours to 12 hours and suggesting that the payment be reduced in direct proportion. Specifically, the Church Officer had requested that he would no longer be required to be present at the church halls on Monday and Tuesday evenings when the Guides, Rainbow Guides and Guild were meeting. Stuart Bruce left the meeting whilst the request was discussed.

The Moderator stated that everyone knew that Stuart worked much more than the number of hours for which he was contracted. Members of the Kirk Session including those associated with the Rainbow Guides and the Guild did not see that there would be any significant problems in accommodating the Church Officer's request. However, it was agreed that the Guide Leaders should be informed and that the Guides might consider asking a parent to be in attendance during the early part of the evening.

It was agreed to accede to the Church Officers request for a reduction in contracted hours and it was also agreed that there should be no reduction in payment. This arrangement including the reduction in the contracted hours would apply only as long as Stuart Bruce held the post of church officer. The Session Clerk was instructed to write accordingly to the Clerk to the Congregational Board.

6.2 Deputy Session Clerk

The Deputy Session Clerk asked elders to note the arrangements for the June Communion.

7 ROLLKEEPER

The Rollkeeper stated that he had no address for Mr Kenneth Sinclair. It was agreed that Mr Sinclair be placed on the Supplementary Roll.

David Dundas asked whether Mr and Mrs John Russell should be removed from the Roll. Mr Cherry said that, though they were now attending a different church, they did not wish to sever their links with Stamperland. It was agreed that they should be transferred to the Supplementary Roll.

The death of Mr George Wright of Leabank Gardens was intimated.

8 WORSHIP COMMITTEE

8.1 Future Development of Early Morning Worship and Sunday School

A paper summarising discussions between the Worship Committee and representatives of the Sunday School held subsequent to the previous Session Meeting was circulated to elders. The Moderator explained that there was a need to consider changing the formats of Sunday School and of morning worship. Many churches had developed or adopted new forms of worship, some particularly suited to the needs and aspirations of families, young adults and youth. Locally, Orchardhill Parish Church had developed a form of early morning service which was particularly successful in attracting families. About half-a-dozen Sunday School teachers, including Eleanor Currie and Lynn Currie the leaders of the primary and beginners departments, respectively, were leaving and now was a particularly opportune time to consider changes.

A number of questions were raised regarding the nature of the proposed new services, their formats, the availability of suitable accommodation, the organisation of the Sunday School, the adequacy of staffing and the role of "Sunday school teachers". A summary of the main point which emerged is listed below:

- The times of the morning services would be 9.45 and 11.00.
- Families would be encouraged to attend the early service.
- The preacher at the 11.00 am service would normally have a "Children's Address" prepared so that it could be given should any children be present.
- During the early service the children would leave the church for about a twenty minute period and undertake various activities in the church halls. Adults would normally remain in church and would listen to a sermon. On occasions, there might be a discussion or a talk or a play in place of the sermon.

- The children's activities would require adult supervision. This would be provided by existing Sunday School teachers and volunteers. It was likely that the teachers and volunteers would attend on a rota basis.
- There was sufficient hall accommodation for all activities. Two groups of children would meet in the large hall, one group in the small hall. The BB Bible Class would meet in the Session Room and Quest would meet in the downstairs hall.
- Children would be encouraged to sit with their parents in church. When a child had no parent attending they would sit with a Sunday School Teacher or volunteer. Each child would be assigned to a small number of "designated teachers or volunteers" so that long-term relationships could be built up.
- On Sundays when there was a baptism or youth parade, these would be at the early service.
- On Communion Sundays the "Normal Communion" would be at 11.00 a.m. There would be a communion at the 9.45 am service; possibly, in place of the sermon there would be a short address and a shortened form of communion. Over time, different forms may develop. There would also be a Communion Service at 3.00 pm.
- There would be opportunities for people other than the minister to participate in leading worship.
- New songs would be introduced at the early service and, over time, new types of musical accompaniment would develop. The music could build on the musical activities being developed and undertaken with the children at Netherlee Primary School.
- The term "Sunday School" would be dropped and replaced with a new name

After full discussion the Moderator asked the Elders present to state whether they were in favour of implementing the changes. The Session agreed that the new arrangements should take place from 1st September.

The Moderator said that the church had to be about new things and we had to launch out in faith. A further meeting of the Worship Committee and Sunday School teachers was scheduled for the 22nd May and elders were invited to attend to show their support for the initiative.

9 COMMUNION CARDS

It was decided that Communion Cards would no longer be issued and collected. The statistics of the number of members taking communion were not used. In place of Communion Cards elders would use "Invitation Cards". These would not require to be handed in at the front door on Communion Sunday.

10. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

There was some discussion about the merit, or otherwise, of arranging to hold the September, November and February meetings of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board on the same evening. It was decided that, since the Congregational Board were planning to change the format of their meetings to incorporate a discussion time for each of the Board committees, the idea of combined meetings would not be practical. Accordingly the following dates were agreed for future meetings.

2002

Monday,	9 th September
Monday,	7 th October
Monday,	11 th November

2003

Sunday, 12th January, after Morning Worship
 (to attest the Communion Roll and to elect Presbytery Elder)
 Monday, 10th February
 Monday, 10th March
 Monday, 7th April
 Monday, 12th May

11 MODERATORS STUDY LEAVE IN PRINCETON

During the Moderator's study leave in America the Sunday services would be conducted by Revd Martin Johnston and by Monika Walker. The Elders wished Mr Cherry a safe journey to and from Princeton and their best wishes for success in his studies for D.Min.

12 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
 KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER 2002
 AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator opened the meeting with a reading from Isaiah, an address and prayer leading to a Service of Holy Communion. The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Evelyn Graham, Miss Jess Thomson, Miss Janet Stewart, Messers Douglas Brown, John Curror, Jim Currie, Sam Esler, George Fraser, Alastair Graham and Fraser Mackintosh

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 27 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, Wednesday, 13th May 2002, having been previously circulated, were accepted as printed.

5 BUSINESS ARISING**5.1 Robert Dunsmuir**

The Moderator said that Robert Dunsmuir had still to find a permanent home in Leeds and wished to remain a member of the church for the time being.

5.2 Course for Elders and Members on Leading Worship

The Moderator confirmed that Sheilah Steven would present the training course for elders and church members on Wednesday evenings beginning on 23rd October and continuing weekly up to the 27th November. The meeting agreed that elders from Broom Church would be made welcome.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Church Membership Class

The Moderator said that no class for intending new communicants had been held for some time and that he proposed holding church membership classes early in 2003.

6.1.2 Covenant Players

Three lady members of the Covenant Players would take part in the church services on the 22nd September. The Moderator intimated that he was still looking for offers of accommodation. Miss Grace Scott volunteered that all three ladies could stay in her home.

6.1.3 Early Worship

The Moderator said that he had found the early service very encouraging. Not only were new Mums and Dads attending this service but there were quite a number of “older members” in the congregation. The atmosphere was good. Attendance at the 11.00 a.m. service was down but, overall, there was possibly an increase in numbers worshipping.

A question was raised as to whether there was a lower age limit for children going out to “Sunday School”. In response it was stated that the criterion for a child attending nursery was that, if the child was aged less than three, one of the child’s parents needed to be in attendance. It was suggested that some of the younger children might be encouraged to go to the area at the front of the Side Chapel where there could be a supply of large jig saws. Additionally, it might be possible to provide “draw-string bags” containing paper, pens, puzzles, etc. which could appeal to children of a wide range of ages. These could be used by children who were not able or willing to leave the church without a parent.

6.1.4 Christmas Evening Service with Netherlee Primary School

The Moderator said that, with the agreement of the Session, children from Netherlee Primary School would take part in a special evening service on 22nd December. The children would be involved through readings, singing and playing of instruments. After the service, tea and mince pies could be served in the large hall. The Kirk Session agreed. Since there would be considerable uncertainty in the number of parents who would attend it was suggested that some form of ticket should be produced so that a good indication of the numbers likely to be present could be determined.

6.2 Session Clerk

The session clerk indicated that there had been remarkably little correspondence over the summer months.

A letter had been received from Rev. Ross McDonald of the Lodging House Mission confirming that Alistair Graham was the congregational Representative. A letter had also been received from the Stewardship Department of The Church of Scotland confirming that Jane Curror has been placed on the roll of Stewardship Promoters.

The clerk said that he had received a letter from the local MP and MSP inviting members of the congregation to sign a petition calling for tighter restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks. The Moderator reminded the meeting that only some months earlier a firework had been posted through the church’s letterbox causing damage to the door and the post box and no little fright to a good number of people who had been in the vicinity. The Session agreed that copies of the petition should be placed in the vestibule for signature.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

The Deputy Session Clerk thanked elders for undertaking their duties at the previous Sunday’s three Services of Communion. Margo Nielson said that only nine people had been present at the afternoon communion and suggested that, in future, the congregation could be encouraged to sit closer together.

In view of the small number attending the afternoon communion, the Moderator wondered whether it might be appropriate to consider having a communion service on a mid-week afternoon which could aim to suit the needs of the “housebound” and “semi-housebound”. David Dundas asked whether it might be appropriate to have only three communions per year rather than four as at present. It was agreed that arrangements for future Communion Services should be discussed at the Kirk Session meeting scheduled for April 2003.

The Moderator thanked Willie Anderson for printing the Communion Invitation Cards. It

was agreed that space for the elder's phone number should be included in the next batch of cards to be printed.

7 MODERATORS STUDY LEAVE IN PRINCETON

The Moderator recounted aspects of his study leave in Princeton. It had, he said, been very hard work with formal classes from 9.00 till 12.00 and 13.30 to 16.00 or 18.00. On top of this he had to study and prepare work early in the morning before the start of the formal work. With colleagues he would spend evening working in the library until 21.00 and thereafter still have to prepare for the next day. During his stay he was given conflicting advice regarding the choice of subject for his final project. The course was not easy and it was unlikely that any of his colleagues would actually complete their studies in time to graduate in 2003. Despite the considerable effort required the Moderator said he found the course was rewarding and he thanked the Session for allowing him the time and opportunity to attend.

8 ROLLKEEPER

The Roll Keeper reported the following changes:

8.1 Deaths

Mrs Patricia Templeton	22 Moray Drive	District 1
Mr Archibald Templeton	22 Moray Drive	District 1
Mrs Margaret Russell	19 The Oval	District 35

8.2 New Members

Mr Colin Kirkwood	102 Stamperland Drive	District 18
Mrs Gillian Kirkwood	102 Stamperland Drive	District 18

(From Croftfoot United Free Church)

Mrs Lynne Whitfield	176 Radolph Drive	
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(from Lenzie Parish Church)

Mr Colin Johnston	22 Monteith Drive	
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Mrs Deborah Johnston	22 Monteith Drive	
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8.3 Change of Address

Mrs Sandra Diamond from	20 Randolph Drive	District 19
to	82 Moray Drive	District 1

8.4 Supplementary Roll

David Dundas said that following visits from Mrs Jennie Fraser and the delivery of Focus magazine, Mr and Mrs Reid, 82 Stamperland Gardens had shown renewed interest in the church. Jennie Fraser described in more detail how she had been in contact with Mr and Mrs Reid.

It was agreed that names of people on the Supplementary Roll should be noted at the back of each elders Roll Book. It was suggested that as an alternative to using Roll Books the Roll Keeper could provide each elder with a computer listing of each district showing members names and addresses.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Gordon Robertson said that the next meeting of Glasgow Presbytery was scheduled for the following day. The following points had arisen at the previous Presbytery meeting or during the summer period.

- Rev Tom Nelson has been inducted to Netherlee Parish Church.
- Rev Janet McMahon has been inducted to Castlemilk West Parish Church.
- Rev Alastair Cherry has been appointed as Chair of the Presbytery Council.
- Anne MacKenzie will be the Glasgow Presbytery Representative on the Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility.
- The William Barclay Lecture will be held in Renfield St Stephen's Church on 6th November
- The Lodging House Mission has again produced Christmas Cards as a fund raising venture.

Gordon Robertson also said that he had been sent a questionnaire from Presbytery asking whether the Kirk Session had views about the starting time of Presbytery and, in particular, whether a starting time of 6.15pm or 7.00 pm would be preferable and might encourage the participation of younger elders. Members of the Session had no strong views regarding the starting time.

10. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Confirmation of membership

The existing membership of the Permanent Committees was confirmed. Several committees were short of numbers and it was agreed the Business Committee should review the membership of each committee.

10.2 Worship

Pat McIlraith reminded elders of the service at the Victoria Infirmary and asked for volunteers to assist with the collection of patients from the various wards.

11 ELDERSHIP FOR THE 21st CENTURY

The Session Clerk handed out copies of a leaflet published by the Church of Scotland Assembly Council. The leaflet outlined points regarding the future of the Eldership. Kirk Sessions were instructed to discuss the points and provide a response. It was agreed that the discussion will take place at the Kirk Session meeting scheduled for November.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 7th October 2002.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pat McIlraith intimated that she had been invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in connection with her involvement with the Caravan Club. Members of the Session shared her joy and wished her a most memorable and enjoyable time.

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2002 AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator opened the meeting with a reading from Ephesians Chapter Four and prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Ann Bruce, Mrs Janis Herriot, Messers Douglas Brown, Stuart Bruce, John Curror, Alf Dunbar, Jim Currie, Sam Esler, Alastair Graham, Fraser Mackintosh, Bill Paterson, Bill Shaw and David Stewart.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 24 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, Monday, 9th September 2002, having been previously circulated, were accepted as printed.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Course for Elders and Members on Leading Worship

The Moderator urged elders to consider attending the training course being given by Sheila Steven on Wednesday evenings beginning on 23rd October.

5.2 Covenant Players

The Moderator commented on the involvement in the Morning Services by the Covenant Players. The three players had been very pleasant and had enjoyed their time in Stamperland. He thanked Grace Scott for accommodating them. There might have been some misunderstanding about the age range of the people in the congregation and the material was probably more appropriate to adults than the young people who had been present at the early service.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Christmas Cards

The Moderator asked whether the Session wished to distribute Christmas Cards to every house in the Parish. It was agreed that professionally printed cards would be purchased and a Christmas Message would be printed inside these cards by Willie Anderson.

6.1.2 Mission and Aid

The Moderator said that he had received a letter inviting representatives of local churches to attend a meeting at Giffnock South Parish Church on 29th October to discuss the levels of Mission and Aid funding which of local churches were being allocated. George Fraser agreed to attend.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Organist's Contract

The Session Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a letter from the organist, Mrs Jennie Fraser in which she pointed out that the original contract had not been updated to reflect changes in salary and fees. It was agreed that the clerk would amend the contract to reflect the existing conditions.

6.2.2 Appeal from the BB for the Carronvale Development Project

The Session Clerk read extracts from a letter from Mr John Neil, The Boys' Brigade Vice President addressed to all Kirk Sessions. The letter asked that each congregation consider making a donation to help finance the costs of the second phase of the Carronvale Development Project. It was agreed that David Dundas would prepare a short article for the Focus Magazine which would alert members to the need and advise that donations would be most welcome.

7 ROLLKEEPER

7.1 Roll Books

The Roll Keeper advised that the Roll Books would no longer be used but that each elder would be issued with a printed sheet giving names and address of members and those on the supplementary roll for each district. There would be space for elders to write notes on the sheet. The sheets would be returned to the Roll Keeper after communion.

7.2 Elder's Districts

The Moderator said that he had met with the Roll Keeper and Deputy Session Clerk to review the Elders' Districts. There had been a number of changes; elders directly affected had been consulted and were happy with the changes.

David Dundas stated that there were 67 members in the "Postal District". Sheets would be prepared and distributed to elders showing the Districts for which each elder was responsible and the constitution of the Eldership Teams. Shelia McIntosh volunteered to visit members

who had formerly been in Eddie Paterson's district and Grace Scott volunteered to visit members who had formerly been in Robert Dunsmuir's District.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder said that the last Presbytery meeting took place the day following the last Session Meeting. He believed the following points would be of interest.

- Rev Norman Shanks was inducted as Moderator.
- Rev Harry Hutcheson has been inducted to Cathcart South.
- A vacancy had been declared at Greenbank Church.
- The Guild had donated £49000 to the Lodging House Mission.
- Rev Ross MacDonald had resigned from the Lodging House Mission.
- Orchardhill Parish Church were given permission to spend £127,000 on modifications to the sanctuary and the provision of disabled access to the church.
- Church House was celebrating 60 years of service with a service in St Francis in the East Church in November.
- Queen Mary House, the Church of Scotland residential home near Queens Park, has been closed.
- If a congregation receives a letter regarding Data Protection, the Presbytery Clerk should be consulted before any response is made.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 11th November 2002.

10 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY, 11th NOVEMBER 2002 AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 108 and prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Miss Janet Stewart, Miss Jess Thomson, Messers Douglas Brown, David Dundas, Alastair Graham, Bob Hutcheson, Fraser Mackintosh.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 26 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A Draft Minute of the meeting held on Monday, 7th October 2002, had been previously circulated. One error was highlighted in Section 8. Rev Harry Hutcheson had not been inducted to Cathcart South but was acting as locum. With this amendment the minutes were approved and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Course for Elders and Members on Leading Worship

The Moderator expressed some disappointment at the small number of elders from Stamperland who had attended the training course being given by Sheilah Steven. The course had been excellent. Both Margo Neilson and Pat McIlraith said that while they had found it quite challenging, they had learned a lot.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Christmas Cards and Proposed Services over the Christmas Period

The Moderator stated that the Christmas Cards were ready to be printed once the Session had agreed the services over the Christmas Period. It was proposed that the services at 9.45 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. would be held each Sunday. On Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of December, the Sacrament of Communion would involve the use of the Common Cup at the early service. There would be “Christmas activities” at the early services on the following two Sundays with an “unrehearsed Nativity Play” on the Sunday before Christmas and a “Christingle Service” on the 29th December. It was proposed that children from Netherlee Primary School choirs and bands would perform a series of readings and musical items in the church on the evening of the 22nd December; following this there would be refreshments for the children and the congregation. There would be a Watchnight Service on the 24th December with Carol Singing from 11.15 p.m. with soup being served after the service. A short service of Communion would be on Christmas Day at 11.00 a.m. and there would also be Communion following the 11.00 a.m. service on the first Sunday of the New Year. The Kirk Session agreed that the services should be held as proposed.

6.1.2 Holiday and Study Leave

The Moderator intimated that he still had two Sunday’s to take as leave before the end of 2002 and that he planned to carry one forward to 2003.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from the Serving Committee

The Clerk read a letter from the Serving Committee in which they intimated that the total sum of money collected in relation to the Harvest Gift Aid Service was £720.46. This was a reduction on the previous years’ totals which were £1059.55 in 1999, £1329.27 in 2000 and £1040.59 in 2001 respectively. The committee requested that they wished to be relieved of the remit given to it by the Kirk Session. The committee was originally established as part of the Millennium celebrations and it was now three years on from that time. There had also been a lack of information from Concern about the North Kalu Project which the Harvest Gifts were supporting and it was felt that it might be appropriate to support an alternative project. The members of the committee were willing to assist in future Harvest Projects if the Session deemed that this was an appropriate way of celebrating Harvest.

The Session commended the work undertaken by the Committee and requested that the Clerk write to the Committee thanking them for their hard work. The total raised in support of Concern over the four year period was £4149.87. The enthusiasm and effort expended by Tom McPherson was especially commended. The remit given to the committee had been discharged.

The Session agreed that supporting some kind of overseas aid project was a very appropriate way of celebrating Harvest. Members of the committee should be asked if they would like to re-form, review options for supporting an alternative Aid Project and report to the Kirk Session in the Spring.

The Clerk was also asked to liase with Tom McPherson to ensure that an article was published in Focus. He was also asked to see if information about the Church’s support for Concern could be published in the Extra.

The Moderator read out to the Meeting an extract from an anonymous note which had been returned in a Harvest Envelope by a member of the congregation. The note contained foul and offensive language. The meeting expressed dismay that someone within the congregation would stoop to this level.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion duties

Margo Neilson stated that with the congregation being seated in the centre pews only, there was a reduction in the number of elders required to serve communion. The new duties were explained.

7 ROLLKEEPER

In the absence of the Roll Keeper the Moderator presented the Roll Keeper's report.

Name	From	District	To	District
Change of address				
Mrs Janice McEwan	12 Randolph Gardens	44	55 Nethervale Ave	44
Mr William Phillips	29 Netherburn Ave	57	Flat 2H Hazelden Park Muirend G44 3HA	59
Mrs Lesley M Phillips	29 Netherburn Ave	57	Flat 2H Hazelden Park Muirend G44 3HA	59
Mr William Corrie	55 Nethervale Ave	44	Address unknown	
Mrs Doreen Corrie	55 Nethervale Ave	44	Address unknown	
New Member				
Mrs Margaret Campbell	98 The Oval G76 8LZ	7		

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Gordon Robertson reported the following points from the Presbytery Meeting of 8th October

Law & Property

The convenor reminded presbyters that all gutters and downpipes should be cleaned of leaves, etc., since failure to ensure proper drainage can lead to wet and dry rot. Any flickering fluorescent light should be replaced immediately as ninety per cent of fires are apparently caused by flickering tubes.

Presbytery Newsletter

Mr Ken Simon, a freelance journalist has agreed to undertake the reporting aspect of producing the presbytery newsletter. It is hoped to produce a Newsletter before the next meeting of presbytery on the 12th November.

Mission Strategy Reappraisal Sub-committee - Greenbank

This congregation was visited on the 16th September. Permission to call a new minister was delayed until the Superintendence Committee agreed. A period of recovery is required. Meantime, the Board of Ministry is to discuss with the congregation the possible interim ministry.

The Well, Allison Street

Guild funding ceases in 2003. New sources of funding are required.

World Mission

Mrs Shirley Brown from Edinburgh gave a meaningful talk on HIV/AIDS and what the Church is doing to combat this "silent" disease.

Lodging House Mission

Robert Hutton appointed Chief Executive from 7th October 2002.

Cathcart and New Cathcart

The Union will use Cathcart South Church Building. The Service of Union will be held on Tuesday 19th November at 7.00 pm

9 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

9.1 Nomination Committee

Pat McIlraith presented to the Session names of people who might be approached in connection with becoming elders. The names were: Ray McNiven, Norman Walker, Donny Thompson, Andrew Clark, Emily Clark, Sheena Skelton, Forrest Morton and Derek Brown. The name Alastair Norrie was mentioned and it was recommended that Jess Thompson be consulted before Mr Norrie was approached. The Session was content with these names.

10 ELDERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Moderator explained that the Assembly Council had requested each congregation to discuss the role of the Eldership in the 21st Century. As a precursor to the discussion the Moderator gave a PowerPoint presentation on the historical role of the elder starting from Biblical times but concentrating more on the changing roles from the time of Knox at the end of the sixteenth century through the major changes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Session then broke into four groups, each group discussing four or five of the questions specified by the Assembly Council.

Written summaries of the group discussions were passed to the Session Clerk who was tasked with writing a précis of the views expressed and forwarding it to the Assembly Council.

11 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Sunday, 12th January immediately following Morning Worship. At this meeting the sole business would be the attestation of the Communion Roll and the election of the Presbytery Elder. The date of the next full meeting was confirmed as Monday, 10th February 2003.

12 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

.....
Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING

**Held on Sunday 12th January 2003 in Stamperland Parish Church,
immediately after Morning Worship in Stamperland Parish Church**

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a prayer.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Moderator welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Miss Jan Barr, Mrs Janis Herriot and Mr Jim Currie who were on Offering Duty. Apologies were also received from Mrs Anne Bruce, Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Miss Janet Stewart and Messers. Willie Anderson, John Curror, Jack Halliday, James Mathieson, and Gordon Robertson,

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev Alastair J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 22 ruling elders.

4 ATTESTATION OF ROLL

The Roll Keeper, David Dundas, made the Communion Roll was available for inspection. A table showing the Communion Roll Statistics for the year ending 31st December 2002 was passed to the Moderator and read to the Elders. The figures are reproduced below. The Elders present agreed that the Communion Roll Statistics be recorded as tabulated.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2001	490
Number removed from Roll during 2002	
by Death	15
by Certificate	3
by Otherwise	4
	22
Number added to Roll during 2002	
by Profession	0
by Certificate	8
by Otherwise	1
	9
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2002	477
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31 st December 2002	21

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for all of the work which he undertook as Roll Keeper.

5 APPOINTMENT OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator stated that Gordon Robertson had indicated he no longer wished to serve as Presbytery Elder. He stated that Anne MacKenzie had indicated her willingness to serve as Presbytery Elder asked whether any other elder wished to serve as Presbytery Elder. With no one present indicating any desire to serve, the Moderator asked those present if they were minded to elect Anne MacKenzie as Presbytery Elder. There was unanimous approval and the moderator declared Anne MacKenzie to be duly elected as Presbytery Elder.

6 NOMINATION OF ELDER TO BE APPOINTED AS COMMISSIONER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Moderator announced that Kirk Session has been invited to nominate an elder for appointment as a Commissioner to the General Assembly which will be held over the period 17th May to 23rd May. The Moderator asked if the Session would agree to the choice being made by consultation between the Minister, Session Clerk and possible elders. The Kirk Session agreed this arrangement.

7 APPOINTMENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The Moderator stated that changes were being implemented with the arrangements for the All-age services. The numbers of children attending the early service had been disappointing and there was a need to develop and fine-tune the format of the service and the types of activities being undertaken by the young ones. There was a need for a “Sunday School Superintendent” to oversee the arrangements. Margo Neilson would act as Superintendent until May. Elders were asked to consider names of people who could undertake this very important role.

8 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with benediction

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY, 10th FEBRUARY 2003
AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator opened the meeting with a reading from I Corinthians Chapter 13 and prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Ann Bruce, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Jan Barr, Mr Alastair Graham and Fraser Mackintosh.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 29 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 11th November 2002 and Sunday 12th January, had been previously circulated. One error was highlighted in Section 8 of the Minute of 11th November - the name of the Chief Executive of the Lodging House Mission should have read "Robert Latta". With this amendment the minutes were approved and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Nomination of Elder as Commissioner to the General Assembly

The Moderator stated that the Clerk had asked a number of elders if they would be willing to a commissioner to the General Assembly but that no one had indicated an ability to attend. It was important that an elder did attend. Mrs Anne MacKenzie said that if no one wished to go she would be willing to be nominated. All present were unanimous in agreeing that Mrs Mackenzie's name should be forwarded to the Presbytery Clerk.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Holy Week Services

The Moderator stated that since the local churches stopped having joint services during Holy Week we had held services each evening in our own church with an additional service at noon on the Saturday. The Moderator also said that he had been approached by the minister of Netherlee Parish Church with a suggestion that Stamperland and Netherlee held joint services on the Thursday and Friday evenings. It was agreed that this was a good idea and should be pursued. One service would be held in each church and the Moderator said that he and Rev Tom Nelson would decide the arrangements for both services. Subsequent to the Session Meeting it was agreed that the Thursday service of Holy Communion would be held in Stamperland Church.

The Moderator stated that he was minded to hold a service on Good Friday afternoon between 14.00 and 15.00 and asked the Session for their views. It was stated that few people attended the Friday afternoon service at St Aidans and the Session considered that the number of people who might attend would be small. It was decided that there should not be an afternoon service on Good Friday.

6.1.2 Holiday and Study Leave

The Moderator intimated that he planned to take a week's leave starting on 16th March. The Rev Alex Noble, a former minister of Fyvie linked with Rothienorman would conduct worship on Sunday, 16th March.

6.1.3 Early Service

The Moderator stated that the Early Morning Service had experienced a period of poor attendance around Christmas. During Advent it had been decided to provide activities for all people attending the service. However, some of the older members in the congregation had felt unwilling or uncomfortable about participating. It was also apparent that the number of

children attending the service had fallen since the launch of the new format.

A meeting had been arranged to plan the activities for January and February. At this meeting it became apparent that the type of activities which were recommended for the children in the guidance material were inappropriate and uninspiring and, in the main, appeared to comprise either wordsearches or pictures to be coloured in. A number of alternative approaches were considered including reverting to the original structure of the Sunday Schools and building on the new concept by incorporating more interesting activities and adopting changes to the format of the service. There were problems with reverting to the original format not least that there were insufficient Sunday School teachers. Those present at the planning meeting decided to retain the current format but implement changes.

The Moderator stated that Margo Neilson and Nancy Fisher were leading the group overseeing the children's side of the Service. All families with children were being visited to find out what problems, if any, were being caused by the new arrangements and hear the parents' views on what they would like to see happening.

Margo Neilson stated that the group were working well together. The initial feedback from some parents was that the starting time of 9.45 was too early for some children. Some responses indicated that parents had misinterpreted aspects of the letter sent to all households before the start of the new early service. A number of parents believed that children could attend only if accompanied by a parent. A number of parents felt that, whilst they could bring their children to the church hall and leave them there, they would be "too embarrassed" to bring their children into church, leave them there and walk out. The group were working to dispel these misunderstandings.

The Moderator asked the Session to be patient. Mrs Neilson would lead the group organising the children's part of the service and she would continue to do this until the end of May. However, the Moderator said that it would be necessary to appoint a Superintendent before the start of the next "Sunday School" Session. It was agreed that the current format of early service would be maintained until the end of May and the situation would be reviewed at that time.

There was discussion about a number of aspects of the Service. The Moderator stated that some members had told him they missed seeing children at the 11 o'clock service. Sam Esler agreed and said that there should be a Family Service at 11.00. The Moderator said that an 11.00 Service might be appropriate for "Festival Sundays" such as Palm Sunday and Easter Day and school holidays. David Stewart stated that he found the 11.00 am Service to be "sparsely populated". Whilst agreeing, the Moderator said that the 9.45 service was attracting reasonable numbers of adults who were not accompanied by children or families. George Fraser said that it might be helpful to have an article in Focus telling members about the format of the service and its purpose. Other elders made a variety of comments.

Concluding the discussion the Moderator reminded the Session that it took Orchardhill Parish Church three years to develop its successful early service. Whilst we had to try to reach out to the community and be faithful in our service it was important to heed local opinion and recognise that changes might have to be made. There was, he said, a general malaise within the wider church. Within our own church, the Moderator said that he had listed that very afternoon some 62 members who were once quite active but whom he believed were no longer actively involved. Sam Esler said that the Kirk Session was wholly behind the change, wanted to know exactly what was happening and was prepared to give the changes time to settle. It was suggested that Elders should ask members their views on the changes when they were visiting their districts.

Margo Neilson said that she would like to leave the Session with a positive view of the current situation. The volunteers who were now involved with the early service were enthusiastic and very good. New people, not previously involved with the Sunday School, were participating and the teenagers who had been attending the previous year were returning.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Jim Currie

The Clerk read a letter which he had received from Jim Currie shortly after the Kirk Session

meeting in November. In his letter Jim Currie said that wished to resign as Youth Convenor. As the consequence of work commitments he was not able to give the role the attention it deserved. The Moderator thanked Jim for all of the work he had undertaken as Youth Convenor and all elders present agreed with this expression of thanks

6.2.2 Correspondence related to the proposed hot food shop at 145 Stamperland Gardens

The Clerk summarised some of the correspondence relating to the proposed hot food shop. He said that the church's objections had been received by Eastwood Council and that George Fraser had attended part of a Planning Applications Committee meeting on 21st January to address the Committee on our objections. At the meeting Mr Fraser re-stated the objections which included concern for the safety of young people attending youth organisations as well as potential problems with litter and youth gathering in the vicinity. The local councillor was against the development, the Reporter to the Scottish Executive had turned down a similar development at 143 Stamperland Gardens in March 2002 and the siting of a hot food takeaway shop was against the local authority local plan for the area. The outcome of the meeting was that members of the Planning Committee would visit the location. There would be a further meeting of the Planning Committee at which a decision would be taken.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion duties

Margo Neilson said that she was approaching elders to ascertain their availability for Communion Duties. Additionally, she intimated that the rolls sheets and invitation cards were available.

7 ROLLKEEPER

David Dundas intimated the deaths of five members. They were

Mrs Mary Dixon	80 Stamperland Drive	District 18
Mr Kenneth J. A. Stewart	7 Orchy Avenue	District 41
Mrs Susan Duff	St John's Nursing Home	District 60
Mrs Amie Laing	7B Fairfield Court	District 56
Miss Catherine Harvey	37 Gloucester Avenue	District 54

Four changes of address were intimated. These were

Name	Address	District	To	District
Mrs Doreen E. Donaldson	3 Stamperland Avenue	11	27 Duffield Drive Largs KA30	59
Mrs Nan Spencer		51	Mansion House Unit	60
Mrs Mary Wilkieson		53	Mearnskirk	60
Mrs Janet Quietsch		53	Mearnskirk	60

David Dundas asked whether anyone knew of the intentions of Mrs Margaret Tennant, 81 Nethervale Avenue, regarding church membership. Her elder had reported that she believed Mrs Tennant was not interested in the church. Grace Scott stated that she delivered Focus to Mr and Mrs Tennant and she believed there was some interest. The Session agreed that Mrs Tennant's name should remain on the roll..

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

There had been no meeting of Presbytery since the last Meeting of the Kirk Session.

9 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

9.1 Nomination Committee

Pat McIlraith stated that she had spoken to the members named at the November meeting of the Kirk Session. Mrs Ray McNiven was willing to serve as an Elder and be admitted to the Kirk Session. Mrs Sheena Skelton, Mrs Sylvia Bell and Mr Forrest Morton would not rule

out considering being nominated. Mrs Margot Young wished to have further time and Mr Norman Walker wished for further time to consider the issue. The Moderator asked that Mrs McIlraith should try to get firm responses from these members in advance of the March Session Meeting.

9.2 Review of Committee Structure

The Moderator suggested that the Business Committee review the existing committee structure and report back to the Session with recommendations.

10 DISTRIBUTION OF OTHERS' FUND

The Clerk intimated that the balance in the Others' Fund was just over £400. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that donations of £100 be given to each of:

- The Lodging House Mission
- Eastwoodhill
- Williamwood House
- Erskine Hospital.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 10th March 2003.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

David Stewart said that he wished to compliment David Cochran for his excellent solo at the Morning Service on the previous day. All elders present agreed offering expressions of praise and thanks.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY, 10th MARCH 2003
AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator opened the meeting with a reading from Mathew Chapter 25 and prayer.

2 TRIBUTE TO KENNETH STEWART

The Moderator paid tribute to Kenneth Stewart who died in December 2002. The Moderator then led the Kirk Session in prayer, thanking God for Ken's life and work and asking God to give courage and strength to Ken's family and, particularly, his daughters Elisobeth and Janet. A copy of the Tribute is filed in an Annex.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Margo Neilson, Miss Grace Scott and Miss Jess Thomson and Messers Alastair Graham, David Dundas, Sam Esler, Bob Hutcheson, Fraser Mackintosh and David Stewart.

4 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 28 ruling elders.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 10th February 2003 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Three minor errors had been found in the Draft Minute and each had been corrected before the printing of the final version of the minutes. The final version of the minutes was approved and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Proposed hot food shop at 145 Stamperland Gardens

The Moderator intimated that the appeal against granting permission for the operation of a hot food shop at 145 Stamperland Gardens had been unsuccessful.

7 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Donations in Memory of Fiona Cherry

The Moderator stated that he had written to the Guild thanking them for their donation of the pulpit fall in memory of his wife, Fiona. He intimated that, at the end of March, he planned to dedicate a small silver bread plate gifted, in memory of Fiona, by the Cherry Family.

7.1.2 Holy Week Services

The Moderator confirmed that the Holy Week Services would be held in the church on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings starting at 7.00 p.m. On the Thursday, he would conduct the service of Holy Communion with Rev Tom Nelson of Netherlee Parish Church preaching the sermon. On Good Friday the service would be held at Netherlee with Rev Tom Nelson conducting and the Moderator giving the address. There would be a service in the church at noon on the Saturday.

7.1.2 Holiday Pulpit Supply

The Moderator said that he was finding it impossibly difficult to get pulpit supply for July and was considering changing his holiday plans. The Kirk Session agreed that they would lead worship on the second last Sunday of July. Mr Eric Cooper would conduct worship on the last Sunday of July. The Moderator then took the decision to cancel his third week's holiday as no-one could be found to conduct worship that Sunday.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Letter Church of Scotland HIV/Aids Co-ordinator

The Clerk read sections of a letter which he had received from Nigel Pounce the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project Co-ordinator. The letter had accompanied a delivery of some 300 appeal leaflets and had requested that an appeal leaflet be delivered to each household. It was explained that, during Lent 2003, the Church of Scotland is embarking on an ambitious project to raise much needed funds as part of its HIV/AIDS project, led by the Board of World Mission. This project was adopted by the General Assembly in 2002. Using the money donated through the Lent appeal, the Church of Scotland would work with partner churches across the world to help educate people about HIV, provide orphan care, assist in home-based care and help those affected by the disease to develop their life skills. The Session agreed that the leaflet should be delivered along with copies of the April edition of Focus

8 ROLLKEEPER

The Clerk read out the report handed in by the Roll Keeper before he went on holiday. There had been one death:

Mrs Mary Wilkieson

Mearns Kirk Hospital

District 60.

Two change of address were noted:

Name	Address	District	To	District
Mrs Marjorie Morrison	Clarkston Road	52	Balvard West Abercrombie St Helensburgh	60
Mrs Thompson	Strawhill Court		Bishops Waltham Hampshire	60

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

A printed report of the Presbytery meeting on 11th February 2003, was circulated to elders present at the meeting. The report was accepted and is filed as an Appendix.

10 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Business Committee

The Moderator stated that to meet the business commitments of the Session Clerk the Business Committee was meeting on a Sunday afternoon one or two weeks prior to a Session Meeting. The last meeting of the Business Committee included an examination of the structure and operation of the permanent committees. It was clear that the committees were not meeting and working as had been the original intention and it had been agreed that Elders should discuss possible options for the future of the permanent committees.

10.2 Nomination Committee

Pat McIlraith was not present at the meeting and was not able to report on developments since the last Session meeting. However, it was reported that Norman Walker had asked to be allowed until the end of March before making his decision. Forest Morton had intimated that he would prefer to wait a little longer. Mrs Sheena Skelton had asked not to be considered. The Moderator said that he would speak to Mrs Sylvia Bell.

The Moderator said that with the Session's permission he would admit Mrs Ray McNiven before the June Communion. The Session agreed that Mrs McNiven should be admitted.

10.3 Worship Committee

The Moderator stated that a Committee meets to plan the Early Morning Service. It was proposed that there should be no 9.45 a.m. Morning Service on the first and last Sundays in May which were holiday weekends nor on Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday or the first Sunday in June. From the second Sunday in June there would be one service of Morning Worship at 10 a.m. The Session agreed with these proposals.

The Moderator said that one member had made it known that they were somewhat displeased with the request that members should not sit in the side pews. He suggested that the notices which asked the congregation to use only the centre pews, should be removed for all but the four Communion Sundays. The Session agreed this suggestion.

11 REVISION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES

The Moderator said that it was clear that the committee structure was not working as intended and it was necessary to make some changes. Prior to the meeting, elders had been given a document describing the Kirk Session Committee Structure, the aims, goals and the terms of reference of each committee. The Moderator asked elders to discuss the committee structure in small groups and report each group's views on the way ahead.

Reporting back the view of the first group, Jim Currie said that the committee structure allows business to be done outside Session Meetings and prevents long Session Meetings. Sub-committees need to be worthwhile and have clear roles. Committees will only be as effective as the convenor and, hence, the choice of convenor is important. There was a suggestion that some committees should be combined and that not all committees need report to the Kirk Session at each Session meeting.

Stuart Bruce, speaking for the second group, said that there was a feeling there were too many committees and several committees should be combined thereby giving fewer, larger groups. Possible combined committees might be Publicity and Nominations, Adult Education and Children's Ministry, World Mission and Mission. The committees should not

necessarily be required to report at each Session Meeting. However, committees would be required to bring to the attention of the Kirk Session, matters of importance at the earliest opportunity.

George Fraser, spokesman for the third group, said that many of the points raised in his group had already been mentioned. There were many benefits to having a committee structure. It provides a vehicle for making the best use of people's talents and skills, for developing their interests in specific areas and is very good way of training people. One drawback of having committees is that they inevitably require more meetings and there is a need for co-ordination and control. The group was in agreement with the concept of committees but felt that the number could be reduced and that the terms of reference could be brought up-to-date.

Connel Cranston, reporting for the fourth group said that his group felt there would be difficulties resourcing eight committees and that the number should be reduced. Consideration should also be given to establishing *ad-hoc* committees to cover specific issues. Finally, Janet Stewart, speaking for the fifth group, said that the previous speakers had covered all of the points raised by the fifth group.

In general discussion it was confirmed that it was not compulsory for an elder to be a member of a committee. The Moderator said that we could only work with the resources we had; our lifestyle was quite different from that of people in the 1940s yet the manner in which the Kirk Session operated was much the same as it did sixty years ago. Was there a requirement for as many Session Meetings?

It was agreed that the Business Committee would review the opinions of the elders on the committee structure and come back with suggestions at a future meeting.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Spring Fair

The Session were reminded of the Spring Fair and asked, in particular, to organise the Plant Stall. Mrs Edith Moseley agreed to order plants and Elders agreed to assist in whatever capacity they could on the day of the Spring Fair.

12.2 Study Day or Retreat

The Moderator asked Elders to consider whether they would like to have a Study Day or even a weekend retreat in the near future. Elders were asked to let the Moderator know their views.

12.3 Stewardship Campaign

The Moderator stated that plans would need to be drawn up for a Stewardship Campaign to be held in September or early October. Mrs Jane Curror said that she was planning to attend a training meeting on Stewardship on the 5th April and would report back to the Session.

12.4 Gift Aid

Mrs Sandra Halliday stated that Gift Aid was more flexible than the Deed of Covenant system. There was no longer a requirement for a minimum period of four years. No time scale was specified. A one-off donation could be made via Gift Aid. It was agreed that there should be an article in Focus describing the arrangements for Gift Aid.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 7th April 2003.

14 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
KIRK SESSION MEETING ON SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2003
AT 10.45 AM IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator opened the meeting with scripture reading and prayer.

2 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 30 ruling elders.

3 ADMSSION OF Mrs RACHEL McNIVEN TO THE ELDERSHIP

The Moderator stated that the purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the admission of Mrs Rachel McNiven to the Eldership. Mr Cherry asked the Clerk whether anyone had come forward with any objections to the admission of Mrs McNiven and was told that no one had. The Session then processed to Morning Worship during which Mrs McNiven signed the Formula, was admitted to the Eldership of Stamperland Parish Church and was greeted with the Right Hand of Fellowship by all Elders present at the service.

4 WELCOME

Following Morning Worship, the Elders returned to the Session Room where Margo Neilson welcomed Ray to the Kirk Session. She stated that the elders looked forward to Ray's participation in the work of the Session and to her contributions and hoped everyone could learn from Ray's previous experience as an elder in Kelvin Stevenson Memorial Church.

5 MODERATOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Towards the close of Morning Worship the Moderator had announced to the Congregation that he had been selected as sole nominee for the vacant charge of Penilee St. Andrew Church and that he would preach there on Sunday, 11th May. It was, thus, almost certain that he would take his leave of Stamperland Parish Church on Sunday, 8th June.

The Clerk told the Moderator that Elders and members of the Congregation had heard the news with sadness but would understand many of the reasons for the Moderator's decision. The decision would not have been taken lightly but only after much deliberation and prayerful thought. Members would wish him well in his future charge. The clerk said that there would be opportunity, in the coming weeks, to look back on Mr Cherry's ministry in Stamperland.

The Clerk also said that Elders and members would also feel somewhat apprehensive of the future. It had been most appropriate that, in both of that morning's sermons, Mr Cherry had talked about how doubts and fears could be overcome by faith; how it was the elder's duty to breathe new life into the community; how it was the elder's duty to be cheerful and faithful. At a time such as this, it was important that the Kirk Session held on to these ideals, supported each other and worked to give a lead to the congregation.

The Moderator said that he had felt somewhat unsettled during the last 18 months. The decision to move had not been easy. Having served some 16 years in Stamperland he was probably the longest-serving minister in Stamperland's history. He would be moving to a church where there would be many different and difficult challenges. The church was an "urban priority area parish" but, although there were only around 180 members, the church was financially self-supporting. He did feel that the decision to move was the right one.

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Moderator closed the meeting with prayer and benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY 12th MAY 2003
AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator opened the meeting with scripture reading from 2 Timothy Chapter 4 and prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Jennie Fraser, Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mrs Sandra Halliday, Mrs Anne MacKenzie, Miss Jess Thomson and Messers Willie Anderson, John Curror, Sam Esler, Jim Gillespie, Bob Hutcheson, Fraser Mackintosh, Gordon Robertson, Bill Shaw, David Stewart and Donald Wood.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev A J Cherry, B.A., B.D. and 28 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 10th March and Sunday, 27th April had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Minutes as circulated were approved and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Spring Fair

The Moderator thanked all of the elders who had assisted at the Spring Fair and, in particular, those who had braved the cold wind and served at the plant stall.

6.1.2 Holy Week Services

The Moderator thanked all who had attended the Holy Week Services. He said that there had been a very good atmosphere at the services held in association with Netherlee Parish Church.

6.1.3 Forthcoming Vacancy

The Moderator said that he had preached as sole nominee at Penilee St Andrew. Out of a membership of 178, 119 members had voted to call him with none against. Glasgow Presbytery would deal with the call and translation at the meeting on the 13th May.

The Moderator said that he would lead the Communion Service at Stamperland on the 1st June and that his final service at Stamperland would be Sunday, 8th June. The date set for his induction to Penilee was provisionally the 19th June.

The Interim Moderator at Stamperland was likely to be Rev James Whyte of Broom Parish Church. Mr Whyte would probably arrange a locum.

Mr Cherry said he wished to crave the indulgence of the Kirk Session and ask that he be allowed to stay in the Manse at 109 Ormonde Avenue until mid-September. The Kirk Session agreed unanimously that Mr Cherry should continue to reside in Stamperland Manse until such time as the Manse at Penilee was fully ready for his occupation.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Report of the Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, May 11th

The Session Clerk stated that Rev Alastair Shaw had conducted a meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, 11th May. Having previously read the Edict from the Clerk to the Presbytery of Glasgow in the face of the congregations at the 9.45 am and 11.00 am Services, Mr Shaw read a letter from the Rev Alastair Cherry addressed to Mr Norman Bolton. In this letter, the Rev Alastair Cherry intimated that he gave authority for the Rev

Alistair Shaw, minister elect of St Paul's Church, Johnston, to act in his place at the Meeting of the Congregation.

The Rev Alistair Shaw opened the Meeting of the Congregation with prayer. Mr Shaw then explained that the purpose of the meeting was to elect commissioners who would attend the meeting of Glasgow Presbytery on Tuesday, 13th May when the call for Mr Cherry to be the new minister of Penilee St Andrew would be dealt with. The following seven members volunteered; Mrs Kay Bolton, Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Edith Moseley, Mrs Margo Neilson, Mr Stuart Bruce and Mr Bill Paterson. Mr Shaw then asked whether anyone attending the Meeting of the Congregation had any questions. There being no questions, the Rev Alistair Shaw thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting with benediction.

6.2.2 Letter from the Harvest Committee

The Clerk read a letter from the Serving Committee in which they proposed that Harvest be celebrated by seeking donations to support work related to assisting children both at home and overseas. The committee recommended that the donations would be split between two charities, The Children's Hospice Association and Save the Children, that a speaker from each charity would be invited to address the congregation at two separate Sundays in September, that a light lunch would be organised for the Harvest Sunday after the 11am service and that tea and coffee would be made available between the two morning services. The Session agreed with these proposals. The clerk was asked to write to the convenor, Mr Tom MacPherson, and convey the Session's appreciation of all of the committee's efforts and to indicate that they should not hesitate to ask if they wished assistance from the Elders.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion Duties

Margo Neilson said that the Duty List for the Communion on Sunday 1st June was on display and elders were asked to confirm their attendance.

7 ROLLKEEPER

7.1 New members

The Moderator stated that there was a proposed new member, Mr Hooper, 36 Cromarty Gardens (District 45). The Moderator said that he had visited Mr Hooper and that Mr Hooper had been attending church regularly since then. The Kirk Session agreed that Mr Hooper be added to the roll by resolution of the Kirk Session.

The Roll Keeper stated that Mrs Alison Linich, 85 Monteith Drive (District 30) had transferred from King's Park Parish Church.

7.2 Removal of Members

The Roll Keeper intimated the death of Mrs Agnes Simpson, 14 The Oval (District 38).

David Dundas asked whether Mrs Margaret Thomson, who had moved permanently from Strawhill Court to Hampshire, should be removed from the roll. It was agreed that Mrs Thomson's name should be removed.

7.3 Change of Address

David Dundas intimated three changes of address

Name	Address	District	To	District
Mr Neil Johnstone & Mrs Faye Johnstone	15 Monteith Dr.	27	6 Leefield Dr	50
Mrs Sylvia Bell	15 Williamwood Park West	52	19 Beechlands Ave	54

7.4 Clarification of Use of Invitation Cards

David Dundas asked for clarification of the use of the yellow invitation card. He believed that an invitation card should normally only be used on the first visit and that no card was left on a subsequent visit unless the member being visited was not at home. Margo Neilson stated that this accorded with her understanding. Grace Scott said that housebound people liked to have a card since it could represent a tangible link with the church. George Fraser stated that he intended to raise the issue of re-introducing Communion Cards at a later date.

8 STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Convenor, Jane Curror, spoke about the planning of the next Stewardship Campaign. She stated that she had received a considerable volume of literature through monthly mailings from the Stewardship Office in Edinburgh. She had attended a Stewardship Promoters Conference in April where she had learned of the latest thinking and ideas on Stewardship. There were four themes within Stewardship – Creation, Time, Talents and Money. Jane explained that she was developing initial plans for the Stewardship Campaign which was likely to be held in late September or early October. She had been offered support by Tom MacPherson, Sandra Shaw and Margot Young as part of the planning committee but would need the enthusiastic support of all elders. The team would look at what other churches had done and consider what might be most suitable approach for Stamperland Church.

9 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

There had been no meetings of the permanent committees. The Moderator stated that the group which planned the Sunday Gang had met and had finalised arrangements for the prize giving service. Arrangements had been made to provide support for any children who were in attendance at the second Communion Service on 1st June.

10 REVISION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Following the discussions at the Session meeting on the 10th March, the Session Clerk circulated a paper showing a new structure for the Permanent Committees and described the philosophy behind its development. The proposed structure had five main committees – Management, Worship, Education, Stewardship, Parish and Beyond. The aims and objectives of each committee were outlined in the document and the aims were directly related to the Mission Statement which had been developed at Balvonie. It would be up to each committee to develop its own modus operandi. There was general agreement that the proposed committee structure was clear and the proposed arrangements should be effective. It was agreed that a simple questionnaire would be sent to all members of the Kirk Session asking elders to prioritise the committees on which they would prefer to serve. It was agreed that the Business Committee would review the completed questionnaires and appoint elders to all of the committees in advance of the meeting of the Kirk Session in September.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Mr Cherry's translation to Penilee St Andrew

David Dundas paid fulsome tribute to the work of the Moderator over the past 16 years. David said that Mr Cherry could be described as a Moderator, an Innovator and a Motivator. Since coming to Stamperland and being Moderator at Session Meetings, he had curtailed long speeches from elders, instilled a structure to meetings which encouraged controlled debate and provided essential objectivity. That did not make meetings dull and routine; meetings were often anything but that with a lot of humour. Alastair Cherry had been a Motivator, often by example. He would be amongst the first to “get the jacket off and get tore in” with an abundance of enthusiasm whether it was for the pantomime, a stall at the Spring Fair, or work to take the Christian message to others. David concluded by saying that on behalf of Kirk Session he offered the warm thanks and appreciation of all elders for all that Alastair had done and achieved with us and for us and wished the Moderator all the very best in his new charge and in the years to come.

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for his kind words and all elders for their support. He said that he would always regard his sixteen years at Stamperland as representing his “main ministry”. He would remember Stamperland for a long time – he had shared times of great joy as well as times of great sadness. He had many memories – the Balvonie experiences, shared communions, memories of individuals. He said that God had been in all that had been done. Mr Cherry said that one humbling aspect of Ministry is the number of times people would say how much help you had given them and you, yourself, were unaware of having done anything.

Alastair said that he had been loved by his last two congregations and hoped that he would be loved by the next one. He recalled that one elder had said of him, “There’s one thing wrong with our minister – he wants it done yesterday”. “Patience”, said Mr Cherry, “was never my middle name” and he thanked elders for bearing with him.

11.2 Potential timetable of events during the vacancy

The Moderator stated it was likely that Rev Jim Whyte would preach the church vacant on the 22 June. In September, a team from Mission Strategy would come to Stamperland and ask questions of the Session and Board. The Session Clerk would be requested to complete a questionnaire seeking a wide range of statistics relating to the church. Recommendations regarding the future of the congregation and the right to call a minister would be discussed by Glasgow Presbytery and the Presbytery’s recommendation would be sent to Edinburgh. Edinburgh’s decision would be relayed to Glasgow Presbytery who would then inform the congregation. The Presbytery Forward Plan showed Stamperland as being a viable congregation and the Moderator considered it likely that Stamperland would be given permission to call a minister on a “renewable tenure”. The processes could be quite lengthy and it could take about one year to fill the vacant charge.

12 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Moderator stated that dates for future Session Meetings would have to be agreed with the Interim Moderator. However, the following dates should be noted as potential dates.

- 2003 Monday, 8th September
 Monday, 6th October
 Monday, 10th November
- 2004 Sunday, 11th January, after Morning Worship (to attest roll and elect Presbytery Elder)
 Monday, 9th February
 Monday, 9th March
 Monday, 5th April
 Monday, 10th May

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Moderator asked the elders to be upstanding and the meeting was closed with all present repeating the Doxology.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH KIRK SESSION MEETING ON SUNDAY 10th AUGUST 2003 AFER MORNING WORSHIP

1 CONSTITUTION

The Interim Moderator, Rev James Whyte, B.D. opened the meeting with prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Ann Bruce and Messers Stuart Bruce and Jack Halliday.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev James Whyte, B.D., the Rev Lily McKinnon and 30 ruling elders.

4 CARETAKER OCCUPATION OF STAMPERLAND MANSE

The Interim Moderator reviewed some of the events which had followed the request from the Franciscan Sisters who had offered to undertake “caretaker occupation” of the Manse from the time at which the Rev Alastair Cherry would vacate the Manse for a period of around six months. A meeting of the Congregational Board held on Sunday, 13th July had given approval to continue investigating the option of “caretaker occupation” and had requested that the option of “commercially leasing the manse” also be considered.

Mr Whyte said that whilst a “commercial lease” might look financially more attractive, experience had shown that this was not always the best option. The most common problem with a commercial lease was that, at the end of the lease or at the time when the church required the full use of the manse, the tenant was unwilling to leave. Recourse to legal redress was not always satisfactory and it was easily possible to envisage situations which could prove embarrassing to the church. Mr Whyte stated that he recommended the “caretaker option” with the Franciscan Sisters as the better option but wished to hear if the Kirk Session were otherwise minded.

Various elders asked questions and sought points of clarification. In response to certain points, the Clerk quoted extracts from correspondence he had had with the General Trustees. The Sisters would sign the standard agreement for “caretaker occupation” which was used by the General Trustees. The agreement would be between The Church of Scotland General Trustees and the Sisters. The Sisters would be responsible for the payment of Council Tax, all bills relating to use of gas, electricity, telephone, etc.. Stamperland Church would be responsible for insuring the property. Only the Sisters would live in the building and the property could not be used in a way which the General Trustees considered inappropriate. The Session considered that it would be inappropriate to have numbers of asylum seekers staying in the Manse during caretaker occupation and the Clerk was instructed to inform the General Trustees of this view.

Sam Esler stated that the manse had, in the past, been leased and there had been no problems. Alastair Graham stated that as long as the “Caretakers” signed an appropriate and legal contract he believed there should be no problems.

The Kirk Session agreed that the Franciscan Sisters should be offered “caretaker occupation” of the Manse.

Mr Whyte recommended that the church sought to conserve the current telephone number at the Manse.

5 TIMES OF MORNING WORSHIP

Mr Whyte stated that he had been informed that most of the teachers associated with the Sunday School / Sunday Gang would like the time of the service which was attended by the Sunday Gang to be 11 a.m. He believed it was important that there was cohesion amongst congregation and that having two separate diets of Morning Worship might not be appropriate during the vacancy. Mr Whyte proposed that from the start of September there should be one diet of worship at 11 a.m. Once a month, on the first Sunday of the month, there could be a short service at 10 a.m. to meet the needs of members who could not attend at 11 a.m. and for those involved with the Sunday Gang who could not attend regularly for the whole of the 11 a.m. service. On Communion Sundays, Communion would be celebrated at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Several elders including Alastair Graham, Sam Esler and Gordon Robertson spoke in support of the change. Mrs McKinnon stated that the leaders of the Sunday Gang wished to start the new session on Sunday, 14th September, rather than Sunday 7th September which was Communion Sunday.

The Kirk Session agreed to the proposed times of worship and to the starting date of the Sunday Gang.

In conclusion, Mr Whyte stated that it was important that the congregation were advised of the new times of Worship.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next regular Session Meeting was Monday, 8th September. Elders would meet at 10.40 a.m., prior to the Communion Service, on Sunday, 7th September.

7 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Interim Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Interim Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2003 AT 8.00 PM IN THE CHURCH

1 CONSTITUTION

The Interim Moderator, Revd James Whyte, opened the meeting with scripture reading and prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Ann Bruce, Mrs Nancy Fisher and Mrs Evelyn Graham and Messers Stuart Bruce, David Cochran George Fraser and Alastair Graham.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev James Whyte, Rev Lily McKinnon and 35 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 12th May and Sunday, 10th August had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Minutes, as circulated, were approved and signed by the Interim Moderator and Clerk.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

5 VACANCY

5.1 Current Status

The Interim Moderator reminded those present of the importance of the meeting with the Re-Appraisal Committee which was scheduled to follow on from the Session Meeting. He indicated that all contributions should be positive.

5.2 Election of Ad-hoc Committee

The Interim Moderator stated that he had spoken to the Presbytery Clerk who had advised that it would be in order to establish an ad-hoc Kirk Session committee to consider aspects arising from the vacancy and might propose an initial draft of a parish profile. Mr Whyte asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. John Currer volunteered to be the Convenor and Sam Esler, Bill Paterson, Jan Barr and Anne MacKenzie agreed to serve as members.

6. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

No correspondence or intimations.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Rev A J Cherry

The clerk read a letter which he had received from Alastair Cherry thanking the congregation for their farewell gift. He had written that he was quite overwhelmed by their generosity and could not truly adequately express his thanks.

6.2.2 Letter from E S Murray

The clerk read a letter from E S Murray Secretary of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem thanking the Kirk Session for the use of two Communion Goblets at their annual service in Wellington Church.

6.2.3 Letter from Maureen Stewart, ACTS of Eastwood

The clerk read a letter from Maureen Stewart, Acts of Eastwood. The letter advised of the regular meetings of the ACTS of Eastwood and requested payment of the annual subscription of £20. In discussion it was clear that it was not really appropriate to develop links with churches in Eastwood and the Clerk was asked to reply stating that, at present, in the current vacancy situation we did not wish to be associated with this initiative.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion Duties

Margo Neilson said that the Duty List for the September Communion was on display.

7 ROLLKEEPER

7.1 Death of Member

The Roll Keeper intimated the death of Mr David Langley, 131 The Oval (District 36).

7.2 Change of Address

David Dundas intimated four changes of address

Name	Former Address	District	New Address	District
Mrs M Stewart	8 Brackenrigg Cres.	56	3B Golf Court	51
Mrs N Spencer	Mansionhouse Unit	60	Eastwoodhill Eventide Home	56
Mr A Mair	42 Nethervale Avenue	42	25 Park Crescent Eaglesham	56
Mrs C Mair	42 Nethervale Avenue	42	25 Park Crescent Eaglesham	56

7.3 Members Transferred by Certificate

David Dundas intimated the following members had transferred.

Name	Former Address	District	To
Rev Alastair J Cherry	109 Omonde Avenue	52	Penilee
Mr Stuart Brodie	68 Randolph Drive	19	Newton Mearns
Mrs Kirsteen Brodie	68 Randolph Drive	19	Newton Mearns
Mrs Doreen Donaldson	27 Duffield Drive, Largs	59	Largs
Mrs Susan Green	43 Stamperland Hill	9	Spain
Mrs Ina Watson	12 Clerk Place, Newton Mearns	59	Newton Mearns
Mr George Kennedy	6 Randolph Gardens	44	Strathaven
Mrs Etta Kennedy	6 Randolph Gardens	44	Strathaven

7.4 Members to be Removed from the Roll

David Dundas intimated that Mrs Helen Wilson had moved away from the area and that Mrs May Torrance was now attending Cartbridge Evangelical Church. Mrs Kay Bolton, Mrs Wilson's former elder, stated that Mrs Wilson would not be returning. Mrs Anne MacKenzie said that she had spoken to Mrs Torrance and could confirm that Mrs Torrance

did not wish to continue her membership of Stamperland Church. The Kirk Session agreed that Mrs Torrance and Mrs Wilson should be removed from the roll.

8 REVISION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES

The Session Clerk circulated slips showing the proposed membership of the new set of Permanent Committees. He said that the selection attempted to take account of the preferences stated by those elders who had returned their questionnaire and if any elder wished to change the appointment they should let him know.

9 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Interim Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Interim Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY 6th OCTOBER 2003 AT 7.30 PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1 CONSTITUTION

The Interim Moderator, Revd James Whyte, opened the meeting with prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rev Mrs Lily McKinnon, Mrs Ann Bruce, Mrs Jess Thomson, Messers Stuart Bruce, David Cochran, Bob Hutcheson, and David Stewart.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev James Whyte and 29 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 8th September had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Minutes, as circulated, were approved and signed by the Interim Moderator and Clerk.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

5 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

5.1 Session Clerk

5.1.1 Letter from Tom Macpherson

The clerk read a letter which he had received from Tom Macpherson stating that he had resigned as chairperson of the Meeting Place and, as none of the committee members was willing to lead the group, the Meeting Place would no longer be able to meet. Several reasons were given: firstly, Tom indicated that he had a heavy workload with his job at the University; secondly, he said there had been instances of bad-feeling and lack of co-operation between himself and certain office bearers; thirdly, he felt that since he had been leader for a considerable number of years, a certain staleness was creeping in. Additionally, he stated that he felt that the Meeting Place had never been truly accepted by the church as a whole as an integral part of its youth policy.

The Session was disappointed by Tom's resignation. A good number of people voiced both appreciation and admiration for what the Meeting Place had done and achieved and it was generally believed that members and office bearers had supported the Meeting Place.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Tom Macpherson thanking him for his endeavours in connection with organising and running the Meeting Place. It was also agreed that the Education Group of the Session should look at the future of the Meeting Place.

5.2 Deputy Session Clerk

5.2.1 Child Protection

Margo Neilson raised a matter in connection with Child Protection. Some time ago it had been stipulated any one coming in contact with children had to complete a "disclosure form". This had resulted in an overwhelming demand for police checks and, as a result, the national criterion for requiring someone to complete a disclosure form was changed to require disclosure forms only for those regarded as "responsible" for children and not for all having contact with children. Margo said that she wished the Kirk Session to identify and agree the interpretation of a "responsible" person in the context of the church and church organisations.

After some discussion it was agreed that all adults acting as leaders or helpers, who had contact with children through organisations or activities connected with the church should be required to complete a disclosure form. The Session Clerk was instructed to write to all organisations making it clear that all adult leaders and helpers had to complete a disclosure form.

5.3 Interim Moderator

5.3.1 Rev Mrs Lily McKinnon

The Interim Moderator stated that Mrs McKinnon was currently attending a teacher training course and was not always available to undertake pastoral duties. During much of November and December Mrs Mackinnon would be working in a school most weekdays. During this period Mr Whyte said that he would cover pastoral duties such as funerals.

6 ROLLKEEPER

6.1 Death of Member

The Roll Keeper said that there were no changes to report.

7. PRESBYTERY ELDER

A printed report of the Presbytery meeting had been circulated to members. The report was accepted and was filed as an Appendix. It was reported that Rev W Douglas Lindsay of Eaglesham is on leave of absence following a heart attack.

8 STEWARDSHIP

Mrs Jane Curror intimated that the Stewardship Committee was scheduled to meet on the 15th October.

Despite the publication of an article in the October edition of Focus seeking volunteers to fill several vacant positions on Board Committees no one had approached Jane. However, Mrs Curror was pleased to report that Donald Montgomery had agreed to become the Convenor of the Interactive Committee and Alison McFarlane had agreed to be Office Manager.

9 REMIT FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Session Clerk said that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk requesting Kirk Sessions to take note of a number of changes as a result of decisions made at the General Assembly held in May 2003. Mr Whyte explained to the Session the implications of the Assembly's decisions.

9.1 Standard Constitution

All churches would move to a new unitary or standard constitution. Under this constitution, the Kirk Session would have responsibility for all aspects of the church's work including both spiritual and financial matters. There would no longer be a separate Congregational Board. The status of Elders would change. From November 2003, Presbytery would be empowered to adopt the new constitution. Its adoption by individual churches would, most likely, be phased. Mr Whyte stated that he would not recommend any changes being considered during the vacancy.

9.2 Regulations Relating to Baptism

The Assembly had made changes regarding the regulations relating to Baptism, effectively giving ministers greater discretion about whom they may baptise.

9.3 Conduct of Worship

The Assembly had made changes in the regulations regarding who may conduct worship and will probably introduce formal standards defining who may conduct worship. At present, any person may lead worship as long as the Kirk Session and Moderator are agreeable. Mrs Jennie Fraser raised the point that, following the course on Leading Worship given by Sheilagh Stevens, none of the people who had attended the course had received any paperwork to indicate that they had been trained in leading worship or were able to lead worship. Mr Whyte stated that those who had completed the course were able to lead worship. He undertook to raise the question of providing some form of certificate with Mrs Stevens.

9.4 Sexual Harassment

The Assembly had considered the problem of sexual harassment particularly in connection with parish ministers and deacons. There were an increasing number of cases where ministers or deacons had been subjected to harassment and people should be aware of the potential problem.

9.5 Flexibility in retirement age for ministers

The Assembly agreed to look at having more flexibility regarding the age at which ministers would retire. Currently the normal retirement age is 65 but this upper limit may be relaxed.

9.6 Team Ministry

The Assembly had endorsed the concept of "Team Ministry" as a principal way of developing ministry within the Church of Scotland. Mr Whyte explained that a Team Ministry could operate over a number of churches; an example might be a group of four churches in which the full-time ministry comprised two ministers and two deaconesses, possible with one deaconess specialising in dealing with elderly people and one deaconess specialising in dealing with youth. The concept of "parish" would disappear.

10 PROGRESS WITH THE VACANCY

Mr Whyte informed the elders of the progress with the vacancy. He said that he believed the meeting with the Presbytery Committee at Stamperland Church on the 6th September had gone very well. However, Glasgow Presbytery was required by the General Assembly to prepare a plan for the deployment of resources for the next ten years. During the formulation of the Plan, any vacancies would be only be filled under "Reviewable Tenure". It was to be anticipated that the next Presbytery meeting would decide that Reviewable Tenure was the appropriate form on which the vacancy would progress. Had the vacancy occurred just a few months earlier it would have been likely that the call would have been unrestricted.

A number of questions were raised. These included a question about how long the period would be before a review was undertaken. Mr Whyte said that the period could be five or seven or even ten years; the timing of a review might be influenced by what happened at Williamwood Church, Greenbank Church or Netherlee Church. In response to a question about what should we do next, Mr Whyte advised that we should get on with things as normal, be optimistic, encourage the leaders and support Mrs McKinnon.

It was agreed that the Session Clerk should inform the congregation of the decision of Glasgow Presbytery regarding the vacancy on the Sunday following the meeting of Presbytery.

11 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Interim Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH KIRK SESSION MEETING ON MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2003 AT 7.30PM IN THE SESSION HOUSE

CONSTITUTION

The Interim Moderator, Rev. James Whyte opened the meeting with prayer.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr. A. Graham, Miss. G. Scott, Miss. J. Thomson, Mr. G. Fraser, Mr. J. Halliday, Mr. N. Bolton and Miss. J. Barr.

3 SEDERUNT

The Revd. James Whyte and 26 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th October had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Minutes, as circulated, were approved and signed by the Interim Moderator.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

VACANCY

Rev. James Whyte felt that the meeting held the previous Sunday had gone well regarding the acceptance of the status of Reviewable Tenure. After the next Presbytery Meeting, the vacancy will go to the Committee in Edinburgh to rubber stamp the decision. Edicts will be read in Church for the next two Sundays. The next move will be to establish a Nominations Committee, hopefully to be up and running before Christmas. Mr. Whyte said he was hopeful of an Easter Induction. He urged elders to give thought to the constitution of the Nominations Committee and to look carefully at a good cross section of the congregation – people with different abilities. He recommended having approximately 19 people ranging in age from 17 years old upwards. There would be a Chairman and a clerk with Mr. Whyte as advisor. The congregation should think about the type of Minister they would like. The congregation were to be congratulated for the decision they agreed on the Sunday.

John Curror asked what would happen after the go ahead from Edinburgh was given. Mr Whyte said that the first thing would be the election of the Nominations Committee, the choosing of a Chairperson and Clerk from within the Committee. The Committee would then meet to finalise the Parish Profile and draw up the advert. Decisions would also have to be made about where to advertise in order to find the correct people. Sam Esler said being part of the Committee was a demanding job and urged everyone to think carefully. Mr. Whyte

said that nowadays there are unlikely to be applications in double figures, if we get six applications at least, everything could move very quickly.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

The Kirk Session agreed to a request from Netherlee School to use the Church for their Christmas Service. It was also agreed that East Renfrewshire Orchestra could also be given use of the Church for a Concert.

7 ROLL KEEPER

The Roll Keeper intimated the death of Mrs. M. Morrison.
Mr. Thomson of Nethervale Avenue had gone to Mearnskir
Mrs. Elaine Anderson to Cartsbridge
Mr. David Cochran to Battlefield East
Mr. David and Mrs. Sheila McDonald had joined us from Cathcart Old.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

A Printed report of the Presbytery Elders Report had been circulated to members. The report was accepted and was filed as an appendix.

9 STEWARDSHIP

Jane Curror, the Stewardship Promoter, described the plans for the Christmas Present gift envelopes which will go out with next issue of Focus. There would also be an explanation regarding the financial position of the church along with information regarding disabled access. In the New Year the congregation will be invited to re-appraise their givings. Mrs Curror stated that the envelopes could be returned any Sunday in December or at an event still to be decided.

10 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Sam Esler expressed concern that nothing seemed to be happening regarding the committees. After some discussion, it was agreed that any committee could meet if they wished to do so.

11 AOB

Mr. Whyte suggested that there were too many Kirk Session meetings and suggested that the Kirk Session should meet bi-monthly.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Interim Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

.....Session Clerk

...Moderator

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
KIRK SESSION MEETING ON SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2003
AT 12.15 PM IN THE CHURCH**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Interim Moderator, Revd James Whyte, opened the meeting with prayer.

2 SEDERUNT

The Rev James Whyte, Rev Lily McKinnon and some 30 ruling elders.

3 PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL REGISTER

The Rev James Whyte said that the purpose of the meeting was to agree the Electoral Register of the Congregation. Intimation of the meeting had been made at the morning services on the 23rd and 30th November. The congregation had been advised that the Communion Roll was available for inspection, that any communicant whose name was not on the Communion Roll could hand a Certificate of Transference to the Session Clerk and that anyone wishing their name added to the register as an adherent should complete a Form of Adherence and give it to the Session Clerk.

The Session Clerk stated that he had received two Adherent's Claim Forms. One was from Mrs Margaret Armstrong, 197 The Oval. The other was from Phyllis Graham, 12 Rosemary Crescent, Stewartfield, East Kilbride, G74 4UU. When Mr Whyte asked if the Kirk Session agreed to these two names being added to the Electoral Register as adherents, there was unanimous agreement.

The Session Clerk had received a letter from Mrs Karen Prentice, 98 Stamperland Gardens, in which she stated that she wished to transfer her membership from Greenbank Church and that the Session Clerk of Greenbank would be forwarding her Certificate of Transfer imminently. Mr Whyte said that Mrs Karen Prentice's name should be added to the Electoral Register.

Sam Esler asked about a register of adherents. In the absence of the Roll Keeper it was not possible to confirm names of those already registered as adherents. Mr Esler stated that he could think of at least two names, Mrs Rowan and Peter Ferries, which should appear on the adherents register. The Session Clerk was asked to speak with David Dundas regarding names of people registered as adherents.

The Kirk Session agreed that the Electoral Register would comprise the names on the Communion Roll, Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Graham and Mrs Prentice and the names of those currently on the register of adherents.

4 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Interim Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Interim Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 2003 FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

1 CONSTITUTION

The Interim Moderator, Revd James Whyte, opened the meeting with prayer.

2 PURPOSE OF MEETING

The Rev James Whyte stated that there were two items to be dealt with at the meeting. The first was the election of a Nomination Committee. The Nomination Committee would be charged with presenting the congregation with one, two or even three nominees for the vacant position of minister. Mr Whyte stated that, personally, he would like to see a sole nominee. The second item for the meeting was to decide if the new minister would be

elected by an open vote, i.e. with member of the congregation standing in their places to signify their intention, or by ballot

3 ELECTION OF NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Rev James Whyte stated he was seeking names of at least 19 members of the congregation aged over 18 years, who were on the electoral register. The following names were proposed and seconded.

Mr John Curror	Mr George Fairweather
Mrs Margot Young	Mrs Pat McIlraith
Mr Norman Bolton	Mrs Anne MacKenzie
Mrs Edith Moseley	Mr Colin Kirkwood
Mr Bill Paterson	Mr George Finlayson
Mrs Alison MacFarlane	Mr Tom Macpherson
Mrs Alison Linnich	Mr Norman Walker
Miss Jan Barr	Miss Marion Cochrane
Mrs Sylvia Bell	Mrs Dorothy Nicolson
Mrs Kay Bolton	Mr Alastair Graham.

Mr Whyte asked the congregation if they were content with these nominations. The congregation signified approval of all those nominated.

4 METHOD OF VOTING FOR THE NEW MINISTER

Having ascertained that the previous custom of Stamperland Church was to have an open vote, Mr Whyte asked the congregation if it was their will to have an open vote on this next occasion. The congregation signified their agreement.

5 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Interim Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Interim Moderator

STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH KIRK SESSION MEETING ON SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2004 IN THE CHURCH IMMEDIATELY AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a prayer.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Interim Moderator welcomed all present and wished everyone a Good New Year. Apologies were received from Mrs Pat McIlraith, and Messers. Willie Anderson, John Curror, Alastair Graham and Bill Shaw.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev James Whyte, Rev Lily McKinnon and 32 ruling elders.

4 APPOINTMENT OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Interim Moderator stated that Anne MacKenzie had indicated her willingness to continue serving as Presbytery Elder asked whether any other elder wished to serve as Presbytery Elder. With no one present indicating any desire to serve, the Interim Moderator asked those present if they were minded to elect Anne MacKenzie as Presbytery Elder. There was unanimous approval and Mr Whyte declared Anne MacKenzie to be duly elected as Presbytery Elder.

5 ATTESTATION OF ROLL

The Roll Keeper, David Dundas, made the Communion Roll was available for inspection. A table showing the Communion Roll Statistics for the year ending 31st December 2003 was passed to the Moderator and read to the Elders. The figures are reproduced below. The Elders present agreed that the Communion Roll Statistics be recorded as tabulated below.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2002	477
Number removed from Roll during 2003	
by Death	7
by Certificate	9
by Otherwise	6
	22
Number added to Roll during 2002	
by Profession	0
by Certificate	4
by Otherwise	1
	5
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2003	460
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31 st December 2003	21

David Dundas asked whether Mr Ian Reid and Mrs Vera Reid should be transferred from the Supplementary Roll to the Communicants' Roll. James Whyte asked whether Mr and Mrs Reid had attended a Communion Service during the past year. If they had attended then they should be moved to the Communion Roll. Sam Esler said that since the use of Communion Cards had been discontinued detailed information about communion attendance was not available. Mr Whyte said that the Kirk Session could change its previous decision on the use of Communion Cards and re-introduce them. This could be decided at a future Session Meeting. Elders agreed that the names of Mr and Mrs Reid should be re-instated in the Communion Roll. Mrs Jennie Fraser, the elder in whose district Mr and Mrs Reid lived, was asked to inform them of this decision.

The Interim Moderator thanked David Dundas for all of the work which he undertook as Roll Keeper.

The Statistical Return which had to be completed by the Session Clerk included the above figures plus the information that there were 40 Elders at the end of 2003 - 20 men and 20 women and that, in addition to the elders, the Congregational Board comprised a further 20 members - 12 men and 8 women. During the year there had been a total of nine baptisms - eight infant baptisms and one adult baptism. Following the advice given by the Presbytery Clerk, that the number of children aged 17 years involved in the Life of the Congregation could be considered by counting the number of the boys in the BB and the numbers on the Roll of the Sunday Gang, a figure of 150 was entered on the return.

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Interim Moderator closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Interim Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2004 AT 7.30 P.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Ann Bruce, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Jess Thomson, and Messers. Connel Cranston, Jim Currie, Robert Hutcheson, Gordon Robertson and David Stewart.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev James Whyte and 26 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 10th November 2003, Sunday, 7th December 2003 and Sunday, 11th January, 2004 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Minutes, as circulated, were approved and signed by the Interim Moderator and Clerk.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising not covered by the Agenda items.

5 VACANCY – CURRENT STATUS

John Curror reported that ten Parish profiles had been sent out. Applications had been received from three ministers and a fourth was expected later in the week. Teams from the Nominations Committee had visited two churches and a third church and, possibly, a fourth, would be visited on the next Sunday. Thus far, reports indicated that one of the applicants was very good and one was not very good. John stated that the next meeting of the Nominations Committee was scheduled for Monday, 16th February at 7.30 pm.

6 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS**6.1 Session Clerk****6.1.1 Clarkston Churches Together**

The Session Clerk said that he had received a letter from Rev Tom Nelson in relation to Clarkston Churches Together. Clarkston Churches Together was planning a series of events the first of which was a performance of “The Passion” in Stamperland Church by the Riding Lights Theatre Company. Subsequent events which were at the planning stage included a concert by Iain Whyte in Greenbank Parish Church and there were plans to invite groups such as the London Community Gospel Choir, song writers such as Graham Kendrick and John Rutter. To assist in planning, promoting and staging such events a fund had been opened with each church being asked to contribute £120. It was stated that most events organised by Clarkston Churches Together would be expected to cover their associated costs. Sam Esler proposed that the Kirk Session recommend that the Congregational Board be asked to agree this payment and all elders were in agreement.

6.1.2 Easter Services

The Session Clerk said that Netherlee Church had proposed that joint services should be held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Thursday service would be held in Stamperland Parish Church and the Friday service in Netherlee Parish Church. The Kirk Session indicated their agreement with this proposal.

6.1.3 Petition Relating to Dungavel Detention Centre

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a communication from David Sinclair, Secretary to the Church and Nation Committee, enclosing copies of a petition to the Home Secretary concerning the incarceration of children in the Immigration Removal Centre at Dungavel and asking that the petition be made available for members of the congregation to sign. The Kirk Session agreed that the petition should be made available for signing.

6.2 Deputy Session Clerk

6.2.1 Communion Duties

Margo Neilson asked elders present to inform her of their availability for the March Communion.

7. ROLL KEEPER

David Dundas intimated the death of Mrs Agnes Findlay, 77 Busby Road, District 47. The Roll Keeper also intimated a change of name: Mrs Christene Bain was now Mrs Christene MacKenzie. There was one new member: Mrs Heather Briehl. Mrs Briehl was resident in Germany (District 59). David Dundas stated that he had initiated a new register of adherents - the "Roll of Adherents" - and sought advice from the Kirk Session as to whether names of adherents should appear on Elder's District Roll Books and whether adherents should be visited quarterly. Jim Whyte advised that it was normal practice to include adherents in District Roll Books and for the elder to visit them.

8. PRESBYTERY ELDER

Presbytery had yet to meet and there was no report.

9. REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

Jane Curror reported that the Christmas Gift Envelope appeal had raised £1193.10 with an additional £141 to be added through Gift Aid. The "Christmas Wishes for Stamperland" were as listed in the Focus Magazine. Those which related to the Kirk Session included wishes for more choir members, for a church web site, for more use of Fair Trade Goods at church events and for a crèche. Jane stated that the web site was up and running and that arrangements for a crèche were being discussed with Grace Scott.

Jane stated that the Stewardship Committee would meet the following day and would consider how the congregation might be approached to consider an increase in givings.

10. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Parish and Beyond

Sam Esler stated that the committee had met and had started to consider its remit. It was felt that the remit was very wide, very open and members of the committee would have considerable work to do to fully understand their role. The committee was looking for feedback from members following publication of an article in Focus which had asked people to indicate whether or not they wished to be visited. There were issues regarding the "New Member's Pack". Specifically, who has the up-to-date pack; who informs whom about new families having moved to a house in Stamperland and who delivers a new member pack to such people? In response it was agreed that following Robert Dunsmuir's departure, the new member's pack had not been maintained. It was agreed that the Parish and Beyond Committee would take responsibility to develop and re-introduce the pack.

It was stated that Anne MacKenzie was the representative for Williamwood House; Sheila McIntosh has accepted responsibility for organising the Victoria Infirmary Team; Sandra Halliday was the representative for Mearns Kirk Hospital Team; Grace Scott was the representative for Eastwoodhill.

10.2 Education

It was stated that the Education Committee would consider the operation of the crèche. Grace Scott reported that Mrs Catherine Drew had intimated that she could no longer lead the group of older members of the Sunday Gang. Gillian and Christine Finlayson were keen to continue working with this Group and were willing to lead it, at least, to the end of the session. The Kirk Session agreed that this arrangement was satisfactory. The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Drew and thank her for past service.

11. COMMUNION CARDS

George Fraser said that he wished to speak to this matter. He was keen that Communion Cards were re-introduced. Cards provided a means of recording members' attendance and provided a source of statistics. Sam Esler stated that without the former card scheme he could not know which members in his district had attended or not attended a Communion service.

Rev James Whyte stated that he believed Communion Cards had outlived their usefulness. They had been at the end of a long tradition and had evolved from much earlier times in the church when elders had decided which members should be allowed to take communion and which members should be barred from celebrating communion. The Church of Scotland was amongst the last denomination to keep such records. Maintaining a card system meant a lot of work for the Roll Keeper to no great benefit.

Alastair Graham said that he could not recall why Stamperland Church had replaced Communion Cards with invitation cards. Mr Whyte said that the Church of Scotland Panel on Worship and Doctrine had suggested that Communion Cards should be replaced with invitation Cards but had left individual Kirk Sessions to make their own decision.

There was considerable discussion. David Dundas confirmed that the information previously collected from Communion Cards on member's attendance was not reported to presbytery or to any other body. It was also pointed out that there were errors in assuming that everyone whose card had been collected was present and that the absence of a card necessarily meant that an individual was absent. George Fraser moved that Communion Cards be re-introduced and that the information from the cards was entered into the Elder's Roll book. Sam Esler seconded this motion. The motion was put to a vote and lost by 14 votes to 7. It was agreed that, as an alternative to the Communion Card, the invitation card currently being used would be updated giving space for both the member's name and the Elder's name. Elders would deliver the invitation card. The card should be delivered personally and, if needs be, elders should re-visit a house several times in an effort to see the member and that they should not simply "post the card".

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Resignation of Donald Wood, Dorothy Wood and Jack Halliday

The Session Clerk announced that he had received communications from three elders to the effect that circumstances were such that they had to leave Stamperland Parish Church and join a different church. Donald and Dorothy Wood were moving from Kings Park to East Kilbride and intended to join their local church. The clerk said that in their letter Donald and Dorothy had asked him to pass on to the Kirk Session their best wishes for the future of Stamperland Church.

Jack Halliday had written to say that, as he no longer had a car, he could no longer manage to attend church on a Sunday morning from his home in Rutherglen before going to work and that for the same reason he felt he could not properly undertake his duties and responsibilities as an elder. He stressed that his decision to leave was in no way influenced by the translation of his brother-in-law, Alastair Cherry, but simply by the change in his personal circumstances. In his letter Jack also wished all members the very best for the future.

The Session expressed its regret at the loss of three well-liked elders and asked the Clerk to write to them thanking them for their services to Stamperland Church.

Jim Whyte asked the Kirk Session if the loss of three elders would cause a problem. He said that he was willing to spend time with members who were prepared to consider becoming elders and to ordain them. It was agreed that the Nomination Committee would endeavour to bring forward names of potential elders to the next meeting of the Kirk Session. Sam Esler and Alastair Graham agreed to help Pat McIlraith and Anne MacKenzie in this task.

12.2 Future of 10.00 a.m. Service

Sandra Halliday raised the issue of the future of the 10.00 a.m. service. She said that as few as three people had attended one of the recent services. It was agreed that the arrangement of one 10.00 a.m. service on the first Sunday of every month (except Communion Sunday) should continue until June. In June, July and August it had been recent custom to have only one service at 10.00 a.m. The Kirk Session would decide at a later date the times of worship.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 5th April.

14. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Interim Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10TH MAY 2004 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Jennie Fraser, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Jess Thomson, and Messers. Connel Cranston, Jim Currie, David Dundas, John Dodds, George Fraser, Jim Gillespie, Gordon Robertson and David Stewart.

3 SEDERUNT

The Rev James Whyte and 24 ruling elders.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft Minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 9th February, 2004 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Minutes, as circulated, were approved and signed by the Interim Moderator and Clerk. It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 5th April, 2004 was not held.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising not covered by the Agenda items.

6 VACANCY – CURRENT STATUS

The Rev James Whyte intimated that the Induction Service for the Rev George Mackay would be held on Thursday, 24th June. The Presbytery would meet at 18.45 and the Induction Service would commence at 19.00. The Induction Service would be organised by the Presbytery. The Presbytery Clerk would consult with Rev George Mackay regarding the choice of hymns and readings. Taking part would be the Moderator and the Clerk of the Presbytery of Glasgow, the Interim Moderator and a Guest Preacher. Mr Whyte advised that Kirk Session would need to ensure that there was a large number of members available to act as ushers on the evening.

Jim Whyte said that it was customary to hold a Social following the Induction Service. The start of the social event would be chaired by Jim Whyte but he would, thereafter, pass the chairmanship to George Mackay. It was normal for a minister from the local fraternal to speak and also for a friend of the new minister to speak. Mr Whyte suggested that a sub-committee be formed to oversee the organisation of the Induction. The following were selected to serve on the committee: Norman Bolton, Ann Bruce, John Curror, Sam Esler, Sandra Halliday and Anne Mackenzie.

7 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Deputy Session Clerk

7.2.1 Communion Duties

Margo Neilson asked elders to inform her of their availability for the June Communion. It was noted that, following the resignations of Dorothy and Donald Wood and of Jack Halliday, there were three vacant districts. Additionally, the Kirk Session were advised that David Stewart was unable to visit his District. Elders were reminded that whenever an elder was unable to visit their districts, members of their team should take over the duty of visiting members' homes.

8. ROLL KEEPER

A written report, prepared by David Dundas, was circulated. There had been one death - Mrs Mary Webster, 18 Alyth Crescent (District 32). Changes of address as detailed below were intimated.

Name	Former Address	Dist	To	Dist
Mrs Maisie Bell	169 The Oval	37	Wellmeadow NH	60
Mrs Marjorie McFarlane	23 Monteith Dr	27	19 Flenders Ave	54
Mrs Louise Dunbar	35 The Oval	35	72 Craighaw Avenue Waterfoot	56
Mr Iain Fulton	31 Lothian Drive	55	73 Stamperland Gardens	5
Mr Craig Williamson	5 Randolph Ave	36	75 Campsie Gdns	55
Mrs Elaine Williamson	5 Randolph Ave	36	75 Campsie Gdns	55
Mr Douglas Brown	74, Nethervale Ave	42	Millview Nursing Home 120 Carlibar Road Barrhead	60

9. PRESBYTERY ELDER

Printed reports on Presbytery meetings held in February, March and April were circulated to all present. Rev Jim Whyte indicated that he understood that, although Rev Janet McMahon had intimated she would retire as reported at the March Presbytery, she had subsequently withdrawn her notice and would now work on until she reached the age of 70 as the level of pension being offered was insufficient.

The instruction from Presbytery to check the level of insurance cover was noted. The Clerk was asked to write to the Congregational Board and request that levels of insurance cover on all church premises were checked. Jim Whyte recommended that the cover for chancel furniture, brassware and Communion silver was also checked.

10. REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

Jane Curror said that letters encouraging members to consider their offerings were being delivered to all members' homes. She asked for assistance in delivering the final batches of letters. Mrs Mckinnon and Mr Bruce would preach on Stewardship at the Services on the 16th and 30th May.

11. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Parish and Beyond

Sam Esler stated that the committee met on 28th March and finalised the content of the Welcome Pack. A number of elders had agreed to visit new residents in Stamperland and deliver the pack. The Committee was having problems with its remit and would await the arrival of the new minister to give guidance on the way ahead.

11.2 Education

Grace Scott stated that the Committee were looking at the operation of the crèche. There had been no response from any volunteers following a request made in Focus. These had been no demand for crèche facilities in the past few months. It was proposed that a crèche would be started in September. Mr Whyte advised caution in announcing that there would be a crèche if there were no volunteers.

11.3 Nomination

Mrs McIlraith intimated that there had been no formal meeting of the nominations committee. However, after consulting some of the committee she sought the permission of the Kirk Session to approach George Finlayson. All present agreed Mr Finlayson should be approached.

12. TIMES OF MORNING WORSHIP

The Session Clerk said that over the last four or five years it had been customary after the June Communion to hold only one service of morning worship starting at 10.00 a.m. for the period of June, July and August. After discussion, it was agreed that morning worship should be held at 11.00. with there being no change in time for the summer months.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Guild Dedication Service

The Session Clerk read a letter from Mrs Ray McNiven, President of the Guild, requesting that the guild hold a Dedication Service in the Church on Tuesday, 5th October, 2004. The members of the Session unanimously agreed to this request.

13.2 Interim Moderator

Rev James Whyte said that this would be the last meeting of the Kirk Session which he would attend. He thanked all elders for their support and for their work during this period. Much had been achieved. Jim Whyte said that he had enjoyed his time as Interim Moderator and that he would have liked to have conducted worship more often than he had been able. He had participated in happy events but had also shared in sad times, conducting funerals and visiting people in their homes or in hospitals during times of trial. He offered congratulations on our choice of minister and hoped that both the new minister and the congregation would prosper during his ministry in Stamperland.

The Session Clerk thanked Mr Whyte for his all his work as Interim Moderator and for his help, advice and encouragement in assisting with filling of the vacancy.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was provisionally set as 13th Spetember. Confirmation would be subject to the agreement of Rev George Mackay subsequent to his induction.

15. CLOSURE

Rev James Whyte closed the meeting with benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2004 AT 7.30 P.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a reading from Hebrews, Chapter 7 and a prayer. The Moderator, Rev George Mackay, welcomed everyone to his first Kirk Session meeting at Stamperland and said that he hoped all elders would work together as a spiritual court and get to know each other.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Jess Thomson, Miss Grace Scott and Messers. Norman Bolton, Bill Paterson and David Stewart.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George MacKay and 29 ruling elders

4. AGENDA

The Moderator confirmed the Provisional Agenda and added the following items:

Tribute to Bob Liddell
Certificates of Transference
Study Leave
Holidays
Harvest
Communion

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of 10th May 2004 were approved proposed by John Curror and seconded by Pat McIlraith and signed by the Moderator and the Deputy Session Clerk

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. CORRESPONDENCE/INTIMATIONS**7.1 Moderator****7.1.1 Certified intimation of Induction**

Mr. Mackay explained that the Induction required to be engrossed in the Minutes of the Session Meeting and he read the Certified Intimation of Induction as follows:

“It is hereby certified that Mr. George C. Mackay minister, was inducted as minister to the pastoral charge of Stamperland this 24th of June 2004 by the Presbytery of Glasgow. By authority of the Presbytery of Glasgow” and signed by David W. Lunan, Clerk of Presbytery.

7.1.2 Letter regarding Funerals and Debt

The Moderator intimated that he had received a letter from the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office regarding funerals and debt.

7.1.2 Letter regarding Funerals and Debt

The Moderator read a letter from Parish Education regarding various training courses including training for those wishing to conduct funerals and to lead worship, for Session Clerks and for those interested in Exploring Eldership. Leaflets regarding the courses were left on the table.

8. ROLLKEEPER

David Dundas reported four deaths since the last meeting. These were Mrs Phyllis Burns of whose death he had only recently learned but who had died last year, Mr David Wotherspoon, whose daughter had contacted him, Mrs Hannah Guy and Mr Robert Liddell. The following changes to the Communion Roll were reported.

Change of Address

Mr Douglas Brown to Millview Nursing Home, Barrhead

Mr and Mrs McIntosh from Kilpatrick Gardens to Tirie Place, Newton Mearns.

Mr James Aitken and Mrs Agnes Aitken had moved and had requested their lines.

The Roll Keeper intimated that there were two new members - The Rev George Mackay and Mrs. Pamela Mackay.

9. CERTIFICATES OF TRANSFERENCE

Mr. Mackay stated that he had received, by post, a Certificate of Transference from a Mr. William Robb, Hairmyres Gardens, East Kilbride, from Toryglen Church who wishes to be a member of Stamperland Church. Mr. Mackay said that he wished elders to give consideration to each certificate of transference. In this case, Mr. Sam Esler gave details about Mr. Robb and he will be added to the roll.

10. PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

As there had been no meeting since June and the September meeting has still to take place, Mrs. MacKenzie had nothing to report.

11. REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

Mrs. Curror reported that she had placed an article in The Focus Magazine regarding the current stewardship promotion. Over 300 letters had been sent or delivered – and she thanked those who had delivered letters. Only 84 returns had been received which represent less than a quarter of the congregation. Of those responding, 67 members declared that they intended to give more per week or month and, within that number, six members joined the Gift Aid scheme for the first time. Mrs Curror asked those present if they considered the promotion to have been successful. After considerable discussion it was concluded that the response had been disappointing but it was felt that we should wait and see what income is eventually generated by the promotion.

Mrs. Curror also indicated that the Committee had greatly reduced with the departures of Dorothy and Donald Wood and of Sandra Shaw.

Mr. Mackay had been heartened to learn on his arrival at Stamperland that a Stewardship campaign was already under way and he thanked Mrs. Curror and her committee on behalf of the Kirk Session.

12. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

12.1 Parish and Beyond

Mr Esler reported that this committee had been working quietly away. They had finally produced a Welcome Pack and this had been handed out to approximately 20 homes as people had moved into the District. Mr Esler thanked Ray MacNiven and Willie Anderson for their assistance in the preparation of the pack.

12.2 Nominations Committee

Mrs McIlwraith intimated that Mr George Finlayson had agreed to become an elder but matters had not progressed due to the vacancy in the church. Mr Ronnie Kirkwood had been approached. He had been an elder in Greenbank Church and he is prepared to help. Approval was given.

12.3 Education Committee

Mrs Fisher, on behalf of Miss Scott, stated that the crèche was now up and running. Sunday had been the first day and only one child had attended. There were several helpers but more people should be encouraged to use this facility and Mrs Fisher asked elders to spread the word about the crèche. She also said that further help was needed but it was pointed out that disclosure checks will be required.

13. ELDERS DISTRICTS

David Dundas had written to the Moderator regarding review of elder's districts. Mr. Mackay stated his views regarding elders. He said that

Elders should see training as important

Elders should understand that the Church moves on and so should they

Elders should know the difference between being a 'post person' or someone who wishes to build relationships.

Elders should work as a team with Kirk Session and strengthen Kirk Session.

All elders do not need to take on a District

There could be a 'Round Robin System' of elders trained in different tasks.

The Moderator said that he would make sure that the Kirk Session was functioning properly.

Much discussion regarding aspects of eldership followed. The discussion covered aspects including team eldership, district sizes, the use of communion cards. Discussions were concluded with Mr. Mackay requesting that elders return to the next session meeting having considered the positive and negatives of elders districts in order that a useful discussion can take place.

14. STUDY LEAVE

The Moderator stated the procedure for Study Leave is about to change. In order to obtain Study Leave for next year, Mr. Mackay said that he requires to submit his application by the end of September. He said that it was his intention to seek Study Leave in August of next year to study in Italy at the Waldensian Church.

15. HOLIDAYS

Mr. Mackay said that there had been loose ends to tie up between his old church and Stamperland and that he would now probably have a week's holiday in October.

16. HARVEST

The Moderator stated that he planned to have a more traditional Harvest Service on 3rd October. This would take the form of a Family Service and Parade. Gifts of fruit etc., would be requested and would be distributed to various appropriate organisations.

17. DIARY DATES

The Moderator intimated the following services would take place

- 26th September: Sacrement of Baptism
- 14th November: Service of Remembrance
- 21st November: Soroptomists Service

18. COMMUNION

Mr. Mackay said that he felt that the September Communion had been carried out in a professional way. The atmosphere had been right and meaningful to the congregation. He felt that at the next communion he would omit the introit and that the elders would enter during the singing of the first hymn.

Mr. Bruce asked whether it was worthwhile continuing with afternoon communion as the numbers were so small. A number of elders indicated that there members who could only attend the afternoon communion.

The Moderator said that he was happy to carry out home communion where requested.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session Meeting was confirmed as Monday 4th October 2004.

20. CLOSURE

Rev George Mackay closed the meeting with the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4th OCTOBER 2004 AT 7.30 P.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a reading, Acts Chapter 14, verses 22 and 23 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Jess Thomson and Miss Grace Scott and Messers. John Dodds, George Fraser, Robert Hutcheson and Fraser Macintosh.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George MacKay and 27 ruling elders.

4. AGENDA

The Moderator proposed the following items were added to the provisional Agenda: Feedback on Harvest Thanksgiving Service; the current position of Sunday Gang; the role of baptismal co-ordinator; Kirk Session Devotions and the leading of Sunday Worship by the Kirk Session. The Moderator asked elders whether there was any other competent business and, there being none, the Agenda was agreed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A draft minute of the Meeting held on 6th September 2004 was circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the draft minute as a record of the meeting was proposed by Stuart Bruce and seconded by Gordon Robertson. The Minute of the meeting of 6th September was then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk

6. BUSINESS ARISING

The Session Clerk asked whether a copy of the Tribute to Bob Liddell should be sent to his widow, Mrs Florence Liddell. It was agreed that a copy should be sent.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Harvest

The Moderator asked for comments on the previous day's Harvest Service. There was agreement that the congregation had enjoyed the service and had appreciated the display of harvest gifts. The young people in the youth organisations had enjoyed the service and their participation. Following the service, the harvest gifts had been taken to Overlee House, the Lodging House Mission and the Talbot Centre. Flowers had been delivered to members in hospitals and residential homes.

A letter of thanks had been received from the Lodging House Mission and was read to the meeting. It described how the donation would be used to help the 130 men and women who use the centre each day and how the Mission extends the message of Christ's love with a practical hand. The Moderator commented that the content of the letter from the Lodging House Mission emphasised what the church was about.

The dedication of the Offering Plate, gifted by Gordon Robertson in memory of his mother and brother, was noted.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Letter from Parish Development Fund

The Clerk read extracts from a letter sent by the Convenor of the Parish Development Fund. The letter invited Kirk Sessions to consider some of the successful projects which had been supported by the Parish Development Fund and to consider whether they could make appropriate use of funds in local projects. Grants of up to £15,000 were available for projects which would make a positive difference in the lives of the people in greatest need in local communities, would be inclusive and collaborative, would build up partnerships between church and community and would involve local people through development of their skills and confidence.

7.2.2 Letter from East Renfrewshire Licensing Board

Norman Bolton read extracts of a letter from the clerk of the Licensing Board which stated that, following objections to the granting of a licence for a public house at 14 Busby Road, the Licensing Board would meet on Friday, 8th October, to discuss the application and objections. David Stewart stated that he would attend the meeting.

7.2.3 East Renfrewshire Schools Orchestra

The Clerk stated that he had received a request from the East Renfrewshire School's Orchestra to hold a concert in the Church on the 8th December. The orchestra had held a concert in the church the previous year. The request was agreed. Mr Fraser Neilson, Halls Manager, would be asked to liase with the orchestra and seek a donation to cover the costs of heating, lighting and cleaning.

8. ROLL KEEPER

David Dundas reported a change of address. Following her marriage, Miss Gwen Morton was now Mrs Gwen Aston and was living at 7 Napier Hill, East Kilbride. The Roll Keeper asked if anyone knew the new address of Miss Heather Laird, formerly of 24 Elgin Gardens and was informed that it was 25 Bunbury Terrace, Westwood, East Kilbride, G75 8HP.

David Dundas reminded the Kirk Session that Ms Lynne Caldwell, 25 The Oval, was admitted as a member at the June Communion Service.

Rev George Mackay said that four people had approached him as prospective new communicants and that he was planning to start a new communicant's class within a few weeks.

9. PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

The Presbytery Elder's report had been distributed to those present before the start of the session meeting. Topics highlighted included Presbytery's preparation of a report on asylum seekers, an event "Church Without Walls Big Saturday" planned for 10th September 2005, additional payments to stipend, the proposed Mission and Renewal allocation for 2005 (Stamperland's allocation was intimated to be £15,545), training courses offered by the children's ministry advisor, an opportunity for ministers, elders and deacons to meet each other and learn about working together and advice on the management of asbestos in church premises.

The Moderator advised that Stamperland Church was only permitted to pay a five per cent enhancement to the minimum stipend. In response to a question about the possibility of a financial loss in connection with the "Church Without Walls Big Saturday", Mrs MacKenzie said that the Presbytery would be taking out insurance cover.

10. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Education Committee

10.1.1 Sunday Gang

The Moderator stated that he had attended a meeting of the leaders of the Sunday Gang on the 28th September. There were a number of issues which he wished to bring to the attention of the Kirk Session.

Currently, approximately eleven leaders looked after between 20 and 25 children, although there were more than fifty names on the roll. There had been a significant decline in the number of children attending on a Sunday in recent years. The church had to compete with many other activities on a Sunday morning including various sports; there had been an increase in the number of Roman Catholic families in the parish; there had been significant changes to the format of "the Sunday School" and the timing of "the Sunday School" in recent years. The Moderator said that changes had to be made. With Grace Scott stepping down as over-seer, the Sunday Gang needed a person to act as facilitator / superintendent.

The leaders of the Sunday Gang were aware that they needed to find teaching material which was appropriate, current and modern; they were also keen to be given training.

Mr Mackay said children should have opportunity for more participation within the morning service. There had been some participation in the Harvest service. Reading is a small way of participating; drama, especially for those in Quest, could be an alternative way of expressing their faith. Children have a faith now; they need to express their faith as they see it and not as adults think they should.

There was a need to have rota system which allowed leaders to attend Sunday Worship for the whole service on a regular basis. Volunteers from those with young families could help. Rather than dropping their children at church and going away, there were opportunities (once appropriate child protection check have been done) for getting the younger families on the periphery of the church involved.

The vibrancy of the youth organisations using the premises showed that there was an abundance of children around the church. They had stepped over the threshold. Half the work related to attracting their interest had been done. This was a very positive situation. Children in the church needed to be dealt with in a similar way to the adult members. They were part of the church. They needed visited. They needed their birthdays remembered. They needed to know that they are valued and are missed if they are not there. Worship for children had to be relevant to today's children and their world and not simply reflect what had been standard practice thirty or forty years ago.

There was vigorous discussion of some of the points made by the Moderator. Members of the Kirk Session were concerned about the future of children within the church. There was strong support for the Moderator's proposal to seek training for the leaders and to find

appropriate material for the use of the Sunday Gang. There was agreement that, by and large, the youth organisations were well-supported and that the elders who visited the youth organisations should seek to build stronger links with the organisations and the young people themselves.

10.1.2 Resignation of Grace Scott

The Moderator read extracts from a letter which he had received from Grace Scott. Grace said that she had acted as over-seer of the Sunday Gang during the vacancy, having previously served as a Sunday School Superintendent, but now wished to step down. She was keen to provide support in other ways.

The Moderator said that he had thanked Grace for her service in this area.

11. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

11.1 Devotions prior to celebration of Holy Communion

The Moderator said that he would like elders to have a period of devotion before each of the quarterly services of Holy Communion. The devotions would be led by an elder with elders taking it in turns to act as leader. The proposal was enthusiastically approved. Sam Esler volunteered to lead the devotions in December; Alf Dunbar volunteered to lead the devotions in March. Members of the Kirk Session would meet at 10.30 am.

Mrs MacKenzie suggested that the Session Clerk contact the BB to ask that they finish their Bible Class promptly on these Sundays.

A question was raised regarding the afternoon communion service, no decision having been made about retaining or cancelling the afternoon communion service at the previous Session Meeting. It was agreed that the new batch of Communion Cards should be printed with both 11.00 am and 3.00 pm as the times of the services and that a decision about the afternoon communion would be made at a later date.

11.2 Leading Morning Worship

The Moderator said that he would like elders to lead morning worship. Ministers, he said, also require spiritual ministry. It was proposed and agreed that elders conduct worship on Sunday, 7th November. Elders wishing to participate were asked to contact the Moderator.

12. ELDERS DISTRICTS

Introducing this topic, Mr. Mackay said that it was a continuation of the discussions not only on Elder's Districts but on the role of the eldership which was started at the previous meeting. Elders would discuss the issues in small groups and report back. David Dundas asked to present two specific topics for consideration. The first was to discontinue the practice of elders visiting elders. During the present year four elders had left the church. Eleven districts were without an elder. At the last review of districts, 18 members had been transferred to the postal district. Currently, elders' homes were being visited while many ordinary members were not being visited. The second point was in relation to the make up of districts. The 60 districts were originally drawn up over thirty years ago when the church had 900 members. There were four districts without any members and five districts with only one member. He asked elders to consider whether the time had come to move away from fixed districts and move to an alternative system

Elders then divided into groups for discussion and reported back. In the feedback further issues, comments and questions were raised:

- Should members who haven't attended for several years be visited?
- If a member changes address should they necessarily have a change of elder if the member and the elder have a special rapport?
- Consideration should be given to the creation of groups of elders who would be especially good at undertaking different types of visit, e.g. to homes where there is illness, a recent bereavement, children. An elder from one of these groups might accompany a district elder for a special visit.
- There might be an elder or several elders who were particularly good at visiting members who were no longer (regular) attenders.

- Elder’s homes should be visited, not least since the elder’s spouse should be visited as a member.
- Non-attenders should be visited and asked whether they wished to have visits before each of the main communions, or be visited on fewer occasions or not be visited at all.
- Consideration could be given to holding social events for members living in adjacent districts; this could bring the congregation together.
- Members expect to be visited by elders and might not appreciate a pastoral visit from a non-elder.
- Members do confide in elders. In many cases there is a level of trust and rapport and a real bond between member and elder.
- Districts did need to be re-organised to ensure the load on individual elders was balanced.
- Some of the districts were “linear” – for example, one district might be the odd numbers in a street with a second district being the even numbers. Re-assigning the districts to cover “low numbers” and “high numbers” might be a better approach, making districts more coherent.
- Quarterly visiting in advance of the four main communion services should not be confused with ongoing pastoral care.

The Moderator commented that the group discussions had represented a start to the process of defining the role or roles of elder. He saw many talented people within the Kirk Session and the congregation. Over the next weeks elders should think about the issues raised during the evening, write their thoughts down and be ready to move on and make decisions at the next meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Kirk Session Meeting was scheduled for Monday 8th November 2004.

14. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2004 AT 7.30 P.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a reading from Psalm 139, verses 1 to 12 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Pat McIlwraith Mrs Jane Curror and Messers Connel Cranston, John, Curror, David Dundas and Robert Hutcheson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 26 ruling elders.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A draft minute of the Meeting held on 6th September 2004 was circulated prior to the meeting. Sam Esler pointed out that Fraser Mackintosh's name had been mis-spelled. With this correction, the adoption of the draft minute as a record of the meeting was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Edith Moseley. The Minute of the meeting of 4th October was then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Meeting of East Renfrewshire Licensing Board

David Stewart reported that he had attended the meeting of the East Renfrewshire Licensing Board on Friday, 8th October. The Board had noted the objections from local residents to granting a licence for a public house at 14 Busby Road and their decision had been to reject the application.

6. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 New Communicants

The Moderator stated that there were five people attending the class for new communicants. They had been meeting on Sunday evenings at the Manse. It was not clear, however, on which date they would be admitted as members. The five attending the classes were Gillian and Christine Finlayson, Lynn Walker, David McKee and Scott Russell.

6.1.2 Communion Service

The Moderator commented that quite a number of people were now using the side pews and suggested that arrangements should be made to serve Communion to the side pews. It was agreed that clips would be provided in the side pews for the empty glasses but that no additional elders would be required specifically to serve the side pews.

The Moderator proposed that there should be a communion service on the afternoon of the first Sunday in December; this would provide him with the opportunity of seeing how many communicants attended and to judge whether there was a real need for an afternoon communion service. There were alternative opportunities for celebrating communion including home communions and informal communions, normally held after morning worship on the first Sunday of each month. The Kirk Session agreed with this proposal.

6.1.3 Service of Remembrance

Sam Esler said that he had very much enjoyed the format of the previous day's Service of Remembrance and was appreciative of the two minutes' silence. David Stewart said it had been a great service and a great compliment to all servicemen and women. There were positive comments from Edith Moseley and others about the participation of Alf Dunbar and Jim Gillespie in the service.

6.1.4 Service Conducted by the Kirk Session

The Moderator asked for the Session's views on the service which had been led by members of the Kirk Session in October. There was a positive response and the Moderator said that he would like elders to conduct at least one service each year.

6.1.5 Christmas Services

The Moderator stated that he was proposing the following arrangements for the Christmas Services.

Sunday, 19th December: Family service with the members of the Sunday Gang performing a Nativity Play.

Christmas Eve: Watchnight Service at 11.20 p.m. with carol singing from 11.00 p.m.

Christmas Day: No service

Sunday, 26th December: Morning service at 11.00 a.m.

The opportunity of having a short morning service on Christmas Day could be reviewed in the future. Since Christmas Day 2005 would be a Sunday there would be a service that day. There was plenty of time to plan for 2006 and beyond.

6.1.5 Easter 2005

The Moderator stated that plans for Easter 2005 were being developed by Clarkston Churches Together. It was proposed that there would be a series of seven short services, each to be held in a different church on Good Friday. Services would start on the hour with the first service at St Joseph's Church at 8.00 a.m. and the final service in St Aidan's Church at 3.00 p.m. The other churches in which services would be held were Greenbank, Busby, Carmunock, Stamperland and Netherlee. There was also a proposal for an early morning service on Easter Day at an outdoor location – possibly Rouken Glen Park or Overlee Park. The Moderator asked elders to consider what form of services they might like to have during Holy Week. In the past the Moderator said that he had arranged Holy Week services with a particular theme. There had been a recent history of Stamperland and Netherlee Churches sharing worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. He said he was open to suggestions and would be pleased to learn what people thought on this matter.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Halls' Manager

The Clerk read extracts from a letter from Fraser Neilson, the Halls' Manager, relating to the pool table which had been purchased by The Meeting Place. With the Meeting Place no longer in operation there was a proposal that the table could be disposed of in order to free up space in the large hall. The Moderator advised that he thought the table should be retained for some further time – there might be some future opportunities to make use of the pool table. Several members of the Session also stated that the pool table was quite useful as a table and that this use could be further enhanced if arrangements could be made to provide an improved wooden cover.

6.2.2 Distribution of Others' Fund

The Session Clerk stated that it was customary to agree disbursement of the Others' Fund at the November meeting of the Kirk Session. Following suggestions from those it was agreed to make donations to five organisations. These were the two local Church of Scotland Homes for the elderly, Eastwood Hill and Williamwood House, the Eastwood Dementia Project at Sandler Cottage in Eastwood Park, Chavey Down Home which provides respite care for the young and Eastwood Refuge at Overlee Park. Donations would be sent following the December Communion.

The Session Clerk stated that the Presbytery advisor on church finance and accounts had recommended that the Others' Fund be closed and that rather than retaining the money from retiring offerings at each Communion until December and then making donations, the congregation should be advised each Communion Sunday who would receive that day's retiring offering and that the donations sent to the organisation straight away. Various elders spoke against this idea and the Kirk Session agreed to retain the Others' Fund and distribute retiring offerings on an annual basis.

It was proposed and agreed that the offering from the Christmas Eve Watchnight Service should be donated to the Lodging House Mission.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion Duties

Margo Neilson asked that elders inform her of their availability for the December Communion Services.

7. PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

The Presbytery Elder's report on the October meeting of Presbytery had been distributed to those present before the start of the session meeting. Topics highlighted included Children and the Church and the Presbytery's Mission Strategy. It was considered that both of these topics deserved further consideration and discussion and it was proposed that the topic Children and the Church should be discussed at the February meeting of the Kirk Session with the subject of the Presbytery's Mission Strategy being reviewed at a later date.

Mrs Anne MacKenzie reported that the November meeting of Presbytery had been a very long one. Of significant concern was that a number of the projects supported by Glasgow Presbytery including "The Well" and "The Lodging House Mission" were not going to

receive financial support from 121 George Street. The Kirk Session were disturbed at this turn of events and the Clerk was asked to write to the Board of Social Responsibility highlighting the importance of these projects and the damage which withdrawal of funding would cause.

8. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

8.1 Parish and Beyond

It was intimated that Evelyn Graham had taken over from Sam Esler as convenor of this committee. The committee has met and are preparing a presentation for the Session meeting in February.

8.2 Education

8.2.1 Creche

It was reported that the crèche is operational with police checks on various adults having been completed. Unfortunately, now that there were adult supervisors there were no infants.

8.2.2 Teacher training

The Moderator reported that he had established contact with the Presbytery’s advisor on youth training; however, it appeared that there was no formal training course available though some material might be ready some time in 2005. The situation was very disappointing.

There were suggestions that one or more elders or one or more teachers should visit one of the neighbouring churches to see if anything could be learned from their current experience. The Moderator undertook to make contact with a former colleague in Paisley and Greenock Presbytery who had responsibility for youth training.

8.2.3 The Sunday Gang and Baptismal Sundays

The Moderator stated that he had noted that the children in the Sunday Gang were led back to the halls before the benediction had been pronounced and before the offering plate and Bible had been taken out from the church. He understood that the children had been taken away to satisfy ‘child protection’ requirements. Having met with the leaders it was planned that, on future occasions the children would leave the church after the benediction and in advance of any members of the congregation. All children would be picked up from the hall.

9. ROLE OF THE ELDER

Mr Mackay said that the comments which arose in the group discussions at the previous session meeting had been intriguing and interesting. He proposed that in order to move forward with the definition of the role of the eldership it could be useful to establish a small Working Group who could bring a summary document with options and recommendations to a future Session Meeting. This was agreed. The following were nominated to the Working Group; George Mackay, Edith Moseley, Margo Neilson, Norman Bolton, David Dundas and Sam Esler.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Kirk Session would meet at 10.30 on the morning of the December Communion. The next Kirk Session Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, 9th January, 2005 immediately following the close of Morning Worship. At this meeting the two items of business would be the Attestation of the Roll and the election of the Presbytery Elder. The next full meeting of the Kirk Session was agreed as Monday 7th February 2005.

11. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER 2004 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

The Moderator reminded elders that he intended to have a period of devotion before each of the major communion services and that this morning’s devotions would be led by Sam Esler.

Sam Esler led the Session in prayer and then read from Isaiah Chapter 9, verses 2 to 7. In his address he developed the theme of the reading which, he said, throbbed with the expression of confidence and hope. The prophet looked forward to a day when a great and good King would deliver God’s people from confusion and despair; when there would be light instead of darkness, joy instead of sadness, peace instead of strife, freedom instead of bondage and justice instead of oppression. In many homes preparations were taking place to celebrate Christmas. While Christmas is a time of joy for many to share with friends and family, we should not forget that many will be alone, at home or in hospital, others will be at work, and yet others, such as the armed forces, on active duty.

Sam said that while Advent was a time of hope and of celebration it was also a time of challenge to us all to try to see that hope, so eloquently expressed by Isaiah, realised far and wide. Around our world was disorder and despair. Advent signified the Coming. Jesus taught us to pray saying “Thy Kingdom come”. Because prayer is more than merely mouthing words, we do something about making the kingdom of love and peace actual in human life in the place where we live and move. Another world and the way we live is possible when we say “thy will be done on earth”.

Sam concluded the devotional period with prayer.

The Moderator thanked Sam for his inspiring address and the thoughts and challenges he had raised.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the event being planned by the Sunday Gang for the evening of the following Sunday. The Sunday Gang were looking for volunteers who would give a five minute talk about a memorable personal experience of a past Christmas.

4 SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5 CLOSURE

Following the Service of Holy Communion, the Moderator thanked the elders for undertaking their duties and closed the meeting with prayer.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 9th JANUARY 2005
IN THE CHURCH AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Kay Bolton, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Sandra Halliday, Mrs Edith Moseley, Mrs Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart Mr John Curror.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 21 ruling elders.

4. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with acclamation and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

5. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

5.1 Changes to Communion Roll

David Dundas intimated the death of Mrs Isobella White who had been resident in Crookfur Nursing Home and also two changes of address and three changes of district as noted below.

Name	Former Address	District	New Address	District
Mr Brian Esler	78 Monteith Drive	31	4 Dunnottar Court East Kilbride	56
Mrs Mary Esler	78 Monteith Drive	31	4 Dunnottar Court East Kilbride	56

Name	Address	Old District	New District
Mrs Marjorie McFarlane	19 Flenders Avenue	52	59
Mr William Robb	1 Strathhalladale Court, East Kilbride	59	56
Mrs Margaret Robb	1 Strathhalladale Court, East Kilbride	59	56

5.2 Attestation of Communion Roll

The Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2003	460
Number removed from Roll during 2004 by Death	13
by Certificate	6
by Otherwise	0
	19
Number added to Roll during 2004	2
by Profession	3
by Certificate	2
by Otherwise	7
	448
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2004	448
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2004	19
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2004	4

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for his work throughout the year in maintaining the Communion Roll.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being Monday, 7th February

7 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2005
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with a reading from Hebrews Chapter 13 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mrs Sandra Halliday, Mrs Janis Heriot, Mrs Grace Scott, Miss Jan Barr, Messers Alastair Graham, Robert Hutcheson and David Stewart.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 27 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Moderator proposed the suspension of Standing Orders because of the late start of the meeting since it followed a meeting of the Congregational Board. This was agreed. George Fraser asked for an additional item "History of Stamperland" and Nancy Fisher requested an item "Notification of death of a member in an elder's district". Both requests were agreed. Ann Bruce proposed that the Kirk Session should, in future, meet following the closure of the meeting of the Congregational Board. The Moderator said that this proposal would be considered by the ad-hoc committee set up to look at the role of the eldership.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 15th November 2004, 5th December 2004 and 9th January 2005 were circulated prior to the meeting. In the Minutes of the meeting of 15th November 2004 it was pointed out that in item 6.1.6 the starting time of the service at St Aidan's should have been given as 2.00 pm and that in item 7, the reference should have been to the Board of National Mission and not the Board of Social Responsibility. With these corrections, the adoption of the draft minute as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Gordon Robertson.

Acceptance of the minute of the Meeting of the 5th December, 2004 as a true record was proposed by Pat McIlraith and seconded by Sam Esler. Acceptance of the minute of the Meeting of the 9th January 2005 as a true record was proposed by Sam Esler and seconded by Gordon Robertson.

The Minutes of all three meetings were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 New Communicants

The Moderator said that all five people attending the New Communicant's class were willing to make profession of faith on Sunday, 20th February. He proposed that the Kirk Session would meet at 10.45, be constituted and take the communicants through to the church. There was unanimous agreement to this proposal.

6.2 Easter Services

The Moderator stated that Clarkston Churches Together had agreed to hold short services in all of the churches on Good Friday. The first service would be at St Joseph's at 8.00 am and the final service would start at 2.00 pm in St Aidan's.

There would be a series of short services at Stamperland each evening of Holy Week. There would be two services held jointly with Netherlee Parish Church; the first of these would be on Maundy Thursday at Stamperland; the second would be at Netherlee Parish Church on Good Friday at 7.30 pm following a short service at Stamperland at 6.30 pm.

The Moderator also stated that he was planning to hold an early-morning, open-air service at 7.00 am on Easter Sunday as well as a Family Service at 11.00.

The Kirk Session unanimously agreed these proposed arrangements.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Card from Rev George and Mrs Pamela Mackay

The Session Clerk read a card sent by the Manse Family expressing their thanks for the bouquet of flowers and the expressions of good wishes from members of the church following the birth of their daughter, Francesca, in January.

7.1.2 Letter from Eastwood Crime Prevention Panel

The Session Clerk read a letter from the Eastwood Crime Prevention Panel seeking nominations for the annual Community Awards. It was noted that past recipients of awards had been Nancy Fisher and John Dodds.

7.1.3 Letter from Presbytery Clerk regarding Presbytery Plan Visit

The Session Clerk stated that Glasgow Presbytery was sending a team of visitors to Stamperland Parish Church on Thursday, 17th March in connection with the development of the Presbytery Plan. The visiting team which would comprise Rev Norman Shanks, minister of Govan Old, Rev David Locke, minister of Barlanark Greyfriars, Rev William Wilson, minister of Tron St Mary's, Mr Alex Allan, Presbytery Elder from Calton, Parkhead and Mr Hector Dickson. The team intended to visit Busby, Greenbank, Netherlee and Williamwood Churches. Following visits to these churches, the team intended to present a report to representatives of all five churches at a meeting on the evening of Wednesday 20th April. The letter from Presbytery indicated that whilst the meeting on the 17th March would be open to members of the congregation all elders should endeavour to attend and that the meeting. It was indicated that the visiting team would be using the Glasgow presbytery "Star Tool" as a guide; a copy of this was given to all elders present.

The Moderator explained some of the background to the presbytery visitation. Overall, in Scotland, there were fewer ministers than congregations. A variety of approaches had been adopted to address this issue. One example was the development of "Team Ministries". Some churches had the ability and expertise to make considerable use of talents of lay members. Whatever, the Church of Scotland was looking at ways to ensure the optimum use of existing resources. The Presbytery Team would be looking to assess the viability of the five Clarkston Churches and the necessity to maintain all of them.

In discussions, Anne MacKenzie reported that representatives from congregations in the north west of Glasgow which had been visited by a Presbytery team felt that the presbytery team did not reflect the views expressed by the local congregations. It was highlighted that whilst there had been very significant changes in society since the end of the second World War, there had been remarkably little change in the Church (of Scotland). Many of the older members on whom the church relied for a very considerable level of financial support did

not wish to see radical change. George Fraser said that the RC factor (Resistance to Change Factor) was something which faced all organisations. Organisations, including the Church, needed to have Agents of Change who could articulate the reasons for change and develop and implement plans to effect the change.

In acknowledging that the Presbytery visit on the 17th March was an important event, elders agreed to meet to consider what responses might be made to the questions raised by the “Star Tool” immediately after the Stated Annual Meeting on 7th March and that the meeting would be open to any member of the congregation.

7.2 Deputy Session Clerk

7.2.1 Letter from Mrs Betty Frank

Margo Neilson intimated that she had received a letter from Mrs Betty Frank, wife of the assistant minister at Netherlee Church. The letter asked for volunteers to assist with leading a Holiday Club at Penilee between 4th and 14th July.

8. ROLL KEEPER

The Roll Keeper intimated the following changes.

Death

Mrs Helen Paterson, 22 The Oval, District 38.

Mrs Janet Quietch, Mearnskirk Hospital, District 60.

Transfer of Member

Mrs Marjory McFarland, 19 Flenders Avenue, District 59 to Greenbank Parish Church.

New Member

Mrs Fiona Leatham, 142 Stamperland Gardens, District 6.

Change of address

Mrs Christine McDougall formerly of 39 Ruthven Avenue, District 53, had moved to 6 Arthurlie Drive, District 53.

Mr Robert Dunsmuir, formerly of 190 Eastwoodmains Rd, District 53, had moved to Leeds, District 59.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie stated there was no Presbytery meeting report since there had been no meeting of Presbytery in January.

There had been a request to nominate a young person to attend the General Assembly. Mrs Mackenzie said that David McKee had indicated a willingness to attend if his university exam schedule permitted. The Kirk Session indicated their happiness which the selection of David as a representative.

10 STEWARDSHIP

Jane Curror reviewed some activities in relation to Stewardship with an emphasis on promoting fellowship within the congregation. Three events were described – a Birthday Tea following the Anniversary Service on 27th February, a new members’ social and a quiz and supper night on the day of the Spring Fair. Jane reported that the Stewardship Committee were working with the Social Committee.

David Dundas said that whilst the church accounts showed an encouraging increase in Freewill Offerings there had been a decline in Gift Aid and commented that there had not been a good response to the mini stewardship campaign.

11 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Parish and Beyond

It was reported that the committee had spent considerable time discussing how our church was regarded by the community. The committee were considering sending a leaflet to all homes in the parish advising what the church did, the activities offered by the church, listing

the church organisations and seeking a response on what people living in our parish wanted from our church. The Kirk Session indicated its agreement with this idea.

11.2 Nomination

Pat McIlraith said that she had indicated that George Finlayson and Ronnie Kirkwood were interested in the eldership. She wished to know whether there was action she should undertake in this regard. The Moderator stated that we should await output from the ad-hoc group looking at the role of the eldership before doing anything further.

12 NOTIFYING ELDERS OF A DEATH IN THEIR ELDER’S DISTRICT

Mrs Nancy Fisher said that there was a need to develop a system for informing elders of the death of a member who was in their district. The need for the system had been highlighted by a death which had occurred in her district during a period when the minister was on holiday. It was agreed that this was a topic which should be addressed by the Pastoral Care Committee once it was operational.

13 HISTORY OF STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH

George Fraser stated that he wished to draw elder’s attention to a document which had been prepared by Sam Esler. The manuscript, which ran to over 170 A4 sheets recorded the history of Stamperland Parish Church from its foundation right up to the present day. Whilst it had been a labour of love it did, nonetheless, represent a huge amount of effort. The Kirk Session expressed their appreciation.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next business meeting was noted as being Monday, 4th April. Elders were reminded that the Session would also meet on the morning of 20th February when five new communicants would be admitted and on the morning of 6th March before the Service of Holy Communion when Alf Dunbar would lead the meditations.

15 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2005
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The Moderator constituted the meeting with a reading and prayer.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMUNICANTS

The Moderator introduced the five new communicants to the members of the Kirk Session. They were Miss Christine, Miss Gillian Finlayson, Mrs Lynn Walker, Mr David McKee and Mr Scott Russell. The Moderator said all had attended the preparatory classes. Members of the Kirk Session indicated they were happy to proceed with the admission of the five by profession of faith

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Moderator announced that the annual inspection of records by Presbytery would be on Wed 6th April at Stamperland Parish Church.

4. ADMISSION OF NEW COMMUNICANTS

Elders proceeded to the church for worship and admission of new communicants. After the service the elders and new members returned to the Session House. Norman Bolton gave a short speech of welcome to the new members.

5 DAVID STEWART

The Session Clerk read a letter from David Stewart in which he stated that, as a consequence of his own deteriorating health and that of his wife, Florence, he felt he could no longer continue to serve as an active elder. The Session accepted David’s resignation and the Moderator asked the Clerk to write to David thanking him for his service as an active elder and conveying to him and Florence, the best wishes of the Kirk Session

6 CLOSURE

The meeting closed with all present saying “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 6th MARCH 2005 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

The Moderator asked Alf Dunbar to lead the morning’s devotions.

Alf Dunbar read from Isaiah and then led the Session in prayer highlighting that whilst knowledge was readily available, understanding was often wanting.

In his address Alf gave a fascinating account of a unique wartime experience at Arnheim Bridge in September 1944. After more than a day of intense shelling, during which many comrades suffered injury and death, he was with a group of ten men who were heading to the river to be evacuated. The whole battlefield scene was one of noise, smoke, extreme danger and no little fear. At one point a star shell lit up the entire area and he and his colleagues had to throw themselves face down into the mud to try to avoid detection. At that moment the words of Jesus; “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”, came into his mind and the fear was dispelled. Of the 10,000 men who were sent to Arnheim only 2000 survived.

Alf concluded the devotional period with prayer.

The Moderator thanked Alf for his inspiring address.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Session Clerk reminded elders that there would be a meeting of elders following the Stated Annual Meeting on the 7th March.

4 SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD MONDAY 4th APRIL 2005
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The Moderator announced the death of Douglas Brown saying that Douglas had died on Sunday, 3rd April and that his funeral would possibly be held on Wednesday 13th April. Following this announcement the meeting was constituted with a reading from Philemon and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mrs Sandra Halliday, Mrs Margo Neilson, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Janet Stewart, and Messers John Dodds, George Fraser, Alastair Graham, Robert Hutcheson and Bill Paterson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 22 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda was agreed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 7th February, 20th February and 6th March were circulated prior to the meeting. Some minor typographical corrections were highlighted and these were corrected in the formal minutes. With the incorporation of the corrections the adoption of the draft minute of 7th February as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Stuart Bruce and seconded by Gordon Robertson, the adoption of the draft minute of 20th February as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by John Curror and the adoption of the draft minute of 6th March as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Ann Bruce.

The Minutes of all three meetings were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Service of Admission for New Communicants

The Moderator asked the Kirk Session for their views and any constructive comments in relation to the service for admission of new communicants. Elders generally thought the service was very good and appropriate. David Dundas said that each communicant was treated as an individual. Edith Moseley said that it was good that all members of the congregation had the opportunity to meet the new communicants at the front door at the end of the service.

6.2 Easter Services

The Moderator thanked everyone who had helped at the Holy Week services from the Monday to the Friday and the early service on Easter Day, particularly Stuart who had prepared the booklet, Jennie who had played every evening and Anne MacKenzie who had organised and cooked breakfast on the Sunday morning. There had been congregations of around 30 on each evening and 24 people had attended the early morning Easter Service in Linn Park. The Moderator said that he much appreciated this support. Alf Dunbar said that he had found the evening services very meaningful; Jennie Fraser said it had been a unique experience, the topics and expositions being very interesting and thought provoking. Stuart Bruce said that it was good to have a theme; too often, perhaps, the repetition of the Easter Story resulted in the true meaning being lost and it had been good to hear an alternative, challenging approach. The Kirk Session agreed that a similar type of themed approach would be appropriate for next Easter.

6.3 Presbytery Visit to Stamperland

The Moderator said that he was a little disappointed at the small number of elders who had attended the meeting with the representatives from the Presbytery of Glasgow. Whilst it had perhaps not been a terribly exciting meeting it was about this church's future and was thus important.

The Moderator thanked Nancy Fisher for giving a presentation to the presbytery meeting at very short notice.

Some of the elders who had attended the meeting stated that they, too, had found the meeting less than exciting. Jennie Fraser commented that the questions being posed were rather bland and that there had been no indication from the Presbytery Team what it was that they were looking to discover. Nancy Fisher commented that there was considerable similarity between this visit and the meeting of the appraisal committee during the vacancy; much of the substance had been discussed earlier. David Dundas commented that it might have been more useful and productive if the Presbytery Team had requested written responses in advance of their visit and used the visit to seek clarification and develop ideas.

George Mackay said that he did not believe the Presbytery Team would suggest any major re-organisation of the churches on the South side of Glasgow.

The Session Clerk read extracts from a letter sent by Tom MacPherson, written following his attendance at the Presbytery meeting. In his letter, Tom suggested that discussions should take place about a range of options for the future of the five local Church of Scotland Churches and he presented a case for a significant re-structuring of the five churches. The basis was that the existing five existing buildings were vacated and that a new, purpose-built building would be developed to serve the needs of all churchgoers and the community at large. The case prepared by Tom presented some of the advantages and the disadvantages of the concept. David Dundas commented that the proposal described church buildings and functions which were similar to many Baptist churches in America. The Moderator commented that if the church was radical this would be the sort of proposal which should be considered. Norman Bolton commented that whatever the outcome of the Presbytery's visit, Stamperland Church should develop a forward plan. It was agreed that this issue should be considered at a future meeting following receipt of the Presbytery's recommendations at the meeting on the 20th April.

6.4 David McKee's attendance at the General Assembly

Mrs Mackenzie intimated that whilst David McKee had indicated a willingness to attend the General Assembly, his university exam schedule precluded his attendance. It was agreed

that David's willingness to attend would be noted and, if the opportunity arose next year, he would be invited to attend.

6.5 Elders Leading Devotions prior to Communion Services

Grace Scott agreed to lead Kirk Session devotions prior to the June Communion. Stuart Bruce and John Currer volunteered to lead devotions in September and December, respectively.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 60th Anniversary of V.E. Day

The Moderator stated that the 60th Anniversary of VE Day fell on the 8th May and, with the Kirk Sessions approval, he proposed to mark this event at Morning Worship that day. Elders present agreed with the proposal.

7.1.2 Baptism of Francesca Mackay

The Moderator stated that he and his wife were planning that their daughter, Francesca, would be baptised on the 15th May. The guest preacher, who would conduct the sacrament of baptism, would be Rev Fraser Aitken from Ayr.

7.1.3 Pentecost Picnic in the Park

The Moderator informed the meeting that Clarkston Churches Together were planning to celebrate Pentecost by having a picnic in Overlea Park. The event would commence about 12.30. Everyone attending would take their own picnic lunch.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly

The clerk read extracts from a letter from Dr Alison Elliot asking congregations to consider donating to an appeal on behalf of the Girls' Brigade. The Kirk Session decided that as Stamperland Church had ties with the Guides it was not appropriate to support this appeal.

7.2.2 Increased charges to residents in CofS Residential Homes

The clerk said that Grace Scott has approached him with a request from the Friends of Eastwoodhill that a letter should be sent to the Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility highlighting the concern of members of Stamperland Church to the recent very significant rise in charges being made to residents who were self funding. Residents had been asked to pay an increase of £106 per week, a sum which was around eight times the present rate of inflation. The clerk read out the text of a letter which he had drafted and asked for the approval of the Kirk Session before sending it to the Board of Social Responsibility with copies being sent to the local MP and MSP. Approval was given.

7.2.3 Church Without Walls

The clerk said that he had received information about two events being organised in connection with the Church without Walls. The events were the following.

Weaving the Word: This was a workshop being held in Renfield St Stephen's Church on 7th May. In connection with this event the organisers were looking for old Bibles or parts of old Bibles. Pages from the Bibles would be woven into some kind of artistic medium.

Big Saturday, 10th September: This event, being held in the SECC on Saturday, 10th September, was being arranged by the Clyde Presbyteries – Greenock & Paisley, Glasgow, Hamilton and Lanark.

7.2.4 Annual Inspection of Records

The clerk stated that the Presbytery's annual inspection of church records was scheduled for Wednesday, 6th April. The inspection of the records of all of the local Church of Scotland churches would take place in Stamperland Church.

7.2.5 Spring Fair

The clerk intimated that the Kirk Session had been asked to arrange and man the plant and gardening stall at the Spring Fair on the 7th May. All elders who could possibly help were asked to speak to Edith Moseley or Willie Anderson.

7.2.6 Visitation to Organisations

The clerk reminded elders that the system of visits to organisations was still in place. The elders who had the task of liaising with the organisations were asked to try to visit the

organisations before they stopped for the summer break and try to prepare a short report in advance of the next meeting of the Kirk Session.

8. ROLL KEEPER

The Roll Keeper intimated the deaths of two members. They were Mrs Janet Campbell who had been resident in Whitecraigs Nursing Home and Mr Douglas Brown.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie stated neither she nor the Moderator had attended the March Presbytery Meeting and that the April meeting was being held the following week.

10 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Ad-hoc Committee

The Moderator stated that, for a variety of reasons, the ad-hoc Committee which had the remit to look at the role of the eldership had not met. He was hopeful that a date could be set in the near future.

11 REPRESENTATION AT THE PRESBYTERY MEETING ON 20th APRIL

It was agreed that the following elders would attend the feed-back meeting of the Presbytery Team at Kirk House on the 20th April: Rev George Mackay, Margo Neilson, Nancy Fisher, Norman Bolton, Stuart Bruce and John Curror.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next business meeting was noted as being Monday, 9th May.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD MONDAY 9th MAY 2005
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev George Mackay with a reading from John Chapter 14 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Miss Jess Thomson, Miss Grace Scott, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Sheila McIntosh and Messers Willie Anderson, Connel Cranston and Robert Hutcheson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 25 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda was agreed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 4th April were circulated prior to the meeting. The adoption of the draft minute as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Kay Bolton and seconded by Janis Heriot. The Minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Service celebrating the 60th Anniversary of V.E. Day

Janet Stewart stated that she and many others had found the service very meaningful and moving. The Moderator thanked Sam Esler for providing a number of items, including a back-out curtain which were used to highlight particular aspects of life during the Second World War. The moderator also thanked Jennie Fraser for all of her work and expressed how fortunate we were to have someone with her talent and helpfulness.

7 REPORT OF PRESBYTERY REVIEW TEAM

The Session Clerk reported on the meeting held in Netherlee Parish Church on the 20th April. at which the Presbytery representatives had reported their findings and recommendations. Representatives of the five churches in our area – Busby, Greenbank, Netherlee, Williamwood and Stamperland were present at the meeting. Following discussions at the meeting, the review team had made some minor amendments to “The Recommendations” and “The Specific Proposal”. With the agreed amendments, the relevant sections of the Presbytery Review Report were now as follows.

Recommendations of the Review Team

1) Over the years ahead, building on the existing and clearly successful experience of working together (evident already, for instance, in the shared school chaplaincy, regular minister’s meetings and the activities of Clarkston Churches Together) the scope for further co-operation should be carefully explored (including building on existing sharing and the possibility of developing new ways of working together). More particularly, consideration should be given to cooperation in the following areas of common interest:

- Youth work: the possibility of the employment by some or all five congregations jointly, of a youth and community worker and the setting up of a new youth project (using the opportunity of the relocation of the local secondary school); outreach to young parents; development of contacts through the schools.
- work with the elderly (consolidating drop-ins, pastoral groups, Guilds etc.).
- work to help Lodging House Mission; Eastwood Hill and Williamwood House.
- outreach activities e.g. in sport, and other ways to highlight the role church can play or convey in meeting the spiritual needs of the hard working stressed in the community.
- sharing, even 'centralisation', of administrative resources.
- trade justice, Christian Aid, and other third world and community concerns.
- basic resources and skills, building on strengths and filling 'gaps', recognising varying degrees of openness to change, etc.
- the scope for exploration and discussions concerning their financial burden and how the money is spent centrally.

2) Congregations seek individually or collectively to explore further and build upon their links with priority area churches to see how their skills and resources might be shared and exchanged to mutual benefit.

3) Where congregations, individually or jointly, have their own additional workers, they might consider, in the context of limited national resources, helping other churches, locally or more widely, as part of their remit.

Specific Proposal of the Review Team

This would mean, in terms of what would be proposed within the ten-year framework of the Presbytery Plan, the continuation of the five congregations with five centrally-funded ministry personnel, committed to fuller co-operation, including developing existing sharing and exploration of the scope for new ways of working together. (This would leave open the possibility of additional staff, whether, for example, a youth and community worker or a further minister, subject to recommendation 3 above.)

Elder's Comments on Presbytery Review

In discussions following the report, David Dundas said that the case for employing a dedicated Youth Worker would need to be fully argued with the benefits being quantified and the associated costs being clearly stated. Sam Elser stated that the option of employing a Youth Worker had been considered at an earlier time and there had been little enthusiasm at that stage. He asked "Who would be expected to contribute? How much time would a youth worker spend with each church? What percentage of costs would be attributed to each church?" He added that within the community of Stamperland there is a community centre. However, the community couldn't find the resources or the leaders to "get the youth off the street".

Concerns were voiced regarding Team Ministry and that one or more churches might not have their own minister. The Moderator said that there were different ways in which Team Ministry could operate; ministers could be shared in ways which would ensure that individuals strengths and talents were used to benefit all congregations. Team Ministry also implied teams of lay people from each of the churches.

Stuart Bruce stated that the Presbytery meeting had also touched on opportunities for the local churches to assist poorer churches within Glasgow Presbytery. There were many ways in which help could be given.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

8.1 Moderator

8.1.1 General Remarks

The Moderator stated that over the summer period there was a lot of work and preparation to be undertaken. He had been at Stamperland for almost a complete year and had observed how the church was operating. Various matters would have to be given attention building on strengths and good points and changing aspects which needed improving.

8.1.2 Arrangements for Services

During the period of his study leave in August and his two weeks summer holiday leave in September, the Moderator said that worship would be conducted by Stuart Bruce (7th August, 4th and 18th September), David Dundas (11th September) and Eric Cooper (14th, 21st and 28th August).

There would be no Communion services in August or September. Communion would be celebrated on the first Sunday in October at both 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

The Moderator stated that the 65th Anniversary of the Guild would be celebrated on the 9th October and that the Guild would lead the service that day.

The Moderator also indicated that members of the Kirk Session would lead worship on the 6th November.

The Moderator stated that he was planning to arrange to have occasional guest preachers; he was keen that the ministers of Clarkston Churches Together should have exchanges on a semi-regular basis. In addition, organisations such as the Scottish Bible Society could lead worship or provide a preacher.

There was discussion about the date on which the Harvest service would be held. It was agreed that the service would be on the 25th September.

It was also agreed that the time of the service would remain at 11.00 am during the summer but that the issue of summer service times would be re-visited.

8.2 Session Clerk

8.2.1 Church without walls

The clerk read extracts from a letter regarding the Day of National Celebration to be held in Edinburgh on 28th May which asked for three “ambassadors” from each congregation. The Session Clerk asked that any elder wishing to attend should speak to him.

8.2.2 Big Saturday

The clerk gave elders some further information about the “Big Saturday” event. The Moderator urged elders to attend and to encourage members and their families to attend.

8.2.3 Presbytery Act of Worship in Newlands South Church

The Session Clerk read excerpts from a letter from Rev Hugh Wallace, the Convenor of the Presbytery Worship Committee, intimating that the Presbytery was arranging six acts of worship on Sunday, 28th August at churches throughout Glasgow. Congregations in our area were being invited to attend a service at Newlands South Church at 7.30 pm.

8.2.4 Letter from Board of National Mission

The Clerk said he had received a letter from Rev Douglas Nicol, General Secretary of the Board of National Mission acknowledging the concern of the members of Stamperland Church in relation to the future of the Lodging House Mission, and The Well. The letter stated that steps are being taken to ensure the future of the work on both these projects in the immediate future with discussions taking place regarding the long-term planning.

8.2.5 Letter from Board of Social Responsibility

The Clerk read extracts from a letter received from Ms Margaret Wilkinson, Head of Services to Older People regarding the increase of charges to residents in Church of Scotland care homes. The letter explained reasons behind the increase including aspects related to both national and local government such as improved fire safety precautions, increased payments to the Care Commission who regulate care providers across Scotland, increased training requirements and increased water rates. It stated that the Board was in discussion with CoSLA and the Scottish Executive regarding funding levels for residential care.

8.2.6 Presbytery Inspection of Records

The Clerk indicated that the Presbytery’s annual inspection of records had been completed on 6th April. With a minor comment relating to the fact that the Presbytery form relating to the annual revision and attestation of the roll should be kept with the Roll Book rather than with other Session Papers the inspection found all the records to be satisfactory.

8.2.7 Spring Fair

Norman Bolton thanked all of the elders who had assisted at the Spring Fair. The Moderator added his thanks and stated that he had been impressed by the hard work and by the nature of the whole event. He also expressed his enjoyment and appreciation of the evening quiz event but added that he was a little disappointed by the number of people who had attended.

8.2.8 Clarkston Churches Together – Event at Overlee Park on 15th May

Norman Bolton called for volunteers to assist with the Clarkston Churches Together – Event at Overlee Park on 15th May. Stamperland Church had agreed to provide a Bouncy Castle and volunteers were required to be in attendance.

8.3 Deputy Session Clerk

Margo Neilson drew the Elder’s attention to the duty sheet for the June Communion.

9. ROLL KEEPER

The Roll Keeper intimated changes of address for three members.

Name	Old Address	Old District	New Address	New District
Mr John McEwen	28 Nethercliffe Ave	53	Stone Calsey Cottage Symington, KA1 5PA	56
Mrs Mary McEwen	28 Nethercliffe Ave	53	Stone Calsey Cottage Symington, KA1 5PA	56
Mrs Maisie Henry	76 Moray Gardens		Abbey Lodge N H East Kilbride	56

10 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie presented the report on the April meeting. Alastair Graham asked about the Lodging House Mission and whether its future was now secure. Anne Mackenzie replied that there was a lack of clarity over the long-term funding after 2007, and that this would not be dispelled until after the Assembly Councils had been set up.

11 STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

The Moderator expressed his thanks to the team – Jane and John Curror, Kay Bolton and Tom MacPherson for organising the evening quiz and supper which was held after the Spring Fair.

12 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

12.1 Ad-hoc Committee

The Moderator asked that members of this committee arrange dates for future meetings.

12.2 Other committees

There were no reports.

13 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVE ELDERS

13.1 House Group

Jane Curror reported that the House Group has nine regular attendees. They are currently studying “The Uniqueness of Our Faith”. Having enjoyed this study so much they have started the study again and found still more to consider the second time around.

The ladies of the Group experience not only fellowship at the Group but fun too and the wealth of their individual histories broadens everyone’s horizons in both the spiritual and practical sense. They also give practical support on a regular basis to John and Agnes Buchanan’s daughter in her work with children.

13.2 Rainbow Guides

Jan Barr reported that the Rainbow Unit runs at full capacity (18 girls) with an ongoing waiting list to join. The girls all appear keen and happy to be in attendance. The unit runs smoothly, all of the games and activities being well-planned, organised and supervised.

The only problem identified was with the temperature of the small hall which was too cold all last winter; however, it was believed that this has now been resolved.

13.3 Brownie Guides

Anne MacKenzie reported that there were two Brownie Packs each with 24 girls. They both met on Monday evenings; one pack used the large hall for a year and the other pack used the small hall. The packs swapped halls each year. Two leaders were leaving and, if no additional leaders could be found, one of the packs would have to close. Parents were being asked if they might be willing to become a leader.

Responding to the problem of leaders in youth organisations, the Moderator stated that he had enjoyed the BB Junior Section Display and considered it to have been an excellent evening, displaying, to good effect, the activities enjoyed by the boys. He said that he had addressed those attending the display and told them that, if they had enjoyed their time in the BB or another youth organisation, they should be prepared to give back something by helping or becoming a leader. Organisations such as Guides, BB and Scouts depended on adults willingly giving of their time to help young people.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next business meeting was agreed as Monday, 19th September. The Ad-hoc Committee would agree dates of subsequent meetings.

15 OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Communication and Publicity

Sam Esler said that he was very conscious of the fact that out of all of the churches in the neighbourhood, Stamperland was the only one not to advertise in the Extra. He asked why Stamperland didn’t advertise and whether there was a plan to advertise in the future. The

Moderator indicated that this was an issue for the Ad-hoc committee to consider. They should look at ways of communication both within the church as well as to the wider community.

16 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 5th JUNE 2005 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

The Moderator asked Grace Scott to lead the morning’s devotions.

Grace Scott read from 1st Corinthians, Chapter 13 and then led the Session in prayer.

In her address Grace began by describing how she first came to have a deep involvement in the life of the church. She and some eight friends including Anne MacKenzie, Jennie and Jack Fraser held mid-week services in the church. Filled with an enthusiasm engendered from participating in the Billy Graham Crusade, the group brought new vitality to activities within the church – a vitality which perhaps not all members appreciated – but one which addressed the needs of the younger age group at that time.

Grace said that when we receive God’s grace we can accept ourselves with all our talents and our shortcomings and know true joy of who we are as a person. We all have different talents, skills, aptitudes and abilities – God made each of us special and distinct. God does not call us to be successful; rather he calls us to be faithful to him. Forgiveness is our deepest need and to truly forgive others is our highest achievement. In forgiving we are sharing the love of Christ. Grace reminded those present that the passage she read said, “Trust steadily in God. Hope extravagantly! Love extravagantly!”

No one, she said, should wonder if we are Christians because a Christian’s identity is always based on love and needs to be evident to all. She urged the elders that; “As we go into the service this morning may each of us have love for one another and each person we serve in his name”.

Grace concluded the devotional period with prayer.

The Moderator thanked Grace for her address.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Moderator intimated that there were items of business which he wished to discuss following the celebration of Communion.

4. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5. NEW MEMBER

The Moderator intimated that Mrs Marie Fordyce wished to become a member of Stamperland Parish Church. Recently Mrs Fordyce had been attending Stamperland Church on a regular basis. Elders present unanimously agreed that Mrs Fordyce should become a member by resolution of the Kirk Session.

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CRECHE

The Moderator said that he was proposing changes to the present arrangements for the crèche. He stated that it would be better if the crèche were to move from the lower hall to the small hall. The present location was not really suitable for parents with young children attending church, there being a considerable distance between the church and lower hall. Moving the crèche would create a more welcoming, family-friendly environment. The Moderator said that Quest could move to the lower hall and he suggested that the decoration of the lower hall could be changed to create an ambience which would appeal more to teenagers.

Elders agreed with this proposal.

7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUNDAY GANG

The Moderator said that he would be meeting with the leaders of the Sunday Gang with a view to planning the future structure and activities and superintendence. He stated that he had specific ideas about the development of the Sunday Gang and sought the approval of the elders to proceed with the discussions. Elders gave their approval.

8. RETIRAL OF MRS JENNIE FRASER

The Session Clerk read excerpts from a letter written by Mrs Jennie Fraser, the Church Organist. He said that Jennie had written the following:

“For some time I have been contemplating resigning from my post as organist and choirmistress but put it to one side as the congregation were getting to know a new minister and the inevitable changes that would bring. Ministers and organists need time to get to know each other too, as they work closely together in the musical life of the church. I have been greatly encouraged by Mr Mackay and recognise his many qualities. Now that he has settled in after a year with Pamela and little Francesca, I feel that I can relinquish the post with a clear conscience.

If the post is advertised during the summer, there will be time for the new candidate to settle in before the new season begins in September, provided we have a suitable applicant who can build up the choir or take Stamperland's musical contribution to a new level. My deputy, Mark Ralston, may be willing to apply for the post but may prefer to continue as deputy. Needless to say, I will continue till someone is appointed, provided I am well enough.

I have enjoyed my "official" stint as leader of praise as, previously, I had filled-in on a temporary basis through the years owing to other musical commitments. The choir has seen many changes since the 1960s but always there has been a nucleus of steady, reliable and faithful members who just love to sing. They have responded well to my tutelage; so, having choristers who lap up new pieces should bode well for whoever succeeds me.

Inevitably there is a hint of sadness in all of this, but I have been happy in my music and have always striven to give of my best in the worship of the church. Knowing the pleasure it has been to many, I feel that I have served my Lord and Master in the way He wished me to go.”

All present were very understanding of Jennie's desire to stand down and most appreciative that Jennie was willing to continue until the post was filled. There were many comments of appreciation for all that Jennie had achieved not just for the musical life of the church but also for its spiritual life and its outreach both in the parish and in relation to Mearnskirk Hospital. Comment was also made of the inspirational role played by Jennie's husband, Jack.

It was agreed that a Psalmody Committee be established to progress the filling of the vacancy. Mrs Anne Mackenzie, Mrs Sandra Halliday, the Moderator and the Clerk agreed to be the members of the Psalmody Committee
The Clerk was asked to write a formal reply to Mrs Fraser.

9. BIG SATURDAY

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the special event, "Big Saturday" to be held on 10th September in the SECC. The event was being organised by the Clyde Presbyteries and Glasgow Presbytery was encouraging churches, elders, congregations and youth to attend and support it.

10. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2005 IN THE SESSION HOUSE.

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from 1st Corinthians chapter 12 v. 12-18 and a prayer.

2. TRIBUTES TO DOUGLAS BROWN and JENNIE FRASER

The Moderator paid tribute to Douglas Brown and Jennie Fraser. A copy of the Tributes are filed with the Minutes.

The Moderator also gave his personal thanks to Alastair Cherry for conducting Jennie's funeral service in his absence. He also thanked the elders who had supported Jennie through her last days.

3. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs. Sandra Halliday and Mrs. Sheila McIntosh and from Messers. Norman Bolton, John Curror, David Dundas and David Stewart.

4. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 23 ruling elders.

5. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda was agreed with the addition an item relating to Clarkston Churches Together.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 9th May and 5th June were circulated prior to the meeting. The adoption of the draft minute for 9th May was proposed by Ray McNiven and

seconded by Janis Herriot. The minute for the 5th June was proposed by Pat McIlraith and seconded by Jan Barr. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

Mr. Willie Anderson wished to record the wonderful display by the three people who took the services in the Moderator's absence, namely Stuart Bruce, Eric Cooper and David Dundas. The Moderator added his personal thanks

8. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

Session Clerk

8.1.1 South Side Mail A letter had been received inviting advertisements or news of events to be sent to this new paper where appropriate.

8.1.2 Budget Consultation Information regarding the Church of Scotland budget consultation was circulated. It was agreed that elders should peruse this and it will be discussed at a future meeting, possibly in October, the closing date for responses being 31st January 2006.

8.1.3 Office-Bearers Returns

Confirmation by the Kirk Session of the following positions was obtained:

Liz Robb:	Partner Plan Representative
Jane Curror:	Stewardship Promoter
Grace Scott:	World Church Representative.
Norman Bolton	Session Clerk

8.1.4 Scotland's Churches Scheme

The Kirk Session decided that they did not wish to purchase any copies of the Guide Book.

8.1.5 Fair Trade Goods

A communication had been received asking if Stamperland Church wished to become a 'Fair Trade Congregation'. The Kirk Session were against this request.

8.1.6 Life and Work

Articles on the Eldership are being published in the current issues of Life and Work. Elders are encouraged to read this but those not taking Life and Work should see either the Session Clerk or the Deputy Session Clerk who will supply them with a copy for £1.50.

8.2 Moderator

The Moderator spoke to the Kirk Session, saying that it is now over a year since he became minister and that many people have been aware that, during this time, he has been watching, waiting and analysing life in Stamperland Church. It has been interesting and helpful and he is grateful for the support which he has had but it is now time to move up a gear. This includes:

- Looking at the ageing congregation
- Declining numbers
- Encouraging younger age group – teenage to early 40s
- Stepping Stones and Crèche require to move forward and this is already under way.
- More buzz and activity is required on a Sunday Morning.
- Pastoral Care group would be meeting soon.

Alistair Graham commented that the change of name from Sunday Gang to Stepping Stones was breath of fresh air.

8.3 Deputy Session Clerk

Margo Neilson drew the Elders' attention to the duty sheet for the October Communion. She also invited people to add their names to the list of readers for morning services.

9. KIRK SESSION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Elders were requested to complete forms indicating their preference for committee membership. Elders should work on one committee at least, where they can use their particular skills.

Concern was raised by Margo Neilson that we did not have remits for these committees. The Moderator felt that the committee name indicated, in an umbrella way, the purpose of

the committee and that it was up to the committee to prioritise and that specific remits at this stage was not necessary. Discussion took place and it was agreed that elders should have a commitment to go on to and participate in a committee plus visit an organisation. Jane Curror asked if the 'Liaison with Organisations' was a committee. It is totally separate and is as at present – elder(s) allocated to an organisation.

Various points of view were raised among which was the need for people to attend committee meetings, the fact that the minister's job has changed and the Moderator referred to the reading from 1st Corinthians chapter 12. Jess Thomson stated that it was important that the Church voice is heard in the Community, e.g. Crime Prevention. It was also agreed that there was a need for those with many jobs to share them with more people.

Comparison was made between elders and ordinary church members. In addition to the duties of an ordained elder it was felt that we had responsibilities for motivating, encouraging and leading the congregation and getting them to take responsibility.

10. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Sam Esler reported on the work that the Ad Hoc Committee had been doing over the summer months.

Elder's districts had been reviewed and David Dundas had drawn up a schedule of changed districts to enable some elders to undertake duties other than pastoral care. The Kirk Session agreed, in principal, that the number of districts should be reduced but further discussion was required before final decisions could be made.

11. PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder's report was circulated and Grace Scott asked if there had been any feedback regarding the Big Saturday Event. The only feedback had been from David Cameron who had considered it to be a great success.

12. STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

There was no report. The Stewardship Promoter stated that a meeting was arranged for October.

13. PSALMODY.

Several people have been in touch with the Session Clerk as a result of reading the information on the Glasgow Society of Organists website. In the meantime we are fortunate in having Mark Ralston, Kate Everett and Jean McLean who are able to provide temporary cover by playing the organ and leading our singing.

14. EDUCATION

The Education Committee have looked at three areas in the last few months.

14.1 Baptismal Co-ordinator: Gillian Kirkwood has agreed to take on this post and will start as soon as Disclosure Scotland is obtained. She has been given a remit.

14.2 Crèche: The crèche is up and running with plenty of new toys and plenty of people to help but very few children. Grace Scott encouraged elders to advertise the crèche when they visited their districts.

14.3 Holiday Club: Grace Scott suggested that we consider the possibility of having a Holiday Club in Stamperland Church next summer. She said that this would require to be a joint venture with the Parish and Beyond Committee. A lot of preparatory work requires to be done but the most important factor is to ensure sufficient number of helpers. The Kirk Session agreed in principal to the suggestion and to the calling of a meeting of interested parties at the end of October.

15. PARISH AND BEYOND

The Parish and Beyond Committee had met and are, at present, looking to see what other churches in the area are doing. Various people are finding out different aspects and the

Committee is meeting in October. They are also looking at the possibility of outside agencies using the halls when not in use by our own organisations.

16. KIRK SESSION SERVICE

The Moderator asked for volunteers to lead worship on 6th November,2005, stating that a similar service last year had been most successful.

17. CLARKSTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

Clarkston Churches Together had requested the use of the sanctuary for a Film and Fish Evening on Friday 18th November 2005. After discussion it was agreed that it was not possible for the BB Company to relinquish the church and hall accommodation on that evening but that we respond suggesting the following evening, Saturday 19th November 2005.

18. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following are the suggested dates for future meetings:

- Monday 10th October
- Monday 7th November
- Monday 5th December
- Sunday 8th January (immediately following close of morning Worship – to attest the Communion Roll and Elect the Presbytery Elder)
- Monday 6th February
- Monday 6th March
- Monday 3rd April
- Monday 8th May

19. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”

..... Session Clerk

.....Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2005 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

The Moderator asked Stuart Bruce to lead the morning’s devotions. Stuart read from 1st Corinthians and then led the Session in prayer. Stuart said the title of his meditation was ‘The Smell of Communion’. He recounted how, as a boy of eight or nine years old he had been present at Communion Services at his church – Langside Old Parish Church. He would be in the front pew of the gallery along with other children. Children were not allowed to sit in the body of the congregation at Communion.

Elders, all male, were dressed in morning suits. A clear recollection was the smell of port wine which was brought in to the chancel at the beginning of the service.

Spectating at Communion started him thinking. What was Communion? Why was the church abnormally busy? Why were the elders all male? Why could children not receive bread and wine? What did members get out of it? Stuart said that his parents were very understanding of his questions and, over the years, they tried to answer them all. It was Jesus, they said, who invited every one to the Table. People came because they loved Jesus or because they wanted to follow Jesus. They explained that the taking of bread and wine helped people remember Jesus' death and why he died. Stuart said he would always remember his father's words; "Jesus' death happened because of us – it happened because of you." though it was some years later before he could understand what his father had meant. . Stuart recalled one Communion at which the minister, Mr Cairns, said, "You might contemplate, as you wait for the bread and wine to be passed round, that you could end up like Jesus – a corpse – as dead as Jesus. But would that be bad?" he continued and, in answer to his own question, affirmed; "No. Because Jesus is not dead – he lives!"

Just as Jesus death happened because of me – and you – so Communion is for me and for you – for the forgiveness of sins. Stuart said that sometimes our lives go horribly wrong, "Happily ever after" is how children's stories end – but not so real life. The broken Communion bread is a reminder than Jesus was broken – but with Jesus the brokenness and failure are not the last words; there is an empty tomb; there is a group of followers; there is the start of a community of people unlike any other. "All this", Stuart said, "is promised to you and to me –for sharing in his death – for communing his 'failure'".

Stuart concluded the devotional period with prayer in which he reminded elders that at they received the elements they should contemplate "that death in which Christ gave his life to purchase ours; offered himself an atonement for our sins; shed his blood to blot out our guilt; was pierced so that we might be whole, bore our condemnation that all our justice could be satisfied".

The Moderator thanked Stuart for leading the devotions.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Moderator intimated that there was no other business.

4. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

..... Session Clerk

.....Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2005
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Haggai, Chapters 1 and 2 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs. Janis Herriot, Mrs Pat McIlraith and Mrs. Sheila McIntosh and from Messers. Alf Dunbar, George Fraser, Alastair Graham, Bob Hutcheson and Fraser Macintosh.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 22 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda was agreed with the addition an item to be brought up by Mrs Edith Moseley.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 19th September and 2nd October were circulated prior to the meeting. The adoption of the draft minute for 19th September was proposed by Sam Esler and seconded by Jane Curror. The minute for the 2nd October was proposed by Anne MacKenzie and seconded by John Curror. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Letter from Mrs Cameron

The clerk read extracts from a letter sent by Mrs Cameron of 120 Stamperland Hill in which she highlighted problems associated with young people congregating around the back door and back steps area of the church in Stamperland Hill and of the vandalism being experienced by residents of Stamperland Hill to both cars and property. Residents, particularly the elderly, were being intimidated by gangs of up to 20 heavily intoxicated youths loitering in the area. Mrs Cameron indicated that local residents planned to block off the access lanes to Stamperland Hill and asked if the church would look at doing something about the church steps – possibly by installing lighting or by fencing off the steps.

The clerk said that he had replied to Mrs Cameron offering the sympathy of the church members and indicating that the church was not immune to vandalism, having experienced damage to windows amounting to some £3,800 since June. The previous Friday an empty Buckfast bottle had been thrown through the hall windows whilst the hall was being occupied by almost 50 young boys attending the Junior Section of the Boys' Brigade. It was fortunate that no one had been hurt in the incident. The church had also experienced graffiti being sprayed onto doors and brickwork, flowers and shrubs being plucked out of flower beds and thrown onto the road and super glue forced into locks. In his letter he wrote that the church tries to engage with the community and provides accommodation for youth organisations and, each week, well over 200 local youths participate in activities run by the Guides, the Scouts and the Boys' Brigade.

The clerk had written to say that advice was taken from the police about security and that the church would review the current position to see if there were an option to make the area less attractive for youths to congregate. However, he advised that the financial position of the church is such that only a limited amount could be spent with there having been a recent obligation to spend well over £10,000 on provision of easy access and, in relation to ensuring the safety of the occupants of the premises, there could be an obligation to spend money on window guards.

The clerk said that he had sent copies of the letter to Mrs Mary Montague, the local councillor, and to the police superintendent at Giffnock with a request that they give their views on the problem of local vandalism and whether they can provide practical advice and action to resolve it.

Mrs Evelyn Graham said that she had been told by Donald MacNicol, a member who lived in Stamperland Hill, that he and his neighbours were frightened to leave their houses because of the youths who were loitering in the area and would like to see the wall at the back door of the church removed.

Sam Esler said that many resident of Stamperland were very unhappy about the decline of the community evidenced, amongst other ways, by the local shops having had to install steel window shutters.

Miss Jess Thomson said that Mr Alan Henderson, who lives in Stamperland Hill right across from the church, was “never off the phone to the police”. Parents of some of the youths known to be loitering denied that their children were actually there and responsible for some of the problem behaviour.

The Moderator indicated that there was a conflict between the church being seen to be open and welcoming and having to contemplate putting up barriers, grilles and shutters.

Elders suggested that the clerk send a copy of his letter to the Superintendent of police at Govan, to the Stamperland Residents Association and to the local MP and MSP.

7.2 Moderator

7.2.1 Guild Service

The Moderator thanked all of the members of the Guild who had led the previous day’s morning worship for their uplifting service which marked the 65th anniversary of the Guild at Stamperland. In particular he thanked Ray McNiven for leading the service.

7.2.2 Service of Dedication

David Dundas raised the issue of a Service of Dedication. The Moderator stated that he would discuss this later.

7.2.3 Letter from Lodging House Mission

The Moderator stated that he had received a letter from the Lodging House Mission thanking the church for their harvest gifts.

8 ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Report

The Roll Keeper had no report.

8.2 Potential New Members

The Moderator said that Mr Bob and Mrs June Marshall of 130 Stamperland Hill wished to become members of the church. Mrs Marshall had been a member of Shawlands Cross Church many years ago and Mr Marshall was a lapsed Anglican. Mrs Fisher said that she knew Mrs Marshall.

The Moderator said that Mrs Elizabeth Wright was anxious to become a member. She had previously been a member at a church in Bannockburn but her Certificate of Transfer did not appear to be forthcoming from that Church.

There was unanimous agreement that all three should be made members by resolution of the Kirk Session.

9 REPORT FROM PSALMODY COMMITTEE

The Session Clerk said that he had received a phone call that day from Mr Jack Henry, currently organist at Killearn Parish Church. Mr Henry had been unwell recently but was intending to send a formal application for the post. None of the other people who had previously expressed interest had followed up with applications.

10 ROLE OF THE ELDER

The Moderator introduced a presentation on the role of the elder. He said that he had been observing many aspects of the church during his first year as Minister. In relation to Kirk Session he had been considering specific aspects including the number of elders, gender, age range, the layout and facilities of the Session Room, elder’s districts, number of meetings, the attendance record of elders, agenda of Kirk Session meetings, conduct of Communion, visits to organisations, care of the young, technology, Kirk Session devotions, personalities, Session Clerk and Deputy Session Clerk, Session Committees. On each aspects he could

give a “score” – e.g. “five for excellent” and “one for really must do better”. Elders were challenged to think how they would score each aspect.

The Moderator asked the elders; “What is the difference between an Elder and a member?” There were many responses including words such as “commitment”, “good example”, “responsibility” and “calling”; to each the Moderator was able to say that all members should be “committed”, “responsible” and “called”.

The Moderator then presented the following summary of what the Eldership represents: The eldership is, in the Church of Scotland, the ordained (God-appointed) spiritual leadership of the congregation. Every member has an elder who is responsible for the pastoral care of each member in the elder's district. The elder, along with the minister, is responsible for the care of the sick, the aged and the needy, and encouraging those outside the fellowship of the Church.

Church members should seek the following of their Elder;

- for their elder to build up regular personal contact with them as a Christian friend.
- for their elder to be their point of pastoral care and help.
- for their elder to be their main link with the congregation's life and work.
- for their elder to pray for them and their family.
- for their elder to convey any concerns that arise in the district to the Minister/ Kirk Session.

Mr Mackay then presented a summary of the basic duties of an elder. These were as follows:

THE BASICS

- the observance of the sacraments
- the education of the young
- the appointment of organist and church officer
- the keeping in touch with the organisations around the church

THE THREE-FOLD TASK

- to attend Session Meetings
- to assist with distribution of the elements on Communion Sunday
- to look after the district

The Elder should be an example to others. Elders should demonstrate regular attendance for the sake of one's own spiritual life and as an encouragement to others.

The Moderator commented that in undertaking Communion duties the Elders on duty were very good. However, there were elders who were not regularly attending Session Meetings; what, he asked, should be done about them?

Continuing his presentation the Moderator highlighted that each elder is normally assigned a district for the oversight of which he/she is responsible. Each elder should assist the minister in the care of the sick, the aged and the needy, and in encouraging those outside the fellowship of the Church. Pastoral concern should not be confused with the delivering of Communion Cards. Real personal contact is the aim: the sharing of the joys and difficulties of one's fellow Christians in the intimacy of their homes; the giving of support and love and the sense of belonging to the wider family of the Church. It was recognized that there were five levels of communication. The most superficial was the Cliché – often limited to the weather or a throwaway remark such as, “How are things?”. The second level was Facts and the third level was Ideas and Opinions. Progressing further, the fourth level was Feelings leading to the fifth and peak level where there was no embarrassment about discussing topics of faith, Christ and God. Being an elder meant having meaningful conversations and getting to at least interchanges exploring ideas and opinions if not feelings and openness in discussing spiritual and faith matters.

Finally, the Moderator outlined his aims for the long term as being the following:

- A better-structured district system
- Kirk Session committees functioning well

- Supervision with the minister spending time with each elder to discuss what each is doing and how each can develop
- The Kirk Session having regular conferences and planned activity time sharing time together for work, play, reflection
- The ability to free certain elders for specific roles, for example encouraging lapsed or irregular attenders; supporting elders and members in changing life circumstances
- The opportunity of having a fully -trained eldership who can conduct funerals, lead worship

There was general agreement amongst the elders that this was a way forward.

The Moderator then outlined a general Kirk Session structure with various committees and their broad responsibilities and the need for communication and interaction.

In relation to communication it was suggested that there should an occasional double-sided A4 leaflet describing broad activities going on within the church and all of its youth organisations. This would be distributed through the organisations and, potentially, more widely around the parish.

In discussion, topics raised included whether the church actually needed elders; whether elders should serve for fixed terms or should be "elders for life". There was clarification of what should happen at the end of a Communion Service. At the end of the service the offering should be taken out first, followed by the Bible with the elements being the last to be taken out of the church. The congregation should be standing as the offering, Bible and elements are taken out; the congregation should also stand when the elements are brought back into the church following the serving of Communion.

11. KIRK SESSION SERVICE

The elders who had agreed to conduct worship on 6th November, 2005 were Sam Esler who would lead and preach the sermon, Pat McIlraith who would give the childrens' address, Alastair and Evelyn Graham who would lead prayers and Jane Curror.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Edith Moseley proposed that elders should each donate £1 when attending a Session Meeting. This relatively small amount would quickly build up to a substantial sum which could be distributed to a charity at the end of each year. Following discussion it was agreed that this proposal should not be adopted.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Monday 7th November. It was noted that the next meeting of the Congregational Board would be the 24th October.

14. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace"

..... Session Clerk

.....Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2005
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Ephesians, Chapter 1 and a prayer.

2. TRIBUTE TO JIM GILLESPIE

Elders were upstanding whilst Sam Esler read a Tribute to Jim Gillespie who died on 12th October. The Clerk was instructed to send a copy of the Tribute to Jim's widow, Mrs Madge Gillespie.

3. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs. Nancy Fisher, Mrs. Sheila McIntosh, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart, Miss Jess Thomson, and from Messers. John Dodds, Alastair Graham, Bob Hutcheson and David Stewart.

4. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 22 ruling elders.

5. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda was agreed with the addition of the following topics: Recruitment of Elders under Item 12; Reports from Kirk Session Committees under Item 13; Invitation Cards for Communion under Item 14.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 10th October were circulated prior to the meeting. The adoption of the draft minute as a true record was proposed by Sandra Halliday and seconded by Willie Anderson. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and Session Clerk.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 Letter from Lodging House Mission

The Moderator read extracts from a letter from Mr Andrew Low, Leader of the Lodging House Mission thanking the church for the donation of goods from the Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

The Clerk intimated that a cheque for £247 had been sent to the Lodging House Mission. The amount of £247 was the balance of the funds in the "Poverty Fund".

7.2 Service of Dedication

The Moderator stated that it had been the practice to have a Service of Dedication for the youth organisations, congregational organisations and congregation in September. There had been no service this year due to the Moderator's Study Leave and holiday arrangements. It was planned that there would be a Service of Dedication in September 2006.

7.3 Vandalism in the Vicinity of the Church

The clerk stated that he had received a letter from Chief Inspector Kenneth Graham, Giffnock Police Station, regarding the reported instances of vandalism and disturbance caused by gangs of youths congregating in the vicinity of the church. The letter stated that the police were conducting high visibility policing over four successive Friday and Saturday night periods. On Friday, 28th October a number of youths were arrested and charged with various offences ranging from Breach of the Peace to Street Drinking. Chief Inspector Graham had also spoken to one of the BB Officers on that Friday evening and assured him that there would be a police presence that evening when the BB boys were leaving the halls.

The clerk also stated that he had received a letter from Councillor Mary Montague acknowledging receipt of the letter highlighting the problems associated with youth congregating in the areas around the church and Stamperland Shops. The letter indicated that a fuller response would be given in due course.

Sam Esler stated that he had picked up half-a-dozen fist-sized stones from the pavement outside the shops that morning.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

Session Clerk

8.1.1 Letter from Session Clerk at Netherlee

The clerk read a letter sent by Mr Michael Buchan, Session Clerk at Netherlee Parish Church offering the condolences of his church following the death of Jennie Fraser.

8.1.2 Letter from Church House, Lodging House Mission and The Well

The clerk intimated that he had received a letter from leaders of Church House, Lodging House Mission and The Well urging Kirk Sessions to make positive comments about the long-term funding of the three projects when responding to the Council of Assembly budget Consultation.

8.1.3 Follow-up to Big Saturday

The clerk intimated that he had received a request to provide contact details for people who could be kept up-to-date with information related to any follow-up events associated with the “Big Saturday” event in September. Sheets with spaces for individual’s contact details were left on the table.

8.2 Moderator

8.2.1 Letter from Mr and Mrs Bruce

The Moderator read a letter addressed to the Minister, Session Clerk and Kirk Session from Stuart and Ann Bruce. The letter stated that they were leaving Stamperland Church, resigning from the post of Church Officer and Fund Raising Convenor and requesting to be relieved of duties as elders and members of the Kirk Session as of 7th November. The letter stated that they had reached this decision only after weeks of soul-searching but felt that this was the only course of action because of the handling of several situations and of some people’s attitude.

The Moderator stated that he had been astonished and surprised at receiving this news. He had visited Ann and Stuart to talk over the issue but it was clear that their minds were made up and that they would not change their decision. He said that Ann and Stuart were very much part of the plan and vision he had for the church.

Willie Anderson said that it was a sad day for the church. The church had meant everything to Stuart and Stuart had meant a lot to the church. Pat McIlraith also said it was a sad event; there was a feeling that we could all think that it might have been something we had said or done which had led to the decision.

The Moderator said that the process of change he envisaged might not suit everybody and some people might find the challenge difficult. So far, he had not changed much. It was crucial that the Kirk Session were as one in the way ahead. He said there would be fall-out from the resignation. Members of the congregation were bound to ask, “Where is the Church Officer?” He stated that he was disappointed that he was too late to have had the opportunity to discuss the problems with Stuart and Ann and disappointed that, only now, were certain issues coming to light.

David Dundas stated that Ann and Stuart would be seriously missed and proposed a vote of thanks. The clerk was instructed to write to Ann and Stuart and thank them for their past service.

8.2.2 Appointment of a new Church Officer

George Mackay stated that the Kirk Session would have to appointment a new Church Officer. It was proposed that an Ad-hoc committee be established to manage the process. It was agreed that the committee would comprise the Moderator, the Session Clerk, John Curror, Sam Esler and George Fraser and that the Halls Manager would be co-opted.

8.2.3 Kirk Session Leading Worship

The Moderator thanked the elders who had led the service of morning worship the previous day. He said that it was good to be able to sit in the body of the congregation and be spiritually uplifted. He also thanked John Curror for leading the singing two or three

Sunday's previously when there had been no organist and praised the choir for maintaining their high standards in the absence of a choirmaster and organist.

8.2.4 The Moderator's Duties

The Moderator stated that he had to undertake a range of duties in connection with serving on Presbytery Committees. He was a member of the Worship Committee, the Support and Development Committee with responsibility for the East End of Glasgow and of the Superintendence Committee. Recently, his wife, Pamela, had changed her job and was the Research and Development Officer for Dementia Care; as a result of his work and family responsibilities Mr Mackay said that he was not always available "at any time of the day" and the time when a minister could be contacted 24-hours a day had long gone.

George Fraser commented that the Moderator's Presbytery responsibilities seemed quite heavy and suggested that it would be useful if George Mackay could write an article for "Focus" describing the Presbytery work so that the congregation could have an understanding of the involvement and the demands on the Moderator's time.

8.3 Deputy Session Clerk

Margo Neilson intimated that she would not be present for the December Communion. Sandra Halliday would deputise. The elders who prepared for the Communion Service on the Saturday morning would meet and work as normal.

9 ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Report

David Dundas reported that the changes intimated in September had not been recorded in the Minutes. The following changes had been recorded over the period up to the present.

Deaths

Mrs Maisie Henry	Abbey Lodge Care Home
Mrs Elizabeth Tennant	54 Monteith Drive
Mrs Janet Falloon	22 Orchy Gardens
Mrs Margaret Stove	37 Stamperland Avenue
Mrs Janet Fraser	70 The Oval
Mr Jim Gillespie	5 Netherway

Change of Address

Name	Old address	New Address
Mrs Lynne Whitfield	176 Randolph Dr	4 Hornel Place Larbert, Falkirk
Mrs Margaret Yde	70 Moray Gardens	33 Bowfield Drive Glasgow
Mrs Patricia Madden	40 Moray Drive	10 Kirkdene Avenue Newton Mearns
Mrs Alison Allan	107 Rockmount Avenue	14 Brennan Place East Kilbride
Mrs Margot Young	31 Stamperland Crescent	27 Ayr Road Newton Mearns
Mrs Marion Fergusson	12 Cromarty Gardens	29 Strathtay Avenue
Mrs Lesley Logan	11 Netherhill Avenue	Flat 9 Waterside, Field Road, Busby

New Members

Mr Ronald E Kirkwood	4 Monteith Drive	By Certificate
Mrs Anne E Kirkwood	4 Monteith Drive	By Certificate
Mrs Jacqueline Silcock	5B Fairfield Court	By Certificate
Mr Bob Marshall	130 Stamperland Hill	By Resolution
Mrs June Marshall	130 Stamperland Hill	By Resolution
Mrs Elizabeth Wright	23 Strathtay	By Resolution

10 PRESBYTERY ELDER

The presbytery Elder's report of the October Meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions. Anne MacKenzie stated that the Quinquennial Visit would be led by Rev Norman Shanks.

11 REPORT FROM PSALMODY COMMITTEE

The Session Clerk said that he had received a formal application from Mr Jack Henry, who had recently retired from the post of organist at Killearn Parish Church. None of the other people who had previously expressed interest had followed up with applications despite promptings. It was agreed that the Psalmody Committee would meet at the end of the Session meeting to take the matter forward. The Clerk pointed out that the church had to be careful not to infringe legislation on employment and discrimination.

12 REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

Jane Curror stated that the Stewardship Committee had come up with three projects for the consideration of the Kirk Session. The projects were a Youth Cup Challenge, a Christmas Party Lunch and a Stewardship Campaign.

In the Youth Cup Challenge, it was envisaged that each of the youth organisations would be given a sum of money and challenged to increase the money. There were some concerns that the organisations might be too busy to take on this type of activity; concerns were expressed about how to compare the efforts of organisations with different numbers of members. There was agreement that the idea of involving the organisations was a good one and it was recommended that the Stewardship Committee speak to the leaders of the organisations to seek their views and discuss possible alternative options.

The Christmas Party Lunch would take place the Sunday before Christmas – the day of the Nativity Play. It was hoped that parents and extended families of the children taking part would be attracted to attend. Christmas pies and mulled wine would be served.

It was proposed that the Stewardship Campaign would include three lunches, each to be held on a Sunday, possibly in February, March and April. Each lunch would have a theme - "Money", "Time and Talents" and "Outcome". Mr Mackay would preach on the relevant theme at the morning service and there would be additional speakers at each meal. A specific concern was that unless special efforts were made the people who would hear the sermons and attend the meals were the "regular attenders"; those members who attended only intermittently would not be reached. It was agreed that specific actions had to be taken to ensure that there was a focus on "irregular attenders". It was appreciated that there would be a lot of planning and a lot of hard work to achieve a positive result. It was envisaged that each of the Stewardship Lunches would be organised by a different church group, specifically, it was suggested, the Congregational Board, The Kirk Session and The Guild. The Session Clerk said that the forecast deficit for the next year's budget was £20,000 and there was a real need for a successful Stewardship campaign. There was agreement that the Stewardship Committee should proceed to plan a Stewardship Campaign and they should consider co-opting additional members onto the committee to assist in this important task.

The Moderator thanked the Stewardship Committee for their work.

13 UPDATE ON THE ROLE OF THE ELDER

13.1 Moderator's Comment

The Moderator stated that there was nothing to add to the discussion at the previous meeting. Elders should study what had been written in the minutes about the elder's role.

13.2 Elder Recruitment

David Dundas said that on looking at the number of empty chairs one might conclude that a lot of elders were missing. In fact, eighty per cent of district elders were present. At the moment, taking into account the resignation of Mr and Mrs Bruce and the recent deaths of Jennie Fraser and Jim Gillespie there were now only about 28 elders who were able to visit districts. He said there was a need to recruit new elders.

George Mackay said that he had a concern about bringing new elders onto the Kirk Session before we, as elders, had a clear view of the role of the elder and really knew what we were

to do. We shouldn't be simply looking to fill chairs but to find people who would serve well. There was a proposal from David Dundas and seconded by Sam Esler that elders should be recruited in a systematic and timely manner. It was agreed that elders should bring names of potential elders to the December meeting.

14. ORGANISATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES

14.1 Committee Membership

The clerk said that only about half of the elders had returned a form giving their preference on which committee they wished to serve. The assumption had to be that if no preference was stated the elder would be willing to serve on any of the committees. It was planned to confirm the make-up of the committees at the December meeting of the Kirk Session.

14.2 Report from Parish and Beyond Committee

Evelyn Graham presented a written report. She said that the committee had been tasked by the Moderator to look at what neighbouring churches do for their parishes, what is missing in Stamperland and what Stamperland could provide. After extensive discussion the committee was bringing forward six items for consideration. These were:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Church – Open Door | 2. Church and Halls Open Day |
| 3. Church and Community Open Day | 4. Jennie Fraser Memorial Concert |
| 5. Mega Scope | 6. Flower Festival |

Church – Open Door involved opening the Church and Sanctuary one morning per week from 10.00 till 12.00 for prayer and quiet contemplation, fellowship and for meeting with friends in the community. At least two church members would require to be in attendance.

The Church and Halls Open Day, held in late August or early September, would provide a forum for the church and all its organisations to publicise their activities. Flyers would be distributed to all homes in the parish.

The Church and Community Open Day could alternate with the above event and would seek to have displays involving community organisations such as Age Concern, Energy Watch, East Renfrewshire Council, Stamperland Residents Association, Community Council, etc..

The Jennie Fraser Memorial Concert would be an annual event and would tie in with the Congregational Board's Social and Fund Raising activities.

Mega Scope is a midweek evening event for P4 to P6 held in Greenbank Church; the opportunity of developing this for Stamperland Church could be investigated.

A Flower Festival could be arranged to highlight and involve different groups within the church and community.

After discussion it was agreed that the Committee should work to launch the Church – Open Door and look at preparations for a Church and Community Open Day.

14.3 Report from Education Committee

Margo Neilson reported on a proposal for holding Summer Mission activities for primary children during two weeks in the summer of 2006. No definite arrangements had been made but already some 20 people, mainly "mature" ladies had volunteered. It was indicated that members of the Parish and beyond Committee were willing to be of help.

Mention was made that Gillian and Christine Finlayson, David McKee and Scott Russell had indicated interest but couldn't commit since none of them knew what they might be doing in the summer. The Moderator indicated that care should be taken not to "overload" these particular four young people. Whilst they and Lynn Walker were keen and committed too many demands on their time could prove counterproductive.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

Willie Anderson said that there was a feeling amongst most elders that Communion Cards or Invitation Cards should be re-instated. The Moderator voiced concern that cards could become an alternative to personal contact between elder and members of the congregation. George Fraser said that he had a desire to go back to the situation where Communion Cards were issued and counted; only in this way was it possible to derive meaningful statistics regarding member's attendance. Countering this view David Dundas stated that he had spent

hours working at statistics which were never used and served no purpose. Alf Dunbar concurred with David's view.

It was agreed that discussion of Communion Cards would be deferred until February and that Visiting Cards should be prepared and be made available to elders as soon as practical.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Monday 5th December.

17. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with the Moderator saying a benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 2005 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

The Moderator asked John Currer to lead the morning's devotions.

John read from a Glasgow dialect version of Mark's Gospel recounting Jesus calling of the four fishermen as disciples.

John then recalled being given a magic set when he was around eight years old. The first thing he had done was to take out a prop in the form of a closely woven tube about six inches long and, having put his index fingers into either end, found couldn't withdraw them. Not daunted by this, he practiced the ten or twelve tricks in the box and ever since maintained a low-level interest in magic and conjuring. However, around two years ago he became involved with the Scottish Conjurers Association and has now a considerable knowledgeable of the art of magic.

A few years before receiving the box of tricks John said that he used to attend Sunday School. Attendance was somewhat under duress since Sunday School was at 2pm, the time when his pals were ready to start a game of football. Later on, he joined the BB and was a regular attendee at Bible class and Church parades until he left the BB. At this point such things were put on a back shelf due to other interests and it wasn't until the 1980's that he started attending Stamperland Church, joining as a full member in 1990.

Looking back on both of these scenes John said he realised that his early experiences had given him an insight into magic and Christianity, both of which he had returned to later. As with magic it was only with practice that one could become a better magician and a better Christian.

He referred back to the fishermen in the reading. On the spur of the moment they gave up their jobs to follow Jesus and, in time, become disciples spreading the word of God through out the world. Each disciple would have endured many hardships throughout their missionary work and taken severe knocks only to stand up again and carry on with their work to spread the good news. In Stamperland, he said, we have not had the smoothest of passages as over the last few months having lost our Organist, Church Officer, Fund raising convenor and cleaner and we faced the New Year with

fewer Sunday School Teachers. As a Kirk Session we could be like the disciples who prevailed against staggering odds to accomplish their calling. If we were to rally together and maintain faith in God, then, said John, we will build a stronger Church here in Stamperland. In a graphic illustration John demonstrated a conjuring trick in which a piece of thread was broken into small pieces, each useless, but with the application of skill, these were reformed into a single long thread capable of being put to good use. John concluded the devotions by leading the elders in prayer.

The Moderator thanked John for leading the devotions mentioning that the address had indeed “been magic”.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

The Moderator intimated that there was no other business.

4. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 5th DECEMBER 2005
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Matthew Chapter 2 and a prayer.

3. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs. Sheila McIntosh, Mrs .Margo Neilson, Miss Grace Scott, and from Messers. John Dodds, David Dundas, Alistair Graham, Bob Hutcheson and David Stewart.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 23 ruling elders.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 7th November were circulated prior to the meeting. There was one correction in Item 15 (Other Business) where the third sentence was amended to read; “George Fraser said that he had a desire to go back to the situation where Communion Cards were issued to encourage members to attend”. With the incorporation of this amendment the minutes were signed by the Moderator and Session Clerk.

5. CLOSED COURT

The Moderator informed the meeting that he wished to raise a matter which was to kept confidential to the meeting and, accordingly, declared the meeting to be a closed court.

The matter related to the resignation of Mr and Mrs Bruce and the publication of the letter from Mr and Mrs Bruce in the December edition of Focus. The Moderator said that he believed that the content of their letter was very disappointing. Taken along with comments

in the preceding article in the magazine there was a strong implication that there was division and disunity within the church. The Moderator reminded elders that, on ordination, each had promised to “seek peace and unity of the church”. Elders agreed that it was their duty to focus on the unity and strength of the church when speaking about church matters. At the conclusion of the discussions, the Moderator declared the meeting to be an open court.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Appointment of Church Officer

The Moderator intimated that the ad-hoc committee had not yet met to consider the appointment of a new Church Officer.

6.2 Report From Psalmody Committee

The Session Clerk said that the members of the Psalmody Committee had met with Mr Jack Henry after the Communion Service at which Mr Henry had played the organ. The committee were unanimous that Mr Henry was a competent musician and elders present at the Kirk Session meeting voiced their agreement. Currently, Mr Henry was organist and choirmaster at Killearn Parish Church and was finding the travelling onerous. Mr Henry was particularly keen to develop the choir and also to found a junior choir. He believed that music and singing was an important and integral part of worship.

Elders made clear their wish for any new organist to have a formal written contract with a full job description. The Session Clerk was asked to check that the salary being offered for the post was in line with Church of Scotland recommendations. Mr Mackay said that he would check the references provided by Mr Henry.

Alf Dunbar stated that John Dodds and at least one other resident of Linnpark Court considered Jack Henry very good and to be highly recommended.

6.3 Organisation of Permanent Committees

A sheet proposing the committees on which each elder would serve was circulated. The Moderator indicated that the arrangement had been based on those elders who had expressed a preference serving on either their first or second choice of committee; any elder who wished to change committee should speak to the Session Clerk. A final version of the structure would be agreed at the February meeting of the Kirk Session.

6.4 Communion Cards

The Moderator distributed papers presenting various arguments for and against the use of Communion Cards. Elders were asked to read and study the information in preparation a discussion on the use of Communion Cards at the February meeting of the Kirk Session.

7 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Letter from Jim Currie

The clerk read a letter from Jim Currie in which he indicated that family and work commitments were such that he was finding it very difficult to undertake his duties as an elder. Accordingly, he was requesting that the Kirk Session placed his name on the list of retired elders. The clerk suggested that elders might like to recommend that Jim Currie was placed on the list of elders having Sabbatical leave rather than the retired list. Elders agreed that Jim Currie’s name be added to the list of elders having Sabbatical leave.

7.1.2 Donations and Gifts to the Church

The clerk stated that he was pleased to record the gift of a chair for the sanctuary which had been presented by Miss Janet Stewart and her sister, Elizobeth, in memory of their parents, Mr and Mrs K Stewart; also the gift of the piano which was now in the Session Room from the brother of Mrs Jennie Fraser.

The Clerk commented that he had been asked about the use of the money donated to purchase a retirement gift for Jennie Fraser. In accordance with Jennie’s wishes, a brass music lamp had been purchased for the church organ and a projector table was being ordered. Investigations were being made in relation to providing some form of voice amplification system for use by the Guild and other organisations to assist speakers when meetings were held in the large hall.

7.1.3 Distribution of the Other's Fund

The Clerk stated that there was an amount of £311 in the Other's Fund and recommended that we consider sending £100 to three local charities. It was agreed that cheques should be sent to Erskine Home, The Children's Hospice and The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

7.1.4 Life and Work

The Clerk stated that the editor of Life and Work was keen to raise the number of subscriptions to the magazine and was particularly keen that more elders should be regular subscribers. Sample copies of Life and Work were available and the clerk asked that elders take copies home.

7.1.5 Team Elders

The Clerk said that he had been informed by an elder that one district had apparently not been visited for possibly three years. The district should have been covered by "Team Elder" arrangements. There were comments from elders that the Teams had become outdated with the loss of a number of elders and that new lists were required.

8 ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Report

Change of Address

Name	Old address	New Address
Mr C Hamill	River Court 203 Busby Court	30 Strathview Park Netherlee, G44 3EN
Mrs Doreen Findlay		Windlaw Park Gardens
Mr Hugh Findlay		Windlaw Park Gardens

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

The presbytery Elder's report of the November Meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions and the Moderator thanked Mrs Mackenzie for her hard work and continued interest.

10 REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

John Curror read a report prepared by Jane Curror. Plans have been finalised for a short Congregational Christmas Party to be held after the Nativity Service on Sunday, 18th December. In relation to the concept of a Youth Challenge event, the leaders of all organisations have been contacted and are willing to discuss participation depending on the type of event selected; the committee will consult further with organisation leaders on possible events.

The Committee are considering three Congregational Lunches to be held at the end of January, February and March. In connection with these lunches, there would be articles in "Focus" on "Our Giving Makes a Difference" - Stewardship material from 121 George Street; "The Giving Ladder" - details of members current givings presented in financial bands; and "The Current State of our Finances". This latter article would highlight the presence of a "Suggestion Box" to be placed in the church vestibule seeking views of members on how they believe the financial problems facing the church could be solved. The big push would come at the end of March. Invitations to the March lunch would be delivered by Elders when they visited members in connection with the March Communion. Appropriately themed services would be held on the last three Sundays in March, culminating in the Congregational Lunch in March.

The Stewardship Committee were also considering holding a Day of Giving in the Autumn of 2006.

11. MODERATOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

11.1 Stepping Stones

After a paper exercise, in which the Elders were asked to think of their most positive and least positive events over the past year, the Moderator highlighted his own choices - the baptism of his daughter, for it included the whole family of God, but his greatest disappointment at a working level, was that of Stepping Stones. He was of the belief that were differing and divisive opinions within the Kirk Session as to why the numbers of children had declined in recent years and surmised that problems with Stepping Stones may have been a contributory factor in the departure of Stuart Bruce. Mr Mackay read extracts from a letter written by Mrs Sandra Paterson where she gave notion of her resignation as a leader of Stepping Stones at Christmas and as a leader of the Rainbow Guides at the end of the current session. Mrs and Mr Paterson wished to transfer their church membership to Orchardhill Parish Church.

Elders made various comments. There was a willingness amongst Elders to assist but the requirement to follow Child Protection Rules meant that most elders could not participate for several months. Questions were asked about the position of Stepping Stones’ Superintendent. The Moderator stated that whilst he was acting as 'overseer', no one was currently acting as Superintendent; the one person approached by him, was unable to take on the responsibility. Questions were raised about the reasons for the departure of a few leaders. It was noted that, despite the work carried out in the background by the Education Committee, there were personality difficulties.

Mr Mackay informed the Session that the material being used by the staff was more appropriate than that used previously which was taken from various Internet sites. Centrally, the Church of Scotland was in some disarray over advising on material and the provision of training. A Glasgow Presbytery Trainer had been contacted but there had been no positive outcome; the Moderator had taken a different route and made preliminary contact with an Advisor in Greenock and Paisley Presbytery.

In the short term, Nancy Fisher said that she and Margo Neilson would assist Stepping Stones when it resumed in the New Year. John Curror and Bill Paterson agreed to provide some short-term assistance once they had cleared the Child Protection hurdle.

12. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

12.1 Parish and Beyond

Evelyn Graham reported that a number of people had been approached with a view to enabling the church to be open one day a week. There had been positive responses and a further planning meeting was scheduled for January.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Willie Anderson requested permission to lay a petition regarding vandalism in the parish in the church vestibule to give members an opportunity to sign it. Permission was granted.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next meetings were noted as Sunday, 8th January, following close of Morning Worship and Monday, 6th February.

Elders were advised that the Presbytery’s Quinquennial Visitation was likely to be on one of the following dates; 7th, 8th, 9th, 14th, 15th or 16th March. The Clerk advised that he could not manage to attend on the 14th or 15th March.

Elders were also advised that the date of the Stated Annual Meeting might be Monday, 6th March

15. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2006
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mr Bob Hutcheson and Mr Bill Shaw.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 24 ruling elders.

4. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

The Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2004	448
Number removed from Roll during 2005 by Death	12
by Certificate	7
by Otherwise	0
	19
Number added to Roll during 2005	5
by Profession	5
by Certificate	5
by Otherwise	4
	14
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2005	443
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2005	19
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2005	4

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for his work throughout the year in maintaining the Communion Roll.

5. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with acclamation and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

6. APPOINTMENT OF ORGANIST

The Session Clerk reported that the Psalmody Committee were recommending the appointment of Mr Jack Henry to the post of Organist and Choirmaster. Mr Henry had been the only applicant. Mr Henry had played at the Communion Service in December and his playing could not be faulted. The Kirk Session agreed with the recommendation and Mr Henry would be offered a contract with a review to be held after six months.

The Session Clerk stated that Mr Henry would have to be "fast-tracked" through the child protection procedures. John Curror said that it would be appropriate to "fast track" the five people who had agreed to assist with leading Stepping Stones at the same time. The Kirk Session gave its approval for the "fast tracking".

7. CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

The Session Clerk said that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk which stated that Presbytery had asked that all Kirk Sessions be asked to record, annually, in their Minute Book the following statement: "It is certified that Child Protection recruitment procedures are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons serving as voluntary workers with children and young people in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the congregation's Child Protection Co-ordinator is appropriately trained to allow that person to be accredited as an authorised signatory for criminal record checks."

The Clerk said that he had spoken with Margo Neilson, the Child Protection Co-ordinator and she confirmed that she was acting in full conformance with the above statement. The Kirk Session agreed that the above statement was a true reflection of the situation and as such should be incorporated in the Minutes.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being Monday, 6th February

9. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2006 IN THE SESSION HOUSE.

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Psalm 139 and a prayer.

2. TRIBUTE TO BOB HUTCHESON

Elders stood in silence while Sam Esler read a tribute to Bob Hutcheson who had died on 29th January, 2006, just two days short of his 89th birthday. A copy of the Tribute is presented in an Annex to these minutes.

The Moderator thanked all Elders who had attended and helped at Bob Hutcheson's funeral service and at previous funeral services in the church. There had been at good attendance of elders and church members at Bob's funeral and elders were seen to be providing support to family and friends.

3. APPOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs. Sheila McIntosh and Mrs Margo Neilson and from Messers. John Curror and Alistair Graham.

4. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and ** ruling elders.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 4th December, 2005, 5th December 2005 and 8th January 2006 were circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes, having been agreed as being a true record, were signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Stepping Stones

It was noted that the Child Protection procedures in respect of John Curror and Bill Paterson were still being processed.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Meeting on Ministries and Mission Fund

The Moderator stated that, along with the Session Clerk and Treasurer, he had attended a meeting of representatives of South Side Churches held on 26th January in Broom Church. The meeting had been called to allow representatives of South Side Churches to discuss the very high allocations for the Ministries and Mission Fund which were being imposed on many churches. The charges levied were such that many churches were moving into financial deficit. Central charges were leaving little finance to be spent locally and there was great concern that if local churches didn't spend money on local mission activities then membership would decline, leading to an overall reduction in income and, therefore, further reduce the ability to support the National Church and local mission. It was not only churches on the south side which were highlighting concern. Churches in the Presbytery of Ardrossan were not making Ministry and Mission payments. Other Presbyteries including Paisley and Renfrew and Greenock were planning some form of action. The meeting at Broom Church had agreed that a committee was formed to prepare a draft petition for submission to the General Assembly.

In a comment on finance, Sam Esler asked that it be noted that Douglas Brown had donated £170,000 to the Church of Scotland and that some people felt that Douglas Brown's intention may have been to leave this money to Stamperland. The Treasurer commented that there had been a small legacy to Stamperland Parish Church from Douglas's estate.

7.1.2 Meeting with Local Council and Police Representatives

The Moderator stated that he had attended the first part of a meeting of local residents with officials from the local council and the local police which also held on the 26th January. He had not been able to attend the whole meeting and was grateful to Jess Thomson and others who had attended.

Jess Thomson stated that she felt the police had not given direct answers to any questions and that the authorities were misinterpreting the law in respect of access to the lanes behind many of the houses. With regard to young people and vandalism, she said that it was planned to have "street workers" in the local area. The "Wee Gee Bus" had been in the area and, indeed, had parked outside the church one evening. This bus encourages young people to come on board and is staffed by police officers, youth workers and health professionals.

7.1.3 Quinquennial Visitation

The Moderator intimated that the Presbytery's Quinquennial Visitation to Stamperland would take place on Thursday, 16th March. The Rev Norman Shanks, the leader of the Presbytery delegation, would also preach at Stamperland on the 23rd April.

Mr Shanks had sent a list of questions which the visiting delegation might ask the Session. It was agreed that Elders would meet after the Stated Annual Meeting on the 6th March to consider the questions.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Letter from Ministry and Discipleship Council and Committee of Church Art and Architecture

The Session Clerk stated that he had completed a questionnaire from the Ministry and Discipleship Council seeking information on the accessibility and suitability of the church

and halls for people with disabilities. Information requested had included access and provision of toilets for disabled people, the provision of facilities for people with visual and hearing impairment. The information provided would be combined with that provided by other churches for presentation to the General Assembly.

7.2.2 Presbytery Plan. Report of the Visiting Team

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk which presented the summary of the findings of the Presbytery Team which reviewed the churches in the South Centre and south West Districts. The summary report was read out to the meeting. It stated, "The Visiting Team carried out an honest and useful dialogue mainly with the Kirk Sessions of the five congregations of Busby, Greenbank, Netherlee, Stamperland and Williamwood which are, cumulatively, resource rich. In the course of the conversations, concerns about declining membership, difficulties in attracting leadership for youth organisations, and financial sustainability were flagged up. These concerns have outcropped across the board throughout the Presbytery Plan process.

These five vigorous churches, with good lay participation in leadership, have individually their own strong sense of 'family' but are also committed to outreach and the wider work of the church. Without imposing any formal structure at this stage, the Visiting Team sees considerable scope for increased working together both in terms of their local area and in improving links with Priority Area Parishes.

The recommendation is that the five churches should continue to be served by one minister each: that they should explore new ways of working together with a view to strengthening their working in partnership. In particular, in the area of youth work, they should explore in the near future what might be achieved by resourcing this work together for their mutual benefit and for the good of the wider church within the Presbytery bounds."

The clerk indicated that the full report which deals with the recommendations for all congregations in the South Central and South West Districts of Presbytery would be discussed at the meeting of the Presbytery of Glasgow to be held on 14th February.

7.2.3 Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly to Netherlee

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Dr Ronald Crawford of Netherlee Parish Church extending an invitation to members of Stamperland Church to a meeting at Netherlee Church on 20th February which would be addressed by the Rev Dr Alison Elliott.

7.2.4 Letter from Mrs Nancy Fisher and Miss Grace Scott

The Session Clerk read a letter from Nancy Fisher and Grace Scott in which they wrote that, no longer being members of the Children's Education Committee, they assumed that the responsibility for progressing the plans for the proposed Holiday Club would become part of the remit of the Children's Education Committee.

7.2.5 Letter from Mrs Margo Neilson

The Session Clerk read a letter from Margo Neilson in which she intimated her wish to resign from the post of Child Protection Co-ordinator. Margo wrote that she would remain as co-ordinator until a successor was trained but hoped she could relinquish the post before the end of June.

The Moderator thanked Margo for her work as Child Protection Co-ordinator, a post she had held since 1998. He said that the law required each church to have a Child Protection Co-ordinator.

Mrs Neilson said that the job could be very rewarding but that it could also be demanding and stressful. Asked about the qualities required to be a Child Protection Co-ordinator, Margo said the qualities included an ability to handle people with tact and meticulous record-keeping; confidentiality was very important characteristic since the co-ordinator sees personal details of all applicants. It was pointed out that the Co-ordinator could be either male or female and it wasn't a requirement that the Child Protection Co-ordinator was an elder.

7.2.6 Letter from Mr Fraser Neilson

The Session Clerk read a letter from Fraser Neilson. In his letter Fraser expressed his intention to step down from being the Officer in Charge of the Junior Section and Sparks of the 231st Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade from the end of the Annual Display in June

2006; this would mark over 30 years involvement with the 231st Glasgow Company. He also offered his thanks to all in Stamperland Church who had given him support during his time as leader.

Fraser wrote that there were two leaders who were willing to take over the duties which he was relinquishing. Mr Paul Linich was willing to be Officer in Charge of both the Junior Section and Sparks with Mr David McKee being the leader of the Sparks (Anchor Boys). Both officers had the support of Captain Jim McKenzie.

The Moderator expressed his thanks and that of the Kirk Session to Fraser whom, he said, had been an excellent and well-respected leader. It was also excellent that there were leaders ready, willing and able to assume responsibility for leading the Junior Section and Sparks and this showed good succession planning. The Session Clerk was asked to write to Fraser Neilson expressing the thanks of the Kirk Session. The clerk was also asked to write to Mr Paul Linich confirming the Kirk Session's approval of his appointment.

The Moderator stated that he was impressed by the good work carried out in the Boys' Brigade all the way from the Sparks right up to the Company Section and in the BB Bible Class. The Company had very high standards and had provided a pathway for boys to progress to full membership of the church.

7.3 Deputy Session Clerk

7.3.1 Sunday Morning Readers

Margo Neilson stated that she was looking for readers for Sunday mornings up to the end of June and was looking for volunteers amongst the members of the Kirk Session.

7.3.2 Communion Duties

Margo Neilson asked Elders to indicate their ability for the March Communion.

8. ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Report

David Dundas intimated there had been two deaths, those of Mr Alan Black and Mr Robert Hutcheson.

8.2 Revision of Elder's Districts

David Dundas reported that he believed the deliberations of the Ad-hoc committee had gone as far as was possible and that it was now time for the Kirk Session to make a decision. There were, he said, four options to consider. Two of the options, showing proposed districts and the number of homes with members in each district, had been circulated prior to the meeting. The other options were to keep the districts as they were or for another group of elders to try to come up with yet a further alternative.

In response to questions, David stated that there were currently 60 districts; of these, there were 15 districts which did not have an elder and nine districts which either had no members or only one member. At present, there were 27 visiting elders.

After discussion, the Kirk Session agreed that the districts described in "Option 2" would be adopted following the celebration of the March Communion.

The Moderator thanked David Dundas and the Ad-hoc committee for their work. David Dundas highlighted the role played by Sam Esler who had used his detailed knowledge of the parish to help make the districts sensible and coherent.

9 REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

The Moderator said that he had enjoyed the "Tea and Sandwich Lunch" the previous Sunday. Mrs Jane Curror said that the lunch had been the first of three proposed meals and she thanked the ladies of The Guild for organising the meal. Over 70 people had attended; each attendee had been given a sheet on which they could reply highlighting abilities they could offer and tasks or jobs they were willing to undertake. Already, three sheets had been handed back.

Two further Congregational Lunches were planned, one on the 26th February which would take the form of a celebration of the Church's Birthday and the second on the 26th March. Members of the Kirk Session had been asked to arrange the February lunch.

David Dundas made the suggestion that it could be useful to highlight specific jobs which needed to be done in the Focus magazine.

10. ORGANISATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES

The Moderator reminded those present that all elders had been given the opportunity to study the proposed membership list for each of the permanent committees and that elders had been asked to speak to him or the Session Clerk if they wished to see any changes. Other than Janis Herriot, who wished to serve on both the Parish and Beyond Committee as well as the Pastoral Care Committee, no one had made any representations. The proposed list would thus become the operational list.

The clerk indicated that no chairperson or leader has been specifically identified for each committee; each committee should develop its own way of working and reporting. The Moderator said that he would be happy to attend meetings of the committees in order to help them get started and, once the committees started working and developing their remits, he felt certain there would be excitement and vitality.

11. COMMUNION CARDS

The Moderator said that he had handed out a reflective paper at a previous meeting. The paper included a number of articles and views highlighting pros and cons regarding the use of Communion Cards. A summary of points in favour of Communion Cards would include that it is an invitation, it gives the elder something to take, it is a means of identification and a calling card. A summary of points against the use of Cards was that it can result in fleeting visits to active members, it affects pastoral work, it over-emphasises attendance at Communion to the detriment of week-by-week attendance, it blocks personal contact and it emphasises the lack of belonging.

The Moderator said that Pastoral Care required more than three or four visits per year and he emphasised the importance of elders building relationships with members; the relationship had to be sufficiently strong that elders could ask members about their relationship with the church. If people didn't want a relationship, then the Kirk Session would need to consider putting these people either on the Supplementary Roll or even removing them from the Roll altogether. Biblically there was a case for pruning to promote new growth.

George Fraser spoke of the recent history of Communion Cards in Stamperland. In May 2002, he said, the Kirk Session decided not to use Communion Cards but to use an "Invitation Card". At that time the Roll Keeper had confirmed that no used the records of attendance for any purpose. In May 2003, the Roll Keeper sought clarification about the use of the "Invitation Card" and the Kirk Session had agreed that the Invitation Card was to be used only if no one answered the door when the elder visited. In August 2004, the Kirk Session suggested that there should be a personalised invitation card with the name and address of the member and elder.

George Fraser said that the use of a Communion Card emphasised the point of a member belonging to the church. He said he felt that the reflective paper didn't take account of the views of ordinary members but, rather, the views of elders and ministers. Many members liked having "their card" with a well-worn card being an indicator of good attendance.

George Fraser said that if the statistical work of gathering and sorting cards were the only barrier to their use then he would be the first to volunteer for the task. Cards could provide valuable statistical information. Stating that whilst he wasn't resistant to change, he moved that the Kirk Session return to the situation pertaining prior to May 2002.

Sam Esler spoke in support of the motion. Some elders, he said, visited homes more than four times a year. Elders wanted to know who attended from each district and analysis of the information from returned cards would give a better reading of the congregation.

The time being 21.30 the Moderator moved that Standing Orders be suspended and this was agreed.

There was considerable discussion. Points made included that Communion attendance was not representative of general attendance at church; that many elders would find it difficult and, indeed, would have some reluctance to visit at times other than shortly before

Communion; that older members like to receive a Communion Card; that having a card to hand over can make many visits much easier than they would otherwise be; that a Communication Card would be useful; that a Visiting Card would be useful. The Moderator moved to vote on the use of cards. Eighteen elders voted for the use of a Visiting Card. Six elders voted for the use of a Communion Card.

12 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

12.1 Parish and Beyond

12.1.1 Open Door

Evelyn Graham reported that the first “Open Door” was arranged for the morning of Wednesday 8th February.

Newsletter

Evelyn Graham also reported that a newsletter had been produced and would be distributed through the youth organisations. The Newsletter would let parents know what was happening in the church.

12.1.3 Community Day

The Parish and Beyond Committee had discussed having a Community Day and were proposing it was held in the autumn. In order to progress this event an organising committee was required and it was proposed that membership comprised two elders, two members of the Congregational Board and two members of the congregation.

13. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was noted that the Kirk Session would meet on Sunday, 5th March at 10.30 am. Elders agreed to meet on the 6th March at the close of the Stated Annual Meeting to look at some of the questions which might be raised at the Presbytery’s Quinquennial Visitation on the 16th March. The dates of the subsequent meetings were confirmed as Monday 3rd April and Monday 8th May.

14. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 5th MARCH 2006 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

The Moderator read a passage from Philippians Chapter Three and then spoke on the theme of “leaving home”. He started with the rhetorical question, 'Have you left home yet ?'. This, he said, was a question asked by a speaker at a conference. Most of the people at the conference hadn't left home geographically - not any great distance anyway. They weren't living and working in different countries far away from home. But, as Teilhard de Chardin had remarked, that doesn't necessarily mean we've moved at all. We can travel around the world without changing our basic

position one centimetre. 'Home' is not so much a place as a way of life. 'Home' is habits, beliefs, prejudices, fixed ways of thinking and doing. If we want God to work on us and in us, then we have to leave home and go on pilgrimage with Him. There is no other way but out in the unknown. That's what Abraham did, and his traumatic experience was not in swapping one bit of desert for another but in leaving the safety of a 'local' God and moving into the vastness of the experience of a universal God. Often the pilgrimage is hindered by our home attitudes. Did Jesus have this in mind when he said '... unless you leave home and kindred..'? Not that he devalued loving relationships but that he understood how fixed ways of thinking could chain one's spirit.

The Moderator continued, saying, "The only way to freedom is to allow the chains to be broken - the habits, the refusal to consider other ways. Freedom is for the brave, and it is the timid, defensive Christian who refuses new experiences and thought, and clings to 'home.' The way we walk with Jesus isn't geographical, it is a totally new lifestyle, a new way of being. This is the point for all of us. In Christian terms it isn't the expertise we bring, the way we do the job, but whether the living Christ is within us. That's what people need to see in us: a new creation, a new being, men and women freed from fear, suspicion and prejudice. Liberated from 'home' to be explorers, traveling joyfully and freely." At the conclusion of his talk the Moderator led the elders in prayer.

3. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Moderator's Announcements

4.1.1 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties.

4.1.2 Presbytery Inspection of Records

The Moderator intimated that the Presbytery's Annual Inspection of Records would take place on Wednesday, 22 March and would be held in Stamperland Parish Church. Stamperland's records would be inspected at 14.30.

4.1.3 Retiral of George Fraser

The Moderator intimated that George Fraser had decided to retire from active Eldership. The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Fraser thanking him for his long and distinguished service.

4.1.4 Petition to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

The Moderator intimated that he had received a copy of a petition drafted by a committee representing churches from an area on the South side of Glasgow. The petition highlighted the concerns of these churches about the very high allocations for the Ministries and Mission Fund and it was planned that the petition would be laid before the General Assembly. The Moderator asked that the Kirk Session agree that the congregation should be invited to sign it. Elders present indicated their approval.

4.1.5 Quinquennial Visitation to Stamperland

The Moderator confirmed that the Presbytery delegation would come to Stamperland Parish Church on Thursday, 16th March. The delegation would meet with the Kirk Session at 7.00 p.m. and with the Congregational Board at 8.00 p.m.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace"

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 8th MAY 2006
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Luke Chapter 24 and a prayer.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs. Jane Curror, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Janet Stewart, Miss Grace Scott and from Mr Gordon Robertson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 21 ruling elders.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 6th February and 5th March 2006 were circulated prior to the meeting. The draft minute of 5th March was amended. Adoption of the minute of the February meeting as a true record was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Ray McNiven; adoption of the amended minute of the March meeting as a true record was proposed by Kay Bolton and seconded by Margo Neilson. The minutes were signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Quinquennial Visitation

The Presbytery's Quinquennial Visitation to Stamperland had taken place on Thursday, 16th March. Subsequent to the visit the Moderator and Session Clerk had received a draft of the report prepared by the Rev Norman Shanks, Alex Allan and David Locke along with a request that any factual errors should be highlighted. The Moderator and Session Clerk both stated that they considered the report to be factually correct. The Moderator indicated that elders could only see the report subsequent to its presentation at Presbytery.

6 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Conduct of Worship during Moderator's illness

The Moderator thanked Sam Esler for conducting morning worship on the Sunday when he had been ill.

6.1.2 Meeting on Ministries and Mission Fund

The Moderator stated that over 5000 people had signed the petition regarding the unfair allocation of Mission and Renewal charges to churches on the South side of Glasgow

6.1.3 Spring Fair

The Moderator thanked all the elders who had assisted with the Spring Fair and, in particular, those who had helped with the Gardening Stall for which the Kirk Session was responsible. The contributions of Edith Moseley, Willie Anderson, Sam Esler and Fraser Mackintosh were specially highlighted.

It was mentioned that the proprietor of the Nyle Grocer shop had expressed that he was keen to help the church and was happy to be approached for small donations. He had said that, as a Muslim, he was keen to assist the church.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Stamperland Community Safety Meeting

The Session Clerk stated that East Renfrewshire Council were holding an open meeting in the church on 11th May at which council officials and local police officers would be giving presentations. Stamperland Church had been invited to send representatives. The date

clashed with the induction of Rev Lily Mackinnon and none of the elders present was keen to attend the council meeting.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion Duties

Margo Neilson advised that elders should be aware of their duties for the June Communion.

7 ROLL KEEPER

7.1 Updating of Roll

David Dundas had a number of questions regarding the roll. He asked if any elder could advise him of Ann Osborne's new address and also that of Mr Kenneth Sinclair.

He asked for advice regarding Ian Mackay. Sam Esler stated that he would speak to Mr Mackay and ask him if he wished to remain as a member. It was reported that Mr Mackay contributes financially by standing order although it was possibly quite some time since he had attended worship.

The Roll Keeper said that Mr Duncan and Mrs Pamela Bell and Mr John and Mrs Sandra Russell were known to attend Cartsbridge Church and wished to know whether they should still remain on the Communion Roll. The Elders present agreed unanimously that all four should be removed.

David Dundas stated that Peter Ferries is regular in his attendance at morning worship and is officially recorded as an Adherent and advised the Kirk Session that Mr Ferries has moved from Alyth Crescent to Linn Park Court.

It was reported that Mrs Margaret Mann, 20 Strathtay Avenue wished to join the church by resolution of the Kirk Session. Elders agreed to this request.

7.2 Revision of Elder's Districts

A revised list of districts was reviewed.

Sam Esler volunteered to visit the homes in District 6 in addition to District 30 so that all members living within the parish would be visited by an elder.

It was noted that Ray McNiven and Evelyn Graham had swapped districts so that Evelyn would continue to visit the members in her previous district.

Anne MacKenzie agreed to be the elder who would visit Kay Baird.

With these amendments the Kirk Session approved the new arrangements for districts and visiting elders.

The Moderator thanked David Dundas and everyone who had been involved in the long discussions and detailed planning which had gone into the preparation of the new districts.

Mrs Anne Mackenzie asked if Visitor Cards would be available. The Moderator replied that cards would be available in time for the September Communion.

Mrs Edith Moseley asked about the status of the two people who had indicated that they could be willing to serve as elders. The Moderator stated that he would be looking at new elders over the summer period.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Reports for the February, March and May meetings of Presbytery were circulated.

Sam Esler asked whether the Kirk Session could assume that the Session Clerk would be writing to Rev Alastair Cherry and Rev Lily Mackinnon on their installations as Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Minister of Govanhill Trinity Church, respectively. The Moderator said that he had already discussed this with the Session Clerk and appropriate letters would be written.

The Moderator thanked Mrs MacKenzie for her reports.

9 REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

John Curror stated that Jane Curror sent her apologies for not being present and that he would read notes which Jane had prepared.

To mark the completion of the Stewardship Campaign letters of thanks would be sent to all members who had offered and volunteered to do something extra. Letters would also be sent

to those who hadn't attended any of the events; these would describe what had been done and what we were hoping to achieve.

The Moderator expressed his thanks to Jane and her committee for all their work. He said that some results could already be seen in the changes to the church grounds and there were new faces at morning worship.

10. PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Youth

Bill Paterson stated that the committee had met early in March and had developed their remit.

Arrangements were in hand to ensure that the Cradle Roll would be kept up-to-date. Gillian Kirkwood, in her role of baptismal co-ordinator had made contact with the Scott family whose child had been recently baptised.

It was agreed that the Session Clerk should liaise with Bill Paterson to review the list of elders who have responsibility for visiting the youth organisations.

Mrs Mackenzie asked what was happening with the "holiday club" which was originally proposed to be held in the summer. It had been reported that a considerable number of people had indicated a willingness to volunteer. Sam Elser commented that a club couldn't be held unless all volunteers had received "Child Protection" approval. The Moderator sated that time had run out to do anything this summer but it was a subject which the Youth Committee should pursue.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Holy Week Services

Fraser Mackintosh expressed his appreciation to the Moderator for the Holy Week Services. All services, he said, had been very good and the Dawn service on Easter Sunday had been very moving and very appropriate.

The Moderator thanked all who had participated and attended. He also commented on the playing by the organist who had caught the mood of the services and enhanced the experience.

11.2 Moderator's Holidays

The Moderator intimated that he would be on holiday from 22nd May to 1st June and that he was planning to take leave in September.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the Kirk Session would meet on Sunday, 4th June at 10.30 am.

13. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 4th JUNE 2006 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

The Moderator read a passage from the John’s gospel and gave a short address.

3. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4 OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties and the Deputy Session Clerk for organising the preparatory work and the elders’ duties.

4.2 Previous Sunday’s Service

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for leading worship on 28th May.

4.3 Appointment of Child Protection Co-ordinator

The Moderator stated that John Curror was willing to take on the role of Child Protection Co-ordinator. This appointment was approved by all elders present.

The Moderator thanked Margo Neilson for all of the work she had undertaken during her eight years of service as Child Protection Co-ordinator.

4.4 New Elders

The Moderator stated that he was planning to approach a number of members in connection with them being ordained as elders. He had a concern whilst that people he spoke to might agree to become elders the Kirk Session could object to specific individuals; this was something he would not wish to happen. The Kirk Session gave their approval to the Moderator to approach prospective new elders.

4.5 Offer of Defibrillator

The Moderator stated that the family of Craig Stokes were keen to donate a defibrillator to be kept on the church premises. The donation would be contingent on there being ten volunteers who would be trained in its use. Elders agreed that volunteers should be sought.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 28th AUGUST 2006
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Luke Chapter 18, verses 18 to 27 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs. Kay Baird, Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Jan Barr, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr Sam Esler, Mr Alastair Graham and Mr Gordon Robertson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 8th May and 4th June were circulated prior to the meeting. The draft minute of 8th May was amended as follows: In section 7.1 Mr Peter Ferries address was changed to Riverside Court and Margaret Mann's title was corrected to Miss. Adoption of the amended minute of the May meeting as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven seconded by Bill Paterson; adoption of the minute of the June meeting as a true record was proposed by Fraser Macintosh and seconded by John Currer. The minutes were signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Ministries and Mission Fund

The clerk read an extract from a letter sent to all Session Clerks from Helen McLeod, Convenor, Council of Assembly. On the recommendation of the Council of Assembly, the General Assembly had decided that the overall amount to be paid by congregations in 2007 should be held at 2006 levels. There would be no increase in the total allocation to Ministries and Mission although individual allocations may vary according to individual congregation's circumstances.

5.2 Voluntary Additional Stipend

The Moderator announced that the General Assembly had also decided that the voluntary additional stipend would be phased out.

5.3 Communion Cards

The Session Clerk indicated that new cards had been printed. There was a yellow coloured card which incorporated an invitation to Communion; this card was only to be used if the member being visited really wished to have a card. There was a white card which was blank except for a sketch of the church; this card could be used if the member wished to have a note of the elder's contact details or, if a member had been away from home at the time of an elder's visit it could be used to indicate that they had called.

5.4 Defibrillator

The Moderator intimated that only two people had volunteered to be trained in the use of the defibrillator – Jan Barr and Ian Fulton. Mrs Moseley indicated that both she and her son, Philip, would be interested in being trained.

The Session Clerk stated that he would write to each of the Youth Organisations with the suggestion that one leader from each would be interested in being trained in the use of the defibrillator.

David Dundas asked whether arrangements would be in place for the regular maintenance and testing of any defibrillator. It was agreed that this aspect would be checked during the training.

5.5 Quinquennial Visitation

A copy of the full report prepared by the Rev Norman Shanks, Alex Allan and David Locke for the Presbytery's Superintendence Committee was given to each elder.

The Session Clerk stated that he had received an Extract Minute from the Presbytery Clerk covering Presbytery's decision in connection with the Quinquennial visit with an instruction that it should be engrossed in the minutes of the Kirk Session. The extract read as follows:

Presbytery of Glasgow

At **GLASGOW** on the 20th day of June 2006 the Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.

Inter Alia:-

SUPERINTENDENCE

120 Quniquennial Visits

Quniquennial visits have been made to the undernoted congregations, It is recommended that the Presbytery receive the Report set out in Appendix II to these Reports and declare the congregation to be in a satisfactory state.

Drumchapel St Mark's
Rutherglen Old
Langside
Stamperland

Fernhill and Cathkin
Broom
Gardner Street

Lansdowne
Cathcart Trinity
Priesthill and Nitshill

The Presbytery received the report and approved the recommendation.

Extracted by me this 21st day of June, 2006

(signed)

David W Lunan
Clerk of Presbytery

APPENDIX II Superintendence

Stamperland

Stamperland is an active, well-established and committed congregation in a compact community. There are good links with other churches in the area - through Clarkston Churches Together, shared school chaplaincy, and joint Christian Aid and other activities. Within the congregation itself there is concern (common to many other congregations) about a number of issues that are currently being addressed:

- a declining roll;
- a lack of younger families;
- increasing financial pressures;
- difficulties in finding and retaining people to undertake leadership' roles.

There are also numerous signs of encouragement - a roll of over 400, with a good attendance at Sunday morning worship; a strong spirit of mutual support and pastoral care; a range of youth organisations, (two Brownie packs, Guides, Scouts, and Boys' Brigade) with good leadership; links with the local community through use of the church building, social events and the use of a 'welcome pack' and the acknowledgement of the need for further 'outreach'.

Worship (on Sundays at 11.00 am, with an additional 3.00 pm service on the quarterly Communion Sundays, and a monthly 'informal' communion after the morning service) follows a fairly traditional pattern. The Sunday School, following the departure of several experienced leaders, has been going through a difficult time; but steps are being taken to rebuild this important aspect of the congregation's life.

As to finance, there is concern, as elsewhere, about the failure to achieve a balanced budget each year, with increasing allocations to central funds and an aging and declining membership. It is hoped that the situation will be helped by the results of the current stewardship campaign. The fabric of the congregation's buildings is in a sound condition, with a carefully planned programme of maintenance and repair, and the church buildings are used increasingly by community groups. There is an active branch of the Guild and good support for and interest in the wider work of the church.

Conclusion

We recommend that the Presbytery find Stamperland to be in a 'satisfactory state'. Nevertheless, the Kirk Session and congregation should be encouraged, in accordance with themes identified in earlier discussions in the context of the Presbytery plan, in its attempt to:

- agree directions and priorities for its future life and witness;
- develop its work with young people and outreach among young families;
- develop its stewardship with a view to achieving a balanced budget;
- build on and strengthen the work done with other churches, e.g. through Clarkston Churches Together.

Alex Allan, David Locke, Norman Shanks.

6 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Rededication of St Josephs RC Church, Clarkston

The Moderator intimated that he had attended the re-dedication service at St Joseph's Church on 25th August. He considered that it would be fitting for the Kirk Session to instruct the Session Clerk to write to St Joseph's congratulating them on the redevelopment of their church. This was agreed.

6.1.2 Moderator's Holiday Leave

The Moderator intimated that he would be on Annual Leave from Sunday 3rd September, returning on the 18th September. Rev Tom Nelson, Netherlee Parish Church, would provide pastoral cover during this period.

The Moderator stated that the Session Clerk had agreed to lead Morning Worship on the 10th September and that he was in the process of finding someone to lead worship on the 17th September.

The Moderator said that it was an opportune time for the Kirk Session to acknowledge the willingness and ability of David Dundas and Sam Esler who had both conducted morning worship earlier this year. He said that Stamperland was fortunate in having talented people within the eldership and the congregation.

6.1.3 Kirk Session Devotions

Jane Curror volunteered to lead the Kirk Session devotions prior to the September Communion. Alf Dunbar volunteered to lead the Kirk Session devotions prior to the December Communion with Sandra Halliday assisting him by reading the Bible.

The Moderator stated that he did not want elders to feel pressurised into leading devotions. However, he believed that all elders had interesting things to say and that everyone could learn from each other.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Rev David Hood, Merrylea Parish Church

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a copy of a letter from Rev David Hood which had been sent to many of the churches in the South Side of Glasgow. The letter included an invitation to attend an event on 2nd December at Giffnock Orchardhill. Whilst the event's exact content and style are yet to be determined it had been confirmed that Rev Albert Bogle, Minister at St Andrew's Boness and leading figure in the Church without Walls movement was attending and the evening promises to be both challenging and illuminating.

The invitation was passed to the Parish and Beyond Committee.

6.2.2 Letter from the Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow

The Session Clerk read the reply which he had received from Rev Alastair Cherry in response to the letter sent on behalf of the Kirk Session congratulating him on his appointment as Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow.

6.3 Deputy Session Clerk

6.3.1 Communion Duties

Margo Neilson advised that all elders were aware of their duties for the September Communion.

7 ROLL KEEPER

7.1 Updating of Roll

David Dundas presented the following changes to the Communion Roll.

Change of Address	From	To
Miss Janet McDowall	11 Strathtay Avenue	Beechwood House Rowantree N.H. 10 Rodger Drive Glasgow G73 3QZ

Deaths	
Mrs Jean Waterstone	7 Strathtay Avenue
Mr Robert Gillies	89 Stamperland Drive
Mrs Margaret Taylor	17 Strathtay Avenue
Mrs Mary Lawson	49 Stamperland Avenue

Members Leaving		To
Mrs Lousie Dunbar	72 Craiglaw Ave	Maxwell Mearns
Mrs Kirstine Forsyth	23 Netherpark Ave	
Mrs Marjory MacLean	204 Randolph Drive	
Mrs Alison Anderson	56 Monteith Dr	East Kilbride
Mr Stewart Anderson	56 Monteith Dr	East Kilbride

The Roll Keeper explained that Mrs Forsyth and Mrs MacLean had no interest in the church and that Andersons had moved to East Kilbride in 2000 and now had an association with an East Kilbride Church. Elders present agreed that these people should be removed from the Roll.

New Members		From
Mrs Agnes Dunsmuir	5 Strathtay Avenue	Q.P Parish Church
Mr Joseph Charlton	140 Randolph Drive	St Andrew, Penilee
Mrs Agnes Charlton	140 Randolph Drive	St Andrew, Penilee
Mrs Olive Greer	Riverside Court	Dumfries

It was explained that Mr and Mrs Charlton and Mrs Greer had “lost their lines”. Elders present agreed that all three names should be added to the Roll.

David Dundas asked if anyone had information on two members – Mrs Anne Wilson, formerly of 106, Randolph Drive and Mr Russell Hart, formerly of 39, The Oval. No one present knew of current addresses and it was agreed that both members should be moved to the Supplementary Roll.

8 REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

Jane Curror described how letters had been sent to 110 members who had been identified as not having contributed recently or on a regular basis asking them to consider their relationship with the church and inviting them to make a contribution. The letter had suggested that a contribution of £40 from each of the “non-contributors” would clear the church’s deficit. Only six replies had been received. Most of the replies had included a financial contribution.

Questions were asked about what should be done regarding the 104 members who did not reply. Suggestions included visiting or writing to the members to ascertain their intentions regarding church membership. The Moderator stated that the roll was clearly not accurate, probably inflated and would require to be purged. Members who were no longer interested

in the church were a drain on the limited resources of the Kirk Session. In a biblical context there was a question about how such members should be addressed – should it follow the line of the parable of “the lost sheep” or the parable of the vine which required drastic pruning? It was agreed that this issue would be a topic for a future Kirk Session study period.

9 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

9.1 Worship

The Moderator stated that the Worship Committee had met on the 26th July. A number of topics were discussed including the following:

9.1.1 Readers at Morning Worship

The list of readers had been passed from Margo Neilson to the Worship Committee. It was planned to have a meeting of all readers, past and present, at which they could be thanked for their involvement. This meeting would also provide an opportunity for some training in the use of the microphone, the volume of reading and the style of reading. The opportunity would be taken to modify the instructions on the lectern regarding introducing and finishing the readings on a Sunday morning.

9.1.2 Alternative forms of praise

Jane and John Curror would lead the singing of songs after the children’s address. Suzanne Fulton had agreed to participate in providing some alternative forms of accompaniment or solo playing at appropriate times.

9.1.3 CH4

The Moderator stated that copies of CH4 for use by the choir had been purchased with money from the Copper Fund and that he was aware that another member was willing to donate further copies. However, there would be insufficient copies for all of the congregation and the committee had discussed whether there should be a special fund-raising event to raise money for copies of CH4 or whether there could be a scheme along the lines of “buy one gift one free”.

9.1.4 Harvest thanksgiving

The Moderator said that many people would recall Tom MacPherson’s question at the SAM regarding whether the congregation would be asked to donate money rather than produce at the Harvest service. The Worship Committee were recommending a “middle-of-the-road” solution. It was felt that there needed to be a visual display of God’s bounty at the Harvest Service and the congregation would be encouraged to donate either in-kind or financially.

9.1.5 Meeting with Organist

The Moderator reported that he had met informally with the Organist and Session Clerk in the Manse on Tuesday 22nd August. During the discussion it became evident of the aspirations and high ideals that the Mr Henry has for the choir. He believes, wholeheartedly, that the choir is fundamental to worship and whilst his initial hopes for them have not yet been realised, put quite simply, all he wishes is to attempt to make music better.

Mr Henry was made aware that the volume and the legato style of his playing sometimes made it difficult for the congregation to follow the tune and be led by the choir and he has taken these comments on board. Likewise, whilst preferring what he might describe as “the educated approach” to music and favouring particular styles to others, he is also aware of the variety of music needed in worship that is flexible to meet different age ranges and modern times.

The Moderator stressed that the congregation must understand the difficulties that arise when a regular organist is unavailable. The church loses continuity and the time and effort taken to find a replacement or stand-in organist is not insignificant.

A comment was made that that currently some eight churches were advertising for organists in the Glasgow area. Additionally, it was commented that the location of the organ console meant that the organist couldn’t easily judge the volume of sound which was reaching the congregation. It was suggested that members should be encouraged to speak to the organist and tell him that his playing of a particular hymn or verse was good.

9.1.6 STEPPING STONES

The Moderator stated that meetings had been held on Sundays 13th and 20th August to plan for the new session. The first meeting was attended by Colin Kirkwood, Sandra Diamond, Karen Jackett, Kay Baird, John Curror and Bill Paterson and the second by Colin Kirkwood, Karen Jackett, Kay Baird, Norman Walker and John Curror.

At the first meeting the place of the child in the church and the role of the Sunday School were discussed. The group reminisced about their Sunday School days and felt that, in actual fact, nothing much had changed. Whilst the Minister saw this in a negative way Bill Paterson, to his credit, had the opposite feeling because of his happy memories. Following this the Minister highlighted three types of approaches, “the Factory”, “the Garden” and “the Journey” and, after discussion, he explained why “the Journey” was the best approach, not just for the nurture of children, but for the life-long learning of the church as a whole.

Later, more of the practicalities were highlighted including the need for good preparation, the creation of an ambience and a welcome, the timing and the pastoral care. Greater inclusion in worship was also highlighted. The 'gap' between teenage to older adults was also commented on along with the need for the church to target and be relevant to “parent-age” groups and to have appropriate provision for them.

On the second Sunday the timetabling was studied and it was very apparent that the actual teaching time was limited. The Minister highlighted that suspending Stepping Stones every time the school had a holiday broke the flow and had to stop. From September to December there probably was only around 13 Sundays when the children were taught. 13 Sundays each with half-an-hour of teaching would result in only some six hours of traditional teaching in the whole first session!

The organisation of Stepping Stones would be as follows:

Department	School Equivalent	Age range	Leaders
Crèche			
Beginners	Pre-School	3 - 4 years	
Primary	P1 - 3	5 - 7 years	Sandra Cowie, Sandra Diamond, Karen Jackett, Allison Linich, Pamela Mackay
Junior	P4 - 7	8 - 11 years	Norman Walker and Kay Baird
Quest	S1 - 3	12 - 14 years	Colin Kirkwood, Gillian Finlayson and Scott Russell

It was anticipated that the initial number of children in each department would be as follows: Beginners and Primary – 11, Junior – nine and Quest - six.

John Curror commented that there had been a lot of enthusiasm on the part of the leaders attending the meetings. However, he had concerns about the time being taken to process the Disclosure Scotland applications and doubted whether all leaders would have clearance by the start of the September.

The Moderator stated that it would be a very difficult and demanding task to get Stepping Stones back to the levels of attendance enjoyed some years ago. With an ageing congregation it was important for elders to visit the youth organisations and encourage the young people to attend Stepping Stones and also to engage with the parents.

9.1.7 Significant Dates

The Moderator intimated that in consultation with the Session Clerk and the Deputy Session Clerk he had drawn up a list of significant dates up to the early months of 2007. A list would be prepared for distribution to elders and leaders of youth organisations.

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was noted that the Kirk Session would meet on Sunday, 3rd September at 10.30 am and that the next full Session Meeting would be held on Monday, 2nd October.

13. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by Jane Curror. Jane read from Ephesians Chapter Three, verses 16 to 18 and Chapter Four, verses 1 – 3.

Jane began her talk by saying that she had been approached by Margo Neilson at the end of a Sunday morning service and Margo had asked if she was all right. Jane said she was not aware of any problem and both of them were left wondering why it was that Margo seemed to be seeing a difference in Jane’s face – had Jane been nodding-off, or thinking about something completely different during the sermon? This might have been the case, since, where she sat in the choir meant that she couldn’t see the minister; the lectern came between her and “the message”.

There were, she said, parallels in daily life. Holding on to the past could stop you from moving forward. This type of behaviour could often be seen on day-time TV chat shows of the type where family problems were aired. The personalities of those with problems could often be classed into the types such as the ‘Head-in-sand-merchant’ who would say, “I don’t have a problem.”; or the ‘controller’ who would say, “My way or no way.”; the ‘No-hoper’ who would say, “I’ll never forgive you.” or the ‘Change-maker’ who would say, “I’ll change myself, talk things through, make plans for the future”.

Jane said that, as a driving instructor, she did a lot of looking back, But, whilst she does teach her pupils to use the rear-view mirror wisely, the emphasis is on looking forward and on developing hand-eye co-ordination – ‘where you look you will go.’ She recalled one pupil who was having her first lesson and Jane was preparing her to turn left. There was emphasis on looking at the road on the left and looking at where the car should go. But the pupil was so busy concentrating on ‘looking’ that she quite forgot to ‘steer’ and the car went straight on! God, said Jane, wants us to “look forward in faith”; but we need to work at the steering wheel to turn the corner successfully.

Jane then led the Kirk Session in prayer.

The Moderator thanked Jane for her talk and elders present also voiced their appreciation.

3. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4 OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties and the Deputy Session Clerk for organising the preparatory work and the elders' duties.

4.2 Potential New Member

David Dundas intimated that Mrs Margaret Gray of 26 Strathtay Avenue wished to become a member. Before moving to Strathtay Avenue, Mrs Gray had been a member of Cranhill Church. It was agreed that Mrs Gray should become a member by resolution of the Kirk Session.

4.3 Significant dates

The Moderator intimated that a sheet was available for each elder giving a list of "significant dates" between now and Spring, 2007. It was noted that the Kirk Session would lead the morning worship on 5th November.

The Moderator stated that while he was on holiday the Norman Bolton would conduct worship on the 8th September and David Dundas would lead worship the following Sunday.

The Session Clerk said that he knew that all elders would join him in wishing the Moderator and his family an enjoyable and restful holiday.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace"

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2006
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Jeremiah Chapter 1, verses 4 to 10 and a prayer.

5. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs. Jane Curror, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mrs Edith Moseley, Miss Jan Barr, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart, Miss Jess Thomson, Mr Connell Cranston, Mr John Curror and Mr Alf Dunbar.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was confirmed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 28th August and 2nd September were circulated prior to the meeting. The Session Clerk stated that there was an error in the Draft Minute for the August meeting; in section 9.1.3, the minute should state that copies of CH4 had been

purchased with money from “the copper fund”. Adoption of the amended draft minute of the August meeting as a true record was proposed by Bill Paterson and seconded by David Dundas; adoption of the minute of the September meeting as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Fraser Macintosh. The minutes were signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Defibrillator

In addition to the previously mentioned volunteers Christine Mailley and Kay Bolton would be trained in the use of the defibrillator.

6.2 Moderator’s Holiday Leave

The Moderator thanked David Dundas and Norman Bolton for leading worship whilst he was on Annual Leave

6.3 Stepping Stones

The Moderator stated that there had been two further meetings of the leaders of Stepping Stones; both meetings had been held at the Manse. A lot of work would be required to increase the number of children attending.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

The Moderator intimated that he was looking for volunteers willing to read the Bible at services from October up to the end of the year.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Letter from Stamperland Residents Association

Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Stamperland Residents Association inviting two representatives of the church to a meeting to discuss the future of the tennis courts.

Sam Esler stated that he understood that there was a plan to sell off the tennis courts and that some local residents were unhappy about the proposal. The land had been gifted to the residents of Stamperland by John Lawrence, the builder and it was believed that the land was to be used for leisure purposes.

It was agreed that Gordon Robertson and Norman Bolton would attend the meeting.

7.2.2 Information from Presbytery

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a document from Presbytery regarding the legal duties and responsibilities of church office bearers. It was agreed that the Moderator would review the document.

8 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder’s report was circulated with the Agenda and minutes of the previous meeting. At the meeting, Mrs Mackenzie highlighted the change in Fire Safety Law. It was also noted that the “Big Saturday Event”, now known as Nexus, would be held over three days from 25th to 27th August, 2007.

9 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

9.1 Communication

The Moderator indicated that the “Communication Committee” was, currently, “just Willie Anderson”. He stated that the Communication Committee needed to be strengthened. The role of the committee was to consider all aspects of communication within the church and the community and, in a deeper sense, to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At present the committee had responsibilities for printed publications including Focus, the Church Yearbook, leaflets distributed through out the parish.

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was noted that the Kirk Session would meet on Monday, 6th November.

11. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2006
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Luke Chapter 7, verses 1 to 9 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Janis Herriot, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mrs Edith Moseley, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr Connel Cranston, Mr David Dundas, Mr Alastair Graham and Mr Bill Paterson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was confirmed as printed in the Draft.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A draft minute of the meeting held on 2nd October was circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the draft minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Pat McIlraith. The minute was then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 BUSINESS ARISING**6.1 Defibrillator**

The Moderator intimated that training in the use of the defibrillator was likely to be held at Netherlee Church on either the 25th November, 2nd or 9th December.

6.1 Guidance notes for office bearers

The Moderator intimated that he had made contact with the Presbytery Clerk regarding the document from Presbytery which related to legal duties and responsibilities of church office bearers. He reported that the Presbytery Clerk was planning either to edit or provide a better summary of the document.

6.2 Meeting with Stamperland Residents Association

The Session Clerk reported on the meeting which he had attended with Gordon Robertson at the invitation of Stamperland Residents Association to discuss the future of the tennis courts. Representatives from the Synagogue and the Bowling Club were also present at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to indicate the intention of the Residents Association to proceed with the option of selling the land for re-development. Those attending the meeting heard that the membership of the Tennis Club had, in the past two years declined from over

70 to four members; that the tennis courts were unplayable and overgrown with weeds; that refurbishment of the tennis courts would cost around £90,000 and the development of the existing facility to provide an all-weather, multi-purpose facility capable of being used for five-a-side, seven-a-side football or netball, etc. would cost of the order of £145,000. Even if there were some funding available from external sources, the Residents Association could not consider these levels of finance and they were, therefore, considering selling the land to a property developer. The proceeds of the sale would be used to benefit the residents of Stamperland in some way. Unless alternative practical uses for the existing tennis courts were presented to the Residents Association by the end of November, the Association would initiate procedures to sell the land.

Commenting on the situation, Sam Esler encouraged elders to become involved in and take an interest in the Residents Association. Over the years, he said, the active involvement of local residents in the Association had dwindled and he indicated that the committee could do with an injection of "new blood".

The Moderator thanked Gordon Robertson and Norman Bolton for attending the meeting.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Letter from Pipe Band Pipe Major

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Ian Fulton, Pipe Major of the Pipe Band. The letter thanked the Kirk Session for the use of the Church premises in connection with the concert which had been held on the 7th and 8th October. The concert had raised £1700.

It was reported that as a direct consequence of the concert there had been a huge increase in the number of young people interested in receiving instruction in piping and drumming. Margo Neilson reported that the Band had donated money for the purchase of ten copies of Words and Music edition of CH4.

The elders present asked that the Clerk write to Ian Fulton commending him and the band for the excellent concert and acknowledging the generous of hymnbooks

7.2 Donations of CH4

Margo Neilson reported that there had been a good response from many people to buying and donating CH4 and that she and Grace Scott would be ordering more than 100 copies. There had been individual gifts of £200 and £300. Everyone who had donated a hymnbook would be asked to indicate the words they would wish to have inscribed in the hymnbook.

The Moderator thanked Margo and Grace for their efforts.

7.3 Kirk Session leading worship

The Moderator thanked all of the elders who were involved in leading worship on the previous Sunday highlighting the contributions of Sam Esler who gave the sermon, John Curror who addressed the children, Margo Neilson and Grace Scott for their prayers and Jane Curror for reading. Elders present indicated that they had found the service to have been excellent. The Moderator stated that it was good for the congregation to see that God speaks through the elders and others and not just through the minister. He also urged more elders to give their names to Anne MacKenzie as willing to read the bible on Sunday mornings.

8 ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Report

In David Dundas's absence, the Session Clerk presented the Roll Keepers's report. There had been two deaths; namely those of Mr George Aitken, 61 Nethervale Avenue and of Mrs Florence Liddell, 132 The Oval.

There was one new member - Mrs Susan Nicoll, 52 Stamperland Hill who was joining from Cathcart Trinity Church.

The Clerk added that, recently, David Dundas had received a Certificate of Transfer for Mrs E Wright from her previous church, Ladywell Church in Alloa. Mrs Wright's name had been added to the Communion Roll by resolution of the Kirk Session at the Kirk Session meeting on 10th October 2005.

9. PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments. However, the Moderator commented that Mrs MacKenzie had read the lesson at the Presbytery Meeting and had done herself and Stamperland proud.

10 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Worship Committee

10.1.1 Christmas Cards

It was proposed that a Christmas Card would be produced for distribution around the parish. The Moderator would liaise with Willie Anderson over the design and content of the card.

10.1.2 Christmas Decorations

It was stated that the Christmas decorations were normally put up following the conclusion of December afternoon communion service. The Moderator undertook to check with Tom MacPherson whether this arrangement would apply.

10.1.3 Christmas Services

The Moderator intimated that there would be both a Morning Service and a Watchnight Service on 24th December and he asked for the views of the Kirk Session regarding the short morning Service planned for Christmas Day. Comments from elders were that there had been a sharp decline in the number attending the Christmas Day service.

10.1.4 Retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed that there would be a retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of Erskine Hospital.

10.2 Parish and Beyond

10.2.1 Some issues from the Open Door team

Evelyn Graham presented a short report in which she drew attention to items stored in the back pews of the church which, as well as being untidy, prevented access to the Cradle Roll. In response to this it was agreed that the items would be moved and it was intimated that steps were in hand to update the Cradle Roll. A number of further issues were raised.

Sam Esler commented that the Visitor's Book in the vestibule was not being used with no entries subsequent to December 2005. It was also commented that the book was being left "open" rather than placed away under the lectern and, as a consequence, the writing was fading. In response to this the Moderator stated that the Visitor's Book should be used to make contact with and follow-up visitors; for example, a Christmas Card should be sent to recent visitors. There should, he said, be a more conscious effort to "welcome visitors" and to show the church cared for all people. He remarked that the planned Commemoration Service to which families of people recently bereaved would be invited was a way of showing the church hadn't forgotten their grief and that it was interested in them.

It was agreed that the instructions for the Duty Teams and the Welcome Team should be modified. In addition, the revision of the instructions should include information about the availability of the colouring-in books, crayons, etc. for visiting children attending church and not involved with Stepping Stones.

Sandra Halliday asked if the post of Church Officer was still being reviewed and commented that the Hall door had been open for prolonged periods on Monday evenings and Wednesday lunchtimes. The Moderator stated that the issue was being addressed but that there was a need to tackle some of the smaller issues before large issues could be dealt with. Some of the smaller issues included clarifying the responsibilities for updating the Cradle Roll, maintaining the Visitors' Book, adding names to the in-memoriam book.

10.2.2 Change of convenor

Finally, Evelyn Graham intimated that she was stepping down from convening the Parish and Beyond Committee and that Connel Cranston would take over. The Moderator thanked Mrs Graham for her work as convenor.

10.2.3 Advertising Church Services in the Extra

Sam Esler raised the issue of having intimations in the Extra newspaper. He said that, whilst many churches intimate times of morning worship in the Extra newspaper, Stamperland

Church didn't. Information regarding costs (approximately £500 per year) and deadlines for advertising was passed to the Moderator.

11. STUDY PERIOD

The Moderator introduced the study period on "Why we should seek to engage with young people and attract them into the church". He stated that some weeks earlier he had mentioned in a sermon the large numbers of young people on the periphery of the church and the dearth of those actually participating in church activities. Without an influx of new, younger members the church would decline. There needed to be a process or re-invigoration. Elders broke into groups for discussion and then reported back. Having tackled the question "Why should we engage with young people", a future study period would consider "How we engage with young people".

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 4th December, 2006.

13. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by Alf Dunbar. Sandra Halliday read from Acts Chapter Seven, the passage recounting the stoning of Stephen.

Alf began by saying that the Bible passage read by Sandra told of the martyrdom of Stephen one of the first Christian Saints. With the celebration of St Andrew's day in the previous week it was appropriate to think of Saints. Alf said he had in mind "modern" saints and he told us of personal encounters which he had had with people whom he regarded as modern saints. The three people were Martin Niemöller, Eivind Berggrav Bishop of Oslo and Muriel Gofton founder of the Cala Sona home for refugees at Netherton near Wishaw. Alf gave a short biography of each person and recalled the circumstances in which he had met them. Martin Niemöller was the German pastor and former First World War submarine commander who opposed Hitler and, having survived imprisonment in concentration camps, became a pacifist and anti-war activist. Bishop Berggrav, was also imprisoned for his stance on Naziism and became a leading figure in ecumenical and world church movements. Muriel Gofton was a Red Cross nurse who was one of the first to enter Belsen concentration camp; her experiences there led her to found and run a home for refugee families at

Netherton. All three people deserved to be considered as saints. Alf concluded devotions by leading the Kirk Session in prayer.

The Moderator thanked Alf for his very interesting talk.

3. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Conduct of Communion

On returning to the Session Room after Communion, the Moderator thanked the elders for their conduct of Communion and the Deputy Session Clerk for organising the preparatory work.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2006
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Luke Chapter 2 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr Willie Anderson, Mr John Curror, Mr David Dundas and Mr Alastair Graham.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was confirmed as printed in the Draft.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A draft minute of the meeting held on 6th November was circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the draft minute as a true record was proposed by Fraser Mackintosh and seconded by Anne MacKenzie. The minute was then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Defibrillator

The Moderator intimated that training had been postponed to January or February.

6.2 Dedication of CH4

The Moderator intimated that the dedication of the CH4 books would take place on the next Sunday.

6.3 New Member

The Moderator stated that at previous meeting it had been intimated that Mrs Susan Nichol had transferred her membership from Cathcart Trinity Church. When visited by Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mrs Nichol stated that she had no intention of transferring to Stamperland. The Moderator said that he had spoken with an appropriate representative of Cathcart Trinity Church and it appeared that the Transfer Certificate had been sent as a result of a misunderstanding.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Letter from Erskine Hospital

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Erskine Hospital thanking the congregation for their donation of £112.47 which was the amount donated in the retiring offering following the Service of Remembrance.

7.2 Letter from Council

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Mr Jim Sneddon, Head of Community Resources, East Renfrewshire Council regarding the Summer Activity Programme in Overlea Park which ran from 10th July to 3rd August 2006. Enclosed with the letter was a report on the summer youth programme. In the first week 24 youths attended with 15, 20 and 22 in subsequent weeks. The numbers attending were lower than the council had hoped. Nevertheless, there had been positive feedback and the council were keen to see a development of the concept. There was a proposal that, with a funding of £2000 per year, two youth workers could spend four hours a week for a year working in Stamperland. The council could not meet this funding requirement in full and was writing to the church as well as the Stamperland and Netherlee Area Forum to explore whether these organisations could make a contribution.

After discussion it was agreed that the church should write to Mr Sneddon and invite him to the church to discuss the issue further.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It included reference to the discussion by Presbytery on the overture from the General Assembly anent Civil Partnerships. The Moderator explained that it was normal practice that a minister can choose to conduct or not conduct a marriage according to their conscience. Under the proposal from the General Assembly a minister would not be disciplined if he conducted a "civil partnership". The presbytery had voted against this proposal.

The Moderator also drew attention to the last paragraph of the Presbytery Elder's report which highlighted that care should be taken not to cause offence by thoughtless remarks relating to gender or, indeed, any other issue; as in all matters, the principle of mutual respect for others should guide people in their attitude and their speaking.

9 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

9.1 Worship Committee

The moderator thanked the Guild for their conduct of worship a few weeks earlier.

9.1.2 Christmas Decorations

The moderator expressed his thanks to Connell Cranston for organising the decoration of the church and halls. Connell stated that more than 20 people had assisted.

9.1.3 Seasons of the Heart Service

The Moderator asked for comments regarding the Seasons of the Heart Service to which families of those who had experienced bereavement in the last few years had been invited. Comments included that it had been a moving service, which had meant a lot and been appreciated by many; at least one person had stated that they would specifically avoid attending a similar service. Disappointment was expressed that so few people had waited behind after the service to share in a cup of tea; there was a comment that some people were clearly upset and might not wish to socialize with others.

The Moderator stated that the service was meant to show the congregation's support for those who had been bereaved and that there is ongoing care.

A question was raised about the names to be entered in the Book of Remembrance. The Moderator explained that names can be entered if the deceased had a link with the parish and the community. Having the opportunity of entering a name in the Book of Remembrance provided a link between the church and the community at large.

9.1.4 Afternoon Communion

Margo Neilson spoke about the number of people who had attended the previous afternoon's communion. Six of those attending had been on duty; only three "ordinary members", one of whom was a Sunday School teacher, were present. With such small numbers the singing is very poor and the service is depressing rather than uplifting.

Elders made a number of comments including the following: the afternoon communion used to be attended by quite a number of elderly members; there used to be a number of members who preferred the afternoon communion to the morning communion; there was a suggestion that the afternoon communion could be suspended for the next two communion seasons and see whether any members commented or requested its reinstatement.

The Moderator stated that he intended to introduce Home Communion early in the New Year. Additionally, he had sought and received permission from Rev Tom Nelson of Netherlee Parish Church to hold Communion services at Linn Park Court and at Strathtay.

The Moderator also stated that he would reflect on the style of the afternoon communion and he would decide whether the March afternoon service would be conducted in a more informal manner. He stated that he would write an article in Focus inviting members to comment on afternoon communion.

9.2 Communication Committee

The Moderator thanked Willie Anderson for producing Christmas Cards for distribution around the parish. He also thanked Jane Curror for preparing and displaying a series of thought-provoking posters in the hall entrance and stairways; these posters were particularly aimed at catching the attention of parents picking children up from organisations.

9.3 Pastoral Care Committee

The Moderator stated that he had prepared the remit for the committee. Aspects for which this committee had responsibility included the Flower Ministry, Transport Ministry and Tape Ministry. There would be a Pastoral Care group who would support primarily the housebound and semi-housebound and maintenance of a list for Home Communion. Other areas of concern would be the associated with maintaining the Book of Remembrance up-to-date, assisting with the invitation of people to the Seasons of the Heart service and working with the Flower Ministry to ensure that anniversaries were marked with flowers being sent from the church.

9.4 Parish and Beyond Committee

Connell Cranston stated that the committee had met on 8th November. The members were currently looking at the purchase of banners to be placed outside the church in relation to "Open Door", the use of Fair Trade goods and they were working on a newsletter to be delivered to all homes in the parish. In addition the committee was considering visiting other churches to see what, if anything, might be learned from them.

A question was asked about the banner to be displayed at Eastwood Toll. It was stated that the Congregational Board had approved the donation of £100 for the purchase of an Easter banner. This banner, along with the existing Christmas banner, would be stored and erected by the local council.

10 DISTRIBUTION OF OTHERS FUND

It was agreed that the money in the Others Fund, £223.65, should be disbursed to Childline Scotland and to Church House, Bridgeton.

It was also agreed that offerings from the Christmas Watchnight Service should be sent to the Lodging House Mission.

11 STUDY PERIOD – ENGAGING WITH YOUTH

The Moderator started the discussion with a question. As a church, he said, we had to complete a statistical return which included a question relating to the number of young people involved in the life of the church. We had strong uniformed organisations which attend church parade services, participate in the Spring Fair, undertake a wide variety of activities, present displays, have parents evenings, etc.. Is this, he asked, “involvement in the life of the church”? Should the response to the question be “over 200 young people” or should it be “about 20 young people in the Sunday School”? Is our church really providing only accommodation in which the organisations meet, a bit like Clarkston Hall?

There was considerable discussion. A number of elders pointed out that their own experience was one of regularly attending church up to their late teens and then a period where the church played no part in their lives only to return many years later. The Moderator highlighted that this argument was known in some church circles as the “Little Bo Peep” syndrome (leave them alone and they’ll come home).

It was pointed out that the BB had a Bible Class on Sunday mornings. The Scouts and Guides, whilst not overtly Christian, had a spiritual dimension with a promise to do one’s duty to one’s God. There was a suggestion that the nature of Sunday worship could be changed in a way which might be more attractive to younger people.

No definite conclusions were arrived at and it was agreed that further time should be devoted to the topic.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 5th February, 2007.

13. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2007 AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. APOLOGIES AND SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Mrs Kay Bolton, Mrs Edith Moseley, Mrs Ray McNiven and Miss Grace Scott.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

4. CHANGES TO THE COMMUNION ROLL

David Dundas intimated the following changes to the Communion Roll since November; the deaths of Mrs Edith Miller, 4 Nethercliffe Avenue and of Mr David Milligan, 4 Netherway. He also noted a change of name – with Miss Lyn Walker now being Mrs Lyn Gordon.

5. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

The Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2005		443
Number removed from Roll during 2006 by Death	11	
	by Certificate	1
	by Otherwise	8
		20
Number added to Roll during 2006	by Profession	0
	by Certificate	3
	by Otherwise	3
		6
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2006		429
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2006		18
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2006		4

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for his work throughout the year in maintaining the Communion Roll.

5. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with unanimous approval and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being Monday, 5th February

7. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2007
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The Moderator asked elders to remember Janet Stewart and Pat McIlraith during the opening prayer. The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from 1st John Chapter 4, verses 7 to 11 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Sandra Halliday, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr John Curror, Mr Alastair Graham and Mr Bill Paterson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was confirmed as printed in the Draft. The Moderator intimated that there would be a discussion of a report from the Presbytery's Mission Strategy Committee under the heading of Presbytery Elder's Report.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Session Clerk read the minute of the meeting held on 3rd December, 2006. Adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Janis Herriot. Draft minutes of the meetings held on 4th December, 2006 and 7th January, 2007 were circulated prior to the meeting. The minute of 4th December was amended by changing Netherlee Area Forum to read Netherlee to Eaglesham Area Forum. With this amendment adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Gordon Robertson. The Minute of 7th January was amended by noting the address of the late Mrs Edith Miller should have read 5 Nethercliffe Avenue. With this amendment adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Fraser McIntosh and seconded by Jane Curror. The minutes were then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Defibrillator

The Moderator noted that training had taken place on Saturday, 3rd February. Kay Bolton highlighted that a decision needed to be made regarding the location of the defibrillator and also that Mr and Mrs Stokes wished to make a formal presentation of the defibrillator to the church. It was agreed that the defibrillator should be placed either outside the door of the large hall or close to the telephone and that the members of the Health and Safety Committee of the Congregational Board should advise on the exact location, awareness generation of the facility and details of those people trained in its use.

Mr Mackay indicated that Mr and Mrs Stokes would probably present the defibrillator at the end of February.

6.2 Meeting with Mr Jim Sneddon, East Renfrewshire Council

The Session Clerk stated that he had arranged to meet Mr Sneddon on 23rd February to learn more about the Council's plans for having a small team of youth workers active in the Stamperland area for up to four hours a week.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Registration of Deaths

The Moderator intimated that a change in the regulations regarding the registration of deaths in Scotland had come into force on 1st January 2007.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Other's Fund

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received letters from Childline Scotland and Church House, Bridgeton thanking the congregation for the donations. Additionally a letter of thanks had been received from the Lodging House Mission acknowledging the donation of £293 - the offerings at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

7.2.1 Other's Fund

The Session Clerk stated that he had sent the statistical return to the Presbytery Clerk. He added that elders might like to know that there were fourteen male and seventeen female members of the Kirk Session and a further eleven male and eight female members on the Congregational Board. During 2006 there had been 21 funerals and only one wedding.

8 NOMINATION OF COMMISSIONER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Fraser Macintosh that Anne MacKenzie should be the commissioner to the General Assembly. There was no other proposal and there was unanimous agreement that Mrs MacKenzie should be the commissioner.

9 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

The Roll Keeper intimated the death of one member, Mrs Joan Proudfoot. Two members, Mr Craig Williamson and Mrs Elaine Williamson, had asked that their membership be transferred to Greenbank Parish Church. Mr and Mrs Williamson had moved some years ago from Randolph Drive to Woodbank Crescent.

10 PRESBYTERY ELDER

10.1 Invitation to Comment on Mission Strategy Committee's Report

A copy of the Report from the Mission Strategy Committee was handed to the elders present and they were given the opportunity to skim through it. He said that all churches should be missionary churches taking the gospel out to people. We had, he said responsibilities to all people living in the parish, not just members and we should also think beyond the parish both nationally and internationally.

The Moderator stated that it could be useful to look at the key issues highlighted in section 8 of the report. The Presbytery were looking to see how it could make best use of its resources – ministers, deacons, readers, congregations, buildings.

David Dundas commented that all ministers are different; some are particularly good at preaching, some at counselling, some at one-to-one relationships. We should be seeking to make best use of ministers and not asking them to do “everything”.

Margo Neilson said that in the long term there would probably be a coming together of Williamwood, Netherlee, Greenbank and Stamperland. She said that most people realised that there would need to be changes to the present arrangements and ways of working and they would not necessarily be against change.

Sam Esler said that we are a “church of habit”. We are a parish church and work within boundaries, yet 25 per cent of our members lived outwith the parish. Twenty five years ago when the church conducted a house-to-house visitation it transpired that there were about 95 different religious affiliations represented in the parish. He said that the church needed to be led in its mission to the parish and he questioned how a minister with a five year reviewable tenure could manage this challenge.

Fraser Macintosh said that whenever he attended the Destiny Church in Shawlands on a Sunday evening it was full of young people, as was Cartsbridge. A central question was “Why?”

The Moderator stated that the Church of Scotland did offer variety and that people could attend different churches if the style of one particularly appealed to them. There was, he said, a concern amongst some ministers that the church had become too parochial; ministers came from a background of not sharing to the extent that few ever used to exchange ideas for Children's Addresses or sermons. The situation was changing. Moves in new directions and taking new initiatives would require bravery and commitment. There was a role for us in taking the lead in Clarkston to generate something new and different.

In bringing the topic to a close the Moderator asked elders to read the report at home and give the matter careful thought.

11 REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

The Moderator thanked Willie Anderson for producing Christmas Cards for distribution around the parish. He also thanked Jane Curror for preparing and displaying a series of thought-provoking posters in the hall entrance and stairways; these posters were particularly aimed at catching the attention of parents picking children up from organisations.

12 REPORT FROM STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER

Jane Curror thanked Jimmy Mathieson, Connell Cranston and Fraser Neilson for painting the chancel wall and the walls and doors in the downstairs corridor.

13 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

13.1 COMMUNICATION

The topic of Easter Cards was raised. Anne Mackenzie stated that there was talk of Clarkston Churches Together preparing something and she undertook to advise Willie Anderson what was planned by CCT.

13.2.1 PARISH AND BEYOND

Connell Cranston reported on the topics discussed by the committee at its meeting on the 17th January which had been attended by the Moderator.

13.2.2 Fairtrade

Glasgow Presbytery wished to become a Fairtrade Presbytery. To achieve this aim, churches would have to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee at all times. The Kirk Session agreed that Stamperland Church should aim for Fairtrade status. It was also noted that we should seek to publicise this aim.

12.2.3 Reviewing the use and layout of the church

During the Parish and Beyond Committee's discussion on Fairtrade, the topic of serving tea and coffee before or after morning worship on a Sunday morning to improve the social interaction between members came up. In this connection the discussion led to thinking about where refreshments could be served; initially there was an idea of using the area near the choir but a more imaginative thought emerged. The concept was to replace some of the fixed pews with moveable chairs allowing the church to be used in a more flexible manner, such as in Cathcart Trinity Church or Orchardhill Church. This could open up new uses for the church building.

In discussion the following points were made: removal of side pews and concentrating the congregation into the centre pews would improve congregational singing; chairs would allow greater flexibility in establishing different environments and moods; pews have been moved in the past to create what is now "the choir area" and the "Chapel of St John"; the purchase of individual chairs by members of the congregation in a manner akin to the recent purchase of CH4 books could help cover the cost of any change.

After discussion elders agreed that the Moderator would invite a representative of the Church of Scotland Committee on Artistic Matters to visit the church to comment and give advice on proposed changes and that, subsequently, estimates should be made of the cost of making various changes to the layout and function of the sanctuary.

13.2.4 Parish and Beyond Funds

Connell Cranston reported that Open Door had accumulated £152. A banner with the wording, "Welcome, Church Open" had been purchased at a cost of £68. The balance of funds had been passed to the Treasurer to be treated as Church Funds with an understanding that, if additional funding were required at some future date, Open Door would seek funding from the general fund.

13.2.5 Visits to Other Churches

Connell Cranston reported that members of the committee intended to visit two churches to see if there were any ideas relating to worship, community service, etc., which could be brought to the Kirk Session for their consideration.

13.3 YOUTH

The Moderator reported that his wife, Pamela, was considering taking on the role of Sunday School Superintendent for a two year period. The Kirk Session indicated its pleasure at this and hoped that Mrs Mackay would indeed become the Superintendent.

The Moderator stated that there was a sense of cohesion and of gelling together within the staff of Stepping Stones. They were more organised and better prepared and appeared to be developing and building.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Portable Sound System for the Large Hall

The Session Clerk stated that the Guild had indicated that there was a need for a form of sound system in the Large Hall which could be used for events and meetings when the hall was quite full. There were significant numbers of occasions when it was difficult for speakers to make themselves heard in the hall. He stated that it should be possible to purchase a portable system for under £500 which could be used not only in the large hall but in other halls and which could amplify music from CD players and video players.

The Kirk Session agreed that the Congregational Board should be instructed to make funds available.

14.2 Sound System in the Church

Sam Esler asked that attention was given to the sound system in the church. It was agreed that investigations should be undertaken regarding options for upgrading the system.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday, 5th March.

16 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 4th MARCH 2007 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer led by the Moderator.

2. KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by Mrs Anne MacKenzie who began by reading a passage from Hebrews Chapter 11.

Anne recalled that it was 40 years since women were allowed to become elders and that next year would mark the 40th anniversary of the ordination of the first woman minister. She contrasted this state of affairs with Paul's words in his letter to Timothy, "Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed then Eve."

She continued by remarking that it was 120 years since the formation of The Guild and part of its aim is Worship, Fellowship and Service. The passage from Hebrews had included the words, "let us not give up the habit of meeting together as some as are doing." Anne was clear about the importance of communal worship. She recalled being at the closing service of the Barony Ramshorn Church and how sad it was; whilst the church had been built because the original Barony had become too small, closure was forced when the congregation had dwindled to a handful. People, nowadays, she said, are just not interested enough to give up one hour in the week to worship God. Whilst for many, the church was

alright for marriages or baptisms it was not seen as a place for enjoyment. People wanted enjoyment but God, it seemed, had no part in their lives. Where, she asked, is the enjoyment in taking drugs, neglecting children or seeking confrontation in gang fights? Surely, she said, there is more enjoyment in coming to church to give thanks to God and singing praises to His Name.

We all have, Anne went on, a big responsibility in setting an example not only to our children and grandchildren but to the community in which we live that we enjoy coming to church. In many countries people are not free to worship and can face death for openly worshipping God. Would we be willing to be put to death for God?

Anne concluded by saying that if we put worship first, then fellowship and service would automatically follow and then led the elders in prayer.

The Moderator thanked Anne for leading the Kirk Session in devotions.

3. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties and the Deputy Session Clerk for organising the preparatory work and the elders' duties.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace"

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5th MARCH 2007 IN THE SESSION HOUSE.

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Mathew Chapter 18, verses 1 to 6 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Sandra Halliday, Mrs Janis Herriot, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Anne MacKenzie, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr Alastair Graham and Mr Fraser Mackintosh.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Moderator asked if there were any items additional to those printed in the draft Agenda. Willie Anderson asked if the topic of the time of Morning Worship during the summer months could be discussed. Some five years ago the congregation had voted to have the service start at 10.00 a.m. during the summer. It was agreed that the topic would be passed to the Worship Committee who would be charged with making a recommendation at the next Kirk Session meeting.

The Moderator intimated that there would be an additional item relating to generating closer ties with neighbouring churches under Item 8.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A draft minute of the meeting held on 5th February, 2007 was circulated prior to the meeting. The minute was amended by correcting the spelling of Fraser Mackintosh's name. With this amendment adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Sam Esler and seconded by Connell Cranston. The Session Clerk read the minute of the meeting held on 4th March, 2007. Adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Ray McNiven. The minutes were then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Defibrillator

The Moderator noted that the presentation of the defibrillator to the church and of the certificates to those who had successfully attended the training had taken place on Sunday, 23rd February.

6.2 Meeting with Mr Jim Sneddon, East Renfrewshire Council

The Session Clerk reported on his meeting with Mr Sneddon. He stated that Mr Sneddon outlined some of the events behind setting up the Summer Activity Programme which operated in Stamperland last summer from 10th July to 8th August. Following concerns raised in relation to vandalism, youths loitering around Stamperland and graffiti on the shutters and walls of local shops and on the "street furniture", a decision was made to have a period of "street work" aimed at engaging with local youth. Council representatives met with pupils in the top class at Netherlee Primary School to ascertain what they would like to see. The outcome was that two youth workers ran a Summer Scheme in Overlea Park. It was attended by a core group of about 20: not the 90+ which they expected and which the council had been informed were marauding around Stamperland.

Mr Sneddon explained that East Renfrewshire Council had only a few "youth workers" - one youth worker per 2100 youth. Whatever Stamperland residents may think, Stamperland was not a "bad area" in terms of disturbance or intimidation caused by young people. However, the council was willing to try to develop youth activities in Stamperland and Mr Sneddon envisaged two youth workers spending four hours per week in Stamperland. For a year, this would cost £2,000. When he initially wrote to the church and other organisations in Stamperland, he was uncertain about obtaining the necessary funding; however, he was optimistic that he could secure money and was probably no longer looking for financial contributions. The initial responses he had had from local organisations had not been overwhelming. Stamperland Residents Association had responded informing him that it could make premises available provided there was adequate supervision of all activities and he was pleased that Stamperland Church was interested in exploring issues further.

The Session Clerk told Mr Sneddon that with the BB, Scouts and Guides, Stamperland Church attracted over 90 youths in the 12+ age range each week. Whilst it was unlikely that these people were also amongst the "marauding gangs", they could provide be a core group with whom the youth workers could initially engage. There was also the possibility of making some use of church premises, though it would be necessary to schedule this with the present arrangements.

Jim Sneddon was particularly interested in the possibility of using the council-funded youth workers to train and supervise "volunteer helpers" and was keen to know if there was a

chance of there being some volunteers from within the church and the church organisations. He indicated that he could envisage a two-way system with the "council youth workers" helping in relation to the uniformed organisations in return for assistance in their work. The activities envisaged were not simply "fun"; the youth workers were trained in giving counselling and advice and there were aspirations to provide opportunities in activities related to the "Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme".

The Session Clerk said that he had agreed with Mr Sneddon that the next step could be to have a meeting at the Church, shortly after Easter, attended by representatives of the youth organisations and people potentially interested in helping to develop and run a "youth scheme".

The Moderator asked those present for their views on the way ahead. Jess Thomson stated that the Depute Rector of Williamwood High School was keen to offer the use of the school playing fields and other facilities within the school. She also saw potential problems in getting volunteers. Jane Curror said that she felt this was a good opportunity to work with professionally-trained youth workers and we should embrace the opportunity of discussing how the church could work with the council. Sam Esler stated that he was aware that Netherlee Church had just appointed a Youth Worker and asked if the Moderator knew what sort of programme they would be leading. He also explained that the Bowling Club provided the opportunity for some two dozen youth to use the bowling green and to receive tuition during summer months.

It was agreed that there should be a meeting with Mr Sneddon attended by representatives for the youth organisations and other interested parties.

6.3 Easter Cards

Willie Anderson pointed out that if Clarkston Churches Together were planning to distribute Easter Cards to every home in the district, the cards would have to be available within less than two weeks. The Moderator stated that he didn't know the precise details of what was proposed but undertook to contact Rev Tom Nelson.

6.4 Sunday School Superintendent

The Moderator reported that his wife, Pamela, was willing to take on the role of Sunday School Superintendent for a two year period if that was the will of the Kirk Session. Elders present indicated their delight at this news.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Missionary Partner

The Moderator intimated that the Missionary Partner would be in Scotland at the end of March. There were opportunities to meet the partner on Saturday, 24th March and Sunday, 25th March at various churches in Rutherglen. There would be further opportunities to meet the Missionary Partner and his wife in May.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Church House

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received a letter from Church House, Bridgeton seeking contact details of a volunteer who would act as a link between Church House and the congregation. At the close of the meeting John Curror agreed to become the link.

ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

8.1 Changes to Roll

Changes to the roll had been circulated prior to the meeting by the Roll Keeper as follows:

Change of Address

	From:-	To:-
Mr A.G. Weir	22 Stamperland Hill (Dist. 9)	Flat 29 Strawhill Court 4 Strawhill Rd. (Dist. 28)

Death

Mrs Lindsey Bennie	36 Cunningham Dr.	(Died 2006 but not recorded at that time)
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Member Leaving

Mrs Margaret Yde	33 Bowfield Drive	To:- Penilee St Andrew's Church
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8.2 Letter from Member

The Session Clerk read a letter from Mr Alistair Forsyth, 27 Netherpark Avenue, in which Mr Forsyth stated that, after long consideration, he had decided to cease his membership. Elders agreed that Mr Forsyth's name be transferred to the Supplementary Roll.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER**9.1 Elder's Report**

The presbytery elder's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There being no questions the Moderator thanked Mrs MacKenzie for her diligence in attending presbytery and the writing of her report.

9.2 Working more closely with neighbouring churches

Within a wider context, the Presbytery's Mission Strategy Committee was looking at developing partnerships and Edith Moseley and Norman Bolton had recently attended one of a series of evening events arranged by the Presbytery's Parish Education Committee focussing on "Moving Forward in a Changing Church" where, again, there was an emphasis on developing the relationships between neighbouring churches. It could be appropriate, therefore, to consider ways of developing the existing relationship with Netherlee. The Moderator added that it would be good for Stamperland to take the initiative and asked the elders for their views. There was agreement that we should pursue the idea of having a meeting of the two Kirk Sessions with perhaps a period of devotions, a period spent time spent looking at ways of working more closely and a period of informal mixing in a social activity.

The Session Clerk was instructed to write to the Session Clerk at Netherlee inviting their Kirk Session to Stamperland and asking him to suggest some dates towards the end of May beginning of June which would be convenient.

10 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES**10.1 Worship Committee**

Mr Mackay said that he had noted Willie Anderson's point about the times of worship in the summer and that the Worship Committee would make a recommendation at the next Session meeting.

10.2 Parish and Beyond

Connell Cranston reported on the activities of the committee

10.2.1 Fairtrade

The committee agreed to use the Open Door funds to purchase tea / coffee / biscuits for use at the Open Door on Wednesday's and for use in the Church after the service on Sundays. It was agreed to start a trial of serving refreshments after morning worship on Sundays and, if it is successful, to seek to establish duty teams to take on this activity.

10.2.2 Visit to Victoria Tollcross Church

Members of the committee had visited Victoria Tollcross Church on Sunday 18th February. On the whole they found the visit interesting; the congregation were most welcoming; the service followed a very traditional form to the point where the dangers of not moving with the times were evident. The committee enjoyed their visit but felt that they came away with no new ideas to recommend to the session.

The Moderator invited members who had attended the service to offer their comments. Comments were wide-ranging and included the following: the congregation were predominantly elderly; there was a sense of "stepping back in time" – the congregation used the "CH2 hymnbook"; prayers used "thee" and "thou"; the children's address was very

formal and presented in a formal manner; the worship lacked inspiration and wasn't spiritually uplifting. It was, however, pointed out that there was a new communicants class in progress; the church was enduring a three-year vacancy and whilst the congregation may only have numbered some 50 to 60, this number was from a communion roll of around only 125.

These comments led to a general discussion of why previous Quinquennial Visits hadn't highlighted what might be considered deficiencies in developing worship; it was commented that Quinquennial Visits are not meant to be 'heavy-handed' but, rather, supportive.

There was a general feeling that the visit to Victoria Tollcross had been beneficial, giving insight into differences between churches and the realisation that in Stamperland procedures and practices had evolved and were, for the most part, working well.

10.2.3 Visits to other churches

Connell Cranston reported that the committee planned to visit Robroyston Church on 1st April and Cathactr Trinity on 15th April.

10.2.4 Newsletter

The preparation of a Newsletter is being pursued.

10.2.5 Bible Society

Connell Cranston reported that the committee planned to discuss what the church could do for the Bible Society at their next meeting.

10.2.6 Reviewing the use and layout of the church

The Moderator stated that he had been in contact with a representative of the Committee for Art and Architecture (the successor to the Committee on Artistic Matters). On her request photographs of the interior of the church along with brief descriptions of possible changes and their rationale had been sent to her for comment at the next meeting of the committee which was in late March. It was anticipated that representatives of the committee would seek to visit the church before making any recommendations.

10.3 Education

10.3.1 Adult Education

The Moderator intimated that he was planning to establish a scheme in which he would send copies of a sermon along with a set of questions or discussion points to by e-mail interested members. The scheme, given the provisional title, "Slices of Bread" would open up the opportunity for debate and education.

11. STUDY PERIOD

The Moderator said that this Agenda item referred to the possibility of having an in-depth study period at some time in the future. The Session Clerk reminded elders that in earlier times the Kirk Session had gone to a place like Balvonie for a week-end retreat or alternatively had met on a Sunday for a period of study sometimes under the leadership of external speakers. If there were to be a study period organised at some point in summer or autumn what would elders prefer – a weekend retreat or a Sunday in Stamperland or some other option?

It was agreed that elders would consider their opinions and that the matter would be discussed at the next Session meeting.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Mary McEwen

Gordon Robertson intimated that Mary McEwen was to be discharged from hospital the following day.

12.2 Janet Stewart

The Moderator said that he had been very pleased that Janet Stewart had managed to attend afternoon Communion the previous day. It had been a great step forward in Janet's progress to recovery of health. He added that examples like the improvement in health shown by Janet Stewart, Mary McEwen and Pat McIlraith could be seen as demonstrations of the power of prayer.

12.3 Music Edition CH4

John Curror stated that the organist was experiencing problems with the new CH4. In particular, the layout of the music required pages to be turned during the playing of a verse; the pages were very thin and the organist was finding that pages were sticking together making it difficult to turn a single page. John said that he was prepared to investigate whether there was a special musical edition of CH4 which ensured that no pages had to be turned during the playing of a verse. Elders welcomed this and agreed that should such an edition be available he should purchase it.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next meetings were agreed as Monday, 16th April and Monday, 14th May.

14 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed the Moderator saying a Benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16th APRIL 2007
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from John’s Gospel, Chapter 20 verses 11 to 18 and a prayer

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Miss Jan Barr, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr Alastair Graham and Bill Shaw.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 21 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was confirmed as presented in the draft Agenda circulated prior to the meeting with the addition of an item on the “Open Door”.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A draft minute of the meeting held on 5th March 2007 was circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Connell Cranston. The minutes were then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Timing of Sunday Morning Worship

Anne MacKenzie reported that the Worship Committee had discussed the time of Morning Worship and, specifically, whether there should be any change during the summer months. The committee considered that having two services could split the congregation and, after consideration, the committee were recommending that there should be one morning service at 11.00 am.

The Moderator stated that the congregation had last expressed its opinion some five years ago. Circumstances had changed and he considered that a period of stability was perhaps called for. Sam Esler stated that there had been a number of changes in past years with morning worship during summer months at 9.30 am and 11.00 am, then 9.45 am and 11.00 am and, most recently, only at 10.00 am. The last Interim Moderator had reverted to one service at 11.00 am. Fraser Mackintosh commented that the early morning service had been largely at being most convenient for families with young children.

The Moderator indicated that the Kirk Session were responsible for setting the times of services and asked if the elders present were content with having one service at 11.00 am. Elders indicated they were content with morning worship being at 11.00 am.

6.2 Meeting with East Renfrewshire Council Youth Worker

The Session Clerk reported that he had been contacted by Miss Heather Layton, one of the council youth workers. She was willing to meet with representatives from the church to discuss ways in which the council and the church could collaborate to benefit young people in the Stamperland area. The Session Clerk proposed that two representatives from each of the senior youth organisations – Guides, BB and Scouts – were invited to the meeting with Heather Layton along with representatives of the Kirk Session and congregation. This proposal was approved by the elders present. John Curror and Bill Paterson agreed to represent the Kirk Session at the meeting.

6.3 Working more closely with other churches

The Session Clerk informed the meeting that he had written to the Session Clerk at Netherlee Parish Church inviting their Kirk Session to Stamperland and was awaiting a reply.

6.4 Study period

The Moderator asked elders for their views regarding Study Periods.

Fraser Mackintosh said that he had enjoyed previous weekend study periods which had been spent away from the church. However, whilst they had been enjoyable and interesting they had not “borne fruit”. Pat McIlraith commented that “away weekends” allowed close relationships to be formed amongst elders. Sam Esler, whilst agreeing that “away weekends” were good, stated that the cost of the weekend could be prohibitively expensive. He said that there were good facilities within the church and members of the congregation could be involved with organisations such as, for example, the Guides being asked to assist with catering. Kay Bolton pointed out that the Kean Bequest had funds of £1500 specifically for use in elder training. David Dundas said that he thought being away from the church was useful in promoting a change of mindset and that possible venues might be other local churches.

A wide range of themes was suggested as suitable for a study period. Suggestions included the following:

- What does the Church of Scotland wish us to do in terms of working with other churches.
- The Glasgow Presbytery Plan
- The National Plan
- The Changing Church
- Issues raised at the General Assembly
- The church’s Membership Roll and the Supplementary Roll

It was agreed that a Study Period would be held on Sunday, 28th October. The venue, the topics and full arrangements would be decided at a later stage.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

The Moderator thanked all who had supported the church throughout the Easter Period. This included not only attendance at the services during Holy Week and Easter Day but also the delivery of leaflets around the parish. A number of elders stated that they had enjoyed the Holy Week services. There were comments regarding poor attendance at the services on Good Friday with one elder noting that many people are on holiday at this time.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Annual Inspection of Records

The Session Clerk intimated that no non-conformances had been raised by the team from Presbytery as a result of their inspection of the church's records in March.

7.2.2 Letter from Presbytery Clerk

The Session Clerk said that the Presbytery Clerk had written to all Session Clerks regarding Child Protection procedures and the requirement to record in the Kirk Session minutes that the church was meeting the requirements. It was agreed that a statement would be recorded in the minutes of the present meeting and that Child Protection procedures would be reviewed annually with a statement being recorded in the minutes of the January meeting of the Kirk Session.

8 CHILD PROTECTION

Elders agreed with the following statement. It is certified that Child Protection procedures are being being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons serving as voluntary workers with children and young people in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the congregation's Child Protection Coordinator is appropriately trained to allow that person to be accredited as an authorised signatory for criminal record checks.

9 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

9.1 Changes to Roll

Changes to the roll had been circulated prior to the meeting by the Roll Keeper as follows:

Change of Address

	From:-	To:-
Mrs Valerie Turner	92 Stamperland Hill (Dst. 9)	16 Greenbank Court, (Dst. 28) Hill Cres.
Mrs Charlotte Wright	9 Strathtay Ave. (Dst 24)	Bonnyton House (Dst. H&H)
Mrs Marion Ferguson	29 Strathtay Ave. (Dst. 24)	???
Mrs Catherine Dougal	10 Strathtay Ave. (Dst. 24)	Westacres Nursing Home
Mrs Cheryl Keith	39 The Oval (Dst. 16)	???

Death

Mrs Eva Morton	83 The Oval
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David Dundas intimated the following two additional changes of address at the meeting.

	From:-	To:-
Mrs Jeanette McIntosh	92 Monteith Drive	26 Homeblair House Giffnock
Ms Muriel Rae	Orchy	Nursing home in Barrhead

The Moderator intimated the death of Mr Lawrence Grant of Strawhill Court who had died on 14th April.

9.2 Supplementary Roll

David Dundas stated that he would like the Kirk Session to discuss and review the Supplementary Roll. There were, he said, some eleven people whose names had been on the roll for over 25 years and there was one name which had been there for over 30 years. It was agreed that the roll would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Kirk Session.

10 PRESBYTERY ELDER

10.1 Elder's Report

The presbytery elder's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There being no questions the Moderator thanked Mrs MacKenzie for her report and noted that the new minister of Broom Church, Rev Jim Boag, was to be inducted within a few weeks.

11 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Education Committee

11.1.1 Adult Education

The Moderator stated that five or six members had agreed to receive written copies of a sermon and participate in discussions on issues raised in the sermons once a month.

11.1.2 New Communicants

The Moderator intimated that there were two people attending the new communicant's class and that they were ready to profess their faith. The two people were Miss Jennifer Neill and Mr Alan Henderson. He suggested that the Service of Admission of new Communicants was held on Sunday, 29th April and elders agreed to this.

11.2 Youth Education Committee

The Moderator stated that there had been a suggestion of establishing a Youth Council. The Youth Council would comprise representatives of youth organisations who would meet with the minister approximately twice a year. This would provide an opportunity to share views and ideas about what the church could do. Elders thought this was a good idea and welcomed the initiative.

11.3 Worship Committee

The Moderator reminded elders of the committee's recommendation about the time of Sunday service.

Gordon Robertson indicated that he had found the volume of the organ excessive on the previous Sunday and asked that the organist should be instructed to play more quietly. In contrast, Fraser Mackintosh said that he enjoyed hearing the organ played loudly and Alf Dunbar commented that the organ at Netherlee Church was much louder than that at Stamperland. Margo Neilson stated that many members do not like the organist's style of playing. The Moderator said that he was aware of a number of difficulties in relation to the music; however, these were unlikely to be as significant as the problems we would face if there were no organist.

11.4 Parish and Beyond

Connell Cranston stated that he had nothing to report. Members of the committee had recently attended both Robroyston and Cathcart Trinity Churches and they would bring a report on their experiences to the next Kirk Session meeting.

The Moderator stated that a representative of the Committee for Art and Architecture had been in contact with him and that attempts are being made to arrange a suitable date for the committee to visit Stamperland.

12. OPEN DOOR

12.1 Review of Open Door

Willie Anderson stated that he believed that Open Door had not been as successful as had been hoped and that it was perhaps time to re-assess the situation. In his experience the number of people currently attending was only two or three. Some of the people who had

previously attended quite regularly included Florence Liddell and Eva Morton. He wondered if Open Door should be kept going over the summer.

Sam Esler commented that there had, on occasions, been nine people attending. Additionally, he felt that it was difficult to interpret success simply from numbers; was perhaps two or three people coming in for a period of quiet reflection not a sign of a need being met? Comments from other elders included that consideration could be given to changing the time, perhaps to five o'clock or six o'clock on a weekday evening, that those who have come have appreciated the church being open. The Moderator said that Open Door was part of showing the community that the church was here for them and of opening the church to the community.

It was agreed that the Open Door committee should consider whether there should be a summer break.

13 VISITING ELDER'S REPORTS

Reports on visits to the Boys' Brigade and The Guild were circulated prior to the meeting. The Moderator asked elders to note the reports. It was agreed that the comment regarding the electrical socket in the Session Room be forwarded to the Congregational Board with a request that the matter be dealt with over the summer period.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 15th May.

15 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed the Moderator saying a Benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 15th MAY 2007
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Jeremiah and a prayer. The prayer included special mention of two elders, Ray McNiven and Janet Stewart.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Kay Bolton, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mrs Janice Herriot, Miss Janet Stewart, Miss Jess Thomson, Mr William Anderson, Mr John Curror, Mr Bill Paterson, and Mr Fraser Mackintosh.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was confirmed as presented in the draft Agenda circulated prior to the meeting.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A draft minute of the meeting held on 16th April 2007 was circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Connell Cranston. The minutes were then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 New Communicants

Elders expressed the view that the service of admission of new communicants had been a good occasion and that the new communicants had enjoyed the service. The Moderator stated that several members of the congregation told him that they had found it a very personal service and that “they had been moved to tears”.

Jane Curror suggested that the use of a “kneeling cushion” would make it easier for communicants to rise to their feet.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 June Communion

The Moderator intimated that as he would be conducting morning worship at Victoria Tollcross Church on the morning of the June Communion, the Communion Service would be conducted by the Rev David Locke.

7.1.2 Spring Fair

The Moderator thanked everyone for helping at the Spring Fair.

7.2 Deputy Session Clerk

7.2.1 Availability for Communion Duty

Margo Neilson asked elders to confirm their availability for communion duties.

8 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

8.1 Changes to Roll

Changes to the roll had been circulated prior to the meeting by the Roll Keeper as follows:

Change of Address

	From:-	To:-
Mrs Muriel Rae	19 Orchy Gardens	Westlea C.H., Neilston
Ms Lesley Logan	Field Rd., Busby	???
Mrs Anne Johnston	588 Clarkston Rd.	???

Deaths

Mr J. Lawrence Grant	Flat 1, Strawhill Court
Miss Anne A. Anderson	34 Alyth Cres.

New Members

Ms Jennifer Neill	35 Castlehill Dr., Newton Mearns
Mr Alan Henderson	98A Stamperland Hill

8.2 Supplementary Roll

David Dundas presented a list of names of people on the Supplementary Roll. There was discussion regarding the list and the Clerk was asked to write to a number of individuals to ascertain their wishes regarding church membership.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

9.1 Elder's Report

Anne MacKenzie read her report of the May meeting of Presbytery.

In reference to the requirement for a Risk Register it was noted that Derrick Brown was looking at the requirement.

In relation to the Presbytery Plan, the Moderator stated that there was no proposal for any changes which would affect Stamperland Church or its immediate neighbours. However, there was a possibility of a change affecting Busby and Carmunnock churches.

10 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Parish and Beyond

10.1.1 Review of church layout

Connell Cranston reported that representatives of The Committee for Art and Architecture were visiting the church on Wednesday, 30th May at 10.30 am. The members would include Rev Peter Gardiner and an architect.

10.1.2 Serving of Tea and coffee after morning worship

The Parish and Beyond committee had agreed to experiment with the serving of tea and coffee at the close of the morning service. Some 30 people had attended the previous day and there was certainly a strong impression that those people had enjoyed the opportunity to socialise.

10.1.3 Visit to Robroyston Church and Cathcart Trinity Church

Connell Cranston presented a brief review of the visits to Robroyston and Cathcart Trinity Churches. The service at Robroyston was very informal. The church was small with a seating capacity of only about 70. There was significant "audience participation" with members of the congregation being invited to speak about what they had done during the past week and to share family news and information. As such it was possibly not a good model for Sunday morning worship at Stamperland but the informal nature could be adopted for other types of worship at other times.

It was reported that Cathcart Trinity Church had two services on a Sunday morning with tea and coffee available between services. On the Sunday of the visit, members of the church conducted both services. It was noted that Cathcart employed several methods of providing information. Within the church there were pictures taken at different church events, pictures of ministers and office bearers along with written text. The church web site was very informative.

11 EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMITTEES

The Moderator stated that the operation of the Kirk Session Committees was rather patchy. Whilst the Parish and Beyond Committee was functioning, some of the other committees were either not operating or not being effective. There was considerable discussion on the topic of committees during which it was pointed out that virtually every elder had been appointed to a committee which was either their first or second choice; that no committee leader had been appointed as a deliberate step to encourage each committee to select a leader from within its membership; that if a committee didn't have a remit or wished to change its remit it should draft a remit and seek the opinion of the Moderator. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to one member of each committee asking them to arrange a meeting of the committee and report progress at the next Session Meeting.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 10th September. Alistair Graham raised the question of whether every meeting had to be held on a Monday. It was agreed that alternative days could be considered.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed the Moderator saying a Benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator constituted the meeting with prayer.

2 DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by the Moderator who began by reading a passage from 1st Corinthians, Chapter 1.

In his short address, the Moderator told elders that chaplains to the new Williamwood High School had all been given official badges. However, a mistake had been made in the spelling of "Chaplain" with the badges carrying the misprint, "Chaplin". The Moderator used this error to address elders' thoughts towards being a "fool or a clown for God".

3 SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4 OTHER BUSINESS**4.1 Conduct of Communion**

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties and the Deputy Session Clerk for organising the preparatory work and the elders' duties.

5 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS**5.1 Session Clerk****5.1.1 Letter from Miss Janet Stewart**

The Session Clerk read a letter from Janet Stewart in which she thanked elders for their prayerful and practical support during her illness. While she was making progress, Janet stated that she felt, as yet, unable to carry out her duties as an elder and asked that she be excused from Kirk Session commitments for the time being.

The Moderator said that he and the congregation, in general, had been heartened by Janet's progress and that it had been good to see Janet at some of the recent morning services.

5.1.2 Letter from Mr Bill Shaw

The Session Clerk read a letter from Bill Shaw in which he asked to be relieved of Elder duties following his move from Stamperland to a new home in Prestwick and expressed his thanks to the Moderator and elders for their help and support during his time as an elder and sent his good wishes for the continued success and vision of the church.

The Moderator said that Bill had served diligently as an elder and asked the Clerk to send the good wishes of the Kirk Session to Bill and his wife, Sandra, in their new home.

5.1.3 Scotland's Churches Scheme

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Director of the Scotland's Churches Scheme inviting the church to send a representative to "The Gathering" which was being held in Inverness on Wednesday, 31st October. He asked that anyone wishing to attend should contact him at the close of the meeting.

5.1.4 Meeting to Discuss Community Noticeboards

The Session Clerk stated that he would be attending a meeting on Monday, 3rd September which had been called by East Renfrewshire Council to discuss issues relating to the management of the community noticeboards in Stamperland. He asked that if anyone had a particular opinion regarding the noticeboards that they speak to him at the close of the meeting. He stated that Sam Esler would also be attending as the representative of the Stamperland Bowling Club.

5.1.5 Joint Session Meeting with Netherlee

The Session Clerk reminded elders that the next Session Meeting would be held on Monday, 10th September and would be a joint meeting with elders from Netherlee Parish Church. Whilst the meeting would begin at 7.30, elders were asked to come well in advance of the start time.

5.1.6 Letter from Mrs Sandra Halliday

The Session Clerk read a letter from Mrs Sandra Halliday in which Sandra had written that, as she had been granted a Resident's Visa for New Zealand, she wished to resign as an elder with effect from 3rd September. The Clerk stated that it was almost exactly twelve years since Sandra had been ordained as an elder - the 27th August 1995. Although Sandra was not leaving for New Zealand until early in 2008, she wished to be relieved of her responsibilities so that she could concentrate on preparing for her emigration and whilst it was not appropriate to say "goodbye" at this stage, he invited elders to wish Sandra well during the coming months as she concentrated on getting ready for her new life.

6 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace"

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**JOINT KIRK SESSION MEETING WITH THE KIRK SESSION
FROM NETHERLEE PARISH CHURCH
MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 7.30 P.M.
IN STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH**

1. CONSTITUTION

The joint meeting of the two Kirk Sessions was constituted by the Rev George Mackay with a Bible reading and a prayer.

2. INTRODUCTION

Mr Mackay summarised the aim of the meeting; namely, that Glasgow Presbytery were encouraging all congregations to develop closer working relationships with their neighbours and that, through this meeting, it was intended that initial suggestions would be developed enabling the two congregations to work together.

3. PRESENTATIONS ON THE TWO CHURCHES

Mike Buchan, Session Clerk at Netherlee, and Norman Bolton, Session Clerk at Stamperland, made two brief presentations summarising aspects of the two parishes and churches. There were some interesting similarities and contrasts. Whilst both parishes are compact, essentially residential and have a similar number of homes, Netherlee has more than twice the membership of Stamperland and, with commensurately greater resources, is able to support a rather wider range of activities.

4. DISCUSSION GROUPS

All elders present were divided into five groups to explore ways in which our two churches might work together. The specific topic areas addressed were as follows.

- Opportunities for sharing resources, human and otherwise.
- Opportunities for worshipping together, for having Social Events together and how these might be developed.
- Opportunities for getting young people of the two churches working together.
- Opportunities for attracting the 30-40 age group and
- Opportunities for improving the care of people who are lonely, sick and need help and for including our senior citizens in the active life of the Church.

5. GROUP FEEDBACK

Each group presented three or four of the ideas which emerged from their discussions to all elders. Each elder was given the opportunity to vote for what they believed were, overall, the three best ideas. The four top-scoring ideas were the following:

Joint Service	20 votes
CCT Youth Forum	20 votes
Special Invitation Services possibly with well-known guest preachers such as Marvin Andrews or Mike McCurry	20 votes
Sharing facilities and equipment	14 votes

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Rev Tom Nelson.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2007
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from John Chapter 15, verses 5 to 17 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Nancy Fisher, Miss Grace Scott, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr John Curror, Mr Alf Dunbar, Mr Alistair Graham, and Mr Bill Paterson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 16 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was confirmed as presented in the draft Agenda circulated prior to the meeting.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th May, 2nd September and 10th September were circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the minute of the meeting of the 15th May as a true record was proposed by David Dundas and seconded by Sam Esler. Adoption of the minute of the meeting of the 2nd September as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Edith Moseley. Adoption of the minute of the meeting of the 10th September as a true record was proposed by Jane Curror and seconded by Margo Neilson. The minutes were then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Supplementary Roll

The Session Clerk stated that he had written to seven of the people on the supplementary roll. Mr and Mrs McPherson, 68 Nethervale Avenue indicated that they no longer wished to be members of the church. Mrs Morag Lindsay, 63 Stamperland Drive responded that neither she nor her daughter, Fiona, now married and living in Wales, wished to be members. Mrs Elizabeth Marshall, 698 Clarkston Road replied stating that she wished to retain her membership and hoped that she would be able to resume active membership sometime in the future.

6.2 Effectiveness of Committees

The Moderator stated that one of the interesting facts to emerge from the joint Kirk Session meeting with Netherlee was that, whilst they had Kirk Session meetings every month, the full Kirk Session met only every second month with Kirk Session Committees meeting on alternate months. He asked elders present if they believed that this arrangement would be a means of improving the Kirk Session's effectiveness and efficiency.

Elders indicated that it would be good to adopt this practice, at least for a trial period. It was suggested that it might be useful to consider having Kirk Session meetings on days other than Mondays and it was agreed that meetings would alternate between Mondays and Wednesdays.

It was questioned whether Kirk Session and Congregational Board meetings should be integrated. It was decided to wait and judge the effectiveness of the alternating series of full Session meetings and committee meetings before making a decision on integrating Session and Board meetings.

6.3 Progress on Reviewing the Layout of the Church

The Moderator stated that he, along with Connell Cranston and Alistair Graham, had met the Committee for Art and Architecture at the end of May. The committee had been impressed by some aspects of the church including, in particular, the light in the St John's Chapel and

the breadth of the sanctuary. The committee had indicated that the slope of the floor in the church would make having individual chairs a difficult option. However, the committee had not prepared a formal report and it had proved difficult to make contact with the committee. The Moderator indicated that he would try to get Rev Roddy Hamilton to come and speak to the Kirk Session.

6.4 Meeting to Discuss Community Notice Board

The Session Clerk stated that he had attended a meeting on Monday, 3rd September which had been called by East Renfrewshire Council to discuss issues relating to the management of the community notice boards in Stamperland. At the meeting, the full-time council official, Mr Jim Sneddon, proposed a code-of-practice for the use of the notice board sited within the church grounds. The proposals were accepted by those in attendance. Organisations wishing to use the notice board could request a key for the padlock on the board or post the notice through the door of the secretary of the Community Council. The Session Clerk was asked to write to Mr Sneddon and request a key.

6.5 Joint Meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session

The Moderator thanked all who had assisted in organising, attending and contributing to the joint Session meeting.

7 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

7.1 Changes to Roll

Changes to the roll were indicated as follows:

	From:-	To:-
Mrs Marie Fordyce	17 Laxford, E.K.	16 Park Dr., Lanark
Mrs Marjorie McKissock	94 Nethervale Ave.	30(?) Linnpark Court (D25)
Mrs Catherine McCorkell	17 Monteith Dr.	Flat 1, 23 Eaglesham Rd. (D28)
Mrs Marion Ferguson	29 Strathtay Ave.	?? Gryffe St.
Subsequent to informing the session earlier this year of four members who have moved to unknown addresses, and a request for information via the May issue of FOCUS, an address for Mrs Marion Ferguson has been received, but still unknown is the whereabouts of Ms Cheryl Keith, Ms Lesley Logan, and Mrs Anne Johnston.		

Change of Name

From:-	To:-	Address Correction
Miss Heather Laird	Mrs Heather Dempster	25 27 Bunburry Terr., E. Kilbride

Deaths

Mrs Maud Twedde	65 Stamperland Ave.
Mrs Isla Roberts	49 Nethervale Ave
Mrs Mary McEwan	Stone Calsay Cottage, Symington

David Dundas stated that he did not have the new address in Prestwick for Mr and Mrs W Shaw.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER

8.1 Elder's Report

The presbytery elder's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. In response to a question about what "Twinning" might involve Mrs MacKenzie and the Moderator indicated that details had not been finalised but that it could involve sharing resources of both people and hardware with a congregation in an urban priority area.

10 REGULATIONS ANENT CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE 2007 INCLUDING ROLE OF TRUSTEES

10.1 Background

The Session Clerk gave an overview of some of the implications arising from legislation relating the administration of charities based in Scotland and the role of OSCR, the Office of the Scottish Charity Register. The presentation summarised some of the history leading to the establishment of OSCR and some of the requirements of the legislation which would now affect many aspects of “managing” the church. For example, all Elders and Congregational Board Members are Trustees, the role of a Trustee having specific obligations and responsibilities.

The legislation meant that some decisions had to be made at the meeting; other requirements could be dealt with over a longer period of time.

The Moderator thanked Norman Bolton for his presentation and asked that he prepare it in the form of a publication which could be given to all elders and members of the Congregational Board.

10.2 Preparation of Annual Report

The Session Clerk stated that an immediate requirement of OSCR was that the church had to prepare an Annual Report. Only about half of the pages of the Annual Report would present financial figures; the rest of the Annual Report would be text describing the structure, governance and management of the church and include descriptions of the procedures for appointing Trustees, the objectives and activities of the church and its achievements and performance in relation to these objectives during the financial year.

The Session Clerk said that he considered there was a need to form a small committee to draft the Annual Report. Elders agreed that the Moderator, the Session Clerk and Sam Esler should draft the report.

10.3 OSCR Designation of the Church

The Session Clerk stated that the name of the church as entered on the OSCR database was “Stamperland Parish Church: Clarkston” and that there was an opportunity to change it. Elders decided to request that the name be altered to “Stamperland Parish Church”. The Session Clerk was asked to write to the Presbytery Clerk requesting that Presbytery forward this request to the Church of Scotland Law Department in Edinburgh for action.

10.4 OSCR Requirements Relating to Church Publications

The Session Clerk stated that all church publications which could be read by people other than church members had to carry four specific pieces of information. These were the words “Church of Scotland”, “Stamperland Parish Church”, and the Scottish Charity number “SC003155”. The fourth piece of information was one of the following terms, “Charity”, “Charitable body”, “Registered Charity”, “Charity registered in Scotland”, “Scottish Charity” or “Registered Scottish Charity”. Elders decided that the words, “Registered Charity” would be used.

The Session clerk indicated that documents which required to show this information in legible characters include business letters and e-mails, advertisements, notices and official publications, invoices and receipts, educational or campaign documentation and Annual Reports. Church service intimation sheets and Focus magazine should thus include this information.

11 CRECHE STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

David Dundas raised the issue of the staffing of the crèche on a Sunday morning. There were, he said, around 16 volunteers who staffed the crèche and each Sunday there were two people on duty. There was a rota which worked in such a way that volunteers did not work as pairs with the same two volunteers always being on duty together. With there being 16 volunteers, the children did not get to know individuals and form a relationship and, as a result, there were difficulties in getting some of the children to settle.

In discussion it was pointed out that if the number of people running the crèche was reduced the volunteers would frequently be unable to attend church services; that when there were more children using the crèche the young ones were more able to play together and were

more settled. In relation to this last point it was suggested that if the crèche were in the large hall along with the younger children in Stepping Stones they might be more at ease.

12 RECRUITMENT OF NEW ELDERS

David Dundas stated that as there were now only 25 elders to look after the 30 districts, contact with and support to the congregation was diminishing. Reduction in elder numbers was also impacting on the Sunday morning duty teams. It was important that we had new blood with new viewpoints, vigour and enthusiasm. David stated that he was now in his 43rd year as an elder and was looking forward to retirement. In 2003 we had 41 elders and 477 members. Having the same ration of elders to members implied that we needed a Kirk Session of 36 elders.

The Moderator said that David had made very valid points and stated that he had approached nine people with a view to their becoming elders. Most of them were willing to attend a course on Exploring Eldership in mid November. The course had a fee of £5.00 for each attendee and the Moderator asked if the elders would agree that the fee should be met from church funds. Elders agreed to this.

It was likely that the ordination of new elders would take place early in 2008.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 5th November.

14 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all elders standing to say the Grace.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2007 IN THE SESSION HOUSE.

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Psalm 48 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Edith Moseley, Mr David Dundas and Mr Alistair Graham.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was confirmed as presented in the draft Agenda circulated prior to the meeting.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd October were circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the minute of the meeting as a true record was proposed by Fraser Mackintosh and seconded by Connell Cranston. The minutes were then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Letter from Lodging House Mission

The clerk read excerpts from the letter sent by Mr Stan Smith, Project Leader with the lodging House Mission thanking the congregation for the donation of £370 which was donated as part of the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Evelyn Graham said that the Lodging House Mission had also expressed grateful thanks for the donations of food which she and Alistair had delivered after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

6.1.2 Follow up to Joint Session Meeting with Netherlee Parish Church

Norman Bolton informed elders that he had received an invitation from Michael Buchan, Session Clerk at Netherlee Parish Church, to meet to discuss how September's joint session meeting could be followed up. The majority of the top themes identified at that meeting related to shared worship or special services with guest preachers and, as such, would be most appropriately considered by the two ministers. The Clerk asked whether any of the elders present had firm views on ways in which collaboration with Netherlee Church should be developed or whether we should continue to explore how the two churches might work more closely. It was agreed that no specific commitments should be made but that elders were receptive to the idea of having a further joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions.

6.2 Deputy Session Clerk

Margo Neilson reminded elders present to let her know if they were unable to undertake their Communion Duties at the December Communion Services.

7 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

7.1 Changes to Roll

Changes to the roll were indicated as follows:

Change of Address

	From:	To:
Ms Lesley Fyfe (Logan)	Busby	Flat 3/1, 1 Castlebrae Gdns.
Mrs Deborah Johnstone	22 Monteith Dr. (D,11)	23 Gloucester Ave. (D.28)
Mr Colin Johnstone	"	"

Members Leaving

Mrs Charlotte Wright	Bonnyton House	Greenbank Church
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Adjustments to Supplementary Roll

David Dundas indicated that in addition to the replies opting for removal from the Supplementary Roll as intimated at the last Session meeting, the following did not reply to a letter from the Session Clerk, even though supplied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Mr William and Mrs Ann Pringle, 89 Stamperland Ave. (on S.R. 1984)

Mrs Janet Angus, 117 Randolph Dr. (on S.R. 1984)

Sam Esler commented that Mr Pringle was a former elder and had served for a time as Fabric Convenor. He added that Mr Pringle was deaf and did not keep well and suggested that Mr and Mrs Pringle should remain on the Supplementary Roll. Elders agreed with this suggestion. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr and Mrs Pringle informing them of this decision and the minister stated that he would endeavour to visit them.

Bill Paterson stated that he was the elder for the district in which Mrs Angus lived and that he would call on her.

8 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

8.1 Pastoral Care

Pat McIlraith stated that the committee had met and discussed their remit. A number of actions had been agreed including that Jess Thomson would speak to Edith Moseley about the Flower Ministry and to Sylvia Bell about the Transport Ministry. Information about the Flower and Transport Ministries would be published in Focus Magazine.

The Tape Ministry would be discussed further.

The Pastoral Care committee were looking at the creation of a Care Group which would look after the elderly and housebound. The committee was in the process of preparing a "Home Communion List".

The committee would liaise with the minister to ensure that recently bereaved households were invited to the annual Seasons of the Heart Service, that names of those who had died were recorded in the Book of Remembrance and that flowers were sent on the anniversary of the deceased's death. There was some discussion about the Book of Remembrance, in particular, the need to up-date the names and to make people aware that anyone can ask to have a particular name entered in the book – it was not a book for names of deceased church members. The Moderator commented that the importance of the Seasons of the Heart Service was that it showed that the congregation care for the families of the deceased beyond the immediate period following the death and the funeral.

Pat McIlraith also reported that the committee was looking at the position of Baptismal Co-ordinator and would seek to ensure that the Cradle Roll was updated, that Birthday Cards were sent to the children up to the birthday when they became eligible to join Stepping Stones.

8.2 Communication

There was no report from the committee. Sam Esler asked who were on the committee and what their remit was. The Moderator stated that the committee was not just concerned with the publication of Focus but should be looking at how we, as a church, communicate the Gospel; how we communicate, as elders, with each other and how we communicate with the congregation. There was discussion about some of the regular printed publications including Christmas Cards, Easter Cards, Spring Fair and other leaflet drops. Willie Anderson stated that 370 copies of Focus were printed each month. Copies were placed in the vestibule for anyone to pick up; some months all copies were taken whilst other months many copies were left untouched.

9 DISTRIBUTION OF OTHERS FUND

The Session Clerk intimated that the balance in the Other's Fund was £141 and that this amount was likely to increase with additional donations anticipated at the December Communion. There was a need to decide which organisations would receive a donation. After discussion it was agreed that all of the money in the Others Fund and any money donated to a retiring offering after the Service of Remembrance should be sent to Erskine Hospital.

It was agreed that offerings collected at the Watchnight and Christmas Day Services should be sent to Starter Packs Glasgow.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Community Transport

Jess Thomson informed the meeting that the City of Glasgow Council Community Transport service had introduced a service which would take elderly and disabled people to visit hospitals and that East Renfrewshire Council were planning to introduce a similar service in the next month or so. It would be a "ring-and-request", "door-to-door service" taking passengers to the Victoria, Southern General and Royal Infirmarys. No arrangements had been made with regard to Mearnskirk Hospital.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 5th December.

12 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all elders standing to say the Grace.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2007 AT 10.30 A.M.
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The Moderator constituted the meeting with prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by the Moderator who began with a Bible reading. In his short address, the Moderator asked elders to consider some of the expressions we used when conversing with others about the weather – phrases such as “the rain in Spain” or “a red sky at night” or, perhaps, “braving the elements”. The latter expression was very relevant on a Communion Sunday. What did we think about “the elements in the celebration of communion” and what they stood for. How brave would we be in remembering and in following Our Lord.

3. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties and the Deputy Session Clerk for organising the preparatory work and the elders’ duties.

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

5.1 Moderator

The Moderator intimated that he had received a Certificate of Transference from King’s Park Parish Church for Mrs Angela McCann who was now residing at 23 Fowlis Drive, Newton Mearns. Mrs McCann’s membership was noted.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2007
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Luke Chapter 2 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr David Dundas and Mr Bill Paterson

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

4 INTIMATIONS

4.1 Moderator

4.1.1 Format of Meeting

The Moderator welcomed elders to the meeting noting that the meeting was taking a different format from previous meetings. It was being held on a Wednesday and, rather than there being formal business agenda, elders would divide into committees and then present brief reports with recommendations for future action to the Kirk Session.

4.1.2 Invitation from Rev Mr and Mrs Mackay

The Moderator intimated that he and his wife were inviting all elders and their partners to a social gathering at the Manse on Friday, 1st February, 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

5 MEETINGS OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Elders met in committees.

6 REPORTS FROM THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

6.1 Pastoral Care

Grace Scott reported on the discussions of the Pastoral Care Committee. Members had studied their remit and each member has something to do. Fraser Mackintosh would look at the Tape Ministry; Pat McIlraith would look at the Care Group and Home Communion; Janis Herriott and Jess Thomson would look at Seasons of the Heart. A co-ordinator would be sought to look after the Cradle Roll.

6.2 Stewardship

Jane Curror reported on the discussions of the Stewardship Committee. She said that Edinburgh was keen on seeing a rolling programme of stewardship rather than concentrated efforts every few years. The promotion of the use of members' time and talents needed to be enhanced and it was suggested that additional volunteers to serve on the Committee were sought including members from the Congregational Board.

6.3 Parish and Beyond

Edith Moseley reported on the discussions of the Parish and Beyond Committee. Specific points included the following:

In relation to the "parish" aspect, three regular members of the Open Door team had left.

In relation to the "beyond" aspect, it had been noted that we would be linked to another church by Glasgow Presbytery at some future time. The committee were proposing that an opportunity for a group of church members to visit the Lodging House Mission and attend their Sunday evening service could be arranged. It was also suggested that links could be developed with the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice and it was intimated that the hospice has a video which could possibly be shown to the congregation as part of Sunday worship.

6.4 Communication

Norman Bolton reported on the discussions of the Communication Committee. Specific points included the following:

Christmas Cards had been prepared for distribution to every house in the parish.

The Year Book would be ready for distribution to all members in January.

Plans were to be developed for photographs of elders, members of the Congregational Board and leaders of church organisations to be displayed in the church vestibule.

An investigation was to be undertaken to explore the practicality of having a telephone answering machine attached to the church telephone.

Consideration was to be given to looking at the practicality and viability of establishing a church office.

7 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Kirk Session would meet at the close of morning Worship on Sunday 6th January to Attest the Communion Roll, elect the Presbytery Elder and confirm the role of Child Protection Co-ordinator.

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Kirk Session would be Monday, 4th February, 2008 and that Mrs Pamela Mackay, would address the meeting about Stepping Stones.

8 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all elders standing to say the Grace.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 6th JANUARY 2008 AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 15 ruling elders.

3. CHANGES TO THE COMMUNION ROLL

David Dundas intimated the death of Mrs Joyce McGregor, 25 Morven Drive.

4. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

The Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2006			429
Number removed from Roll during 2007	by Death	10	
	by Certificate	5	
	by Otherwise	1	
			16
Number added to Roll during 2007	by Profession	2	
	by Certificate	1	
	by Otherwise	0	
			3
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2007			416
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2007			11
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2007			4

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for his work throughout the year in maintaining the Communion Roll.

5. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with unanimous approval and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

6. CHILD PROTECTION

Elders agreed with the following statement. It is certified that Child Protection procedures are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons serving as voluntary workers with children and young people in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the congregation's Child Protection Coordinator is appropriately trained to allow that person to be accredited as an authorised signatory for criminal record checks.

7. PROSPECTIVE NEW ELDERS

The Moderator announced the names of five prospective new elders - Mrs Grace Walker, Mrs Sheena Skelton, Derek Brown, George Finlayson and Ian Fulton. He said that a date for the ordination of the elders would be set after consultation with the Session Clerk.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being Monday, 4th February

9. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**JOINT MEETING OF THE KIRK SESSION
AND CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
HELD ON SUNDAY 27th JANUARY 2008
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 32 Elders and Members of the Congregational Board.

3. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2007

3.1 Background

The Session Clerk explained that the reason for holding the meeting was to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2007. All present would be aware that the content and format of the report was quite different from that of previous years and that the changes were necessitated in order to meet the requirements of OSCR, the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator. The document was essentially in two parts. The first part described the structure and management of the church, the objectives and activities of the church and gave a short assessment of achievements and performance during the year along with a review of the church's finance. The second part presented, in some detail, the finances of the church including statements of balances, receipts and payments. The meeting would consider the two parts separately.

3.2 Annual Report

The Session Clerk asked whether anyone present had specific comments or questions regarding the Annual Report. There were no questions or comments. All trustees present approved the report.

3.3 Annual Accounts

The Treasurer commented that not only was the format of the accounts quite different to the previous version but so was the approval process. Rather than accounts being prepared, audited and then presented to the congregation for approval at the Stated Annual Meeting, the procedure was that the statement of accounts had to be approved by the trustees before being audited. Once audited, copies of the Annual Report and Accounts would be sent to Presbytery and to Edinburgh and then to OSCR. Members of the congregation receive copies of the Annual Report and Accounts at the Stated Annual Meeting.

The Treasurer stated that a statement of balance and statements of income and expenditure for the year had been prepared in the format previously used. These had been examined by the auditor and found to be correct. The figures used in the statement of accounts in the document under consideration had been derived from the audited figures and represented our best attempt at presenting the figures in the format required by OSCR.

The trustees were asked if they had any questions about the financial accounts. There were no questions. All trustees present approved the accounts for 2007.

3.4 Acknowledgements

David Dundas spoke saying that Kay Bolton and Norman Bolton should be thanked for the work they had undertaken in preparing the Annual Report and Accounts.

4 SANDRA HALLIDAY

The Session Clerk informed the meeting that elders had decided to contribute to the purchase of a small gift for Sandra Halliday. He indicated that elders wishing to make a donation should do so within the next two days. Sandra would be invited to attend the Service on Sunday 10th February at which the presentation would be made.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2008 IN THE SESSION HOUSE.

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Matthew Chapter 4 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Kay Bolton, Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Janis Herriott, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr Alistair Graham and Mr Alf Dunbar.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed with the exception that Mrs Pamela Mackay would not address the meeting on the topic of Stepping Stones

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Drafts of the minutes of the meetings held on 5th November 2007, 2nd December 2007, 5th December 2007, 6th January 2008, and 27th January 2008 were circulated prior to the meeting. In relation to the minute of the meeting held on 6th January, Mrs Neilson asked whether the Moderator had not given the names of six prospective elders and it was clarified that the name of Raymond Russell had been omitted from the minute by error. With this amendment, adoption of the minutes as true records of the meetings were proposed and seconded as follows:

Date of Meeting	Proposer	Seconder
5 th November 2007	Ray McNiven	Fraser Mackintosh
2 nd December 2007	Connell Cranston	Pat McIlraith
5 th December 2007	Nancy Fisher	Grace Scott
6 th January 2008	Margo Neilson	Sam Esler
27 th January 2008	Edith Moseley	Willie Anderson

The minutes were then signed by the Session Clerk and Moderator.

Session Clerk.....

180

Moderator

6 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Evening with Rev Mr and Mrs Mackay

The Moderator thanked all of the elders and partners who had attended the social evening at the Manse on the previous Friday. He said that both he and Pamela had enjoyed the evening. All of the elders present expressed their thanks to the Moderator and his wife for their hospitality.

6.1.2 Letter from Rev Stuart McQuarrie

The Moderator read excerpts from a letter he had received from Rev Stuart McQuarrie, Chaplain to and President of the Glasgow Battalion, The Boys' Brigade. The letter stated that the Battalion would be celebrating its 125th anniversary later this year. However, it also indicated that within the Battalion there was a decline in the number of active companies and that there were fewer active young leaders. The Battalion had been experiencing financial difficulties and in the past six years the Battalion had incurred a deficit of £140,000. Currently it was living on the generosity of past members.

6.1.3 Elder Training

The Moderator highlighted a number of events related to elder training and left leaflets describing the opportunities on the desk for interested elders to read.

6.1.4 Williamwood House

The Moderator reported that he had attended a service in Netherlee Church which was a celebration of 25 years of Williamwood House as a residential home for the elderly. Throughout that period Williamwood House had offered excellent service and provided secure, comfortable care to many. A considerable number of members of Stamperland Church worked in Williamwood House and also assisted in various voluntary capacities. The Session Clerk was asked to write to Williamwood house and offer the congratulations and good wishes of the Kirk Session and Congregation to the staff and residents.

6.1.4 Changes at Glasgow Presbytery

The Moderator announced changes in relation to the post of Presbytery Clerk. The Rev David Lunan had retired as Presbytery Clerk and would become next Moderator of the General Assembly in May. The new Presbytery Clerk was the Rev Angus Kerr; Dr Kerr had, in fact, attended Stamperland Church the previous day.

The Session Clerk was asked to write to both David Lunan and Angus Kerr congratulating them on their achievements.

6.2. Session Clerk

6.2.1 Congregational Statistics

The Session Clerk stated that each year he had to send statistical information to the Presbytery Clerk and he believed that the elders might wish to know some of the information.

At the end of 2007, church membership stood at 416. Full details of membership changes throughout the past year had been presented by the Roll Keeper at the Session meeting in January. There was a total of 28 elders, 12 men and 16 ladies active in the Kirk Session. Excluding elders, there were 12 men and eight ladies on the Congregational Board. Virtually every week, around 230 young people attended a church organisation and the numbers in the youth organisations were as follows.

Year	2007		2006	
Sunday School & Quest		48		25
BB				
Sparks	28		20	
Junior Section	25		18	
Company Section	29	82	35	73

Year	2007		2006	
Guides				
Rainbows	18		18	
Brownies	48		48	
Guides	43	109	43	109
Scouts				
Beavers				
Cubs				
Scouts		45		45
Uninformed Organisations Total		236		227

The increase in numbers attending Sunday School and Quest was significant and encouraging.

During 2007, the Moderator had conducted 23 funerals. Of these, nine funerals were of members and 14 of non-members. There had been four baptisms, one of which was adult. There had been no weddings.

The Moderator commented that on average we were losing approximately ten members through death. In the long-term this was clearly unsustainable and we had to address how we would “mission to the younger people”.

5 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

5.1 Communications

Willie Anderson asked whether Clarkston Churches were producing an Easter leaflet for distribution to all homes in the parish and said that the leaflet would have to be ready for delivery no later than the 2nd March.

The Moderator said that there would be a leaflet. He stated that he planned to have Holy Week services, as normal, at 7.00 pm Monday to Thursday and at 6.00 pm on Good Friday. On Thursday, members from Netherlee would attend Stamperland for Communion and on Friday, members from Stamperland would attend Netherlee for a service at 7.30 pm. On Good Friday there would be short services at each of the churches in the area.

The Moderator thanked everyone who had played a part in the preparation of the Year Book.

5.2 Pastoral Care

5.2.1 Tape Ministry

Fraser Mackintosh said that he had spoken to Norman Bolton about the Tape Ministry. Norman Bolton said there were a number of options about the way in which recorded services could be distributed. Possibly the most useful formats would be to use either CDs or MP3 players; tape cassettes were becoming obsolete. However, the first problem to be overcome was how to record the services on a computer and he was still investigating options.

The comment about recording sound led to comments on the inadequacy of the sound system in the church. Pat McIlraith suggested that there should be training for those who read the Bible Readings or made announcements on a Sunday morning and that they needed to be aware that the microphone and loudspeaker system was a means of assisting communication and not a substitute for speaking loudly and clearly.

5.3 Parish and Beyond

Connell Cranston reported that there were three new volunteers for the Open Door and there were now eight teams.

6 DATE OF STATED ANNUAL MEETING

The date of Monday, 10th March was agreed for the Stated Annual Meeting.

7 ORDINATION OF ELDERS

It was agreed that the Service of Ordination of new elders would be on Sunday, 2nd March. The Kirk Session would meet at 10.20 a.m. for devotions that morning.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Kirk Session would meet on Wednesday, 5th March.

9 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all elders standing to say the Grace.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 2nd MARCH 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a prayer and with a reading from Matthew Chapter 4.

2. DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by the Moderator.

In his address, the Moderator started his talk by recounting that research has shown that eating Jaffa Cakes is an aid to slimming and that chocolate is actually good for you. Whilst he didn't believe he was necessarily convincing all of the elders present he could say, with certainty, that the word 'STRESSED' spelt backwards is 'DESSERTS.'

Lent is a time of temptation and so many people give up that which they crave. For the sweet-toothed it can be chocolate. Jesus had to endure much in the wilderness – much more than just cravings for food. The Devil tempted Jesus with other cravings –power, kingdoms, the use of divine ways. The Devil shows how sweet and appetising life can be if Jesus were to choose his way. Why be stressed? Why fill yourself full of worry? Why try and win people over the hard way? There are easier methods!

So, in the desert Jesus is faced with the choices of STRESSED or DESSERT. The hard way, the painful human way for most folk, the struggle but the integrity: or the easy path, the back-hander, the ladder of promotion, the company dinners on the company accounts.

What Jesus faces before his ministry begins is that choice we all face, to work in life and be aware of both its bitter-sweet experiences and being the more mature because of it: or, to choose the DESSERT road, full of flashing camera bulbs and celebrity status and an inner soul that is as arid and dry as the desert Jesus leaves triumphant.

The Moderator continued by saying that today was Communion Sunday and also Mother's Day. Mothers are well known for accepting the harder road of life so that their offspring have more. Mothers do without putting their children first. At the Last Supper, before Jesus speaks in a new way about bread and wine, he celebrates the Passover and uses ingredients

that remind those fellow Jews around the table about the bitter-sweet stories of their ancestors.

It is always easier to choose the easy way. It is always tempting to be attracted to the names on lights. But that is not Jesus way. He opts for the stressed-filled way which leads him to the cross and only then, in the bitterness of Good Friday, three days later do we taste the sweetness of Easter.

3. NEW ELDERS

The Moderator presented the four prospective new elders, Grace Walker, George Finlayson, Ian Fulton and Raymond Russell to the Kirk Session. He said that all four had attended the basic training course run by the Presbytery.

The intimation regarding the ordination of the elders had been read to the congregation on two previous Sundays and the Session Clerk was sent to the front door of the church to see whether any member an objection to the ordination of any one of the prospective elders. He returned to intimate there were no objections.

4 SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to participate in the ordination of the elders and to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties and the Deputy Session Clerk for organising the preparatory work and the elders’ duties.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from John Chapter 5, verses 1 to 9 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Janis Herriot, Mrs Margo Neilson, Miss Janet Stewart, Mr Iain Fulton and Mr Fraser Mackintosh.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

4 INTIMATIONS

4.1 Moderator

4.1.1 Format of Meeting

The Moderator welcomed elders to the meeting noting that the meeting was in the format of a committee evening. On behalf of all the Kirk Session he extended a special welcome to Grace Walker, George Finlayson and Raymond Russell who were attending their first Kirk Session Meeting.

5 MEETINGS OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Elders met in committees.

6 REPORTS FROM THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

6.1 Stewardship

Jane Curror reported on the discussions of the Stewardship Committee. She said that they had discussed ways of ensuring the congregation was better informed about the income and expenditure streams. Articles could be written for publication in Focus.

The committee had discussed what would be reported at the Stated Annual Meeting and the implication of the introduction of the of 20 per cent rate of Income Tax on Gift Aid recoveries.

David Dundas suggested that members should be told that in order to meet the target budget income, individual members should raise their givings by a specific amount.

6.2 Education

Bill Paterson reported that, following a suggestion by David Dundas, the Education Committee had considered establishing a “library” of religious or theological books. Donations of appropriate books could be sought from members and the books could be made available for borrowing from a bookcase in the church vestibule.

In subsequent open discussion it was suggested that the minister might occasionally promote a specific book during a Sunday morning service and that copies of that book could be made available for purchase having been sourced from a company such as Wesley Owen on a sale-or-return basis.

6.3 Pastoral Care

Grace Scott reported on the discussions of the Pastoral Care Committee. The committee had again, discussed their remit and one of the themes to emerge was the use of Focus magazine to inform members about the role of the Pastoral Committee and encourage members to indicate their desire to receive audio copies of church services, the “Tape Ministry”, or their desire for Home Communion, or to have visits from “befrienders”. Focus articles would also seek volunteers to assist in the work of the pastoral care group.

6.4 Parish and Beyond

Connell Cranston reported on the discussions of the Parish and Beyond Committee.

Open Door again had eight teams and it was planned to have the Open Door as normal during Holy Week.

It was proposed that a speaker from The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice could be invited to speak at a Sunday Morning Service about aspects of the work of the hospice.

Plans were being made for members of the congregation to attend an evening service at the Lodging House Mission, possibly in September. There was also a possibility of inviting a speaker from the LHM to address the congregation one Sunday.

Connell also stated that there was a feeling that the committee was losing some of its momentum with committee meetings now taking place only every second month. There was a preference for having meetings in member’s homes which enabled more time to be taken to consider issues in depth. The Moderator stated that the bi-monthly Session Committee format was not meant to replace regular meetings of well-established session committees but was primarily to ensure that all session committees did meet and did progress actions. He welcomed the move to continue with regular meetings of the committees in member’s homes.

6.5 Communication

Norman Bolton reported on the discussions of the Communication Committee. Some of the main points covered included the following:

David Dundas has a key for the Community Noticeboard in the church grounds. Notices giving times of church services and information about the Spring Fair have been placed in the noticeboard.

It was reported that Kay Baird had volunteered to update the Cradle Roll.

The preparation of a leaflet describing the church activities and its distribution to all homes in the parish in late August or early September was considered. The aim of communicating to residents within the parish could be further developed by having an “Open Evening” at which all of the organisations including the uniformed organisations, Sunday School and Guild could have table-top presentations of their activities.

There was some discussion about communication with members who lived outwith the parish and did not, at present, receive regular visits from an elder. Whilst it was believed that each of them received a copy of Focus there was discussion about whether they should be sent a letter in place of an elder’s visit. With the increasing use of the internet and e-mail, it was also considered that electronic versions of the Order of Service, the church Year Book, sermons, could quite readily be distributed. It was noted that a number of members did receive “Slices of Bread” electronically. The Moderator stated that letters and e-mails should not become an alternative to elder’s visits though phone calls or e-mails were ways in which one could show that you were thinking of people.

7 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Kirk Session would be Monday, 8th April, 2008.

8 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all elders standing to say the Grace.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th MAY 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Acts Chapter 2 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Miss Grace Scott, Mrs Jane Curror, Mr John Curror, Mr Sam Esler, Mr Alistair Graham and Mr Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 13 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed with the addition of the item “Minutes of Previous Meetings”.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A draft of the minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2008 was circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Connell Cranston and seconded by Fraser Mackintosh.

The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Elder’s Lapel Badges

Referring to item 12.2, the question was asked about when the pins would be available. The Session Clerk stated that the order had been placed and the supplier had indicated that the items were in stock so that he was sure the pins would be available in time for the June Communion.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Spring Fair

The Session Clerk reminded elders that help was required in many areas. Although the Kirk Session normally manned the Plant Stall, assistance was required in many other areas. Connell Cranston suggested that elders tried to come early on Saturday morning to assist with the general preparations.

7.2.2 Joint Meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the joint meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session being held on Thursday 19th June at Kirk House, Netherlee.

8 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

8.1 Meetings of Permanent Committees

Elders present split into the relevant committee and discussed matters.

8.2 Report from Pastoral Committee

Pat McIlraith reported back for the committee.

8.2.1 Cradle roll

The lady who had earlier indicated that she was prepared to look after the Cradle Roll had now indicated that she was concerned about going to the homes of the children.

8.2.2 Tape ministry

It was suggested that the Tape Ministry started in September. An article would be published in the June issue of Focus. It was also suggested that elders mention the Tape Ministry when they visit members prior to the June Communion.

8.3 Report from Communication Committee

Norman Bolton reported back for the committee.

8.3.1 E-mail communication

David Dundas had e-mailed all members living outwith the parish.

8.3.2 E-mail communication

Norman Bolton demonstrated the use of the MP3 players recently purchased for the Tape Ministry.

8.3.3 Organisation open night

The committee had discussed the possibility of holding an event at the end of August or beginning of September which would be aimed at informing everyone in the parish about the various organisations which meet in the church.

8.3.4 Members telephone numbers

The Moderator said that he would like to have a list of telephone numbers which would allow him to phone any member of the congregation. Such a list would, for example, be useful in allowing him to check which ward or hospital a member was in prior to making a visit.

There was discussion about possible data protection requirements and whether members would be willing or reluctant for such information to be made available.

8.4 Report from Parish and Beyond Committee

Connell Cranston reported back for the committee.

8.4.1 Twinning

The committee suggested that the Rev Tom Nelson should be invited to speak to the Kirk Session about twinning. An alternative speaker could be Noel Mathias.

8.4.2 Lodging House Mission

The committee suggested that a speaker could be invited to address the congregation about the work of the lodging House Mission and suggested that a Sunday in January 2009 might be appropriate. It was agreed that the Moderator would liaise with Alistair Graham to progress this matter.

8.4.3 Coffee morning

Connell Cranston reported that the committee was planning to organise a coffee morning to raise funds for a local charity. The charity which would benefit would be HART, the charity relating to the provision of defibrillators and relevant to the Stokes family.

8.4.4 Welcome pack

The committee were planning to update the Welcome Pack for distribution to new residents.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Issues Regarding Security and Protection

Anne MacKenzie raised the issues of safety of people occupying the church halls during the evening and of the responsibility for answering the church hall door on Tuesday evenings. She indicated that there have been problems in relation to members of the choir arriving late and members of The Guild having to answer the door. There was considerable discussion on the topics and it was resolved that the issues of security should be considered by the Congregational Board.

10 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The following provisional dates were agreed:

2008

- Monday, 1st September
- Wednesday, 1st October
- Monday, 3rd November
- Wednesday, 3rd December

2009

- Sunday, 11th January after the morning service
- Monday, 2nd February
- Wednesday, 4th March
- Monday, 20th April
- Wednesday, 6th May

11 KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

Pat McIlraith agreed to lead the Kirk Session devotions prior to the June Communion. Nancy Fisher agreed to lead the Kirk Session devotions prior to the December Communion.

12 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all elders standing to say the Grace.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 1st JUNE 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a prayer and a reading.

2. WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed all elders and expressed a particularly warm welcome to the new elders who would be serving communion for the first time.

3. DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by Pat McIlraith.

In her address, Pat said that she had originally planned to talk about “many are called but few are chosen”. However, she wished now to talk about a recent experience. The past year had been particularly difficult. Her sister had been bereaved and had subsequently been quite unwell. There had been a lot of responsibilities and tasks falling onto Pat’s shoulders and she felt pretty worn out. But she let God know of her worries and put her trust in Him, “If this is what You’ve got for me, then let me do it with good grace.”

One Saturday a lot of things came together. Pat had gone to the supermarket; there she “bumped into” a lady – a grandmother - struggling with a trolley and a young baby. Pat and the lady conversed and it was clear that the lady was harassed for a good number of reasons. When it was her turn to pay for her shopping it transpired that the lady had forgotten her purse. Knowing the agitated state of the lady, Pat insisted on paying, assuring her that she was confident she would be repaid. Pat had then to go to Eaglesham to deliver shopping to her sister, Moira. In Eaglesham she met a man who was having difficulty walking and couldn’t manage the step up from the road onto the pavement. With a kind word Pat assisted him and couldn’t help being amazed at the man’s glowing face. Only minutes later, in one of the shops, there was an old lady in the queue in front of her with a handbag overflowing with paper money and who told the shopkeeper to take what she owed. Pat felt moved to help the lady get home safely.

That evening Pat went to a concert with Edith Moseley. At the door they were each handed a booklet and Pat felt she was guided to a particular passage. The passage was about bearing burdens and stated that many people had burdens, some so deep-seated or painful that they found it impossible to vocalise them, to tell anyone about them, to share them. One of the sentences which leaped off the page said “Do not be a burden, be a burden bearer.” Pat felt immediately that God was speaking to her. She concluded by saying that , “God can give you the power to be a burden-bearer and when you lift other’s burdens, God lifts yours.”

4 RETIRING OFFERING

Edith Moseley told the elders that everyone who attended the House Group donated one pound per evening and, over a year, the House Group had collected £100. The House Group had received a letter from Mary’s Meals about the crisis in Burma and Edith thought it would be a good gesture if the retiring offering could be sent to Mary’s Meals along with the money from the House Group. Elders agreed. Margo Neilson suggested that the congregation should be told that on this occasion retiring donations would be sent to Mary’s Meals.

5 SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church ~~to participate in the ordination of the elders and~~ to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties and the Deputy Session Clerk for organising the preparatory work and the elders’ duties.

6.2 Joint Meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the meeting with Netherlee on the 19th June. The meeting would be held in Kirk House.

6.3 Church of Scotland Annual Report

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received about two dozen copies of the Church of Scotland Annual Review and urged elders to take a copy home.

6.4 Donation from Jess Thomson

The Moderator intimated that Jess Thomson had gifted a set of crocheted doilies. Elders joined the Moderator in thanking Jess for her gift.

7. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Psalm 139 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Sheila Mcintosh, Mr Alf Dunbar and Mr Alistair Graham.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 22 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed. The Moderator stated that he wished to hear from elders who would like to volunteer to lead the devotions prior to the Communion Service on Sunday, 6th September.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A draft of the minutes of the meetings held 7th May and 1st June 2008 was circulated prior to the meeting.

5.1 Amendment to Minute of 7th May

David Dundas asked that the section 8.3.1 be amended to read as follows: “David Dundas has written to all members on the postal District list and asked them if they wished to receive regular e-mail communication, such as the Order of Service.”

5.2 Amendment to Minute of 1st June

The Session Clerk highlighted an error in Section 5. The words “to participate in the ordination of the elders” should be deleted. Their inclusion highlighted the probability of mistakes being made when previous minutes were used as templates.

5.3 Adoption of Minutes

With the amendment noted in 5.1, adoption of the minutes as a true record of the meeting of the 7th May was proposed by Pat McIlraith and seconded by Fraser Mackintosh. With the amendment noted in 5.2, adoption of the minutes as a true record of the meeting of the 1st June was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Margo Neilson.

The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Elder’s Lapel Badges

The Session Clerk intimated that lapel and pin badges were available and invited elders to pick up a badge at the close of the meeting. In response to a question about the wearing of “Stamperland Parish Church ties” by gentlemen elders the Session Clerk stated that, since not all male elders had a church tie, its use was now optional. Elders should wear ties which would be considered “appropriate”.

6.2 Tape Ministry

The Session Clerk said that no indication of the number of members who wished to receive recorded copies of church services. Recordings of services would be available from mid-September onwards.

6.3 Members Telephone Numbers

The Session Clerk said that he was unaware of any progress on this matter. He suggested that an article could be written for publication in Focus which would incorporate a “tear-off slip”. Members who had no objections to the minister having their contact phone number could complete the tear off slip giving their name and phone number and hand it in to the church. In this way, any member who was reluctant for contact information to be available could simply not respond. Several elders noted that members living outwith the parish did not receive copies of Focus unless they had specifically requested copies and were paying the cost of postage.

David Dundas suggested that a retired or housebound member might be willing to use a copy of the Communion Roll and the BT telephone directory and identify contact numbers for each member.

The Moderator reiterated the usefulness of the contact information, particularly in advance of visiting members in hospital when he could ascertain from the member’s family information regarding the hospital and the ward and confirm that a visit was appropriate.

6.4 Issues Regarding Security and Protection

The Session Clerk said that the issue of security and protection had been discussed at the May meeting of the Congregational Board. At that meeting it was resolved that volunteers should be sought from within the Congregational Board (including elders), the congregation and the parents of young people attending the organisations meeting on Monday and Tuesday evenings to be present in the hall vestibule from 6.00 pm until 10.00 pm. He intimated that The Clerk to the Board had made contact with Board members and that each member of the Kirk Session had received a letter along with the Agenda for the September Kirk Session meeting. The letter had a tear-off slip and he asked that elders who were prepared to assist should complete and return the slip to him at the close of the session meeting.

Fraser Mackintosh asked about the implications of insurance liability should one of the volunteers have an accident on the church premises.

George Finlayson asked about the need for volunteers to be available from 6.00 pm until 10.00 pm; such times might not be convenient for people who might otherwise volunteer. The Session Clerk suggested that if volunteers could indicate their limited availability it could be possible to schedule the rota in such a way that limited availability could be accommodated.

In response to a question about Child Protection Issues, John Curror stated that he did not think there was an issue. The volunteers should not have direct involvement with the children and that they were there with more of a janitorial responsibility. He undertook to check the position.

In response to a question about the role of the volunteers in locking the church it was agreed that organisation leaders still had complete responsibility for checking that the halls, toilets and, where appropriate the kitchen were clean and tidy and for locking all doors at the end of the evening.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

The Moderator intimated that he, along with Anne MacKenzie, had attended a Service of Sung Evensong at St Aidan's Church the previous evening to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the opening of St Aidan's Church. The Session Clerk was asked to send a letter congratulating the minister and members of St Aidan's on this achievement.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Various Correspondence

The Session Clerk summarised some of the recent correspondence.

A letter had been received from the Order of St John thanking Stamperland Parish Church for the loan of communion cups which were used at a service for the Order of St John, held in Wellington Church. Other churches in Clarkston and Newlands had also lent communion silver for use at the service.

A letter had been received from the Rev Dr Norman Shanks advising that there would be a Quinquennial Visitation to Stamperland Parish Church during the session 2008 / 2009. The Clerk also intimated that there would also be a Presbytery visit in relation to the five year review of the tenure of our minister.

The Clerk noted that he had sent a letter to Rev Tom Nelson congratulating him on his appointment as Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow.

The Clerk informed the elders that he had received communication regarding the proposal to change the use of the shop at 145 Stamperland Gardens from a café to a Chinese take-away. He said that only a few years previously a Reporter from the Scottish Office had headed an enquiry which concluded that a take-away food shop was inappropriate for the area. He suggested that he drafted a letter objecting to the proposed hot food take-away along the lines of that sent previously to the council and that it was signed by the Moderator, The Clerk to the Board and the Session Clerk. Elders agreed to this proposal.

Elders also suggested that a letter of objection was prepared and copies made so that individuals could sign it and send it to the local council. The council would be more responsive to a large number of individual objections than to a collective petition.

7.2.2 Letter from Deputy Session Clerk

The Session Clerk read a letter from Margo Neilson, the Deputy Session Clerk. In her letter Margo wrote that, after a lot of careful thought, she wished to resign from the position of Deputy Session Clerk

Norman Bolton said that Margo had initially undertaken the duties of Deputy Session Clerk on a temporary basis in May 2001 whilst Fraser Mackintosh was ill. Later that year, in November, Margo formally became the Deputy Session Clerk. During her seven years as deputy, he greatly appreciated all that Margo had done and all the support she had given particularly at critical times such as the death of Fiona Cherry, the departure of Alastair Cherry, the period when Lily Mackinnon was the interim minister and the arrival of our present minister. He also said that he was very grateful that Margo had taken on all of the duties in relation to the organisation of Communion.

The Moderator added his thanks and appreciation for Margo's work. He said that he was always very impressed at 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. Additionally, he much appreciated Margo's role in the conduct of the

afternoon communion; the format of the service could vary but Margo was always ready to cope with unexpected changes.

Sam Esler highlighted that Margo was an excellent district elder and had undertaken the role of Deputy Clerk with sincerity and devotion. He was aware of the scope of Margo's activities.

Pat McIlraith said that Margo had brought a particular grace to the post especially in the way in which she approached elders and explained the various duties and overseeing the calm serving of communion.

Margo Neilson thanked the elders for their kind words. She said that there were many elders in the teams which prepared for communion and subsequently cleared up and washed up after the services, mentioning Jan Barr and Jimmy Mathieson, in particular.

Elders formally noted the resignation and instructed the Session Clerk to write to Margo thanking her for her service as Deputy Session Clerk.

7.3 Deputy Session Clerk

Margo Neilson advised that all elders had been given their duties for the Communion Service on Sunday and that all necessary arrangements were in hand.

8 UPDATE ON TWINNING

The Moderator informed elders that he had preliminary, informal discussions with George Wilson, a member of Carlton Parkhead Church and former Session Clerk, regarding a twinning arrangement. George Wilson was a Church of Scotland Reader, had preached at Stamperland at least twice and attended our church on an occasional basis. Carlton Parkhead Church was vacant when the discussions had started but the church was now about to call a minister – Rev Alison Davage. The Moderator indicated that he knew Mrs Davage who had previously served in charges in Paisley and Kilwinning. With the changes at Carlton Parkhead he considered that it might not be an appropriate time to consider twinning with this church.

It was agreed that in order to investigate potential twinning arrangements the Session Clerk should write to Noel Mathias inviting him to speak to the Kirk Session.

9 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

David Dundas intimated the following changes.

Change of address

Member	From	To
Mr Robert Forrester	104 Moray Gardens	71 Mallard Drive Horwich Bolton BL6 5RY

Transfer by Certificate

	Address
Mr Keith Walton	87 Randolph Drive

Death

Member	Address
Mrs Elizabeth Robb	21 The Oval
Mr Alexander Mair	25 Park Crescent, Eaglesham
Miss Margaret Whitehead	83 Stamperland Gardens

10 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Parish and Beyond Committee

Connell Cranston reminded elders that the committee was organising a coffee morning on Saturday, 13th September and were hoping for good support from the Kirk Session.

Sam Esler advised that if The Extra newspaper were contacted before Tuesday, the Coffee Morning could be included in the "What's on" section of the paper.

10.2 Education

David Dundas highlighted that the library was developing nicely in the church vestibule and that there would be an article about the library in the September Focus. David wondered if there would be benefits in preparing a catalogue of the books in the library and whether it might be useful if members could prepare book reviews to assist others in choosing a book. The Moderator said that he thought both ideas were good. Additionally, once the library was developed, consideration might be given to displaying new books obtained on a sale-or-return basis from a bookshop such as Wesley Owen

11 ADVERTISING IN THE EXTRA

David Dundas spoke about the church notices in The Extra newspaper. He wondered if the advertisements really achieved much. Most of the notices “advertised the obvious”. Generally speaking, churches were rather prominent buildings within a neighbourhood and most churches had notice boards giving the times of worship. What, therefore, was the point of the notices, the layout of which probably gave the impression to the reader that the different churches were actually in competition with each other? Would it not be better, he asked, if the churches worked together to produce a half page advertisement which incorporated a Christian message and highlighted that the churches were working together to provide Christian service? Perhaps, he concluded, Clarkston Churches Together could take this idea forward.

The elders were generally supportive of the idea. Fraser Mackintosh commented that The Oban Times regularly had a half page article written by one of the Oban ministers.

The Moderator highlighted the importance of communicating with people outside the church and stated that he considered there was merit in David’s proposal. He agreed to discuss the idea with Clarkston Churches Together.

12 COMMUNICATING WITH MEMBERS

David Dundas informed the meeting that he had received feedback from some members indicating that they would be interested in receiving information by e-mail. One way of ensuring that information could be accessed by members would be to upload it onto the church website. Some of the items from the Sunday intimation sheet, e.g. the Minister’s Muse for the Pews, were already available on the website. It was agreed that the website should be used as a means of communicating with members.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 1st October.

14 PASTORAL TIME

The Moderator asked elders for names of people whom they wished to be remembered to God in prayer and then led the meeting in prayer.

15 KIRK SESSION DEVOTIONS

The Moderator asked for a volunteer to lead the Kirk Session devotions prior to the September Communion and intimated that the volunteer could speak to him at the close of the meeting should they not wish to do so during the meeting.

16 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed by the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with prayer.

2. WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed all elders.

3. DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by Sam Esler who began by reading 2nd Timothy Chapter 2 verses 195 to 7 and telling elders that he was basing his talk on verse three, "Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."

Sam told the elders that he had recently recalled a business trip to Liverpool. Whilst there, he had visited Liverpool Cathedral. From the outside, it appeared as if carved out of one solid mass of stone, rising naturally out of the earth and inside it was no less impressive. The stained glass windows were striking and beautiful. They depict many Bible characters and scenes as well as famous historical characters. Ordinary humble Christian people are not forgotten and one of the windows is dedicated "To all Noble Women"; one character depicted is of a servant girl: "To Mary Rogers, Stewardess of the Stella and to all Faithful Servants"

The Stella was a small steamer that took people from Southampton to the Channel Islands. On the afternoon of March 30th 1899, in a dense fog, the steamer ran on the dreaded Casquet Rocks off the coast of Alderney and sank in less than 15 minutes. Many were drowned. Mary, with great presence of mind, collected the women passengers, calmed them, gave them lifebelts and helped put them on and then saw them safely into the boats. There was no life belt for the last lady passenger but Mary's own. She did not hesitate. She put her own life belt on the passenger, remaining to go down with ship. She sacrificed her own life at the call of duty and she is remembered in that beautiful window in a great cathedral, among famous people of all time.

What a great example she was of verse three of Second Timothy, "Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus." Christ was sacrificed and crucified for us; we are all ordinary people, from all walks of life. What matters is, that whatever we are, we should be a Christian, ready for duty and self-sacrifice as Mary Rogers was and as was Christ our Saviour.

Sam concluded the devotions by leading the elders in prayer.

4 SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties. He thanked Margo Neilson for all of her work as Deputy Session Clerk and for her significant contribution through the work involved in preparing for communion.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator welcomed the Elders present to the meeting.

The meeting was constituted with a reading from The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 16 and Prayer.

2 RECORDING OF MINUTES

In the absence of the Session Clerk, Mrs Pat McIlraith, having previously agreed to record the Minutes, took the Oath de Fideli and was sworn in.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and fifteen ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Moderator advised that Mr Noel Mathias would attend the next full meeting of the Kirk Session to discuss the topic of “twinning churches”. Accordingly, he requested that the draft Agenda be adjusted to include the Minutes and Matters Arising from the previous meeting held on the 1st September in order to allow sufficient time at the November meeting for Mr Mathias to give his presentation and respond to questions and discussion on “twinning”.

5 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs K Bolton, Mrs J Curror, Mrs N Fisher, Mrs A McKenzie, Mrs M Neilson, Mr N Bolton, Mr F Macintosh and Mr A Graham (who arrived during the meeting having travelled from Aberdeen).

6 TRIBUTE TO JOHN McWHINNIE

A very fine tribute to John McWhinnie was read by Moderator. The Moderator instructed that the Session Clerk should record the tribute in the appropriate place in the Kirk Session records.

7 VISIT OF NOEL MATHIAS

As noted above, The Moderator requested permission to allow Mr Mathias to attend the next full meeting of the Kirk Session to give elders a greater understanding of twinning. Elders present approved this request.

8 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of meetings held on 1st September and 7th September were noted. Adoption of the minutes as true records was proposed by Mr David Dundas and seconded by Mrs. R McNiven

9 MATTERS ARISING

In relation to Item 10.2 of the minute of the 1st September, David Dundas reported that he had not managed to prepare a notice for church Magazine in time for publication in the October issue. This will now be inserted in the next issue of Focus.

10 MEETINGS OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

It was agreed that, as there were few elders in attendance, everyone would remain in the Session Room for the committee discussions.

11 REPORTS FROM THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Pastoral Care

Grace Scott reported that the committee had met in Mid-October and had discussed a variety of issues.

11.1.1 Baptism Coordinator

Contact had been made with Liz Robb who has readily agreed to carry out the duties of this role. The Moderator stated that he would communicate with Liz Robb to provide a remit and support.

11.1.2 Visiting the Housebound

This item was discussed at great length. It was agreed to approach four members of the congregation – Mrs Anne Martin, Mrs Margaret McKee, Miss Margaret Hyslop and Mr Sam Esler - to assist. Some elderly housebound members were identified but help from elders in identifying others will be appreciated.

Disclosure Scotland requirements for visitors was discussed and Mr John Curror agreed to provide the appropriate forms. The timing of the release of an article in Focus will depend on getting the Disclosures approved.

The Moderator agreed to set up a training event for the group members prior to the visiting getting under way.

11.1.3 Flower and Card Ministry.

A card will be sent to the families one year after the passing of a relative. Cards would be sent to families both of deceased members and those who lived in the parish.

Grace will liaise with Rev. Mackay preparing cards for his signature. Flowers are already taken on an anniversary but should be accompanied by a card signed by George.

11.1.4 Pastoral Register

Following discussion at the September Kirk Session when the Moderator noted that a directory of telephone numbers of the congregation would be of considerable assistance when visitations, etc. were concerned, Mrs McIlraith agreed to co-ordinate responses. She stated that she would appreciate the assistance of elders after ensuring that this was agreeable to the members in their district. Thereafter she would liaise with Mr Mackay to compile the directory

11.1.5 Training

The Moderator agreed to establish whether there were any appropriate training courses run by Glasgow Presbytery which some, or all, of the Pastoral Committee might attend: but stated that he would provide a training event locally.

11.1.6 Transport Coordinators

No decision had been reached as to whether they should come under the umbrella of the Pastoral Group.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

Mr. W. Anderson reported having printed tickets for the Big Band Night on 26th November. Posters would be produced for display in local shops, etc.. In addition, Willie Anderson stated that he had printed the Syllabus for the Women's Guild and tickets for a Coffee Morning

11.3 ADULT EDUCATION:

Mr. D. Dundas spoke about the Church Library and asked whether it would be appropriate to ask readers for some feed-back which could form a "comments" section in the Magazine. This might well encourage more people to take the opportunity to read our literature.

11.4 PARISH AND BEYOND

11.4.1 Open Door Attendance

Mr. C. Cranston stated that the Open Door attendances have been encouraging. During the last full year, the number of visitors on Wednesdays has been 114. The money raised between teas and coffees at Open Door, Coffee Morning and coffee at end of Sunday Services had raised £1,000. Connell added that he would recommend that some of this money should go to Charity.

11.4.2 Christmas Service

Connell said he would like to repeat the Christmas Service (15/20 minutes) as per the previous year. He also noted that it would be a great advantage to have an electric socket in the vestibule. This would be particularly convenient at Christmas time since the present arrangement of providing power to the Christmas tree in the vestibule precludes closing the door of the toilet. The Moderator stated that he would speak to Roy Allen regarding the provision of electrical sockets.

11.4.3 Publicising the Open Door and other activities

It was planned to have a little more publicity in Focus and the Sunday intimation sheet.

11.4.4 Date of Next Meeting

The Parish and Beyond Committee would next meet towards the end of November.

11.5 WORSHIP

11.5.1 Services

The Moderator reported that the baptism of Lewis Gault would take place at the end of November.

A letter will be sent out re the Commemoration Day - Seasons of the Heart.

11.5.2 Harvest

John Curror agreed to speak to Tom McPherson regarding the organisation of the Harvest gifts and their display.

11.5.3 Participation in Children's Services

John and Jane Curror would participate in children's services on every four to six weeks.

It was suggested that when we have visiting ministers or guest preachers, we should use our resources for the Children's Service to relieve our visitors.

11.5.4 Calendar of Services to end of January

October

6 th	Parade of Youth Organisations
12 th	Miss L McFarland
19 th	Harvest Sunday
26 th	Agree, in principle, the induction of two new members (possibly more - Rev. Mackay to confirm). It was noted that Elders should meet in the Session Room prior to the morning Service to greet the new members.

November

9 th	Remembrance Sunday
16 th or 23 rd	Seasons of the Heart Service
30 th	First Sunday in Advent - Baptism of Lewis Gaul

December

7 th	2 nd Sunday in Advent, Communion
14 th	3 rd Sunday in Advent,
21 st	4 th Sunday in Advent, Nativity Service
24 th	Watchnight Service,
25 th	Christmas Day, Service at 10.30 am
28 th	Morning Service, 11.00 am

January

Lodging House Mission dates -- one Sunday in January or early February.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Clarkston Churches 18th to 25th January).

It was noted that Holy Week commenced on the 6th April.

11.5.5 Kirk Session Leading Worship

Elders were asked to consider leading a service using the theme, "Something to Share with the congregation."

The Moderator said he was grateful to those who had led services, particularly during his absence on Presbytery business. Well done to Sam Esler David Dimas and Norrie Bolton, in particular.

11.5.6 New Elders

Grace Scott asked whether Mrs Sheena Skelton might join the Eldership. The Moderator said that he would inform the Kirk Session of her decision.

Edith Moseley asked the names of those who were joining the church as new members in October. The Moderator intimated that they would include Paul Linnich and Ross McLellan.

12 PRESBYTERY ELDER’S REPORT:

This report was circulated and accepted .

13 ROLL KEEPER:

David Dundas intimated the following changes.

13.1 Death

Mrs Jenny McDowall of Strathtay Avenue on 29th September. It was noted that her funeral would be held on Wednesday, 8th October at 11.45 at the Linn Crematorium.

13.2 Change of address

Agnes Buchannan has moved to East Kilbride

13.3 Change of name

Jennifer Neil, who was recently married, is retaining her maiden name for occupational reasons.

13.4 Elders with whom direct contact has been lost

Bill and Sandra Shaw moved to Prestwick some years ago. It was agreed that they were removed from the Roll. A letter will be sent to them in anticipation that contact can be maintained.

Robert Dunsmuir had moved to England over five years ago. It was agreed that the Roll Keeper should write to Robert Dunsmuir.

13.5 Update on districts

It was noted that there were two districts within the parish which do not have Elders at present. These districts were previously served by Sandra Halliday and Bill Shaw.

Other districts outwith the parish – Eaglesham, Waterfoot, Hairmyres, etc. - did not have a specified elder. Sam Esler intimated that he was covering the postal districts at present.

District 3. It was noted that Janet was presently on sabbatical and that District 3 was currently covered by Connel Cranston.

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for his excellent Work as Roll Keeper

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 3rd November.

15 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2 NEW COMMUNICANTS

The Moderator introduced the three prospective candidates for membership to the elders. The prospective new members were: Mrs Fiona Tuckfield, Mr Paul Linich and Mr Ross McLennan.

The Moderator informed elders that all members had received instruction through attending New Communicant's Classes. In the case of Paul Linich and Ross McLennan he had met them both in the church and at the Manse; however, with Fiona the class had been conducted remotely by e-mail.

The Moderator stated that he was confident that all candidates had a basic knowledge and were ready to become full communicant members.

The elders present gave their assent to Fiona Tuckfield, Paul Linich and Ross McLennan becoming members.

3 PROFESSION OF FAITH

Elders joined the prospective members in church. During the service each prospective member professed their faith and was welcomed into full membership by the Moderator and elders.

3 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with the Moderator pronouncing the benediction at the end of the Morning Service.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, the Rev. George Mackay, welcomed Mr Noel Mathias to the Kirk Session meeting. The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a New Testament reading and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Margo Neilson, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mr Alf Dunbar, Mr David Dundas and Mr Alistair Graham.

Session Clerk.....

200

Moderator

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 21 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

As a result of problems with the Risograph printer, minutes of the meetings held on 1st October and 26th October were not available for distribution in printed form and were displayed on the wall of the Session Room using a digital projector. Elders were given the opportunity to view the minutes.

The Moderator thanked Pat McIlraith for preparing the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st October.

5.1 Clarification to Minute of 1st October

Sam Esler referred to section 13 of the Minutes – the Roll Keeper’s Report. He stated that contrary to the impression which might be gained from the Minutes that he was covering all members in all Postal Districts he was, in fact, visiting three households in Eaglesham, Waterfoot and Hairmyres Districts.

5.2 Adoption of Minutes

With the clarification noted in 5.1, adoption of the minutes as a true record of the meeting of the 1st October was proposed by Janis Herriot and seconded by John Curror. The adoption of the minutes as a true record of the meeting of the 1st June was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Anne MacKenzie.

The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 New Members

Sam Esler commented that it would be both fitting and more convenient if new members turned to face the congregation when they were being welcomed by elders. This would both avoid the need for elders to climb the steps onto the chancel and, more importantly, let the congregation see the new members.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Various Correspondence

The Session Clerk summarised some of the recent correspondence.

A letter had been received from the Convenor of the Nomination Committee seeking nominations for appointment to Councils and Committees of the General Assembly. The Session Clerk advised elders that if anyone wished to serve on a committee they should speak to him or the Moderator at the close of the Session meeting.

A letter had been received from East Renfrewshire Council acknowledging the letter of representation regarding the church’s objections to the proposed change of use of premises at 145 Stamperland Gardens from a coffee shop to a hot food takeaway.

The Session Clerk advised the elders that the Rev Kirkpatrick Dobie had visited the church to inspect and record details of the Sacramental Vessels. The inspection was part of a project agreed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to record all of the sacramental vessels held by churches in Scotland and was in part, funded by the National Museums of Scotland. Whilst Mr Dobie had expressed interest in the communion silverware and the silver christening bowl he advised that none of the items was of particular interest and none were of any significant financial value.

8 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

The Roll Keeper provided the following report.

New members

Name	Address
Mrs Fiona Tuckfield	The Butchach, New Luce, Newton Stewart
Mr Paul Linich	85 Monteith Drive, Clarkston, G76 8NX
Mr Ross McLellan	30 Moray Gardens, Clarkston, G76 8NP

The Roll Keeper raised issues regarding two members, Mrs Anne Johnston and Mr Robert Dunsmuir. Neither had attended church for a long time and the accuracy of their addresses was uncertain. It was agreed by the elders present that the names of both members be removed from the Roll.

9 PRESBYTRY ELDER'S REPORT

The Presbytery Elder's report was not available in printed form and was displayed on the wall of the Session Room using a digital projector. Elders were given the opportunity to read the report.

It was noted that the proposed Ministries and Mission Contribution from Stamperland Parish Church for 2009 was £43,886.

There were comments from elders about the statement from Trinity Possil and Henry Drummonds Report regarding their opinion that the decision of the Church of Scotland to ordain women is contrary to the scriptures and to God's Law. All regarded the apparent view as old fashioned, disturbing and unwelcome.

10 TWINNING

10.1 Noel Mathias Presentation

Noel Mathias began his presentation by reading a short story about a "Life Saving Station" which he said was both humorous and thought-provoking and might inspire those present. He then spoke briefly about Priority Areas and the work of the Church of Scotland in Priority Areas. Support and resource was provided to Church of Scotland congregations in the 58 economically poorest communities in Scotland; these included 38 congregations in Glasgow Presbytery. The mandate from the General Assembly in 2001 was that "priority for the poorest and most marginalised is the gospel imperative facing the whole Church, not just the Church in the poorest places." The whole church, he said, was facing challenges – we had to address the issues related to the decline in interest in the church and of aging congregations; we had to develop worship not just for those who come on Sundays but for those who never come; we had to work in communities; we needed to develop new models of church which would be sustainable and vibrant communities of faith.

Noel then explained some points about "twinning". Twinning, in a priority areas context, is the coming together of two churches to share in each other's faith journeys and it forms a key part of the strategy of the Ministries Council's Priority Areas Committee to help to raise awareness across the Church (and wider society) of the reality of poverty suffered by many people in Scotland today.

Presently, 32 churches are in a twinning relationship (a total of 16 twins) and another 17 churches either in the process of formalising a twinning relationship or single and available. A good and solid twinning relationship was, he said, marked by joyful friendships and frequent exchanges, with the concerns and struggles of one congregation become integrated in the life, worship and mission of another. Twinning is not about imposing one congregation's life on the other; it is not about building infrastructure and projects; and, it is certainly not about raising funds for the 'poorer' partner in the relationship. Twinning is a relationship between two equals: each acknowledging the other's unique gifts and imagination in seeking to become a church for the present times and supporting, through whatever means, that sincere endeavour.

Some of the steps in developing a twinning arrangement would be to develop an interested Task Group which would review the strengths and weaknesses of the congregation and develop a profile of the church and its parish. Speakers would be invited to address the whole congregation and inform them of the objectives, benefits and opportunities for twinning. Once a church profile had been developed it could be submitted to the Priority Areas Office who would review the profile with a view to identifying which congregation(s) would be best suited to be considered as a prospective twin. There would then be an opportunity for prospective twins to meet to find out more about each other and determine whether there was the possibility of developing closer links and formalising a twinning agreement. The Priority Areas Office did not need to be involved – if ministers or congregations in two parishes knew each other and were suited as twins, then this was a perfectly acceptable way of developing a twinning arrangement. Once twinning had been agreed it was necessary to draw up a Covenant Agreement. This was not a “legal document” but it did serve to formalise the development of communication links and joint activities.

Noel continued by saying that whilst there are benefits to both congregations twinning was not without its share of problems. The number of people in the congregation who become involved and therefore start 'owning' the relationship may, initially, be relatively limited and twinning could be hard work given the fact that churches, both in *priority areas* and otherwise, often have fewer and ageing members many of whom are already undertaking multiple tasks. Implicit in twinning was a challenge but we have been called to be faithful to God who wants us to use our imagination in being faithful. Imagination needs to be used by the church to adapt itself to meet the challenges we currently face. Twinning, he concluded, conducted in the right spirit, can leave no partner church untouched and unchanged.

10.2 Discussion

Following the presentation there was a discussion period.

Fraser Mackintosh recalled that Stamperland Church had links with Tron St Mary's church; however, these links were lost when the minister of Tron St Mary's left. Noel Mathias said that this was not an uncommon example of what used to happen. Now, the aim of Twinning was that congregations became involved with each other rather than the relationship being only that of the two ministers. Sam Esler said that it would be important to ensure that good links were established at all levels within the two congregations.

In response to a question about the demands on a congregation in establishing a twinning arrangement Noel responded that if you treat twinning as a chore it can be hard work. However, if you treated it as fun – you would just do it! Twinning was about building friendships and rather than seeing meetings as work you could look forward to meeting friends and having an interesting time. Twinning wasn't always about “doing things” but could be simply “being there”.

A question was asked about the typical geographical distance between twins. Noel responded by saying that there wasn't a “typical arrangement”. A church in Drumchapel was twinned with a church in Whiting Bay – one of the links was a seaside Bar-be-que in the summer. A church in Wester Hailes in Edinburgh was twinned with a church in St Andrews. Other questions related to the comparative sizes of the two congregations – it was more likely, said Noel, that a church of 400 plus members would be twinned with a church with 20 members than with a church with 600 members.

10.3 Conclusion

In his concluding remarks, Noel reminded those present of the story of the Pharsee people who arrived in India around the year 1100. The ruler of the Indian state told the Pharsee leader that there was no room for them in his state. The Pharsee leader asked for a bowl of milk to be brought filled to the brim. To this full cup he added sugar. The milk did not overflow but it changed and became sweeter. Noel said that we do not work with the poorest people because we are holy but because that is the place where God will make us holy.

On behalf of the Kirk Session, the Moderator thanked Noel Mathias for his presentations, his wisdom and his guidance.

11 RETIRAL OF ALF DUNBAR

The Moderator intimated that as a result of severely deteriorating eyesight, Alf Dunbar had left the choir and wished to resign from active duty as an elder. Elders expressed their appreciation of all that Alf had done since joining Stamperland Church and asked the Session Clerk to write to a letter thanking Alf for his service to the church.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 3rd December.

13 PASTORAL TIME

The Moderator asked elders for names of people whom they wished to be remembered to God in prayer and then led the meeting in prayer.

14 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed by the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 2008
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Jerimiah and a prayer.

2. WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed all elders.

It was noted that the Kirk Session Meeting planned for Wednesday, 3rd December had been called off because of the very icy conditions.

The Moderator said that as Nancy Fisher was unwell he would lead the devotions.

3. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator said that he had recently been in the local primary school and had experienced, as usual, a very enjoyable time helped by the enthusiasm of the children and their enquiring minds. They answered well, the discussion flowed and he was pleased with the way things went. He was on his way out of the classroom when a young girl put her hand up and asked, "Mr Mackay, do you know my aunt?" "Possibly", he replied, "she might be a member of my church or a parishoner or a neighbour who stays near-by." "No, Mr-Mackay, her name is P.M, she knows you!"

At that point, he said, it all came flooding back. PM had been his first real love, his first teenage romance and when things ended, he was devastated in the way only teenagers can be. This first love is the love that teaches you that life is full of ups and downs, joys and disappointments, endings and beginnings.

But, then he said that this isn't really the case. In the book of Jeremiah, in the first chapter, you will find the words, 'I chose you before I gave you life...' The truth of the matter is, that his first love, or the first to give him love was God. Like Jeremiah, even at the time of conception, God had chosen him, as he chooses us all. God's love, is a love that puts up with moods swings; a love that holds on to you when you want to walk away; a love that waits and looks for you day and daily; worries after you and is eternal.

We can all be affected by the falling out of and in to love. Human love can fade away but God's love is the first real love of the most perfect kind and is the one that should be used as a marker to all other types. This is not just a romantic crush with God, it is deep, soulful, heart-warming and compassionate. We can all look back to those who have taken our affection, some we also still love. But to love God the way he loves us, that's just mind blowing. As we all have done with a flower in our hand pulling the petals and saying, 'She loves me, she loves me not, she loves me...' with God we can say, 'He loves me, he loves me, he loves me...'

The Moderator concluded the Devotions with a prayer.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Retiring Offerings

The Session Clerk indicated that under the OSCR rules it was necessary to inform the congregation in advance where retiring offerings would be sent. The elders agreed that the Retiring Offering following the Communion Service should be sent to the Christian Aid Congo Appeal and that the offerings from the Watchnight and Christmas Day services should be sent to support the creation of a Sanctuary in the new Victoria Infirmary.

3.2 Door Keeper

The Session Clerk told the elders that Ross McLennan would be starting a one-week trial period as "Door Keeper" starting on Monday, 8th December. Mr McLennan's wages for the trial period would be paid from funds available to the Battlefield Job Centre.

3.3 Presbytery Plan Update to be included in the Kirk Session Minute Book

The Session Clerk informed elders that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk regarding an Update to the Presbytery Plan which was to be engrossed in the Kirk Session Minute Book. The Session Clerk stated that for Stamperland Parish Church the extract showed that the Population of Stamperland was 3875 and the Church of Scotland Population was 2712; the Status of the church was "reviewable"; the plan for the congregation at the end of the ten year period was Priority Area Twinning; the interim step on occasion of a vacancy was "reviewable until Priority Area Twinning"; the present staffing was "one minister of word & sacrament"; and the presbytery notes were "Review November 2008".

The Session Clerk stated that he would copy the update into the Minutes. (See item 7.)

4 SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elders processed into church to participate in the ordination of the elders and to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5 CONDUCT OF COMMUNION

The Moderator thanked the elders for having performed their duties. Special thanks were given to those who had assisted on the Saturday morning in preparing for Communion.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

7. PRESBYTERY PLAN UPDATE

Congregation	Pop/ CofS pop	Status at date of Plan	Plan for the congregation at end of 10 year period	Interim step on occasion of a vacancy	Present Staffing	Anticipated Staffing	Building	Presbytery Notes
Greenbank	5378 3997	Unrestricted	Priority Area Twinning	Reviewable until Priority Area Twinning	1 minister of w&s	1 minister of w&s		
Netherlee	4533 3198	Unrestricted	Priority Area Twinning	Reviewable until Priority Area Twinning	1 minister of w&s	1 minister of w&s		
Stamperland	3875 2712	Reviewable	Priority Area Twinning	Reviewable until Priority Area Twinning	1 minister of w&s	1 minister of w&s		Review – Nov 2008
Broom	3439 2148	Reviewable	Establish Grouping of 5 congregations and a new church serving the Westerlands community	Reviewable until Grouping	1 minister of w&s	1 minister of w&s in each of five charges within Grouping		Broom Review – Sept 2011 Eaglesham Review – Apr 2009 All 5 congregations Will collaborate to establish a New church to serve Westerlands community
Maxwell	4405 3123	Unrestricted		Reviewable until Grouping	1 minister of w&s			
Mearns Castle	4764 3222	Unrestricted		Reviewable until Grouping	1 minister of w&s			
Newton Mearns	11,630 7455	Vacant		Reviewable until Grouping	1 minister of w&s			
Eaglesham	3905 3125	Reviewable		Reviewable until Grouping	1 minister of w&s			

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2009 AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay, 21 ruling elders and one retired elder. Three of the elders joined the meeting part-way through having been on duty and responsible for counting the offering.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ray McNiven, Grace Scott, George Finlayson and Alistair Graham.

4. CHANGES TO THE COMMUNION ROLL

David Dundas intimated the deaths of Mr Hunter Tweddle, 65 Stamperland Avenue and Mr Douglas Hastie, 58 Stamperland Hill. Both members had died in December 2008.

One new member, Mrs Jean McFarlane of 21 Strathtay Avenue had transferred by certificate from Gairbraid Parish Church in December 2008.

5. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

The Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2007			416
Number removed from Roll during 2008	by Death	8	
	by Certificate	0	
	by Otherwise	7	
			15
Number added to Roll during 2008	by Profession	3	
	by Certificate	2	
	by Otherwise	2	
			7
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2008			408
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2008			11
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2008			4

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for his work throughout the year in maintaining the Communion Roll.

6. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with unanimous approval and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

7. CHILD PROTECTION

Elders agreed with the following statement. It is certified that Child Protection procedures are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons serving as voluntary workers with children and young people in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the congregation's Child Protection Coordinator is appropriately trained to allow that person to be accredited as an authorised signatory for criminal record checks.

8. PRESBYTERY BUILDINGS PLAN

The Session Clerk advised the elders that he had received a letter from Stuart MacGill of Glasgow Presbytery's Buildings Panel dated 5th January 2009. The Session Clerk explained that some months previously he had completed a lengthy questionnaire providing information on the church buildings including dates of construction, details including seating capacities of all halls and accommodation, levels of use of all parts of the accommodation, the provision of access for disabled people, numbers of toilets and their accessibility, an assessment of the condition of the fabric, details of recent repair work, plans for refurbishment or upgrading and information on any possible major building repairs within the next ten years. The information requested was to be used by Presbytery to help inform the Presbytery Plan.

On the basis of the information received, the Buildings Panel had categorised churches into four basic categories as follows:

Category

- 1 Buildings which will be required to remain in use during the lifetime of the Presbytery Plan.
- 2 Buildings which will be closed during the lifetime of the Presbytery Plan.
- 3 Buildings which will be sold during the lifetime of the Presbytery Plan.
- 4 Buildings about which the Presbytery is unable to reach a decision.

Category 1 buildings were further divided into two sub-categories, 1a and 1b. Buildings are given a Category 1a rating where it is envisaged that they will remain in use for at least the next 10 years and where significant expenditure will not be required during that time; buildings are given a Category 1b rating where it is envisaged that they will remain in use for at least the next 10 years and where significant expenditure will be required during that time. With respect to Stamperland Parish Church the Panel had given a Category 1b grading.

The Panel noted the following: “Fairly well located, well used buildings with some spare capacity; expansion seems unnecessary and there is scope for some sharing of facilities with Netherlee. At present, there is a continuing need for a full presence in the area but, if the trend in worshipping number continues, the future review of Stamperland should consider the possibility of sharing worship facilities with Netherlee in one of the two sites but retaining hall facilities on both.”

The Session Clerk said that the letter from Stuart MacGill intimated that if congregations did not respond to the Buildings Panel before the end of January it would be assumed that they were content with the grading. He added that he had stated in the Questionnaire that it was likely that there could be a need for significant expenditure on the church roof at some point in the next ten years and that this may have been a reason for the Category 1b designation.

After some discussion the Session Clerk was instructed to write to the Buildings Panel to seek clarification of the reasons for the Category 1b grading.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being Monday, 2nd February.

It was intimated that there would need to be a joint meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board to approve the Annual Report for 2008. This meeting would be held on a Sunday at the conclusion of Morning Worship. Draft copies of the Annual Report for 2008 would be issued to all Board and Session members once the Auditor had agreed that the 2008 accounts prepared in the old format (pre-OSCAR) were correct. The joint meeting would be held on a date which would allow members time to read the Annual Report.

10. PRESBYTERY TRAINING FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Moderator intimated that Glasgow Presbytery had arranged two training meetings in relation to “Visiting the Confused Elderly” and “Visiting the Bereaved”. Any elder who wished to attend any of these evenings should advise the Session Clerk. The cost of attending the meetings would be met from Kirk Session Funds.

11. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**JOINT MEETING OF KIRK SESSION AND CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
HELD ON SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2009
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

32 Trustees were present as noted in the Kirk Session sederunt book. In the absence of Rev George Mackay, Norman Bolton, the Session Clerk, chaired the meeting.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

Norman Bolton recounted that the joint meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board planned for the 2nd February had been cancelled because of the heavy fall of snow that day. The purpose of that meeting had been to approve the Annual Report. There was quite a tight timescale to be met in producing the Annual Report. The Report had to be published in advance of the Stated Annual Meeting, scheduled for the 16th March, and copies had to be sent to both Glasgow Presbytery and Edinburgh by mid-March. Critically, once approved by the Trustees it had to be audited and signed by the Auditor prior to being printed.

Norman stated that he had sought the advice of the Presbytery Clerk regarding the approval procedure and he had been advised that the Moderator should be present at the meeting at which the Trustees approved the Report. Accordingly, at this meeting the Trustees would be asked to indicate their general agreement with the overall document and its content and to highlight any amendments which they wished to see. This could then mean that, once the Moderator had returned from paternity leave, it should be possible to convene a short meeting of all Trustees to formally approve the amended document.

The Report was examined on a page-by-page basis.

The Session Clerk indicated that there was an error on page 1 of the document in relation to the dates on which a number of elders became trustees; the year should have been 2008 and not 2009. Additionally, the name of the minister should be added to the list of Trustees.

It was highlighted that there was no mention of the "The Guild" on page 2 and that there was no mention of the services at Mearnskirk Hospital which led by members of the congregation on page 3.

The Session Clerk stated that the Auditor, Ian McNab, had provisionally audited the financial accounts and had found them to be in order. There were no questions or comments on the financial report.

It was agreed that the Report should be amended to incorporate the changes noted above.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of all Trustees would be Sunday, 1st March.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**JOINT MEETING OF KIRK SESSION AND CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
HELD ON SUNDAY 1st MARCH 2009
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

26 Trustees, including Rev George Mackay, were present as noted in the Kirk Session sederunt book.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

Norman Bolton recounted that a number of changes had been highlighted at the joint meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board held on the 15th February. All of the changes had been implemented. The following sentences had been added to the third last paragraph on page 2, “The Guild meets every Tuesday evening from October to March and offers a varied and highly enjoyable programme of speakers, music and crafts, tea and fellowship. The Guild is open to all people.” The following sentence, “Every five weeks members of the church lead the service at Mearnskirk Hospital.” had been added to the fourth paragraph on page 3.

The Moderator asked whether anyone wished to see any additional changes. No additional changes were requested.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

The adoption of the annual report as amended was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Bill Paterson. All Trustees present were in agreement.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Mark Chapter 8 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Margo Neilson, Miss Grace Scott, Mrs Grace Walker, Mr John Curror and Mr Alistair Graham.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 15 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of Kirk Session Meetings were approved as follows:

3rd November 08 Acceptance proposed by Sam Esler and seconded by Anne MacKenzie

7th December 08 Acceptance proposed by Kay Bolton and seconded by Jan Barr

11th January 09 Acceptance proposed by Pat McIlraith and seconded by Kay Bolton.

The minutes of the following meetings of the Trustees were approved:

15th February 09 Acceptance proposed by Nancy Fisher and seconded by Fraser Mackintosh

1st March 09 Acceptance proposed by Evelyn Graham and seconded by Ray McNiven

The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Letter to MP and MSP

The Moderator intimated that all clergy in Clarkston Churches Together had written to Jim Murphy, M.P. and Ken McIntosh, M.S.P. regarding the situation in Gaza. Replies had been received from both MP and MSP.

6.1.2 Induction of Rev Esther Ninian to Newton Mearns Parish Church

The Moderator stated that he had attended the service of induction of Rev Esther Ninian. It was agreed that the Session Clerk should write to her welcoming her to her new charge and to the South side of Glasgow.

6.1.3 Letter from Norman Shanks

The Moderator stated that he had received a letter from Rev Norman Shanks indicating that Stamperland Parish Church was not due a Quinquennial visitation until 2010.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Safeguarding

Session Clerk summarised some of the recent correspondence.

6.2.2 Letter from Convenor, CofS Stewardship and Finance Committee

The Clerk read out a letter which he had received from Vivienne Dickson, Convenor of the Church of Scotland Stewardship and Finance Committee. In her letter she stated that the 2008 General Assembly had instructed the Stewardship and Finance Committee to review the way in which it communicated to church members about the work done through the Ministries and Mission Contributions. A brief document had been prepared summarising the contribution each church made and there was a request that the document was printed in the church magazine or brought to members' attention in some other way.

The clerk indicated that he was surprised to read in the document that the cost of ministry in Stamperland was £39,101 whilst the contribution from Stamperland was only £38,181 and that Stamperland Church was in receipt of financial support from other churches amounting to £919. He said that he was under the impression that the church was self-supporting.

It was agreed that the clerk should write to Edinburgh and seek clarification.

7 PRESBYTRY ELDER'S REPORT

The Presbytery Elder's report included a mention of Rev Alastair Cherry's address to the Presbytery in anticipation of his retirement from parish ministry.

Fraser Macintosh praised the work carried out by Anne MacKenzie as Presbytery Elder; he said she was exceptionally diligent in attending meetings and reporting back in a clear and concise format. The Moderator confirmed that not only was Anne diligent in her attendance at presbytery but also in her role as a member of presbytery committees.

8 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

The Roll Keeper provided the following report.

Deaths

Mrs Mary Steen	Eastwoodhill Nursing Home (Dist. - H)
Mrs Helen Nummey	36, Nethervale Ave. (Dist. - 20)

Change of Address

From	To:-
Mr David Fleming Mrs Phyllis Fleming	ADDRESS UNKNOWN - (East Kilbride ?)
Mrs Ann Blair	ADDRESS UNKNOWN - (Deaconsbank?)

Remove from Roll?

Mr Richard Kidd	Address unknown since July 2005
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It was suggested that Mr Fleming was living in Stamperland but that Mrs Fleming had moved to East Kilbride. For the time being it was agreed that both names would remain on the roll.

Sam Esler undertook to ascertain Mr Kidd's current address.

9 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**9.1 Communication****9.1.1 Replacement of Risograph**

It was noted that the Congregational Board had approved the purchase of a duplicator to replace the Risograph.

9.1.2 Clarkston Churches Together – Easter Leaflet

It was agreed that Stamperland Church would share the cost of publishing a leaflet summarising the times of Easter Services which would be delivered to every home in the area.

9.2 Parish and Beyond

Connell Cranston reported on the following six matters.

9.2.1 Illumination of Cross on Church Bell Tower

An estimate had been obtained for illuminating the cross on the church bell tower. At a cost of over £1,000 the committee considered it was not worth pursuing this idea.

9.2.2 Speaker from Lodging House Mission

Alistair Graham had approached the lodging House Mission with a view to having a leader address the congregation about the work of the LHM one Sunday. The Moderator indicated that he had been in contact with Mark Smyth.

9.2.3 Provision of Tea, Coffee and Biscuits to Parents Collecting Young People from Organisations

The committee had agreed to provide tea, coffee and biscuits for parents arriving to collect young children from the youth organisations. The committee planned that copies of the Church Magazine and Year Book would be available and members would try to engage parents in informal conversation with the hope of stimulating some interest in church life. After consulting with leaders of the uniformed organisations it was considered that the hall vestibule would be too crowded and too chaotic at the times when young people were being collected/dropped off and a decision had been made not to proceed with the idea.

9.2.4 Peace and Justice Forum

Evelyn Graham and Edith Moseley had attended a meeting of the Peace and Justice Forum held in St Joseph's on Thursday 20th November. They reported that there had been a lot of discussion on Fair Trade and extending people's awareness of Fair Trade. Other issues discussed had included the churches action on poverty.

9.2.5 Open Door Christmas Lunch

A Christmas lunch had been held on 17th December for those attending and organising the weekly Open Door. There had been a short service in the church followed by lunch in the Session Room.

9.2.6 Elder Covering Postal Districts

The Parish and Beyond committee had discussed ways of interacting with members in the so-called "Postal District". Suggestions included nominating an elder to visit members once a year. With "postal members" living in England or even overseas, this would not be practical. It was suggested that "postal members" should be sent a copy of the Focus

Magazine. Following discussion this suggestion was formally proposed by Connell Cranston and seconded by Pat McIlraith and Evelyn Graham. Elders approved the proposal.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 20th April.

11 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed by the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th MAY 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from John Chapter Five and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Ray McNiven, Mrs Margo Neilson, Miss Jan Barr, Miss Grace Scott, Mr John Curror and Mr Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 14 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 4th March as a true record was proposed by Connell Cranston and seconded by Mrs Kay Bolton. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Elder's Districts

David Dundas referred to item 9.2.6 of the Minutes which indicated that members in the "Postal District" should be sent copies of Focus Magazine as a way of the church maintaining some form of contact. There were, he said, members in the parish who were not receiving elder's visits. There was considerable discussion about elders and districts and the following points were agreed.

There were currently three districts within the parish which were not being visited by an elder. George Finlayson agreed to take on the vacant district which included part of The

Oval. The Moderator proposed that he would speak to the most recently-appointed elders with a view to them taking a district.

Jane Curror agreed to relinquish her current district and become responsible for the district including Linn Park Court.

A list would be prepared of members who lived outwith the parish and categorised to show those members who lived sufficiently close that it might be practical for an elder to visit once per year and those who lived at such a distance that an elder's visit was not practical.

A letter would be prepared which would be sent to members who could not be visited. The letter would indicate that Stamperland Church was keen to maintain contact and would seek suggestions from the members regarding ways in which communication between them and the church could be enhanced and developed and examples of the type of information they would like to receive.

6.2 Information Regarding Ministries and Mission Contribution

The Clerk referred to item 6.2.2 of the Minutes regarding the costs of ministry in Stamperland and stated that he had received a reply from Rev Gordon Jamieson, Head of Stewardship regarding the difference between the costs of ministry in Stamperland and the contribution sought from Stamperland. Mr Jamieson had explained that, subsequent to the introduction of a single Ministries and Mission Contribution for congregations, all congregations have contributed to the cost of all parish ministers in relation to their income.

This has led to a lack of transparency as far as meeting the full cost of a congregation's own minister is concerned. Some congregations have thought that paying what was requested was, in colloquial terms, "paying their way". Mr Jamieson confirmed that the 2009 contribution from Stamperland is £43,886, of which £810 would come from stipend endowment income. Eighty seven per cent of the contribution (£38,181) would go towards the cost of parish ministries. Since the full cost of the minister in Stamperland (stipend, employer's NI and pension contribution) is £39,100 this year, this implies that the cost of the ministry in Stamperland is being supported by other congregations to the extent of £919.

Mr Jamieson indicated that in 2008, 405 charges were meeting the full cost of their ministers and supporting others and 745 charges were being supported. He said that his committee would be reporting these figures to this year's General Assembly and seeking guidance on the question, 'Where is it appropriate for congregations to be receiving financial support from other congregations?'

After discussion elders agreed that no action should be taken pending decisions from the General Assembly.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Moderator's Bereavement

The Moderator thanked all of the elders who had offered condolences and expressions of sympathy to himself and the manse family following the death of his mother. The support was very much appreciated.

The Moderator also expressed his thanks to David Dundas who had led Sunday worship.

7.1.2 Hot Food Shop

The Moderator intimated that he had received communication from East Renfrewshire Council advising that the applicant had lodged an appeal with the Scottish Government. The Session Clerk had written to the Scottish Government re-affirming the church's objection to the granting of permission to open a hot-food take-away in a shop directly opposite the church.

7.1.3 Installation of New Rector at St Aidan's Church

The Moderator advised elders that the Rev Nicholas Taylor would be installed as the new rector of St Aidan's Church on the 6th June. The Clerk was asked to send Mr Taylor a letter welcoming him to the Clarkston area.

7.1.4 Clarkston Churches Together Event

The Moderator intimated that Clarkston Churches Together were hosts to the Riding Lights Roughshod Theatre Company. The Company would present a performance of "Reality

Cheques - Accounts of the True Costa Living” in Stamperland Church on Friday 12 June at 7.30pm.

7.1.5 Event at Netherlee Primary School

The Moderator intimated that An Afternoon of Music and Song would be held in Netherlee Primary School on the afternoon of Wednesday, 17th June. The event was being organised by himself and the Rev Tom Nelson who were joint chaplains of the school. The afternoon event was open to all in the communities of Netherlee and Stamperland and the entertainment would be provided by the school orchestra and choirs. Both churches were looking for volunteers to provide baking and to serve tea.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Letter from Presbytery Clerk

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk informing the Congregational Board that Glasgow presbytery had approved expenditure of £22,119 to replace the windows in the church vestibule, upgrade the gent’s toilet and carry out remedial electrical work.

7.2.2 Safeguarding Training

The Session Clerk at Netherlee Parish Church had arranged that a Safeguarding Training Session would be held on Wednesday, 11th November. The training event would be held in Stamperland Church and invitations could be sent to Williamwood, Greenbank, Busby and Carmunnock Churches. It was important that all elders attended a Safeguarding Training.

7.2.3 Spring Fair

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the Spring Fair being held on Saturday 9th May and urged elders to assist in the event in any ways they could.

8 PRESBYTRY ELDER’S REPORT

8.1 Emerging Ministries

The Presbytery Elder’s report included mention of Emerging Ministries, a topic which was discussed at the March Presbytery meeting. It was explained that the concept behind “Emerging Ministry” was that the church had to go to where people are. The view is that, whilst many people may be interested in spirituality it is necessary for the church to take the Gospel to them “where they are” rather than expect them to come to the church.

8.2 Valuation of Ecclesiastical Property

The Presbytery Elder’s report included a reminder that all congregations have to undertake a financial valuation of all ecclesiastical property. The Session Clerk was requested to write to the Clerk to the Congregational Board asking him to ensure that the valuation is carried out.

8.3 Report from Ad-hoc Group on Third Article Declaratory

The Session Clerk stated that the Presbytery Elder had passed him a copy of the documentation presented to Presbytery by the Ad-hoc Group on Third Article Declaratory and that he was unsure whether it should be copied to all elders.

The Moderator presented background information. Essentially, the Third Article Declaratory was concerned with the parish system. In Scotland, all locations are part of a Church of Scotland parish. As a Parish Church, the church is seen as serving “the community” of all people who live within its parish. This is different to the way in which other churches, for example a Baptist Church or a Methodist Church relate to the community; these churches primarily serve their congregations.

There was an interesting discussion touching on aspects such as, “Are we confusing bureaucracy and structure with the gospel message?”, “Are we preoccupied with buildings?”, “In what ways should or could the parish system develop?”.

It was agreed that the report from the Ad-hoc group should be circulated to elders.

9 ROLL KEEPER’S REPORT

The Roll Keeper provided the following report.

Change of Address

	To:-
Mr Richard Kidd	Flat 17, McLaren Place
Mrs Valerie Stewart	4 Netherway

Removed from Roll by Transfer

Mrs Dawn Fowler	To Houston & Killelan Church
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New Adherents

Mrs Doreen Carrnichan	132 Randolph Dr. - Dist. 15
Mr Richard Carrnichan	132 Randolph Dr. - Dist. 15

10 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

10.1 Pastoral Care

Fraser Mackintosh reported that Grace Scott wished to relinquish the convenorship of the committee and that he had been asked to take on the responsibility of leading the committee.

11 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Elders were reminded that Communion would be celebrated on Sunday 7th June and that elders would meet at 10.30 am.

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was confirmed as Monday, 8th June.

12 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed by the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a prayer and a reading from Matthew Chapter 25.

2. DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by the Moderator who indicated that no elder had volunteered. The Moderator highlighted one of the main news stories of the previous week - the TV show Britain's Got Talent and the Scottish singer, Susan Boyle. For what had seemed like weeks the audience had been regaled with a bizarre selection of people desperate to reveal their hidden talents, which included the ability to put an electric drill up one's nose and swing two dustbins from the ear-lobes. It had also, of course, included the occasional revelation of true, even outstanding, natural talent. There was the rise and fall into the public arena of Susan Boyle, who was initially greeted with hoots of derision - until she

opened her mouth and sang. There were also other singers, dancers, violinists, a brilliant saxophonist, an escapologist and a ventriloquist - quite a mix.

All of this, he said, raises the question, “What is talent?” The English word comes straight from the Bible and the parable of “The Talents” in which Jesus told a story of a merchant who went away on business leaving three of his servants with a gift to employ in his absence. The gift was a monetary gift of 'talents'. Talenton was a Greek word for a particular and very large sum of money. Two servants multiplied their talents in the master's absence; the third wrapped his in a cloth and buried it. This was a “wasted talent”. It was from this story that we get our word 'talent', which describes not cash but natural ability. A 'talent' is what we normally call a 'gift' - something we don't earn and can't buy. It's simply there. All its possessor can do is discover it and then, ideally, use it to its full potential.

For many, the most exciting contestants in Britain's Got Talent have been the teams of hip-hop dancers, many from areas of urban deprivation who had risen above their impoverished background through team work, discipline and sheer enthusiasm. Hoodie dancers, wreathed in smiles of delight, seem a million miles from gang warfare and knife crime.

Should Susan have won? That, said the Moderator, was another matter. In truth, however, everything really worth-while is, in the end, a gift. Beauty, truth, love - life itself - are gifts. We can't buy them or earn them, but we can, he said, discover them and explore their full potential. A gift shouldn't be wrapped up and buried, but put to use.

Last Sunday was Pentecost - what we used to call 'Whitsun' - the celebration of the mysterious gift of spiritual insight and grace. That life-changing talent, that gift, he concluded, also needs to be unwrapped and put to use.

3 RETIRING OFFERING

Elders present agreed that the retiring offering should be sent to the Girls Brigade to support their new National Centre at Guay in Perthshire.

4 COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the professional manner in which all had performed their duties. He thanked Sam Esler and Bill Paterson who had assisted by sitting at the Communion Table and highlighted the contributions of those who had carried out the preparatory work and also would be cleaning and putting away the glasses and trays later on.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 8th JUNE 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Acts Chapter Two and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Curror, Miss Grace Scott, Mr John Curror, Mr David Dundas, Mr George Finlayson, Mr Alistair Graham, Mr Fraser Mackintosh, Mr James Mathieson and Mr Gordon Robertson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 17 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 6th May as a true record was proposed by Mrs Kay Bolton and seconded by Mrs Edith Moseley. The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 7th June as a true record was proposed by Mr Connell Cranston and seconded by Mr Bill Paterson. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk. Sam Esler said that comments in the Moderator's sermon at the Communion Service about members of the congregation inviting elders into their homes had been very appropriate. There were, he said, members who would not answer the door when an elder visited never mind opening the door and inviting the elder into their home.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Hot Food Shop

The Moderator referred to item 7.1.2 of the Minutes of the meeting on the 6th May. A letter had been received from the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals of the Scottish Government which indicated that the appeal against the East Renfrewshire Council decision to refuse planning permission for the hot food shop across from the church had been rejected.

6.2 Installation of New Rector at St Aidan's Church

The Moderator referred to item 7.1.3 of the Minutes of the meeting on the 6th May and stated that, along with all of the other Church of Scotland Ministers in Clarkston he had attended the installation of Dr Taylor as rector of St Aidan's Church on the afternoon of the 6th June.

6.3 Clarkston Churches Together – Riding Lights Theatre Company

The Moderator referred to item 7.1.4 of the Minutes of the meeting on the 6th May and reminded elders of the performance that the Riding Lights Theatre Company would be presenting in Stamperland Church and urged them to attend. He also indicated that the members of the theatre company would be visiting Williamwood High School.

6.4 Safeguarding Training

The Session Clerk intimated that Safeguarding Training Session arranged for the 11th November (item 7.2.2 of the Minutes of the meeting on the 6th May) had been cancelled as a consequence of the Safeguarding Trainers having "double-booked" themselves. He indicated that a new date would have to be arranged.

6.5 Spring Fair

The Moderator thanked all of the elders who had assisted in any way to make the Spring Fair a success. He made specific mention of the elders – George Fraser, Fraser Mackintosh and

Alistair Graham - who had manned the gardening stall and had been completely soaked and also the Scouts who had, likewise, been soaked whilst cooking the hamburgers.

The general view was that the Spring Fair had been successful despite the heavy rain which started just before ten o'clock (when the Fair started) and continued unabated until well after two o'clock (when the Fair had closed). There was agreement that while fewer people attended than in previous years those who did come stayed longer in the halls and church.

7 PRESBYTRY ELDER'S REPORT

7.1 Glasgow's Gaelic Churches

There was no written Presbytery Elder's report but Anne Mackenzie commented that the meeting had been shockingly bad. With the Moderator absent there had been no lead from the chair and many of those in attendance had behaved in an inappropriate manner. Over two hours was spent in ill-tempered discussion of the potential amalgamation of the two Gaelic Churches, Gardner Street and St Columba's. After two hours it was agreed that the debate should stop and that the topic would be discussed further at the end of the year.

7.1 God's Tartan Army

An extract from the May Presbytery Report headed "God's Tartan Army" was circulated to elders. The extract was a request from Alan McWilliam of Whiteinch Parish Church for funding to allow him to spend some time developing Christian outreach into the fan base of Scotland's large football clubs. The Presbytery agreed to provide £6k per year for the next three years.

The idea sparked some discussion within the Kirk Session. The Moderator explained that since men are not coming to church an alternative approach was to take the church to the football supporters showing them that the church was interested in them. All people have spiritual needs; for many different reasons people are reluctant to attend a church, to seek out spiritual guidance or to ask questions. Rather, there is an opportunity for the church to reach out to "the un-churched". If elders couldn't get across the doors of members how much more difficult and challenging would it be to reach out to the "un-churched". Elders expressed doubt about the likelihood of success but were, nevertheless, interested in learning of the progress of the venture.

It was agreed that Stamperland Church should provide information about its activities at events such as the Spring Fair and concerts held in the church and halls.

8 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

The Roll Keeper provided a written report confirming the following which had been agreed at the meeting of the Kirk Session on the 6th May.

- George Finlayson in now the elder for District 18.
- Alf Dunbar has relinquished his duties as Elder for District 25 and that Jane Curror has taken on responsibility for District 25 and relinquished District 4.
- Districts within the parish which should be allocated to elders not currently responsible for a district are:
 - District 3, Stamperland Gardens.
 - District 4, Stamperland Gardens. / Elgin Gardens.
- Districts outwith the parish would to continue as at present, i.e. no elder appointed and nominally treated as additional 'Postal'.
 - District 27, Williamwood
 - District 29, Giffnock & Deaconsbank
 - District 30, Waterfoot - Eaglesham - Hairmyers - Stewartfield

Sam Esler stated that he visited the homes in District 30 four times a year.

It was confirmed that it was the intention to prepare a list of members living outwith the parish for whom a visit by an elder was practical and a list of members for whom a visit was quite impractical, e.g. where the member lived in England or Germany.

9 PRAYER TIME

The Moderator asked elders present to give names of people known to them for whom prayers could be offered. A significant number of names was suggested and the moderator led the elders in prayer.

10 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates of the next Kirk Session meetings were agreed as Monday, 7th September, Wednesday 7th October, Monday 2nd November and Wednesday 2nd December.

11 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with a reading from Genesis Chapter 4, part of the story of Cain and Abel, and a prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by the Moderator.

The Moderator said that he had been intrigued by the comment made by Channel 4 that Big Brother was... 'the most influential show of the modern era.' Why, he asked, would anyone want to watch unconnected people flung together in an environment where their actions are filmed 24 hours a day? That human beings have the capacity to be dysfunctional is well-attested in sacred literature as well as secular literature. The mismatch of people living in Close proximity is as evident in the story of Samson and Delilah as it is in Emmerdale or Eastenders.

In a society confronted daily with scenes of real or forced degradation, what, he asked, enables us to become noble? What is it which models goodness - not as a sappy sentiment but as a hard choice demanding perseverance? Jesus spent little time focusing on what is wrong in the world or with its people. So much of his attention was directed to the untapped potential in people and to offering hard options which enable goodness to flourish and society to become just.

In that most famous story of sibling rivalry God asked Cain where Abel was and he answered with that famous line, 'Am I my brother's keeper?'

Today, he said, our Big Brother calls us to his table. In the breaking of bread and in the sharing of wine, despite what we think, Jesus is not concentrating on the things that we have done wrong or failed to do. But, by speaking of the mercy and grace of God, he encourages us to move on and find that potential; to grow in stature by recognising the good that we can do.

Yes, he is the Big Brother worth watching, a Big Brother to look up to and learn from. The perfect example to focus on and live up to, who reveals the possibilities of the heart and soul.

3 CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ADVICE RELATING TO SWINE FLU

The Moderator informed elders that he had received information from 121 George Street regarding Swine Flu. Of particular note was the advice that the Common Cup should not be used at Communion Services when there was an epidemic. Elders agreed that the advice should be followed and that the Common Cup should not be used.

4 RETIRING OFFERING

Elders present agreed that the retiring offering should be sent to Eastwoodhill Home.

5 COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He thanked Gordon Robertson and John Currer who had assisted by sitting at the Communion Table and highlighted the contributions of those who had carried out the preparatory work and also would be cleaning and putting away the glasses and trays later on.

6 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2009 IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Matthew Chapter Seven and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Margo Neilson, Miss Grace Scott, Mr David Dundas, Mr Sam Esler, Mr Alistair Graham, Mr Fraser Mackintosh, Mr James Mathieson, Mr William Patterson, Mr Gordon Robertson and Mr Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 15 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mrs Mackenzie advised that the Presbytery Elder's Report should be amended by deleting the first four words of the second sentence in Section 7.1. With this correction the adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 8th June as a true record was proposed by Mr Connell Cranston and seconded by Mrs Ray McNiven. The amended minute was then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Quinquennial Visitation

The Moderator advised the Kirk Session that the Presbytery Quinquennial visitation would take place in 2010.

6.1.2 Review of Tenure

The Moderator advised the Kirk Session that the Presbytery would be reviewing the tenure later this year. It was now a little over five years since he had been inducted to Stamperland and, in common with many churches in Glasgow Presbytery, tenure was reviewed every five years. The review would be led by Rev John Collard and would involve, among other activities, a meeting with about ten elders. It was proposed that the elders who would attend the meeting would include Jane Curror, Evelyn Graham, Ray McNiven, Anne Mackenzie, Edith Moseley, Grace Scott, Norman Bolton, Connell Cranston, John Curror, David Dundas and George Finlayson.

The Moderator advised that the likely outcome of the review was that the tenure would be extended on a reviewable basis and that only when a Twinning arrangement was in place would there be any chance of tenure becoming "un-restricted".

6.1.3 Giffnock South Church

The Moderator intimated that he had been appointed Interim Moderator at Giffnock South Church.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Rev Nicholas Taylor, St Aidan's Church

The Session Clerk read out the letter he had received from Rev Nicholas Taylor following his institution as rector in St Aidan's Church. He wrote that he had been greatly encouraged by the attendance of the Church of Scotland ministers at the institution service and sent his best wishes to all at Stamperland Church.

6.2.2 Letter from Presbytery Clerk – Congregational Office Bearers

The Session Clerk stated that he had received the Annual Return of Congregational Office Bearers from the Presbytery Clerk. This document listed a number of posts and the name and contact details of the post holders. So, for example, it listed Tom McPherson as Clerk to the Board, Roy Allan as Fabric Convenor, Sheila McIntosh as Life and Work Promoter, etc.. Liz Robb was listed as Partner Plan Correspondent and the Clerk asked whether anyone present knew if Liz was willing to continue in this role. He stated that he was unsure who was the Social Responsibility Representative and Anne Mackenzie confirmed it was she.

6.2.3 Safeguarding Training

The Session Clerk advised elders that all elders had to attend a Safeguarding Training Session. The proposed joint session with Netherlee Church had yet to be confirmed and he advised that elders could attend training sessions at Renfield St Stephen's Church on Saturday, 19th September, Newton Mearns Church on Wednesday, 21st October or St John's Renfield Church on Wednesday, 11th November.

7 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

In the absence of David Dundas, the Session Clerk read the Roll Keepers Report which contained the following information.

Change of Address

	To:-
Mrs Nancy Munro	Whitecraigs N.H.
Mrs Jean Paterson	Ardrossan ? ? ? (information welcome)
Mrs Agnes Buchanan	Bute Wing, Rosaburn House, Rosaburn Ave., East Kilbride G75 9DF
Mrs Marjorie McKissock	39 Linnpark Court (not 30 as quoted previously)

Death

Mrs Catherine Dougall	Westacres N.H.
Mrs Helen Livingston	35 Orchy Gdns
Mr Nelson T. Blair	Abbey Lodge N.H.

New Adherents

Mrs Beryl Richmond	36 Linnpark Court, Linnpark Ave. - Dist. 25
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Edith Moseley said that she might be able to determine an address for Mrs Paterson. It was remarked that Mrs Beryl Richmond had for many years been regular in her attendance at morning worship at Stamperland and still was.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

Anne Mackenzie informed elders that the new Moderator, Rev William Fergusson, was excellent. He had opened Presbytery with an inspiring prayer and had conducted business most efficiently and effectively.

Presbytery had been addressed by Scott Hamilton, a worker with CrossReach. He had informed presbyters that whilst CrossReach was closely associated in everyone's mind as being a Church of Scotland organisation in actual fact only about 1 per cent of CrossReach's budget came from the church. The annual expenditure is around £45 million. The bulk of funding comes from local authorities with other sources being charges to residents, legacies, private donations and fund raising activities.

The Moderator commented that the choice of Eastwoodhill to receive the retiring offering from the previous Sunday's communion service was very appropriate. CrossReach, he said, was losing money and a re-structuring process was being undertaken. There was uncertainty within the organisation and jobs would be lost and he urged elders to pray for the organisation.

Anne Mackenzie remarked that Williamwood House no longer had access to a mini-bus. The previous minibus had failed its MOT and CrossReach did not have the funds to replace it. The Friends of Williamwood House had raised money to meet the deposit on a new vehicle but additional and continued support was required.

Finally, Mrs Mackenzie told elders that the "God's Tartan Army" initiative was now being referred to as "Lion Rampant". No decision had been reached by Presbytery to approve the proposed initiative.

9 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

The Moderator stated that the Presbytery Quinquennial Visitation team and possibly also the Presbytery Support and Development (PSD) Team tasked with reviewing the tenure, would look at the Kirk Session committees, their structures, their roles and their effectiveness. It would be fair to state that the committees were not functioning as effectively as they could or

even, in some cases, not functioning at all. The committee structure was unbalanced with some committees having a large number of members and some having very few. There was a reluctance of some people to take on convenorships and, if there was no willing or enthusiastic convenor, committees never met and nothing was progressed. One possibility was to seek to change the constitution of the church from being “Model Deed” to “Unitary”. Effectively, under the new constitution the Congregational Board and the Kirk Session would be combined; this would increase the number of people available to be involved in committee work. Additionally, it would make it easier for “congregational members” to become involved in committees.

The Moderator said that a lot of work would have to be done to improve the effectiveness of committees and the Kirk Session in advance of the Quinquennial Visitation. As a church we were not moving forward; we had strong Youth Organisations but we were not capitalising on this – we weren’t making good connections with them and we weren’t intimately involved with them. He asked the elders their opinions on progress and development.

Evelyn Graham said that the Parish and Beyond committee had initially struggled with their remit and it became clear only after the moderator had attended a committee meeting and indicated what they should do. Subsequently, the committee had worked well together but it had been crucial to have the Moderator’s input.

Several elders stated that other committees could benefit from clear statements or ideas about what could, should or might be done and that it might be useful to have examples of specific tasks which needed to be addressed.

The Moderator stated that some of the goals he had in mind included opening out and extending the vestibule; significantly upgrading the Session Room so that it could be hired out during the day to external organisations for holding meetings, training sessions, seminars, etc; developing the lower hall as a room attractive to people of the Quest age group and providing access to computers which could be used for Bible study; hanging pictures in the corridors and halls to highlight the activities of the church and, particularly, its youth to show that the church was “alive and kicking”. He contrasted the church corridors with those of Netherlee Primary School where pupils work, activities and achievements were celebrated.

Elders variously remarked that these ideas were interesting. There was a question about financing such goals. The Moderator stated that there were sources outwith the church which could be approached for funding. Seeking funds from external organisations was what he wanted the Congregational Board’s Fund Raising Committee to look at rather than planning concerts and quizzes. Such activities were really appropriate for the attention of the “Social Committee” with the Fund Raising concentrating on large projects.

There was considerable discussion and overall agreement that the church had been “standing still” for some time; that complacency had set in; that committees needed to be re-vitalised, given new direction and assistance to move ahead enthusiastically and energetically. There was a need to ensure that committee’s ideas of their responsibilities aligned with the ideas of the Moderator. Elders also remarked on positive developments; for example, the Sunday School has picked up, the Sunday Break and Open Door initiatives were appreciated by numbers of members. There were opportunities for engaging with the organisations through the church seeking to attain both FairTrade and Eco-church status.

It was remarked that for the Quinquennial visitation we should consider as a church where we have been, where we are and where we are going. Pat McIlraith highlighted how, in past times, the Young Wives Group and the Playgroup had led to mothers with young children being around the church and involved with the church. This involvement also led to husbands becoming involved, perhaps at first to assist with minor things such as setting up tables, but eventually to being involved in other church activities and, eventually, church membership. This led to a discussion of the demise of the Mother and Toddler Group. Connell Cranston said that for quite some time the Mother and Toddler Group had been run without any active involvement from church members. The number of mothers and toddlers attending had declined markedly and recently the group had met only on a Friday morning. It was apparent over the summer that there was no interest in continuing the Mother and

Toddler Group and the toys, keys and recent paperwork had been passed to him. It was agreed that appropriate toys should be retained for use in the crèche. The Moderator asked what else should now be done – should the hall be re-decorated for Quest? Should computer equipment be installed for use by Quest?

Kay Bolton pointed out that it had been planned to lay new floor-covering in the lower hall as had been done some years ago in the small hall. Connell Cranston suggested that as the lower hall is used by many organisations it would perhaps be better to install computer equipment in the office which offered a much more secure environment.

10 ELDERS VISITING ORGANISATIONS

It was agreed that the elders responsible for visiting church organisations during the next “church year” would be as follows.

ORGANISATION	ELDER
Stepping Stones	John Curror and Bill Paterson
Guides	Jess Thomson
Brownie Guides	Anne MacKenzie
Rainbow Guides	Jan Barr
The Guild	Fraser Mackintosh
House Groups	Jess Thomson
Choir	Pat McIlraith
Boys Brigade (All Sections)	Raymond Russell
Scouts (Inc Beavers and Cubs)	Alastair Graham and Evelyn Graham

11 REVIEW OF DOORKEEPER INITIATIVE

The Session Clerk announced that Ross McLennan had informed him at the end of August that he was no longer able to act as doorkeeper as he was now in full-time employment. The Session Clerk told elders that Ross McLennan had worked from the start of the year to mid May. During that period he had usually worked four evening per week. The cost of employment had been £1352. The Session Clerk advised that it could be difficult to recruit another person as doorkeeper – Ross was not in employment when he started working as doorkeeper and his circumstances were such that the limited hours of the doorkeeper post and limited income had a certain attraction. Many people would find the limited hours and remuneration unappealing.

The Session Clerk asked if elders had had feedback from organisations regarding the benefits, advantages or disadvantages of having a doorkeeper. After discussion it was agreed that it was necessary to have a doorkeeper present from 18.00 to a little after 20.00 on Mondays and Tuesdays and that, in the first instance, volunteers would be sought from church members rather than seeking to recruit a paid employee.

12 DATES OF YOUTH ORGANISATION PARADES

Dates of parades were agreed as follows:

Sunday, 4th October Dedication Service

Sunday, 8th November Remembrance Service

Sunday, 21st February 70th Anniversary Service of the foundation of Stamperland Church.

The date of the Harvest Thanksgiving service was agreed as Sunday 18th October. It was agreed that the balance of the previous year between the harvest display, donations of produce and monetary donations was “just right”.

13 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Wednesday 7th October.

14 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from 1st Samuel Chapter 3 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Edith Moseley, Mrs Margo Neilson, Miss Grace Scott, Mrs Grace Walker, Mr David Dundas, Mr Alastair Graham, Mr Fraser Mackintosh, Mr James Mathieson and Mr Gordon Robertson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on Sunday 6th September as a true record was proposed by George Finlayson and seconded by Connell Cranston. The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday 9th September as a true record was proposed by Jan Barr and seconded by Ray McNiven. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 MATTERS ARISING**6.1 Elders Visiting Organisations**

Evelyn Graham advised that Alastair Graham was unable to visit the Scout Group but that she was willing to be the elder responsible for visiting the Scout Group.

6.2 Afternoon Communion

The Moderator stated that only a small number of members attend the afternoon communion service. The afternoon service is fairly informal and relaxed with those attending sitting round the communion table. It is a quieter, more reflective atmosphere than in the morning. Recently, he said that he had conducted a communion service at Linn Park Court where several of our members live. Jane Curror had assisted. The service, held on a Wednesday afternoon, was attended not just by members of Stamperland Church but also by residents

who were members of other churches. The Moderator asked elders for their views regarding the holding of afternoon communions at Linn Park Court rather than at Stamperland Church. There was agreement that holding communion services at Linn Park Court was good and provided an opportunity for those unable to attend church. However, there were a number of aspects which would need to be clarified, particularly if the service was held on a Sunday afternoon and “any member of Stamperland Church” wished to attend. The residents lounge was a communal area and any resident had the right to use it. Particularly on Sunday afternoons, many residents were likely to have visitors and there could be problems with access to the lounge. As the complex was controlled by the Local Council there might be issues regarding access to the building by “any member of Stamperland Church” as opposed to people known personally by at least one of the residents. Additionally, with Linn Park Court being within the parish of Netherlee it would be necessary to consult with Netherlee Church.

The overall feeling was that it would be somewhat impractical to hold communion services on Sunday afternoons at Linn Park Court.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Review of Tenure

The Moderator confirmed that representatives from the Presbytery Support and Development Committee would meet the ad-hoc committee of elders in the Session Room on the 29th October. The review would be led by Rev John Collard.

The Moderator said that he anticipated the conclusion of the PSD Team would be to recommend a further five year tenure and that the church should endeavour to be formally twinned with another church within this five year period. He advised that in recent communications with Noel Mathias it was suggested that Lochwood Church in Easterhouse could be a potential candidate for a twinning arrangement.

7.2 Renewal of Church Lighting

The Moderator said that he had spoken to Mr Jim Cuthbertson, the Presbytery Buildings Officer, regarding renewal of the church lighting. Mr Cuthbertson has undertaken to advise of suitable designers.

8 KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 The Role of Committees

The Moderator said that, in the light of the discussions at the previous Kirk Session meeting and with the attendance of the most recently-ordained elders at the meeting, it was opportune to explain some aspects of the governance of the church. The most senior body is the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Below that are Synods, then Presbyteries, then individual churches. Within our church, which is governed by the Model Constitution, the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board are responsible for different aspects of the work of the church. There are churches, governed by a Unitary Constitution where only one body is responsible for all aspects of the church’s life and operation.

He highlighted the committees within the Kirk Session. The Worship Committee is concerned with aspects of worship, although the Moderator is directly responsible for worship. The Parish and Beyond Committee is concerned with how the church relates to the parish and to further afield. The Stewardship Committee is not necessarily concerned solely with finance but also stewardship of God’s Creation. The Pastoral Care Committee is concerned largely with the (spiritual) needs of the congregation. The Education Committee has responsibilities for the Christian education and development of both adults and children, overseeing the work and activities of Stepping Stones and Quest. The Communications Committee is concerned with communications both within and outwith the church through a variety of mediums.

The Session Clerk indicated that elders had been asked, some time ago, to indicate their preferences as to the committee on which they would wish to serve. The great majority of elders had been allocated to the committee which was their first preference with some having

been given their second choice. However, elders could always request a change of committee.

Some committees were, he said, finding it difficult to start discussion. The Session Clerk stated that he had recently received quite a lot of information in the way of leaflets and booklets from both 121 George Street and from Presbytery. He suggested that it could be appropriate for this information to be distributed amongst the committees for study and that this might serve to initiate discussion within groups. Elders agreed with this approach and committees proceeded to discuss various topics re-convening to hear reports from committees.

8.2 Report from the Adult Education Committee

David Dundas reported that the leaflet which he had been given was in relation to forthcoming meetings under the broad title “What is a human?” at which topics such as ‘genes and gender’, ‘plastic surgery’ and ‘end of life issues’ would be discussed. However, as the only person on the committee he didn’t find much enlightenment in considering these topics on his own.

David also raised the topic of the Church Library. One idea which had been proposed was in relation to receiving new books from publishers on a sale-or-return basis. David said that there were a number of concerns regarding this approach including secure storage, the collection of money, the control of stock and the return of unsold books. This generated discussion from a number of elders. The Moderator stated that he was keen to find ways of encouraging church members to read a bit more and reflect a bit more about various topics. It was suggested that use be made of the Sunday intimation sheets and Focus to recommend specific books from the current library collection.

Another suggestion presented by David was the use of the Extra newspaper to present a short Christian message. Rather than each and every church having a small intimation in the newspaper, he suggested that Clarkston Churches Together could have half a page which could be used to present a short Christian message and highlight key events at local churches. The Moderator undertook to raise this idea at the next meeting of Clarkston Churches Together.

8.3 Report from the Youth Education Committee

Bill Paterson reported on the Youth Education Committee’s discussion. One of the leaflets was on the topic of establishing a “Cosy Coffee House” which was essentially the provision of a space for teenagers in which coffee would be served and in which teenagers would be safe to chat and discuss a range of topics. The committee agreed to try to find out more information from the Church of Scotland about the operation of such a facility.

Another leaflet was about an event in Perth called “Happy Hallowe’en”. On learning that Stepping Stones were attending this event the Kirk Session agreed to contribute £100 to Stepping Stones towards the cost of transport and entry tickets.

8.4 Report from the Parish and Beyond Committee

Jan Barr reported on the discussions of the Parish and Beyond Committee.

There had been a plan to have someone from the Lodging House Mission address the congregation at a Sunday Morning Service in January 2009 but this had fallen through. The Moderator intimated that he had spoken to Rev Mark Johnson and that a new date would be arranged shortly.

It was reported that Evelyn Graham and Edith Moseley had attended meetings of the Peace and Justice Forum. Elders agreed that it would be appropriate for Stamperland to host the meeting in January 2010.

Evelyn informed the elders about some recent items from the last Peace and Justice Forum meeting. Mearnskirch Church had a bereavement befriending service and individuals affected by bereavement could go to the church to speak to a person with appropriate training and skills. Maxwell Mearns Church ran “Tom’s Club” – a club for adults with special needs. People had been asked to write to Jim Murphy lobbying for the need for positive action to be achieved at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen at the beginning of December. In this context elders were asked to note that there was a meeting on 20th November in Newton Mearns Baptist Church which would be attended by Douglas

Alexander MP, Jim Murphy MP and Ken McIntosh MSP who would be answering questions from the audience on Global Warming and other issues.

There was encouragement for churches to become Eco-Congregations and Fair Trade Congregations. Elders agreed that Stamperland Church should seek to become accredited.

It was suggested that some people didn't attend Open Door because they felt that it was only an opportunity for a quiet, reflective time whereas the reality was that it also offered the opportunity for a chat, a laugh, a coffee. There was a need to publicise exactly what Open Door did offer people.

It was agreed that there would be an Open Door Christmas Lunch on the 16th December.

It was suggested that there was a requirement for a leaflet describing "What's On" in the church.

Jan Barr reported that the Parish and Beyond Committee were willing to convene a committee to arrange an appropriate celebration of the church's 70th anniversary in 2010.

8.5 Report from the Stewardship and Communications Committees

Norman Bolton reported that because of the small number of elders present the members of the Stewardship Committee and the Communications Committee had had joint discussions. It was interesting that several of the topics had also been discussed within other committees. These included the idea of the half-page church article in The Extra and the proposal that the church become an eco-congregation. Becoming an eco-congregation would require the involvement of everyone within the church and the achievement of the eco goals might be enthusiastically and actively supported by some of the youths within organisations.

8.6 Overview of Committees

There was a general feeling that the time spent in committees and in the discussions following the committee reports had been useful.

9 NEW MEMBER

The Moderator stated that Mrs Jane McLachlin wished to become a member at Stamperland. She had previously been a member elsewhere and the moderator sought the approval of the elders to have her join by "resolution of the Kirk Session". Elders present agreed.

10 SUNDAY MORNING DUTIES

There was some discussion about the duties of Board members on Sunday mornings particularly in relation to ensuring that the Hall door was closed during morning worship. The Session Clerk was asked to request that the Clerk to the Board re-issue the instruction sheet to all Board members.

11 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates of the next Kirk Session meetings were agreed as Monday 2nd November and Wednesday 2nd December. The Moderator proposed that, as a somewhat light-hearted note, elders participate in a "Secret Santa" at the December meeting.

12 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from 1st Timothy, Chapter 4 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Margo Neilson, Miss Grace Scott, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mr John Curror, Mr Iain Fulton, Mr Alastair Graham, and Mr James Mathieson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 21 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Referring to Section 8.1 of the Minutes of the meeting of the 7th October, the Moderator stated that as Synods do not currently exist, the word “are” in the third sentence should be changed to “were”. The Moderator also drew attention to the sentence in the second paragraph of this section which stated, “The Pastoral Care Committee is concerned largely with the (spiritual) needs of the congregation” and asked that this be amended to read, “The Pastoral Care Committee is concerned with the overview of the pastoral needs of the congregation.” He said that the Kirk Session, as a whole, has responsibility for the spiritual needs of the congregation.

Jan Barr requested that the words “if necessary” be added to the final sentence in section 8.4. Subsequent to the Kirk Session meeting on the 7th October, the Congregational Board had agreed to be responsible for organising appropriate celebrations of the church’s 70th anniversary.

With these changes, adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting as a true record was proposed by Connell Cranston and Anne Mackenzie. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Renewal of Church Lighting

The Moderator advised that he had spoken with Mr Jim Cuthbertson who had undertaken to speak to members of the Presbytery Property Committee on the 27th October with regard to the provision of advice on the renewal of the church lighting.

7 REVIEW OF TENURE MEETING

The Session Clerk summarized the topics covered during the meeting with the Rev John Collard and Mrs. Maggie McAullay of the Presbytery Support and Development Team on the 29th October. He said that the PSD Team had focused on three aspects – looking at what we considered were the highlights of the last five years of the church’s life, what we considered to be the challenges to be faced in the next five years of the church’s life and, finally, “what dreams we had for the next five years”. Additionally, there were questions about the progress being made in relation to twinning with a church in an Urban Priority Area.

Mr Collard had summarised the evening’s dialogue by saying that the Presbytery Support and Development Team had heard encouraging remarks about the life of the church as well as the voicing of challenges. He had emphasized that it was important that the church sought wisdom from God and exercised creativity in meeting the challenges and had concluded by

saying that the PSD team would be recommending the renewal of tenure for a further five years.

The Session Clerk indicated that he had prepared some notes of the meeting and it was agreed that these should be distributed to the elders.

The Moderator thanked the elders of the ad-hoc committee for their attendance at the meeting and for their contributions.

8 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

8.1 Moderator

The Moderator said that he had received a letter from the Rev Mrs Jeanne Roddick of Greenbank Church asking whether Stamperland elders would be interested in attending a Training event at Greenbank Church on Thursday, 21st January 2010. It looked as though the training was, in fact, the Safeguarding Training Course which all elders were obliged to attend though this was not explicitly stated in the letter. Elders agreed that, if the Moderator confirmed that attendance at the event equated to attendance at a Safeguarding Training course, then they would endeavour to attend.

8.2 Session Clerk

8.2.1 Letter from Tom Macpherson

The Session Clerk read a letter from Tom Macpherson, Clerk to the Congregational Board, thanking elders for their contribution to the Spring Fair.

8.2.2 Communion Duties

The Session Clerk intimated that the draft duty rota for the December Communion had been placed in the session notice board and asked elders to confirm their availability.

9 ROLL KEEPERS REPORT

David Dundas presented the following information.

Change of Address

	To:-
Mrs Jean Paterson	18 Southcrescent Rd., Ardrossan, KA22

Death

Mrs Lesley Phillips	Hazelden Gardens
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It was noted that the address of Mrs Jane McLachlin who had joined by resolution at the last Kirk Session meeting was 26 Randolph Drive.

The Moderator stated that when funeral services were held in the church he was very pleased to see good numbers of elders and members of the congregation attending. Their attendance was greatly appreciated by the families of the bereaved.

10 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

The Presbytery Elder's report had been circulated with the Agenda and Minutes. The Moderator asked if any elders had questions either for Mrs Mackenzie or for himself.

David Dundas said that he had three questions. The first was to seek information about the topic headed, "Lion Rampant". The Moderator stated that this initiative had previously been called "God's Tartan Army" and it had developed from an idea by the minister of Whiteinch Church to try to engage with football supporters who did not have any church connection or involvement with church activities. The aim was to take the Gospel to the "man in the football crowd" in the knowledge that few, if any, men in the football crowd were likely to make the first move in approaching a minister or a church.

David's second question was to ask whether the Ministries and Mission Allocation of £42,568 proposed for Stamperland for the year 2010 was higher or lower than the Allocation in 2009. Kay Bolton informed the elders that the proposed contribution was a little lower than the 2009 figure.

David's third question was to seek clarification of the role of the new Presbytery Strategy Officer. The Moderator said that the Strategy Officer was a new appointment and that the role was not precisely prescribed. To a large extent the role would develop as the appointee gained knowledge of the operation of Presbytery. An example of one possible task was in relation to Quinquennial visitations. After a visitation the Presbytery approved a report which included specific actions to be undertaken and goals to be strived for. Quite often there was no check to see whether steps were being taken to implement the specified actions; there was an opportunity for a Strategy Officer to assume responsibility for checking that plans were developed and followed. The Moderator added that the new appointee, Mr Christopher Macrae, was a young lawyer and that, despite his youth, he had a great deal of knowledge and expertise.

Kay Bolton asked for clarification of the section of the Presbytery Elder's Report headed, "Education" which indicated that there was some confusion regarding the use of churches for school assemblies under the new Guidelines for Religious Observance.

It was explained that Glasgow City Council had indicated to Presbytery that, provided schools adhered to the Guidelines for Religious Observance, there would be no problems. However, since the Glasgow Presbytery had charges covered by at least five different Local Authorities, it wasn't necessarily the case that councils other than Glasgow Council would take the same viewpoint.

The Moderator explained that parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Observance in contrast to Religious Education. All children within a certain age range have to attend Religious Education classes. There were, he said, no issues with Netherlee Primary School children attending school services at either Netherlee Church or Stamperland Church and the school was happy to come to church for a Christian service. It was somewhat different at Williamwood School. There, morning assemblies were not conducted as elders might remember school assemblies. Drama, readings or poetry might be used to encourage pupils to engage with their humanity or a spiritual dimension.

This led to a wide-ranging discussion in which some elders indicated that it didn't feel right to see Christianity not having a dominant role in society or in education. The Moderator pointed out that we are now living in a secular society rather than a religious society and that in a school context, religious education dealt with five great faiths – Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Asked why some schools seemed to pay little attention to Christianity, the Moderator explained that when he had been an RE teacher there was a tendency to focus firstly on faiths other than Christianity and to leave the teaching of Christian faith until later. It was generally held that this approach was more successful than starting with Christian faith – pupils, having been introduced to spirituality through examination of other faiths, were possibly more open-minded to Christianity.

11 PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Parish and Beyond Committee

Jan Barr reported that the Parish and Beyond Committee had met briefly the previous week and had progressed the arrangements for the Open Door Christmas Lunch.

11.2 Adult Education

David Dundas said that Jane Curror had asked some ladies to write short articles on some of the books in the church library.

11.3 Pastoral Care

Fraser Macintosh confirmed that they are to arrange a meeting with the Moderator.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Christmas Services

The Moderator intimated the following activities and associated dates:

- 5th December Stepping Stones Christmas Party
- 6th December Celebration of Communion at 11.00 and 15.00
- 16th December Open Door Christmas Lunch
- 17th December Netherlee Primary School Service in the church (afternoon)

18th December Isobel Mair School Service in the church (morning)

The Moderator stated that the Netherlee School Service was always very busy. With pupils and parents attending, all available seats were pressed into use. He said that he would like to see more elders and congregation attending the Isobel Mair School Service. It was an excellent service and attendance would not just support the pupils and teachers but would open hearts to the true meaning of Christmas.

20th December Nativity Family Service

The Moderator said that he was keen that the elders and members of the congregation would come along to this service with a spirit of anticipation and enjoyment – our faith is about these things. We should show the children of the Sunday School, other children and all parents attending that there is a lot to celebrate in being a Christian. He was keen that as many people as possible would wear a “daft hat”.

24th December Watchnight Service with informal carol singing at 23.10, the service starting at 23.25 and soup being served at the close of the service.

25th December Christmas Day Service at 10.30

27th December Christmas time Service

12.2. Christmas leaflet for distribution around the parish

The Moderator said that he would liaise with Willie Anderson regarding the Christmas leaflet.

12.3 Retiring Offerings

12.3.1 December Communion

It was agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to Erskine Hospital.

12.3.2 Watchnight and Christmas Day Services

It was agreed that the offerings should be donated to Robin House.

12.4 December Communion Devotions

The Moderator asked for a volunteer to lead the Kirk Session devotions before the December morning Communion.

13 SECRET SANTA

Elders agreed to the proposal for having a secret santa at the December meeting of the Kirk Session and a limit of £3 was set on the value of presents.

14 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Wednesday 2nd December.

15 PASTORAL TIME

The Moderator asked elders for names of people whom they wished to be remembered in prayer and then led the meeting in prayer.

16 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from John Chapter 1 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Janis Herriot, Mrs Edith Moseley, Miss Janet Stewart, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mr John Curror and Mr David Dundas

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 25 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Referring to Section 11 of the Minutes of the meeting of the 2nd November, the Moderator stated that there should have been reference to “six great world religions” rather than five and that Hinduism was recognised as a major religion. The minute was modified to include Hinduism.

With this change, adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting as a true record was proposed by George Finlayson and seconded by Jan Barr. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Review of Tenure

The Moderator stated that both he and the Session Clerk had received a draft report from John Collard which would be presented to the presbytery Mission and Strategy Committee at their next meeting on the 22nd November. The report recommended that a further five year reviewable tenure be granted pending the establishment of a priority area twinning arrangement.

6.2 Twinning

The Moderator stated that he had met with Rev Stuart Duff, minister of Lochwood Parish Church. The meeting had been quite short and very informal. Lochwood Parish Church was a priority area parish. It had a small congregation and a very small Kirk Session.

The Moderator said that Stuart Duff might attend morning worship at Stamperland as a visitor and that he, in turn, would attend worship at Lochwood one Sunday. Subsequently, he and George Finlayson would most likely have an informal meeting with representatives of Lochwood Church.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Presbytery Plan Update

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received a letter from Christopher Macrae, Glasgow Presbytery’s Strategy Officer which enclosed a copy of the page of the Presbytery Plan on which Stamperland Parish Church appears. The letter instructed that the page be included in the minute of the next Session Meeting (*see next page*). The letter also highlighted that the Presbytery Buildings Plan was not included, as the final version had still to be submitted to Edinburgh but that once this had been done congregations would be sent relevant information regarding their buildings.

7.2.3 Safeguarding Training

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the Safeguarding Training Course at Greenbank Church on Thursday, 21st January 2010 and that all elders were obliged to attend a Safeguarding Training Course. It was intimated that elders unable to attend Greenbank would have an opportunity to attend a course at Bridgeton St Francis on Thursday, 11th February.

EXTRACT FROM GLASGOW PRESBYTERY PLAN - November 2009

Congregation	Population Cofs Population	Status at date of Plan	Plan for the congregation at the end of 10 year period	Interim step on the occasion of a vacancy	Present Staffing	Anticipated Staffing	Presbytery Notes
Greenbank	5378 3997	Unrestricted	Unrestricted with PA Twinning	Reviewable until PA Twinning	1 minister of W&S	1 minister of W&S	
Netherlee	4533 3198	Unrestricted	Unrestricted with PA Twinning	Reviewable until PA Twinning	1 minister of W&S	1 minister of W&S	
Stamperland	3875 2712	Reviewable	Unrestricted with PA Twinning	Reviewable until PA Twinning	1 minister of W&S	1 minister of W&S	Review April 2010
Broom	3439 2148	Unrestricted	Unrestricted within grouping and a new church serving the Westlands community		1 minister of W&S	1 minister of W&S in each of five charges within Grouping	All five congregations will collaborate to establish a new church to serve Westlands community
Maxwell Mearns Castle	4405 3123	Vacant			1 minister of W&S		
Mearns	4764 3222	Unrestricted			1 minister of W&S		
Newton Mearns	11630 7455	Unrestricted			1 minister of W&S		
Eaglesham	3905 3125	Unrestricted			1 minister of W&S		

8 ROLL KEEPERS REPORT

There was no report. In David Dundas' absence the Moderator reminded elders that the funeral of Nancy Monroe had taken place the previous day and that elders should think of Jim and Helen in their prayers.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

The Presbytery Elder's report had been circulated with the Agenda and Minutes. The Moderator asked if any elders had questions either for Mrs Mackenzie or for himself.

Asked a question about "The Wave", Mrs Mackenzie said that someone was addressing the Presbytery on the topic of Climate Change at the next Presbytery Meeting.

The Moderator thanked Anne for her attendance and reporting.

10 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

10.1 Christmas Services

The Moderator reminded elders of the times and dates of services over the Christmas period. He thanked Willie Anderson for printing the Christmas Cards to be delivered to each home in the parish. Raymond Russell said that he was keen that the BB should be involved in helping to deliver cards.

11 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next Kirk Session meeting were agreed as Sunday 10th January immediately after the close of Morning Worship when the business was to Attest the Communion Roll, Elect the Presbytery Elder and re-affirm the Child Protection Statement and subsequently, Monday 1st February and Wednesday 3rd March.

12 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER 2009
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

Kirk Session devotions were led by Ray McNiven.

Ray began her address by recounting to the elders some interesting and amusing tales from her life as the daughter of a minister. She continued by saying that her text was from Luke Chapter 3, “Then Jesus said, Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing” and her thoughts on this verse could be entitled, “Excuses, Excuses”.

Ray recalled the well known phrase, “Ignorance is bliss”. On occasions it may be so but not always for the other person. When a driver cuts you on the motorway it probably doesn’t matter to you whether the person knew what he was doing - you are upset and rightly so.

When the assistant at the department store ignores you for five minutes then hits the wrong button and has to call the supervisor to correct it - you don’t really care that it is her first day on the job. You shouldn’t have had to wait.

When the person in front of you in the “ten items or less” queue unloads 20 items then haggles over the price you could chalk it up to maths deficiency but what dominates your thoughts is that you have been inconvenienced; your quick trip to the shops has lasted longer than War and Peace.

Today’s verse, Ray said, is a statement made by Jesus not at a checkout or on the motorway but on the cross. He wasn’t being inconvenienced. He was being killed. Yet still he reached out with a kindness we often lack, forgiving the ones who pounded nails into his hands.

But what was it all about? Did they not know what they are doing? Of course they knew. Roman soldiers are trained to kill. As for the religious leaders of the time, they found Jesus an embarrassment. So both parties wished him killed.

Many of those who put Jesus to death on the cross probably did not know how much they were hurting God. Amazingly, through his pain God takes pity on all and grants forgiveness. Ray concluded with a short prayer.

The Moderator thanked Ray for her talk which had started with amusing anecdotes and concluded in a very serious and thoughtful way.

3 COMMUNION

3.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

3.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He thanked Evelyn Graham and Margo Neilson who had assisted by sitting at the Communion Table and highlighted the contributions of those who had carried out the preparatory work and also would be cleaning and putting away the glasses and trays later on.

4 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 10th JANUARY 2010 AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the elders on the Duty Team including Jan Barr, Jane Curror and Nancy Fisher and from John Curror.

4. CHANGES TO THE COMMUNION ROLL

David Dundas intimated the deaths of Mrs Agnes Munro, Whitecraigs Nursing Home and Mr Fred Hooper, 36 Cromarty Gardens.

5. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

The Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2009			408
Number removed from Roll during 2009	by Death	8	
	by Certificate	1	
	by Otherwise	0	
			9
Number added to Roll during 2009	by Profession	0	
	by Certificate	0	
	by Otherwise	1	
			1
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2009			400
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2009			11
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2008			7

The Moderator thanked David Dundas for his work throughout the year in maintaining the Communion Roll.

6. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with unanimous approval and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

7. CHILD PROTECTION

The Session Clerk stated that he had spoken with John Curror who had indicated that he believed he was carrying out Child Protection procedures as required. Elders agreed with the following statement. It is certified that Child Protection procedures are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons serving as voluntary workers with children and young people in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the congregation’s Child Protection Coordinator is appropriately trained to allow that person to be accredited as an authorised signatory for criminal record checks.

8. EXTRACT MINUTE FROM PRESBYTERY REGARDING TENURE

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received an extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of Glasgow Presbytery’s held on the 8th December 2009 with the instruction that it be engrossed in the next minutes of the Kirk Session. The extract, which was read to the elders stated:

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW

AT GLASGOW on the 8th Day of December 2009 the Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.

**Inter Alia:-
MISSION STRATEGY**

251 **Stamperland** (C)

Following a review it is recommended that the congregation of Stamperland be granted a further 5 year Reviewable Tenure.

The Presbytery received the Report and approved the recommendations.

Extracted by me this 9th day of December 2009

(signed)
The Revd Dr Angus Kerr
Clerk of Presbytery

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being Monday, 1st February. Elders were reminded of the Safeguarding Training Course at Greenbank Parish Church on Thursday, 21st January which was scheduled to start at 7.00 pm

10. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 5 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Pat McIlraith, Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Connell Cranston, Iain Fulton and Alastair Graham

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 22 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 2nd December as a true record was proposed by Mrs Ray McNiven and seconded by Mrs Nancy Fisher. The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 6th December as a true record was proposed by Mrs Grace Walker and seconded by Mr Fraser Mackintosh. The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 10th January as a true record was proposed by Mrs Kay Bolton and seconded by Mr Bill Paterson. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Twinning

The Moderator stated that the Rev Stuart Duff, minister of Lochwood Parish Church, had attended morning worship at Stamperland on Sunday 10th January. The Moderator said that he hoped to attend worship at Lochwood quite soon.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Quinquennial Visitation

The Moderator stated that there would be a Presbytery Quinquennial Visitation to Stamperland possibly in March. It was likely that the visitation would be led by Rev William Wilson of Burnside Blairbeth Church.

7.1.2 Safeguarding

The Moderator noted that fifteen elders had attended the Safeguarding training evening at Greenbank Parish Church and reminded those elders who had been unable to attend of the training arranged for the evening of the 11th February at Bridgeton St Francis church. All elders were required by Presbytery to attend a safeguarding training event.

Comments on the Greenbank event included the view that one of the presenters had given his presentation in a very dull manner not helped by speaking in a monotone style, that much of the presentation was simply “common sense” and that answers to questions had not been very precise. It was suggested that it would have been better to have arranged for the presentations to be made to smaller groups and that the number at the Greenbank event had been too large.

7.1.3 Christmas Services

The Moderator thanked all who had attended and assisted with the Christmas Services. The Christmas period had been characterised by some of the worst winter weather people could remember, with snow and ice covered pavements and roads making it difficult or impossible for some people to leave home. He expressed his appreciation for the work involved in printing and distributing the Christmas Cards around the parish. The snow conditions had precluded the delivery of some cards and it was agreed that the boys of the Boys’ Brigade should be asked to assist in future years.

The decoration of the church was also commended and those responsible were deserving of thanks. The Moderator said that he had been encouraged by the number of members wearing fancy hats at the Christmas Nativity Service and many visitors had commented to him of the very welcoming and relaxed atmosphere this engendered. In the circumstances of the adverse weather there had been quite good attendances at the Watchnight and Christmas Day Services.

Grace Scott commented that the Sunday School performance of the Nativity had given her a great feeling of Christmas. Janis Herriott said that she felt the Isobel Mair Service was brilliant with the children being excellent. The Moderator agreed and said that the Isobel Mair service was one which all elders should experience.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Congregational Statistics

The Session Clerk intimated that he had, as usual every January, returned the completed Congregational Statistics Form to the Presbytery Clerk and he presented a few of the statistics. The number of children in the various Sunday School departments had increased to 47 over the previous year. The number of boys in the Boys' Brigade was 75 a reduction of nine over the previous year. The number of Guides had reduced by six to 79. In contrast the number of Scouts had increased from 35 to 52 and there was now an Explorer Scout section.

The Moderator said that it was important that the church gave a high priority to developing links with the youths who attended the organisations. He hoped to have a Trainer from Glasgow Presbytery address the Kirk Session to help generate ideas and methods of engaging with and interacting with the young people and making the church relevant to their needs and ideas. With church membership numbers declining and with significant numbers of members housebound or semi-housebound, the young people were crucial to the future of the church.

7.2.2 Letter from Jane Curror, Stewardship Promoter

The Session Clerk read out a letter from Jane Curror in which she wrote that, having served as Stewardship Promoter for six or seven years, changes in her circumstances and commitments meant that she concluded that it was time to step down from the position. Jane wrote that she had organised two stewardship campaigns and thanked the members of the Stewardship Committee for their enthusiasm, friendship and support.

The Moderator expressed his thanks and that of the Kirk Session for all that Jane had done. It was a difficult task and it was often hard to get support and positive responses. It was, he said, a bit like the Grand National – hurdle after hurdle. He appreciated all the hard background work and the thoughtfulness which had gone into it.

Sam Esler recalled how Jane had once asked him, "What is the Job Description? Is stewardship about money or something else?" He said that we had been fortunate with our Stewardship Convenors with Jane following on from Kay Bolton.

8 COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Peace and Justice Committee

Evelyn Graham said that she and Edith Moseley had hosted the meeting of the Peace and Justice Forum which had been held in Stamperland Church on the 21st January. Many topics had been covered in a long meeting. Amongst the topics was Fairtrade Fortnight. Fairtrade Fortnight was from 21st February to 5th March. Events to mark Fairtrade Fortnight included a fashion show in Newton Mearns Baptist church and a competition for schools. Fairtrade was being highlighted at Sainsbury's Muirend supermarket. The Moderator commented that Fairtrade should not be considered only for a fortnight or only in connection with church activities. We are all stewards of the world and we should be considering Fairtrade in connection with our own domestic activities.

Evelyn said that the Forum had also discussed the matter of the BNP putting up a candidate for election at the forthcoming General Election and of the need to keep Climate Change on the agenda subsequent to the disappointing outcome of the Copenhagen Summit.

9 WORSHIP MUSIC

David Dundas asked elders to consider what might happen if we did not have the services of an organist for a protracted period. He suggested that a small committee be formed to look at potential options and prepare contingency plans so that, if there was no organist available, we would not start with a “blank sheet”. Options which David mentioned included sharing an organist with another church, seeking a group of instrumental musicians, having unaccompanied singing and using some form of recorded music. All present agreed that the suggestion of forming a committee should be adopted and that not all members need to be elders. It was agreed that the present organist, Mr Jack Henry should be informed of the intention to establish the committee and that it should not be seen as any kind of threat to his tenure; indeed, it could be useful to seek his input and suggestions.

10 SALUTATIONS AT MORNING WORSHIP

David Dundas said that when he attends services in America he has found that members of the congregation get up to shake hands and greet people during the “Welcome”. He has found this a pleasant and welcoming experience and wondered if we could adopt it. In Stamperland, even when the minister invites people to get up and greet those sitting around them, no one moves from their seat. Perhaps, he suggested, elders could get up and shake a few hands to lead by example.

The Moderator said that welcoming is important. Stamperland church was a place of warmth and fellowship. Some elders pointed out that some members would have difficulties in moving around and that not everyone might wish to participate in handshaking. It was agreed that elders should take a lead and that the minister could use words along the lines of “If you are able and if you wish, then please do get up and greet those around you with a welcoming hand”.

11 USE OF COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD TO DISPLAY ORDER OF SERVICE

David Dundas proposed that a copy of the Sunday Order of Service should be displayed in the Community Noticeboard. Both sides of the printed sheet would be displayed. Elders agreed that this was an excellent idea. Elders were asked note any comments from parishioners regarding the display of the Order of Service.

12 MARCH COMMUNION

12.1 Communion Duties

The Session Clerk asked elders to confirm their availability for Communion duties on the 7th March.

12.2 Retiring Offering

Elders agreed that the Retiring Offering should be donated to the Haiti Earthquake appeal.

12.3 Kirk Session Devotions

With no elder volunteering to lead elders’ devotions on the 7th March, the Moderator asked that elders willing to assist should contact him directly.

13 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Wednesday 3rd March.

Elders were reminded that there would be a meeting of the Trustees to approve the Annual Report. The date and time of that meeting would be intimated at the next Sunday service.

14 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd MARCH 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 13 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Connell Cranston, David Dundas, George Finlayson, Gordon Robertson, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Mrs Janis Herriot Mrs Sheila McIntosh, Mrs Edith Moseley, Mrs Margo Neilson, Miss Janet Stewart and Mrs Grace Walker.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Petra Hardie, a representative of the Presbytery's Mission and Discipleship Council, to the Meeting.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 15 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 1st February as a true record was proposed by Fraser Mackintosh and seconded by Mrs Jane Curror. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Quinquennial Visitation

The Moderator stated that the Presbytery Quinquennial Visitation to Stamperland was now likely to be held on the 26th April.

6.2 Safeguarding

The Moderator noted that only the Session Clerk had attended the Safeguarding training evening at Bridgeton St Francis church. This meant that only sixteen of the elders had attended a safeguarding training event and he reminded those present that all elders were required by Presbytery to attend a safeguarding training event.

The Session Clerk advised that "Safeguarding" should be a regular item on the Kirk Session Agenda.

6.3 Twinning

The Moderator advised that Rev Stuart Duff was sending his church's Prayer Diary and suggested that David Dundas be asked to e-mail the Order of Service to Lochwood Church.

6.4 Community Noticeboard

It was noted that the Community Noticeboard had been replaced by a new model. The Session Clerk stated that the church would be given a key to the new noticeboard.

6.5 Meeting of Trustees to Approve Annual Report

The Moderator thanked the Session Clerk for chairing the meeting of the Trustees.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Letter from Blythswood Care

The Moderator stated that he had received a letter from Blythswood Care acknowledging with thanks the donation of £71 in connection with the buckets of Love Appeal. The funds raised from the appeal were being sent to South India to provide relief after the severe flooding in that area.

7.1.2 Electrical Work at the Manse

The Moderator intimated that the manse family would move out during the week beginning 5th April to allow contractors unrestricted access to carry out the re-wiring of the electrical

circuits. He proposed that the April meeting of the Kirk Session was moved to the 19th April.

7.1.3 Concord Singers' Concert

The Moderator stated that he had received a request from the organist, Jack Henry, for the Concord Singers to perform Stainer's Crucifixion in the church one Sunday evening in April. Elders agreed that the request should be granted.

7.1.4 Sounds International Concert

The Moderator stated that he had received a request from Sounds International, the choir which practice in the church hall on Tuesday evenings, to perform a fund-raising concert in the church in aid of the Haiti earthquake victims on the 18th or 25th May. There would be no specific involvement of church members in selling tickets or providing refreshments. Elders agreed that the request should be granted.

7.1.4 General Assembly

The Moderator stated that he would be a Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May.

8. WORKING AND LINKING WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND OUR BUILDINGS

8.1 Introduction

The Moderator said that we have a lot of young people on the periphery of our church. We have to find ways of engaging with them, interacting with them and showing them how the church is relevant to them. To assist in this endeavour he had invited Mrs Petra Hardie of the Presbytery's Mission and Discipleship Council to the Kirk Session meeting.

8.2 Petra Hardie Presentation

Petra Hardie started by asking John Curror to read the story of Jesus meeting two men on the road to Emmaus. She said that this story had a number of elements. It described how Jesus met the men on their journey and how he was interested in their conversations. The discourse used familiar symbols and showed the importance of building relationships and of spending time with people.

In dealing with young people there were, she said, a number of strategic principles. These included

- that young people should be given the opportunity to thrive in all areas of life
- respect should be given
- youth work programmes should be open to all regardless of whether they attend church
- young people should be challenged to make a contribution to church life at local, presbytery and national level
- local churches should offer relevant ways for young people to learn and worship.

She said that people working with youths should engage with the young and the lives they live. They should be well-organised and plan for relevance. The learning experience should look at personal, social, political and economical issues as well as moral and religious aspects. Leaders should be flexible and open to the young people's opinions. Importantly, too, leaders should maintain skills and competences by keeping up-to-date with training.

Petra Hardie gave two examples where churches engaged with young people. One was Wellington Church in Glasgow. This church has no youth organisations and few young people attended on a Sunday morning. However, they organised a "Cosy Cafe" in the local Hillhead School. Once a week volunteers took a large box with coffee and cocoa mugs and set up a cafe with a FairTrade "tuck shop". The other example was Boghall Church. The church was located opposite the secondary school and on Wednesday lunchtimes the church opened to provide sandwich lunches and the opportunity to play pool and some other games. In both cases the volunteers chatted with the young people.

It was, she said, important to enable young people to have a voice. Churches should offer listening, prayer and other forms of support. Churches should work with all of the youth organisations within a church; there should be a coming together of all ages in church.

At Presbytery level, Petra Hardie said there were a number of youth-centred initiatives including a monthly e-bulletin allowing easy communication of news and opportunities; a three-week long course, “Re-discover”, for 18 year olds explaining the Christian Faith; a youth leader lunch/breakfast providing opportunities for youth leaders to share experiences and seek assistance; Presbytery undertook the training of youth leaders; Presbytery promoted delegates to the Youth Assembly.

8.3 Discussion

Elders were asked to think of adults who had influenced them when they were young. Responses included school teachers, ministers, BB officers, leaders of other youth organisations. Petra commented that we remember from our youth people who spent time with us. Only when you have a well-established relationship can you ask things of them such as commitment, help, effort, etc. in specific areas.

Elders recalled that in earlier years the family unit was stronger than at present, that there was respect for “The Sabbath”, that with Sunday School and Church and Bible Class a whole day could be spent attending church. Petra said that one has to accept the society in which we are; things have changed – we are no longer in the 1950s and 1960s.

Elders were urged by Petra to think about what could be done realistically. It was important not to aim too high. There was a suggestion that all Guides, Scouts and BB could be invited to a cafe-style event and that elders could spend time talking to them.

Elders highlighted that Stamperland had youth organisations of which we could be very proud. We probably had the best Guide leader in Scotland. We had one of the strongest BB Companies in Scotland. It was suggested that leaders of the youth organisations should be invited to an evening event where a wide range of topics could be discussed over food and drink. The leaders should be told how much they were appreciated and asked how the church could make things even better for them.

There was a proposal that there could be more informal parades of youth organisations. Rather than formal uniformed “parades” with flags and march-pasts, there could be worship where one of the youth organisations took leading roles. Another idea was to question whether “Sunday School” had necessarily to meet on a “Sunday” or to meet in the church buildings.

8.4 Conclusion

The Moderator thanked Petra Hardie for her presentation and her interaction with the elders. Her presentation had caught the imagination of elders and initiated useful discussion. Over the coming months it was important that steps were initiated to ensure that the ideas were followed up with positive action.

9 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Monday 19th April. Elders were reminded of the Communion Service on Sunday and that devotions would, as usual, start at 10.30am.

10 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 7th MARCH 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE.**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Rev. George Mackay with prayer and a reading from Luke Chapter 6, the parable of the fig tree.

2. DEVOTIONS

The moderator started his address by telling a story of a man who was walking through the countryside when he noticed a young fellow standing at attention in a field. In the afternoon, the walker came back along the same path and noticed that the fellow was still there. Curious, he approached and asked what the young man was doing. "I'm practicing for the Nobel Prize," the man replied. "How's that?" asked the visitor. "Well," said the young man, "one of the criteria is to be outstanding in your chosen field."

The fig tree, said the Moderator, was only required to produce figs – nothing more. We are asked only to accomplish what our God has given gifts to allow. The point is that God does not ask us to become what we are not. But we are asked to accomplish that which we were created for.

God is not asking of us that we win a Nobel Prize. He is not asking that we produce more fruit than everyone else - or better fruit than that which our brothers and sisters in Christ produce - but he does expect us to produce the fruit that we are able to produce. And each one of us is able to bear fruit – each one of us is gifted by God with the ability to produce what the Scriptures call in some places "the fruit worthy of repentance" and in other places "the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the fruit that is described in the fifth chapter of the Letter to The Galatians as consisting of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control"

The question is, is it that important to us? Are we willing to give it our best? We had Petra Hardie here, only last Wednesday. In many of the little comments she left us to reflect on in working with young people and making connections, she reminded us that to build relationships with the children,

takes time and hard work. 'How committed are you to work at it?' You can't say to the children 'you are not interested in the church' if we are not willing to put the effort in for them.

The fig tree - how much effort is there? Are we willing to love our enemies? To forgive those who have hurt us? To bring hope to those who despair? To encourage those who are faltering? To share the good news of Jesus with those who are looking for new life? To sacrifice our possessions and our time for those who are in greater need than us? To judge others by the standard that we would be judged by? To render unto God the praise that He deserves? To show others that we believe fully in a living and loving God, - a God who lives and acts in and through us - a God who seeks to heal others and make the world a better place for all. These are hard words in this Lenten season and as we break bread, for a man and our Saviour who did his best for us.

3 USE OF COMMON CUP

The Moderator asked elders whether they were minded to be served wine from a Common Cup or from an individual glass. All elders agreed that the Common cup should be used. #

4 COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He thanked David Dundas and Sam Esler who had assisted by sitting at the Communion

Table and highlighted the contributions of those who had carried out the preparatory work and also would be cleaning and putting away the glasses and trays later on.

4 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd MAY 2010 IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Isaiah Chapter 40 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from George Finlayson and Fraser Mackintosh

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 24 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 3rd March as a true record was proposed by Mrs Grace Walker and seconded by Mrs Ray McNiven. The adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 7th March as a true record was proposed by Mrs Jane Curror and seconded by Miss Jan Barr. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

It was noted that Kirk Session meeting scheduled for the 19th April had been cancelled as the Moderator had to attend a meeting of a higher court.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Quinquennial Visitation

The Moderator thanked all elders who had attended. He indicated that he was pleased by the number of "ordinary members", i.e. members who were neither elders nor members of the Congregational Board, who had attended. Several elders also commented positively on this aspect. There was agreement that the relatively informal way in which Rev William Wilson and Margaret Macaulay conducted the Quinquennial Visitation had been very good. The Moderator advised that a date had been arranged on which the Rev William Wilson and Margaret Macaulay would visit him at the Manse and that subsequent to that meeting the Quinquennial Team would prepare a report. Copies of the report would be sent to the Moderator and Session Clerk who would correct any factual errors before the report was presented to the Presbytery Superintendence Committee.

6.2 Twinning

The Moderator advised that Rev Stuart Duff, minister of Lochwood Church, was on sick leave and might be on sick leave for a further month.

6.3 Community Noticeboard

There was agreement that the new Community Noticeboard was a significant improvement on the previous one. David Dundas now had a key to the noticeboard.

6.4 Recruitment of New Elders

Edith Moseley asked the Moderator about progress in recruiting new elders and about the ordination of Mrs Sheena Skelton, in particular. The Moderator indicated that it was probably better not to ordain Sheena Skelton on her own and that with the possible change to the constitution it would be appropriate to leave the ordination of elders until after the summer. This would give him time to consider the benefits of changing the constitution. David Dundas commented that there was a need for additional elders to ensure that members within the parish were visited.

6.5 Electrical Work at the Manse

The Moderator reported that the electrical re-wiring work was virtually complete.

6.6 Concord Singers' Concert

The Session Clerk advised that the Concorde Singers had made a donation of £50 to the church following their performance of Stainer's Crucifixion on the 25th April.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Scottish Parliament End of Life Bill

The Moderator intimated that all of the ministers in Clarkston Churches Together had received a letter of reply from Jim Murphy, MP and Ken Mcintosh, MSP in response to their letter related to the End of Life Bill which was scheduled to be debated in the Scottish Parliament.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 June Communion

The Session Clerk advised elders that Margo Neilson had agreed to organise and oversee the arrangements for the June Communion. It was agreed that Pat McIlraith would take notes and prepare the minute of the Session Meeting on Sunday, 6th June.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

Anne MacKenzie reported that the problems related to the vacancy situation at Giffnock South Church had dominated the March meeting. Giffnock South Church had appealed to the General Assembly and a special commission had been established to review the matter. The Commission would meet at the end of the General Assembly. Our minister, who is the Interim Moderator at Giffnock South, was heavily involved and the matter was giving him a significantly increased workload.

9 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

David Dundas presented the following report to the elders.

Change of Address

Mrs Vera Reid	Moved to: 6 The Paddock, Busby (Dist. 6)
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Death

Mrs Elizabeth Audrey Sleigh	93 Stamperland Ave. (Dist. 7)
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Removed from Roll

Mrs Margaret Cherry	73 Stamperland Drive (Removed at her own request as she is moving to Hamilton)
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Transfer

Mr William Shaw and Mrs Alexandrina Shaw	To:- St Nicholas Church, Prestwick
This is an amendment to records as the above were previously removed from the roll by resolution of the Kirk Session on 1/10/08.	

New Member

Mrs Elizabeth McFadyen 33 Nethervale Avenue, G44 3XS (District 21)	From: Netherlee Parish Church by Certificate of Transference
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Elders agreed to a proposal that Mrs Betty Thomson, 2 Stamperland Drive should be admitted as a new member by resolution of the Kirk Session.

10 SAFEGUARDING

John Curror reminded elders of the need for all elders to attend a Safeguarding Training course. He advised that he would inform the Kirk Session of the dates of future training courses.

Questions were asked about the need for all elders to attend and about any sanctions or actions which would be taken against elders who did not attend. There was discussion of the issues. Safeguarding was meant to ensure that active measures were taken to protect all vulnerable people and vulnerable people were not simply “youth” but also adults and, basically, anyone who came into the church. Elders bore a collective responsibility for all that happened within the church and under the auspices of the church and, as such, it was important to have knowledge of a wide range of issues and potential issues. In the absence of any specific information John Curror was asked to seek clarification.

11 CONSULTATION PAPER FROM THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS AND THE MINISTRY

The Moderator introduced the topic advising that all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions have been instructed by the Special Commission on Same-sex Relationships and the Ministry to respond to their Consultation Paper. Each elder had received a copy of the consultation document. Following an open discussion on the topics raised in the consultation document each elder would be given a secret ballot document. Elders should complete this document at home and return it to the Session Clerk. The Session Clerk would collate the individual responses into a single return which would list the range of views expressed by the Kirk Session. The summary return would then be sent to the Commission. The information had to be sent to Edinburgh by the 28th May and so completed ballot papers would need to be returned to the Session Clerk no later than Sunday, 23rd May.

The Special Commission had prepared a short video which introduced the topic and highlighted different viewpoints. Elders watched the video and then broke into small discussion groups. Later there was some discussion within the Session as a whole.

At the end of the discussion each elder was given a secret ballot form and a plain envelope in which to return the completed form to the Session Clerk.

The Moderator thanked the elders for their contributions to both the small and large discussion groups and said that he appreciated the thoughtfulness and openness which had been displayed.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Monday, 7th June.
 The Date of the next Communion Service was noted as Sunday, 6th June and elders were reminded that Kirk Session devotions would commence at 10.30 am.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 6th JUNE 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 7, a prayer and the singing of CH3 Hymn 411.

In the absence of the Session Clerk, Mrs. Pat McIlraith took the Oath to undertake the duties of the Session Clerk during this meeting.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator began his talk saying that he had been watching the news about the tragedy in Cumbria when John Stapelton came out with the usual banal and bland question to the local vicar, 'Where is God in this?' implying that, for such a thing to happen, there can be no God.

The question is unhelpful because, for the reporter, his enquiry about the existence of the Almighty is based on this current event - he is not asking about every other shooting that takes place in the world.

When tragedy, illness, hurt strikes, in whatever way, faith is challenged and it is with those whose faith is built on rock that survival is the greatest. You see it is easy to believe in a God in a beautiful sunny day, when birds are singing, the colours vibrant around you but if your faith rests on shifting sand and suddenly and without warning a man takes a gun and fires it indiscriminately and inexplicably at those he comes across, you will then discover if what you believe gives you comfort. So, in the simplest level, the question is silly because it shows a lack of understanding about faith and about the way God works.

It is an inane question also because the people of Whitehaven and in Cumbria as a whole who have had more than their fair share of tragedy, can find God in a word that we use often in a blasé way - 'community'.

We talk a lot about community. Politicians do, clergy do. Often it's little more than an aerosol word - sprayed around more for its feeling than its meaning. It's a feel good word. So we talk about 'care in the community' or 'community policing' - often more a matter of pious hope than reality. The truth is that affluence has made us live more to ourselves; we have become neglectful of community. In country areas it often hangs by a thread as all the places where community is informally built - the post office, the village school, the country pub, the parish church - have been allowed to atrophy or die.

In Cumbria people still have, by and large, strong bonds of friendship and neighbourliness. They know what it means to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. This will be a most significant source of healing, not just for today, but for the years to come - because healing for these families will be a lifetime's work. And it is there, God will be.

This is not the time to deal with the questions, that will come later. Now, it is the time for sharing in the perplexity, the anger and the pain through someone who did it from the inside as one of us. This morning we break bread and drink wine and remember that it is through a body broken that life can begin again. And it is through 'community' and why this holy place is so important here in Stamperland. Where, communally we understand the ups and downs of living - and by supporting each other we show the living God, to those who laugh and weep.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

It was agreed that the retiring offering be sent to support the people of Cumbria.

4. CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations were expressed to Margo Neilson on the safe and welcome arrival of her first grandchild, a little boy called Kyle Thomas.

5 COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to Evelyn Graham and Grace Scott for attending at the table and to Pat McIlraith for acting pro-term as Session Clerk. He also expressed his appreciation of the work undertaken by Norrie Bolton, Session Clerk throughout the year and stated that it had been a great pleasure to have celebrated with Kay and Norrie the joy of their daughter, Fiona’s marriage the previous day.

6 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 7th JUNE 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from 1 Kings Ch17 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from William Anderson, John Curror, David Dundas, George Finlayson and Alastair Graham, Jane Curror, Nancy Fisher, Janis Herriot, Edith Moseley, Margo Neilson and Grace Scott.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 15 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There was one correction to the minutes of 3rd May. In Item 5, Minutes of the Previous Meeting, the adoption of the minutes was proposed by Grace Scott and not Grace Walker. With this error corrected the adoption of the Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 3rd May as a true record was proposed by Mrs Pat McIlraith and seconded by Mrs Grace Walker. The amended minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Quinquennial Visitation

The Moderator advised elders that the Rev William Wilson had met with him at the Manse on Thursday, 3rd June. It had been provisionally arranged that the Rev William Wilson would preach at Stamperland Parish Church on Sunday, 19th September.

6.2 Giffnock South Church

The Moderator told elders that the Special Commission Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met in Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh. Giffnock Parish Church won their appeal and Glasgow Presbytery was instructed that Giffnock South Church was to be allowed to have an unrestricted call.

6.3 Attendance at a Safeguarding Training

The Moderator told elders that he had spoken to Rev Howard Hudson regarding the requirement for elders to attend a Safeguarding Training Meeting. He said that he had been advised that the Kirk Session is responsible for Safeguarding in the church and that it is not simply the responsibility of the John Curror. It was thus sensible and wise for all elders to be aware of their individual and collective responsibilities. There was also mention of the possibility that the church's insurance cover and charity status could be affected but the comments were not very specific.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Thanks to Sam Esler and David Dundas

The Moderator thanked Sam Esler and David Dundas for leading worship whilst he was attending the General Assembly. He recalled that George Fraser had highlighted at the recent Quinquennial Visitation how fortunate the church was that a number of elders were able and willing to lead worship. Many churches found it very difficult to fill their pulpits. Additionally, we were fortunate in that Anne MacKenzie conducted services at Eastwoodhill and Williamwood.

7.1.2 Clarkston Churches Together

The Moderator said that he had spoken to Rev Tom Nelson about the Pentecost Picnic. Mr Nelson had described the event as a "disaster" and that it had been badly organised. He was grateful that Stamperland Church had had a presence at the event.

7.1.3 General Assembly 2010

The Moderator said that the General Assembly had been quiet and, generally, "low key". There had been a re-emphasis on territorial ministry. The third article declaratory stated that there should be a church in every parish and the Assembly agreed that this was the way forward. After the Reformation the intention was to have a church in a parish for all in that parish, a school in every parish and a church in every parish. The Moderator said that the "Church" had forgotten its responsibility to be missionary, to spread the gospel of Christ. There are financial implications and the church recognises the need to balance the books. In certain aspects if the church couldn't afford to do something then it shouldn't do it. As a rule, Church of Scotland members had forgotten what sacrificial offerings really are. We didn't have collections on Sunday we had offerings. If more members gave sacrificially then we wouldn't have a financial crisis.

The General Assembly had decided that when a vacancy was declared in a church the normal condition would be 'reviewable tenure' and not an 'unrestricted call'.

7.1.4 Unitary Constitution

In response to a question from Connell Cranston about the change in constitution which had been referred to at a previous Session meeting the Moderator said that he was considering the implications and benefits of changing from a Model Constitution to a Unitary Constitution. Under the Model Constitution the church had two governing bodies, the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board. Under the Unitary Constitution there was only one major court. Currently, elders were members of both the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board. Under a Unitary Constitution elders would be required to attend fewer major meetings; however, there would be larger sub-committees than at present with membership extended to involve more of the congregation than is presently the case. These committees would work to bring reports and recommendations to the major court.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Results from Secret Ballot on Same Sex Relationships and the Ministry

The Session Clerk advised elders that he had collated the results of the secret ballot and sent the completed form to the clerk of the Special Commission.

Twenty five elders had attended the special meeting to discuss the issue. Twenty five ballot papers had been issued. Twenty one ballot papers had been returned. Of the twenty one papers returned one was completely blank. The Session Clerk stated that it was not really possible to give a verbal summary of the overall voting response since most of the questions to be voted on offered a number of options and the description of each option ran to a paragraph of writing. He said that the summary was available for inspection should any elder wish to see it.

There was some discussion on the topic. Points made by various people included the following: irrespective of the views of church members it was agreed that there was a need for the church to obey civil law; when we look at the Bible we need to look to see what it says to the world in which we live today; some people took a stricter view or interpretation of Scripture than others.

Elders agreed that the consultation procedure and the voting had been entirely democratic and that no one had tried to influence the thoughts of the Kirk Session. There had apparently been reports of instances where a minister had indicated the responses which elders should give when completing the ballot paper.

The Moderator thanked the Session Clerk for his work in collating the responses.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

Anne MacKenzie's report for March and May was circulated in advance of the Kirk Session Meeting. There were no questions.

9 PARISH AND BEYOND COMMITTEE

9.1 Parish and beyond Committee

9.1.1 Coffee Morning

It was reported that the Parish and Beyond would like to run a Coffee Morning on 2nd October to raise funds for the Lodging House Mission and wished to seek the permission of the Kirk Session to hold the event. Elders agreed with the request.

9.1.2 Visitor's Book

It was reported that the Visitor's Book had suffered water damage and had been defaced. Connell Cranston had removed the defaced pages but the book was no longer in good condition. It was agreed that a new book should be purchased but that it should be kept under 'lock and key' and not left in the vestibule.

9.1.3 "What's on" publication

It was reported that Alastair Graham had offered to have a small leaflet printed at no cost to the church publicising the organisations and significant events in the church.

9.1.4 Involvement of Young People in Morning Worship

It was reported that following the talk by Petra Hardie regarding young people in the church, Alastair Graham was keen to do something and had wondered whether the young members of Quest might like to stay in church after the Children's Address and perhaps read the first Bible lesson.

10 RETIRING OFFERING

The Moderator reminded elders that the retiring offering from the previous day's Communion Service was to be sent to "Cumbria" following the tragic shootings. It had not been clear exactly to whom the retiring offering should be sent and one possibility was the minister of Whitehaven Church. Kay Bolton, the Treasurer, was asked to send the offering to an appropriate organisation.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Monday, 6th September.

12 PASTORAL TIME

The Moderator asked elders for names of people whom they wished to be remembered in prayer and then led the meeting in prayer.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 14 and a prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator began his talk with a story. There once was a church and it was a glorious building in its day. Its ceiling arched over the people like praying hands as they worshipped while its enormous doors slowly swung open and church to keep the people in and the world out. A steeple reached closer to heaven than anything else and the pulpit did much the same. The church stood as a symbol of all that was worthy. A well maintained building with a congregation who cared about what people thought and who provided a generous welcome to anyone who came.

But as time went on, passers-by noticed that the building didn't look as it once did; the stained glass windows were broken; the doors squeaked; the steeple clock stopped. People commented that the church wasn't being cared for.

They should take a lesson from that new youth club and the recently launched lunch group for the homeless which seemed to be successful in raising money.

With time, the church fell into greater disrepair. Doors were hanging off their hinges, slates covered only half the roof, the pulpit had become a pigeon's nest. A meeting of the town council was called about the state of the church. At the meeting people wanted to know what had happened to the church. Why was there no pride in the building anymore? Did the members not care about the village? People raised questions throughout the meeting until one of the members, an old woman whom everyone knew to be a faithful member, a caring person, a lovely lady stood up. The room fell silent.

"My friends," she said, "my dear friends, you know how dear the church is to me. I have been a member there all my life and I want you to know the church has never been more proud of itself in its life because, as a new repair has been needed, we decided to use that money instead to fund a new youth project, or homeless shelter. The church has given of itself to provide what the village really needed and as a pipe burst or a slate fell off, something else was given life. The debt to us is life for the community. And I have never been more proud of the church than I am today." Everyone left the meeting in silence and the church in ruins stood as evidence of a community given life.

The Moderator continued by saying that in this morning's readings you will find in Luke Chapter 14, verse 33 the line, 'none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up everything he has.' To give of ourselves sacrificially is Christ like. And it is what the Church is for.

3. RETIRAL OFFERING

It was agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to Christian Aid with the request that it be used to support of the victims of the flooding in Pakistan.

4 COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to John Curror and Bill Paterson for attending at the table.

The Moderator reminded elders that the afternoon Communion would be celebrated at Eastwoodhill.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 40, a short reflection on the passage and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alastair and Evelyn Graham, William Anderson, Connell Cranston, Iain Fulton, Raymond Russell, Nancy Fisher, Pat McIlraith and Grace Scott

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 18 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 6th June were amended to show that Anne Mackenzie rather than Grace Scott had assisted at the Communion Table. Adoption of the amended minutes as a true record was proposed by Mrs Ray McNiven and seconded by Mrs

Grace Walker. The Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on 7th March were amended with the deletion of the word, “the”, before the words “John Curror” in section 6.3. Adoption of the amended minutes as a true record was proposed by Jan Barr and seconded by Kay Bolton. The two minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Quinquennial Report

The Moderator informed the elders that he had received a copy of the full Quinquennial Report which would be submitted to the Presbytery’s Superintendence Group and also a copy of the abridged version which would be presented to the Presbytery.

6.1.1 Full Report

Glasgow Presbytery Team: Rev William Wilson
 Margaret Macaulay
 Apologies — Alex Allan

Stamperland is situated in Clarkston. Rev George Mackay has been minister there since 2004. The team conducted an open meeting for all interested members of the congregation on 26th April 2010 and met with the minister on 3rd June. Arrangements are in place for the conduct of worship.

The congregation is seventy years old. Events to celebrate this anniversary have included or will include a church trip and a church lunch.

Membership of Stamperland currently stands at around 400 members. Average attendance at morning worship is around 120. Those who met with the visiting team were warm and welcoming and recent incomers to the congregation speak of this as a feature of congregational life. The comment, "there is a family feeling within the church," summed up the sentiments of those present at the meeting. Although membership is declining, the decline is slow and the numbers present at worship remain consistent.

There are large numbers of children and young people involved in the organisations which meet in the church. These include BB, Scouts and Guides. In common with many congregations, difficulties are experienced staffing these. The congregation would love to see many of these children and young people present as part of their worshipping community. Frustration was expressed that although large numbers of children and young people use the buildings throughout the week, this is not reflected in the worshipping community. Conscious efforts are made to ensure that the congregation is child friendly and helpful training has been given to that end by Petra Hardie, the Presbytery youth worker. The congregation should be encouraged as the number of children and young people at "Stepping Stones" is rising. This was an area highlighted in the last Quinquennial visit.

The congregation is administered according to the Model constitution. There are around thirty elders and the Kirk Session meets about ten times per year. The meetings alternate between the full Kirk Session and in committees. The Board meets about eight times in the year and has finance, fabric and social and fundraising committees. The Minister expressed a desire to involve more members in the committee structure with a unitary constitution as a possible vehicle to allow this to happen.

Approximately one third of members live outside the parish although most of these remain local to the church. Some elders expressed a desire to extend district pastoral visits to those who are currently covered by postal districts, but at the moment this is impractical.

Worship is very relaxed and happy. The Minister follows the Lectionary. An organist and singing group lead the praise. Communion is celebrated monthly. The church is also open on a Wednesday morning for a period of reflection. Nurture is also provided through fortnightly house groups.

The Minister serves as a chaplain to Netherlee Primary School and Williamwood High School. Both of these are shared chaplaincies. He conducts approximately twenty funerals per year. He has recently had demanding Presbytery responsibilities including

acting as Interim moderator in a vacancy which has lasted longer than was initially anticipated.

The buildings are extensively used by the community during the week. Organisations using the buildings include a Mother and Toddler group, homework groups, a choir and a pipe band which had its roots in the BB.

Recent work on property has included replacement of windows in the vestibule and rewiring in both the church and the manse. The church building has a flat roof and so a contingency fund is kept in place to allow for repairs as the roof has already lasted beyond its expected lifespan. Fluorescent lighting needs to be replaced in the building and the congregation are awaiting advice from Presbytery to allow this to happen. Some further work needs to be done on the manse.

Finance is a challenge for the congregation. Most years, expenditure outstrips income and the finances have been dependent on legacies. Giving has not kept pace with inflation although many members are retired and so have had to reduce their giving. Christmas and spring fairs are used as a means of fundraising. The congregation seeks to be innovative in its fundraising running a variety of activities during the year. In order to ensure that finance does not become a dominant issue the potential for more sacrificial giving by members needs to be constantly borne in mind.

Links with Lochwood Church of Scotland in Easterhouse have been established. It is hoped to build on this initiative although it is currently delayed due to the illness of the Lochwood minister. Stamperland congregation is also active in Clarkston Churches together and this link with neighbouring congregations is both valued and fulfilling. Alpha courses at Cathcart Trinity are promoted within the Stamperland community while there is a leaflet drop at both Christmas and Easter. The congregation also actively participate in Christian Aid week. Members of the church lead a service at Mearns Kirk Hospital on a regular basis while there is involvement with Williamwood House and Eastwoodhill Eventide Home as well as the Lodging House Mission.

Recommendations

There are significant encouragements in the life of Stamperland congregation. The growth of the church as a family church is to be welcomed and the efforts which have been made to ensure that worship is welcoming and appealing for all ages should be continued. In particular, the work to develop child friendly services should be maintained. The proposal for twinning with Lochwood Parish Church is likely to be beneficial for both congregations and these ties should be built upon. The congregation faces financial challenges. In recent years giving has been slightly under budget while expenditure has been over budget. Expenditure does not appear to be extravagant and so the challenge facing the congregation is to ensure that income and giving is maximised.

The congregation seeks to engage with the community through its website and participation in community life. This is to be welcomed and encouraged.

The Presbytery congratulates the congregation on its 70th anniversary and encourages the congregation in its ongoing work and witness.

6.1.2 Abridged Report

The Quinquennial visits took place over April - June. The visiting team were warmly received. The impression was of a warm, welcoming congregation which is close-knit but not inward looking. Membership stands at around 400 with an average attendance at morning worship of around 120. It has been encouraging recently that young families have started to be part of the worshipping community.

Organisations which meet during the week include Scouts, BB and Guides. A large number of young people use the church building during the week. The congregation would love to see more of these present at worship and received help from the Presbytery's youth adviser in looking at ways to address this issue.

Rev George Mackay has been minister since 2004. His work is warmly appreciated by the congregation and they are conscious of Presbytery responsibilities which increased his workload such as serving as interim moderator at Giffnock South.

The congregation recently carried out work on both the church building and the manse. The church has a flat roof which has already lasted beyond its expected lifespan and a contingency fund is in place for when work needs to be done on the roof.

The minister spoke of clear objectives for the congregation over the coming period. This include development of the twinning arrangement with Lochwood church in Easterhouse, broadening the involvement of the congregation in leadership and ensuring that congregational giving is maximised. Developments in the congregation since the last quinquennial report have been encouraging and the congregation and minister are to be encouraged as they focus on their current and future objectives.

6.1.3 Comments

In response to the Moderator's request for comments on the report, Gordon Robertson stated that he considered the report was accurate and positive and encouraged us to carry on with our current activities. David Dundas commented that it hadn't highlighted any areas of weakness of which we weren't already aware. Edith Moseley said that the report gave the impression that there was more than one house group whilst Anne Mackenzie highlighted that there was no mention of the Guild.

Jane Curror said that she would have liked to see some more specific recommendations for action. Thus rather than simply stating that the church should continue to "develop child-friendly services" it could have given examples of specific actions and methods which could be implemented.

In ensuing discussion the Moderator highlighted the meeting arranged by Tom Macpherson with leaders of organisations as a good example of building links with organisations and improving communication.

6.2 Involving Young People in Worship

The Moderator advised that he would like to involve some of the youths in Stepping Stones and Quest as well as members of the uniformed organisations both in reading at the morning service and in other aspects of worship.

6.3 Donation of June Communion Retiring Offering to Cumbria

The Moderator reminded elders that the retiring offering at the June Communion was to support the people of Cumbria following the random shootings. Following a suggestion from one of our members, Nick Addington-Hall, the money was sent to the Cumbria Community Memorial Fund established by the Cumbria Community Foundation.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Cradle Roll Service

The Moderator stated that he was planning to hold a Cradle Roll Service. Children who were under the age of attending Stepping Stones would be invited to a service held in early September. The first service would be in September 2011.

The Moderator said that Dorothy Nicholson had agreed to up-date the Cradle Roll. However, she had been overtaken by illness before being able to start the task.

7.1.2 Book of Remembrance

The Moderator stated that Stamperland Church was fortunate in having a beautiful Book of Remembrance in which the names of people connected to Stamperland Church were written. For many years Jim MacKenzie had written the names and the Moderator expressed his personal thanks to Jim for this work. Recently, Jan Barr had volunteered to bring the entries up-to-date and had written almost ninety names.

The Moderator indicated that he planned to hold a Seasons of the Heart Service in a few month's time.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Church of Scotland Annual Review

The Session Clerk distributed copies of the Church of Scotland Annual Review to those present. It was suggested that once elders had read the Annual Review the document was placed in the church library so that all members could read a copy.

Following the limited time which elders had to scan the document there were comments to the effect that the document did not have a lot of information and gave the impression of being expensive to publish.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

Anne MacKenzie's report of the June meeting of Presbytery was circulated in advance of the Kirk Session Meeting. There was some discussion regarding unrestricted and reviewable tenure. The Moderator stated that as a result of decisions taken at the General Assembly, Glasgow Presbytery may have to review its costs. If significant economies had to be made then reviewable tenure charges would be disadvantaged in comparison to charges with unrestricted tenure.

9 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

David Dundas presented the following report to the elders.

Change of Address

Mrs Irene Heron 32 Netherpark Ave (Dist 23)	Moved to: 3c Fairfield Court, Clarkston, G76 7YG (Dist. 28)
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Death

Mr William Laing	123 Randolph Drive (Dist 15)
Mrs Helen Petrie	179 Randolph Drive (Dist 15)
Mr Peter Ferries (Adherent)	20 Riverside Court
Mrs Marion Kelly	
Mrs Jamesina Griffiths	

David Dundas advised elders that Mrs Mary Eadie, 2 Moray Gardens wished to become a member. Mrs Eadie had advised David that she had previously been a member of another church. Grace Walker said that she believed that Mrs Eadie had actually been a member of Stamperland Parish Church many years ago. Elders agreed with the suggestion from the Roll Keeper that Mrs Eadie should be admitted as a new member by resolution of the Kirk Session. The Session Clerk was advised to write to Mrs Eadie conveying the Session's decision and welcoming her as a new member.

10 SAFEGUARDING

John Curror advised elders that the General Assembly had instructed Kirk Sessions to make best use of the Church's training package on Safeguarding. There were, John stated, a number of elders who had not attended a recent training event and he requested the Kirk Session's permission to write to them and inform them of the dates of training meetings being held by Glasgow Presbytery in relatively local locations. The training events were on Saturday 23rd October at Cathcart Trinity Church and Thursday, 18th November at Pollokshields Church.

There was some discussion of the need for additional trainers able to lead training events and of the possibility of having training events in our own church.

11 REPORT FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Parish and Beyond

Elders were reminded of the Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd October being organised by the Parish and beyond Committee in support of the Lodging House Mission.

12 HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The Moderator stated that a date for the Harvest Thanksgiving service had still to be set. Elders agreed that there would be the opportunity to donate gifts in the form of packets, jars and tins of food as well as financial donations. Foodstuffs would be taken to the Lodging House Mission and money would be forwarded to Water Aid.

It was agreed that the retiring collection from the Armistice Service of Remembrance should be sent to Erskine Hospital.

13 STEPPING STONES CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

The Moderator intimated that Stepping Stones staff had found it difficult to prepare and practise the previous year’s Nativity Play and were looking for some members of the Kirk Session to assist them on a Sunday afternoon in December immediately after morning service and also one Wednesday evening in December. Grace Walker, Anne Mackenzie, Jane Curror and Kay Bolton all volunteered. Edith Moseley wondered if it might be appropriate to seek volunteers amongst, for example, the younger Guiders.

14 ELDERS VISITING ORGANISATIONS

The list of elders with the responsibility of visiting organisations was reviewed. The following list was agreed as provisional until all elders listed confirmed their willingness to continue.

ORGANISATION	ELDER
Stepping Stones and Quest Guides	Mr John Curror and Mr Bill Paterson
Brownie Guides	Miss Jess Thomson
Rainbow Guides	Mrs Anne MacKenzie
The Guild	Miss Jan Barr
House Groups	Mr Fraser Macintosh
Choir	Miss Jess Thomson
Boys Brigade (All Sections)	Mr Sam Esler
Scouts (inc Beavers and Cubs)	Mr Raymond Russell
	Mr Alastair Graham and Mrs Evelyn Graham

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Monday, 4th October. Subsequent dates were agreed as Wednesday, 3rd November and Wednesday, 1st December.

16 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4th OCTOBER 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 17, a short reflection on the passage and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sam Esler, Iain Fulton, Alastair Graham, Gordon Robertson, Jane Curror, Nancy Fisher, and Grace Scott

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Kirk Session Meetings held on Sunday, 5th September and Monday 6th September were circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of the 5th September as a true record was proposed by Miss Jan Barr and seconded by Mrs Edith Moseley. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting on the 6th September as a true record was proposed by Mrs Ray McNiven and seconded by Mrs Kay Bolton. The two minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Harvest Thanksgiving

The Moderator expressed his thanks and appreciation to everyone who had assisted with the Harvest Thanksgiving and, in particular, with the harvest displays and their subsequent transportation to the Lodging House Mission. Singled out for special mention were Edith Moseley, Jacquie Silcock, Sheena Skelton and Tom MacPherson and Alastair and Evelyn Graham. It was reported that a donation of £290 had been sent to Water Aid.

Evelyn Graham stated that a letter of thanks had been received from the Lodging House Mission.

The Moderator also commented on the success of the Coffee Morning held on Saturday 2nd October which raised over £300 for the Lodging House Mission. He said that the Coffee Morning had been quite well supported and had helped raise awareness of the Lodging House Mission. Taken together, the Coffee Morning and harvest donations had demonstrated concern for the people who have so little in our city and the people who have so little in the world.

6.2 Elders Visiting Organisations

The provisional list of elders with the responsibility of visiting organisations which had been submitted at the September meeting was reviewed and the following list confirmed.

ORGANISATION	ELDER
Stepping Stones and Quest Guides	Mr John Curror and Mr Bill Paterson
Brownie Guides	Miss Jess Thomson
Rainbow Guides	Mrs Anne MacKenzie
The Guild	Miss Jan Barr
House Groups	Mr Fraser Macintosh
Choir	Miss Jess Thomson
Boys Brigade (All Sections)	Mr Sam Esler
Scouts (inc Beavers and Cubs)	Mr Raymond Russell
	Mrs Evelyn Graham

The Moderator informed the elders that there was now only one Brownie Pack and that it was struggling to find sufficient adult leaders. He stressed that it was an important goal for the Kirk Session to build up better and closer relations with the youth organizations. In addition, as well as visits from elders, there had been a proposal to have an "Organisation Link Person" who would visit organizations a couple of times per year. The Moderator said that his wife was willing to take on this role if the elders were supportive of the idea and no elder volunteered to be the "Link Person". He reminded the elders that his wife was a

Rainbow Leader as well as the Superintendent of Stepping Stones and this new task would represent an extra workload.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Death of Mr James McIntosh

The Moderator told the elders that it was with regret that he had to announce the death of James McIntosh, husband of Sheila McIntosh, one of our elders. He had just come to the meeting from visiting Sheila. No date had been arranged for the funeral.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Various Correspondence

The Session Clerk stated that he had received various items of correspondence including information on the "Holy City" events for the session 2010 – 2011 and a request from the charity Mercy Ships.

7.2.2 Letter from David Dundas

The Session Clerk read a letter from David Dundas in which David announced that he wished to retire from being an active elder and from other church duties including that of Roll Keeper and the printing of the Order of Service. He recalled that he had been an elder for 47 years and was grateful for all the opportunities to serve and particularly wished to thank all of his fellow elders for their support. His decision to retire had been long-considered.

Elders recalled many of the activities which David had undertaken with dedication and commitment. He had been active in many aspects of Stamperland Church life and held a number of posts including Presbytery Elder and, latterly, Roll Keeper. He had been a very faithful elder regularly visiting his district, maintaining contact with the members outwith the parish in different ways and in attending Kirk Session meetings where his contributions were always well-considered. The Moderator expressed his thanks for all that David had done and for the many occasions when he had led worship on a Sunday morning.

8 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

8.1 Changes to the Roll

David Dundas prepared the following report prior to his retirement.

Death

Mrs Janet R. Scott	7 Stamperland Gdns.
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The Moderator noted the recent death of Mr James Macintosh.

8.2 Appointment of Roll Keeper

Bill Paterson offered to undertake the duties of Roll Keeper and this was agreed with acclamation.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

9.1 Written Report

Anne MacKenzie's report of the September meeting of Presbytery was circulated in advance of the Kirk Session Meeting. There was discussion on a number of points.

9.2 Congregational Prayer Promoters

Grace Walker asked if any elders would accompany her to the event on 12th February 2011 at Renfield St Stephens and Ray McNiven stated that she would.

9.3 Manse Schedule

Anne MacKenzie's report presented an extract from a Presbytery document relating to a proposed change in Standing Orders such that the Manse Condition Schedule would become a requisite part of the Quinquennial Visitation Paperwork. The Moderator reported that the Stamperland Schedule is not up-to-date. The next Quinquennial would not be "signed-off" until the Manse Schedule was up-to-date.

In response to a question regarding whether the manse was compliant with Presbytery Requirements, the Moderator indicated that the manse was not. It does not have sufficient rooms nor appropriate toilet facilities. Quite how the Quinquennial committee would regard

this wasn't known. Additionally, the church had not decorated any rooms in the Manse since he and his family moved in.

9.4 Presbytery Plan

The Moderator advised that the current Presbytery Plan was about to be suspended and a new one prepared. He explained some of the reasons behind the need for the change and outlined some possible implications.

The Church of Scotland had a deficit of £5.7 million. This was the result of a number of things including the fact that the National Stipend Scheme 2003 was based on there being only 800 ministers but the current number of ministers was higher than this. Congregational incomes had been essentially static and hence, income to the Church of Scotland had decreased. The Church of Scotland was experiencing a reduction in income from investments. There was a pension deficit and £26 million would be required over the next ten years to make good the funding shortfall. Standardised pay and conditions for those employed by the Church of Scotland had increased costs.

The Church of Scotland had plans to deal with the deficit with a view to eliminating it by 2014. There was a move to "prune in order to grow". An example of this was the decision to close the St Andrews Press. There was the move to "re-shape" the ministry with there being fewer ministers and more parish workers and deacons. Presbytery Plans would be revised to bring the numbers of full-time-equivalent ministers down to 1000 by 2014 with a sustainable budget.

The current Glasgow Presbytery Plan has 163 full-time-equivalent ministers; this will have to reduce to 131.6 full-time-equivalent ministers by 2014, a reduction of 31.4 full-time-equivalent ministers. Whilst the new plan is being drawn up the current Presbytery Plan is suspended. Some of the implications of the suspension are that existing vacant churches will, for the next 12 months, have the right to call a minister. Churches which have a vacancy after October 2010 will not have the right to call a minister. Reviewable tenure will continue during the suspension of the current plan. Building projects involving major work are to be suspended.

The Moderator commented that the Church of Scotland is becoming more realistic about the situation it faces and recognises that it needs to work within its financial resources. There is a need to look at ways of bringing in finance and funds from external sources and not just current members; the church in general and our church in Stamperland need to look at alternative sources of funding.

There was considerable discussion on this topic with general agreement that it was right and appropriate for the church to recognise the difficult financial position and take appropriate measures.

A question was asked about the cost of the General Assembly and whether decisions might not be made at a more local level. The Moderator agreed that there were opportunities for changing some aspects of the church's structure and governance but we were a Presbyterian Church and the General Assembly was the highest court. Another question related to student ministers to which the Moderator indicated that new students were being taken on but that not all of them would necessarily wish to plan to be a parish minister.

There was recognition of the need to engage with youth to ensure that there would, in future, be new, young people coming into the church. The youth organisations associated with the church were strong; there was opportunity to engage and work with them – the task should be easier than if there were no young people at all coming into the church premises. There was a suggestion that there could be a "youth council" which could enable young people to express their wishes regarding what they would like to see done for them. This led to a suggestion that it would be appropriate to ask the youth what they could do for the older people in the community and, subsequently, get them involved. There was a comment that whilst things could be done for the young people, many young people moved away from the area after they finished school or further education and it could not be expected that interaction with young people would lead to their attendance and subsequent membership of our church.

A comment was made that the current state of music in the church would not attract young people. Another comment was made that there should be more family services; the parade of organisations on the previous Sunday had resulted in a number of “new faces” in the congregation.

10 SAFEGUARDING

10.1 Safeguarding Training

John Curror again reminded elders of the training events on Saturday 23rd October at Cathcart Trinity Church and Thursday, 18th November at Pollokshields Church. Six elders had indicated they would attend the meeting at Cathcart Trinity Church and one had told him they would attend the meeting in Pollokshields Church.

10.2 Changes to Safeguarding Procedures

John Curror informed the Kirk Session that he had received a letter from the Safeguarding Office regarding interim arrangements to be put in place following the implementation of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 on the 30th November. This act requires all persons carrying out “regulated work” with children and/or protected adults to become a Vetting and Barring Scheme member. Full information about the new requirements and procedures will be sent to Congregational Safeguarding Coordinators in due course.

The Church of Scotland views the new scheme as a positive development. The new scheme will end the need for multiple disclosure checks for an individual who has a number of roles, e.g. as a leader in the Brownies and as a Sunday School Teacher. The application forms for the new PVG scheme are almost identical to the old Disclosure Forms. Only new volunteers or paid staff will need to join the new scheme between 30th November 2010 and 30th November 2011. Persons with existing disclosure will transfer to the new PVG system between November 2011 and November 2014.

11 REPORT FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Parish and Beyond

Jan Barr thanked all who had assisted at the Coffee Morning by baking, attending and clearing up. £230 was raised by the Coffee morning and the sale of Christmas Cards had made £126.

Evelyn Graham reported on the most recent meeting of the Peace and Justice Forum. As ever, the mood of the meeting had been very enthusiastic and positive. Reports had been presented on work with Asylum Seekers including the Unity Bookshop, a scheme whereby bicycles are re-furbished and free meals being served at Lansdowne Church as well as a report on the success of the campaign to end child detention at Dungavel. There had been discussions on the activities of Christian Aid, Tear Fund and SCIAF and also on Fair Trade Churches and Eco Congregations.

Evelyn also reported that the Bereavement Council Group meets at Newton Mearns Church twice a month. The next meeting of the Peace and Justice Forum would be in January and would be held in Stamperland Church.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Wednesday, 3rd November. The subsequent meeting would be Wednesday, 1st December.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Ruth Chapter 1, a short reflection on the passage and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Connell Cranston, Iain Fulton, Jan Barr, Nancy Fisher, Sheila McIntosh, Anne MacKenzie and Grace Walker.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 18 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Kirk Session Meetings held on Wednesday, 4th October were circulated prior to the meeting. Item 11.1 was amended by changing the words, "The next meeting" to "A meeting". With this change incorporated the adoption of the minutes as a true record was proposed by John Curror and seconded by Mrs Evelyn Graham. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Lodging House Mission Christmas Cards

It was reported that £210 had been raised from the sale of Lodging House Christmas Cards.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Letter from Presbytery Clerk

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk enclosing an extract from the Minute of the meeting of Glasgow Presbytery held on 19th October. The extract minute read:

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW

AT GLASGOW on the 19th day of October 2010 The Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.

Inter Alia:

SUPERINTENDENCE

462 Quinquennial Reports (B)

Quinquennial visits have been made to the undernoted congregations. It is recommended that Presbytery receive the summary reports and adopt the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1 to these reports.

Yoker	Bailieston Mure memorial
Cardonald	Colston Milton
Knightswood St Margaret's	St Enoch Hogganfield
Stamperland	Lenzie Union
Croftfoot	

The Presbytery received the Report and approved the recommendation.

Extracted by me this 20th day of October 2010

Signed, The Revd Dr Angus Kerr, Clerk of Presbytery

Reports for October 2010
Appendix 1
Superintendence

Stamperland

The Quinquennial visits took place over April - June. The visiting team were warmly received. The impression was of a warm, welcoming congregation which is close-knit but not inward looking. Membership stands at around 400 with an average attendance at morning worship of around 120. It has been encouraging recently that young families have started to be part of the worshipping community.

Organisations which meet during the week include Scouts, BB and Guides. A large number of young people use the church building during the week. The congregation would love to see more of these present at worship and received help from the Presbytery's youth adviser in looking at ways to address this issue.

Rev George Mackay has been minister since 2004. His work is warmly appreciated by the congregation and they are conscious of Presbytery responsibilities which increased his workload such as serving as interim moderator at Giffnock South.

The congregation recently carried out work on both the church building and the manse. The church has a flat roof which has already lasted beyond its expected lifespan and a contingency fund is in place for when work needs to be done on the roof.

The minister spoke of clear objectives for the congregation over the coming period. This include development of the twinning arrangement with Lochwood church in Easterhouse, broadening the involvement of the congregation in leadership and ensuring that congregational giving is maximised. Developments in the congregation since the last quinquennial report have been encouraging and the congregation and minister are to be encouraged as they focus on their current and future objectives.

7.1.2 Congregational Contacts

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Rev David McLachlan, Convenor of the Presbytery Committee on Community Responsibility requesting names of two persons to act as Congregational Contacts. One would receive information on the four Glasgow Presbytery Projects – The Well, Church House, The Lodging House Mission and Glasgow the Caring City – and the other would receive information from the Church and Society Council. Alastair Graham and Norman Bolton agreed to act as contacts.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

8.1 Written Report

Anne MacKenzie's report of the October meeting of Presbytery was circulated in advance of the Kirk Session Meeting.

With reference to the item on Souper Sunday, Grace Scott intimated that The Guild would prepare and serve lunch on Sunday, 9th January. The Service would be geared towards the subject of World Mission.

9 REPORT FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

9.1 Parish and Beyond

It was reported that no replacement had been identified for the Visitor's Book.

The Moderator agreed to advise on a suitable date of the Open Door Christmas lunch.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Christmas Cards

The Moderator stated that it was planned to prepare and print Christmas Cards for delivery to homes within the parish. The Moderator stated that he would liaise with W Anderson.

10.2 Seasons of the Heart Service

The Moderator stated that he was intending to hold the Seasons of the Heart Service on Sunday 28th November.

10.3 St Andrew’s Day Service

The Moderator intimated that Clarkston Churches Together was holding a service in St Aidan’s Church on 30th November.

10.4 Christmas Services

The Moderator intimated the following Christmas Services

Sunday, 19 th December	Nativity Play
Wednesday, 22 nd December	Netherlee Primary School Service
Thursday, 23 rd December	Isobel Mair School Service
Friday, 24 th December	Watchnight Service (with soup served at the conclusion)
Christmas Day	Family Service (10.30 am)
Sunday, 26 th December	Service of Lessons and Carols

Decoration of the Christmas tree in the church was likely to be carried out on the afternoon of the 5th December after the Communion Service. The Moderator stated that he would speak to Connell Cranston to confirm this arrangement.

10.3 Advent Candle

It was reported that new Advent Candles had been made available. The first candle would be lit on Sunday, 28th November.

11 RETIRING OFFERINGS

11.1 December Communion

It was agreed that the retiring offering from the December Communion would be sent to CrossReach.

11.2 Watchnight Service and Christmas Day Services

It was agreed that the offerings from the Watchnight and Christmas Day services would be sent to Glasgow Caring City.

11.3 Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed that the retiring offering from the Remembrance Day Service would be sent to Erskine Home.

12 PASTORAL TIME

The Moderator asked elders for names of people whom they wished to be remembered in prayer and then led the meeting in prayer.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Wednesday, 1st December. Dates of subsequent meetings were provisionally agreed as follows.

Sunday,	9 th January 2011	after morning service to attest the Roll
Wednesday	9 th February 2011	
Wednesday	2 nd March 2011	
Sunday	6 th March 2011	(Communion Service)
Monday	4 th April 2011	
Wednesday	4 th May 2011	
Monday	6 th June 2011	

The date of the Stated Annual Meeting was provisionally agreed as 21st March 2011.

14 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with the Moderator giving a benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER 2010
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a short prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

John Currer read a passage from the Old Testament.

Kay Baird, Edith Moseley and Ray McNiven read a poem relating the Nativity from Mary's point of view.

The Moderator then led the elders in prayer.

3. COMMUNION

3.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

3.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to Evelyn Graham and Margo Neilson for attending at the table.

4 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 9th JANUARY 2011**

AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

Session Clerk.....

Moderator

3. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

The Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2010			400
Number removed from Roll during 2010	by Death	7	
	by Certificate	3	
	by Otherwise	1	
			11
Number added to Roll during 2010	by Profession	0	
	by Certificate	1	
	by Otherwise	2	
			3
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2010			392
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2010			11
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2010			6

The Moderator thanked Bill Paterson for his work in maintaining the Communion Roll.

4. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with unanimous approval and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Isaiah Chapter 58, a short reflection on that passage and the gospel passage from the previous Sunday and a prayer. The Moderator thanked the elders for agreeing to change the starting time of the meeting to 20.30 to accommodate his attendance as Interim Moderator at a meeting at Giffnock South Church

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Nancy Fisher, Grace Walker and Gordon Robertson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 24 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Moderator observed that the meeting planned for the 1st December had been cancelled following the very heavy fall of snow that day which had led to very significant travel difficulties.

The Minutes of the Kirk Session Meetings held on Wednesday, 3rd November 2010, Sunday, 5th December 2010 and Sunday, 9th January 2011 were circulated prior to the meeting. The adoption of the minutes of the 3rd November as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Fraser Macintosh. With the incorporation of a minor change recording that Margo Neilson and not Edith Moseley had read the poem, the adoption of the minutes of the 5th December as a true record was proposed by Evelyn Graham and seconded by Margo Neilson. The adoption of the minutes of the 9th January as a true record was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Pat McIlraith. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Souper Sunday

The Moderator intimated that the date for Souper Sunday would be the 13th March, changed from the previously-planned, 9th January. Members of The Guild agreed that Guild members would organize and serve the lunch.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Christmas Activities

The Moderator expressed his appreciation for all who had assisted and contributed to the Christmas services and related activities. The scale of events had ranged from a service for Open Door with small numbers attending to the main Christmas Services including the Nativity Play, the Christmas Eve Watchnight Service and the Christmas and Boxing Day services. The decoration of the church and halls after the December afternoon communion had become an annual event and he commented that it was nice and encouraging to see new young families attending and attendant new styles of decoration. Many people had contributed to the activities including the production and delivery of Christmas Cards around the parish, the distribution of poinsettias, the making of soup, etc. and he extended his thanks to all.

7.1.2 Moderator's Holiday Arrangements

The Moderator intimated that he planned to be on holiday from the close of the service on Sunday 13th February. He hoped that he would manage to arrange for someone to conduct the service on Sunday, 20th February and that he could be on leave until Monday, 21st February.

7.1.3 Rev Amy Heit

The Moderator said he was pleased to intimate that Rev Amy Heit, Assistant Minister at Netherlee Parish Church, had given birth to a daughter. The Session Clerk was requested to write to Amy Heit sending her congratulations and good wishes from the minister, elders and congregation.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Annual Statistical Return to Presbytery Clerk

The Session Clerk stated that he had sent the Annual Statistical Return to the Presbytery Clerk. In addition to the figures provided by the Roll Keeper and summarised in the minute

of the 9th January, the statistical return included the following figures for the year ending December 2010:

Number of elders:	14 gentlemen; 17 ladies
Number of Members of the Congregational Board:	11 gentlemen; 8 ladies
Number of baptisms:	Two including one adult baptism.
Number of weddings conducted by the minister:	Five.
Number of funerals conducted by the minister:	21.
Numbers in Stepping Stones and Quest:	45
Number of BB	75
Number of Guides	69
Number of Scouts	47

It was noted that the number of youths attending the uniformed organisations had reduced by almost 20 over the year.

7.2.2 Roll Away the Stone

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received several communications from various parts of the Church of Scotland offices in Edinburgh advising of the plans to hold a major event in Princes Street Gardens on general Assembly Sunday, 22nd May 2011. The organisers were keen that members from virtually every CofS church in Scotland should attend. Several elders indicated that they had learned of the event by reading an article in Life and Work. The Moderator stated that he believed that our neighbouring churches were each planning to support the event and were considering hiring coaches to transport members and their families to Edinburgh. Elders decided that information about the event should be publicised and people invited to add their names to a sheet to show if they were interested in travelling by coach.

7.2.3 Petition against the Opening of a Branch of William Hill in Busby Road

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from a member of Williamwood Parish Church in which was enclosed copies of a petition seeking to stop William Hill from opening a branch in Busby Road, Clarkston. Elders agreed that the petition be made available in the church vestibule for members to sign.

7.2.4 Glasgow Presbytery “Resources for Growth” Evenings

The Session Clerk intimated that the Presbytery’s Education and Nurture Committee was planning to hold two evening events to highlight new training opportunities in adult, youth and children’s work. The Resources for Growth evenings would be held on 10th March (Sherbrook St Giles Parish Church) and 16th March (Sandyhills Parish Church). Congregations were invited to send three representatives to one of the meetings.

7.2.5 Williamwood Parish Church – Anniversary Organ Recital

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the organist of Williamwood Parish Church highlighting some events associated with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the installation and dedication of their Allen Digital organ. The events included a Songs of Praise on 6th March and a recital on 21st May.

7.2.6 Stamperland Praise Event

Referring to the Songs of Praise event at Williamwood the Moderator stated that he had been planning to hold a “Pancake Praise” at Stamperland on the evening of the 6th March and asked whether, in light of the clash with the event at Williamwood the “Pancake Praise” should be moved to a different date. After discussion it was agreed that the “Pancake Praise” would take place at Stamperland on 6th March. Margo Neilson and Grace Scott volunteered to organise the “pancake” aspect of the praise evening.

Elders also agreed that there would be no afternoon communion service on the 6th March.

8. CHILD PROTECTION / PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Session Clerk stated that he had spoken with John Curror regarding Child Protection. John had stated that he believed he was carrying out Child Protection procedures as required. The Session Clerk advised elders that the term “Child Protection” has been changed to “Protection of Vulnerable Groups” recognising that protection procedures now include both children and vulnerable adults. The Scottish Government had planned that the Protection of

Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme would go live on 30th November but the implementation was being delayed as a result of problems with the IT system procured to support the scheme.

Elders agreed with the following statement. “It is certified that procedures related to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons serving as voluntary workers with children and young people in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the congregation’s Coordinator for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups is appropriately trained to allow that person to be accredited as an authorised signatory for criminal record checks.”

9 ROLL KEEPER’S REPORT

Bill Paterson asked elders to note the following death.

Death

Miss Mary Neil	26 Riverside Court. District 25
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Bill Paterson also highlighted that, following the retiral of David Dundas, Districts 3, 4, 22, 27, 29 and 30 had no elder.

It was also intimated that David and Florence Stewart were now resident in Briary Park Care Home in Dumfries-shire.

8 PRESBYTERY ELDER’S REPORT

8.1 Verbal Report

Anne MacKenzie presented a verbal report of the previous evening’s Presbytery Meeting. A number of specific topics were highlighted.

8.1.1 Glasgow Passion, George Square, October 2011

It was reported that Cutting Edge Theatre productions were staging a “Glasgow Passion” in George Square in October. It was hoped that around 2,000 children would attend and participate in the afternoon presentation and that some 5,000 adults would attend and participate in the evening presentation. Presbytery were seeking assistance from churches to provide stewards, “extras” for the cast and, also, financial donations to cover the cost of the productions.

8.1.2 Annual Inspection of Records

Anne Mackenzie stated that up-to-date property registers and up-to-date manse schedules had to be presented at the Annual Inspection of Records.

8.1.3 Back to Church Sunday

It was reported that a “Back to Church Sunday” was being organised. Churches were to invite people who used to attend church to come back. “Back to Church Sunday” would probably be held in September. A two-hour training course for this event was being held at Cathcart Trinity Church with attendance sought from ministers and elders.

8.1.4 World Mission Committee

Presbytery were seeking information on what each church was doing regarding World Mission. Church representatives would be sent a questionnaire. It was confirmed that Grace Scott was the representative for Stamperland.

8.1.5 Presbytery Plan

It was intimated that Presbytery would be meeting in two weeks time to discuss the Presbytery Plan. It was reported that there had been vigorous discussion when the Plan was discussed at the December meeting of Presbytery.

10 REPORT FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

10.1 Parish and Beyond

Jan Barr reported on a number of topics.

A replacement Visitor’s Book had been purchased. New vacuum flasks had also been purchased. Alastair Graham was developing the approach to be taken regarding “young people”. He believed it was important not to “step on toes” and had clarified a number of aspects with the Moderator. One possible approach being considered was to convene a

meeting which would be attended by some of the enthusiastic young people who were currently involved in the youth organisations.

Evelyn Graham reported some of the topics discussed at recent Peace and Justice Forum Meetings. These included potential exploitation of Eastern European sellers of the Big Issue, the progress being made with local supermarkets stocking FairTrade goods and potential impact of cuts in housing benefit which could lead to increases in homelessness.

10.2 Elders Visiting Organisations

Raymond Russell and Jess Thomson reported on recent visits to the Boys Brigade and Guides, respectively. Both organisations were progressing well though numbers were slightly down. Jan Barr reported that on a recent occasion when she had attempted to visit the Rainbows their meeting had been cancelled because a large number of the girls were attending a disco at Netherlee School.

The Moderator and several elders commented that the church was fortunate in having excellent leaders of the youth organisations. When society, in general, was not interested in giving time to run, organise and lead activities it was notable that there was good support for the uniformed organisations.

11 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

During the discussion on the previous item the Moderator noted that the time was after 9.30p.m. The Moderator asked elders if they wished to suspend the Standing Order related to the closure of the Kirk Session meeting no later than 9.30p.m. Elders agreed that, in view of the likely time to be taken up with the remaining Agenda items, Standing Orders should be suspended and the meeting continue to complete all Agenda items.

12 RETIRING OFFERINGS

12.1 March and June Communions

It was agreed that the retiring offering from the March Communion would be taken to Nazareth Hospital by Jess Thomson and that the offering from the June Communion would be sent to “Bridging the Gap”, a Glasgow group which supported asylum and refugee communities in the city.

13 DATES OF MEETINGS

The dates of the next Kirk Session meetings were agreed as Wednesday, 2nd March and Monday, 4th April.

It was agreed that the Stated Annual Meeting would be held on Monday, 21st March.

It was noted that there would be a parade of the Youth Organisations on Sunday 27th March. On this date there would also be an evening performance of the play, “The Narrow Road”, by the Riding Lights Theatre Company in Stamperland Church. The event is being organised by Clarkston Churches Together.

It was also noted that Stamperland Pipe Band was holding concerts in the church hall on Saturday, 26th and Sunday 27th February.

14 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say, “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Matthew Chapter 17, a short reflection on that passage and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Nancy Fisher, Pat McIlraith, Grace Scott, Janet Stewart, Jess Thomson, George Finlayson, Fraser Mackintosh and Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 17 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd February 2011 were circulated prior to the meeting. The adoption of the minutes as a true record was proposed by John Currer and seconded by Connell Cranston. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Souper Sunday

The Moderator confirmed that the date for Souper Sunday would be the 13th March and that members of The Guild were organizing the lunch.

6.2 Petition against the Opening of a Branch of William Hill in Busby Road

It was noted that the Session Meeting was the last opportunity for signing the petition seeking to stop William Hill from opening a branch in Busby Road, Clarkston.

6.3 Roll Away the Stone

The Moderator noted that no one had expressed specific interest in wishing to travel to the event in Edinburgh by coach though a number of people had indicated they would probably go by car. He wondered if there might be interest in joining up with members from Netherlee who he believed were intending to hire a coach. It was agreed that the sheet would be displayed in the church vestibule to give members the opportunity to express interest.

6.4 Pancake Praise

The Moderator confirmed the arrangements for Sunday's Pancake Praise event.

6.5 Elder's Districts

In response to a question elder's districts The Moderator stated that he had spoken to a number of members regarding their ordination as elders and that he was progressing the issue.

7 CORRESPONDENCE and INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Stepping Stones Superintendent

The Moderator intimated that Mrs Pamela Mackay was stepping down from the role of Superintendent at the end of the Session in June. Mrs Mackay would address the elders at the Kirk Session meeting in April on the topic of the current status of Stepping Stones and the hopes for the future.

7.1.1 New Communicant's Class

The Moderator intimated that the New Communicant's Class would start on Sunday 6th March.

8 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT

Bill Paterson advised that there had been no changes to the roll since the previous meeting.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

9.1 Glasgow Presbytery Plan

Anne MacKenzie reported that there had been a special meeting to discuss the Presbytery Plan the previous evening. There was little that was clear about the future plan. To assist in developing a plan, Presbytery had decided that all congregations in the Presbytery would be visited and audited.

The Moderator reminded elders that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had decided in 2010 to reduce the number of parish posts from 1,234 to 1,000 by 2014. Glasgow Presbytery had to reduce the number of full-time-equivalent posts from 163 to 134.

There ensued a broad discussion amongst the elders present of various aspects of the status of the plan. There was concern about the implications of the requirement to reduce headcount and how this might be influenced by the differences between churches which had unrestricted tenure and those which had reviewable tenure. This latter aspect was, of course, of particular interest to Stamperland.

Glasgow Presbytery had the highest number of Urban Priority Area churches in Scotland and it was recognised that the Church of Scotland, as a whole, had a particular responsibility to "the poor". However, it was a fact that a considerable number of churches in the UPA areas of Glasgow had average attendances of between a dozen and a score of members at Sunday services. Many of these charges currently enjoyed unrestricted tenure.

It was unclear how the Presbytery Team charged with visiting all congregations could make valid comparisons of different churches. Whilst some aspects such as number of members on the Communion Roll or numbers attending on a Sunday or financial strength could be quantified how could issues such as the faith be evaluated? Could the faith of a congregation of twelve people be stronger than that of a congregation of one hundred or two hundred?

The issue of tenure was complex. Recent decisions made by Presbytery regarding tenure were not always consistent and logical but reflected conditions pertaining at particular moments in time. The situation regarding tenure was not consistent throughout Scotland.

At the conclusion of the discussions the Moderator said that elders and members of Stamperland should continue to have a positive and optimistic outlook towards the future.

10. CHILD PROTECTION / PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

John Curror advised that he was attending a meeting on the following Wednesday and would report back at the next Session Meeting.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Future Baptism

The Moderator intimated that Katie Walton would be baptised at the morning service on Palm Sunday. With the school holiday arrangements in mind, children should be around that day.

The Moderator recalled that in his previous charge the district elder used to stand with the Baptismal Party during the christening. John Curror, the Walton family's elder said that he would be on holiday that particular Sunday.

11.2 Kirk Session Devotions on Communion Sunday

The Moderator sought a volunteer to lead devotions on the following Sunday. No one was willing to volunteer.

11.3 Retiring Offering on Communion Sunday

The Moderator reminded elders that the retiring offering was being donated to Nazareth Hospital and that Jess Thomson would take the gift to the Hospital when she was visiting it as part of her holiday to Israel. He intimated that the bus company who were organising the trip had agreed to contribute an additional amount to that donated at the Communion service.

11.4 Induction at Giffnock South Church

The Moderator intimated that the Rev Catherine Beattie had preached as sole nominee at Giffnock South Church and the congregation had voted overwhelmingly that she be their new minister. It was likely that the induction would be held on the 11th April. The Session Clerk was asked to write to Catherine Beattie and convey the best wishes of Stamperland's congregation for her ministry at Giffnock South Church.

12 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that as a consequence of the date of the induction at Giffnock South the date of the next Kirk Session meeting would be moved to Wednesday 13th April.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 6th MARCH 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Matthew Chapter 17 and a short prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator led the Kirk Session in devotions. He said that we would probably all have known people, or experienced it for ourselves, that when moving house, you downsize. It is not an easy operation for various reasons. Those things we have collected in our houses have a sentimental attachment and we ought not to be ashamed of that. Memory resides within these objects; the touch and smell of them can release important indicators of who we are and how we got to be this way. He continued by saying that, in our Gospel reading for today, Matthew indicates that same feeling with the story of the Transfiguration. One aspect of the story on the mountain, common to all accounts of it, is the reaction of Peter. He says: "It is good to be here," and then offers to build three tents: one each for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. How like us this is! The desire to capture the moment, and hold on to it, is exactly what leads to the accumulation of the stuff in our loft. If something is good, it is worth holding on to.

The Moderator recalled that downsizing has been very much to the fore this week as the Church tries to re-assess herself with the diminishing resources with which she finds herself. However, he wished elders to remember that downsizing is part and parcel of our lives and is very much part of our faith story. It can be a positive action.

The Moderator continued saying that Peter wanted to hold on to the experience. He sees the prophets of old, he sees Jesus in a new light and because that experience is mysterious but also awe inspiring, he doesn't want to let it go. We can, he said, look back in our church lives and wish to hold on to that which was good for us; we can talk of strong choirs, full Sunday Schools, Sunday rest, greater commitment to serve God. We can look back in our own way and bask in the glory of that which has gone before and provides us with memories that warm our hearts - but if being disciples of Jesus, followers of him is about a journey then exodus, the leaving of where we are to where God leads us, is always going to be part of our experience.

To journey with Jesus means letting go, putting down, decreasing to increase, even that which brought us pleasure in order to see where our Saviour leads us. To keep pace with Jesus means not getting held back with what we have accumulated, for then we will get left

behind. Peter also has to learn that revelation invites us to invest in a future that is beyond the boundaries of our accumulated experience.

For our changing Church and for us here in our local situation, we need to learn that too, concluded the Moderator.

The Moderator then led the elders in prayer.

3. COMMUNION

3.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

3.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to Bill Paterson and Connell Cranston for attending at the table.

4 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from John Chapter 20, verses 1 – 18, a short reflection on that passage and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES and SEDERUNT

Apolgies were received from Norman Bolton, John Curror and Grace Scott.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 16 ruling members

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Approval of the Minutes of 2nd March 2011 was proposed by Connell Cranston and second by Edith Moseley.

The Minute of 6th March held in the Session House prior to Communion. Subject to alteration to second paragraph, line 3, ‘elder’ changed to ‘elders’, approval of Minute was proposed by Ray Niven, seconded by Anne MacKenzie.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Souper Sunday

Mr. Mackay sincerely thanked the organisers of Souper Sunday held on 13th March and also to all who had helped to make it such a success. He asked for observations, noting that £310 had been raised. Overall, it was acknowledged that everyone attending had enjoyed themselves.

6.2 Roll away the Stone.

The numbers requiring transportation to Edinburgh by bus were insufficient to warrant the provision of such and it was apparent this was also the position at Netherlee Church. It was felt that those who wished to attend this day in Edinburgh should make themselves known and perhaps car sharing between both churches might be the way forward.

6.3 Pancake Praise.

This service again was a successful venture and thanks were expressed to both those responsible for the preparation and donation of pancakes, which were much enjoyed by members attending. The observations overall were of a happy and agreeable evening.

6.4 New Communicants Class

Three potential members were attending on Sundays following the Service. All are progressing well and consideration is being given to a date in June for all three to join or Church.

7. STEPPING STONES AND QUEST

Mrs. Pamela Mackay, who will retire from the position of Superintendent at the end of the present session, addressed the Session regarding the hopes and dreams for the future of the Sunday School. She said that she will remain a leader and, together with all other leaders, duties will be shared equally.

An excellent outline of the needs of all age groups was met with a greater understanding and clear guidance was given on the needs of children of all ages. It was realised that numbers are falling as older children see the Sunday School as a place for young children only. Accordingly, as the need for computing has become the norm for all children, both at home and in Education, it was agreed that it had now become essential in the Sunday School.

Funding is necessary and help will be essential to identify where this may be found. Pamela said she was prepared to prepare a budget and to liaise with anyone who could help. Following much discussion it was agreed that Margo would liaise with her and Edith Moseley was also prepared to assist.

Promoting the differing age groups is vital and Alastair Graham agreed to liaise with Pamela and Organisation Leaders to further increase a greater input in facilities for all ages. It was also noted that John Currer had been of considerable assistance.

Pamela was thanked for an outstanding insight into the needs of our young children and the hopes and dreams for our children were echoed by the elders present.

8. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

8.1 Moderator

8.1.1 Induction at Giffnock South Church

The Moderator intimated that Rev Mrs Catherine Beattie has now been inducted into Giffnock South Parish Church.

8.1.2 Induction at Maxwell Mearns Church

The Moderator intimated that a new Minister will be inducted at Maxwell Mearns on 14th May.

8.1.3 Presbytery Plan Audit Form

The Presbytery Plan Audit Form has been received. This form is extremely detailed with eight questions, each containing a large number of points which will require detailed assistance to complete satisfactorily. Accordingly, members with appropriate backgrounds will be asked for their input in order that the best aspects of Stamperland will be noted.

8.1.4 New /Communicants Class.

Three potential members are currently attending classes following Sunday Service and are progressing satisfactorily. Consideration is being given to a date in June for admission to the Church.

8.1.5 Leading of Worship

The Moderator expressed his thanks to Norrie Bolton and George Wilson for taking the Morning Service in his absence.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER.

It was reported that there has been no changes since the last Session Meeting.

10. REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Mrs Anne MacKenzie gave her usual concise report from Presbytery. She outlined the provision of the Presbytery Plan and the future relationship between Congregations and Churches. Each Congregation will be assessed in relation to allocation of Ministers. Facilitators will be provided to assist with the completion of the Audit Form. All churches in Glasgow Presbytery will be required to submit a completed Audit Form by 11th May 2011.

11. REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Parish and Beyond Committee

Jan Barr gave a detailed report on the work of this committee.

11.1.1 Young people in the church

Alastair Graham still sourcing the best approach to this problem and, having discussed with the Moderator, he will speak to Lynne Walker, Scott Russell and Christine Mailey to pursue the situation.

11.1.2 Advertising in The Extra

The use of donations received on Sunday mornings at coffee time and “Open Door” on Wednesday mornings to fund a Church Notice in The Extra. Accordingly, Evelyn Graham has contacted The Extra regarding the cost of advertising. The price is £10 per week per standard notice. Evelyn stated that she was willing to organise and liaise with the weekly paper.

11.1.3 Peace and Justice Forum

A report was given on recent issues covered at the Peace and Justice Forum attended by Evelyn Graham and Edith Moseley. A booklet, “One Suffers”, passed to Edith by G. Mackay was considered a “good read” and is currently circulating around committee members.

11.1.4 Youth News Letter

Evelyn Graham will speak to Church Organisations and Quest to seek interest.

11.1.5 Harvest Coffee Morning

A date for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and associated Harvest Coffee Morning has yet to be agreed. If there is a coffee morning it was proposed that money raised could be donated to East Renfrewshire Carers / Williamwood House / Eastwood Hill.

11.1.6 New Convenor

It was intimated that from September the convenor of the Parish and Beyond Committee would be Ray McNiven.

12 SPRING FAIR

Work is progressing well on the arrangements for the Spring Fair. The Moderator noted that this is a key Fund Raiser for the Church and also an important Social and Pastoral occasion for the District.

13 DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of the next Kirk Session meetings were agreed as Wednesday, 4th May 2011 and Monday 6th June 2011. It was advised that Elders should check the Intimation sheet each Sunday to ensure that has been no alteration.

Alastair Graham asked whether consideration could be given to alternating Mondays and Wednesdays. The Moderator stated that this had been happening for about a year but due to various commitments it became difficult to operate. It was planned to return to alternating nights as soon as possible.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 2011 IN THE SESSION HOUSE

4. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading of the passage, The Road to Emmaus, from Luke Chapter 24 and a prayer.

5. APOLOGIES and SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Anne Mackenzie, who was attending the Induction at Maxwell Mearns Church, Jan Barr, Ray McNiven, Margo Neilson, John Curror, Connell Cranston, Alastair Graham, and Gordon Robertson.

6. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 17 ruling members

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed with the addition of an item on the Presbytery Plan.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Moderator thanked Mrs McIlraith for writing the Minutes of the April meeting. A number of minor corrections were noted and the Minutes were amended accordingly. Approval of the amended Minutes was proposed by Sam Esler and second by Jane Curror. The amended minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 New Communicants

The Moderator intimated that the three people attending the New Communicant's Class were progressing well. He asked if some elders would be willing to attend one of the forthcoming classes and speak to the potential communicants regarding the role of the elders and potentially answer any questions. Evelyn Graham and Norman Bolton volunteered.

The Moderator stated that he was considering a date in June for the Service of Admission of New Communicants.

George Finlayson raised the issue of ordaining new elders and reminded the Kirk Session that Sheena Skelton had been interested in being an elder about two years ago. The Moderator stated that he was attending to this matter.

6.2 Advertising in the Extra

The Moderator noted that a church intimation had appeared in the previous week's edition of the Extra and he thanked Evelyn Graham for liaising with the newspaper. Kay Bolton stated that the cost of the intimation had been £12. Evelyn Graham indicated that the charge of £12 had been for the first week only and the cost of subsequent week's intimations should be £10.

6.3 Youth News Letter

Evelyn Graham advised that slow but steady progress was being made. She had spoken to Christine Mailley regarding the Guides but had not managed to speak to Joe Mailley regarding the Scouts. She reported that Alastair Graham was planning to speak to Scott Russell and Pamela Mackay.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Defibrillator Training

The Session Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from Brian Stokes regarding the defibrillator. The e-mail noted that steps were in hand to replace the battery in the defibrillator in the unit at Stamperland Church. In the e-mail, Brian Stokes offered to come to the church and give a demonstration of how the defibrillator is used. This offer was made after one of the defibrillators gifted by the Craig Stokes charity was "nearly required to be used" and no trained volunteers were in attendance. It was explained that the defibrillator unit can be used by untrained people and that the unit has been designed to literally, "talk people through the emergency procedure."

Kay Bolton said that people trained in the use of the defibrillator included representatives from all of the church organisations which included The Guild, the BB, Guides and Scout organisations.

There was some discussion about the advisability of people with no medical training using the defibrillator, of the advisability of actually having a defibrillator on the premises and of the need for establishing a rota of medically-trained people to be present at the church premises every night. The discussion concluded with a decision to invite Brian Stokes to give a presentation to interested parties from Kirk Session, Congregational Board and Youth Organisations.

8 REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

The Moderator intimated the death of John McEwan. It was stated that John had served for a brief time as an Elder at Stamperland Church and the Moderator said that he would like Gordon Robertson or Connell Cranston to give a short tribute at the next Session Meeting.

9 VISITS to ORGANISATIONS

9.1 The Guild

Fraser Macintosh told elders that he had visited The Guild. The meeting he attended was the evening that Frank Angel, a member of the local synagogue, had addressed The Guild about various Jewish Festivals. It was, said Fraser, a very interesting talk.

Fraser reported that The Guild was enjoying a fairly healthy attendance.

9.2 Boys' Brigade

Raymond Russell reported that he had met with both the Company and Junior Sections. The number of boys attending had been increasing in recent times. Both sections intended to make a financial donation to the church.

9.3 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Evelyn Graham reported that she had attended meetings of the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. On the night she had attended the number of boys had been low but she was told that numbers were generally up. In common with many youth organisations all sections of the scouts would benefit from having more leaders.

9.4 Choir

Sam Esler told elders that he had met with the Choir on a Sunday morning. The number of members in the choir was quite small and Jack Henry was keen and vociferous about seeking new members. The choir met on Tuesday mornings for practice.

10 SPRING FAIR

Elders were reminded that the Spring Fair was very important not only in terms of finance but also in terms of interacting with the local community and were urged to assist with the various stalls, including the plant stall, if at all possible.

11 PRESBYTERY PLAN

The Moderator reminded elders that Glasgow Presbytery planned that all churches in the Presbytery would be visited by teams of facilitators. The teams would meet representatives of each congregation and, through discussion and practical exercises, the Presbytery representatives would determine the extent to which the congregation met various performance criteria. The criteria would include:

1. The impact on the local community through the Christian witness of organisations run by the Church.
2. The impact on the local community through the Christian witness of the individual Church members/attendees.
3. The vision for, planning and delivery of outreach events and programmes.
4. The provision for welcoming newcomers.
5. The willingness of the congregation to change for the sake of others.
6. The sharing of workload between paid staff and volunteers.
7. The priority given by the congregation to the most vulnerable in their communities.
8. The involvement and engagement with World Mission.

The Moderator said that the process of preparing for the meeting with the Presbytery Team would provide Stamperland Church with an opportunity to assess what it currently did and consider what changes could and should be implemented. Elders then spent some time looking at aspects of the performance criteria.

The Moderator advised that each church could select up to 25 people to meet with the Presbytery team. The following elders indicated a willingness to be part of the representative group which would meet the Presbytery Team: Grace Scott, Nancy Fisher, Evelyn Graham, Grace Walker, Jess Thomson, Jane Curror, George Finlayson, Norman Bolton, Sam Esler.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meetings was agreed as Monday, 6th June 2011.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 5th JUNE 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a prayer, a reading from John Chapter 14 and a second prayer.

2. NEW COMMUNICANTS

The Moderator introduced the three potential new communicants to the elders. The three new communicants were Mr Steven Owens and Mrs Marie Owens of 12 Monteith Gardens and Mr Adam Walker, 66 The Oval.

3. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator led the Kirk Session in devotions. Mr Mackay began by asking which TV programmes the elders liked to watch. Did we like intellectually stimulating programmes or prefer “Soaps”? What about cookery ones, holiday ones or a good film? What about 60 Minute Makeover, the programme where a team of trades people enter a house when the owner is away and transform a kitchen, a bedroom and a sitting room from the dull and the dowdy to something sparkling, fresh and new in sixty minutes? He often wondered, he said, if the family really like what they see at the end, faced with the idiosyncrasies of the designers. Did the programme actually depict reality? Did they really achieve what they said they did within these sixty minutes. – were the cupboards up properly, was the carpet correctly laid? What might have been covered up and not shown? What can really be achieved in sixty minutes?

He continued, saying that here we are again at the Kirk. An hour on a Sunday - for prayer and praise, for bread and wine. An hour, give-or-take (depending on the whims of the minister!!) What, he wondered, did we achieve in our sixty minutes? How many lives were put straight? How many problems ironed out ? How many people brightened and freshened up by our Christian community in the same way a lick of paint brightens everything else around it - and shows up everything else that needs attended to.

Perhaps, he wondered, that's what is supposed to happen. The hour encourages us to look at the rest of our lives and use the colourful Gospel to enhance and make new: to tackle what is tarnished and sullied. Jesus was certainly a carpenter - but why not also a painter and decorator? If he can build lives, if he can raise them up, if he can promise that we start again why not also the colour scheme, the patterns, what matches and what just doesn't go?

A sixty minute makeover could be a novel way to look at worship. Jesus said `In my Father's house there are many rooms' That simple statement, in the context of makeovers, was one we could interpret that any way we wished.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to Margo Neilson and Grace Scott attending at the table. He also thanked those who had setup and prepared everything ready for communion.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 6th JUNE 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Acts Chapter 2 and a prayer.

2 APOLOGIES and SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Jane and John Curror, Alastair Graham, George Finlayson, Nancy Fisher, Grace Scott and Grace Walker.

3 SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 17 ruling elders.

4. TRIBUTE TO JOHN McEWEN

Elders stood in silence as Gordon Robertson and Connell Cranston read tributes to the late John McEwen.

5. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 13th April as a true record was proposed by Pat McIlraith and seconded by Edith Moseley. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 5th June as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Bill Paterson. The minutes of both meetings were signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk

7. BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 Spring Fair

The Moderator thanked all of the elders who had assisted at the Spring Fair. The Spring Fair had raised £3,306.

7.2 Presbytery Plan

The Moderator intimated that the Presbytery Facilitators were planning to visit Stamperland on 6th October. Most of the "south-side" parishes were being visited towards the end of the process.

7.3 Afternoon Communion

The Moderator asked the Kirk Session to note that the afternoon communion service held on the previous day had been attended by one member, one elder, the organist and the minister.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

8.1 Moderator

8.1.2 Communication from Presbytery Clerk regarding Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry

The Moderator read a statement from the Presbytery Clerk advising the position following the General Assembly's decision to establish a Theological Commission of seven persons to address the issue of Same Sex Relationships and the Ministry and to report to the General Assembly in 2013 and asked elders to note the following two instructions.

- 1) All Courts, Councils and Committees of the Church have been instructed not to make decisions in relation to contentious matters of same-sex relationships, accept for training, allow to transfer from another denomination, ordain or induct any person in a same-sex relationship until the General Assembly of 2013 has heard the report of the Theological Commission. The only exceptions to this will be ministers and deacons ordained before 31st May 2009 who are in a same-sex relationship.

- 2) The Assembly agreed that until the Assembly of 2013 all Courts, Councils and Committees of the Church should not issue press statements or otherwise talk to the media in relation to contentious matters of human sexuality, in respect to Ordination and Induction to the Ministry of the Church of Scotland. Consequently, individuals can speak publicly on these matters; however, it is to be hoped that public contributions of individuals should be offered in the same spirit as was evident at the General Assembly.

8.2 Session Clerk

8.2.1 Rouken Glen Park Regeneration

The Session Clerk reported that he had received several e-mails from Eastwood District Council asking about the church's "use of Rouken Glen Park". The Council was developing an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and was seeking answers to questions such as "Why does your organisation use/not use Rouken Glen Park?" and "What improvements would encourage your organisation to use the park?" It was agreed that it was not relevant to submit a response.

8.2.2 Letter from Concord Singers

The Session Clerk read a letter from the Concord Singers thanking the church members for the use of the church and halls for their concert which took place on the 23rd May. The Concord Singers enclosed a donation of £50 to church funds with their letter of thanks. Elders stated their appreciation of the donation.

Pat McIlraith highlighted the excellent singing by the church choir of the anthem 'Panis Angelicus' at a recent morning service.

8.2.3 Letter from Captain James MacKenzie

The Session Clerk read a letter from James MacKenzie, Captain of the 231st Glasgow Company, The Boys' Brigade. In his letter Captain MacKenzie announced his intention to retire from the post of Captain of the 231st Glasgow Company.

Captain MacKenzie advised that Peter Dale was willing to assume the responsibility of Captain of the BB Company and that he had the support of the officers and the Brigade qualifications necessary to fulfil the post.

Elders agreed that Peter Dale would make an excellent Captain and gave their formal approval to his appointment of Captain of the 231st Glasgow Company following Jim MacKenzie's retirement from the post on the 31st August.

There were fulsome tributes to the success of Jim MacKenzie's thirteen years as BB Captain. The Session Clerk was asked to write to James MacKenzie conveying the appreciation of the elders for his commitment and leadership throughout the years and recognising that, under his command, the 231st Company remained strong and had an excellent and unrivalled record.

A discussion took place regarding asking members of the congregation to give a donation towards a gift to mark the retirement of a leader from a church organisation. A wide variety of views were expressed. Elders concluded that, as a general principle, the congregation should not make retirement gifts.

9 REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

The Roll Keeper reminded the elders of the three new communicants who had been admitted the previous day.

It was advised that John Buchanan had moved to Lindsayfield Lodge in East Kilbride where his wife, Agnes, had been resident for some time.

10 REPORT FROM PRESBYTER ELDER

Mrs MacKenzie told elders that the superintendence committee and its convenor, Rev John Spiers, were being faced with a number of problem issues. The most significant included a dispute at the Cathedral which had attracted the interest of the newspapers and the situation at St George's Tron Church which owed thousands of pounds to the Central Church funds.

St George’s Tron Church was waiting to see the outcome of the General Assembly’s debate on Same Sex Ministers.

Partick Gardner Street Church was holding its last services on 5th June. When their minister retired, members of Partick Gardner Street Church had refused to join St Columba’s Church one reason being that they did not like St Columba’s minister, Donald Michael MacInnes. Mr McInnes has now moved to Gairbraid Parish Church and some members of Partick Gardner Street were now going to join St Columba’s.

Having faced a multitude of problem issues, Mrs MacKenzie said that she believed Neil Galbraith would be rather relieved to step down as Moderator and hand over to Rev Sandra Black on 21st June.

Finally, Anne Mackenzie reported that congregations are being encouraged to participate in a “Back to Church Sunday” on either the 25th September or the 2nd October. Mhorag Murphy Cadder, Convenor of the Church Mission Team, is willing to help congregations make arrangements for the Back to Church events. Sam Esler asked whether the arrangements for “Back to Church Sunday” involved simply sending a letter to members who hadn’t been at church for some time or required some additional effort. The Moderator said that we would need to see the training pack to see what was involved; he also indicated that the 2nd October would be a more appropriate date since the previous Sunday was the September weekend.

11 REPORT FROM PARISH AND BEYOND COMMITTEE

Jan Barr reported on recent activity within the committee. Issues which had been considered included the following:

- Young People in Church – this was still being looked at
- Church notice in The Extra newspaper – this was regarded as satisfactory
- Coffee Morning on the Saturday preceding the Harvest Thanksgiving Service – the committee was waiting for the date of the harvest service to be set.
- New Member pack – work was progressing on this issue which the Moderator saw as a priority.
- Shortage of elders – the committee was willing to assist through examining how all of the districts could be covered by elders.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meetings was agreed as Monday, 12th September 2011.

13 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a prayer and a reading from Genesis Chapter 32.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator led the Kirk Session in devotions.

That Thursday, only last month, didn't start off well, he recounted. His son had chicken pox. When he, himself, tried to get out of his bed, he couldn't move. Having managed to sit up at the edge of the bed he looked down to see his left foot was bigger than his right - gout had returned with a vengeance. Standing up, he said, was an achievement and the chances of wearing a pair of shoes were non-existent. The day improved slightly for him, at least, when he was able to limp around the house and watch spots develop and spread on his boy's face. In the passage he had just read from Genesis, Jacob was longing for a new future. But first God wrestles with him and the nocturnal struggle costs Jacob with, as Genesis describes it, Jacob's hip being "put out of joint as he wrestled with him." At dawn, he would limp toward Esau and his future.

What, asked the Moderator, had caused his own injury? It was a build-up of uric acid and perhaps a lack of fluid and he knew what to do. The pills which he took for his blood pressure caused this side effect; thus, he had to take additional pills to offset that side effect and also increase his water intake.

In the past, when he had suffered an injury, he had used other remedies to return to health. He said he often used rice. And he repeated that he used rice. Rice was something that Jacob probably hadn't used. Rice, he repeated, helps heal bruises.

"R" for rest. "I" for ice. "C" for compression. And "E" for elevation. It's the standard, effective, medical advice for all saints and scoundrels with soft tissue injuries. If only Jacob had known.

He continued saying that, "All of us need "R." Why do we wait until injury or exhaustion to rest?

"All of us need "I." We live in a high pressure, fast-moving world. Like over-used pistons, we heat up. We burn up with too much on our to-do list. What helps to calm you down? Cool down? Get refreshed?

"All of us need "C." Compression. 'Frankly', he said, 'I'm taking some time off to hug Pamela a little more, to let a dog wrap itself around my feet or a cat snuggle in my lap. I need that kind of compression.

"All of us need "E" time. Elevate. Medically speaking, it's important to keep the injury above the level of the heart. But, personally speaking, I desire to elevate my way of looking at the world. What, because of busy-ness or useless worry, do I miss? What haven't I taken the time to experience?"

He concluded saying that Jacob, rascal though he was, continues to inspire him. Wrestling with God and his demands means that we all need time to stop and reflect. This morning we have communion and in the breaking of the bread we approach the table limping from life's bruises. Christ is here to offer rest, to cool us down and keep us calm, to hold us and then to lift our spirits. In finishing he said to the elders, "May you know his healing hands this day and put your best foot forward."

3. RETIRING OFFERING

The elders agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to the Craig Stokes HART Fund.

4. AFTERNOON COMMUNION

The Moderator said that as his daughter, Francesca, was currently in Gartnavel Hospital and was being transferred to Yorkhill Hospital in the afternoon he was proposing that the afternoon communion should be cancelled. Elders agreed with the proposal.

5. COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to Bill Paterson and Connel Cranston who attended at the Communion Table. He also thanked the Session Clerk for expressing the congregation’s prayerful wishes for the swift recovery of his daughter from her illness and for the comforting and calming of her anxious parents.

6 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Matthew Chapter 20 verses 1 to 16 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES and SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from William Anderson, Connell Cranston, Alastair Graham, Nancy Fisher, Pat McIlraith, Gordon Robertson, Grace Scott and Jess Thomson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 17 ruling elders.

4. TRIBUTE TO JOHN DODDS

Elders stood in silence as the Moderator read a tribute to the late John Dodds.

5. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 6th June as a true record was proposed by Jan Barr and seconded by Evelyn Graham. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 4th September as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Raymond Russell. The minutes of both meetings were signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk

7. BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 Harvest Thanksgiving Service

The Moderator proposed that the Harvest Thanksgiving Service would be on the 9th October and elders agreed this date. Noting that there was a Beetle Drive planned for the previous evening by the Social and Fund Raising Committee of the Congregational Board, the

Moderator asked whether elders were minded to have a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 8th October. After some discussion it was agreed that there would be a Coffee Morning from 10 am until noon at which Christmas Cards, supporting the work of the Lodging House Mission and CrossReach, would be on sale.

The church would be open between 10 am and noon to accept Harvest Gifts. Non perishable gifts of food would be donated to the Lodging House Mission; financial gifts would be donated to support the work of Water Aid.

7.2 Communion Bread

The Moderator said that he had made a suggestion following the Communion Service on Sunday, 4th September that gluten-free bread could be served to the elders; elders agreed with this suggestion. Evelyn Graham undertook to provide the gluten-free bread and offered to provide gluten-free bread for the informal monthly communions.

7.3 Rev Alastair Cherry's Wedding

The Moderator said that most people would be aware that his predecessor, Alastair Cherry, was being married at Williamwood Church on Saturday, 24th September. Members of the church choir had been invited by the organist at Williamwood to join his church choir at the wedding ceremony. He proposed that the Session Clerk should write to Alastair and Aileen to pass on the good wishes of Stamperland Church members for a long and happy marriage.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

8.1 Session Clerk

8.1.1 Messages on Church Telephone Answering Machine

The Session Clerk indicated that on many occasions when people left contact numbers on the church answering machine they did so at the end of the recorded message. Towards the end of a message it was very common for people to lower their voice and, as a result, the final digits of their phone number were often difficult to make out. On one recent message the caller wished to have his son baptised but gave two different versions of his contact phone number and did not enunciate clearly the final digits. Knowing that the caller's name was David Yates and that the Yates family had recently moved to Stamperland, Bill Paterson was able to identify the Yates address as Randolph Drive.

8.1.2 Scotland's Churches Scheme Gathering

The Session Clerk read a letter from the Director of Scotland's Churches Scheme in which he invited two representatives from Stamperland Parish Church to attend the Gathering on Monday, 17th October in Hamilton. No elders indicated any wish to attend.

8.1.3 Letter from Jim Sneddon, East Renfrewshire Council

The Session Clerk read a letter from Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Service at East Renfrewshire Council which concerned the use of the Community Noticeboard which was located in the church grounds at the corner of Stamperland Hill and Stamperland Gardens. Users of the noticeboard were asked to comply with the protocol which had been agreed in September 2007 and there was a particular request that all notices should be signed and hold the correct contact details of the individual or organisation who had displayed the notice.

8.1.4 Letters to Pamela Mackay and Captain James MacKenzie

The Session Clerk said that he had written to Mrs Pamela Mackay conveying the thanks and appreciation of the Kirk Session for her work as Superintendent of Stepping Stones and Quest. He said that he had also written to Captain James MacKenzie formally noting his retirement from the position of Captain of the 231st Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade and welcoming the appointment of Peter Dale as the new Captain. In the letter he had also highlighted that elders had paid fulsome tribute to everything that Jim had achieved in the thirteen years he had led the Company and wished to thank him for his devoted service.

9 REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

The Roll Keeper intimated the deaths of three members; Mr John Dodds, Mrs Florence Stewart and Mrs Dorothy Bell.

10 REPORT FROM PRESBYTER ELDER

Mrs MacKenzie stated that Presbytery was meeting on the flowing day and there was thus nothing to report. However, she drew elders' attention to an event being held in Cathcart Trinity Church on 20th September. The event was titled, "How to Double your Congregation in a Day" and was an extension of the successful "Back to Church" campaign.

11 PROGRESS WITH TWINNING

The Moderator reported on the progress with twinning. There were two twinning initiatives, one in Glasgow and one in Europe, and also an opportunity to develop a relationship with a community in Zambia.

11.1 Progress with Lochwood Parish Church

The Moderator reported that he was still experiencing some difficulty in establishing good communication links with Rev Stuart Duff. Nevertheless, he was moving ahead and had started writing monthly articles for Focus which would detail the progress with twinning and highlight news and initiatives relating to Lochwood Parish Church. The 3-4-2 Group which had been established in the church and was being co-ordinated by Margaret McKee would be sending non-perishable goods to Lochwood Church for distribution to people in need within the parish. Elders from Lochwood would be invited to attend Kirk Session meetings at Stamperland to enable the congregation to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of news and events at Lochwood. It was hoped that elders from Stamperland might attend Kirk Session meetings at Lochwood and that members of Stamperland would occasionally attend worship at Lochwood on a Sunday morning.

11.2 Progress with St Andrew's Church, Rome

The Moderator reported that he had been in contact with Rev Bill McCulloch minister of St Andrew's Church in Rome regarding establishing a twinning arrangement. St Andrew's was very much a multi-national, multi-cultural church. It had links to many countries and communities, had twinning arrangements with a church in Accra, Ghana as well as North Motherwell Church and Marchmont St Giles Church in Edinburgh and was keen to develop new twinning links. The Moderator said that Jess Thomson had visited the church and had been surprised when the minister, Bill McCulloch told her that he had been in talks with himself about a twinning arrangement.

11.3 Netherlee School and Pokola Basic School in Zimbabwe

The Moderator informed the Kirk Session that Netherlee School were developing a link with Pokola Basic School in Zimbabwe. There is a strong Christian tradition in Zimbabwe and the pastor to Pokola Basic School is keen to have a link with a church connected with Netherlee Primary School. The Moderator indicated that so far, there has only been an initial discussion with teachers at Netherlee Primary but elders indicated that they were content that exploring some form of link be pursued.

12 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

John Currer reported that the new PVG scheme is, at last, up and running. Two applications have been made under the new scheme. John confirmed that elders do not require PVG clearance unless they are visiting housebound people or people who are especially vulnerable.

13 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

13.1 Parish and Beyond

Jan Barr reported that the Parish and Beyond Committee have prepared a new information leaflet. A draft of the document was circulated. It was professionally colour printed on high-quality, glossy card and was well-received by the elders. The plan was to have an initial print run of several hundred and target the leaflet at people who had recently moved to Stamperland.

The Moderator said that he was keen that we should deliver such a leaflet to every home in the parish every year to let people know what the church was doing and what we offered. Communication with all in the parish was vital.

13.2 Pastoral Care

The Session Clerk informed elders that Scott Russell had spoken about establishing a group of volunteers who would be able to assist people in the parish who were unable to manage tasks such as clearing paths of snow or make an occasional trip to a local shop for everyday items such as bread or milk. Volunteers could be from within the congregation or members of uniformed organisations meeting in the church. Scott had indicated that he would be willing to co-ordinate the setting up of a group. Elders indicated that they were interested in the concept and would like to hear more detail. Questions were raised about any potential requirement for insurance cover should one of the group be injured and the need for full consideration of PVG issues.

14 MODERATOR'S REPORT OF MEETING WITH STEPPING STONES

The Moderator reported on a meeting which he had chaired with the leaders of Stepping Stones and with representatives of the Creche.

He said that he had concerns about Stepping Stones and issues related to a lack of Biblical knowledge on the part of many of the staff of Stepping Stones, a lack of commitment of the staff to regular attendance at Stepping Stones and their general lack of knowledge about the church, its structure and operation.

We were also, he said, losing the top age youths from Stepping Stones. It was imperative to have a good programme in order to attract and keep the interest of the children. The material being used and its delivery had to be improved; modern technology had to be embraced. The lower hall had been decorated with members from Quest actively assisting in some of the painting; it was hoped that Fiona Leathem could possibly paint a mural on one of the walls; it was planned that computers would be procured.

A number of elders commented that other local churches provide activities for young people during the summer holidays and Stamperland didn't; that there was a long summer gap at Stamperland with Stepping Stones finishing in May and not starting until September; that there were frequent "holidays" with Stepping Stones not meeting whenever the schools were on holiday so that continuity was lost; that there were no "extra-curricular" activities; whilst lessons could be learned from what had been experienced in the last few years it was important to look ahead and plan for the future; that, while there were serious shortcomings in regard to Stepping Stones, a number of good and positive outcomes had been achieved.

The Moderator highlighted that whilst the Communion Roll might indicate the church had almost 400 members, only some 145 members had, thus far, responded positively to the Gift Day and the request for re-appraisal. What, he asked, did this say about the commitment of the members? Less than half of the members are committed financially, practically and in actively volunteering to do necessary work. This situation was in contrast to that in some of the churches he had visited recently as the leader of a Presbytery Audit Team. The members of Stamperland Church needed, he said, to look critically at re-appraisal

15 PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRESBYTERY RE-APPRAISAL VISIT

The Moderator said that the re-appraisal meeting would probably be held in the Session Room. The format would require eight tables with groups of three at each table. We should thus look for about 24 members of the congregation to attend. A "pre-meeting" was to be held on Thursday, 22nd September. At this meeting the congregational representatives would look at the questions to be asked and consider their potential responses. This should enable them to answer the presbytery team more quickly and more comprehensively.

The Session Clerk indicated that currently only about a dozen people had confirmed their ability to attend the Presbytery meeting.

16 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings were agreed as:

Wednesday, 5th October

Monday, 14th November

Monday, 5th December

17 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2011
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Matthew Chapter 22 verses 1 to 5 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES and SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from, Margo Neilson, Pat McIlraith, Grace Scott, Janet Stewart and George Finlayson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 21 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Three amendments were proposed to the Minute of the meeting of 12th September.

- In item 7.1 it was proposed that it should be amended to state that the Coffee Morning being held on Saturday, 8th October at which Christmas Cards, supporting the work of the Lodging House Mission and CrossReach, would be on sale, was to be organised by the Parish and Beyond Committee.
- In item 11.3 it was erroneously stated that Pokola Basic School was in Zimbabwe and the text should be corrected to state that Pokola Basic School was located in Zambia.
- In Item 13.1 it was proposed that there was a reference to the fact that Ray McNiven would succeed Jan Barr as the convenor of the Parish and Beyond Committee.

With the acceptance of these amendments it was proposed that the minute should be accepted as a true record by Jane Curror and seconded by Fraser Mackintosh. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk

6. BUSINESS ARISING

Session Clerk.....

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Moderator

6.1 Meeting with David Yates

The Moderator referred to item 8.1.1 of the minutes and stated that he had visited the Yates family in Randolph Drive. He was told by Mr Yates that their son had very recently been baptised at a church in Fife where the family had lived before their recent move to Stamperland.

6.2 Progress with Twinning

6.2.1 Lochwood Parish Church

The Moderator reported that he had made contact with Rev Stuart Duff. Lochwood's celebration the previous Sunday of its 50th anniversary had gone well with the Sunday morning service having been conducted by Rev David Lunan.

The Moderator also stated that it would be good if Lochwood could be mentioned every Sunday in the printed Order of Service.

6.2.2 Pokola Basic School, Zambia

The Moderator reported that he had spoken with teachers at Netherlee School. Two people from Pokola were visiting Scotland between the 24th November and 3rd December. The purpose of the visit was principally to learn more about Netherlee School but the Moderator was investigating ways in which they might have some involvement with Stamperland Church, perhaps participating in morning worship.

6.2.3 Moderator's attendance at Twinning Conference

The Moderator reported on his recent attendance at a twinning conference in Auchterarder on Saturday, 1st October. It was the first ever World Mission Conference on Twinning and entitled 'Reaping the Benefits - Connecting Globally through Church Twinning.'

He had attended various workshops including, 'Twinning Tools' which covered planning and evaluating led by Shirley Brown (Vice Convenor World Mission), 'Preparing the Ground... Planting the Seed' which was led by Karen Francis and 'Watering the Seed', a session encouraging ownership of the twinning relationship led by Rev Ian Macaulay. After a Question Time Session with Panellists Rev Ian Alexander (World Mission Council Secretary), Carol Finlay (Twinning and Local Development Secretary) and Rev. Dr. Solomon Sule-Saa (Director for Ecumenical and Social Relations from the Presbyterian Church of Ghana) worship was concluded by Rev Christine Sime with a Skype link on the screen with a church in Zambia where the worship was shared.

Key Points from the conference included finding answers to the questions, "What is Twinning?", "What does Twinning look like?", "How do you begin?"

The session, 'Watering the Seed' was about sustaining the Twinning once it is established. It requires working and worship together, recognising the equality of the experience. The twinned congregations need to be transparent, share information and enthusiasm, and ensure the participation of all age groups.

The Moderator handed his notes summarising the key aspects of the conference to the Clerk to be available to any elder who would like a copy.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Retirement of Mrs Brenda Williams from Netherlee Primary School

The Moderator intimated that Brenda Williams was retiring from the post of deputy head at Netherlee Primary School at the end of the term and that her retirement might be marked at the school Christmas Service in Stamperland Church.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.1.1 National Stewardship Programme

The Session Clerk advised elders that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk regarding the National Stewardship Programme. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had instructed that all churches should adopt a Stewardship Programme. The Presbytery had arranged a meeting at which The Council of Assembly and the Stewardship and Finance Department would present guidelines for implementing the programme. Up to four representatives from each church were invited to attend. It was agreed that Sam Elser and Norman Bolton would attend.

7.1.2 Mary's Meals

The Session Clerk advised that he had received a general invitation from Mary's Meals to their Open Day at the Old Fruitmarket in Candleriggs on Sunday 30th October. The event would include talks by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, the founder of Mary's Meals, family entertainment and a range of stalls. Entry was free and everyone was welcome.

8 STEPPING STONES

The Moderator stated that he had met recently with Angela McCann and Tracy Herbert, two of the Stepping Stone leaders and gave a report of the meeting. There were a number of aspects about which he had concerns. The leaders were unaware that the church, via the Kirk Session, had a responsibility for the financial support of Stepping Stones and that the children's offerings should be used for "good causes" rather than day-to-day running costs. Stepping Stones had been cancelled at short notice one recent Sunday. The team leaders were not fully-aware of their roles. Stepping Stones staff were largely untrained and appropriate training for leaders and assistants was important. There were potential issues regarding disclosure and PVG. Leaders of Stepping Stones believed that they were not being actively visited by elders.

The Moderator advised that he was now acting as Superintendent. There would be three Team Leaders covering, respectively, the Senior, Junior and Infant Stepping Stones departments. The superintendent would talk with the Team leaders who would communicate to the other staff. The Moderator hoped that the Team Leaders would disseminate his views though he realised it might take some time for everyone to fully-understand and appreciate "George's way". The Moderator indicted that, in the past, there had been issues with decisions made at meetings of Stepping Stones leaders being subsequently disregarded and changed without consultation.

Elders expressed their concerns at the situation and raised a variety of comments and suggestions. It was agreed that the Kirk Session wanted all children to receive Christian teaching in an appropriate, relevant and modern fashion; Stepping Stones was not some form of "senior crèche". There was a need to ensure that activities in Stepping Stones were properly structured and planned; staff needed to have training and have access to appropriate teaching material. A number of elders indicated their willingness to assist in the development of Stepping Stones.

Mr Mackay advised that good things had happened in Stepping Stones; numbers of children attending had increased but there remained the problem of retaining the older youths. Not all of the Stepping Stones staff were church members but as the church could not provide the resource from within its membership we should be grateful that non-members were willing to give their time and effort.

9 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

John Curror reported that in relation to the issue of PVG clearance of a number of leaders in Stepping Stones, mentioned in the previous discussion, he had provided four or five application forms. However, with the imminent introduction of the new PVG procedures, the disclosure authorities indicated they did not wish to receive applications based on the old scheme. With the PVG scheme now operational, applications will now be accepted and John said that he would ensure completed forms are sent to Disclosure Scotland.

10 REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

The Roll Keeper informed elders that recent changes to the roll included the death John Buchanan, a member of long standing who had served as Clerk to the Congregational Board for a lengthy period and the transfer of Mrs Lyn McCreddie (formerly Currie) to South Queensferry Parish Church.

Bill Paterson said that the preparations for the Gift Day had highlighted the names of a number of members who had at some time indicated they wished to be removed from the roll, or had moved away from the area and were almost certainly known not to wish to have

an active or perhaps any connection with the church. He asked for guidance on how various members should be treated. The following decisions were made:

Donald Montgomery was to be removed from the roll.

David and Phyllis Fleming and Mrs Pamela Turnbull were to be moved to the Supplementary roll.

The Session Clerk was requested to write to Jim and Eleanor Currie and ask what they wished to do about their continued membership of Stamperland Church. At the same time he was to enquire about the likely intentions of David Currie and Mrs Elizabeth Langley.

11 REPORT FROM PRESBYTER ELDER

Mrs MacKenzie presented a written report. She drew elders' attention to the last item which stated that presbytery had agreed that at the main diets of worship on Sunday 30th October and Sunday 6th November at each congregation in the Presbytery, every person that attends will be asked to write their age on a piece of paper and the pieces of paper will be gathered in. Each congregation will enter the information onto a summary sheet provided by Presbytery and the summary sheet will be returned to the Presbytery Office.

The Session Clerk was tasked with making arrangements for the distribution and collection of the pieces of paper.

12 REPORTS FROM THE MODERATOR ON THE GUILD AND RAINBOW GUIDES

The Moderator read two reports in relation to the Guild and to the Rainbow Guides

12.1 The Guild

The Moderator stated that the previous evening he had had the pleasure of opening the Guild session on the theme, 'Walking Humbly with God'. After the talk, he had broken bread and shared wine with the Guild. In commenting that The Guild has an interesting syllabus and are trying 'afternoon' meetings as an experiment he sought to commend all the work that The Guild do and their thoughtfulness in trying to assess how to help The Guild grow.

12.2 The Rainbow Guides

The Moderator informed elders that he understood in May that a large group of Brownies were moving up to the Guides and that in August the Brownies had around 16 girls. Eight Rainbows were due to go up to Brownies between November and January. However, he had recently discovered that the Brownie Pack is full and that there are no places for the girls in the Rainbow Unit. He asked for clarity regarding the correct procedure for selecting girls or providing places for girls in the Brownie Pack. He wondered if the normal practice ought not to be to ensure that girls in the Rainbows were given precedence over girls on the Waiting List or from other areas whose packs are also full? He indicated that while he had a personal interest in the issue he was also frustrated in that whilst we are trying to build and develop our church we are likely to end up sending girls with links and ties to Stamperland Church to organisations based in other local congregations and thereby losing them and potentially, their parents.

Kay Bolton indicated that the Guide organisation has strict rules regarding the numbers of girls allowed in any one Unit irrespective of the numbers of leaders. The sizes were a maximum of 18 girls in the Rainbows, a maximum of 24 girls in Brownies and a maximum of 48 Guides. There were also strict rules about the ages of the girls permitted in each group. She indicated that when she had been the leader of the Rainbows there had been close liaison between her and the Brownie leaders regarding the provision of places in Brownies for girls who had to leave the Rainbows on attaining the maximum age.

Nancy Fisher said that it looked as though there had been a breakdown in communication between leaders. She said that the Brownies had a new leader, April Eadie, who had very recently taken over. In previous years when there were two Brownie packs the problem might have not existed; however, with the shortage of leaders leading to there being only one Brownie pack there was clearly now an issue.

After considerable discussion, Nancy Fisher undertook to speak to the local Rainbow and Brownie leaders and also to officials in East Renfrewshire Guides.

13 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

13.1 Parish and Beyond

The Parish and Beyond Committee requested assistance with the donation of baking for the Coffee Morning on Saturday, 8th October.

13.2 Other Committees

There were no reports from any other committees. Sam Esler stated that he didn't understand why committees, other than the Parish and Beyond Committee, did not meet and report to the Kirk Session. The Moderator said he wanted committees to work; a committee structure had been established and convenors tasked with calling meetings. Fraser Mackintosh said that the Pastoral Care Committee had been waiting for input from the Moderator to help get it off the ground. Jan Barr indicated that the Parish and Beyond Committee had initially been unsure what to do but they had invited the Minister to attend and he had given them the necessary guidance. Alastair Graham stated he was of the opinion that the selection procedures for the committee membership had been appalling; the Moderator responded that the constitution of each committee was such that most elders had been appointed to the committee which had been their first choice and in only a few cases had elders been asked to serve on a committee which was their second choice. After lengthy discussion, the Moderator said that a basic problem was a lack of elders willing to convene committees. One way in which to tackle this issue was to change the Constitution. The change of Constitution would enable members other than elders to lead and be part of committees. The change could empower people to contribute to the life of the church in new ways. Elders agreed that the Moderator should bring proposals for the change of Constitution to the next meeting.

14 DEMENTIA ART GROUP

The Moderator reported that the people concerned with the Dementia Art Group which met in the church on Tuesday afternoons were very grateful for the support of the church. Having spoken to Paula, the lady who is in charge of the Group, it was intended to have an exhibition of the Group's art work in the church. He also reported that senior officials in the Church of Scotland and in The Guild were very interested in and very supportive of the work of the Dementia Art Group.

15 PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRESBYTERY RE-APPRAISAL VISIT

It was confirmed that the meeting would start at 7.30 and that arrangements should be in place for the arrival of the Presbytery Team shortly after 7.00 pm.

16 ARRANGEMENTS TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLARKSTON GAS EXPLOSION

The Moderator indicated that leaders of Clarkston Churches Together were involved in planning two services to mark the 40th anniversary of the Clarkston gas explosion disaster. There would be an act of commemoration at the memorial at Clarkston Halls at 3.00pm on Friday 21st October, exactly 40 years after the disaster on the 21st October 1971. Two days later there would be a service at Greenbank Church starting at 2.00 pm on Sunday, 23rd October.

17 RETIRING OFFERINGS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, DECEMBER COMMUNION, CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

It was agreed that the retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday should be donated to Erskine Home.

It was agreed that the retiring offering on Communion Sunday should be donated to Mary's Meals.

It was agreed that the offering taken at the Christmas Eve Watchnight Service should be donated to CHAS, the Children's Hospice Association.

18 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings were agreed as:
 Monday, 14th November
 Monday, 5th December

19 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2011
 IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Hebrews Chapter 12 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES and SEDERUNT

Apologies were received from Jan Barr, Anne MacKenzie, Janet Stewart, Jess Thomson, Grace Walker and Connell Cranston.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION – A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE EXPERIENCE OF GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH FROM PROFESSOR GORDON DICKSON

The Moderator reminded elders that he was looking at the prospect of changing the constitution of the church. Many churches had moved from the Model Constitution to the Unitary Constitution including Greenbank Parish Church. He had spoken to his colleague, Jeanne Roddick at Greenbank and she had suggested that Professor Gordon Dickson, an elder at the church, could come and speak to the Kirk Session, telling them about the rationale for the change and of lessons learned. As a result, he said he was now able to welcome Professor Dickson to the meeting and invite him to address the elders. In his opening remarks, Professor Dickson said that he would indicate why Greenbank Church believed that they needed to change their structures, what the structure now looked like and highlight some areas where the change process might have been improved. He

stressed that his views were personal and might not reflect the opinions of all of his fellow elders or fellow members in the congregation.

The governance of the church is, he said, not a subject that normally excites great interest. In the church, governance is about ensuring that what we want to do we do well and that the support mechanisms are in place. Stamperland Church had a great Mission Statement with a tremendous vision; the governance methods and structure need to suit the vision. It was important that strategy should come before structure; the structure should be developed to ensure that the vision could be realised. Governance, whilst apparently a dry dusty topic is there to help advance Christ's kingdom.

At Greenbank Church the constitution involved both Kirk Session and Congregational Board. There was nothing particularly wrong with the way in which the church functioned. However, the Kirk Session was encouraged to consider the question, "Is the current structure fit for the purpose and mission of the church?" Observations were that the Kirk Session sometimes appeared to the "ordinary church members" to be a group which was somewhat distant and secretive. Ordinary members weren't sure what discussions took place at Kirk Session meetings and didn't feel part of decisions made by the Kirk Session. Elders observed that Kirk Session Agendas were largely about "Church Business" and that little time was spent at Kirk Session meetings on spiritual matters. There were too many meetings; there was little clarity about delegation and about who could make what decisions. There was also a realisation that much of what happened in the church was not as a result of actions or decisions of the Kirk Session. The Kirk Session's answer to the question, "What would happen if the Kirk Session didn't meet for a year?" was interesting. It was realised that changes were needed.

The starting point was a review of Greenbank Church's vision. The agreed vision now states, "At Greenbank we aim to be a friendly church for all, as we respond to the call of Jesus Christ through Worship, Outreach, Fellowship and Stewardship." The new structure was designed with four themes - Worship, Outreach, Fellowship and Stewardship. All activities were grouped under one of the four headings. Four Co-ordinators were appointed, one of each area of activity, to work with groups of people. The co-ordinators bring matters and plans to the Session. Reports, plans and recommendations from each co-ordinator are issued in advance of Kirk Session meetings. The Kirk Session allocates budgets and makes high-level decisions but leaves the co-ordinators and their groups to carry out tasks without the requirement to seek approval for each and every step. The Kirk Session also set goals for the four groups to allow evaluation of the benefits of the change of structure.

Professor Dickson said that he believed that most people felt that they were now more involved than previously. There were, he believed, a number of lessons which were learned from the experience of change. These were:

- Be very clear about the vision. As elders we have, he said, been chosen to lead. Every part of the proposed new structure needs to be tested against the mission and vision and evaluated to see if it will help. We should know and understand why we want to change the constitution and what benefits are being sought. We should be clear about the role of the Kirk Session.
- Be clear on what the outcomes might be – shorter, more-focussed meetings, for example. Monitor the effectiveness of the outcomes.
- Don't take too long in making the change. To use a good Scottish expression, "don't fouter".
- Don't make endless presentations to yourselves and avoid endless talks.
- It is important to know what the Moderator thinks and feels about the structure.
- Try to identify "unintended consequences" and take steps to manage them. Professor Dickson said that in implementing their changes Greenbank didn't pay enough attention to the Board members. They felt "unimportant" and that their jobs had been "done away with". Some elders felt that they had "lost the feeling of control".

Following the presentation there was a series of questions from elders.

Asked about the view of the church hierarchy at “121 George Street”, Professor Dickson said that he believed that the Unitary Constitution was viewed as the modern way of thinking about governance.

Asked about the role of former Congregational Board members Professor Dickson said that at Greenbank all Congregational Board members became “Associate Elders” and attended Kirk Session meetings. There were about 90 Elders and Associate Elders at Greenbank Church. Associate elders didn’t have elder’s districts and didn’t visit members in their homes.

Asked about how the new constitution was implemented Professor Dickson said that all church members had a vote in relation to the decision to change.

Asked about how the new structure dealt with the important functions of finance and fabric, Professor Dickson said that these particular aspects were grouped under the “Stewardship” umbrella.

In response to a question about day-to-day operation, Professor Dickson said that there were meetings attended by the Minister, Session Clerk and Deputy Session Clerk, Treasurer and the four co-ordinators where “minor” decisions were often made rather than taking them all the way to the Session.

The Moderator thanked Gordon Dickson for coming and talking to the Kirk Session. He said that his presentation had been insightful, helpful and interesting and he asked that Professor Dickson convey the good wishes of Stamperland Church to the members of Greenbank Church.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2011 as a true record was proposed by Nancy Fisher and seconded by Evelyn Graham. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 Presbytery Audit

The Moderator said that he was still waiting for some Audit Evaluation Forms to be returned. Overall it was felt that the process had not allowed those attending to explain in any detail what the church did and that the very brief statements on the post-it notes could be unclear, ambiguous and open to mis-interpretation.

7.2 Rainbows

Nancy Fisher informed elders that she had spoken with the District Commissioner about the issue of girls leaving the Rainbows not being able to join the Brownies straight away. Discussions were in progress and she hoped that there would be a resolution to the problem. There was, she said, a problem concerning the leadership of the Brownies; currently there were only two leaders and they were operating with a parent rota system to ensure that there was an adequate number of adults present each evening.

The Moderator asked that the Kirk Session was updated with progress

7.3 Stepping Stones

Alastair Graham informed elders that, along with Jane and John Currer, he had met with Stepping Stones leaders. There was concern that unless something were done quickly Stepping Stones would have a problem after Christmas. At least one member of staff was leaving after Christmas and one had indicated that they could only attend every second week. Teaching material had been sourced. There was a need to provide a means of cascading information from Team Leaders to all staff. Significant changes were required. There were over 1360 houses in Stamperland and very many of these housed young families. There were thus opportunities for attracting significant numbers of young people; however, it would require hard work to re-establish the large numbers of previous years. Alastair reported that Jane, John and himself would meet after Christmas to develop plans for the start of the 2012 – 2013 session in August.

7.4 Retiring Offering on Remembrance Sunday

Kay Bolton reported that only £21 had been donated to the retiring offering for Erskine Home on the previous Sunday and suggested that members were given a further opportunity to donate on the following Sunday. Elders agreed with this proposal.

Elders commented that the behaviour of the youths present at the Remembrance Service had been exemplary and the Session Clerk was asked to write to the leaders of the Uniformed organisations complimenting them on the excellent behaviour and conduct.

7.5 Congestion in the Church Vestibule

Pat McIlraith commented that at the close of morning worship the church vestibule was often quite congested. On occasions this made it difficult to read notices, sign sheets, etc.. To relieve the congestion it was suggested that some items, for example, sponsor sheets requiring signature could be displayed in the St John Chapel area rather than the vestibule.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

8.1 Session Clerk

8.1.1 National Stewardship Programme

The Session Clerk advised elders that he and Sam Esler had attended a meeting at which representatives of The Council of Assembly and the Stewardship and Finance Department presented guidelines for implementing the Stewardship Programme. At the meeting it was reported that, at its meeting in May 2011, The General Assembly had welcomed the proposals for a National Stewardship Programme, had agreed there should be national publicity for the Programme and had instructed Presbyteries to instruct their congregations to participate in the Programme. All churches, therefore, had to have a stewardship event in 2012 with a focus on finance.

Over the last 40 years the financial giving of Church of Scotland members has just beaten inflation but membership has dropped by over 50 per cent. Whilst existing members had risen to the financial challenge only 38 per cent of churches currently meet their full costs. Money is important to the church; it is required to maintain people, buildings, projects, outreach. Church members give financially to make a difference to the lives of individuals, the life of our community, the life of Scotland and the life of the world.

There is to be a move away from Stewardship Campaigns to a Stewardship Culture. In a three year cycle attention will focus on one aspect of stewardship – finance, time and talents. In 2012 the focus for all churches is to be on Finance. There is to be a National Stewardship Programme but not every church will do the same thing at the same time. There is one time constraint which has to be observed - the Church of Scotland has printed a leaflet to be delivered to every home; the leaflet has a message from the Moderator and must be delivered before May 2012 when the new Moderator takes up office.

Each church has freedom to adopt a stewardship programme which suits its particular needs but the programme has to be approved by Presbytery. The Church of Scotland advise that programmes which would meet with approval include Stewardship Season, Giving for Growth Programme, Giving in Grace (a Church of England programme), Give to Grow (a Salvation Army programme) and Seasons of Giving.

The core ingredients for any stewardship programme were stated to be

- Commitment and enthusiasm from all office bearers.
- Prayer.
- Careful preparation and planning.
- Teaching Christian giving as a response to God's giving and a means of sharing the gospel through the life and work of the church.
- Imaginative material to communicate the message.
- An opportunity for everyone in the congregation to make a personal response.

In discussion the Moderator commented that in visits to other congregations as part of the Presbytery Audit he had noted that some churches had moved to a culture of stewardship. Having noted that there was a national campaign elders wondered if there might not be benefits for all of our neighbouring Church of Scotland churches to have a co-ordinated

“stewardship programme” in 2012. The Moderator undertook to ask his colleagues for their views on co-ordinating stewardship events at the next fraternal meeting.

8.1.2 Presbytery Census of Attendance at Worship

The Session Clerk reported the results of the exercise to count the number and ages of those who attended morning worship on Sunday 30th October and Sunday 6th November. The table below indicates the number of people in each age range who returned a slip.

Age Range	Under 16	16 - 25	26 - 40	41 - 65	66 - 80	81 - 100	Total	Total Adults
30 th Oct	22	4	8	36	66	15	151	129
6 th Nov	25	2	6	39	64	16	152	127

The Session Clerk said that an independent head-count carried out on the 6th November showed that there had been an attendance of 139 adults, including the minister and organist, yet only 127 slips had been returned. Conversely, on the 30th November, whilst an accurate, independent count had not been undertaken there was a feeling that, at 129, the recorded number of slips was a little higher than the number of adults present. However, whilst there might be some uncertainty over exact numbers the age distribution was virtually identical on both Sundays.

The Moderator said that elders should reflect on what influence the age distribution might have on the vision and mission of our church.

9 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

John Curror reported that he had sent off disclosure applications for Tracy Herbert, Fraser Johnston and Violet Walker.

10 REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson had prepared a report of changes to the Roll which was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that Donald Montgomery had been removed from the Roll. Mr David Fleming and Mrs Phyllis Fleming, Mrs Pamela Turnbull, Miss Elaine McDonald, Mrs Lesley Brown and Mrs Ann Blair were all removed to the supplementary Roll. It had been established that Elaine McDonald was now Mrs Eagles and could be contacted through her mother, Mrs McDonald, 19 Stamperland Avenue.

The Session Clerk indicated that he had written to Mr and Mrs J Currie but had not received a reply. He said that he had not enquired about David Currie, their son, nor about Mrs Langley, Eleanor Currie’s mother. It was reported that Mrs Langley was now resident with her son. Her former home at 131, The Oval was now the home of Mr Grant McDowall.

It was agreed that whilst Iain Fulton had moved to an address south of the border he should remain on the roll as a full member.

The Roll Keeper also informed elders that Miss Gillian Harte, having moved to Ledard Road, had transferred her church membership to Langside Parish Church.

11 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11.1 Parish and Beyond

Ray McNiven reported that the Parish and Beyond Committee had been a little disappointed with the level of donations at the Coffee Morning on Saturday, 8th October. Whilst significant numbers of Christmas Cards had been sold those attending and enjoying coffee and baking appeared not to have noticed the donation plate and only about £100 was raised from donations. Both organisations selling cards (Lodging House Mission and CrossReach) had, however, been pleased with the results of their sales.

It was reported that two visitors had come in to the “Open Doors” on a Wednesday morning having seen the Church Open banner. Subsequent to the visit, it was believed that one visitor was likely to attend morning worship and that the father of the second visitor might re-ignite his interest in the church.

It was further reported that Connell Cranston was looking at options regarding the provision of a Church Notice Board which could be more obvious to members of the public passing the church.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Report on Meeting held at Cartsbridge Church

The Moderator informed elders that Jess Thomson had attended a meeting at Cartsbridge evangelical Church at which there had been presentations on the Sectarianism Bill and the “re-definition of marriage” currently under discussion in the Scottish Parliament. Edith Moseley, who also attended the meeting, reported that the presentations had been very slick. The Moderator stated that he had a copy of some of the pamphlets distributed at the meeting should any elders wish to read them.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings were agreed as:

Sunday, 4th December, Celebration of Communion.

Monday, 5th December. It was agreed that after this meeting there would be a “Secret Santa” with light refreshments.

14 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5th DECEMBER 2011 IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Isaiah Chapter 61 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alastair Graham and Grace Walker.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 24 ruling elders.

5. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was pointed out that the mention of John Curror in Item 7.3 was incorrect. John’s name should be replaced with that of the minister, George Mackay. With this amendment, acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2011 as a true record was

proposed by George Finlayson and seconded by Ray McNiven. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Presbytery Audit

The Moderator said that he had received further, completed, Audit Evaluation Forms.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Lochwood Parish Church

The moderator advised elders that he had received an e-mail from Stuart Duff along with a copy of Lochwood's Prayer Diary. He told elders that Stuart had become a grandfather for the first time.

The Moderator encouraged elders to send a Christmas Card to Lochwood Church and also St Andrew's Church in Rome.

7.1.2 Developing Links with Zambia

The moderator advised that he had written an article for Focus in which he highlighted the potential opportunity for developing links with Pokola in Zambia. Claire McNamee, the Netherlee Primary School teacher who was very closely linked with the Pokola School / Netherlee School partnership, had raised £700 through sponsorship of her Seven Hills run in Edinburgh with contributions of £50 coming from church sponsors. He said that he expected that two teachers from Pokola School would come to Glasgow sometime in January.

8 REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported three changes to the Church Roll.

He announced that Ross MacLennan had died.

Grant Macdowall was now at 131 The Oval.

Iain Fulton was working in England and his contact address was c/o his parents at 31 Lothian Drive.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie said that she had no formal report. Currently, Presbytery was not inspiring; several ministers were "avoiding" attending Presbytery. There were issues with a number of churches withholding finance. At the November meeting there had been a lot of detailed information on finance which was relevant to church treasurers but not presbytery elders.

Mrs MacKenzie told elders that Rev Lily Mackinnon had left Govanhill Church and had been inducted as minister at Hillhead Church, Kirkintilloch.

10 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

John Curror said that he had nothing to report.

11 ELDERS VISITING ORGANISATIONS

11.1 Scouts

Evelyn Graham reported that she had visited the Scouts. Generally, they were in good spirits but all sections were short of adult leaders. Some of the senior boys were assisting with the Beavers and Cubs. There was also reliance on assistance from parents.

The Moderator said that the support of the congregation and elders at the recent Scout Coffee Evening had been much appreciated.

11.2 The Guild

Fraser Mackintosh said that he had visited The Guild on the evening when Ken Macintosh, MSP was the speaker and gave a very interesting talk on the differences between Westminster and Edinburgh. The number attending The Guild was generally 25 ladies. Fraser said that the Guild could do with assistance in setting up tables and chairs prior to their Tuesday meetings.

The Moderator commented that the Guild formed a gigantic tapestry which stretched across Scotland and did a great job of work.

12 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

12.1 Parish and Beyond

Ray McNiven reported that the Parish and Beyond Committee had met on 30th November. Good progress was being made with the preparation of the Open Door Lunch.

The committee wished to know how much money was raised through Open Door and Kay Bolton was asked to report in the New Year.

The committee had ascertained that not all church members were receiving a copy of Focus. Sheila McIntosh would be given an up-to-date version of the Communion Roll and ensure that the Focus distribution lists were updated. The committee had also looked at leaflet drops to the parish and were planning to distribute leaflets promoting Stepping Stones in the autumn of 2012. Jane Curror asked whether there had been consideration of handing leaflets to people who came into the church in connection with organisations such as Baby Sensory. Connell Cranston said that he thought the people who used Baby Sensory came from a wider area than our local parish but that he would ask baby Sensory for their views on distributing leaflets.

Ray McNiven also reported that the committee were looking at some form of illuminated sign or moving word-strip which could be used to advertise. The Moderator commented that communication was important and there had been recent moves in relation to use of the internet and sites such as Facebook as well as new noticeboards in the church and church hall vestibules.

13 EASTWOOD ECUMENICAL PEACE AND JUSTICE FORUM

Edith Moseley reported on her attendance at a recent Peace and Justice Forum meeting.

Poverty and Homeless Week was 28th January to 5th February. All churches were urged to participate with a collection of household items for Starter Pack, Glasgow. Elders agreed that Stamperland should participate. The Parish and Beyond Committee were happy to organise the collection of goods.

Mrs Moseley reported that two talks would be taking place in St Joseph's church in January on the subjects of "Trafficking in Glasgow" and "Poverty Alliance Group". The Session Clerk said that the Guild had recently had a talk on Trafficking. This led to a discussion about whether trafficking was a police matter rather than issue for the church and to a suggestion that local churches might come together to talk to local politicians on a wide range of matters. The moderator said that he would raise this at the next meeting of Clarkston Churches Together.

14 CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION, NEXT STEPS

The Moderator asked elders for their views on the possible change. George Finlayson said that it was a good idea if it cut down on meetings. Pat McIlraith said that change is necessary; we can't be stuck in one place and need to face up to change. Grace Scott said that a change would be positive if it widened the number of people involved.

The Moderator said that most of the most-successful churches in the Presbytery had moved to the new constitution which involves more congregational members. As we all get older this takes the pressure off Kirk Session members. Within the Session there were elders who were not willing to convene meetings whereas, within the congregation, there were members who would be able to do so. The Congregational Board and Session would both have to change. There would be fewer 'big meetings' but there would be more meetings of smaller groups such as convenors and vice-convenors of committees. Overall, more work should be done. The congregation would recognise that the church is not the minister's church, nor the elders' church but the congregations' church.

Nancy Fisher said that she was concerned that the Session committees, other than the Parish and Beyond Committee, were not working and asked why the new structure would make any difference. The Moderator said that this was a very valid point but suggested that there

could be people in the “congregation” who would be able and willing to be more active and involved. Various views were put forward to explain why committees were not working. Some suggested that the absence of a written remit and detail about what each committee was expected to do was a reason; that it was important to have clear view of what was expected; that the Parish and Beyond Committee had only really started to function after the Moderator attended and indicated, very clearly, what he expected of the committee. Commenting on this latter point the Moderator said that it shouldn’t be necessary to give detailed role specification but rather leave it up to the committee to come up with its own ideas based on a broad appreciation of the subject area.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed the Session Clerk would issue a questionnaire to elders asking them to state a first and second preference for which Session Committee they would serve on. Elders would also be asked if they were prepared to lead a committee. Further, in relation to changing the constitution, elders would be asked if they wished to serve on an ad-hoc committee which would look at the options and implications of a change of constitution.

It was noted that the Kirk Session had the power to co-opt church members onto committees.

15 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Moderator stated that he planned the following services over the festive season.

Christmas Eve,	7.00 pm	Pyjama Service
	11.20 pm	Watchnight Service
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Christmas Day Service
New Year’s Day	10.30 am	New Year Day Service

All elders agreed with the Moderator’s plan.

The Moderator advised that the morning service on 8th January would be conducted by Rev Ainslie Walton.

16 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the Kirk Session would meet on Sunday 15th January immediately after the close of Morning Worship to attest the Communion Roll and elect the Presbytery Elder.

It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Kirk Session would be in February with the date to be advised later.

17 CLOSURE

The Moderator thanked all elders for their work during the year and wished them a Blessed Christmas and New Year.

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

Following the closure of the meeting, elders enjoyed light refreshments and participated in a “Secret Santa”

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2012
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 23 ruling elders.

3. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

The Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2011			392
Number removed from Roll during 2011	by Death	7	
	by Certificate	2	
	by Otherwise	10	
			19
Number added to Roll during 2011	by Profession	3	
	by Certificate		
	by Otherwise		
			3
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2011			376
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2011			23
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2011			6

The Moderator thanked Bill Paterson for his work in maintaining the Communion Roll.

The Moderator thanked all who had supported Eva Allan and the Allan family following the recent death of Bob Allan.

4. NUMBERS OF BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS

The Moderator reported that during 2011 the number of baptisms, weddings and funerals had been as follows:

Baptisms	Four	(Three infant baptisms, one adult baptism.)
Weddings	None	
Funerals	22	(Seven of members and 15 of non-members)

5. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with unanimous approval and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

6. CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Moderator indicated that he had been pleased with the attendance at the various Christmas services and thanked everyone who had assisted in any way with the Christmas and New Year services ranging from the decoration of the church to the serving of soup. Despite atrocious weather more than 50 people had attended the Pyjama Service on Christmas Eve and there were good numbers at the Watchnight Service and Christmas Day service.

6. VISITORS FROM POKOLA, ZAMBIA

The Moderator intimated that he was expecting two representatives from Pokola School in Zambia to attend morning worship later in the month and that he hoped that the visit would mark the start of a relationship between Stamperland Church and a church in Pokola. He suggested that it would be a nice gesture to give a small gift at the start of the relationship and sought agreement from elders that a quaich would be an appropriate memento. Elders agreed.

7. SOUPER SUNDAY

The Moderator suggested that Stamperland should mark Souper Sunday on the 5th February.

8. GLASGOW PRESBYTERY PLAN

The Moderator informed elders that he had received a copy of the “Congregational Data Profile” document from Presbytery. He said that he was concerned about a number of aspects, particularly the scores related to the “Outward Looking Focus” aspects which had been proposed by the Presbytery Team after their visit to Stamperland on the 6th October. Of particular concern was the score of “4” for the aspect, “Priority to the Vulnerable”. On this aspect he believed Stamperland should have scored higher considering the large number of activities undertaken by the church which could be deemed as being appropriate to this theme. It was generally felt by the elders that the consultation process on the 6th October had been flawed, particularly since there had been little or no discussion or conversation with team members which would have enabled them to have a proper understanding of what Stamperland Church did.

The Session Clerk undertook to send an electronic copy of the “Congregational Data Profile” document to any elder who requested it.

9. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2012
BEFORE MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with prayer.

2. GLASGOW PRESBYTERY PLAN

The Moderator said that, having consulted the Session Clerk, he had called the meeting to inform the Kirk Session of the initial results of the Presbytery Plan. He said that there had been no opportunity for either him or the Session Clerk to study the information. However, the recommendation was that Stamperland Church would have 0.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) minister. Generally, churches on the South side of Glasgow had been scored low with, at first sight, no church having an FTE minister. Locally, Orchard Hill would have 0.85 FTE, Thornliebank would have 0.83 FTE, Netherlee would have 0.78 FTE, Williamwood would have 0.62 FTE and Giffnock South would have 0.58 FTE. It appeared that churches in Urban Priority Areas had scored much more highly.

The Moderator indicated that, having had brief contact with some minister colleagues, their view of the plan was one of incredulity. He, himself, couldn’t imagine the Plan going through Presbytery.

Several elders spoke expressing surprise or concern at the initial recommendations.

The Session Clerk was asked to write to Presbytery and register the concern of the Kirk Session about the implications which the proposals appeared to have regarding the future of Stamperland Church.

The Moderator said that he would inform the congregation of the information in the Presbytery Plan regarding the proposed staffing level of ministry at Stamperland Parish Church.

3. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2012 IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Mark Chapter 9 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jan Barr, Jane Curror, Sheila Macintosh, Pat McIlraith, Janet Stewart John Curror, Gordon Robertson and Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of meetings held on the 5th December 2011, 8th January 2012 and 5th February 2012 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December as a true record was proposed by Bill Paterson and seconded by Edith Moseley.

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January as a true record was proposed by Fraser Mackintosh and seconded by Kay Bolton.

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February as a true record was proposed by George Finalyson and seconded by Sam Esler.

The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Visitors from Pokola Basic School, Zambia

The Moderator said that the two representatives, Miriam and Richard, from Pokola Basic School who came to Glasgow to visit Netherlee Primary School had been delighted with their time in Scotland. They had enjoyed a wonderful welcome from both the school and Stamperland Church and were very positive regarding the friendship shown to them. In many ways they had been overwhelmed by their experiences in Glasgow. They had expressed sincere thanks at the gift of the inscribed Quaich from the church. The Moderator said that he had written to the two churches in Pokola which were associated with the school. Also he intimated that following their visit to Zambia at Easter time, Claire McNamee and Clair Edgar, teachers at Netherlee Primary School would come to Stamperland to talk about their visit and show pictures.

6.2 Souper Sunday

The Moderator expressed his thanks to the ladies of The Guild for their hard work in preparing and serving lunch on Souper Sunday. £187.70 had been raised for the Church of Scotland HIV Project.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Letter from Mrs Marion Henderson

The Session Clerk told elders he had received an e-mail from Mrs Marion Henderson who was living in Benbecula. She asked if the church records could confirm that she had been baptised in Stamperland Church. Her maiden name was Marion Main. The Baptismal record confirmed that Marion Main, 61 Stamperland Gardens, was baptised by Rev Archie Chisholm on 19th September 1971 along with nine other babies.

7.1.2 Church of Scotland Insurance Scheme

The Session Clerk told elders that The Church of Scotland were seeking to promote The Church of Scotland Home Insurance Scheme. For every member who took out a new policy the church would receive a £20 donation from the Insurance Company.

7.1.3 National Stewardship Programme

The Session Clerk told elders that at its meeting in May 2011, The General Assembly of The Church of Scotland had instructed that all churches should participate in a National Stewardship Programme.

Each church had been sent a questionnaire which had to be completed and copies returned to both the Stewardship and Finance Department in 121 George Street, Edinburgh and to the Presbytery Clerk. Elders agreed that the response from Stamperland should indicate that the Leaflet, which contained the letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly, should be delivered with the March edition of Focus and that we were planning to develop and use our own form of stewardship programme for the current year.

8 REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported the addition of a new member, Mrs Karen Cramb, 104 The Oval, who had transferred her membership from Giffnock South Parish Church. He announced that Ross MacLennan had died.

9. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Session Clerk stated that he had spoken with John Curror regarding "Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG)". John had stated that he believed he was carrying out PVG procedures as required.

Elders agreed with the following statement. "It is certified that procedures related to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons serving as voluntary workers with children and young people in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the congregation's Coordinator for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups is appropriately trained to allow that person to be accredited as an authorised signatory for criminal record checks."

10 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie said that she had no formal report of the Presbytery Meeting held the previous evening. The meeting had started at 7:00 pm and had not finished until 10:50 pm. Two hours of the meeting had been held in “Private Session”. She said she felt that aspects of presbytery work were being run by people who are not competent to do so.

Early in the evening the presbyters had been addressed by Rev Dr Martin Scott, Secretary of the Ministries Council. The Ministries Council was £6m in debt. Dr Scott spoke of the drive to encourage church members to become part of the Ordained Local Ministry (OLM). OLM were voluntary and received no stipend; they received two years of training and were subject to one year of probation subsequent to completion of training.

Mrs MacKenzie said that it was after ten o'clock before Presbytery got to “normal business”. A motion proposed by our minister to the effect that Stage 4 of the Presbytery Plan should be delayed was defeated.

Churches were encouraged to participate in FairTrade Fortnight.

Church members were also encouraged to attend an “Easter Witness for Peace” event at Faslane at 12 noon on Saturday 31 March 2012. Participants will include Very Rev Alan McDonald (on behalf of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland). A meeting of the Learning and Nurture Committee would be held on 23rd April at The Guide headquarters in Elmbank Street.

11 PRESBYTERY PLAN

There was considerable discussion about the Presbytery Plan.

The Moderator informed elders of the nature of the motion he had raised at Presbytery in relation to delaying Presbytery’s intention to proceed to Stage 4 of the development of the Plan. There were, he said, three reasons for adopting a delay to starting Stage 4.

The training of the PSD Teams had been inadequate;

neither Presbytery nor congregations had been given sufficient time to look at the output from the STAG group and provide reasoned comment;

moving to Stage 4 effectively implied acceptance of Stage 3 output.

Presbytery had, however, decided not to agree with his proposed motion.

The Moderator highlighted a number of issues in relation to the Plan. With the exception of Urban Priority Area (UPA) Churches, only five churches in the Presbytery would have a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) minister. As an example of a UPA church, Lochwood Church, with whom we were being encouraged to twin, would have 1.6 FTE ministers under the proposed Plan whilst we were planned to have 0.5 FTE minister. There was a bias against non-UPA churches implying that the need of people for spiritual guidance, comfort and care was less in non-UPA parishes.

In drawing up the Plan, a considerable number of PSD Teams had been created to ensure that each church in the Presbytery was visited. There were, however, inconsistencies in the way in which different teams interpreted and scored the activities undertaken by different congregations.

The Moderator advised elders that implementation of the Plan would have a very direct effect on ministers, himself included. Specifically, because some ministers had been called and inducted to vacant churches under “reviewable tenure” conditions there would be differences between the “employment conditions” of ministers in different parishes. Those with “unrestricted tenure” would be on quite a different footing from those on “reviewable tenure”. Locally, both he and Ian Reid, the minister at Williamwood, were on “reviewable tenure”.

The Moderator indicated that all Presbyteries had been instructed by the general Assembly of the Church of Scotland to develop plans. Centrally, the Church of Scotland was planning to have 1,000 FTE ministers across Scotland in 2014. Each presbytery had been given a target number of FTE ministries but also freedom to develop their own plans of how their target figure could be achieved. The process adopted by the Presbytery of Edinburgh had been quite different to that of Glasgow.

Norman Bolton said that he didn't know what Glasgow Presbytery's overall strategy was. There was quite clearly a requirement to make financial savings and reduce the number of ministers but the process whereby the plan was developed with some churches facing reductions in their ministry and others having significant increases was quite unclear. Under the plan, parishes with large populations but with very small numbers of church members were to be given significantly increased ministry resources. The question of how the ministry resources would be directed towards these churches and how they would be supported financially did not appear to be addressed by the plan.

Grace Scott asked if the Moderator knew about the financing of the additional ministries in UPA areas. The Moderator replied that there was no specific detail of finance in the plan. All churches were required to contribute to the Church of Scotland Ministries and Mission Fund and money from this fund was used to pay individual ministers. Elders commented that, effectively, rich churches supported poorer churches.

The Moderator explained that some churches could have the option of "topping up" their planned ministry allocation. Thus, for example, Giffnock South Church which had a proposed allocation of 0.58 FTE minister could raise funds to pay for an additional 0.42 FTE ministers; Netherlee Parish Church with a proposed allocation of 0.78 FTE ministers could "top up" to provide an additional 0.22 FTE minister and have, in effect, a Full Time minister. The Moderator said that under the proposed plan, Stamperland Church would have 0.5 FTE minister. The two options suggested were to have a "part-time ministry" or a "union or linkage" with Netherlee Parish Church. Asked if the Stamperland minister would spend half his time working for Stamperland and half his time working somewhere else the Moderator replied that he didn't know. He had a wide range of personal concerns. If he was a "half-time minister" then his income and pension would be reduced by half. What would happen regarding the use of the manse? Elders raised concerns about how someone could be a "half-time minister".

The Moderator said that there were a huge number of questions being raised by the plan and that, unfortunately, the attention of many ministers would be diverted from their normal duties to dealing with issues related to challenging the implementation of the plan in its current format. He told the elders that the Session Clerk had written to Presbytery expressing the concern which the Kirk Session had regarding the plan and the apparent absence of any clear strategy regarding the future of Christian witness and worship within the city of Glasgow. He suggested that the Kirk Session should end its discussion of the plan and that the following should be noted.

The Moderator and Session Clerk would meet with the PSD Review Group in relation to reviewing the Outward Looking Focus scores.

Alastair Graham should be included in the team which would meet with the STAG group. The team would need to meet to prepare for the meeting.

As a church and as a Kirk Session we should "carry on as normal". Whatever decision is made regarding the Presbytery Plan it would be some way in the future before any changes would be implemented.

12 STEPPING STONES

Alastair Graham told elders that he had met with the Moderator and Jane Curror. He and Jane had also met with some of the Sunday School staff. There had, he said, in recent times been little structure to the Sunday School. At present there were eight staff and 25 children. There were two sections or departments; one dealt with ages four to eight and the other ages eight to 14. The age range in the second group was impossibly large and would need to change. There was considerable enthusiasm on the part of the staff but it wasn't always channelled in the right direction. There was too much emphasis on "fun days" and not enough emphasis on "Christian education".

The 4 years to 8 year old department was now using material published by the Scripture Union but the other had still to adopt a formally structured programme. The Sunday School leaders had been told that the Kirk Session had the responsibility for paying for material used by the Sunday School and that funds were allocated for this.

It would be a challenge to get things changed but, looking forward, there were grounds for optimism. Alastair said that he was happy to liaise with Stepping Stones but that he had no intention or wish to be the Sunday School Superintendent and that Jane, too was happy to liaise between Session and Sunday School.

Suspension of Standing Orders

With the time having passed 9.30pm the Moderator asked the Kirk Session whether they wished to suspend Standing Orders and continue the meeting. Elders agreed, that as the business was not likely to last much longer, the Standing Order should be suspended and the meeting continue.

Grace Walker asked which of the groups in the Sunday School was using the Scripture Union material. When informed that it was the younger age group she commented that her grand-daughter had been unimpressed by what was happening in Sunday School and had stopped attending.

13 REPORTS FROM PERMANENT COMMITTEES

13.1 Parish and Beyond

Ray McNiven said that she had published the amount of money raised through Open Door in the Focus Magazine. The amount was £364.

Ray informed the elders that the committee had discussed the matter of when the leaflet publicising some of the church's activities should be delivered to homes in the parish but that no decision had been made.

Thanks were expressed to all who had assisted with the collection of goods for Starter Packs with special mention being made of Edith Moseley's hard work and organisation.

Evelyn Graham reported on some of the activities of the Eastwood Ecumenical Peace and justice Forum. The most recent meeting of this organisation was held in Stamperland Church. At that meeting the main topic was Human Trafficking. At the conclusion of the meeting it had been agreed that church members should be encouraged to sign a petition which would ask parliament to deal effectively with the issues raised by and surrounding Human Trafficking. Elders agreed that it would be appropriate to provide Stamperland Church members with the opportunity of signing the petition.

Other topics which were covered at the meeting included Poverty and Homeless Week and FairTrade Fortnight. It was intimated that Maxwell Mearns Church had compiled a booklet which had been circulated throughout the Newton Mearns area with content which was aimed at people who did not have a church connection. It was also noted that Greenbank Parish Church, Maxwell Mearns Parish Church and St Joseph's Church had all become Eco-Congregations. Finally, it was intimated that the issue of recycling would be one of the topics covered at the next meeting of the Forum and that there would be a speaker from Eastwood District Council.

13.2 Revision of Committees

The Session Clerk asked elders who had not returned the form indicating their preference for serving on particular committees to do so as soon as possible.

14 COMMUNION ARRANGEMENTS

The Moderator stated that, as usual, the first Sunday in March would be Communion. He indicated that, for Presbytery reasons, it would be helpful to him if there were no afternoon service. Elders agreed that there should only be a morning service.

The Moderator asked for a volunteer to lead the Kirk Session devotions on the Sunday morning. When no one volunteered he intimated that he would be pleased if, after giving the matter further consideration, an elder were to let him know they were willing to lead the devotions.

15 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Kirk Session would be Wednesday, 7th March.

Elders agreed that the Stated Annual Meeting would be held on Monday, 19th March.

16 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 4th MARCH 2012
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with prayer and a reading from Mark Chapter 8.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator led the Kirk Session in devotions. He said that he was quite a fan of Kevin Bridges whose Glaswegian humour appealed to him. As an example he quoted one of Kevin Bridges jokes; “There's a difference between dog and dug. 'That's a nice wee dog Mrs', as you put your hand out to clap it. Compare that with, 'Mrs, get your dug aff o' me!!’” The ordinary man - that's Kevin Bridges. Down to earth. The same as Jesus.

Mr Mackay said that in the four gospels the name 'Jesus' occurs almost six hundred times and the composite name 'Jesus Christ' only four. While we think of the name 'Jesus' as very special, in Jesus' own time and society it was extremely common - it was the Greek form of the three Old Testament names, Joshua, Jehoshua and Yeshua. Think of it as equivalent to the Glasgow name for everyman, 'Jimmy', or the universal 'John Smith.' It has suggestions of profound humanity, of Jesus as everyman, human-being. He said that he liked that, in a kind-of-Kevin-Bridges-sort-of-a-way. Jesus, a man of the people; Jesus, a man's man but, also, one with a gentler side. The name Jesus had a particular meaning among his own people; it was a name of honour and significance. Joshua was the inheritor of Moses' task in leading the people of Israel into freedom and promise after their deliverance from Egypt, a task which he fulfilled. The name also means 'God is my help' or 'The one who saves'. Jesus means freedom.

The Moderator continued, saying that we are in the second Sunday of Lent. We have tried, perhaps, each day, or week, to let things go and un-clutter our lives. When we make space, we should begin to realise the load is lighter and, yes, we are freer. He told the elders that, as they make the journey towards Holy Week contemplating deeper thoughts, they should remember that Jesus walks with them, closer even than they think! They should, he said, open their eyes and ears and lessen the load to find the One who will carry things for them - Jesus, the man for others, the Son of Man.

Mr Mackay then read a brief passage which highlighted many of the attributes applied to Christ including Saviour, Redeemer, Councillor, Friend.....

The Moderator then led the elders in prayer.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

The Moderator reminded elders that, as usual, there would be a retiring offering and he suggested that it could be appropriate to donate the offering to the two teachers at Netherlee Primary School who were travelling to Pokola in Zambia who could use the money in an

appropriate way to strengthen the links between the churches and communities of Stamperland/Netherlee and Pokola.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to Anne MacKenzie and Edith Moseley for attending at the table and to all of the elders who had carried out all of the preparatory work associated with the service.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 25th MARCH 2012 IN THE SESSION HOUSE

2. CONSTITUTION

The Kirk Session meeting was held after morning worship and immediately following a meeting of the Congregational Board.

The Session Meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 22 ruling elders.

3. PRESBYTERY PLAN

The Moderator stated that he was devastated by the events of the Stated Annual Meeting. He was not, he said, "firing on all cylinders". For the past few months a huge amount of his time and effort had been taken up by the Presbytery Plan, a plan which many presbyters believed was wrong, unfair and unjust. The plan had led to a lot of stress in the manse. The Moderator said he felt flat and unable to think creatively. He believed his Mother's Day service had been poor and he had considered cancelling the Holy Week Services. The dropping of the plan at the last Presbytery meeting had afforded some relief but there was an urgent requirement to develop a revised plan.

Tom Macpherson had made a proposal at the Stated Annual Meeting. At that meeting he, the Moderator, had said that he would take the proposal to the Kirk Session and seek their views. If Tom Macpherson's view was felt to summarise the views of the elders, the Moderator would call a meeting of all members of the congregation and tell them that the Kirk Session were minded to go down this route.

The Moderator said that he was sure about what he had been fighting for – that which was best for Christ’s kingdom in Glasgow. However, he needed to know what the members of Stamperland believed and whether they were supportive of his activities in relation to the Presbytery Plan.

The Session Clerk said that the Presbytery Plan had set church against church and minister against minister. He said that the Moderator had the support of the congregation and the elders showed their agreement with this statement.

Following a number of questions from elders, the Moderator said that Glasgow Presbytery was disorganised – the Presbytery Clerk was on sick leave and there were significant issues including same-sex relationships and the withholding of financial contributions by some congregations which were causing divisions within presbytery. The STAG group which had the task of preparing the Presbytery Plan had all resigned.

The Moderator said that there was a need for more creative thinking in the development of the Presbytery Plan. There were, for example, opportunities to have funding from local and national government to pay for parish workers. The Rev Neil Galbraith had 75 people working in the Glasgow Caring City charity funded in this way. There were people with a vision of “building the church” rather than watching its decline.

The Moderator said that the reviewable status of his tenure at Stamperland was a concern. Questions about tenure made to both Glasgow Presbytery and to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh did not receive positive answers. A review of his tenure at Stamperland was scheduled for 2014.

The Moderator said that the Kirk Session had a responsibility to lead the congregation. Elders should give Tom Macpherson respect by considering what his proposed motion represents for the future of the church before bringing their thoughts on the matter to the next Kirk Session meeting.

4. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

MEETING OF ELDERS HELD ON SUNDAY 22nd APRIL 2012 AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Session Clerk with prayer.

The Session Clerk told elders that the meeting was not a proper Kirk Session meeting but that there was an item of business which required urgent attention. The meeting would be minuted and the minute brought to the next Kirk Session meeting. At that meeting, the Session Clerk would seek permission from the elders to homologate any decision made at the current meeting.

2 SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

Twenty two elders were in attendance.
Apologies were received from Grace Scott and John Curror

3 SUNDAY SCHOOL BANK SIGNATORIES

The Session Clerk explained that the single item of business related to the change in leadership of the Sunday School. As elders were aware, Jane Curror had taken over the leadership role. With the change of leaders there was a need for the Sunday School to have new signatories able to open and operate a bank account. The Sunday School leaders had proposed that the new signatories should be Mrs Jane Curror, Mr Alastair Graham, Mrs Kay Bolton and Rev George Mackay. The Session Clerk asked the elders if they were in agreement with the proposal. There was unanimous agreement that the four persons mentioned should be authorised signatories to the bank account.

4 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 3rd JUNE 2012
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The Session Clerk informed elders that the Rev George Mackay was ill and that he was pleased to introduce to the Kirk Session, the Rev Charles MacKinnon as the preacher who would conduct the Communion Service that morning. Mr. MacKinnon constituted the meeting with prayer and a reading of Psalm 116, verses 5 to 14.

2. DEVOTIONS

Rev Charles MacKinnon led the Kirk Session in devotions and focused on the words of the Psalmist. Mr MacKinnon said that he had no real idea what was in the Psalmist’s mind when he wrote the words. The passage acknowledged God’s grace and mercy; it was a passage offering comfort - one translation offers the following for verse 7, “Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you”. God knows what each of us is going through, God is in our midst.

Shortly, he said, we would be going to worship and thank God. Our thanking God was a special form of thanks. He told the elders that the previous evening he and his wife had visited friends in Edinburgh and enjoyed good company and a meal. When they were leaving they arranged to invite their friends to a dinner at their house some time later. In that way they were thanking their friends for their kindness. What, he asked, were we doing to show our thanks to God? What were we doing to show our appreciation of the blood of Christ, shed for us? How fitting it was this morning, he said, to be sharing the Cup of Salvation; how right to be worshipping and thanking God.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

The Session Clerk reminded elders that, as usual, there would be a retiring offering. He said that he had received two suggestions from elders regarding the cause to be supported. One suggestion was that the retiring offering should go to support the Dementia Art Group the other was that the retiring offering should be added to the funds raised at the coffee afternoon organised by the Parish and Beyond Committee for Erskine Home. Sam Elser proposed that the offering go to Erskine Home and that the retiring offering from the September Communion should be allocated to the Dementia Art Group. Elders agreed with this proposal.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev Charles MacKinnon and the elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4.2 Conduct of Communion

Mr MacKinnon thanked the elders for the way in which all had performed their duties and expressed his thanks to Willie Anderson and Bill Paterson who had sat beside him at the Communion Table.

The Session Clerk thanked Mr MacKinnon for having agreed to lead the service at short notice. Despite the church being on the cold side there had been a real warmth in the way in which Mr MacKinnon had led worship.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with a short prayer from Rev Charles MacKinnon.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2012
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. WELCOME AND AUTHORISATION

On behalf of the Kirk Session, the Session Clerk welcomed Rev Donald MacLeod to Stamperland Parish Church and informed elders that Mr MacLeod would conduct the Communion Service. Before inviting Mr MacLeod to constitute the meeting he explained that, technically, the parish minister has to give his permission to a visiting minister to moderate a Kirk Session meeting. Mr Mackay had given his permission by sending an e-mail with the following text: *“Permission for the Rev Donald MacLeod to moderate the Kirk Session on Sunday 2 September was sought and granted by the minister of the parish, the Rev. George Mackay. Signed, George C Mackay.”*

2. CONSTITUTION

Rev. Donald MacLeod constituted the meeting with prayer and a reading from John Chapter 16.

3. DEVOTIONS

Rev. Donald MacLeod led the Kirk Session in devotions and focused on the passage he had read from John’s Gospel. He explained how Jesus identified himself with bread. Bread is something we all need; in the widest sense we all need nourishing and nourishment. But we also need spiritual nourishment, a link with heaven. And this is what Jesus was offering; something from God which touches our lives; bread which comes down from heaven; bread touched by the spirit of God. This morning in our celebration of communion, he said, the bread represents more than physical food and the wine more than physical drink. It is the body and blood of Christ and a touch of heaven. He concluded by saying, “Lord, give us this bread and this wine always”.

4. RETIRING OFFERING

The Session Clerk reminded elders that, as usual, there would be a retiring offering. This morning’s donations would go, as agreed at the June Communion, to the Dementia Art Group, Heart for Art.

5. COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Rev Donald MacLeod and the elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5.2 Conduct of Communion

Mr MacLeod thanked the elders for the way in which all had performed their duties. The Session Clerk thanked Mr MacKinnon for having agreed to lead the service, particularly as he had been given really short notice.

6 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed by Rev Donald MacLeod with a short prayer.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2012
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

3. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Janis Herriot and Janet Stewart.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 23 ruling elders.

4. MODERATOR’S ABSENCE on SICK LEAVE

The Moderator thanked everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers and kind thoughts over the last two months. Additionally he thanked everyone for ensuring the smooth running of the church during his absence.

5. DRAFT PRESBYTERY PLAN

The Moderator advised that he had called the Kirk Session meeting in order to hear the views of the elders in relation to the question raised by the Clerk to the Congregational Board at the Stated Annual Meeting in March. At a short meeting of the Kirk Session on the 25th March the Moderator had asked the elders to think about the question. He now wanted to know the views of the Kirk Session in advance of the meeting of the congregation which was due to start in ten minutes. This congregational meeting had been called to allow church members to learn of the proposals contained in the latest version of the draft Presbytery Plan in relation to the future of Stamperland Parish Church. The Moderator told elders that the revised draft of the plan had been issued at the start of September and it was important that all members of the congregation were clear about and understood its proposals. He reminded the elders that the gist of Tom Macpherson’s proposal was that we should, as a matter of urgency, build links with Netherlee.

Elders asked a range of questions including, “Were we being forced to link with Netherlee?”, “What is the difference between working more closely and linking?”, “What is the difference between linking and union?”.

Jess Thomson said that we already have close working links with Netherlee Church with our respective ministers standing-in for each other during times of holiday or illness. The Moderator said that he had a concern that if the two churches were to be seen to be working closely together Presbytery might effectively say that the churches were “half-way there” and tell us to “go the whole hog”.

John Curror said that we should maintain the status quo. We shouldn’t initiate moves but wait until Presbytery force us to move closer.

George Finlayson said that the first draft of the Presbytery Plan was viewed as flawed by many people; he asked the Moderator what were the views of other ministers regarding the revised plan. The Moderator replied that he would talk about this later at the Congregational Meeting.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th OCTOBER 2012
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Mark Chapter 10, verses 46 to 52 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Margo Neilson, Janet Stewart, John Curror and George Finlayson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 22 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of meetings held on the 25th March 2012, 22nd April, 3rd June, 2nd September and 17th September had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Moderator requested an amendment to the minute of the 25th March asking that the phrase “Mother’s Day service had been poor” be amended to state, “Mother’s Day service had been positive”. With this amendment acceptance of the minute as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Kay Bolton. Acceptance of the minute of the meeting held on 22nd April as a true record was proposed by Jane Curror and seconded by Bill Paterson. The Moderator noted that the minute of the Meeting held on 3rd June should be headed “Elder’s Meeting” rather than “Kirk Session Meeting” since neither he nor Presbytery had given formal approval to Rev Charles MacKinnon to moderate a meeting of the Kirk Session. With this amendment acceptance of the minute of the meeting held on 3rd June as a true record was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Gordon Robertson. Acceptance of the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd September and 17th September as true records were proposed by Nancy Fisher and Fraser Mackintosh and seconded by grace Walker and Jane Curror. All five minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There were no matters rising from the minutes which were not covered by the Agenda.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 The Guild

The Moderator told elders that he had enjoyed the first meeting of The Guild. He encouraged elders to think about The Guild in prayer and to encourage people to attend, noting that The Guild was open to men as well as women.

The Kirk Session wished The Guild well in this special 125th Anniversary Year.

7.1.2 Stepping Stones

The Moderator told elders it was important that, on Sundays when Stepping Stones did not meet, there were facilities appropriate for families and young people attending church. Grace Walker highlighted that there had been a PVG issue related to having children with a wide range of ages in one hall at the same time; children of crèche age shouldn’t be mixed with older children. The Moderator said that there were ways around this PVG issue. He said that the Kirk Session had to make sure that something is done about this matter.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Correspondence

The Session Clerk remarked that there had been remarkably little correspondence over the past months other than in relation to the Presbytery Plan or requests for the use of halls. He told elders that he had sent a letter conveying the good wishes of the congregation, elders and minister to the members of Williamwood Parish Church on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary.

7.2.2 Rainbow Guides

The Session Clerk informed elders that with the current leader of the Rainbow Guides having to retire at the end of the 2012/13 session it was very possible that the Rainbow unit would have to close as there would be no warranted leader. Sheena Badger was the only warranted leader and, at present, she was assisted by parents volunteering on a rota basis.

Kay Bolton and Nancy Fisher commented that the Guide Commissioner had been made aware of Sheena badger's impending retirement two years ago. No progress had apparently been made in finding someone willing to lead the Rainbows.

7. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a change of address Catherine Mair from 25 Park Crescent, Eaglesham to 3 Lindsay Court, 14 Greenholme Avenue, Clarkston.

Bill Paterson reported two transfers. Mrs Mairi Fordyce who was resident at, 16 Park Drive, Lanark had requested a Certificate of Transference be sent to Greyfriars Church, Lanark. Mrs Vera Reid 6, The Paddock, Busby had requested a Certificate of Transference be sent to Greenbank Parish Church, Clarkston.

Bill Paterson reported six deaths. These were Dorothy Crawford, 29 Stamperland Hill, Agnes Buchannan, Roseburn House, East Kilbride, John (Ian) Reid, Bonnyton House, Irene Tweedlie, 23 Stamperland Avenue, Jeanette McIntosh, 26 Homeblair House and Mabel McGregor, 65 The Oval

The Roll Keeper informed elders that there were now six districts without elders. These were district 3, 4, 22, 27 and 29. District 30 did not have an elder but Sam Esler visited the members in this district. The Moderator said that several members had been approached regarding becoming elders and, with Kirk Session approval, there could be two or three new elders quite soon. Sam Esler asked how many members were in the "postal district". Bill Paterson said that he couldn't give an exact number but that the answer was that there were "a large number".

It was remarked that since the use of "Communion Cards" had been discontinued there had been a fall-off of elder visits. The Moderator said that if the church is trying to build up relationships with families there needs to be more than a brief visit before Communion. He said that it takes time and effort but that it was all about getting to know families and build up relationships.

Elders agreed that there should be an Ordination Service and the Moderator stated that he would decide on a date and let the Kirk Session know.

8. PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie told elders that the last Presbytery meeting had started at seven o'clock and hadn't finished until after eleven o'clock. The topic of St George's Tron Church had taken from the start of the meeting until after ten o'clock.

She told elders that Angus Kerr had resigned from the post of Presbytery Clerk. Rev Bill Hewitt was Presbytery Clerk *pro-tem*.

The ordination of the first Ordained Local Minister (OLM) in Glasgow Presbytery had taken place. There were, she said, now six OLM in Scotland.

Anne Mackenzie said that there had been no mention of the Presbytery Plan at the meeting.

9 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

9.1 Disclosure for Stepping Stones Staff

Jane Curror reported that arrangements were in hand to deal with the changes in Stepping Stones staff.

9.1 Meeting with Stepping Stones Staff

The Moderator said that, in relation to Stepping Stones, he, along with Jane Curror and Alastair Graham, had met with Stepping Stones staff. He believed that many of the Stepping Stones staff didn't have an understanding of the way in which the church operated or functioned and at the meeting various aspects of the church's worship and operation were explained. What happens in Stepping Stones on a Sunday morning should be an extension of worship – the service and sermon was teaching for adults while Stepping Stones should be teaching for children. Stepping Stones shouldn't be apart from worship in the church and Stepping Stones leaders shouldn't be left on their own to do their own thing; this was one reason that the Kirk Session had an interest in Stepping Stones. Jane Curror and Alastair had stressed to the leaders that both they and the elders were "here to help" and not be obstructive or interfering in any way.

10 CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

The Moderator recalled that at the beginning of 2012, elders had returned a questionnaire. One of the questions related to individual elder's readiness to lead a Kirk Session Committee and report back to the Kirk Session. Only one elder had replied stating a willingness to lead a committee. In the light of this response it was clear that a change was required. It was, he said, imperative to harness the full range of abilities of all members of the congregation. The Moderator reminded elders that, at the end of 2011, the Kirk Session had listened to a presentation given by Professor Dickson about Greenbank Church's experiences in changing from the Model Constitution to the Unitary Constitution. At that meeting elders had indicated that they were open to change and, in their response to the questionnaire, seven elders had indicated that they were prepared to serve on a committee looking at changing the constitution. Elders agreed it was now time to actively consider changing the church's constitution and that an ad-hoc committee should meet to explore what had to be done. The members of the committee were confirmed as the Moderator, Session Clerk, Nancy Fisher, Alastair Graham, Anne MacKenzie, Grace Scott and Jess Thomson. The Session Clerk agreed to arrange an initial meeting of the committee.

11 STEWARDSHIP

The Moderator reminded elders that the Church of Scotland had instructed that every church should run a Stewardship Campaign; in the year 2012 each church was to concentrate on financial aspects. The Church of Scotland had specified a small number of specific formats which the Stewardship Campaign should adopt unless a church sought permission from their presbytery to use a different format. Stamperland Church had approached Glasgow Presbytery and had been given dispensation to run a Stewardship Campaign along lines of our own choosing. As a consequence of the Moderator's absence through illness no progress had been made with the Stewardship Campaign and he suggested that it would be expedient to delay a financial campaign until early in 2013. The church, he said, was not all about money but resources, skills and gifts and these should be reviewed on an annual basis. Members should ask themselves, "How best can I serve God this year?".

11 PRESBYTERY PLAN

The Moderator said that there was a special Presbytery Meeting scheduled for the 4th December at which a vote would be taken on the Presbytery Plan.

The Session Clerk reminded elders that he had received a letter from Presbytery intimating that, in response to representations from Stamperland Church, Presbytery had modified the plan proposing Linkage / Union with Netherlee to proceed following the review of tenure at Stamperland in 2014 to propose that the Reviewable Tenure at Stamperland be extended until occasion of vacancy at Netherlee. With the minister at Netherlee not due to retire for at least six years this change could mean that there could be up to six years before there was a requirement to initiate a link or union. Various elders commented that this additional time represented "a stay of execution"; that "it provided an opportunity for Stamperland Church to show it was a thriving church"; that "the future lies very much in our own hands".

12 REPORT FROM PARISH & BEYOND COMMITTEE

9.1 Leaflet to be distributed to all homes in the parish

Ray McNiven informed elders that the colour leaflet describing activities within the church was ready to be distributed to all homes within the parish; that the publication of a church calendar had been postponed to next year and that the coffee afternoon held on 31st May had raised £266 for Erskine Hospital.

13 DATES OF FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

The Moderator intimated a number of dates for special services or events.

Sunday, 28th October would be the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Donations of food would be taken to the Lodging House Mission. Financial donations would be sent to support the work of Water Aid.

Sunday, 4th November. There would be a “Soup and Sandwich Lunch” after morning worship to mark the 125th Anniversary of The Guild.

Sunday, 11th November would be the Remembrance Day Service. There would also be some form of dedication which would normally have taken place during the parade service in September. The Moderator said that he would inform the organisations.

Sunday, 18th November. There would be an evening service to mark the 125th Anniversary of The Guild.

Sunday, 25th November. There would be a “Seasons of the Heart” service.

Sunday, 2nd December was Communion Sunday.

The Stepping Stones Christmas Party would probably be held on Saturday, 1st December.

There would be a Nativity Service. This would be arranged by the Moderator in consultation with Stepping Stones staff and would either be the 16th or 23rd December.

There would be a Watchnight Service on the 24th December. It was agreed that soup would be served after this service.

It was agreed that the Guides would be invited to serve Christmas pies and mulled wine after morning worship on 30th December.

The moderator asked elders if they wished to support the Church of Scotland HIV Programme by having a “Souper Sunday” lunch after morning service one Sunday towards the end of January, beginning of February. Elders agreed to this. After discussion it was agreed that the lunch should be organised by men and Session Clerk agreed to seek volunteers and make the necessary arrangements.

14 MEARNSKIRK SINGERS

Jane Curror informed elders that the staff at Mearns Kirk Hospital no longer considered it appropriate to have the monthly short worship service at the hospital. However, a meeting with the chaplain at the Victoria Infirmary had suggested that there might be an opportunity to have a monthly communion service. It was suggested that the patients’ views should be sought and these should be considered along with the views of the hospital staff.

Jess Thomson said that it had long been the practice for a hospital chaplain to walk round the wards and stop and talk to any patient. Now, she said, chaplains could only visit a patient who specifically requested a visit or a patient whose family had requested a visit. Further, copies of Bibles or New Testaments were no longer available in bedside lockers. She said that the Church of Scotland should be trying to address these matters.

14 CHURCH HALL DOOR SECURITY ON A TUESDAY EVENING

Nancy Fisher raised the issue of door security and the absence of a door-keeper on Tuesday evenings when Rainbows and The Guild met. It was agreed that the rota for the door keeping had not been maintained following the resignation of the Clerk to the Board and that the matter would be raised at next meeting of the Congregational Board.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Kirk Session would be Wednesday, 5th December. Elders would meet for devotions prior to the service of Holy Communion on Sunday 2nd December.

16 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2012
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with prayer and a reading from Luke Ch. 21.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator led the Kirk Session in devotions.

He counted downwards from ten, “10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 - Countdown.” “Oh,” he said, “to be like Carol Vorderman; to be able to count like her; to do maths like her. The numbers are chosen, ‘Two from the bottom and the rest from anywhere else.’ She puts them up, hits the button to show the target number, the music starts, the clock is shown, and the countdown begins.”

“This Sunday,” he said, “marks the beginning of Advent - a time that tells us that Christ is coming, coming soon as a child in a manger. It is more than a countdown, more than the clock running down reminding us how little time we have till Christmas Day is here. Advent is for preparing not only for Christmas but for preparing ourselves. Advent is for waiting not only for Christmas to come but for waiting ‘on the Lord’ in stillness and silence. Advent is for watching, not only for the post but for the Christ when he comes.”

“For generations, in Advent,” he said, “people looked to the future; it was their countdown, for the Second Coming and the end of time. They could hear the ticking, the music getting louder and they were about to be asked to account for how holy they had lived their lives, not by Carol or gorgeous Rachel but God himself! As the Gospel reading shows, some who heard Jesus were convinced it would not be long before Christ would come ‘like a thief in the night’. That wasn’t to be; we know that God’s time and our time are different. But we still believe that when human history comes to an end, Christ will be there. Beyond that, beyond what we can see, we dare not hazard a guess and will not limit hope. Advent believes also that Christ will come again, not only at the end of time, but now.”

He continued, saying, “It is often said the difference between humans and animals is that we are aware of our own mortality. We know that there are limits, that there are endings, that we are mortal. And yet, today we start our countdown towards a celebration that lets God become one of us, human, born in a cattle trough, to show God’s love and wish to understand the limits we all have in his limitless grace. We sing carols, derived from traditional ring dances, which show the unbroken-ness of God’s affection for what he made. A different carol that shows us the answer to problems which cannot be solved with paper and pen!”

The Moderator then led the elders in prayer.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

The Session Clerk reminded elders that, as usual, there would be a retiring offering. Kay Bolton had suggested that, as members had been encouraged to donate a pound in support of the “Book Appeal” organized by Netherlee Primary School to provide reading material to Pokola School in Zambia it could be appropriate to donate the retiring offering to this cause. Elders agreed with this suggestion.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to Anne MacKenzie and Edith Moseley for attending at the table

and to all of the elders who had carried out all of the preparatory work associated with the service.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**DRAFT MINUTES
KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2012
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 10, verses 1 to 11 and a prayer. The Moderator asked elders to think of Alf Dunbar and Bill Paterson in their prayers and he expressed pleasure that Bill had recovered sufficiently to attend the Kirk Session meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Connell Cranston.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 28 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of meeting held on the 24th October 2012 had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was an amendment to Section 13 relating to the date of the Stepping Stones Christmas party which was planned for 22nd December and not 1st December. With this amendment acceptance of the minute as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Edith Moseley.

The minute of the meeting held on the 2nd December was read out by the Session Clerk. Acceptance of the minute of this meeting as a true record was proposed by John Curror and seconded by Gordon Robertson. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Retiring Offering

Kay Bolton informed elders that donations to the retiring offering at the December Communion totalled £110.85 and that a cheque for this amount had been sent to Netherlee Primary School.

6.2 Rainbows

Kay Bolton informed elders that Alison Linich had volunteered to lead Rainbows. Alison had previously held a Brownie Guider's warrant.

Nancy Fisher reported that the Guide County Executive had stated that under no circumstances would the Rainbow unit be closed.

6.3 Changing the Constitution

The Moderator advised elders that the ad-hoc group looking at changing the constitution had met. The meeting had been very positive and the group was scheduled to have a further meeting on 18th December. It was important, the Moderator said, that the work of the group proceeded quickly.

6.4 Doorkeeper Duties

Questioned by Jane Curror about progress in seeking volunteers for the door-keeping duty the Moderator said that there would be an intimation regarding volunteers in the next Sundays' intimation sheets.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Communion Services on Sunday, 2nd December

Elders agreed with the Moderator that the church had been rather cold on the Sunday morning. Eight people had attended the afternoon communion. The church was warmer and the Moderator felt that there had been a special atmosphere at that service. The unaccompanied singing had been wonderful. The Moderator told elders that between 50 and 60 people had turned up to decorate the church and halls; about half of that number were children. He expressed his thanks to those who had helped decorate and also those who had carried out all the preparatory work including, in particular, Connell Cranston.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported the addition of two new members by certificate. Mrs Christine Hartley from Netherlee Parish Church and Mrs Jean Steel from Kirn Parish Church.

9 PRESBYTERY PLAN

Anne Mackenzie told elders that the Presbytery Plan had been approved at a special meeting held on the 4th December. The Plan shows Stamperland Parish Church uniting with Netherlee Parish Church following the declaration of a vacancy at Netherlee Parish Church. Anne Mackenzie explained that the Presbytery Clerk would be writing to all Session Clerks advising them of presbytery's decision. Congregations would have 21 days from receipt of the letter to appeal. The Plan would also be sent to the Ministries Council in Edinburgh for their approval. If the Ministries Council approved the plan, congregations would be so advised and there would be a second opportunity to submit an appeal within 21 days of receiving notification. If Stamperland were to appeal, the appeal would not be heard until Netherlee Parish Church was declared vacant. Mrs Mackenzie said that it was up to every member of Stamperland and every elder to keep the church vibrant and part of the community and open. Three of the members of Stamperland who had attended the Presbytery meeting had expressed a very strong desire that the church should submit an appeal.

Bill Paterson asked whether it was a fait-accomplis that Stamperland Church would close and that Netherlee Church would remain open following union. The Moderator said that lots of factors would be taken into account including, for example, disabled access, cost of maintaining buildings, the value which might be gained from selling buildings.

The Moderator told elders that he had spoken to the Presbytery Clerk that morning and the Clerk had advised that there was no guarantee that the Ministries Council would "nod the plan through" and that they were likely to ask some questions. It could, he said, be opportune to lodge an appeal immediately as that might have some influence on the thinking of the Ministries Council.

In discussion some elders highlighted differences between Stamperland and Netherlee. The Moderator said that while we were geographically close and there were historical links, there were differences in congregational make-up and in worship styles. Sam Esler said that he had heard that there had been an article in the Netherlee Church magazine commenting on the situation facing both churches; he suggested that, in future, it could be useful if both churches published the same article.

Raymond Russell suggested that there could be merit if all churches in the Clarkston area would appeal. The Moderator indicated that this would be unlikely to happen. In most of the neighbouring churches the ministers were on unrestricted tenure; for most of the neighbouring churches the Plan specified that there would be one full-time minister whereas in previous versions many of them had a “fraction of a minister”.

The Session Clerk said that what he was about to say might, at first, seem to be at odds with the sentiments expressed this far. He said that what is proposed in the plan was a uniting of Netherlee and Stamperland churches. It was not a takeover of one by the other. We should not assume that we were the lesser partner. Both churches needed to find out about each other; look at all options; develop and agree a way forward. Netherlee had a larger congregation and more income. It had a traditional sanctuary but the hall accommodation was not great and potentially expensive maintenance work was required to the fabric of the church. Stamperland had a modern, open sanctuary capable of enabling new and more modern forms of worship. For this reason Netherlee Primary School preferred our church for their services. We had good hall accommodation. There was no reason for thinking our buildings might not be preferred. It was, he said, important that there was dialogue between the two churches. It was very clear from the presbytery meeting that Presbytery don’t like churches taking a long time to discuss unions. Several eloquent pleas for delaying unions were made at the meeting and all were dismissed. He said that there was a need to open dialogue with Netherlee and that Stamperland should take the initiative inviting Netherlee to meet with them and thereby setting the agenda and the tone.

The Session Clerk also said that consideration should be given to the establishment of some form of Group Ministry within the wider Clarkston area as was proposed for the Newton Mearns area. The broad idea would be that local churches, possibly Busby, Greenbank, Williamwood, Stamperland, Netherlee, Giffnock South, and Orchardhill could form a group. There could be seven churches, with four or five ministers and some parish workers. All existing churches would be maintained. Ministers and parish workers would not “belong” to any one church; everything would be shared. Ministers would move round churches in rotation. There were clearly a lot of issues and difficulties involved with such a radical concept but, importantly, there would be lots of opportunities. The arrangement could free up minister time, and enable the deployment of ministers and parish workers with specialist skills. He proposed that discussions were initiated with local churches, possibly, in the first instance, at the local fraternal meetings.

Neither of these initiatives would prevent Stamperland Church from continuing as a stand-alone church and congregation. Fundamentally and most importantly, Stamperland needed, as a church, to make sure it was well-attended, well-supported, well-funded, well-used. If, at the occurrence of a vacancy at Netherlee, it was clear that Stamperland Church was vibrant, bursting at the seams, full of enthusiasm, deeply engaged in mission and financially very sound – then the appeal to go alone may succeed. If the appeal didn’t succeed it could clearly be argued that Stamperland was the “lead partner” in the union with Netherlee. So the idea of working hard to “save our church” could either achieve that, or ensure union on good terms. Most importantly, however, it was what we should be doing as a church, anyway – reaching out, helping, bringing people to Christ.

The Moderator said that while there was some merit in what the Session Clerk had said, ministers in neighbouring churches would not be of the mindset to do other than “their own thing”.

Margo Neilson asked what some of the younger members who were clearly very determined not to have a union would think if Netherlee was to be closed and Stamperland were to be

the main church centre. It was presently a fact that Stamperland was an ageing congregation and, in six years time, many of those currently active in the church would not be so. The Moderator said that the younger members wanted the church to be there for them and their families. The long-term trend was that Stamperland lost about ten members per year. Something had to be turned round.

In response to questions the Moderator said that if Stamperland were to become vacant before Netherlee, Stamperland Church would be placed in Guardianship until there was a vacancy at Netherlee and then there would be a move to a union.

The Moderator said that he was not sure that his ministry was to work closer with Netherlee. Nancy Fisher and Grace Scott said that there was a need to break down the barriers between Stamperland and Netherlee; a need to get away from the “them and us” attitude. Sam Esler told elders that he had been a Life Boy and a member of Netherlee Sunday School in his youth. Magnus Magnusson was appointed as the first minister at Stamperland when there was no building and no members. The church had risen from nothing and could still rise further. We should be seeking good relations with all churches.

Alastair Graham said that we should not be focussing on Netherlee. It was, he thought, unlikely that Netherlee were thinking as much about us as we appeared to be thinking of them. In terms of appealing he asked for clarification regarding the focus of the appeal. Was it, he asked, something in the article published in the Netherlee Church magazine and should we be concerned or simply ignore it; was it about the proposed union? The Moderator responded that the appeal could be about the union or about reviewable tenure. In a union, the Moderator said that typically one third of the church members are lost and there is an equivalent decline in financial offerings. Evelyn Graham asked whether there was anything Stamperland Church could do about tenure. The Moderator indicated that tenure was a complex issue and that a special group was looking at tenure and would be making recommendations to the General Assembly. There were issues regarding tenure and ministers having a calling to a charge rather than a contractual agreement with a church. There was potentially a need to test the legality of tenure and the legality of distinctions between unrestricted and reviewable tenure.

Pat McIlraith proposed that Stamperland should lodge an appeal against the union. The proposal was seconded by George Finlayson. Elders approved the proposal.

10 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

John Curror reported that “there was nothing to report”.

11 RETIRING OFFERING

Elders agreed with a proposal from Alastair Graham that the retiring offering from the Watchnight Service should be donated to the Lodging House Mission.

12 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Kirk Session would be Sunday 6th January 2013, immediately following morning worship. At the meeting the Communion Roll would be attested, the Presbytery Elder would be nominated and a statement would be agreed regarding the implementation of policies related to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups within the church. The next regular meeting of the Kirk Session was agreed as Wednesday, 6th February, 2013.

13 CLOSURE

The Moderator thanked Margo Neilson for her work in arranging the Secret Santa and all of the ladies who had assisted with the provision of cakes, mince pies, biscuits, teas and coffee, wine and other soft drinks to be served at the conclusion of the Session meeting. He also extended the good wishes of all the Manse Family to the elders wishing them all a Happy Christmas.

The meeting concluded with a prayer and elders standing to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 6th JANUARY 2013
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 25 ruling elders.

3. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

William Paterson, the Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2012		376
Number removed from Roll during 2012	by Death	9
	by Certificate	3
	by Otherwise	0
		12
Number added to Roll during 2012	by Profession	0
	by Certificate	3
	by Otherwise	1
		4
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2012		368
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2012		23
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2012		6

The Moderator thanked Bill Paterson for his work in maintaining the Communion Roll.

4. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations for Presbytery Elder. There being none, the Moderator intimated that Mrs Anne MacKenzie had indicated that she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. This announcement was greeted with unanimous approval and Mrs MacKenzie was elected to serve as Presbytery Elder.

5. SAFEGUARDING

The Moderator asked John Curror if he wished to say anything about the operation of the scheme for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups in the church. John responded saying that he believed that the scheme was being operated in accordance with the principles and that he believed that he had adequate training for ensuring its operation within the church.

Session Clerk.....

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Moderator

The Moderator then read the following statement to the elders. *“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 Co-ordinator, John Curror, is appropriately trained to allow him to be accredited as an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks.”* John Curror confirmed the correctness of this statement.

6. TRIBUTE TO ALF DUNBAR

The Moderator read the following tribute to Alf Dunbar.

On the beach at Montrose many years ago, two young boys played in the sand and danced in and out of the water. They looked towards Ferryden lighthouse, a place they would visit later in their holiday, as well as the tennis courts near the Golf Hotel but it was on the high sand dunes they had their most fun.

There, they played, I played, the game 'Best Man Fall', tumbling from the dune in the most dramatic way depending on the pretend weapon that was used.

Alf was from Montrose, attended Montrose Academy ... and he was one of the 'Best Men' to fall that I have ever known. His Sunday title was Alfred Simpson Dunbar, A.S.D, but that spells out when rearranged SAD to me; sad because we have lost a gentleman, a gentle man, of the highest order of whom I have been so proud to know. This past year has been hard for him, failing health, falls, missing 'his church' but his initials also spells out 'Always Something to Do' - and that was Alf, always on the go, a doer, meticulous in everything he did.

ASD.

Perhaps through his clerking experience at McFarlane and Lang, Stewart Building Contractors and KPMG, everything was not just done well but done to the highest of standards. Even when he took on the role at Linnpark from John Dodds, you just knew that all would be well. Alf just didn't believe in sitting down!!

He could drive but never had a car, preferring to walk, as Jean Stevenson wrote when Alf turned 80:

‘He worked so hard without a break,
A rest he never seemed to take,
He's preached the sermon, led the prayers
I'll bet he's even washed the stairs!’

Jean's little rhyme touched in the most important thing in Alf's life.

Whilst we are all SAD and we recognise that Alf just didn't stop - 'SOMETHING ALWAYS TO DO' - I want you to think of the acronym for Alf ALF ... Always Living the Faith.

The roles that Alf took on was truly remarkable, especially at Crosshill Victoria where he was Session Clerk, Superintendent of the Sunday School, led public worship, intercessory prayer groups and participated in the Christian Action Group. The Locum of Crosshill Victoria, in June 1972, wrote these words in The Beacon:

‘He is a pivotal man; his personality reaches out to every department of the congregation. He loves to plan, to plod, and to pray for the progress of the Church of which he is Session Clerk..’

The Church for Alf was his life and what a fine example he was of the Lord he followed. He was non-judgemental; he was selfless; he was committed to the extreme ... he was Christ-like in all he did and said. He was Always Living the Faith ... ALF

And that faith kept him strong when May died in 1987 and when Ian, his son, died 2 years ago. Always living the faith, his Christian service superb, whether through friendship at Linnpark; or when we had a communion time to organise; or with Gordon Robertson who was a true and loyal companion to him who took Alf out to lunch every Sunday. Or

musically, don't forget how much music meant to him! Not just in the choir but with the duets he sang whilst May played the piano.

He was a people person, (though he loved animals as well and always asked for Robbie the cat!!) who made you feel comfortable, not just because he could made ready-cut rugs! His army experience taught him about cooking, cleaning and keeping a pristine flat and his tablet ... what we could do for some sweetness today!

But then, if we are smart, we need to learn from Alf - that whilst being sad and hurt today is okay and keeping ourselves busy helps not to think about dying so much Alf showed you what the answer to life really was.

By living the faith, Alf showed that this child born at this time was the greatest gift and only gift you ever needed and when life was bitter, there was the sweetness; when life was dark, there was the light; when you saw no future; there, was the hope - in a child born in vulnerability for you and I - if we had faith.

Jean wrote: 'A man of trust, of firm intent,
The epitome of a life well spent.
Adapted... Nine decades he has trod this earth
By his deeds shown us his worth,
So, stand up everyone, give a big yell,
Shout, 'We love you Alf, we wish you well.'

And God, recognising everything Alf has done for the faith and for his kingdom I know will say, 'Well done my good and faithful servant.'
The Moderator then led elders in prayer.

7. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

4. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 9, verses 28 to 36 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jane and John Curror, Margo Neilson, Sheila McIntosh, Gordon Robertson and Grace Walker.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of meetings held on the 5th December 2012 and 6th January 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute of 5th December as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Janis Herriot and seconded by Pat McIlraith. Acceptance of the minute of 6th January as a true record was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Nancy Fisher. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Doorkeeper Duties

The Moderator thanked Jane Curror for organising the hall door-keeping duties.

6.2 Presbytery Plan

The Moderator informed elders that the Presbytery Council had approved the Glasgow Presbytery Plan in December.

He also advised that, having seen the article about the Presbytery Plan which had been printed in the Netherlee Parish Church magazine there was nothing of any concern.

Sam Esler asked whether Netherlee Parish Church operated the Model Constitution or the Unitary Constitution and, if Stamperland were to adopt the Unitary Constitution whilst Netherlee stuck with the Model Constitution this could be a “sticking point” regarding union in five to six years time.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

The Moderator informed the Kirk Session that he would be a Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The Assembly would run from the 18th to the 24th May.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Objection to Glasgow Presbytery Plan

The Session Clerk informed elders that he had sent a letter to the Presbytery Clerk on the 6th December 2012 formally advising Presbytery that the Kirk Session and members of Stamperland Parish Church wished to appeal against the proposed union with Netherlee Parish Church. A reply had been received from the Very Rev William Hewitt, Clerk *pro-tem*, acknowledging receipt of the appeal and stating that; “Since the Presbytery Plan concerning Stamperland does not take effect immediately your appeal will be heard when that part of the plan is due to be implemented. Your appeal will be held on file until such time.”

7.2.2 Statistical Return

The Session Clerk informed elders that he had sent a completed Statistical Return to Presbytery. The return included not only the number of members on the Roll as reported at the Session meeting on 6th January but also information regarding numbers of children connected with the church, numbers Elders and Board members as well as numbers of baptisms, weddings and funerals conducted by the minister during 2012.

The number of children involved with the church was about 200.

There were 29 children in Stepping Stones at the end of 2012 – down from 42 in the previous year.

There were 75 girls involved with Guiding – 15 Rainbows, 22 Brownies and 38 Guides; the Guides had seen a significant increase in numbers.

There were 33 boys involved with Scouting – 6 Beavers, 12 Cubs, 13 Scouts and 2 Explorers. In 2011 there had been 47 boys involved in Scouting.

Numbers in The Boys’ Brigade were stable. At the end of 2012 there were 21 in Sparks, 26 in the Junior Section and 27 in the Company Section giving a total of 74, virtually the same total as in the last four years.

At the end of 2012 there were 29 elders of whom 12 were men and 17 were ladies. There were 18 members of the Congregational Board who were not elders; nine men and nine ladies.

During 2012 the minister had conducted one infant baptism, two weddings and 16 funerals; half of the funerals were “parish funerals”, i.e. funerals of non-members. It was commented that these figures represented a huge change from what was the case twenty or thirty years ago; when ladies were in the minority of elders; when there were regular monthly baptismal services and when church weddings were unexceptional.

7.2.3 Stepping Stones Bank Account

The Session Clerk informed elders that it was necessary to open a new bank account for Stepping Stones. It was proposed that the account should have four signatories. The four signatories which were being proposed were the minister, the Rev George C Mackay, the treasurer, Mrs Kay G Bolton and the two Sunday School elders, Mrs Jane Curror and Mr Alastair Graham. All elders present agreed with the proposal.

The Moderator informed elders that he had attended a meeting with Alastair Graham, Jane Curror and Kay Bolton where various aspects of Stepping Stones had been discussed. Allison Linich had suggested through Jane Curror that there might be more involvement of Stepping Stones children at Sunday morning services with, for example, the Children’s hymn being more “appropriate to children – such as incorporating choruses and actions”, with children reading the Bible or, indeed, leading the whole service. Other suggestions included inviting representatives of outside organisations such as the Dog Trust and St Andrew’s Ambulance Association to come and talk to the children and of children going on outside visits. There was some discussion about these points with the general view being that Stepping Stones had to be made interesting and relevant to the children; however, there was no place for “gimmicks”; there had to be a spiritual aspect to the activities within Stepping Stones; external speakers or external visits had to have relevance to the Word of God and Christianity; there had to be the notion of having a newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other. It was agreed that the views of the Kirk Session would be fed back to the staff of Stepping Stones.

There was also comment that, if young children were to read the Bible at a Sunday morning service they would need training and practice to ensure that they could be clearly heard and understood by the whole congregation.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson informed elders that the death of Alf Dunbar had been recorded as a change to the Roll in January and that Tom and Lee Macpherson had been removed from the Roll.

Elders agreed that the Session Clerk should write to Mr and Mrs Macpherson acknowledging the very significant contributions each had made to the life of Stamperland Parish Church.

9 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

With Presbytery not having met in January, there was no report.

10 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

With John Curror unable to attend the meeting there was no report.

11 WRITTEN REPORT FROM PARISH & BEYOND COMMITTEE

Ray McNiven presented a written report on behalf of the Parish and Beyond Committee advising that the committee had arranged a Christmas Service in the church followed by a Lunch in the Session Room on the 19th December. Approximately 30 people had attended.

12 CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

The Moderator reported that there had been three meetings of the ad-hoc group looking at changing the constitution. Grace Scott said that the group was moving forward slowly and thoroughly looking at aspects surrounding change. Sam Esler said that the group was looking closely at the committee structure and endeavouring to establish something which

would be efficient and effective. The committee remit had to be clear and concise yet, at the same time, not too specific so that members of the new committees could define in detail how their committee would function and thereby feel ownership of their remit. Alastair Graham highlighted that it was important that the “correct people” were appointed to the “correct committee”. Nancy Fisher said it was important that the ad-hoc group recognised the valuable work undertaken by certain individuals and that any committee remit did not exclude or ignore individual contributions made by dedicated volunteers.

The Moderator concluded the discussions by stressing the need for people to see the “big picture”. By this he meant that we should be seeking to focus on ‘Proclaiming the gospel to the parish’ and not ‘Notice boards’; focussing on ‘Mission’ and not ‘Focus Magazine’; focussing on ‘God’s message’ and not ‘minutes of meetings’; focussing on ‘the Gospel’ and not ‘the Order of Service’.

13 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was agreed that the dates for the next meetings of the Kirk Session would be Wednesday, 6th March 2013 and Monday, 15th April, 2013.

Elders were reminded that Communion would be celebrated on Sunday 3rd March and elders would meet at 10:30 that morning for devotions. It was agreed that the afternoon communion would follow the format of the previous afternoon communion when the singing was unaccompanied.

It was agreed that the Stated Annual Meeting would be held on Monday, 11th March 2013.

14 ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The Moderator advised that Holy Week services would be held throughout the week beginning 24th March. As in past years, it was planned that members of Netherlee Parish Church would attend Stamperland for the service on Maundy Thursday and that Stamperland Members would attend the Good Friday service at Netherlee. In a departure from tradition, it was planned that Netherlee members would join with Stamperland members at the dawn service in Linn Park on Easter Day.

Clarkston Churches together were planning to produce an Easter leaflet to be delivered to every home in the area.

15 CLOSURE

The meeting concluded with a prayer and elders standing to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 3rd MARCH 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with prayer and the singing of the hymn, “I love the name of Jesus” followed by a reading from Luke Chapter 13, the parable of the fig tree.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator began by saying that he thought it was The Seekers who sang, 'When will the good apples fall in my side of the fence?' It was, he said, an interesting picture of someone sitting under a great tree hoping, symbolically and literally, that life would be better whilst seeing all the red rosy apples falling on their neighbour's side, whilst the small, insignificant ones, eaten by worms, land on yours.

The act of sitting under trees or plants is Biblical and there is a special place for fig trees. If you sat under a fig tree it was a declaration that you believed that God would bring you peace, safety and forgiveness, fear being a thing of the past. Under a fig tree there was no apprehension.

In 1st Kings 4:25 we read, "As long as he lived, the people of Judah and Israel lived in safety, each family with its own grapevines and fig tree."

In 2 Kings 18:31 'You will be allowed to eat grapes from your own vines, and figs from your own trees ...'

In Micah 4:4 'Everyone will live in peace among his own vineyards and fig trees.'

Jesus told the story of a fig tree that was not producing. The owner wants it cut down but the gardener pleads for patience. "Don't cut it down. Give it time."

Sometimes, the Moderator continued, in our impatience and cynicism, we say, "I don't give a fig", or we think fig leaves are only good for hiding false modesty. Then, he said, we are behaving like the landowner who has had his fill of this stupid tree, just in the same way we want to give up in our world.

But who, he asked, is the gardener in the story? On one level it could be Jesus who, with patience, nurtures peace and safety. On the other hand, we are the gardeners. We are the ones who will give time for peace and wellbeing.

At the end of the movie, 'Oh, God', the character played by John Denver says to God (played by George Burns), 'Oh God, just one last thing. You know all the evil in the world, wars, hunger, genocide, prejudice. Are you going to do something about all that?' God answers; 'I was waiting for you to do something.'

It is Communion Sunday. It is Lent ... and God is still waiting. God is indeed patient. We also can be patient as we work for the day when we can sit under our own fig tree. Visualise it. See ourselves on the ground sitting in its shade. That is our inherited place - if we have the patience to work hard to produce the fruit.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

It was decided that retiring offering would be donated to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. The retiring offering from the June Communion would be donated to a charity associated with Alzheimer's disease.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4.2 Conduct of Communion

At the conclusion of the communion service elders gathered around the Communion Table and were joined by Rev Melvin Wood, minister of Blawarthill Parish Church and the leader of the Presbytery PSD Team with responsibility for churches in the Clarkston area. Mr Wood explained that he was on study leave and had chosen to attend Stamperland; he said that Stamperland and Blawarthill churches were "twins"; both had started as hall-churches in 1940 and both had opened new, purpose-built sanctuaries in 1963.

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties. He expressed his thanks to John Currer and Bill Paterson for attending at the table and to all of the elders who had carried out all of the preparatory work associated with the service.

5 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all elders saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**DRAFT MINUTES
KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

5. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 15 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jane and John Curror, Janet Stewart, Nancy Fisher, Janis Herriot, Jess Thomson, Gordon Robertson and Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 20 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th February 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting. In relation to Item 14 of the minute, Anne MacKenzie said that it was not definite that members of Netherlee Parish Church would join with Stamperland for the early morning service in Linn Park. Noting that this was the case, acceptance of the minute of 6th February as a true record was proposed by Fraser Mackintosh and seconded by Sam Esler.

The minute of the meeting held on the 3rd March was read by the Session Clerk. The minutes were then signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk. The Moderator advised that that only four people had attended the afternoon communion – Margo Neilson, Jennifer Galt, Gordon Robertson and Roy Allan. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by George Finlayson and seconded by Ray McNiven.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Easter Leaflets

The Moderator informed the elders that Easter Leaflets had been published by Clarkston Churches Together and would be available for the BB to distribute on Friday, 8th March with any remaining leaflets being displayed in the vestibule for delivery by members of the congregation.

6.2 Stepping Stones

Alastair Graham told elders that he and Jane Curror had visited Stepping Stones about three Sunday’s previously. They were both delighted with the way in which Stepping Stones was operating. It was slick and modern; there was great enthusiasm and the children were enjoying it. Both believed it to be “in good hands”.

George Finlayson said that the crèche, when used, often had only one child. He wondered if the crèche could be better advertised. The Moderator stated that he did not like the crèche being in the Session Room instead of the small hall. Grace Walker said that Jane Curror had approached her and asked whether the crèche could meet in the Session Room so that Stepping Stones could use the small hall. The Moderator indicated that it was difficult to prepare the Session Room in advance of the crèche by laying down the carpet and setting out toys and that access for prams to the Session Room was difficult. Alastair Graham pointed out that, with the crèche often having no children at all or only one child, it seemed somewhat excessive to restrict Stepping Stones' access to the hall. The Moderator stated that for purposes of continuity he wished the crèche to occupy the small hall and Alastair Graham agreed to relay this decision to the Stepping Stones staff.

The Moderator intimated that Stepping Stones had managed to open an account with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Signatories included Kay Bolton, Jane Curror and Rev George Mackay.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 New Communicants

The Moderator advised the Kirk Session that a new Communicant's Class had started on 3rd March. Attending the class were two potential new members, Louise McCallum and Graham Short.

The Moderator said that, along with admitting the new members at a service towards the end of May, he planned to ordain some new elders.

7.1.2 Gift in Memory of Mabel McGregor

The Moderator said that he had been contacted by Mrs Gelda Stewart, daughter of Mabel McGregor, who wished to make a donation of £1,000 in memory of her mother. He asked whether elders could think of an item which could be purchased which would serve as an appropriate memory of Mabel. He said that the Session Clerk had suggested that new loudspeakers could be appropriate given Mabel's connection with the choir and music.

Sam Esler said that Bill Philips had donated items for the sound system in the past and he felt that something more tangible would be more appropriate. Connell Cranston suggested that something related to the lighting in the church would be appropriate and Willie Anderson said that consideration could be given to a system which could play hymns through the loudspeaker system obviating the need for the organ and organist. Margo Neilson suggested that elders be given time to consider options and her suggestion was agreed.

7.1.3 Presbytery Inspection of Records

The Moderator intimated that the annual inspection of records by Presbytery would take place on 21st March.

7.1.4 Death of Mrs Nancy Dunsmuir

The Moderator intimated that Mrs Nancy Dunsmuir had died that day.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Mission and Discipleship Council - Meeting for Elders

The Session Clerk intimated that the Mission and Discipleship Council were undertaking research on the eldership and wished to hear from elders about their experiences, aspirations, insights and perspectives. A meeting had been arranged in St George's Tron Church on 24th April and each church in Glasgow Presbytery had been invited to send two elders to the meeting. Edith Moseley indicated that she might be interested in attending.

7.2.2 Mission and Discipleship Council – Congregational Contact Points

The Session Clerk told elders that the Mission and Discipleship Council were anxious to establish contacts within congregations in relation to the work which churches were doing with children, young people and young adults. Alastair Graham agreed to be the contact for 0 to 18 year olds. The Session Clerk said that he would complete the questionnaires he had received in relation to numbers of young children and adults participating in any way in the life of the church.

7.2.3 Stop the Traffik Meeting

The Session Clerk advised elders of an opportunity to attend a meeting in Mearns Parish Church on 19th March seeking to raise the awareness of trafficking in the UK

7.2.4 Spring Fair

The Session Clerk reminded elders that the Spring Fair was being held on Saturday, 11th May. The organisers hoped that the Kirk Session would, as usual, arrange and man the plant stall.

He also said that the organisers were conscious of the need to involve more, younger members of the congregation. In recent years the people running the various stalls and the tea room had been the same people who ran the same stalls and the same tea room ten, fifteen and even twenty years previously. Twenty or even ten years ago, the effort involved had not been insubstantial; now, with increasing age, the effort required was becoming very demanding. Basically, without the active participation of the younger generations, the Spring Fair could not continue in its present format.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

It was intimated that Mrs Nanette Baddams, 203 Busby Road wished to become a member. Having been a member at Stamperland many years ago and, subsequently, a member of other Church of Scotland churches, elders agreed that her name should be added to the roll "by resolution of the Kirk Session".

9 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie's report of the February meeting of Presbytery was circulated in advance of the meeting. One item at the Presbytery had been a talk about the Street Pastors and Fraser Mackintosh commented that the Street Pastors were doing an excellent job throughout Britain. The Moderator advised that there were Street Pastors in Glasgow most evenings and they made the church visible to a large number of people.

Anne MacKenzie informed elders that a report in connection with Social Media Policy and with e-mail etiquette had been "laid on the table" to be voted on at the March meeting. A copy of the report had been passed to the Session Clerk.

The Session Clerk informed elders that the report advised on aspects of which all elders and all churches should be aware. These included a requirement that all photographs and especially photographs with children should not be displayed or used without having permission from parents. In any e-mail correspondence or posting of opinions it was important not to state "the church believes" but to be clear that the individual making the statement is making it on his own behalf.

Following discussion it was agreed that Stamperland Parish Church needs to develop a policy for the use of Facebook and internet which defines, clearly, who has access to the church pages and what material can be posted or uploaded on-line.

10 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

With John Curror unable to attend the meeting there was no report.

11 SOUPER SUNDAY LUNCH

The Moderator expressed his thanks to all who had been involved in the preparation and serving of the lunch on Souper Sunday. As well as raising £370 for the Church of Scotland HIV Project the lunch had sent a good message to Stamperland and visitors who had attended the service with the parade of uniformed organisations.

12 CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

The Moderator reported that there had been no recent meeting of the ad-hoc group looking at changing the constitution. It was agreed that a date would be set at the close of the Session meeting.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Kirk Session would be Monday, 15th April 2013.

15 CLOSURE

The meeting concluded with a prayer and elders standing to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

DRAFT MINUTES KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 2013 IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Acts Chapter 2 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jane and John Curror, Janet Stewart, Jess Thomson, Alastair Graham, James Mathieson, George Finlayson, Pat McIlraith and Grace Walker.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 17 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Bill Paterson and seconded by Fraser MacKintosh.

The Moderator reminded elders of the joint meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board held on Sunday 5th May at which all in attendance had unanimously agreed to proceed with requesting a change to the church’s constitution. The attendance at that meeting had been recorded in the Sederunt Book for the Congregational Board and the minutes of the meeting would be recorded in the records of the Congregational Board. It was noted that the congregation had been informed on Sunday, 12th May of the intention to have a meeting on the 2nd June at which the congregation would be asked to vote on the proposal to seek permission from the Presbytery of Glasgow to move to the adoption of a Unitary Constitution. The congregation would be reminded of this important vote on each of the next two Sundays.

It was also noted that the Kirk Session meeting scheduled for the 15th April had been cancelled due to the illness of the minister’s wife.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Easter Services

The Moderator expressed his thanks to everyone who had assisted in the Holy Week and Easter Day services. Attendance at the Holy Week services had increased on the numbers in the previous year. The Holy Week experience had been a very positive one.

6.2 New Communicants

The Moderator advised the Kirk Session that the two prospective new Communicant's had nearly completed the course and that Louise McCallum and Graham Short would be admitted at the morning service on 26th May. The Kirk Session would meet at 10.30 that morning.

6.3 Ordination of New Elders

The Moderator said that he was proposing to ordain seven new elders. The seven prospective elders were: Pamela Mackay, Marie Owens, Sheena Skelton, David McKee, Steven Owens, Scott Russell and Keith Walton. The ordination of elders would also take place on 26th May. The Elders present approved the proposal.

The Session Clerk said that he would prepare the edict for the ordination of elders to be read by the Minister on Sunday, 19th May.

6.4 Long Service Awards for Elders

Sam Esler raised the topic of the award of Long Service Certificates to elders. It was agreed that the Session Clerk should pursue the matter and seek long service certificates from the appropriate authority within the Church of Scotland.

6.5 Gift in Memory of Mabel McGregor

Various suggestions were made regarding an appropriate way of recognising the gift in memory of Mabel McGregor. Elders agreed that the purchase of hymn books for use at the Sunday Services at Mearns Kirk Hospital and of a piece of furniture to be located in the area behind the organ which would be used to store the disparate books, music and other items currently on view to be tidied up, would be the most appropriate choices.

6.6 Jack Henry

It was noted that the organist, Jack Henry, had collapsed with severe leg and back pain as he was making his way out of the church the previous Sunday. Both he and the Moderator expressed their thanks at the assistance given to him by members of the congregation at the church, in driving him home and in helping to get back into his home.

6.7 Presbytery Inspection of Records - Manse Schedule

The Moderator noted that the inspection of records had taken place in March. No errors or faults had been identified by the presbytery team. The Moderator informed elders that the Manse Condition Schedule was being attended to; Alan Henderson would visit the manse soon and bring the record up-to-date; thereafter, there would be a regular annual inspection of the manse condition and the Manse Condition Schedule up-dated annually.

6.8 Mission and Discipleship Council - Meeting for Elders

Edith Moseley informed elders that she and Janet Stewart had attended the meeting in St George's Tron Church on 24th April. She said that the meeting had been well-organised and well-attended. Those attending had been split into small groups and each group tasked with answering seven questions. Following the group discussions there had been a feedback and open discussion session. The Mission and Discipleship Council were preparing a report based on the points raised by the various meetings which they were holding round the country. Copies of the report would be sent to Session Clerks in September and each Kirk Session would be urged to devote time to reading and discussing the report and its conclusions and recommendations.

6.9 Spring Fair

The Moderator thanked everyone who had been involved in the Spring Fair. He said that the Social and Fundraising Committee would meet to analyse the event. Despite the bad weather the Spring Fair had been a good event.

6.10 Creche

The Session Clerk said that he had been contacted by Alastair Graham who wished to relay concerns regarding the decision to use the Small Hall as the location for the crèche. More

often than not there were no children at all making use of crèche facilities. It was much easier for Stepping Stones to occupy both Large and Small halls as they were adjacent rather than having to move between the Large hall and the Session Room.

There was considerable discussion regarding the availability of accommodation, the needs of different groups and practicalities of storage and of access. It was agreed that a review would be undertaken of the accommodation and needs during the summer.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Contribution to Ministries and Mission for 2013

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received a letter from Rev Alan Gibson, Head of Stewardship, regarding Stamperland Parish Church's contribution to Church of Scotland Ministries and Mission Fund in 2013. The letter was addressed to all members of the congregation and had been printed in the May edition of Focus. The letter stated that Stamperland would pay £37,836 towards the cost of maintaining a minister; that the full cost of maintaining a minister was £39,895; that Stamperland Church was being supported by other congregations.

The Session Clerk said that the contribution to the Ministries and Mission Fund was related to the level of surplus or deficit shown in the church's Annual Accounts for the previous year or years.

7.1.2 Scotland's Churches Trust

The Session Clerk told elders that Stamperland Church was a member of Scotland's Churches Trust. A central aim of the trust was to keep Scotland's churches open and welcoming. Membership gave the church access to architectural expertise regarding building repair and maintenance, potential grants towards specific types of maintenance, inclusion in both a printed guidebook and an on-line version; there was also potential access to a fund which supported organ recitals. There was an annual meeting of the Trust, usually attended by the patron, HRH Princess Royal, which a number of elders and members had attended in previous years. Membership of the Trust had been free with the trust having been reliant for income on grants from various charitable trusts. However, these grants had reduced sharply and the trust was now seeking some funding from member churches.

Elders agreed that the retiring offering from the September Communion should be directed to Scotland's Churches Trust.

7.1.3 PVG (Safeguarding) Training Courses

The Session Clerk advised elders that the Presbytery of Glasgow was organising Safeguarding Training Courses at both introductory level and for Co-ordinators. These courses would be held in South Shawlands Church in June.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson advised elders of the death of Maisie Bell who was, latterly, resident in Wellmeadow Home.

He also intimated that the new addresses for Norman and Kay Bolton and for David McKee had been up-dated.

9 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie's report of the April meeting of Presbytery was circulated in advance of the meeting. Items which raised comments at the Session Meeting included Presbytery's approval for Netherlee Parish Church to install a new Audio visual system at a cost of over £45,000 and Presbytery's decision to move three congregations, one of which was Orchardhill, to full-status.

The Moderator expressed his dissatisfaction with decisions at the May presbytery meeting which saw churches with membership levels of 30 to 40 people being granted a children's worker, parish worker and assistant minister in addition to a full-time minister whilst other churches with much larger congregations, such as Stamperland, were being subjected to unfair restrictions and futures.

The Moderator informed the elders that there had been a meeting of an ad-hoc group to look at the outward focus and outreach aspects of the Presbytery's Building Survey. This ad-hoc group had produced a survey form which had been distributed to people attending the Spring Fair and would be available at places such as Stamperland Social Club and the Bowling Club. The survey was seeking to ascertain what people living in Stamperland knew about the church and what they would like to see the church doing either for them, their family or others in the Stamperland area.

10 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

With John Curror unable to attend the meeting there was no report.

11 REPORTS FROM ELDERS VISITING ORGANISATIONS

11.1 Choir

Sam Esler presented a report on the choir. He reported that the choir, despite being low in numbers, were keen and in good spirit. In discussion with the organist and choir members, a number of issues had been identified including small numbers, lack of men, unsuitability of choir practice on a Tuesday morning in relation to availability of most working age people and students and lack of advanced knowledge of hymns to be sung on the following Sunday. Sam told elders that he had written an article highlighting opportunities for joining which had been printed in Focus; the choir were now performing an introit on Sunday; alternatives to practice on Tuesday mornings were being investigated as was the possibility of having a 'praise half hour' before or after choir practice which would be open to anyone.

Some discussion followed Sam's report. The difficulty of having Sunday's hymns selected in advance of Tuesday morning was highlighted. There were comments regarding the loudness of the organ particularly in verses or sections of hymns which suggested quiet or peace and of the speed with which some hymns were played being inappropriate.

Elders noted that there were pastoral issues in relation to the continued employment of the organist.

11.2 The Guild

Fraser Mackintosh presented a report on The Guild. He reminded elders that The Guild was celebrating its 125 year of existence and that was an amazing achievement. In Stamperland, Nancy Fisher, the President, along with the other office bearers were doing a very worthwhile job. The Guild, he said, was a wonderful religious tapestry that stretches across the whole of Scotland and he hoped that the Kirk Session would give our local guild every possible support.

12 REPORT FROM PARISH AND BEYOND COMMITTEE

12.1 Parish and Beyond

Ray McNiven described some of the activities being undertaken and issues being discussed by the committee.

Donations received by Open Door in the period May 2012 to 16th January 2013 amounted to £317. Of this amount, £220 had been passed to the Church Treasurer. Bill Phillips had become an Open Door member.

Discussions regarding the publication of a Church Calendar were proceeding and it was hoped that a calendar would be available in September.

The committee were planning to organise a Coffee Morning on the Saturday preceding the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and were seeking confirmation of the date of the Harvest Service from the Moderator.

Sam Esler was looking into the possibility of the St Andrew's Ambulance Service or the Red Cross holding First Aid courses in the church.

12.2 Eastwood Peace and Justice Forum

Edith Moseley reported on some of the topics and issues being discussed at the Peace and Justice Forum. She said that she had been particularly pleased that George had preached on the "IF Campaign" the previous Sunday. Members of the Forum had taken part in the

lobbying of the local MP and MSP in relation to the funding of overseas aid and the forthcoming G8 meeting in Belfast.

Edith reported that she had attended a talk entitled, “Stop the Traffik” at Mearns Parish Church which was seeking to raise awareness of trafficking, particularly before the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

There was also mention that church members should be encouraged to support the Food Banks being established by some local churches.

Finally, Edith also highlighted the “Garden Tools for Africa” initiative being organised by Mearns Parish Church. She and Evelyn Graham would act as contact points within our congregation.

13 CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

The Moderator reported that the ad-hoc group looking at changing the constitution had met on a number of occasions since the last Session Meeting. Good progress had been made in developing the committee structure and the committee remits.

The Session Clerk outlined the proposed new structure telling elders that there would be an enlarged Kirk Session and that four main committees would report to the Kirk Session. The four main committees were Resources, Strategy and Engagement, Mission and Nurture. Under each main committee were a number of sub-committees.

The Resources Committee had a Finance sub-committee and a Property sub-committee reporting to it. The Strategy and Engagement Committee was tasked with looking at communication both inside the church and engagement with those outside the church as well as the very important task of developing a long-term strategy for the development of the church.

The Mission Committee had a Pastoral sub-committee, a Parish & Beyond sub-committee and a Social & Fundraising sub-committee.

The Nurture Committee had Worship, Education and Stewardship sub-committee.

The Session Clerk said that draft remits for each committee and sub-committee were virtually complete. The intention was that, once formed, each committee and sub-committee would meet and further develop the draft remit so that the individual members of the committees would have ownership of and commitment to the aims and work of the committee.

When the revised structure was in operation it was envisaged that each sub-committee would meet and agree proposals, actions and recommendations. These proposals would be brought to the Kirk Session by the convenor of the appropriate main committee where they could be briefly debated and actions agreed. Committees would then be empowered to carry out the agreed actions.

Positions on committees would be open to all members of the church; they would not be restricted to elders or former members of the Congregational Board. Through appropriate recruitment the church could harness the talents and skills of all of its members. All members of committees could attend Kirk Session meetings and could speak at session meetings. However, only elders could decide or vote on any particular recommendation brought to their attention by a committee.

Margo Neilson asked about the timescale of the change and if there was a timetable. The Moderator advised that it was hoped that the presbytery would give approval before summer. During the summer months the organisational detail would be finalised and the aim was to get the revised structure operating by September or October.

Nancy Fisher advised that getting the committee convenors in place was a key factor. Grace Scott advised that the September /October timescale could be met only if committees were able to develop their draft remits.

The Session Clerk highlighted the need for developing a Stewardship culture within the church. Along with all other churches in Scotland we should have had a campaign last year focussing on financial giving. For various reasons nothing had happened and it was important that we planned for a day of giving or something similar this year. In agreeing the financial budget for 2013 board members had agreed to have a Gift Day or similar event

with a target of raising seven thousand pounds. The Moderator suggested that we should work towards having an event in September.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was noted that the Kirk Session would meet on Sunday 26th May at 10.30 am and on Sunday, 2nd June at 10.30 am.

It was agreed that there would be an afternoon communion on 2nd June and that no organist would be required.

It was proposed that the next Kirk Session Meeting would be Monday, 24th June 2013.

15 CLOSURE

The meeting concluded with a prayer and elders standing to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 26th MAY 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 16 ruling elders.

3. NEW MEMBERS

The Moderator introduced Louise McCallum and Graham Short who were joining the Church by Profession of Faith.

4. ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS

The Moderator introduced the seven new elders who were being ordained: Pamela Mackay, Marie Owens, Sheena Skelton, David McKee, Steven Owens, Scott Russell and Keith Walton.

There being no objections to the ordination of these seven elders, everyone proceeded into the Church for the service.

The Kirk Session met after the service in the Session Room. The new elders were invited to sign the Sederunt Book making the attendance at the end of the meeting, Rev. George Mackay and 23 ruling elders.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was concluded with the Moderator and elders standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 2nd JUNE 2013 IN SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with prayer and reading from 1st King's Ch. 17.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 29 ruling elders. The new elders were welcomed to their first Kirk Session Meeting.

3. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator asked if the Kirk Session had heard of FAS - Foreign Accent Syndrome. This is a disorder caused by stroke and brain injuries, causing some sufferers to lose their ability to talk in their native accents. He gave a few examples - a woman who suffered severe migraines who woke up one day to discover she had a Chinese accent and whose friends and family, when she telephoned them, hung up on her because they thought she was a hoax caller.

A Norwegian woman who in 1941 developed a German accent after being hit by bomb shrapnel. As a result, she was shunned by her community who believed falsely that she was a German spy!

Could there be another type of FAS? Father Accent Syndrome. The Moderator referred to the reading from 1st King's about the widow from Zarephath and how God used Elijah as a connection between himself and His people. Neither Jesus nor Elijah work for their own Glory, but give all the Glory to God.

"Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth," the widow of Zarephath says. How good it would be if people could see us being a connection between God and them.

After leading the Kirk Session in prayer,

4 RETIRING OFFERING

It was decided that the retiring offering should go to The Social Care Council.

5. COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties and the elders who had carried out all of the preparatory work associated with the service.

6 CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

At the end of the Service the Minister asked all members of the congregation to remain in their seats and to participate in the congregational vote which had been intimated for the past three or four weeks. As had been shown on the screen on previous Sundays, Stamperland Parish Church operated under the “Model Constitution” which involved a separate Kirk Session and Congregational Board. In recent years many churches had moved to an alternative constitution, known as the “Unitary Constitution”. This involved having only a single ruling body, in effect, an enlarged Kirk Session. However, it also enabled more “ordinary members” of the church to be active and involved in the work and mission of the church.

The minister informed the congregation that the elders and members of the Congregational Board had considered how the new constitution might be implemented and concluded that there would be benefits to changing the constitution. Members of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board had agreed that a request should be made to the Presbytery of Glasgow seeking permission to adopt the new Unitary Constitution. In order to proceed with this request it was necessary that the congregation indicate whether they were in agreement with the proposal to change the constitution. Accordingly, the minister said that he was asking the congregation to vote and show whether or not they wished to proceed with the request to presbytery to move to adopt the Unitary Constitution.

Four tellers were appointed. The Minister asked those members who were in agreement with the proposal to seek permission from Glasgow Presbytery to adopt a Unitary Constitution to stand so that their number could be counted. He then asked those members who were not in agreement with the proposal to seek permission from Glasgow Presbytery to adopt a Unitary Constitution to stand so that their number could be counted. The tellers reported that 125 members had shown their wish to adopt the new Unitary Constitution and that no members had indicated to the contrary.

7 CLOSURE

The Kirk Session meeting was closed by the Moderator and elders standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 24th JUNE 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 8 and a prayer.

2. WELCOME and APOLOGIES

The Moderator extended a formal welcome to the seven new elders who were attending their first “regular” Kirk Session meeting. He indicated that Kirk Session meetings tended to be rather more formal than meetings of the Congregational Board and that elders should seek permission from the Moderator to speak. The Agenda for the meeting is fixed at the start of the meeting and only in exceptional circumstances can items not previously advised to the Moderator or the Session Clerk be raised and discussed.

Apologies were received from Connell Cranston, George Finlayson and Alastair Graham.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 30 ruling elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Moderator asked whether elders had any competent items of business in addition to the topics listed on the Agenda. Pamela Mackay said that she wished to raise an item in relation to Stepping Stones. Jane Curror said that she wished to raise an item related to Door Keeping duties on Monday evenings. With these two additions, the Agenda was agreed as printed.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May, 26th May and 2nd June 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute of the 15th May as a true record was proposed by Bill Paterson and seconded by Margo Neilson. Acceptance of the minute of the 26th May as a true record was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Raymond Russell. Acceptance of the minute of the 2nd June as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Grace Scott.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Move to Adopting a Unitary Constitution

The Moderator informed elders that a letter and extracts from the minute of The Kirk Session meeting of 15th May relating to the decision of the members of Kirk Session and Congregational Board to seek adoption of a Unitary Constitution and of the minute of the Congregational Meeting held on the 2nd June at which the congregation had voted unanimously (125 in favour and none against) to adopt a Unitary Constitution had been hand-delivered to Glasgow Presbytery on 12th June.

The Moderator then reported that Presbytery had formally approved the request at its meeting on 18th June 2013. He advised elders that the letter would be sent to the Church of Scotland offices in Edinburgh and the change in constitution would be recorded at next year’s General Assembly.

6.2 June Communion – Afternoon communion

The Moderator told the Kirk Session that no members other than the duty team were present for the afternoon communion on Sunday, 2nd June. With the duty team members having celebrated communion at the morning diet of worship it was decided not to hold the afternoon service.

The Moderator thanked Margo Neilson for overseeing the preparation of communion and for preparing the minutes in the absence of the Session Clerk.

6.3 June Communion – Retiring offering

The Moderator said that he had omitted to intimate the retiring offering at the June communion and that only some £30 had been donated. The Kirk Session had previously agreed the retiring offering would be forwarded to an area within the Church of Scotland Social Care associated with Alzheimer’s disease. Following consultation with the Session Clerk he suggested that it would be appropriate to retain the retiring offering until after the December Communion and forward the retiring offerings from both June and December Communions to Social Care / CrossReach. Elders agreed with this suggestion.

6.4 Long Service Awards for Elders

The Session Clerk advised the Kirk Session that he had been in contact with the Principal Clerk’s Office at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, regarding long-service awards. Certificates

could be awarded after an elder had completed 30 years service. Only one award could be made so that, if an elder received a certificate after, say, 32 year's service, they would not be eligible for a second certificate to mark a significantly longer service. The Session Clerk said that six elders currently active in the Kirk Session had served more than 30 years and he expected to receive certificates from Edinburgh very soon. These certificates would be presented to the elders at a morning service on a date chosen by the moderator.

6.5 Manse Condition Schedule

The Session Clerk said that he understood that, following a visit to the manse by Alan Henderson, the Manse Condition Schedule was now up-to-date. A copy of the completed schedule had been sent to the Presbytery Building Survey Team. It was important that the Manse Condition Schedule was revised annually.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Eldership Consultation

The Session Clerk intimated that he had received a letter from Ron Clarke, on behalf of the Eldership Working Group (EWG) of the Mission and Discipleship Council along with a report summarising topics covered and points made at the eldership consultation meetings held throughout Scotland in April 2013. The Glasgow event had been attended by Edith Moseley and Janet Stewart. Anyone wishing to see the report should ask him for a copy. The letter advised that the EWG were embarking on a second phase of consultation in which every Kirk Session would be asked to provide feedback on a discussion paper being prepared by the EWG. The discussion paper was scheduled to be sent out on 30th September and responses were sought by 30th November. It was suggested that it might be appropriate for Kirk Sessions to organise a "supper evening" at which the document could be discussed.

7.1.2 Young Adults and the Eldership Conference

The Session Clerk told elders that the Church of Scotland was holding a conference for young adults in the age range 18 to 30 who were elders or interested in becoming elders. Scott Russell and David McKee had expressed interest in attending and both had submitted applications.

The Clerk reminded elders that there was a fund – the Kean Bequest – which was specifically intended to support elder training and that both Scott and David should have their expenses related to attending the course reimbursed.

7.1.3 National Youth Assembly

The Session Clerk advised elders of the opportunity for anyone aged between 17 and 25 to attend the National Youth Assembly being held this year in Dundee from 16th to 19th August. It was suggested that Fraser Johnstone might be interested and the Clerk should approach him.

7.1.4 Criminalisation of the Purchase of Sex – Letter Writing Campaign

The Session Clerk advised that he had received an e-mail forwarded from 121 George Street from Tom Moyes, Network Officer of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS). The e-mail asked concerned individuals to write to their MSPs to seek their support of a bill being presented to the Scottish Parliament by Rhoda Grant, MSP, relating to the Proposed Criminalisation of the Purchase of Sex (Scotland) Bill.

Elders took the view that, as there was insufficient time for the Kirk Session to debate or discuss the matter, any individual who wished to write to their MSP should do so as an individual and that there should be no action on this matter by the Kirk Session.

7.1.5 Local Food Banks

The Session Clerk said that he had received an e-mail from Fiona Buchanan, the Local Involvement Officer of the Church and Society Council at 121 George Street seeking information on any food banks operating within our local area. He said that he wondered whether this could, potentially, include the 342 initiative which had started some time ago; he indicated that he wasn't sure whether the 342 food initiative was still functioning. Elders indicated that the nearest food bank was probably located in Barrhead. With regard to the 342 initiative, there was awareness that, initially, the food items donated were to be delivered

to Lochwood Parish Church. With the proposed twinning arrangement never getting properly started, some of the donated items were taken to the Lodging House Mission. There was a lack of clear knowledge of the current status of the 342 initiative.

8. PRESBYTERY PLAN AND BUILDINGS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Session Clerk informed elders that he had sent a draft response to Mr Ireland, the convenor of the Presbytery Buildings Review Panel. A copy of the draft document was circulated round the elders.

The Moderator informed the Kirk Session that only a few churches had responded by the due date and that the Presbytery Committee had indicated that some of these responses did not provide the information being sought. He advised that Stamperland's response to the section on 'Planned Future Mission and Outreach' had still to be completed. In response to a question from David McKee regarding the deadline for submission the moderator indicated that the date wasn't imminent but that presbytery "couldn't hang on all summer".

The Moderator told elders that the building survey questionnaire had prompted Stamperland to conduct a survey amongst not only members of the congregation but also a wider selection of people living in the parish. Completed survey questionnaires had been returned from people attending the Spring Fair, the BB display and from people using the Stamperland Community Social Club. Steven Owens was undertaking a review of the responses. Specific groups on which the church might seek to focus were "youth", "elderly" and "disadvantaged". In the response to the Presbytery questionnaire, he said we needed to show what we are planning to do to take Jesus' love out to the community.

Pamela Mackay told elders that the Heart for Art project needed to be run by the congregation. Its purpose was to link the congregation with the community. It has been set up to "tick a box for Stamperland". She said that she hoped there would be eight Heart for Art projects running by the end of the year. CrossReach would go to a church, give training, assist with the start-up and then go away but still be contactable to provide some support.

Margo Neilson stated that she was unaware that the congregation was meant to have been involved and this view was echoed by a number of elders. Nancy Fisher said that Paula Pinda who led the Heart for Art Group at Stamperland had addressed The Guild two years previously and Guild members had gained the impression that the Heart for Art afternoon group was for residents of Church of Scotland care homes and the artistic endeavours were led and overseen by trained specialists.

Pamela Mackay said that the group required both "artists" and "people to serve cups of tea". However, those "serving cups of tea" would be expected to join in actively and be part of the group. Working with people with dementia was not for everyone and if people were uncomfortable with this they shouldn't volunteer.

Scott Russell said that it was clear there had been difficulties in communication. The Moderator said that he would ask Pamela Mackay to set up a training day for volunteers; Pamela and Paula Pinda would be invited to speak about the Heart for Art project at a Sunday morning service.

John Curror reminded elders that all volunteers would require PVG or CRB checks before they could work with the Heart for Art project.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported the death of Andy Morton, 83 The Oval.

The number on the Roll at the date of the meeting was 365.

10 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie summarised some of the issues dealt with at the previous week's Presbytery meeting. She reported that David McKee, Steven Owens and Scott Russell had attended.

There had been two speakers at the meeting. One had spoken about The Guild; the other, Matt Oliver, had spoken about the Commonwealth Games and opportunities for volunteers to assist with hospitality, services, mission and prayer.

Cathcart Trinity Church had been given permission to call a minister on un-restricted tenure. At the moment Cathcart Trinity Church owed Presbytery £29,843.

A “back to church Sunday” was planned for 29th September; resources in association with this were available from Presbytery.

Anne presented the following summary of money raised by churches in Glasgow Presbytery through Souper Sunday events.

Year	Number of churches	Amount raised
2010	53	£16,056
2011	38	£11,526
2012	36	£11,807
2013 (April)	17	£ 5,374
Total		£44,765

A celebration for General Assembly Sunday would be held in Glasgow in 2014. Further information about this event will be circulated in due course.

Presbytery have established a Creative Outreach Fund to assist churches develop new mission initiatives.

Presbytery are seeking to collect iPod shuffles for use in a dementia project.

11 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

11.1 PVG Panel

John Currer informed elders that following recent correspondence with 121 George Street it was advisable to extend the number of people who formed the PVG panel. At present the panel comprised himself, the minister and the session clerk. John indicated that he would like to have one volunteer - potentially someone with a background in social work or the police service or similar. Steven Owens indicated his willingness to volunteer. Scott Russell formally proposed Steven as the fourth member of the PVG panel and this was seconded by Sheena Skelton. The Kirk Session indicated their approval.

11.2 Post church coffee and fellowship

The Moderator said that there were concerns with children running around the church and halls after the morning service when members gathered in the choir area for tea and fellowship. There were concerns about children and the presence of hot tea and hot coffee. Children running around, not just in the sanctuary but also in the halls and the various stairways with no adult supervision, constituted a potential problem. He said that he had asked John Currer to undertake a risk assessment. The assessment and recommendations would be communicated to the parents of children involved and to those participating in the fellowship time. In the interim the Moderator suggested that children were encouraged to use the disabled toilet rather than the toilets remote from the sanctuary and parental supervision.

12 PROGRESS ON CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

The Moderator reminded elders that Presbytery had approved the request to change the constitution.

There was now a need for the Ad-hoc committee to confirm the committee remit and suggest the names of potential convenors and members of each committee.

14 STEPPING STONES

Pamela Mackay said she wished to raise the issue of finance for Stepping Stones. Stepping Stones staff wished to have petty cash available to facilitate purchase of items for Stepping Stones activities. Marie Owens stated that Stepping Stones staff needed to know what budget they have. Teachers were often out-of-pocket when organising activities such as baking. Kay Bolton, the Church Treasurer, said that the budget allocated to Stepping Stones by the Congregational Board was currently £300; if that was insufficient then, provided there

was a good reason, she was sure the Board would authorise additional funds. Last month, following the congregational lunch and Stepping Stones prize-giving service, an additional £145 would be channelled into the Stepping Stones bank account.

Marie Owens stated that a budget of £300 represented less than £10 per head. Jane Curror reminded elders that the children’s offerings were an additional source of income. The Moderator said that he believed it was theologically appropriate that children’s offerings went to a good cause rather than being used to buy things for Stepping Stones. Kay Bolton said that when she was a Sunday School teacher, children’s offerings had been used to sponsor the education of a young child in Africa as well as the purchase of resources for Sunday School; small charges were made for Christmas parties, etc.. Grace Scott said that Sunday School used to request Bibles free of charge from the Bible Society and these were presented to children when they were promoted through the Sunday School departments.

The Moderator asked about progress in setting up the bank account for Stepping Stones at the Netherlee branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Jane Curror responded that she was waiting for statements from the Bank of Scotland to be sent to her so that she could present them to the Royal Bank of Scotland. Three different requests for statements had not yet resulted in a successful outcome. Once the Royal Bank had sight of these statements they would open the account. Jane explained that the balance of funds in the Bank of Scotland account had been transferred to the church’s account and there was no longer any money in the former Stepping Stones account at the Bank of Scotland.

Elders agreed that the Stepping Stones staff could operate a petty cash fund as long as all expenses were submitted with receipts and all payments into and out of the fund were properly and formally recorded.

Marie Owens said that she would like the Kirk Session to propose a formal programme which Stepping Stones staff could follow. Jane Curror said that she believed that the elders dealing with Stepping Stones had recommended a programme and that the Moderator had also approved the suggested programme. Sam Esler reminded elders that when the Unitary Constitution was in operation there would be a new committee overseeing Youth Education.

The time being 21.40 the Moderator moved that Standing Orders be suspended and this was agreed.

15 DOOR KEEPING DUTIES

Jane Curror informed elders that there were no volunteers for door keeping duty on Monday evenings. There was an urgent requirement to find volunteers in time for the start of the new Brownie and Guide session starting in September. The Moderator said that he would intimate at morning services the need for volunteers.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was provisionally agreed as Monday 16th September.

17 CLOSURE

The moderator thanked elders for their work over the past year. He wished them all a good holiday and hoped that they would return refreshed and invigorated. The meeting concluded with all elders standing to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with prayer and reading from Luke Chapter 14.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator started by contrasting the ready availability of cartoons via cable television or DVD with that pertaining 30 or 40 years ago when there was an occasional cartoon on TV, often between programmes, or as a 'short' before the main film or a big Disney Production like Snow White or Bambi. He said the cupboard of his daughter, Francesca, had, on every shelf, almost the full collection of Disney DVD's. A favourite of his was 'Beauty and the Beast.'

On recent Sundays the Gospel reading had been from Luke and we read Luke again today. Contained within his Gospel are several Sabbath healings of people with afflictions: the bent-over woman, the woman who is bleeding, and the man with 'dropsy.' Each story, he said, was a Beauty and the Beast.

Beauty, he recalled, sees in the Beast what the rest of the world does not. At last, through a kiss, she restores him to his sense that he has beauty again.

Jesus, the beauty in Luke's tales, restores many whom the rest see as grotesque and presses the rest to see as he sees, to love as he loves, to become those who can heal distinctions based on illness, appearance, poverty, social roles, race or religion.

In our culture, he said, social gatherings become red carpet events, the beautiful enter to be admired by the ordinary for their distinction; the afflicted hide their wounds as best they can or they stay at home. The gathering could be at church and he recalled his mother complaining about one lady in the choir, who always stood at the front and sang the loudest, forgetting that she was there to praise God and not preen herself! The social gathering could be the school playground, where the parents eye up what the others are wearing, as they jog on the spot in their NIKE trainers until their child goes in!

The Moderator continued saying that in our culture, we still shut away those who are ill, those who have dementia, those who are dying – we shut them away, because it is too grotesque and life is not all things bright and beautiful.

Parts of society encourage us to look forever young and youthful because older age is something to be avoided or denied. We behave that way, despite Jesus' warnings to search for the beauty and to open our eyes like he does and see, really see.

The Moderator concluded saying that in the final act of the Jesus' story he becomes the Beast. And in his body, grotesque, he will wait..... wait still to be set free among us, here on earth, by a human kiss, once again.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

The Moderator reminded elders that it had been decided at the Session Meeting in May that the retiring offering should go to Scotland's Churches Trust.

4. NEW CONSTITUTION

The Moderator reminded elders that the church was now operating under the new Unitary Constitution. Under the new arrangements there was a new structure of committees. It was, he said, the duty of every elder to be an active member of at least one committee.

The Session Clerk told elders that he had prepared a paper giving a brief description of the new committees. Fuller details of the work of each committee could be accessed through the church web site. For those elders who didn't have easy access to the internet he indicated that he had prepared a booklet describing the committees and their draft remits. In establishing the committees and their membership it was intended that each elder should indicate their preference regarding the committees on which they would like to serve. He

suggested that each elder informed him of their first and second choices of committee by completing the tear-off section on the document describing the new committees. He also indicated that it could be appropriate for some elders to serve on more than one committee. Additionally, each elder would be expected to serve on an “offering counting team”; should any elder not wish to serve on an “offering duty team” they should indicate why they were unable to serve. Elders were requested to submit their preferences to the Session Clerk by Sunday, 15th September.

5. COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Moderator and elders processed into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5.2 Conduct of Communion

The Moderator thanked the elders for the manner in which all had performed their duties and the elders who had carried out all of the preparatory work associated with the service.

7 CLOSURE

The Kirk Session meeting was closed by the Moderator with all elders standing around the Communion Table to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator