

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 15 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Edith Moseley, Marie Owens, William Anderson, George Finlayson, Alastair Graham, James Mathieson and Steven Owens.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay and 25 ruling elders.

4. NEW CONSTITUTION

The Moderator read the letter, dated 15th July 2013, which he had received from Mrs J S Wilson, the Solicitor of the Church of Scotland, confirming that the Delegation of the General Assembly has signed the Unitary Deed in respect of Stamperland Parish Church. A certified copy of the Unitary Deed had been sent with the letter and this document was passed to the Session Clerk for safe keeping. The letter also confirmed that the Church of Scotland solicitor would notify the Office of the Scottish Charities Register of the change of constitution.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The draft minutes of the meetings held on the 24th June and 1st September 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mrs Pamela Mackay asked that in paragraph four of Section 8 of the minute of the 24th June the words, “to ‘tick a box for Stamperland’” be deleted and replaced with the words, “for outreach” and that in paragraph five the words, “expected to join in actively and be part of the group” be replaced with the words, “participants and be part of the group or leave”. With these amendments, acceptance of the revised minutes as a true record was proposed by Pamela Mackay and seconded by Anne MacKenzie. Acceptance of the minute of the 1st September as a true record was proposed by Connell Cranston and seconded by Scott Russell.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Afternoon Communion on 1st September

The Moderator informed elders that only four members had attended afternoon communion. Of these, two had been elders on duty. He wondered if this was the best use of resources.

6.2 Long Service Awards to Elders

The Moderator told the Kirk Session that he intended to present Long Service Certificates to elders during the service on Sunday, 29th September. Certificates would also be presented to the elders ordained in May.

6.3 Young Adults and the Eldership Conference

The Moderator noted that David McKee and Scott Russell had attended a Young Elder Conference and it was planned that they would give a short report on the conference at the next Session Meeting. Both attendees indicated they found the conference very interesting and very worthwhile.

6.4 Risk Assessment Relating to Post Church Coffee

The Moderator advised elders that John Currer was in the process of undertaking the risk assessment.

6.5 Heart for Art

David McKee told elders that he had received confirmation that Heart for Art would provide a display at the forthcoming Fresher’s Fair. In relation to the minutes of the June meeting he asked about progress regarding Paula Pinda and Pamela Mackay addressing the congregation.

The Moderator said that action was in-hand for a second Heart for Art Group to meet on Friday mornings. Answering a question about how “new people” had heard about Heart for Art, the Moderator said that Paula Pinda had placed a board outside the church during the Friday

afternoon Heart for Art session. He said it had always been the intention to open the group to the local community and that in the early stages of its development Heart for Art started with the provision of art-related activities for residents of our local Church of Scotland homes.

6.6 Communion Retiring Offerings

The Moderator reminded elders that it had been agreed at a previous session meeting that the retiring offering at the December Communion should be donated to an organisation associated with dementia. He advised that at the last presbytery meeting churches were being urged to support the provision of a sanctuary in the new Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice being built at Bellahouston. The cost of the sanctuary project was around £50,000.

7. MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MEETING – 1ST JULY

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 1st July were made available to elders. Acceptance of the minute of the 1st July as a true record was proposed by Fraser MacKintosh and seconded by Ray McNiven.

8 BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 Water Ingress Through Vestibule Roof

The Session Clerk advised that vandals had wrenched a tank forming a key part of the roof drain system off a wall and, as a consequence, water was not flowing away as it should. Several elders offered to assist Alan Henderson in effecting a repair. Elders agreed that, if it was not possible to undertake the repair work easily and quickly, a professional building contractor should be engaged. The Session Clerk was to advise Alan Henderson of this decision.

8.2 Upgrading of Bathroom and Re-decoration at the Manse

The Session Clerk reminded elders that the bathroom at the manse was to be upgraded and modernised with the installation of new fittings and replacement of existing wall tiles. It had previously been agreed by the Congregational Board that when work in the bathroom was complete the hall and staircase should be repainted. Further consideration suggested that it would be practical and sensible to decorate the first floor landing at the same time as the hall and staircase to minimise disruption and improve the appearance of the landing walls. The additional cost was believed to be around £400. Elders agreed that the extra painting work should be undertaken. The Session Clerk was to advise Roy Allan and Alan Henderson of this decision.

8.3 Sounds International Concert

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the Concert which was being organised by the Social and Fundraising Committee of the Congregational Board. David McKee advised that all necessary arrangements were in hand.

8.4 Replacement of Lighting Tubes in the Large Hall

Connell Cranston advised elders that at least one third of the fluorescent tubes in the large hall were no longer working and the light output from the remainder was considerably reduced from the original levels. Elders agreed that steps should be taken to refit new tubes.

9 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

9.1 Moderator

9.1.1 Church House, Netherlee

The Moderator advised elders that Netherlee Parish Church was planning to sell the grounds and car park around Church House for residential housing development. He was unsure whether Church House, itself, was being sold or simply the area around it. A number of the residents who lived close to Church House had objected to the proposed plans.

9.1.1 Moderator's Health

The Moderator advised elders that he was attending the Southern General Hospital as an outpatient twice a week for treatment. There was a possibility he might have to attend as an in-patient.

9.2 Session Clerk

9.2.1 Presbytery Building Survey Criteria

The Session Clerk advised elders that he had sent the completed Presbytery Building Survey Criteria document to the appropriate Presbytery representative on 6th August.

The Moderator read extracts from a note submitted by Steven Owens which related to the response to the question on Planned Future Mission and Outreach in the Presbytery Building Survey Criteria. This referred to an update regarding the Stamperland Foundations and the possible submission of bids for funding to two charitable organisations – Santander and Asda. The Session Clerk advised the Moderator that only a few elders had awareness of the Stamperland Foundations document and agreed to make copies of the Foundations document available to all elders. Elders would then be able to consider any development proposals at a subsequent meeting.

9.2.2 Letter from East Renfrewshire Council Environmental Health Officer

The Session Clerk advised that he had received a letter from an Environmental Health Officer working for East Renfrewshire Council. The letter related to a complaint from a resident in Stamperland Hill regarding Stamperland Pipe Band practicing outside the church at around none o'clock one evening. The matter had been dealt with by Connell Cranston and thanks to his intervention no further actions were required.

9.2.3 Eldership Consultation

The Session Clerk informed elders that he had received a letter from John Hawthorn, Chairman of the Eldership Review Group of the Mission and Discipleship Council advising that Kirk Sessions had to meet to discuss various aspects of the eldership and subsequently complete a questionnaire to be returned no later than 30th November.

It was agreed that the Kirk Session would meet after worship one Sunday in October to discuss the issues and that the Session Clerk would circulate the questionnaire in advance of the meeting.

10. SUMMER SPACE

The Moderator thanked all who had assisted with staffing the Summer Space initiative on Sunday mornings over the summer school holiday period. The initiative had come from Grace Walker and was intended to provide a safe venue for children, not only those of crèche age, when parents were attending morning worship. Summer Space had not attracted very many children and there was a need for better publicity if the concept were to be repeated next year.

11. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

11.1 Deaths

Bill Paterson reported the deaths of Mrs Margaret Stewart, 3B Golf Court, Strathview Park and Mrs Margaret Ogilvie, 59 Netherhill Avenue.

11.2 Change of Address

Bill Paterson reported three changes of address.

Member	Previous Address	New address
Mrs Sheila Neill	363 Clarkston Road	5D Golf Court, Strathview Park
Mrs Eva Allan	22 Stamperland Gardens	Flat 26 Montgomerie Court Gilmour Street Eaglesham
Mary McKenzie	31 Linnpark Court	Wellmeadow Lodge Nursing Home Newton Mearns G77 6XJ

11.3 Elder's Districts

Bill Paterson informed elders that he was proposing a revision of elder's districts. It was agreed that the elders who had been ordained in May 2013 would be trained by the Moderator so that they would be ready to undertake visits in advance of the December communion.

12 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne MacKenzie advised elders that she felt the Presbytery was not functioning as it should. An example was that thirteen churches had been cited to appear before Presbytery but fewer than half of those cited were aware of the reason for the request.

The Presbytery had been addressed by the Policy Officer of the Science Religion and Technology Project and by a speaker who spoke about the new hospice to be built at Bellahouston. Anne re-iterated what the Moderator had previously said namely that it was hoped that Glasgow churches, of all denominations and religions, would contribute £50,000 to meet the cost of building a sanctuary.

Presbytery had been advised of an information evening relating to the potential dangers of church websites, Facebook accounts, etc..

The Safeguarding Committee of Presbytery were seeking volunteers who could train church representatives in relation to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Presbytery was launching initiatives in relation to the Commonwealth Games and there were opportunities for congregations to seek funding support for various volunteers activities.

13 REPORTS FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

13.1 Parish and Beyond

Ray McNiven advised elders that 150 calendars were being printed and should be available for purchase at the Coffee Morning on the 5th October.

The Committee had discussed running First Aid classes in the church which would be open to the public. Initial quotations for providing courses were rather expensive and alternative options were being explored.

13.2 Fresher's Day

David McKee told elders that plans for the Fresher's Day were progressing well. Fifteen organisations had confirmed their intention to be involved.

14 SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Session Clerk advised that Safety and Security would be an Agenda item for every Kirk Session Meeting. Under this item there would be reports from the PVG Co-ordinator, the Food Hygiene Co-ordinator and the Health and Safety Co-ordinator. He advised that the three co-ordinators had direct access to report at Kirk Session meetings whether or not they were elders. Additionally, each co-ordinator had direct access to the Business Committee.

14.1 PVG Co-ordinator's Report

John Curror informed elders that nine members of Stepping Stones staff were attending a PVG course.

14.2 Food Hygiene Co-ordinator's Report

Anne MacKenzie reported that the church kitchen had passed an inspection from an official from East Renfrewshire Council "with flying colours".

14.3 Health and Safety Co-ordinator's Report

There was no report.

Fraser Mackintosh said that he was concerned about the ease of access to the sanctuary. He told elders that one evening in the summer he had been able to walk straight into the sanctuary. No doors were locked or closed or guarded. Connell Cranston said that he had prepared a notice to advise all organisations and all groups using the church of the importance of closing outer doors and monitoring external access.

15 PROGRESS ON DEVELOPING AND INITIATING THE NEW UNITARY CONSTITUTION

The Session Clerk briefly reminded elders of the new structure of Kirk Session Committees and the plans for inviting firstly elders and former members of the Congregational Board to indicate their preferences regarding the committees on which they would like to serve. Descriptions of the structure and draft remits for all committees were available to download from the internet or as paper copies. Elders were encouraged to return their preference slips or make their wishes regarding committees known to the Session Clerk as a matter of urgency. Once the preferences of the elders and former Board members had been received an invitation to join a committee would be extended to all members of the congregation.

The Moderator advised that the remits prepared by the Ad-hoc committee were essentially “draft remits” and each committee would be expected to develop its remit further in the light of experience or changing circumstances.

The Moderator thanked the members of the Ad-hoc committee for having developed the new committee structure and associated draft remits and suggested that the Ad-hoc could now be stood down. Elders agreed with the proposal.

16 OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Request from Stepping Stones to have Internet Access Throughout the Church and Halls

Jane Curror informed elders that Stepping Stones would like the Kirk Session to consider making wireless internet access available throughout the church and hall accommodation. The Session Clerk advised that providing wireless internet access would cost of the order of £20 per month. Mrs Mackay highlighted that several wireless routers could be required to ensure adequate signal coverage throughout the building.

The Kirk Session was broadly supportive of the intention to provide internet access and agreed that options for the provision of internet access should be investigated and firm, costed proposals brought to the next Session meeting by the Session Clerk.

There was brief discussion about the location of church laptops. The laptop purchased by the church for use by Stepping Stones was currently under the control of Mrs Lyn Walker.

16.2 Parades of Uniformed Organisations

Scott Russell enquired whether there was an established mechanism for informing the uniformed organisations of the dates of church parades. The Moderator indicated that he would work on this. Scott Russell volunteered to liaise between the Moderator and the organisation leaders.

16.3 Mission and Outreach

David McKee said that he wished to briefly highlight three initiatives. These were to arrange a photograph of the Kirk Session; to investigate holding an Easter Club for schoolchildren; and for himself and Scott Russell to provide feedback on the young elder training course which they had recently attended. The Moderator undertook to decide an appropriate occasion for the feedback.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Moderator advised elders that the morning service on 29th September would incorporate the dedication of organisations and the presentation of certificates to elders; that the morning service on the 6th October would be the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and that Stuart Sangster, Stewardship Consultant for the Presbytery of Glasgow, would address the congregation.

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was provisionally agreed as Monday 4th November.

The Moderator said that he would propose a date for the Sunday afternoon meeting at which elders would discuss the eldership and the issues raised by the Eldership Review Group of the Mission and Discipleship Council

18 CLOSURE

The moderator thanked elders for their attendance and the meeting concluded with all elders standing to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

The Moderator extended a welcome to everyone to the meeting, particularly those who were not elders and had served as members of the Congregational Board prior to the adoption of the Unitary Constitution. He indicated that, technically, this was a meeting of the Kirk Session but members of the church were encouraged to attend under the new constitution.

2 CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator with a reading from Luke Chapter 20 and a prayer.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Marie Owens, Sheena Skelton, Alastair Graham, George Finlayson and Steven Owens. Additional apologies were given by Jean Cranston, Alison MacFarlane and Margot Young.

4. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay, 26 ruling elders and six church members.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The draft minute of the meeting held on the 4th September 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting. With minor amendments to spelling and the number of a house address acceptance of the revised minutes as a true record was proposed by Raymond Russell and seconded by Connell Cranston.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Young Adults and the Eldership Conference

Scott Russell and David McKee presented a brief report on the Young Elder Conference which they had attended in the summer. They had found it very interesting and informative and had particularly enjoyed the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with other young elders from disparate areas of Scotland and also with older and more experienced Session Clerks who were attending a separate conference being held at the same venue.

Some of the key points were that strong leadership is necessary in providing a clear path and direction for the future; small teams looking at particular issues are generally better than large groups; churches should not seek to replicate activities which are being successful within their own communities; failure is not always bad but can provide lessons for the way ahead. There had been sessions on pastoral care, the wide range of roles within the church, the importance of involving young people to be active within the church whilst ensuring that a focus on youth was not to the detriment of older members but embraced the needs of all ages.

6.2 Risk Assessment Relating to Post Church Coffee

John Curror advised that the risk assessment was 95 per cent complete.

6.3 Stepping Stones Laptop

Pamela Mackay agreed to pursue the return of the laptop by speaking to Lynn Gordon's husband, Kevin.

6.4 Long Service Awards to Elders

The Moderator told the Kirk Session that the Service on the 29th September was designed to be a multi-dedication service with dedication of Youth Organisations, the storage unit behind the organ in memory of Mabel MacGregor and presentations of certificates to new elders and long service certificates to long-serving elders. Although the date chosen was a holiday weekend with, as a consequence, a low turnout of members in the youth organisations, Gelda Stewart (Mabel MacGregor's daughter) and three of the five elders due long-service certificates unable to attend, it had been good to recognise the contributions made by Janet Stewart and Fraser MacKintosh in their long service as elders.

The Moderator undertook to find an appropriate time for the dedication of the furniture and the presentation of long-service certificates.

6.5 Internet Access Throughout the Church and Halls

Norman Bolton reported that BT were currently offering the most competitive broadband package at an annual cost of £156 compared with over £200 per annum with the next cheapest provider. His recommendation was that, with the telephone supplier currently being BT, to use BT as the broadband provider.

Broadband coverage throughout the whole church premises might be problematic. WiFi range extenders using the mains wiring to carry signals was the easiest option with a one-off cost of around £100 but could be dependent on the configuration of electric power supplies from the distribution board throughout the church premises. Answering questions Norman Bolton said that internet service providers (ISP) did not give advice on broadband coverage within a building and limited their responsibility to providing a connection at the incoming phone line.

It was agreed that BT should be the broadband provider and action should be taken to ensure internet access within the church premises from early January 2014.

6.6 Replacement of Lighting Tubes in the Large Hall

Connell Cranston reported that the fluorescent tubes in the large hall would be replaced at the end of November.

6.7 Water Ingress through Vestibule Roof

Alan Henderson reported that he had fixed the rainwater tank back to the wall himself and that the water ingress into the church vestibule had stopped.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

The Session Clerk advised that he had received a note from the Presbytery Clerk informing him that Stamperland Parish Church was entitled to send a representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2014.

7.1.2 Letter from Panel on Review and Reform

A letter from the convenor of the Church of Scotland Panel on Review and Reform invited elders and members of our church to attend a meeting in Renfield St Stephens Church on 28th November to discuss how The Church of Scotland can respond to the challenges of the future.

7.1.3 Letter from Jan Barr

The Session Clerk read a letter from Jan Barr in which she intimated that as a result of her mother's increasing dementia she wished to cease being the visiting elder to the Rainbows. Kay Bolton said that Jan had been a "great Rainbow elder" not just diligently visiting Rainbows for many years and offering support from the Kirk Session and church but joining in with the girls in various games and activities.

The Moderator expressed his thanks to Jan and also asked that she convey the good wishes of the Kirk Session to her mother who was currently in hospital recovering from a fall.

Nancy Fisher volunteered to be the visiting elder to the Rainbows.

7.1.4 Letter from Sam Esler

The Session Clerk read a letter from Sam Esler in which he intimated his resignation from the eldership and requested that his name be placed on the retired elders list. In his letter he said that his decision had not been easy and that the church had played a large part in the lives of Grace and himself from their attending Sunday School in the Shop Church in 1940 right to the present. Health problems for both Grace and Sam had resulted in his decision to retire from the active eldership.

The Session Clerk said that Sam had served a long and distinguished career within the church and was in essence “Mr Stamperland”. He had an extensive knowledge of the history of the church and of the events and the people who had shaped it and had been a very active member undertaking a wide range of roles within the church. The Clerk said that he had been very grateful for the help, assistance, support and advice Sam had given to him when he had succeeded Sam as Session Clerk.

Several elders expressed their thanks for what Sam had done. The Moderator asked that the Session Clerk write to Sam and convey the appreciation of the members of the church for his lengthy service.

7.1.5 Damage to Communion Chalice

The Session Clerk told the Kirk Session that when he took on the role of Session Clerk Sam Esler had informed him that one of the Session Clerk’s responsibilities was to look after the “Communion Silver”. A few weeks ago, the Session Clerk said that he had seen a chalice on the Communion Table; the top had been badly bashed and he did not recognise it. Two weeks later he saw the same chalice in the vestry and that time he compared it with the chalice in the cupboard in the Session Clerk’s office. It was apparent that the damaged chalice had, in fact, been taken from the cupboard and at some point damaged.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Change of Address

Bill Paterson reported four changes of address.

Member	Previous Address	New address
Mrs Marion Sandison	20 Riverside Court, Linnpark Ave	Hallhouse Care Home, 21 Main St. Fenwick. KA3 6AH
Mr Colin Gill	54 The Oval	132 The Oval
Mr Peter Dale	122 The Oval	90 The Oval
Mrs. Margaret McLennan	30 Moray Gdns	6 Strathtay Avenue

8.2 Adjustments to Roll

Bill Paterson intimated that Mrs Lesley Brown, 48 Monteith Drive had informed Grace Walker that she no longer wished to be a member. Mr Alan Frame 58 Monteith Drive had been away from this address since 2002.

Elders agreed that both names should be removed from the Roll.

8.3 Elder’s Districts

Bill Paterson advised elders of minor modifications to the distribution of elder’s districts which had been proposed at the previous meeting. The changes took account of the resignation of Sam Esler and the indisposition of Jess Thomson.

Elders Roll Books would be available from Sunday, 10th November along with Freewill Offering envelopes.

8.4 Training for new Elder's

Keith Walton asked whether the Moderator still planned to give training to the elders who were ordained in May 2013. The Moderator asked the elders concerned to meet with him at the close of the meeting to arrange a date and time for the training.

9. REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

The report from the Presbytery Elder was circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Moderator drew attention to the item headed "Education" which reported on a Freedom of Information request sent to every school from The Scottish Secular Society. He said he believed there was a big rise in secularism within the media; more and more often humanist and other non-religious spokesmen were on the radio when, previously, the slot would have been reserved for religious broadcast. In relation to RE in schools he said that there was more emphasis on "reflection" than "religious observance".

10. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

10.1 Implications of the Unitary Constitution

The Moderator sought to explain some of the changes brought about by the move to operate under the Unitary Constitution. The new committee structure was based on nine committees each tasked with undertaking a draft remit. These nine committees were grouped into themes, each theme having a convenor who was a member of the Business Committee. He said the arrangement of Kirk Session committees was similar to that of Presbytery.

At the moment, he said, he was not concerned about the top level structure (theme convenors and Business Committee). The intention was that the Business Committee would meet in advance of a Kirk Session meeting and set the Agenda for the meeting. It was likely that some of the nine committees would meet less frequently than others and so the Kirk Session Agenda would vary, as not all committees would necessarily report at each Kirk Session meeting.

The Moderator remarked that, at present, the committees were not filled in the way they should be.

Fraser Neilson asked the Moderator to clarify who has the power to decide or approve recommendations brought to the Kirk Session. The Moderator replied that Convenors would bring reports and recommendations to the Kirk Session. At a Kirk Session meeting everyone's opinion could be heard and you didn't have to be a committee convenor to come to a Kirk Session meeting.

Alan Henderson asked whether non-elders attending a Kirk Session meeting would have a vote and the Moderator replied "No".

Kay Bolton asked if the four Convenors who would comprise the Business Committee had been decided. The Moderator said that he wasn't concerned about the top level of the structure; at present we had the names of the people who would lead the nine committees.

There was considerable discussion regarding the Unitary Constitution and the roles and responsibilities of individuals whether elders or members or trustees in comparison with the roles and responsibilities under the Model Constitution.

The Session Clerk suggested that there needed to be a meeting of the leaders of the nine committees with the Moderator so that all committee leaders had a clear view of the way in which the new committee structure was meant to operate and could subsequently ensure that every member of a committee understood their role. Those present agreed that such a meeting should be held and the Moderator undertook to arrange a meeting.

10.2 Fund Raising and Social Committee

10.2.1 Monthly events

David McKee reported that the committee was looking to have some event once a month. A draft calendar of events had been prepared but some details remained to be resolved.

10.2.2 Spring Fair

The Spring Fair would take place on Saturday, 10th May 2014. It was proposed that there should be a special sub-committee set up to organise the Spring Fair. David McKee said that he would like the Session Clerk to be involved with this sub-committee so that his previous experience with Spring Fairs could be harnessed.

10.2.3 Easter Club

David McKee said that a number of people had volunteered to assist with the Easter Club for school children. The Easter Club would be based on an established programme called “Rocky’s Plaice”. David had a book which gave some details of the programme but full details were available in a CD and he asked for permission to purchase the CD. The Kirk Session approved the purchase.

10.3 Parish and Beyond Committee

10.3.1 Calendar

The Moderator thanked everyone who had been involved with the production of the calendar. The large version was sold out but there were still some copies of the CD case version.

10.4 Pastoral Committee

10.4.1 LERBA Group

The Moderator intimated that he was establishing a prayer group known as the LERBA Group. It would meet monthly and use the prayer requests posted on the Meadow painted by Paula Pinda to guide their thoughts and prayers.

10.4 Worship Committee

10.4.1 Dates for forthcoming services

The Moderator announced the following dates:

1 st December	Celebration of Communion at 11.00 and 15.00. Kirk Session would meet for devotions at 10.30.
22 nd December	Nativity Service
24 th December	Pyjama Service at 7.00 Watchnight Service at 11.20
25 th December	Christmas Day Service at 10.30

The Moderator said that, bearing in mind the health and fitness of the organist, Jack Henry, Jane and John Curror had agreed to lead the singing at the Pyjama Service and the Christmas Day Service. Jack Henry would be asked to play the organ for the Watchnight Service.

10.5 Stewardship Committee

The Moderator reminded those attending that there had been no Stewardship Activity in 2012 as a consequence of his illness. Two years ago, in 2011, there had been a successful Gift Day. This year there had been a Gift Day combined with a Fresher’s Day and Harvest Thanksgiving gifts.

10.6 Suspension of Standing Orders

The Moderator informed all present that it was practice for Kirk Session meetings to finish by 21.30. With the clock showing the time to be 21.25 the Moderator asked whether those present wished to suspend the Standing Order requiring close of the meeting by 21.30. All present agreed to suspend the Standing Order and continue with the business on the Agenda.

10.7 Finance Committee

10.7.1 Budget for 2014

Kay Bolton took all present through the preparation of the Budget for 2014. Copies of a document showing the estimated out-turn for 2013 and the proposed budget for 2014 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Key points regarding the predicted out-turn for 2013 were:

- Offerings more-or-less on target
- Gift Day in 2013 raised only £1,875 compared to a budget figure of £7,000
- Tax recoveries less than budgeted since there was no Gift Day in 2012.
- Hall lets doing very well with anticipated income of £8,000 compared to budgeted figure of £6,000. Baby Sensory expected to contribute around £5,000.
- Overall expenditure anticipated to be on target. However, this assumes expenditure on fabric of a further £4,000 and claims by the minister of six months travel expenses.
- Attempts should be made to keep expenditure classed as “Other expenditure” as low as possible

The Treasurer said she anticipated a deficit of £3,403 for the year subject to refurbishment of the Manse bathroom being completed and the exact timing of the minister's travel claims. The Moderator indicated that he had recently sent his travel claims to Edinburgh.

Key points in setting the budget for 2014 were

- Regular offerings unchanged
- Tax on Gift Aid around £8,000 recognising the poor response to Gift Day in 2013
- Social and fundraising targeted at £5,000
- Expenditure maintained essentially at 2013 levels with small uplifts for inflation

Without a Gift Day or other form of additional income bringing in £7,000, the Treasurer stated there would be a deficit.

The Moderator said that the church needed to get away from Gift Days. Stewardship shouldn't work this way and there was a need to get the congregation more into the way of regular giving. He re-iterated the need to seek major funds from external sources.

Acceptance of the proposed budget for 2014 as presented by the Treasurer in her document was proposed by Connell Cranston and seconded by Grace Walker.

10.7.2 Life and Work, Postage of Focus Magazines

Kay Bolton drew attention to the predicted out-turn figure for 2013 in relation to Life and Work magazine. It was anticipated there would be a cost to the church of £105. Life and Work should be cost-neutral with the cost of the magazine exactly matched by payment from those who subscribed to it. This year, one person had not yet paid and one person had cancelled their subscription just after the church had confirmed the number of magazines required.

She told the Kirk Session that 14 Focus magazines were sent each month to former members, ministers and library; postage amounted to £63 per year. Sheila McIntosh had been deducting postage costs from money received in payment of Life and Work and this, in part, explained why the item headed "Life and Work" showed as a net expenditure. She asked the Kirk Session if the church should continue to post Focus magazines to the current recipients.

Anne MacKenzie and Sheila McIntosh said that a number of those receiving Focus did send a monetary donation.

Elders agreed that Focus should continue to be posted.

10.7.3 Laptop for Minister

Kay Bolton said that Mrs Mackay had approached her the previous day with a request that the church purchased a laptop.

Mrs Mackay then informed elders that, in the last few years, the manse family had spent some £4,000 on computers for the minister's work. She had been informed by Edinburgh that churches should provide their minister with a computer and was therefore asking that the church agree that a laptop could be purchased for the minister.

Elders agreed to this request.

10.8 Fabric Committee

10.8.1 Manse bathroom, hall and staircase

Alan Henderson informed those present that Joe McLaughlin had been given instructions to carry out the work at the Manse. He said that the plumber who was assigned to do the work had injured his back and Joe was busy looking for a replacement. Painting work in the hall, staircase and landing would begin in two weeks. The installation of laminate flooring in the hall could begin right away.

In relation to the wording in the previous Kirk Session minute which mentioned replacement of existing wall tiles, he informed those present that the cost estimate for the work in the bathroom did not include the replacement of wall tiles. There ensued considerable discussion about the standard of the bathroom, tiling and alternative finishes to tiling.

The Moderator said that Joe McLaughlin had informed the Manse family that all of the work would have been undertaken in September. It was now November and nothing had progressed.

It was agreed that the Property Committee should meet and discuss the matter. The Kirk Session trusted that the committee would do the right thing.

11 SAFETY AND SECURITY

11.1 PVG Co-ordinator’s Report

John Curror informed elders that, in relation to the BB, nine applications for PVG clearance were with 121 George Street.

With one exception, all Stepping Stones staff now had PVG clearance.

11.2 Food Hygiene Co-ordinator’s Report

Anne MacKenzie said there were no issues.

11.3 Health and Safety Co-ordinator’s Report

There was no report.

David McKee raised an issue with the accessible toilet in the church vestibule which was currently a bit of a “dumping ground”. The Property Committee undertook to look at this matter.

12 CELEBRATING THE CHURCH’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Norman Bolton reminded those present that the church would celebrate its 75th anniversary in February 2015 and suggested that it would be appropriate to consider the form which the celebration could take. In 2012 Williamwood Parish Church had celebrated its 75th anniversary with a year-long series of events. He proposed that an ad-hoc committee be established to consider the matter and elders agreed with the proposal.

13 RETIRING OFFERINGS

13.1 Remembrance Sunday

Kay Bolton asked if there would be a retiring offering on Sunday, 10th November and, if there were, which charity would receive it. Elders agreed that there should be a retiring offering and that it should be sent to Erskine Home.

13.2 Christmas Eve

It was agreed that the recipients of the offerings from the Watchnight and Christmas Day Services would be decided at the next Kirk Session meeting.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Moderator reminded elders of the meeting for devotions before the December Communion.

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was agreed as Wednesday 4th December.

15 CLOSURE

The moderator thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 10.01 p.m. with all standing to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator a reading from Isaiah Chapter 2 and a prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

The Moderator started by recounting a meeting of representatives of Clarkston Churches Together which had taken place the previous Friday. There was discussion about sending a leaflet round the community; talk then moved on to the local newspaper, The Extra. 'Wouldn't it be a good idea' someone suggested, 'if CCT took out a whole page advert, advertising all the services in Clarkston during Advent and Christmas'.

However, there was a little reluctance. It was noted that The Extra didn't always get the intimations right. An example was the notice for today's service at Netherlee which included the date as February. One of the Moderator's colleagues piped up, "Do you want to hear my story? Yes, they definitely do get it wrong. We had put at the bottom of our notice, after the time and the date, 'All most welcome' and the paper printed, 'Almost Welcome.'"

"Today", the Moderator reminded elders, "is Advent Sunday and we look towards the coming of Christ into our lives. Our churches and our homes are dressed for the occasion, lights shining in the darkness and coldness of winter time. Lights are there to give hope to the world that darkness will not prevail and, more importantly, the true Light, the Light of Mankind is coming into our world so that as Isaiah puts it "we can walk in the light of the Lord". But how welcome is he really?

"As a child, like most children," he said, "we ooh and aah, goo and gaa and smile sweetly at the vulnerable human being. This child grows in wisdom and stature; he becomes knowledgeable, wiser than the scholars in the Temple. As an adult he challenges, confronts, and shakes those around from their comfortable existence, turning their world upside down.

The advert in the paper printed, 'Almost Welcome.'

Within this season there are stark realities that are covered by the jolliness of it all. At the close of the season Jesus points us to ways that make the disciples draw back, disciples of old and followers of new, who wish to change their mind to the excitement they first experienced all those years ago.

The initial joy of any parent to a new child is the constant demands that follow and the changed priorities in the lives that we lead - and many who initially jump for joy are not so keen.

'Almost welcome.' How true in the world today!

The Moderator then led the Kirk Session in prayer.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

The Moderator reminded elders that following the June Communion it had been decided that the retiring offering should go to The Social Care Council.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Session Clerk advised elders that there were still a number of Freewill Offering Envelopes to be delivered and asked elders to check that they had collected envelopes for their district.

Elders were reminded that it was planned to take a photograph of the Kirk Session following the close of the service.

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 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

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER 2013
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Moderator with reading from Mathew Chapter 1 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from A Henderson, G Fairweather, A Graham, J Silcock.
D McKee had advised he would arrive about 8.00 pm.
S Owens had advised that he would arrive around 9.00pm.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay, 31elders and four church members.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minute of meeting held on 4th November

Draft minutes of meeting held 4th November circulated prior to the meeting.
Item 10.6 of minute amended with final sentence of section stating, "The response to this year's Gift Day was better than the previous year's".
Acceptance of amended version as true record proposed by C Cranston, seconded by R Allan.
Minutes then signed by Moderator and Session Clerk.

4.2 Minute of meeting held on 1st December

Minutes of meeting held 1st December read to those present by Moderator. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by J Curror, seconded by R Russell. Minutes then signed by Moderator and Session Clerk.

5. REVIEW OF ACTIONS AND BUSINESS ARISING

- S2 Presentation of Long Service Certificates to elders. Ongoing
- S4 Risk assessment of post-church coffee. Completed
Document with Session Clerk for safe-keeping.
- S5 Arrange for congregation to be informed about Heart for Art. Completed
Presentation to be made to congregation on 15th December.
- S6 Progress upgrading of manse bathroom, decoration of hall and staircase. Ongoing

- Painting of hall, staircase and landing in progress.
Work to refurbish Manse bathroom postponed till February 2014 or date to suit manse family. Ongoing
- S9 Consider response to request to contribute to building of sanctuary at new hospice. Ongoing
- S12 Develop mechanism for informing uniformed organisations of parade dates. Ongoing
- S13 Kirk Session photograph. Completed
- N1 Stepping Stones Laptop. Ongoing
Session Clerk to send letter requesting return of church property.
- N2 Set date for dedication of church furniture. Ongoing
- N3 Provision of wi-fi throughout church. Action not due until January 2014. Ongoing
- N4 Clerk to write and send letter to Sam Esler. Completed
- N5 Training for new elders. Ongoing
- N6 Meeting of committee leaders with Moderator. Ongoing
- N7 Purchase of CD in relation to Rocky's Plaice. Completed
- N8 Decoration and refurbishment work at Manse. Ongoing
Painting work commenced. Work related to bathroom as per Action S6.
- N9 Review condition of accessible toilet. Completed
- N10 Establish committee to consider ways of celebrating 75th anniversary. Ongoing
Article written for December/January edition of Focus.
- N11 Decide recipient(s) of Watchnight service offering. Completed
Recipient to be Clutha Disaster Fund.

6 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

Use of "no-parking cones" by church probably not legal but Councillor Robertson was advising the church to continue practice of placing cones to restrict parking.

6.2 Session Clerk

No correspondence or intimations.

7. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

7.1 Change of Address

W Paterson reported two changes of address.

Member	Previous Address	New address
Mrs Joyce Denovan	38 Linnpark Court	Whitecraigs Nursing Home
Mrs. Margaret McLennan	6 Strathtay Avenue	5 Strathtay Avenue

7.2 Deaths

W Paterson reported five deaths

Member	Address
Mrs Margaret Gray	26 Strathtay Avenue, Netherlee
Mrs. Nan Spencer	Eastwoodhill Care Home
Mrs Margaret Mackenzie	29, Netherhill Avenue
Miss Anne White	37 Riverside Court
Mr William Pringle	89 Stamperland Avenue

7.3 Other

W Paterson reported that John Wilson, 146 Stamperland Hill, had "lifted his lines".

8. REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Moderator advised those present that there had been a special conference session of Presbytery. It had been the most boring night of the Moderator's life. There was no mention of church; shooting oneself would have been more fun.

The Moderator asked that his comments be minuted so that representatives from Presbytery might read them.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Property

Stage electrics in working order. Fluorescent tubes in hall lights still to be replaced. New flooring in lower hall to be fitted at a cost not exceeding £1,500.

Session Clerk instructed to write to British Telecom regarding state of pavement outside church.

9.2 Finance

Legacy for £2,856.80 received.

Gift Day total now £2,070.

Talent Show raised £444.20.

Retiring offering for June and December communions was £116.85. Cheque for this amount sent to Social Care Council.

Computer for minister purchased at cost of £710.49.

9.3 Strategy and Engagement

Strategy and Engagement Committee to investigate options for replacement of Risograph duplicator including purchase versus lease, purchase versus lease through an arm of the Church of Scotland and black and white versus colour.

9.4 Fund Raising and Social

Plan for “bring and eat lunch” on 22nd December to be pursued.

Plans for Quiz in January to be progressed.

Plans for Burns’ Supper in February to be developed.

Convenor to speak with Halls Manager regarding availability of accommodation for Rocky’s Plaice.

9.5 Parish and Beyond

Mrs E Graham now leader of Parish and Beyond Committee.

£426 raised by sale of calendar. Cost of printing £222. Net proceeds for church funds, £204.

Open Door Lunch arranged for 18th December.

9.6 Pastoral

Committee to meet soon.

9.7 Worship

The afternoon communion service on 1st December was cancelled with only three elders and the minister in attendance.

9.8 Education

Standing Orders suspended during debate.

Education Committee to meet and develop a vision and strategy in relation to Stepping Stones, prepare plans and associated budget and bring report to Kirk Session.

10 SAFETY AND SECURITY

No issues raised.

11 DATEs OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Sunday 12th January, Sunday 26th January and Monday 17th February.

12 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2013
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev George Mackay and 19 ruling elders.

3. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

Mrs Anne MacKenzie indicated her willingness to continue as Presbytery Elder. All present agreed that Mrs MacKenzie should continue as Presbytery Elder.

4. SAFEGUARDING

The Session Clerk advised he had spoken to John Curror who had stated that he believed the scheme was being operated in accordance with the requirements and that he had adequate training for ensuring its operation within the church.

The Clerk 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.”* Elders agreed that this statement was an accurate reflection of the situation.

5. CHANGES TO THE COMMUNION ROLL

William Paterson reported the death of Max Quietsch, 23 Linnpark Court, in December.

6. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

William Paterson, the Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2012		368
Number removed from Roll during 2013	by Death	11
	by Certificate	3
	by Otherwise	2
		16
Number added to Roll during 2013	by Profession	2
	by Certificate	0
	by Otherwise	1
		3
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2013		355
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2013		22
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2013		5

The Moderator signed the Communion Roll Certificate.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Moderator

7.1.1 Annual Statistics

The Moderator advised that in 2013 he had conducted 23 funerals, 10 of which were members. He had conducted two marriages and two child baptisms.

7.1.2 Christmas Services

The Moderator thanked everyone who had led services and who had ensured the continuing work of the church during his recent absence through illness for most of December.

7.1.3 Letter from William Anderson

The Moderator read a letter from William Anderson intimating his wish to step down from the position of Editor of Focus.

7.1.4 Kirk Session Committees

The Moderator advised that Neil Johnstone wished to serve on the Strategy and Engagement Committee and that Mrs Irene Noble had indicated that she had skills related to Word Processing.

7.1.4 Moderator’s Announcement

The Moderator repeated the announcement he had made to the congregation at the close of morning worship, namely that he had been invited to preach as sole nominee in the vacant charge of Broomhill & Hyndland Parish Churches on Sunday, 26th January.

8. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**MEETING OF TRUSTEES
HELD ON SUNDAY 26th JANUARY 2013
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Session Clerk with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

23 Trustees as recorded in the Kirk Session sederunt book.

3. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Norman Bolton led the Trustees through the Annual Report. The Trustees confirmed the accuracy of the information presented on Page 1 and there were no suggestions for any modifications to the text or figures presented on pages 2 to 6.

Norman Bolton highlighted the paragraph on page 6 which summarised the Trustees’ Responsibilities and sought confirmation that the Trustees understood their responsibilities. He then sought the approval of the Trustees to sign the Report on their behalf. This was given.

Norman Bolton then led the Trustees through the financial section of the report and then asked the Trustees if they had any questions regarding the financial statements. There were none. He then asked Trustees to formally approve the Accounts, subject to the inclusion of the updated value of the investment in the Church of Scotland Growth Fund when this figure was made

available to the Treasurer by the Fund administrators. Formal approval was given and the Treasurer and Session Clerk were authorised to sign the Accounts on Page 9. The Trustees were informed that the Annual Report and Accounts would be submitted to Ian McNab, the Independent Examiner for Audit.

4. SOUPER SUNDAY

David McKee asked the Trustees if they were supportive of there being a Souper Sunday Lunch on the 23rd February. Trustees indicated they were.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Moderator with reading from Mathew Chapter 5 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Nancy Fisher, Pamela Mackay, Margot Young, Alastair Graham and Keith Walton.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. George Mackay, 29 elders and five church members.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minute of meeting held on 4th December

Draft minute of meeting held 4th December circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Marie Owens, seconded by Edith Moseley. Minute then signed by Moderator and Session Clerk.

4.2 Minute of meeting held on 12th January

Draft minute of meeting held 12th January circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Scott Russell, seconded by Gordon Robertson. Minute then signed by Moderator and Session Clerk.

4.3 Minute of meeting held on 26th January

Draft minute of meeting held 26th January circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Roy Allan, seconded by Grace Scott. Minute then signed by Moderator and Session Clerk.

5. REVIEW OF ACTIONS AND BUSINESS ARISING

S2	Presentation of Long Service Certificates to elders.	Ongoing
S6	Progress upgrading of manse bathroom, decoration of hall and staircase.	Ongoing
	Painting of hall, staircase and landing	Completed
	Work to refurbish Manse bathroom	Postponed
S9	Consider response to request to contribute to building of sanctuary at new hospice.	Ongoing
S12	Develop mechanism for informing uniformed organisations of parade dates.	Ongoing
N2	Set date for dedication of church furniture.	Ongoing
N5	Training for new elders.	Ongoing
N6	Meeting of committee leaders with Moderator.	Ongoing
N10	Establish committee to consider ways of celebrating 75 th anniversary.	Ongoing

6 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Moderator

6.1.1 Moderator's Translation to Broomhill and Hyndland

The Moderator advised that the date appointed by Presbytery for his induction to the new charge of Broomhill and Hyndland was 27th March.

The Moderator advised that the date of his last service at Stamperland would be 9th March.

The Moderator advised that a letter had been sent from the Session Clerk at Broomhill to the Session Clerk at Stamperland asking whether the Kirk Session would be agreeable to Rev George Mackay and family staying in Stamperland Manse until various items of work had been completed at the manse at Broomhill. Broomhill and Hyndland churches would be happy to recompense Stamperland for any added cost that may occur as a result of this extension of time, for example, utility cost, community charge, insurance premiums etc.,. Elders indicated their agreement and the clerk was instructed to reply and formally convey the Kirk Session's agreement to the Session Clerk at Broomhill.

6.1.2 Vacancy at Stamperland

The Moderator informed those present that once he was inducted to the charge of Broomhill and Hyndland, Presbytery would formally declare Stamperland to be vacant. He believed that Presbytery would approach the Rev Tom Nelson, minister at Netherlee Parish Church to ascertain Tom's views on the uniting of Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Churches. Having established Tom's view, Presbytery would decide what should happen in relation to Stamperland's appeal against the proposal to unite the two congregations. The Session Clerk said that the Presbytery Clerk had offered to come and explain the appeal process to the Kirk Session and to guide the Kirk Session through the appeal process.

The Kirk Session agreed that a questionnaire prepared by the Session Clerk should be circulated with Focus magazine in an attempt to seek the views of the congregation on several aspects relating to the potential implementation of the Presbytery Plan.

The Kirk Session agreed to a proposal from Steven Owens to form an ad-hoc committee to develop the appeal. Membership agreed as Jane Curror, Margo Neilson, A Graham, S Owens, W Paterson, S Russell and N Bolton.

6.1.3 Pulpit Supply

The Moderator advised that he would arrange pulpit supply for Communion Sunday, 2nd March and for the 16th and 23rd March. He also advised he would arrange pastoral cover for most of March.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Elder to attend General Assembly 2014

The Session Clerk advised that Stamperland Church was due to send an elder to this year's General Assembly. At the meeting no elder was forthcoming in agreeing to take up the Commission. Post meeting, Norman Bolton agreed to attend the General Assembly.

7. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

7.1 Change of Address

W Paterson reported two new members had transferred from Eaglesham Parish Church. They were: Mr and Mrs Turner, 347 Bonnyton Drive, Eaglesham.

8. REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was specifically noted that the ceiling for application to Presbytery for buildings consent has been raised from £10,000 to £20,000.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Property

Manse shower repaired and manse kitchen fan repaired.

Fluorescent tubes in Large Hall replaced; carpet fitted and swing door re-hung in Lower Hall; vestry door closer replaced.

9.2 Finance

In January and February, the David Milligan Quiz and Burns Supper raised £630 and £163 for church funds. The calendar had raised a total of £211.50. Donation of £500 received from Pipe Band.

Retiring offerings for the Clutha helicopter disaster had totalled £279.50.

Major items of expenditure since the beginning of the year included purchase of photocopier at £3540; fitting of carpet in Lower Hall at £890; replacement of lighting tubes in Large Hall at £380 and decoration of hall and staircase in the manse at £2078.

9.3 Strategy and Engagement

Fraser Neilson indicated he was willing to edit Focus Magazine. Elders accepted this offer and confirmed Fraser as the editor.

9.4 Fund Raising and Social

David McKee expressed thanks to all who had assisted with the Burns Supper and David Milligan Quiz.

9.5 Parish and Beyond

Mrs E Graham advised that she no longer wished to have any involvement with the publishers of The Extra. Elders agreed to discontinue advertising in the newspaper.

Parish and Beyond Committee actively discussing the welcome pack and promotion of the collection of goods for the Food Bank. Response to the Starter Pack appeal had been good.

9.6 Pastoral

Mrs Grace Scott advised of matters being discussed by the Pastoral committee. These included provision of assistance to people attending doctor or hospital appointments, transport to church, flower ministry, bereavement and prayer ministries and marking of anniversaries.

The issue of provision of public transport to the Southern General Hospital was raised. Anne MacKenzie was asked to raise this matter at the Community Relations Group at Glasgow Presbytery.

9.7 Worship

9.7.1 Organist

Elders were advised that Duncan McClure was willing to continue as organist on a month-by-month basis.

9.7.2 Holy Week Services

David McKee proposed that he, Steven Owens and Scott Russell could lead services on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and that there could be a joint Communion service with Netherlee on Maunday Thursday led by Rev Tom Nelson or the Interim Moderator. Elders could also lead the early morning Easter Day service in Linn Park.

9.8 Education

Elders agreed to raise the church's annual financial contribution to Stepping Stones by £200 to make the total payment £500. Stepping Stones staff willing to fund raise to meet any expenditure in excess of this amount.

10 SAFETY AND SECURITY

10.1 PVG

John Currer advised that checking of volunteers in relation to the Easter Club was potentially very slow. He could only send a maximum of 10 applications at any time and had to wait until all of these were dealt with before any further applications could be submitted.

10.2 Health and Safety

No issues.

10.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

11.1 Stated Annual Meeting

The date of the Stated Annual Meeting was set as 10th March 2014.

11.2 Kirk Session Meeting

The Moderator advised that dates of future Kirk Session Meetings would be set by the Interim Moderator.

12 ENGAGING WITH RESIDENTS IN THE MCCARTHY & STONE RETIREMENT FLATS

The Parish and Beyond, Pastoral Care and Strategy and Engagement Committees presented some ideas for engaging with the residents moving in to the retirement flats in Clarkston Road. It was agreed that the committee convenors should meet and progress whatever actions they decided appropriate.

It was noted that a new care home was planned to be built on the site of the old tennis courts. Suggestion noted that the “church could go to them” rather than “they come to the church”.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 2nd MARCH 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The Session Clerk introduced Rev David Keddie to the elders and welcomed him to Stamperland.

Rev David Keddie constituted the meeting with a reading from Ephesians and prayer.

2. RETIRING OFFERING

Elders agreed with a proposal that the retiring offering should be donated to CHAS – Robin House.

3. OTHER BUSINESS – VESTRY REFURBISHMENT

The Session Clerk advised that signs of damp were apparent in vestry on wall adjacent to boiler house chimney. Source and cause of dampness required investigation and subsequent remedial action. Refurbishment of the vestry had been ongoing topic at Congregational Board meetings for six or eight years. Following remedial action to eliminate the dampness it would make sense to undertake refurbishment. The Fabric committee proposed lowering of the ceiling, installation of new lighting, repainting of walls and replacement of carpeting. The cost of the work was estimated at £1,000.

Elders agreed that the proposed work should be undertaken.

4. COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Rev David Keddie led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5.2 Conduct of Communion

The Rev David Keddie thanked the elders for serving of communion.

6 CLOSURE

The Kirk Session meeting was closed by Rev David Keddie leading the elders in saying, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 28th APRIL 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Hebrews Chapter 4 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Pat McIlraith, Ray McNiven, Alison Macfarlane, Marie Owens, Jess Thomson, Connell Cranston, Alastair Graham, Alan Henderson, Steven Owens and Keith Walton.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 25 elders and seven church members.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minute of meeting held on 17th February

Draft minute of meeting held 17th February circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Gordon Robertson, seconded by Scott Russell. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

4.2 Minute of meeting held on 2nd March

Draft minute of meeting held 2nd March circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by John Curror, seconded by Kay Bolton. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

5. REVIEW OF ACTIONS AND BUSINESS ARISING

S2 Presentation of Long Service Certificates to elders. Certificates to be presented at the service on Sunday 11th May.

S5 Arrange for congregation to be informed about Heart for Art. Session Clerk to speak to Paula Pinda and make arrangements for a presentation to be given as part of a Sunday morning service, possibly in the autumn.

S6 Progress upgrading of manse bathroom. Work to upgrade the manse bathroom to be given priority once the Mackay family have vacated the manse.

S9 Consider response to request to contribute to building of sanctuary. A proportion of the receipts of the Sounds International Concert being held in the church on 16th September will be directed to the hospice project.

S12 Develop mechanism for informing uniformed organisations of parade dates. Parade dates agreed as normally being Sunday close to or following 23rd February (anniversary of church's foundation); Sunday in mid-September or early October (dedication service); Remembrance Sunday (close to 11th November). Specific dates would be confirmed by the minister sufficiently in advance to enable police approval and supervision of the parade of uniformed organisations to and from the church. An elder, currently Scott Russell, would undertake to inform all organisations and the pipe band of the parade dates.

N2 Set date for dedication of church furniture purchased in memory of Mabel McGregor. Session Clerk to contact Mrs Gelda Stewart and, in liaison with Locum Minister, fix a convenient date. A Guild cloth would be dedicated on the same occasion as the furniture.

N5 Training for new elders. Elders will break into small discussion groups at a Kirk Session meeting in the autumn to review and explore aspects of the eldership. It is anticipated that discussions will highlight areas where training and development would be useful.

N6 Meeting of committee leaders with Moderator. A meeting of committee leaders and convenors was held on Monday, 14th April. The meeting provided an opportunity to develop a fuller understanding of the structure and operation of the new constitution.

N10 Establish committee to consider ways of celebrating 75th anniversary. Ongoing

6 UPDATE ON VACANCY

6.1 Options Regarding Presbytery Plan and Uniting with Netherlee

Gray Fletcher informed the meeting that, along with the Session Clerk, he had attended a meeting at Presbytery led by Rev Stuart Smith, Leader of the Mission and Strategy Committee, Rev Bill Hewitt, Presbytery Clerk and Rev Hilary McDougall congregational facilitator at which options for the future of Stamperland Church were outlined.

The Presbytery Plan proposed that Stamperland Parish Church would unite with Netherlee Parish Church. The presbytery representatives indicated that, subsequent to uniting, both church buildings and associated hall accommodation would continue to be used with regular Sunday services being held in each church. Following any agreement to unite there were a number of options regarding how the move to uniting the two congregations might proceed.

Presbytery noted that Stamperland had lodged an appeal against the Presbytery Plan. If Stamperland were minded to continue to object to the plan, presbytery would decide one option to progress the union. This option would most likely be agreed at the next full meeting of Presbytery and, subsequent to that Presbytery meeting, the congregation of Stamperland would submit an appeal against the decision. The basis of the appeal would require the congregation to show there had been factual inaccuracies in the information used to develop the overall "Congregational Score" and also to show how and why the subsequent allocation of ministry posts in the South Central area (Area F) of Glasgow Presbytery was inappropriate. It was considered that the chance of successfully appealing the decision to unite was probably rather low, particularly since a new appeal assessment procedure had been recently adopted. If the appeal were unsuccessful the option to achieve the union which Presbytery had decided would be followed and the congregation would have limited opportunity to influence the process.

Options for moving towards uniting with Netherlee included the following:

- **Unite soon.** Tom Nelson, the current minister at Netherlee would become the minister of the united congregation.
- **Short-term Reviewable Tenure.** Stamperland would seek to call a minister on the basis of a short-term Reviewable Tenure with the tenure being reviewed or terminated on the retirement of Tom Nelson.
- **Deferred Union.** Stamperland and Netherlee jointly choose a minister who would be minister of Stamperland until Tom Nelson retired. At that point the chosen minister would become minister of the United congregation of Netherlee and Stamperland.
- **Stamperland stays vacant until Tom Nelson retires.** Stamperland continues with an Interim Moderator and a Locum Minister until Tom Nelson retires.
- **Stamperland goes into Guardianship** Stamperland would get 0.5 minister to lead worship on Sundays and to do some parish work two days a week.

The Interim Moderator indicated that there was scope for variations within each option. Options could be explored by congregational representatives in discussion with representatives from presbytery. Choosing to discuss options with presbytery did not rule out submitting an appeal should no satisfactory way ahead be found.

After considerable discussion Margot Young proposed that the Kirk Session should agree to enter discussions with presbytery. The proposal was seconded by Kay Bolton and was agreed unanimously.

6.1 Objection to Presbytery Buildings Plan

The Session Clerk advised that, as agreed by the Kirk Session on 30th March, he had submitted an objection to the Presbytery Buildings Plan. He had received a reply from Anthony Ireland, Glasgow Presbytery Property Convenor, which indicated that he did not see the objection as being a valid appeal against the Buildings Plan.

Mr Ireland's reply was to the effect that the "4" classification was correct since Presbytery has still to reach a decision on the buildings. The outstanding appeal against the ministry plan created a position where the Stamperland buildings must be rated "4" at least until that appeal is resolved. The main thrust of the "appeal" letter was to seek assurance that Stamperland would not be excluded from any future buildings decision which would consider buildings cost, sustainability costs, likely major repairs etc. and he concluded by writing, "Effectively, as I see it, you have that assurance."

The Session Clerk said that he had written to Mr Ireland formally withdrawing the objection.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Letter from Presbytery Clerk

The Session Clerk advised that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk which contained the following two extract minutes from the meeting of Glasgow Presbytery held on 4th March 2014.

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW

AT GLASGOW the 4th March 2014 The Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.

Inter Alia: Vacancy Business

Call

To Rev George Mackay (Stamperland) **from** Broomhill and Hyndland

Following the agreement to translate Rev George Mackay, permission is sought to allow Mr Mackay to remain in the manse of Stamperland until 30 April. Letters of agreement have been received from both Stamperland and Broomhill and Hyndland. A service of induction will be held on 27th March 2014. Arrangements in the hands of the Clerk.

Presbytery received the Report and approved the recommendation.

Extracted by me this 5th March 2014



Very Rev William C Hewitt
Clerk of Presbytery

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW

AT GLASGOW the 4th March 2014 The Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.

Inter Alia: Vacancy Business

Appointment of Interim Moderators

Rev Linda Walker to Williamwood *wef 28/3/14*

Rev Gray Fletcher to Stamperland *wef 28/2/14*

Presbytery received the Report and approved the recommendation.

Extracted by me this 5th March 2014



Very Rev William C Hewitt
Clerk of Presbytery

7.1.2 Water Charges

The Session Clerk informed those present that he had been in correspondence with Ken Macintosh, MSP in connection with the Scottish Government's consultation on Water Charges. The background was that the Scottish Government were reviewing the matter of certain charities, including churches, being exempt from payment of water charges whilst other charities were not. The government was minded to include more charities in the scheme but retain the current level of funding. Were this to happen the amount of subsidy enjoyed by current charities would decrease, perhaps significantly. Were our church not to receive any relief the annual cost of water charges could be around £6,000. Mr Macintosh had undertaken to write to Nicola Sturgeon to outline our concerns.

The Session Clerk advised that the Legal Department of the Church of Scotland was also in discussion with the Scottish Government over this issue.

7.1.3 Letter from Pamela Mackay – Manse carpets

The Session Clerk said that he had received an e-mail from Mrs Mackay in which she offered to sell the carpets in the manse to the church for £1,000. A similar e-mail had been sent to the leader of the Property Committee. The Session Clerk had replied advising that the future of the manse was uncertain and, as it was likely for the manse to be vacated before presbytery or the Kirk Session had met to make a decision, Mrs Mackay should make a decision about taking the carpets in the light of her own best interests.

7.1.4 Letter from George Mackay – Church and manse keys

The Session Clerk said that he had received an e-mail from Rev George Mackay in which he indicated that he would hand over the keys for the church and manse when he was satisfied that everything had been cleared from the manse and church. The Session Clerk advised that he had not yet received the church keys.

7.1.5 Request from Rev Jack Drummond

The Session Clerk said that Jack Drummond had asked him if he would ask all elders to consider those people in their elder's districts who might like a pastoral visit and to give names and addresses to Mr Drummond. Jack was very keen to visit members who might like a visit whether in their own homes, or in a hospital or in a care home. People did not need to be ill or housebound to receive a visit.

8 SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

No issues.

8.2 Health and Safety

8.2.1 Spring Fair

The Session Clerk indicated that Health and Safety issues related to the Spring Fair had been highlighted. Derek Brown had advised on certain aspects including fire safety, electrical safety, trips and spills. Food safety and hygiene were important. The Session Clerk said he would consult further and prepare a short document covering key issues.

Jan Barr raised an issue regarding the serving of tea and coffee in the Large Hall and advised that flasks should be taken to the tables and tea/coffee dispensed into cups at the tables. Fraser Neilson said that this particular issue had been raised many years ago in connection with the Junior BB Christmas Fair. As a direct result of a risk assessment undertaken by the BB and the BB parents committee it was decided that all hot drinks should be served at the table and cups of hot liquid should not be carried through the hall. Since then vacuum flasks had been purchased and had been in use for all church catering. All present agreed that flasks should always be used for all church catering, with hot liquids being served at the tables.

8.2.2 Items stored on the stage

James Mathieson raised an issue regarding items, in particular the BB vaulting horses, being stored on the stage. The rear exit from the stage could, on occasion, be an emergency exit; it was important that potential escape routes were not impeded. Items stored on stage should be kept close to the sides of the stage; nothing should block the middle of the stage; the stage door and stair area should be kept clear at all times. Session Clerk undertook to remind organisations of this requirement.

8.3 Food Hygiene

8.3.1 Spring Fair

It was agreed Anne MacKenzie and Margot Young had the authority to request implementation of specific procedures in relation to food safety and that any requests made by either of them in relation to food handling should be followed. It was believed that procedures followed in past years regarding food storage and handling had been satisfactory as had the procedures followed in the barbecuing of burgers and hotdogs.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Change of Address

W Paterson advised of a change of address.

Mr Graeme McLean from 9 Kilpatrick Gardens to 14 Ormonde Drive.

9.2 Adjustments to Roll

W Paterson advised of the following adjustments.

Mrs Marjorie Mitchell, 49 Fairfield Drive, Clarkston transferred to Greenbank Parish Church on 9th March.

Rev & Mrs Mackay, 109 Ormonde Avenue transferred to Broomhill Church linked with Hyndland Church.

9.3 Changes to Elder's District

The departure of Pamela Mackay meant that her district had no elder. Bill announced that Jane Currer would visit members in that district until a permanent arrangement could be found.

10. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

10.1 Resources

10.1.1 Property

Roy Allan reported that work to upgrade the manse bathroom as agreed earlier last year would commence once the Mackay family had vacated the manse. Once the manse was empty electrical and gas inspections would be undertaken with a view to obtaining all certificates required to enable the manse to be let.

Work to treat the damp in the vestry had been completed; the ceiling had been lowered, walls painted and carpet renewed. The total cost was just over £1,200.

The regular checking of the church electrical wiring would shortly be undertaken.

The guttering round the halls was due to be inspected.

10.1.2 Finance

Roy Allan reported that Offerings were on target. The church had received a legacy of £5,000 and The Guild had donated £400.

Souper Sunday had raised £280 for the Church of Scotland HIV Programme. £117 had been received in the retiring offering at the March Communion service and a cheque for this amount had been sent to CHAS.

A lapel microphone for use by the minister had been purchased at a cost of £124.50

The dishwasher in the manse had sprung a leak and the charge of the emergency plumber was £100.

The laptop purchased for use by the minister has been returned by George to Steven Owens. Steven has it so that he can remove the Mackay family passwords and files. Once this is completed the laptop will be kept in the vestry for use by our minister.

10.2 Strategy and Engagement

No report

10.3 Mission

10.3.1 Pastoral

Grace Scott advised that the Pastoral committee was now operating well. There had been a response to requests for drivers to take people to hospital. Easter flowers and cards had been given to members who were in hospital or housebound. A bereavement anniversary card had been sent and the prayer ministry carried forward. The flower ministry was being discussed.

10.3.2 Parish and Beyond

Evelyn Graham reported that the glossy colour flyer was being updated. The cost for printing 1,500 copies would be £150 plus VAT. Kirk Session agreed to have 1,500 copies printed.

10.3.3 Fund Raising and Social

David McKee reported that the event planned for 22nd March had been cancelled. It was proposed that the church outing would be held in 'odd years' with a Burns Supper being held in 'even years'. A bring-and-share lunch was planned for the Sunday of the Stepping Stones prize giving. A concert featuring Sounds International was planned for 16th September. Also in September it was hoped a bowling match would be arranged.

10.4 Nurture

10.4.1 Education

Scott Russell reported that the education committee had met and reviewed their draft remit. Amongst issues being considered were training of Stepping Stones staff and of access to resources, ways of engaging with older children (14+) and the possibility of developing a young leader's group.

11. REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder's report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

12.1 Kirk Session Meeting

The date of the next regular Kirk Session Meeting was agreed as 16th June.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 1st JUNE 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer and reading from Acts Chapter 20.

2. DEVOTIONS

Jack spoke to us about Paul's farewell speech to the elders of Ephesus. He was encouraging us as elders to look after one another as well as the people of the congregation in this time of uncertainty in our Church. Jack also spoke about the word "Vacant", our own Church being vacant at this time, and that the word "Vacant" could be insulting. Jack was encouraging us to "Leave everything in God's Hands", because He knows the outcome for us and that it will be the right outcome.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

Only one suggestion was made, and that was Williamwood House and this was unanimously agreed.

4. CLOSURE

The Kirk Session meeting was closed by Jack Drummond with all elders standing to say "The Grace".

5. COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Rev Jack Drummond led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16th JUNE 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Acts Chapter 3 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Sylvia Bell, Sheena Skelton, Connell Cranston, George Finlayson, Alastair Graham and Fraser Mackintosh.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 21elders and six church members.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minute of meeting held on 28th April

Draft minute of meeting held 28th April circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Roy Allan, seconded by Edith Moseley. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

4.2 Minute of meeting held on 1st June

Draft minute of meeting held 1st June circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Kay Bolton, seconded by Raymond Russell. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Manse Floor-coverings

The Session Clerk said that subsequent to the Kirk Session meeting in April he was informed by Pamela Mackay that, with the exception of the hall and stair carpets, all floor-coverings in the manse, including the laminate floors in the two downstairs rooms would be removed unless the church made a payment of £1,000. He said that whilst it might have been possible to carpet the upstairs rooms at a cost somewhat in excess of £1,000, the requirement to carpet the two downstairs rooms as well would probably result in a total cost in the region of £3,000. The provision of appropriate floor-coverings was a fundamental requirement for letting the manse. After discussion it was decided that payment of £1,000 should be made to the Mackays for all floor-coverings.

5.2 Water Charges

The Session Clerk stated that he had received a letter from Ken Macintosh, MSP enclosing a copy of the letter from Nicola Sturgeon in which she responded to the issues raised in connection with the proposed modifications to the current Exemption Scheme for water charges applying to various charities, including churches. The response from Ms Sturgeon was not particularly encouraging, implying that the exemption scheme would change from 1st April 2015 and that churches might not enjoy their current level of exemption.

5.3 Church and manse keys

The Session Clerk intimated that George Mackay had handed over the church and manse keys on 4th May. He had, however, retained the keys to the manse basement and garage as these two locations still contained personal items.

The Session Clerk also advised that there were two sacks of confidential papers in the manse; these were to be collected by the Mackays at a later date.

The Session Clerk advised that the minister's set of church keys had been passed to Rev Jack Drummond.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Letter from David McKee

The Session Clerk read a letter from David McKee in which he advised of his decision to relinquish the position of Social and Fundraising Convenor. The Clerk expressed thanks for all the hard work undertaken by David in leading the committee and arranging and organising events, including Burns Supper, quizzes, and family evenings.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

No issues.

7.2 Health and Safety

No issues.

7.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

Roy Allan reported that all external doors and windows at the manse had been refurbished and were now in full working order. The gas equipment at the manse had been inspected and a gas safety certificate issued. Inspection and certification of the electrical equipment was in hand. Appropriate gas and electrical safety certificates were required to enable the manse to be let.

Work to upgrade the manse bathroom would no longer take place as planned; instead new bath panels would be fitted and some limited re-decoration undertaken.

Work would be carried out in relation to minor repairs to plasterwork and paint in various rooms.

The problem with the leaking dishwasher was yet to be resolved.

8.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported that the Spring Fair had raised £2,479.

She informed the Kirk Session that, with the manse now unoccupied, the local authority had agreed to waive council tax payment for a period of six months or until a new tenant was living in the manse, whichever period was the shorter. Additionally, she said that there would be savings in the payment of minister's travel costs and telephone costs; these reductions in expenditure were welcome. Both the Interim Moderator and the Locum Minister were, she noted, entitled to expenses.

Kay Bolton said that she had paid an Electricity Bill of £1,029 for the last quarter. Bills for a number of previous quarters had been based on estimated meter readings; the latest bill was based on an actual reading.

Chubb Fire had been paid £248 for the servicing of fire extinguishers.

In connection with work on the manse the refurbishment of the manse outer doors and windows had cost £732; the cost of servicing the gas equipment and obtaining a gas safety certificate in preparation for letting had been £189. Kay informed elders that there were no curtains or lampshades in the manse and it would be necessary to purchase such items before the property could be let.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

No report

8.3 Mission

8.3.1 Fund Raising and Social

Nancy Fisher said that she had been sorry to learn of David McKee's decision to relinquish the post of Convenor of the Fund Raising and Social Committee. She expressed the thanks of the Kirk Session for all the work that David had undertaken and urged elders to consider who might be willing to take on the vacant role of convenor.

8.3.2 Parish and Beyond

Evelyn Graham reported that delivery had been taken of 1,500 copies of the glossy colour flyer highlighting the church activities and organisations.

Plans were being made for a coffee morning to which the residents of the new McCarthy & Stone development would be specially invited.

8.3.3 Pastoral

Grace Scott said that the Pastoral committee were developing plans for a number of new initiatives. These included the possibility of a scheme for visiting the housebound and for assisting housebound people with activities such as shopping.

8.4 Nurture

Margo Neilson informed the meeting that she and Scott Russell had held a meeting with representatives of organisations including the uniformed organisations and Stepping Stones. A wide variety of issues had been discussed. Amongst them was fixing the dates of church parades. The meeting had recommended the following dates:

Dedication Service - First Sunday in October (5th October, 2014).

Remembrance Sunday – (9th November, 2014).

Anniversary of church's founding, generally the Sunday closest to 23rd February, which usually is close to Guide 'Thinking Day' (22nd February, 2015).

Jack Drummond said that he was happy to agree these dates.

8.4.1 Education

Scott Russell reported that members of the Education Committee had approached a number of people with a view to strengthening the committee.

Areas of involvement being considered by the committee included developing ways of working with new communicants, developing a 'buddy system', overseeing the work of Stepping Stones, encouraging the use of the church library particularly in relation to Christian Education of Adults and establishing a Young Leadership Group. This latter group would seek to involve people from age 16 to mid 20's; it would look to involve not just those currently associated with the church but would welcome people living in the parish with no church connection at all.

8.4.2 Worship

David McKee spoke of the success of the Holy Week services which were led by Scott Russell, Steven Owens and himself. Attendance had been good and there had been many positive comments regarding the content and conduct of the services.

8.4.2 Stewardship

Norman Bolton spoke of the importance of stewardship and the need for the church to develop and maintain stewardship activities. A recent article in Focus had highlighted that Stamperland Church figured rather poorly in relation to neighbouring churches in terms of total income or income per member. The church was not paying its way in that it did not meet the full costs of ministry and mission and for many years had run with an annual deficit. There had been no stewardship activity in recent years.

There was considerable discussion and various proposals agreed. Returns from a recent questionnaire issued to all members indicated a substantial number of people were prepared to increase their weekly / monthly offerings by ten or even twenty five per cent – they just needed encouragement to actually do it! It was proposed that members giving offerings using 'blue' envelopes should be encouraged to give via Gift Aid, thereby increasing the value of their offering by 25 per cent at no cost to themselves. It was agreed that articles explaining Gift Aid and encouraging members to increase their offerings should be prepared for publication in Focus and that plans be made for a Gift Day to take place in October.

The Interim Moderator suggested that the church should be making use of the Small Gift Donation Scheme and undertook to provide information on the scheme.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Death

Bill Paterson advised of the death of Mr James McGregor, 25 Morven Drive.

9.2 Change of Address

Bill Paterson advised of the following changes of address.

Member	Old Address	New Address
Mrs Jane Kidd	84 Monteith Drive	Aberdeen – no address notified
Mr & Mrs A Clark	92 Stamperland Drive	9 Riverside Court, Linnpark Avenue, Netherlee
Miss Elizabeth Brown	87 Stamperland Drive	Braemount Care Home, Paisley
Mr David Waugh	86 The Oval	Eastwood Care Home
Mrs Grace Paterson	31 Stamperland Hill	Williamwood House

There were names on the roll whose addresses were no longer current; this was particularly the case of some people whose last known address was a care home or nursing home. Rev Jack Drummond had visited several care homes to find there was no record of the individual. In particular Miss Carr, formerly resident in Strawhill Court, had moved to a care home in East Kilbride but was not known at the home. The whereabouts of Harry Lawson was also not known. Elders were asked if they could assist in providing up-to-date information on elderly members who were known to have moved away from the Stamperland area.

10 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Anne Mackenzie gave a brief verbal report.

May's meeting of Presbytery had been in Ruchill Church. Presbyters had split into groups to talk about 'Fresh Expressions of Church'. Overall, Anne's view was that the meeting was rather disorganised with little positive emerging.

Anne informed elders that the June meeting would be held on the 17th June. At that meeting Gray Fletcher was to receive a certificate marking 25 years in the ministry and Anslie Walton was to receive a certificate marking 60 years in the ministry.

11 UPDATE ON VACANCY

The Session Clerk gave a brief summary of the meeting held in Stamperland Church on Wednesday, 11th May which had been attended by Trustees, the Interim Moderator and three representative of Glasgow Presbytery – Rev Stuart Smith, Mission Strategy Convenor, Very Rev Bill Hewitt, Presbytery Clerk and Chris MacRae.

At the meeting, Stuart Smith described the five basic options discussed at the April meeting of the Kirk Session – unite soon with Netherlee Church; establish a deferred union; Stamperland call a minister with a short-term reviewable tenure; continue with an Interim Moderator and Locum; enter Guardianship. Through a series of questions and answers, Stuart Smith provided some explanations of potential benefits or pitfalls associated with each option. Stuart Smith said that there was a sixth option – Stamperland could progress an appeal against the Presbytery Plan. If the appeal were lost then Presbytery would impose one of the five options.

The Session Clerk said that trustees had expressed a wide range of views and opinions not just on the options but on the whole concept of linking and uniting with some opining that the ethos of the two churches, Stamperland and Netherlee, was quite different. He stated that Presbytery representatives had been very clear that, under the Presbytery Plan, they expected all of the existing church buildings at Stamperland and Netherlee (excluding Church House) to be retained and fully utilised and that both churches would have regular morning worship each Sunday. He said that the meeting concluded with a recommendation from the Presbytery representatives that there should be dialogue between Stamperland and Netherlee churches. It had been suggested that meetings should be facilitated by Rev Hillary MacDougal. Meetings could start with small groups of representative and eventually lead to meetings involving all Trustees and elders. These meetings would take place without prejudicing any appeal by Stamperland against the Presbytery Plan.

Following the Clerk's summary there was considerable discussion. The Interim Moderator was able to provide specific answers to a number of questions such as those seeking explanations of the differences between linking and uniting. On other questions such as, for example, whether the two church's finances would be dealt with separately or jointly he indicated that the best way to deal with many aspects was for congregational representatives to discuss and negotiate and work things out for the best. He also pointed out that Stamperland and Netherlee could jointly enter into discussions with Presbytery seeking to negotiate improvements into what might already be on the table.

Those present agreed that the Session Clerk should get in touch with Presbytery and ask them to facilitate initial discussions between representatives of Stamperland and Netherlee. At the initial meetings each church would be represented by, probably, five elders including the Minister and Interim Moderator as appropriate. It was highlighted that it was important that the chosen elders should represent the broad range of opinion expressed by members of the Kirk Session and congregation.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

12.1 Kirk Session Meeting

The dates of the next regular Kirk Session Meetings were agreed as 8th September and 6th October.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say "the Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2014 IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer and readings from Corinthians Chapter 9 and Timothy Chapter 4.

2. DEVOTIONS

Jack Drummond recalled that the Commonwealth Games had dominated much of Glasgow's summer. In the passages he had read this morning Paul had compared life to a race. The Commonwealth Games had seen a variety of different races and types of races – swimming, cycling, track running at Hampden and road running through Glasgow streets and parks. Many of the races were comparatively short – 100 meters; 200 metres – and took place on a level track. The marathon was different – over 26 miles long, it took place over a variety of terrains and faced steep climbs and other hurdles. Life, he said, when looked at in terms of a race was more like a marathon rather than a sprint. In life we had to face challenging times, tap in to our inner resources; it wasn't always plain sailing. At all times God was with us to see us through.

As a congregation we faced difficult times. A vacancy was a hurdle; at such a time we needed to keep going, give of our best; and if we did these things there would be a satisfactory outcome. Jack reminded us that in the 1990 Olympic Games held in Barcelona there had been a surprise victor in the marathon race; a Spaniard. Realising that the King of Spain was sitting in the stadium, the Games organisers invited the king to present the gold medal to the Spanish athlete - a special award presented by his king. In concluding, Jack said that we would have our reward in heaven presented to us by the "Great King".

3. RETIRING OFFERING

It was agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to Mary's Meals Packpack Appeal.

4 CLOSURE

The Kirk Session meeting was closed by Rev. Jack Drummond saying, "The Grace".

5. COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Jack Drummond led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from John Chapter 21 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Nancy Fisher, Pat McIlraith, Marie Owens, Janet Stewart, Jess Thomson, Margot Young, William Anderson, George Finlayson, Alastair Graham, Bill Paterson and Gordon Robertson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 22 elders and 5 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda as previously circulated was confirmed with the addition of Item 13 – Discussion on Stepping Stones.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 16th June

Draft minute of meeting held 16th June circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Ray McNiven, seconded by Kay Bolton. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

5.2 Minute of meeting held on 7th September

Draft minute of meeting held 7th September circulated at the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Grace Walker, seconded by Margo Neilson. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Letter from Scotland's Churches Trust

The Session Clerk intimated that the annual Gathering of Scotland's Churches Trust would be held in New Kilpatrick Church on Wednesday, 8th October. Two representatives from Stamperland were invited to attend and he asked that anyone interested in attending should speak to him.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

John Curror reminded members of the Pastoral Care Committee that they should check to ensure that they had PVG clearance.

7.2 Health and Safety

No issues.

7.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

Connell Cranston reported that repair and maintenance work to the central heating boilers was likely to cost around £1,000.

Alan Henderson reported that he was waiting for a quotation for renewing the tiles on the steps at the front door of the church.

8.1.2 Finance

8.1.2.1 Overall income and expenditure

Kay Bolton reported that the expenditure related to getting the manse ready to let was £3,053. Recent expenditure included £1,000 paid to George Mackay for floor-coverings as well as amounts for paint, hedge trimmer and a door mat.

At the end of August the difference between income and expenditure in the current year was a deficit of £5,000; had it not been for the receipt of a legacy of £5,000 the deficit would have been £10,000. A number of members had increased their regular offerings and this was a very encouraging sign.

Looking ahead, the claim for Gift Aid had yet to be submitted and this was likely to result in a payment of between £7,500 and £8,000 before the end of the year. Additionally, a Day of Giving was being planned. It was therefore possible that we could end the year with a surplus.

8.1.2.2 Changes to Gift Aid

Norman Walker advised the meeting of some significant changes relating to Gift Aid. All claims had now to be made on-line; the document explaining the claim procedure ran to 27 pages and the claims procedure was now more labour-intensive.

Norman also advised of the new Small Gifts and Donations scheme. The church could claim tax refunds on up to £5,000 of small cash donations. To be included in the Small Gifts and Donations scheme, eligible donations had to be in the form of notes or coins; cheques were not acceptable. Each single donation had to be under £20. There was no requirement to know the identity of the donor.

The tax which could be reclaimed on £5,000 of donations would amount to £1,250. Offerings made via the Open Plate would be eligible for this scheme. Kay Bolton advised that in 2013 the Open Plate offerings were more than £5,000.

8.1.2.3 Church employees and HMRC

Norman Walker advised that the church was being affected by changes in the way Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) were seeking information about payments to employees. As from April 2014 we should have been submitting monthly payroll information to HMRC; the information would potentially relate to payments made to our organist and our cleaner.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

Steven Owens reported that he planned to hold a meeting of the Strategy and Engagement Committee before the next Kirk Session meeting. He also stated that the committee needed additional members.

Steven commented that there had not been a meeting of the Business Committee. Norman Bolton said he would endeavour to ensure the Business Committee met before the next Kirk Session meeting.

8.3 Mission

A written report, prepared by Nancy Fisher was circulated prior to the meeting. Key points are highlighted below.

8.3.1 Fund Raising and Social

The Social and Fundraising Committee met at the end of August. Arrangements were made for the Sounds International Concert on Tuesday 16th September 2014 and various fundraising events were discussed but no events would be organised until the date of the proposed "Day of Giving" is identified. One suggested event was a Soup Lunch following the Remembrance Day Service.

It was proposed that Organisation Leaders should be invited to a meeting to discuss the Spring Fair and the committee felt that a special group should be formed to consider the organisation of the Spring Fair.

The Committee had identified people who could be approached to try and increase the membership of the Committee but the most pressing need is to appoint a Convenor for this Committee. Various people have been approached with no success.

8.3.1 Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee had continued to work along the lines previously intimated looking at transport to Church, to hospital, to doctor's appointments, to shopping, etc., having someone to chat to, prayer requests etc.. This information is displayed on the noticeboard and in Focus.

The Pastoral Care Committee were working with the Parish and Beyond Committee to arrange a Coffee Morning for the residents of the new McCarthy and Stone flats. Evelyn Graham advised that the date for this event would probably be a Wednesday in September.

8.3.2 Parish and Beyond Committee

The Parish and Beyond Committee had met on 3rd September.

The new colour brochure highlighting the activities within the church would be delivered to each home in the parish starting during the week beginning 7th September. The BB had agreed to deliver brochures to homes in streets where there were large numbers of steps and the congregation would be asked to assist with the delivery of the remaining brochures to homes with easier access.

The Committee planned to serve Coffee and Biscuits in the church vestibule on Saturday 4th October when the harvest gifts were being received. It was also hoped to have Christmas cards from various charities (Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Lodging House Mission and, perhaps, CrossReach) available for sale.

The Committee was planning to promote the need for donations of food for the Food Bank.

8.4 Nurture

8.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson reminded the meeting that there was no Convenor of the Worship Committee. She said that she had spoken to Rev Jack Drummond and he was agreeable to attending the Worship Committee. Anyone interested in being a member of the Worship Committee was asked to speak to either herself or the Locum Minister.

8.4.2 Education

Scott Russell advised that a meeting of Stepping Stones staff was planned for Thursday, 11th September.

8.4.3 Stewardship

Margo Neilson reminded the meeting that there was no Convenor of the Worship Committee. There was a need to organise the proposed Day of Giving and Margo asked that anyone who felt they could assist in this should speak to her. In some ensuing discussion it was agreed that the Day of Giving would be held on Saturday, 25th October.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Death

Bill Paterson advised of the deaths of Mr. Harry Lawson, 49 Stamperland Avenue and of Mrs. Mary McCracken, 29 Nethercliffe Ave.

9.2 Change of Address

Bill Paterson advised of the following changes of address.

Member	Old Address	New Address
Mr J Forest Morton	61 Stamperland Dr.	Flat A 1 Fairfield Court
Mrs Jane Kidd	84 Monteith Gdns.	1 Cothal Cottage, Fintry.
Mrs Isobel Milligan	4 Netherway	53 Hillend Cres
Mrs Valerie Stewart	4 Netherway	53 Hillend Cres
Mrs Elizabeth McFadyen	33 Nethervale Ave.	96 Crathes Crt. Hazeldene Gdns.

9.3 Adjustments to Roll

Norman Bolton advised that Certificates of Transfer had been sent to the minister of the Abbey Church of Dunfermline in respect of Mr James and Mrs Eleanor Currie.

10 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

With Presbytery not meeting until the following week there was no report.

11 UPDATE ON VACANCY

11.1 Letting of Manse

The Session Clerk told those present of his frustration with delays in the processing of paperwork necessary to allow Clyde Property to advertise the availability of the manse for letting. The main delay lay with the General Trustees Department in Edinburgh who were taking a very long time to provide specific information; some of the delay seemed to be attributable to staff in the department taking annual leave. He did report that he had finally managed to sign the agreement with Clyde Property that afternoon and that the property should be advertised before the end of the week.

11.2 Dialogue with Netherlee Parish Church

The Session Clerk informed elders that there had been a meeting on 2nd September attended by the minister and session clerk of Netherlee, the locum minister and session clerk of Stamperland and Rev Hillary MacDougal. At the meeting it was agreed that there should be a series of meetings with representatives of each church. The date of the first meeting was set as 9th October. Each church would be represented by up to five elders plus the Minister and Interim Moderator as appropriate. Elders willing or wishing to attend these meetings were asked to speak to the Session Clerk.

12 STEPPING STONES

The Session Clerk said that several people had spoken to him about Stepping Stones. On Sunday there had been only a very small number of children - probably nine - present in church. Concerns had been expressed about the future of Stepping Stones and church members were anxious that steps be taken to ensure that numbers increased. The Session Clerk suggested that, since amongst those presently in attendance there were two ministers and former experienced Sunday School teachers there could well be a range of ideas regarding what might be done to increase numbers.

Gray Fletcher said that Carmunnock Church had no Sunday School. Various factors had led to this situation, for example, school catchment areas, child-focussed activities in sport and art, etc and falling numbers were not necessarily indicative of failings on the church’s part.

Margo Neilson said that it was important that the children’s interests were met when they attended Stepping Stones. At a recent meeting of leaders of youth organisations the Stepping Stones representative had stated that Stepping Stones would like more frequent visits from elders and the minister. Scott Russell asked whether, if Sunday mornings were proving a difficult time an alternative time or day might be considered.

The possibility of devoting significant time at the next Kirk Session meeting to discussing the development of Stepping Stones was welcomed by elders. It was agreed that members of the Education Committee would organise a workshop/discussion activity with elders breaking into small discussion groups. It was suggested that it might be useful to invite the leaders of Stepping Stones to attend the workshop/discussion part of the meeting and Scott Russell undertook to speak to the leaders.

Scott Russell reminded elders that Stepping Stones leaders were having a meeting on 11th September and that it might be beneficial if Jack Drummond, Margo Neilson and himself were to attend. Steven Owens said that he thought Stepping Stone’s staff would welcome this opportunity. Scott undertook to ask the Stepping Stones leaders whether they would, in fact, want the elders to attend and advise them accordingly.

There was some surprise at the suggestion that the meeting on the 11th September was probably the first meeting of the new session and that there had not been a planning meeting in advance of the Stepping Stones restarting on 7th September. Elders were anxious that any comments they were making were not seen as criticisms of Stepping Stones but were seen in the light of seeking to be supportive of and to strengthen Stepping Stones.

Fraser Neilson wondered if Stepping Stones leaders could be encouraged to contribute articles to Focus Magazine on a regular basis as was the case for the uniformed organisations. Raymond Russell highlighted the fact that Greenbank Church displayed a large banner outside the church advertising their Sunday School.

David McKee said that he was worried there was too much focus on Netherlee Church and that we should concentrate on Stamperland Church. There was a need to be positive. He proposed that there should be a meeting on Monday, 15th September which would lead to selecting three things which we can do to get Stamperland going. The meeting would involve brainstorming and selecting things which could be made to work. Elders present agreed with his proposal.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of the next regular Kirk Session Meetings were agreed as 8th October (previously 6th October), 3rd November and 10th December.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Psalm 71 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Nancy Fisher, Janet Stewart, Grace Walker, George Finlayson, David McKee, Bill Paterson and Gordon Robertson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 23 elders, 3 other Trustees. Three Stepping Stones staff were present for the Group Discussion.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. GROUP DISCUSSION – STEPPING STONES

5.1 Introduction

Scott Russell introduced the discussion session with a short review of modern teaching methods emphasising the current importance of activity, doing, thinking and exploring in supporting learning. He summarised the teaching theme between now and Christmas as focusing on the early years of Jesus' life. An example of an activity related to the story of Jesus being lost in the temple could be a game of hide-and-seek after which children could share feelings of being lost or being found, consider the joy Jesus parents would experience on finding him in the temple and consider the joy of people "finding Jesus".

Those present at the meeting were divided into small discussion groups and asked to consider ways in which Stepping Stones could be supported and encouraged.

5.2 Feedback from Groups

There was a lot of active discussion. Key points fed back included the following:

- Jane Curror was the initial link person between Stepping Stones and the Kirk Session.
- Communication was important. Key parties for whom communication was important were church members, members of the uniformed organisations, people living within the parish and children attending Netherlee Primary School.
- Involvement of children attending Stepping Stones before and during morning services was important. Examples of involvement included handing out Orders of Service, taking the offering, doing Bible readings, possibly "acting out" a lesson.
- Stepping Stones could be involved in other aspects of church life, for example visiting housebound, assisting elderly with small errands and shopping.
- Stepping Stones staff could, themselves, be more involved in aspects of the church life such as attendance at morning worship or Communion when staffing levels on a Sunday morning permitted it.

Thanks were expressed to Stepping Stones staff who had attended the meeting and participated in the discussions. Elders did appreciate the efforts of all of the staff and were anxious to assist and support staff in their activities.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 Minute of meeting held on 8th September

Draft minute of meeting held 8th September circulated prior to the meeting. Margo Neilson wished to ensure that her comments mentioned in the third paragraph of Section 12 about meeting the children's interests applied irrespective of the number of children and provided that they were receiving proper teaching. With this clarification, acceptance of minute as true

record proposed by Scott Russell and seconded by Pat McIlraith. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 Church employees and HMRC (Item 8.1.2.3 of Minute)

Norman Walker explained that he was still awaiting clarification regarding the requirement for the church to register as an employer with HMRC.

7.2 Letting of Manse (Item 11.1 of Minute)

The Session Clerk read an Extract Minute regarding Presbytery's decision in connection with the letting of the manse. The extract is copied below.

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW

AT GLASGOW the 9th September 2014 The Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.


Inter Alia:

PROPERTY

Stamperland

The congregation seek permission to rent out the manse during their vacancy. The congregation have been advised to seek advice from Law Department on the proper formalities and the correct lease. Continued contact with the Presbytery Property Committee throughout the vacancy is advised in order to have the fabric in good state prior to any proposed induction at a later date. Regular inspection by the congregation, separately from leasing agent, should be conducted. Permission was granted under Powers during the summer break.

Presbytery received the Report and approved the recommendation.



Extracted by me this 10th September 2014

Very Rev William C Hewitt
Clerk of Presbytery

Clerk of Presbytery
Very Rev William C Hewitt
260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP

7.3 Tiles at Front Door of the Church (Item 8.1.1 of Minute)

Comment was made that the condition of the tiles at the front door of the church had deteriorated significantly and that they were now in an unsafe condition. It was agreed that with immediate effect the front door should be kept closed and cones placed in front of the steps to prevent anyone from using them. Access to the church should be via the ramp until such time as the tiles were renewed or fixed.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Session Clerk

8.1.1 Citation

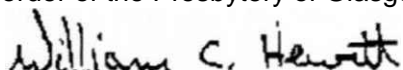
The clerk read the following citation from Glasgow Presbytery.

CITATION

Notice is hereby given that the Presbytery of Glasgow is appointed to meet within Govan and Linthouse Parish Church, Govan Cross, G51 2YI on the 14th day of October 2014 at 7pm.

At this meeting the concurrence or otherwise of the Ministries Council with regard to the Presbytery Plan will be intimated and Presbytery will confirm its decision. This will be a formal notification and, following this meeting, you will be notified of the procedure you need to follow if you wish to appeal the Presbytery decision.

By order of the Presbytery of Glasgow,



Very Rev William C Hewitt
Clerk to the Presbytery of Glasgow

3rd October 2014

Gray Fletcher explained that the Citation was a formal, procedural notification and that there was no specific requirement to do anything at this stage.

8.1.2 Request from Community Responsibility Committee about Credit Unions

The clerk read extracts from a letter from the Presbytery's Community Responsibility Committee asking whether there were members in the congregation with experience or involvement in a work-based or local credit union. No one present had any such experience. Anne MacKenzie said that she was a member of the Presbytery Committee; the committee was looking at the possibility of establishing some form of Credit Union across churches within the presbytery.

8.1.3 Letter from Ken MacIntosh, MSP re: Water Charges

The clerk read extracts from a letter from Ken MacIntosh, the local MSP. The letter confirmed that the Scottish Government had decided that, subject to certain conditions, charities with an annual income of less than £200,000 would be exempt from Water Charges. Whilst the conditions had not been specified it was believed that churches would be covered by the exemption scheme.

8.1.3 Bridging the Digital Divide

The clerk said that some time ago he had completed a questionnaire from the office of the Church of Scotland's Science, Religion and Technology Project relating to the church's use of computers and the internet. Following from this an invitation had been extended to our church to participate in a pilot project in the "Bridging the Digital Divide" scheme. This scheme could, amongst other things, seek to use church-based IT facilities to enable people in the local community to access digital media in various different ways such as using Skype to talk to family abroad, do on-line shopping, access web-based services, etc..

It was indicated that Steven Owens was planning to run an introductory, practical course on the use of computers and the internet; the course would be trialled with a group of four church members.

It was agreed that Stamperland Church should take part in the proposed pilot study.

8.1.4 Other correspondence

The clerk indicated that other correspondence had been received in relation to a forthcoming Vocations Conference, Nominations to serve on Church of Scotland Committees and a sponsored 24-hour knitting event.

9 SAFETY AND SECURITY

PVG

No issues.

9.2 Health and Safety

Roy Allan informed those present that he had received a set of Health and Safety Guidance Notes from the General Trustees Department with a request that they be circulated to all Trustees.

The Interim Moderator explained that the Guidance Notes had been re-issued following the death of a church officer who had fallen from the roof of a church in Glasgow whilst doing maintenance work.

The Session Clerk reminded those present of the importance of Health and Safety Issues as well as of PVG and Food Hygiene. As Trustees we were jointly and severally responsible, without financial limit, for the outcome of any incidents within the jurisdiction of the church. Issues related to PVG, Health & Safety and Food Hygiene were agenda items at each meeting and it was important that these areas were at the forefront of Trustees' minds.

Noting that the present Health and Safety Coordinator worked in Aberdeen and, as a consequence wasn't readily available to inspect the church premises or be consulted or attend meetings, the Clerk asked whether those present knew of anyone who might be better able to address Health and Safety issues. Steven Owens indicated that he knew of someone who might be willing and able to address health and safety matters and undertook to speak to them.

9.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

10. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

10.1 Resources

10.1.1 Property

Roy Allan reported maintenance work on the central heating boilers had been completed.

Scott Russell advised that there was a broken window in the large hall and that the mechanism on one of the opening windows was broken.

It was advised that about ten of the fluorescent tubes in the large hall were not operating. Connell Cranston reminded everyone that all tubes and starters had been replaced about a year ago. It was agreed that contractors should be sought to renew the faulty lights as soon as possible.

10.1.2 Finance

10.1.2.1 Manse

Kay Bolton reported that the manse had been let from 1st October and that the tenants were a family with children aged three years and one year. The rental income was £1,000 per month. The letting agents, Clyde Property, were charging 8.5 per cent of the rent for managing the let. Rental income was paid to the Church of Scotland General Trustees in Edinburgh.

Clyde Property's fee for advertising the property and finding tenants was £594 and would be deducted from the October rent payment. Charges of £495 for cleaning the interior of the manse and getting the garden in order would be deducted from the November rent payment. By November, therefore, the General Trustees should have received £714 and she would seek to reclaim the money spent refurbishing the manse windows and doors. In December she would seek to reclaim some of the other expenditure incurred in preparing the manse for let.

The Interim Moderator advised that the church should be able to reclaim from the General Trustees all expenditure related to the manse. It would be likely that claims could be submitted to the General Trustees for major items of work in the church and halls but not for "regular, maintenance work".

10.1.2.2 Fund Raising Concert

Kay Bolton advised that the Sounds International Concert had been attended by over 200 people and the net income was £1,000. A donation of £100 had been made to Sounds International and £450 had been donated to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice to assist in the creation of The Sanctuary within the new building.

10.1.2.3 Anticipated end-of-year outturn

Kay reported that offerings were on target.

It was difficult to predict the financial outcome of The Day of Giving but an income of £3,000 would not be unreasonable. Depending on the timing of receipt of claims from General

Trustees and on fabric expenditure there was a chance of there being a surplus of income over expenditure at the end of the year.

10.2 Strategy and Engagement

Steven Owens reported on the meeting held on the 15th September which had looked at “Ways of taking the church forward”. Twenty people had attended and a lot of ideas had been put forward. Three ideas had been selected for early implementation. These were:

- A Christingle Service – December 2014
- Bring a friend to church Sunday – February 2015
- More involvement of young people in Sunday worship.

The committee would spend time looking at how some of the other ideas could be progressed and attention would be given to seeking potential sources of external funding. The next meeting of the committee was 17th November.

In brief discussion compliments were paid to the participation of youth in the service on the previous Sunday.

10.3 Mission

10.3.1 Fund Raising and Social

Those present were reminded of the date of the Beetle Drive – Saturday, 8th November.

10.3.2 Parish and Beyond Committee

Evelyn Graham advised that the church brochure had been delivered to most homes. A number of brochures had yet to be delivered and Stepping Stones might undertake to deliver these.

Christmas cards from various charities (Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Lodging House Mission and CrossReach) had been available for sale over recent weeks.

Five residents from the new McCarthy and Stone development had attended Open Door. They had appreciated the invitation and had shown interest in the church though at least three of them had live connections to other churches. It was agreed that another invitation be extended in the spring and that copies of Focus magazine be delivered to the flats.

Evelyn informed elders that she and Edith Moseley had attended the Eastwood Peace and Justice Forum meeting. There had been a very full agenda; topics had ranged from feedback on Stop the Traffic and the Commonwealth Games to Global Warming and lobbying of MPs and MSPs in relation to the wars in Syria and Iraq.

10.3.1 Pastoral Care Committee

Grace Scott said that the Pastoral Care Committee was continuing with assisting people with transport to hospital, etc.. Notices were in the vestibule and the committee was open to discuss any particular need.

Discussions would take place with Stepping Stones regarding the possibility of involving some of the young people in activities such as visiting elderly.

10.4 Nurture

10.4.1 Worship

10.4.1.1 Involvement of Young people

Margo Neilson reminded those present of the positive involvement of young people in the previous Sunday’s service which was attended by the uniformed organisations. Each of the three readers had read the Bible passages particularly well; Rainbows and Brownies had been enthusiastic in welcoming members and handing out Orders of Service.

10.4.1.2 Lord’s Prayer

Margo advised that the Worship Committee had spoken about the use of the modern version of the Lord’s Prayer; a significant number of members preferred the traditional version as opposed to the modern version which George Mackay had introduced.

Jack Drummond said that as Locum he felt it was not his place to instigate major changes. He suggested that it might be appropriate to ask the congregation for a show of hands one Sunday morning regarding their preference and to let this inform the decision of the Kirk Session. He remarked that, for children, the modern version was more understandable. Elders agreed with the proposal to ask the congregation to indicate their preference.

10.4.1.3 Entrance of Bible at Morning Worship

Margo Neilson advised that concern had been expressed that some members of the congregation were engaged in conversation when the Bible and minister were entering church. There was a request that we might revert to the practice of having the Bible carried into church during the singing of the first verse of the first hymn.

10.4.1.4 Christingle Service

The Worship Committee proposed having a Christingle Service on Sunday, 14th December, starting at 16:30. This was agreed.

10.4.1.5 Other suggestions

The Worship Committee were discussing the possibilities for Youth Organisations to address the congregation and highlight some of their activities. Additionally, there could be opportunities for elders to inform both the congregation and organisations of some aspects of the church’s history.

10.4.2 Education

Scott Russell reported briefly on meetings with Stepping Stones staff and with leaders of the Youth Organisations.

From this latter meeting there were proposals to make better use of the Display Boards around the church and halls in highlighting the activities of organisations and opportunities for participation and also to prepare a leaflet which could be passed to each pupil at Netherlee Primary School.

10.4.3 Stewardship

Margo Neilson intimated that activities were progressing in relation to the Day of Giving on Saturday, 25th October.

11. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

11.1 Death

The Session Clerk advised of the death of Mrs Marion Sandison, Hallhouse Nursing Home, Fenwick

12 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder’s report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions arising.

13 UPDATE ON VACANCY

13.1 Dialogue with Netherlee Parish Church

The Session Clerk informed elders that there would be a meeting on the following day between representatives of each church. At this first meeting the representatives from Stamperland would be Jane Curror, Nancy Fisher, Connell Cranston, Steven Owens and himself.

14 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of the next regular Kirk Session Meetings were agreed as 3rd November and 10th December.

15 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from 1st Corinthians Chapter 13 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Margo Neilson, Marie Owens, Margot Young, George Finlayson, Alastair Graham, David McKee, Fraser Neilson, Steven Owens, Norman Walker.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 25 elders, four other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 6th October

Draft minute of meeting held 6th October circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by John Curror and seconded by Pat McIlraith. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Church employees and HMRC (Item 7.1 of Minute)

Norman Walker has experienced problems with accessing the HMRC website. He is pursuing the issue of registering the church as an employer.

6.2 Bridging the Digital Divide (Item 8.1.3 of Minute)

The clerk said that he had attended a meeting at 121 George Street, Edinburgh in relation to the use of church-based IT facilities to enable people in the local community to access digital media. Only three congregations had been represented at the meeting. Whilst both the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland were interested in developing means of improving access to the internet, the initial response from congregations meant that a pilot project was not as imminent as might have been hoped. He has been asked to try to identify any computer access initiatives taking place or planned within Glasgow Presbytery.

6.3 Health and Safety (Item 9.2 of Minute)

The clerk informed the meeting that Steven Owens had spoken to a member of the congregation regarding the role of H&S Co-ordinator. The member indicated that he was unable to commit to the role but was prepared to act in an advisory capacity to assist the co-ordinator.

The Clerk advised the meeting that a copy of the Health and Safety Guidance Notes issued by the General Trustees Department had been circulated to the Trustees for whom he had an e-mail address. Paper copies of the Guidance Notes were available and he urged all trustees to ensure that they were aware of the contents of the notes.

6.4 Lord's Prayer (Item 10.4.1.2 of Minute)

The clerk said that on Sunday, 26th October Jack Drummond had asked the congregation to indicate their preference for the version of the Lord's Prayer to be used. There had been an overwhelming majority (of the order of 90 per cent of the congregation) in favour of reverting to the "traditional version". Elders recommended that the traditional version should be used as normal practice.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Acknowledgement of donations

The clerk indicated he had received letters from Water Aid and from the Lodging House Mission thanking the congregation for Harvest Gifts and from the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice thanking the congregation for the donation to the brick-by-brick appeal.

7.1.2 Letters from Church House, Bridgeton

The clerk intimated that he had received two letters from Church House Bridgeton, one of the three projects supported by Glasgow Presbytery. The letters had made two requests. The first request was for the church to nominate a person who could receive correspondence from Church House – Alan Henderson undertook to be the contact person. The second request was for funding support. It was agreed that the retiring offering from the Christmas Eve service should be donated to Church House.

7.2 Retiring Offerings

7.2.1 Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed that the retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, should be donated to Erskine Home.

7.2.2 December Communion

It was agreed that the retiring offering after the December Communion should be sent to the DECC Ebola Appeal Fund.

8 SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

No issues.

8.2 Health and Safety

No Report. Trustees were reminded of the importance of reading the Guidance Notes.

8.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

Anne MacKenzie informed elders that the small electric boiler had disappeared from the kitchen over the summer. There was a request that anyone with information regarding the boiler should inform Anne.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Connell Cranston reported that the fluorescent strip lights in the large hall would be replaced on the morning of Wednesday, 5th November. The cost of supplying and fitting the lights would be £490. He also advised that a glazier was coming on 4th November to replace broken glass in the large hall. Additionally, he reported that George Fairweather and himself had effected a temporary repair on the mechanism of the opening windows in the large hall.

George Fairweather said that a tile fitter was coming to quote for repairing the tiles at the front steps of the church on 4th November.

George Fairweather indicated that he would be looking at fitting a door-closer mechanism to the door at the top of the ramp access at the church front door and also at the possibility of fitting a small weather bar to prevent ingress of rainwater under the door.

Those present agreed to the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner.

Connell Cranston reported that two new hall lets had been agreed – a dance class on a Thursday afternoon starting imminently and a Weight Watchers class starting in January.

9.1.2 Finance

9.1.2.1 Day of Giving

Kay Bolton reported that up to 2nd November £3,749 had been received in Day of Giving donations. There had been 63 donation envelopes returned with a number of very generous donations. She hoped there could be a further £1,000 donated by the end of November.

9.1.2.1 Budget for 2015

Kay Bolton presented a draft budget for 2015. A page showing actual income and expenditure in 2013, the anticipated out-turn for 2014 and the budget for 2015 had been circulated prior to

the meeting. In presenting the budget she made comments on the current year figures and assumptions behind the budget figures.

She was forecasting that offerings in 2014 were on track to meet the figures budgeted for the whole year; whilst we had lost some members others had increased their regular offerings. Donations received in 2014 included money from The Guild, the Pipe Band and the Brownies and it was possible that some of the other organisations might yet make contributions. It looked as though 2014 could end with income and expenditure figures being very close to each other.

In setting the budget for 2015 it was assumed that regular offerings were substantially unchanged from the current year as was income from congregational organisations and from fund raising. Donations associated with weddings and funerals were very variable and she had used a conservative estimate. Income from hall lets was assumed to increase.

The single major item of expenditure, the National Stipend Fund Allocation, had been advised by Presbytery as £44,730. Presbytery Dues had not yet been intimated. Costs associated with minister's travel and telephone were much reduced on previous years with the Locum minister claiming lower car expenses than our previous minister and not seeking reimbursement of telephone costs. With the manse let there would be savings in Council Tax and Water charges. An amount of £8,000 had been attributed to Fabric expenditure – much in line with previous year's experience.

In order to avoid a deficit she had used a figure of £4,000 for income related to "Other offerings, donations, Gift Days, etc." It looked as though another Day of Giving would be required in 2015 to avoid a deficit.

There were no questions regarding the budget.

The budget as presented was formally approved by those present.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

No report.

9.3 Mission

9.3.1 Fund Raising and Social

Nancy Fisher reported that Alison Linich was organising the Beetle Drive on Saturday, 8th November and had declined assistance of members of the fund raising and social committee.

David McKee will organise the David Milligan Quiz which will be held towards the end of January 2015.

Nancy Fisher said that no one has indicated any willingness to take on the role of convenor of the fund raising committee. Nancy made a plea for someone to volunteer and indicated her willingness to support whoever took on the task.

9.3.2 Pastoral Care Committee

Nancy Fisher said the work of the committee was ongoing. They were planning to introduce a library service and extend the car system.

Arrangements had been made to send cards to bereaved family members and also cards to mark anniversaries.

9.3.3 Parish and Beyond Committee

Christmas cards from various charities (Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Lodging House Mission and CrossReach) had been available for sale over recent weeks. Over £300 had been raised.

There had been changes to the Open Door rota with some of those who had served longest having now stepped down from active service. The Christmas lunch for helpers would be on the 17th December.

Collection of items for the Foodbank was on-going.

Nancy informed the meeting that there were two recommendations from the Parish and Beyond Committee for which they were seeking the approval of the Kirk Session. The first was that the committee should approach Netherlee Parish Church to find out whether there was a committee with a similar remit; if there were, then they would seek to carry out a joint project. The second was that there should be a page in the Netherlee Church magazine presenting news from Stamperland Church and that there should be a page in our Focus magazine giving news of Netherlee Church. Elders gave their approval for both initiatives.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Education

Scott Russell reported on an initiative suggested by Alison Linich which aimed to reach out to teenagers. In outline, it was hoped that there could be some kind of weekly meeting / event largely run by older teenagers but with adult help and presence which would be attractive to teenagers. Initially, invitations to participate would be sent to youths with a church connection such as Guides, Scouts and BB. There was nothing very definite proposed at present but those concerned wished to seek approval from the kirk session before spending time and effort developing the concept. Elders indicated they were happy with the suggested outline and looked forward to hearing of progress.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

11.1 Death

Bill Paterson, the Roll Keeper advised of the death of Mr Bob Marshall, Flat G2, 35 Heather Wynd, Newton Mearns. Mr Marshall and his wife, June, had previously lived at 130 Stamperland Hill. Mrs Marshall was now resident at Flat G2, 35 Heather Wynd, Newton Mearns.

11.2 Roll Books

Bill Paterson advised elders that Roll Books would be available on Sunday, 16th November. As well as roll books there would, as usual, be the Freewill Offering Envelopes. It was stressed that elders should ensure that they collected the appropriate envelopes for members in their district.

11 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Presbytery Elder's report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions arising.

12 UPDATE ON VACANCY

12.1 Dialogue with Netherlee Parish Church

Norman Bolton reported on the meeting held on the 9th October at Stamperland. In attendance were Rev Hilary MacDougall as facilitator, Rev Tom Nelson plus four elders from Netherlee and Rev Gray Fletcher plus five elders from Stamperland. The elders from Stamperland were Mrs Jane Curror, Mrs Nancy Fisher, Norman Bolton, Connell Cranston and Steven Owens.

At the start of the meeting Tom Nelson advised that he would retire when he reached age 65 – just under four years from now.

Hilary MacDougall had then sought the views of all present on the proposal within the Presbytery Plan which was that there would be some form of union of the two congregations with “1.5 full-time-equivalent” ministers and with both sets of buildings being retained and fully used on Sundays and weekdays, as at present.

Representatives from Netherlee indicated that their kirk session had discussed the proposals in the Presbytery Plan for around the last year and a half; initially, some members had expressed views against “joining up” but now virtually everyone at Netherlee welcomed the proposal and looked forward to working with Stamperland. The proposal was seen as providing positive new opportunities with new ministerial resources. Netherlee believe that it would be possible to “top up” the ministry costs to enable something close to two full-time-equivalent ministerial posts to be supported.

Four of the Stamperland elders spoke, possibly with rather less enthusiasm than Netherlee colleagues and perhaps giving more a feeling of coming together as being inevitable - dictated by declining membership and finance; however, they recognised that joining and working together could and should provide new opportunities.

Steven Owens presented his view which was to oppose the plan and the proposed coming together of Netherlee and Stamperland. He indicated this view was not just his own but was representative of a significant number of people in the congregation. No one present from Stamperland was able to give a reliable indication of the number of people within the Session and Congregation who were “strongly opposed to the plan”.

The meeting ended with a request that the elders at Stamperland should discuss the plan's proposal for linking/uniting at their next Session Meeting and develop an agreed position in advance of the next facilitated meeting. Only when there was an understanding of the opinion of Stamperland kirk session could there be any meaningful dialogue between the two parties.

12.1 Discussion on the way ahead

There was considerable discussion following the report on the meeting with Netherlee. Gray Fletcher highlighted that Tom Nelson's intention to retire as minister at Netherlee when he reached age 65 meant that two of the options, "Unite soon under Tom Nelson" and Stamperland calling a minister under a "short-term reviewable tenure" were, effectively, no longer under consideration. The remaining options were "Deferred Union", "Continuing vacancy with Interim Moderator and Locum" and "Guardianship".

The opinion of those who contributed to the discussions was generally that linkage of the two congregations was preferable to union. The view was expressed that the majority of members at Stamperland wanted to have Sunday services in Stamperland Church and, provided that continued, everyone would be happy with a linkage and the sharing of a minister. No one at the meeting spoke to oppose the continuation of the dialogue with Netherlee. There was unanimous agreement that discussions should continue and that a linkage, with the two churches sharing ministerial resources, was the option to be pursued.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of the next regular Kirk Session Meetings were confirmed as Sunday, 7th December (Communion) and Wednesday 10th December.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say "the Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer and a reading from Luke Chapter 1.

2. DEVOTIONS

Jack Drummond recalled the story of a minister visiting a bereaved family in advance of preparing the funeral service for the husband. It was clear from the many pictures around the house which featured the Virgin Mary that the wife was a Roman Catholic. Observing that the minister had noticed the many representations of the Virgin, the widow said, "She was a wonderful woman." "Yes", replied the minister, "and she had a wonderful son."

Mary is special, unique. Mary's age isn't mentioned in the Gospels but it is generally accepted that she was a teenager. Like any teenager, learning that she was pregnant would have been hugely concerning. Her fiancée would know he was not the biological father; she would be anxious, apprehensive and troubled.

The message of the angel - God's plan - was beyond human understanding. Great and amazing things were forecast but these would be difficult to comprehend. At a more immediate level the angel reminds Mary of her cousin's pregnancy; Elizabeth was believed too old to have a child but for God, nothing was impossible. In the words of the gospel, "There is nothing that God cannot do". Mary's response was simple, "I am the Lord's servant, may it happen as you have said."

Jack Drummond continued by saying that we are all God's servants. We are part of God's plan for our generation and it is our task to try to discern our part in that plan.

Just now, with Christmas approaching, people are thinking of the birth of Christ. However, in celebrating Communion we remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross so that we might all have eternal life.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

The Session Clerk reminded those present that it had been agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to the DECC Ebola Appeal.

4 CLOSURE

The Kirk Session meeting was closed with all standing to say, "The Grace".

5. COMMUNION

5.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Jack Drummond led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2014
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Isaiah Chapter 9 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jane and John Curror, Jackie Silcock, Margot Young, David McKee and Steven Owens.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 28 elders, five other Trustees plus one member of the congregation.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 3rd November

Draft minute of meeting held 3rd November circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Alan Henderson and seconded by Roy Allan. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

5.2 Minute of meeting held on 7th December November

Draft minute of meeting held 7th December circulated at start of the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Scott Russell and seconded by Grace Walker. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. SAFETY AND SECURITY

6.1 PVG

No issues.

6.2 Health and Safety

No Report. The Session Clerk indicated his concern that Derrick Brown was not normally at home during the week and was not able to attend Kirk Session Meetings or effectively check possible health and safety issues.

The Session Clerk informed the meeting that he had received circulars from the Law Department relating to the Development of a Health and Safety Policy Statement. Every congregation was strongly urged to develop a written policy document.

The Session Clerk also informed the meeting that the Law Department was requesting that all Ministers, Session Clerks and office bearers involved in processing data or maintaining manual or electronic should participate in a training session in relation to data protection. It was agreed that a training session should be held early in 2015.

6.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

7. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 Property

Roy Allan advised that in the large hall new fluorescent tubes had been installed and a broken window replaced. New tiles had been fitted on the steps at the front door of the church and also in an area of the church vestibule. Roof repairs had been carried out on a section of roofing above the vestry.

Alan Henderson advised that the company which had repaired the roof above the vestry had advised that sections of the roof between the halls and the sanctuary were showing signs of ageing. Quotes would be obtained for undertaking repair work - possibly over a four year period.

7.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported on some of the main fabric costs recently incurred. These included the following:

Boiler maintenance	£ 455
Boiler repair	£1,049
Tiling of front steps	£ 570
Tiling of vestibule	£ 340
Fitting replacement fluorescent tubes	£ 490
Vestry roof repair	£ 588
Window repair in large hall	£ 90
TOTAL	£3,582

During the year a total of £8,456 had been spent on fabric work. It was hoped that around £1,400 would be claimed from the General Trustees for work undertaken in preparing the manse for letting.

Kay informed those present that Presbytery Dues for 2015 had been confirmed as £2357.

Kay also informed elders that the retiring offering from the December Communion was £202 and that a cheque had been sent to the Ebola Emergency Appeal.

The total donated for the Gift Day was £4,194.

Norman Walker informed those present that he was still having problems reclaiming Gift Aid. Claiming Gift Aid had to be carried out on-line and there were several stages which had to be negotiated including being sent an "Activation Code" by post. He said he had been waiting to receive the code for quite some time but no letter had been received either at his home address or the church address. Recently, Kay Bolton had managed to speak to a person at HMRC and it was now anticipated that a code would be sent to his home. It was unclear whether it would be possible to complete the claim process in time to receive payment of Gift Aid in the current financial year.

7.2 Strategy and Engagement

No report.

7.3 Mission

7.3.1 Pastoral Care Committee

Nancy Fisher said the work of the committee was ongoing.

7.3.2 Parish and Beyond Committee

A Lunch had been planned for the following Wednesday for those connected with Open Door. Evelyn Graham had spoken to John Montgomery, Session Clerk at Netherlee Parish Church, about having a joint meeting of the Parish and Beyond Committee meeting with the similar committee at Netherlee. The response had been positive.

7.3.3 Fund Raising and Social

Nancy Fisher reported that a convener of the fund raising committee was urgently needed. She reported that David McKee was organising the David Milligan Quiz to be held at the end of January.

7.4 Nurture

7.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson advised that the Worship Committee had not met. As yet no one was willing to take on the role of Convenor.

Margo told elders that non-alcoholic wine had been served to the congregation at the December communion. The response had been that it wasn't pleasant to drink and she indicated that it would not be served again.

7.4.2 Education

Scott Russell reported that the Committee were still working on the Youth initiative outlined at the November meeting. The Committee had met and talked about the structure and organisation of Stepping Stones.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Death

Bill Paterson, the Roll Keeper advised of the death of Mrs Anne McRae, 55 Randolph Avenue. Mrs McRae had been on the Supplementary Roll.

9 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

9.1 Inspection of Records

The Inspection of Records will take place during the week beginning 16th March at Renfield Church Centre.

Churches have been reminded that Manses should be inspected annually and the Manse Condition Schedule should be updated prior to the Annual Inspection of Records. It has been advised that a Home Energy Performance Certificate must be provided at the Annual Inspection of Records.

9.2 Ministers in Civil Partnerships

Gray Fletcher informed those present that the Presbytery had discussed the Report from the General Assembly on Ministers in Civil Partnerships.

10 UPDATE ON VACANCY

10.1 Meeting with Representatives of Netherlee Parish Church, 24th November

Nancy Fisher reported on a meeting held with representatives of Netherlee and Stamperland which was facilitated by Rev Hilary MacDougal. At that meeting Nancy had stated that Stamperland Kirk Session had unanimously agreed to have discussions about linking rather than uniting on the understanding that there would be services at both churches.

Some of the key points which had been discussed or had emerged at the meeting included the following:

- Presbytery was unlikely to agree to Stamperland continuing with an interim moderator and locum minister in the long-term.
- Presbytery was unlikely to agree to Stamperland appointing a minister to cover the period between now and the retirement of Rev Tom Nelson.
- There was discussion regarding the appointment of a full-time minister by a Nominations Committee made up of both Netherlee and Stamperland members; the person appointed would become the minister at Stamperland until Tom Nelson retired. Tom Nelson is very willing to work with such a person if this happens.
- The possibility of Netherlee perhaps being able to increase from 1.5 to 2 full time ministers was stated.
- It was revealed that, although Netherlee's Kirk Session were in agreement to progressing towards a union, the matter had not been put to the congregation at Netherlee and this will now be done.
- There was lengthy discussion about linking and union. Hilary MacDougal was definitely of the opinion that we should be seeking union rather than linking. She finally said that she would seek permission from Presbytery that there should be a linking leading ultimately to Union. She felt that there was more chance of presbytery agreeing to linking if Union was a possibility in the future.

10.2 Discussion

There was considerable discussion following the report on the meeting with Netherlee.

Gray Fletcher highlighted that the words Union and Linkage could be misconstrued. Union would mean continuing with two separate buildings at Netherlee and Stamperland, with two separate services on a Sunday but only a single Kirk Session. Linkage would involve there being two Kirk Sessions. At the end of the day, he said, the difference between the two models was essentially the workload of the minister.

Summarising the discussion Gray concluded by saying that every congregation is defensive of their church and its future. Whilst some elders had indicated they were not averse to Union or saw it as being inevitable, he had a clear sense that the overall mood of the meeting favoured linkage over union.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of the next Kirk Session Meeting were confirmed as Sunday, 11th January following the morning Service when the Communion Roll would be attested, the Presbytery Elder appointed and the Safeguarding Statement agreed and Monday 9th February.

It was hoped that there would be a meeting of Trustees on the 25th January to approve the Annual Report for 2014. This latter date would be confirmed later.

12 PRESENTATION ON YOUTH AT STAMPERLAND - Y@S

Scott Russell and Alison Linich gave a short presentation on the development of the initiative aimed at attracting teenagers in the S1 to S4 range. It was envisaged that there would be Y@S meetings on a Sunday evening from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. It was planned to have spiritual content and activities as well as recreational aspects. Activities would include Bible study, drama, discussion and debate as well as games, etc.. It was hoped to have projects which would be fun, which would be educational, which would contribute to the community, which would keep the youth engaged and lead to life-long friendships.

It was envisaged that, initially, 12 adult helpers would be required to organise and supervise the activities.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2015
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev Gray Fletcher and 26 Trustees of whom 19 were elders.

3. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

William Paterson, the Roll Keeper presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2013			355
Number removed from Roll during 2014	by Death	7	
	by Certificate	3	
	by Otherwise	0	
			10
Number added to Roll during 2014	by Profession	0	
	by Certificate	2	
	by Otherwise	0	
			2
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2014			347
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2014			19
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2014			5

The Interim Moderator signed the Communion Roll Certificate.

4. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

Mrs Anne MacKenzie indicated her willingness to continue as Presbytery Elder. All present agreed that Mrs MacKenzie should continue as Presbytery Elder.

5. SAFEGUARDING

The Session Clerk advised he had spoken to John Curror who had stated that he believed the scheme was being operated in accordance with the requirements and that he had adequate training for ensuring its operation within the church.

The Clerk 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.”*

Elders, with the exception of Steven Owens, indicated that they agreed that this statement was an accurate reflection of the situation. Steven Owens advised that he was not familiar with the detail of the Safeguarding policies and procedures being operated within the church and could not, therefore, agree with the statement.

The Interim Moderator and Session Clerk advised that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, John Curror, would be asked to make a presentation at the next regular Kirk Session meeting and answer questions relating to the operation of PVG procedures in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session.

6 INTIMATION

6.1 Annual Report

The Session Clerk advised that preparation of the Annual Report was underway. Pages showing the financial information including income, expenditure and financial balances were complete. It was planned to have copies of the Draft Report available for trustees the following Sunday so that the Trustees could meet to agree and approve the final version at a meeting scheduled for Sunday 25th January.

7. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**MEETING OF TRUSTEES
HELD ON SUNDAY 25th JANUARY 2014
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator, with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

24 Trustees as recorded in the Kirk Session sederunt book.

3. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Norman Bolton led the Trustees through the Annual Report, copies of which had been distributed to Trustees the previous Sunday. The Trustees confirmed the accuracy of the information presented on Page 1.

Norman Bolton led the Trustees through the financial section of the report. He advised that intimation had been received during the week regarding the investment in the Church of Scotland Growth Fund. As at 31st December 2014, the investment was valued at £3,634 and this revised value would be incorporated in the accounts. Trustees were asked if they had any questions regarding the financial statements. There were none. Norman Bolton then asked Trustees to formally approve the Accounts, subject to the inclusion of the updated value of the investment. Formal approval was given and the Treasurer and Session Clerk were authorised to sign the Accounts on Page 10.

Norman Bolton asked the Trustees whether there were any suggestions for any modifications to the text or figures presented on pages 2 to 6. There were none.

Norman Bolton highlighted the paragraph on page 7 which summarised the Trustees' Responsibilities and proposed that the paragraph be modified by removing reference to Congregational Board. This was agreed. Norman Bolton then sought confirmation that the Trustees understood their responsibilities. He then sought the approval of the Trustees to sign the Report on their behalf. This was given.

The Trustees were informed that the Annual Report and Accounts would be submitted to Ian McNab, the Independent Examiner (auditor) for Audit.

Willie Anderson expressed the tanks of the Trustees to Kay and Norman Bolton for their diligence in producing the Annual Report

4. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all standing to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2015
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Luke Chapter 13 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Nancy Fisher, Margot Young, Marie and Steven Owens, George Fairweather, Alistair Graham, James Mathieson and Scott Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 21 elders and six other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 10th December

Draft minute of meeting held 10th December circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Raymond Russell. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

5.2 Minute of meeting held on 11th January

Draft minute of meeting held 11th January circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Roy Allan and seconded by Jane Curror. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

5.2 Minute of meeting held on 25th January

Draft minute of meeting held 25th January circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of minute as true record proposed by Roy Allan and seconded by Gordon Robertson. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

The Session Clerk referred to Item 6.2 of the Minute of the December meeting and the need for office bearers involved in processing data or maintaining manual or electronic data to participate in a training session in relation to data protection. Subsequent to the meeting it was agreed that training would take place on the 12th February.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Interim Moderator

7.1.1 Fraternal meeting

Rev Jack Drummond advised of some topics discussed at a recent fraternal meeting.

It had been proposed that all churches in Clarkston Churches Together should contribute towards the publication of an Easter leaflet to be delivered to all homes in the area. Elders agreed that Stamperland should contribute to the cost as in previous years.

The CCT Good Friday service at Stamperland would be at 8.00am.

For a number of years one or two lay members of each church had met in a forum similar to that of the Fraternal. The Fraternal had talked about trying to re-establish meetings for lay people and Mr Drummond wondered if there was a willingness on the part of any present at the Session meeting to attend such meetings. There was no indication that elders were willing to participate.

7.1.1 New communicants class

Rev Jack Drummond said that he was willing to conduct a series of new communicants' classes in May should the Kirk Session give its approval. Elders welcomed this proposal.

8. SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

The Session Clerk read an extract from a letter sent by John Curror on 11th January in which he stated that, following the Kirk Session meeting earlier that day he had, after much careful deliberation, decided to resign from the post of PVG Co-ordinator with immediate effect.

The Session Clerk asked if anyone present was willing to take on the post. When no one volunteered he asked those present to consider the situation very carefully; it was, he said, essential that the post was filled.

The Session Clerk said he was sure that the those present would wish to thank John for all the work he had done as PVG co-ordinator.

8.2 Health and Safety

No Report.

The Session Clerk once again indicated his concern that Derrek Brown was not able to effectively check possible health and safety issues and asked if someone would be willing to take on the role. Jane Curror indicated her willingness to take on the post.

David McKee raised an issue related to the provision of sanitary bins in the ladies toilet. Jane Curror indicated she would investigate and attend to the requirement.

8.3 Food Hygiene

Anne Mackenzie said that table cloths had gone missing. Fraser Neilson said that he had rescued the table cloths from the Guide's used clothing collection bin.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Alan Henderson advised that quotes would be obtained for undertaking repair work on the roof area between the large hall and the sanctuary.

9.1.2 Finance

General

Kay Bolton reported on some recent aspects of finance. Her report was, she said, full of good news.

A lapel microphone had been purchased at a cost of £124.50. She proposed that the money would be taken from the Copper Fund. Elders agreed with this proposal.

The David Milligan quiz had raised £630.

The General Trustees had made a contribution of £1,526 towards the cost of refurbishing the manse and getting it ready for rent. The contribution matched the rental income forwarded to Edinburgh by Clyde Property in the period October to December 2014.

HMRC had transferred the Gift Aid tax recoveries into the church account on 30th December 2014. The Tax recovered was £9,575. As a consequence we had ended the year with a surplus of £4,123 before the addition of the legacy of £5,000. This was only the second year in the past eleven years that we had ended the year avoiding a deficit in our "ordinary income and expenditure" as defined by the Church of Scotland.

Gift Aid

Norman Walker advised that 91 people had paid by Gift Aid. Some of those contributing to the church were not church members.

Norman Walker told the meeting that the Small Donations Scheme had resulted in him being able to claim £1,250. This amount could be claimed each year.

The demographics of church membership were such that the church was likely to lose regular offerings from older people dying and it was important to try to ensure that the younger church members signed up to donate through Gift Aid.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

No report.

9.3 Mission

9.3.1 Fund Raising and Social

In Nancy Fisher's absence the Session Clerk reported on the success of the David Milligan Quiz and thanked David McKee for organising the event.

9.3.2 Parish and Beyond Committee

Evelyn Graham reported that the Parish and Beyond Committee were meeting the following week and that they would be in touch with John Montgomery of Netherlee Church regarding a joint meeting. Evelyn also reported on a recent meeting of the Eastwood Peace and Justice Forum. The Forum were hoping to arrange a "hustings meeting" before the General Election in May and were looking for questions from churches which could be put to the candidates.

9.3.3 Pastoral Care Committee

Grace Scott advised that the work of the pastoral care committee was ongoing and that the transport idea was being developed further. A book-lending service was being planned in association with Clarkston library whereby books could be loaned to people who were house-bound through illness. The committee were also considering sending cards to people known to be unwell; the committee would look to elders to advise of people in their district who were unwell and to whom it would be appropriate to send a card.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson advised that the Worship Committee were due to meet soon and would discuss, amongst other issues, the Holy Week services.

David McKee spoke to ask if the “prayer meadow” could be given more publicity. Grace Scott advised that the prayer meadow was updated regularly and that the “flowers” were taken off every Wednesday and prayers offered accordingly. An attempt would be made to heighten awareness of the “prayer meadow”.

9.4.2 Education

Margo Neilson reported on behalf of Scott Russell that there had been a meeting with Stepping Stones staff in January. Lessons had been planned from January to the end of the session. The importance of Stepping Stones staff attending worship when children were on holiday had been stressed.

Work on the Youth Y@S was progressing.

Jane Curror informed the meeting that Karen Cramb had taken over the duties of Treasurer for Stepping Stones and that the Royal Bank was in the process of confirming Karen Cramb, Kay Bolton and Jane Curror as signatories for the Stepping Stones Bank account.

10. RETIRING OFFERING

David McKee proposed that the retiring offering at the March Communion should be in support of the charity, “Saying Goodbye”. This was agreed.

11. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

11.1 Deaths

Bill Paterson, the Roll Keeper, advised of the deaths of four members.

Mrs Marjorie McKissock	39 Linnpark Court
Mrs Margaret Fraser	51 Stamperland Drive
Mr John Kidd	135 Stamperland Gardens
Mr Herbert Martin	191 Randolph Drive

11.1 Change of Address

There was one change of address.

Mr & Mrs Esler from 38 Moray Drive to
Flat 5, Homeblair House, Ravenstone Drive, Giffnock, G46 6AL.

12 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher advised that Hilary MacDougal was scheduled to attend a presbytery committee meeting on 27th January at which there would have been discussion about the vacancy and the relationship between Netherlee and Stamperland. He had not heard anything regarding the outcome of the discussions.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the Stated Annual Meeting was set as Monday 9th March.

It was agreed that the next Kirk Session Meeting would be held on Monday 9th March starting shortly after the conclusion of the Stated Annual Meeting.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

Hall Let

Connell Cranston said that he had received a request for a slightly unusual hall let. The request was to use the Large Hall for a fund-raising ceilidh to be held on Saturday evening in May or June. The event organiser was Mrs Susan Clark, who worked at Williamwood House. She hoped that the event would attract a wide age range; the number attending would be restricted to 120. It was planned that those attending would bring their own refreshments so that there was no requirement for any drinks licence. Connell indicated that the function would be asked to stop by 11.15 to enable the premises to be vacated before midnight.

Anne MacKenzie said she knew Mrs Clark and that she had been urging staff at Williamwood House to make more use of Stamperland Church halls. Elders agreed that the event should proceed as outlined by Connell Cranston.

15 CLOSURE

All present stood to say "the Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 1st MARCH 2015
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Gray Fletcher with prayer and a reading from Ezekiel Chapter 4.

2. DEVOTIONS

Gray told the elders of a recent occasion at his local primary school when the topic of conversation turned to dieting and weight loss. It had reminded him of a story about a dinner party at which the guests had discussed dieting. Many different diets were talked about until one of the guests stumped everyone by mentioning a diet her mother had tried. It was a diet which had its roots in the Old Testament and consisted of eating nothing but "Ezekiel bread". No one else had heard of it; but, since the gathering consisted of preachers and church workers, the assertion that it was both biblical and effective sent them all scurrying to their Bibles. Their search led them to the passage we read from Ezekiel 4:9, where God tells Ezekiel to "take some wheat, barley, beans, peas, millet, and spelt. Mix them all together and make bread."

Gray explained the background to the passage. Ezekiel, is engaged in a kind of prophetic theatre in which he mimics the siege of Jerusalem and has to prepare siege rations. Since no one ingredient is present in sufficient quantity to make bread, a number of ingredients are combined, resulting in a bread that was nourishing though not particularly tasty, or appetising, by the sound of it. There can be two explanations for the command to eat this unusual bread, and both of them are interesting.

First, the ingredients were available. If you don't have what you want, then make use of what you have. That's what Jesus did with the water at Wedding at Cana, with the loaves and fishes by the sea of Galilee, and with the bread and wine in the upper room.

Second, even if other things were available, these were the ingredients that the prophet and, by extension, the people needed. These ingredients contained the nutrients necessary to save and preserve the people. Just as the sacrifice of Jesus, represented in the bread and wine we share, contains everything that's necessary to save us.

Gray continued saying that he didn't know whether or not eating Ezekiel bread would help you lose weight, and he couldn't speak for the pedigree of the bread we would share later. But he did know that partaking of this bread and this cup is a witness both to God's offer of salvation, and our acceptance of what God offers. These elements may not be all that tasty, and a small piece of dry bread and a mouthful of wine can never really be described as a feast; but it is what we have and what these symbols represent is just what we need.

In conclusion he said that as we come to this table we should not simply focus our minds on what we have laid out before us, or even on the tasks we have to perform but let them remind us, ever so gently, of what God was willing to give so that we might be able to receive everything that we need.

3. COMMUNION

3.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Gray Fletcher led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

4 CLOSURE

The Moderator thanked the elders for undertaking their duties. The Kirk Session meeting was closed with all standing to say, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2015
IN THE CHURCH**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Luke Chapter 4 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jan Barr, Nancy Fisher, Evelyn Graham, Edith Moseley, Grace Scott, Janet Stewart, Jess Thomson, Grace Walker, Connell Cranston, Alastair Graham and Fraser Neilson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 19 elders and 6 other Trustees. Rev Hilary McDougall.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 9th February

The draft minute of the meeting held 9th February was circulated prior to the meeting. Anne MacKenzie pointed out that in Item 14 the name of the event organiser was Miss Susan Clark and not Mrs Susan Clark. With this amendment, acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by George Finlayson and seconded by Raymond Russell. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

5.2 Minute of meeting held on 1st March

Draft minute of meeting held 1st March was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Margo Neilson and seconded by David McKee. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher introduced Rev Hilary McDougall, Congregational Facilitator for Glasgow Presbytery, to those present.

Hilary summarised the position regarding Stamperland Church and the Presbytery Plan. When drafted in 2012 the Presbytery Plan envisaged Stamperland and Netherlee Churches being united. No specific timescale was specified for the formation of the union. The translation of Rev George Mackay to Broomhill and Hyndland had, however, triggered the need to take action. Rev Tom Nelson had graciously agreed to the discussion of options proceeding whilst he was still the minister at Netherlee; during the process Tom had indicated that he was unwilling to consider being minister of both churches and also that he intended to retire from Netherlee at age 65. These decisions enabled meaningful options to be considered.

Initial meetings with representatives of Netherlee and Stamperland churches highlighted that there was some opposition to the Presbytery Plan and some reluctance to proceed to union; to some, the concept of linkage was deemed more acceptable.

Hilary told those present she had conveyed this information to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG). The SPG was now proposing the following. *“A minister should be called jointly (by Stamperland and Netherlee), on five year reviewable tenure, who would work in Stamperland for the remaining three years of Tom’s ministry. A linkage would then be formed with the Stamperland Minister in post working towards a union after the remaining two years of reviewable tenure.”*

In response to a question, Hillary confirmed that, after five years, the ministry post would become unrestricted. In addition to the post of Minister of Word and Sacrament, the Presbytery Plan provided for 0.5 full-time-equivalent Ministries Development Staff.

Hilary said that Presbytery recognised that both Stamperland and Netherlee church buildings were well used and both sets of buildings would be retained. Services would be held in both churches every Sunday. There would be two church services, two Sunday Schools, two sets of organisations.

Comments were made that the timescale given to achieve union was not acceptable and that union appeared to offer no financial benefit to the Church of Scotland compared with linking; union was seen as Stamperland being taken over by the church with the larger membership; there was concern about loss of identity.

Steven Owens stated that a significant number of members were opposed to the proposals contained in the Presbytery Plan and wished to appeal the decision regarding the future of Stamperland.

Those present broke into a number of small discussion groups which then reported back to the full meeting.

Steven Owens reported that the feeling of the group in which he participated was against union; there was a desire to retain the unique identity of the church, to be able to make decisions affecting Stamperland church and to retain control of church finance.

Margo Neilson reported that the feeling of the group in which she participated was that union didn’t present a significant threat. Church services, church organisations and church life would continue much as before and union would really only affect members of the Kirk Session. Five years hence, she said, many members of the current Kirk Session might well have retired from being active elders.

Scott Russell asked Hillary McDougall if she could get clarification from Presbytery regarding the score of “4” for Stamperland Church which appeared in the Presbytery Buildings Plan. With the planned retention of the existing buildings at both Stamperland and Netherlee he believed that a score of “1” would now be appropriate. David McKee referred to a comment in the Presbytery Plan which described Netherlee Church as a “key building” and said that this designation was a concern when no similar comment was made about Stamperland.

Following further discussion, a proposal was agreed that there should be a “show of hands” to try to gauge the level of support for a number of different options. Three options were presented which were based on the presbytery proposal written above. There were 26 people able to participate in the “show of hands”.

- Those content with the presbytery proposal involving linkage leading to union at the end of five years 12
- Those content with the presbytery proposal involving linkage leading to union but removing any mention of the timescale by which union was to be achieved 19
- Those who would not agree to a proposal which mentioned union 10

Hillary undertook to convey the views of the meeting to the Strategic Planning Group and to provide answers to the specific questions raised during the meeting. She said that Presbytery was trying to negotiate a relationship between Stamperland and Netherlee which would command the support of a large majority.

The Session Clerk was asked to convey to the congregation the message that presbytery planned to ensure a good working relationship and connection between Stamperland and Netherlee Churches; that both sets of buildings were being retained; that ministry resources would be “shared”; that services would be held in both churches every Sunday; that all church organisations and groups would continue to use the church premises as at present.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Presbytery Inspection of Records

Norman Bolton advised that the Inspection of Records was scheduled to take place in Renfield St Stephen’s church on Wednesday, 18th March. He said that he was unable to attend. George Finlayson volunteered to attend the inspection

7.1.2 Data Protection

The Session Clerk advised that the Treasurer, Freewill Offering Convenor, Gift Aid Convenor, Roll Keeper and himself had watched the Church of Scotland video relating to Data Protection. As a congregation we were advised that we must

- develop and implement a Data Protection Policy
- obtain consent for all personal data held
- undertake risk assessments of Data Protection procedures
- provide training for individuals involved with data storage and processing.

As a consequence, key recommendations were as follows:

- 1 Establish small group to undertake the task of developing our Data Protection Policy.
- 2 Obtain consent of all members and people within the church (youth leaders, outside organisations, etc.) for all personal data held. [This includes information in the Church Roll, financial information/records related to offerings, information published in the Year Book, the Annual Report, Focus magazine, Church website, etc.]
- 3 The church should procure and use a lockable filing cabinet for the safekeeping of data, specifically the Church Roll, information related to Freewill Offerings and Gift Aid and any “pastoral care” information.
- 4 The church should purchase encrypted USB memory sticks for use by Roll Keeper and Gift Aid Convenor.
- 5 Session Clerk to advise Presbytery Clerk that we operate a CCTV system.

The purchase of a lockable filing cabinet was agreed.

The purchase of USB memory sticks was agreed. Scott Russell advised that he could provide suitable encryption on the memory sticks.

The Session Clerk advised that he would seek to recruit members to develop the Data Protection Policy.

8. SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

No Report.

8.2 Health and Safety

No issues.

Alan Henderson advised that an alarm had been fitted to the door exiting onto Stamperland Hill such that it was activated if the door was not shut.

The Session Clerk was asked to advise the leaders of all organisations of this new arrangement.

8.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Roof repair

Alan Henderson advised that he had obtained a quote for renewing the coverings on all of the flat roofs with the exception of the roof over the sanctuary. The quoted total cost of the work was £18,000 including VAT.

Trustees agreed that the work should proceed with the cost being met from the Roof Contingency Fund.

Organ Maintenance

Roy Allan told the meeting that he had received a letter from James MacKenzie advising that he was retiring and that he was recommending that the firm of Harrison & Harrison should be engaged to tune and maintain the church organ.

The Session Clerk was asked to write to James Mackenzie thanking him for all of the work (much of it voluntary) which he had undertaken in the initial installation and building of the organ and its subsequent maintenance.

9.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported that she had received a cheque for £5,000 from the Stamperland Residents Association. The donation was made following the sale of the former tennis courts. She said that she understood that the Guides, Scouts and Boys' Brigade had each received cheques for £1,000.

9.2 Nurture

9.2.1 Worship

Margo Neilson reported on some of the topics discussed at the meeting of the worship committee on 26th February. It was felt that that not having a leaflet drop to each home in the parish before Christmas had led to a decrease in the number attending the Christmas services.

The holding of monthly communion services was discussed and it was reported that Rev Jack Drummond was willing to conduct the short monthly communion service. Elders agreed that there would be monthly communions.

David McKee and his team were said to be well-organised for the Holy week services and should be commended for their hard work.

The Committee was hoping to organise a "Bring a friend to church" service towards the end of September followed by a buffet lunch. This would be discussed fully at the next meeting and proposals brought to the Kirk Session.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

10.1 New Member

Bill Paterson, the Roll Keeper, advised of one new member, Mrs Hilda Kean, 14 Strathtay Ave who had transferred from Dumfries St Mary's Church.

10.2 New Member

Rev Jack Drummond advised that he had been approached by Mrs Mary Black, 25 Strathtay Avenue. Mrs Black had been a member of Stonelaw Parish Church, Rutherglen many years previously before moving to Zimbabwe. Now returned from abroad she wished to join Stamperland church. Elders agreed that Mrs Black should become a member of the church by resolution of the Kirk Session.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next Kirk Session Meetings would be held Monday 20th April, Wednesday 13th May and Monday 8th June.

12 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 20th APRIL 2015
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Psalm 47 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Sylvia Bell, Jean Cranston, Janis Herriot, Marie Owens, Jess Thomson, Grace Walker, Connell Cranston, George Fairweather, Alistair Graham, Steven Owens and Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 23 elders and 6 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 9th March

The draft minute of the meeting held 9th March was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Kay Bolton. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Presbytery Inspection of Records

In relation to item 7.1.1, the Session Clerk thanked George Finlayson for taking the records to Renfield St Stephen’s church. The clerk said that he had written to Presbytery advising that the

previous arrangement of taking records for inspection to a local church was much more convenient.

The Presbytery inspection team had found the records satisfactory with the exception of the Property Register. The inspection team advised that a new format of Property Register had been issued three years previously and requested that the last three years records be presented in the new format. Members of the Property Committee undertook to provide the records in the proscribed format.

6.2 Data Protection

In relation to item 7.1.2 the Session Clerk advised that encrypted memory sticks had been procured for the use of the Roll Keeper and Gift Aid convenor. He also advised that the Presbytery Clerk had been informed that Stamperland Church operated a CCTV system to monitor entrance in and exit from the halls.

6.3 Easter Leaflets

In relation to item 9.2.1, which mentioned the Christmas leaflet drop, the Session Clerk advised that several elders had commented to him the fact that approximately half of the Easter Leaflets published by Clarkston Churches Together had not been picked up from the vestibule and that, at best, only half of the households in the parish had received a leaflet. He said that it was becoming increasingly difficult to get volunteers to deliver leaflets or flyers or cards to homes in the parish.

Some elders suggested that youth organisations such as the BB be asked to assist; other suggestions included asking Netherlee School to assist or creating an event such as a “delivery Sunday” when people would be encouraged to participate in a special mass delivery event.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Interim Moderator

7.1.1 Meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session

Gray Fletcher advised that, following discussions with Rev Tom Nelson and the Session Clerks of Stamperland and Netherlee it had been suggested that there should be a joint meeting of members of the two Kirk Sessions to discuss the two churches visions for the future. It was proposed that a joint meeting should be held on Saturday, 6th June with Iain Campbell, one of the Church of Scotland’s Mission Development Workers, acting as a facilitator. The aim of the meeting was to explore and develop each church’s vision for the future and perhaps highlight those aspects which were shared or complementary or in conflict.

David McKee expressed concern that the meeting was “jumping the gun” and should be postponed until there was more clarity regarding the Presbytery Plan; however, if the remit of the meeting were only to look at each church’s “vision”, then he indicated he would be happy.

In response to a question from Alan Henderson, the Interim Moderator affirmed that no decisions would be made at the meeting; the meeting would let elders and trustees from both churches get together and chat about their views of the future. Evelyn Graham said she believed that the majority of the Kirk Session was in favour of dialogue and the proposed meeting represented a good way forward.

7.2 Locum Minister

7.2.1 New Communicant’s Class

The Rev Jack Drummond said that it was over a year since anyone had joined Stamperland Church by profession of faith. One lady was keen to join and there could be potential for others, such as staff in the Boys’ Brigade, being interested. Jack said that the was proposing to hold a new communicant’s class meeting in the vestry on Sundays 10th, 17th 24th and 31st May with admission of new communicants taking place on Sunday 7th June.

8. SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

No Report.

8.2 Health and Safety

Jane Curror informed the meeting that appropriate bins had been installed in the ladies toilet.

Jane Curror said that there had been regular infestations of ants in the large hall; the ants were entering through gaps around some of the window frames in the hall. The Fabric committee undertook to investigate and resolve the problem.

It was reported that a wooden baton in the hall vestibule area was coming away from the wall and that urgent action was required to fix it.

8.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Roof repair

Alan Henderson advised that the renewal of the coverings on all of the flat roofs with the exception of the roof over the sanctuary, would start in early June.

Dishwasher

Alan Henderson said that following requests from a number of people he would investigate the possibility of installing a dishwasher in the kitchen.

9.1.2 Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

Kay Bolton reported that offerings were currently a little ahead of budget. The Guild had made a donation of £350 to church funds. There had been no unusual expenditure in the period since the last Session meeting.

Signatory to church bank account

Kay Bolton informed elders that she would like to have an additional person authorised to act as a signatory for the church's bank account. She had spoken to Norman Walker and he had indicated his willingness to become a signatory. Formally, therefore, she now wished to propose Norman Walker as a signatory. The proposal was seconded by Alan Henderson. Elders agreed with the proposal to have Norman Walker as a signatory for the church bank account.

Gift Aid Changes

Norman Walker advised the meeting of an increase in the value of Small Gifts on which Gift Aid could be reclaimed. As a result of an announcement in the recent Westminster budget an amount of £2,000 could be reclaimed under the Small Gift Aid scheme, an increase from the £1,250 which previously applied.

9.2 Mission

9.2.1 Fund Raising

Nancy Fisher reported that the Fund Raising Committee had met but that there was still no convenor. Arrangements for the Spring Fair were well underway but, as ever, there was a need to encourage people to volunteer to assist make the Fair a success.

9.2.2 Pastoral Care

Margo Neilson reported on some of the activities undertaken recently including giving over twenty bunches of daffodils to care homes and to homes of people who had recently been bereaved. The gifts of daffodils had been gratefully received and there had been many letters of thanks and appreciation. The initiative had been very successful.

9.2.3 Parish and beyond

Evelyn Graham said that church members had been generous in donating items for the Foodbank. Personnel from the Barrhead Foodbank had recently collected items from the church and would be sending a "thank you letter".

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

10.1 New Members

Bill Paterson, the Roll Keeper, advised that following the decision of the Kirk Session at the previous meeting Mrs Mary Black's name had been added to the Roll.

The meeting was informed that Mrs Black’s husband, Jim Black, had also expressed a desire to be restored to membership. Elders agreed that Mr Black should become a member of the church by resolution of the Kirk Session.

11 PRESBYTRERY ELDER’S REPORT

Anne MacKenzie gave a brief verbal report of the presbytery meeting held on 14th April. Dr Kathy Galloway had spoken about Christian Aid, highlighting that in 2014, £1.5 million had been raised in Scotland during Christian Aid week. This year marked the 70th Anniversary of Christian Aid and to mark this milestone on the journey of overcoming poverty people were being invited to join the 70 Munros Challenge. Letters of demission were received from Rev Lynn McChlery, Eaglesham with effect from 24th June and from Rev Esther Ninian, Mearns Cross, with effect from 31st August. The Moderator Elect, Rev Tom Pollock, is unavailable to attend Presbytery in June; a special meeting of Presbytery will be held in Sherbrooke St Gilbert’s Parish Church at 10.15 on Sunday 28th June to install Mr Pollock as Moderator. Eaglesham Church has submitted an application for approval to convert their Carswell Hall buildings into a multi-use centre at a cost of £563,000. Grant funding of £280,000 has been received, the church has £296,000 available and has requested the release of £15,000 from the General Trustees. Giffnock Orchardhill Church was given permission to let the manse on a short-term lease during the current vacancy. The Education Committee is concerned about the proposed increase in the cost of school meals from £1.50 to £1.70. There is to be a review of Breakfast Clubs with a view to reducing the numbers and there is to be an increase in the distance before a student can get a free bus. These changes are likely to affect the poorest communities. The Community Responsibility Committee is concerned about Human Trafficking and members of congregations are being invited to write to their MSPs if they are concerned that the Bill in Scotland does not include measures to criminalise the purchase of sex. There is a template letter which can be used or adapted. A “Strange Power of Light” event is being organised on behalf of Glasgow Presbytery as part of the Glasgow Science Festival. The event is being held at Wellington Church on 5th June. Tickets are free. The last part of the evening was a presentation to Mr Douglas Blaney who has retired as Presbytery Treasurer. In his farewell speech Mr Blaney had members of the presbytery in stitches.

12 UPDATE ON VACANCY

The Interim Moderator advised that there was nothing to report and there had been no communications from Presbytery since the previous Session meeting.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the dates of the next Kirk Session Meetings would be Wednesday 13th May and Monday 8th June. Elders and Trustees were reminded of the joint meeting with Netherlee on the 6th June and also to note that Communion would be celebrated at the service on Sunday 7th June.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2015
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer and a reading from Matthew Chapter 5, the first few verses of the Sermon of the Mount.

Mr Drummond said that in the first verse attention is often drawn to the crowds, the going up the hill, the sitting down and the teaching with the implication being that the teaching was for the crowds. It would, he said, have been difficult for the average person in the crowd to understand many of the things that Jesus went on to say. It was likely that the words Jesus spoke were actually directed toward the Disciples and verse one and two does say, "..... his disciples gathered around him and he began to teach them".

The word Disciple means student or learner and we all have to keep on learning. Today, he said, we would be welcoming six new communicant members each of whom had taken part in classes learning about membership. It could be easy to think that once someone becomes a member of the church, the learning was over, that one could sit back, that everything was "in-place". But, he said, the journey continued for everyone; learning was never finished.

2. NEW COMMUNICANTS

Mr Drummond read the names and addresses of the six prospective new communicants wishing to become members of the church through profession of faith. Elders agreed that their admission should take place.

3. RETIRING OFFERING

It was agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to Williamwood House.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Jack Drummond led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

5 CLOSURE

Mr Drummond thanked the elders for undertaking their duties. The Kirk Session meeting was closed with all standing to say, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 8th JUNE 2015
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Second Corinthians Chapter 4 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Edith Moseley, Marie Owens, Grace Scott, Roy Allan, Connell Cranston, Alastair Graham and Fraser Mackintosh.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 24 elders and 5 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 20th April

The draft minute of the meeting held 20th April was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Alan Henderson. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

The minute of the meeting held on 7th June was read by the Clerk. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Raymond Russell and seconded by Scott Russell. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Data Protection

The Session Clerk advised that the purchase of filing cabinets was ongoing. He also advised that it had not been possible to prepare the letters to be delivered to all members advising them of the data protection issues related to church membership records and free will offering donations.

6.2 New Communicants

In relation to item 7.2, the admission of new members, the Session Clerk thanked Rev Jack Drummond for his work in leading the class for new communicants.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Church Cleaner

The Session Clerk intimated that Jane Curror planned to relinquish the post of cleaner at the end of August.

8. SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

Margo Neilson reported that there had been a requirement for Jack Drummond to complete a PVG application. With Margo currently not having the necessary accreditation to sign the forms, she had been helped by the PVG co-ordinator at Netherlee Church.

8.2 Health and Safety

Jane Curror told the meeting that the gaps in the window sills and window frames in the large hall through which ants had been entering had been filled. Re-plastering of sills was now required.

8.3 Food Hygiene

Anne MacKenzie reported that there were no issues. Four new teapots had been purchased.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Roof repair

Alan Henderson informed those present that work on the renewal of the coverings on all of the flat roofs had started that day. The work was expected to take two weeks.

Dishwasher

Alan Henderson said that prices had been obtained for the installation of a dishwasher. Roy Allan was visiting a golf club to see one of the possible models and would report to the next Session Meeting.

9.1.2 Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

Kay Bolton reported that offerings were currently some £3,000 ahead of budget. The Spring Fair had realised £2,757; this was £300 more than the previous year.

The retiring offering at the previous Sunday's Communion Service amounted to £134.60 and a cheque for this amount had been sent to the Friends of Williamwood House.

The price of the half barrels purchased for the church gardens was £125. The Treasurer proposed that payment should be taken from the Copper Fund; those present agreed with the proposal.

Kay advised that she had recently paid £320 for maintenance of the church organ. Despite at least two visits from the organ tuner there were still a significant number of problems with the organ. Duncan McClure, the organist, had told her that he was able to cope with the organ in its current condition but he did advise that a considerable amount of work would be required to bring the organ up to a good condition.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

9.2.1 Use of Large TV Screen

Steven Owens reported that the large television which had been donated to the church by Neil Johnstone could be sited in the church vestibule and used to provide information on church activities to people passing the church. A continuously-running PowerPoint presentation could be arranged. He and Alan Henderson would investigate the location of the TV. Caution was advised regarding the electrical power consumption of the presentation system.

9.3. Mission

9.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Evelyn Graham reported on a number of aspects. Copies of the Focus Magazine were being delivered to the new McCarthy and Stone development and to Clarkston House. Evelyn said that she knew the owner of Clarkston House, Mrs Margaret Sawyers. Mrs Sawyers was keen to have a link between the church and Clarkston House and she was happy to agree having a monthly service at Clarkston House on the first Friday of each month. Jack Drummond had indicated he was happy to lead the service and the committee hoped that a significant number of members from Stamperland would be willing to attend and support the monthly service.

9.3.2 Pastoral Care

Nancy Fisher told those present that members of the Pastoral Care Committee were in the early stages of considering running a Lunch Club.

Nancy also advised that Netherlee Parish Church were considering starting a Dementia Club; one of the options being considered was the use of hall accommodation in Stamperland Church.

9.3.3 Fund Raising

Nancy Fisher thanked everyone for their hard work in relation to the Spring Fair which had been very successful. There had been some new stalls including a Tombola stall. The committee would look at some of the statistics related to the income raised by different stalls and activities and would seek to use this to help plan future fairs. One action, in particular, would be to seek greater involvement of the organisations in the planning and preparatory work.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson reported that the Worship Committee had met on 14th May. The main topic at that meeting had been David McKee's suggestion of holding a "bring a Friend to Church" Sunday. The suggested date was Sunday, 13th September. The concept was to ask the congregation and the children in Stepping Stones to invite a friend, relative or lapsed member to come along with them to church and enjoy our service. It was also proposed to have a soup and sandwich lunch after the service. Details of the "bring a Friend to Church" Sunday were still to be finalised.

After consultation with Jack Drummond, it was proposed that the date of the first uniformed parade of the new session would be 20th September.

The Worship Committee had discussed the Easter Services; it had been agreed that they had been successful and that there had been good attendances.

9.4.2 Education

Scott Russell reported that members of the Education Committee had met with representatives of the youth organisations and that it was planned to do some work over the summer period regarding establishing a Youth Group. Scott said that it might be useful to consider working with Netherlee Church and asked whether those present at the meeting had any objections to this; no one voiced any objection and it was agreed that discussions with Netherlee should proceed.

9.4.3 Stewardship

David McKee told the meeting that Stewardship was important. He said that there were models of stewardship highlighted on the Church of Scotland website. He said that he thought that we should focus on “Talents” in 2015 and try to do something in September. With there being a Communion service in September, as well as a parade of uniformed organisations and a “bring a friend to church morning and lunch”, September might not be suitable. It was intimated that The Guild were planning to have a Focus on the Guild during the week beginning 15th November culminating in a special service and a lunch on the 22nd November.

The Session Clerk said that in 2011 the General Assembly had instructed churches to adopt a Stewardship Programme. He and Sam Esler had attended a Presbytery Meeting in November of that year at which they were told that churches had to develop a “Stewardship Culture” rather than have a “Stewardship Campaign”. Each church would have freedom to adopt a stewardship programme which best suited its particular needs but the programme would have to be approved by Presbytery. As David McKee had just mentioned, the Church of Scotland advised a number of different programmes would meet with approval. These included 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. In 2012 our minister, George Mackay approached Glasgow Presbytery and was given dispensation to run a Stewardship Programme along lines of our own choosing but that no details of the proposed programme had been disclosed. In October 2012, George suggested to the Kirk Session that it would be expedient to delay a financial campaign until early in 2013. The Session Clerk said that there was little stewardship activity in 2013 other than the Gift Day which was combined with the Fresher’s Fair and Harvest Thanksgiving gifts; Stuart Sangster, Stewardship Consultant for the Presbytery of Glasgow had spoken at the Harvest Service. In 2103 priority had been given to changing the constitution.

The Session Clerk said that he believed there was a need to get the Stewardship Committee working to start developing the “stewardship culture” within the church rather than rushing to organise a one-off-event.

The Moderator said that developing the culture would be built from doing something one year, something else the following year and so on as long as there was continuity of purpose and implementation.

In discussion, various elders highlighted the benefit of having a committee focussed on a particular aspect; there is continuity; members spark ideas off each other; a committee generates better ideas than individuals; committees can identify potential difficulties and develop solutions. Gray Fletcher observed that any Stewardship Committee would need to work closely with the Worship and Education Committees.

Steven Owens proposed that, as there was a problem getting volunteers to be members of a Stewardship Committee, an ad-hoc committee could be established with the remit of planning for a Stewardship Season in 2015. It was agreed that David McKee would lead the committee and that the focus would be on “talent”. The Stewardship Season would incorporate the last two Sundays of October and the first Sunday of November.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

10.1 Deaths

Bill Paterson reported on the deaths of four members.

Mr Graeme Turner	347 Bonnyton Road, Eaglesham
Mrs Grace Paterson	Williamwood House
Mrs Mary Eadie	2 Moray Gardens
Mrs Louise Hill	61 The Oval

10.2 New Members

Bill Paterson advised of seven new members.

Mr Jim Black	25 Strathtay Avenue
Mr Russell Brown	107 Stamperland Gardens
Mrs Maureen Dunn	22 Randolph Drive
Mrs Christine Finnigan	74 Alyth Crescent
Mr Fraser Johnstone	6 Leefield Drive
Mrs Lynsey McKee	10 Tannin Crescent, East Kilbride
Mrs Katrina Mitchell	77 Stamperland Avenue

11 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

Anne MacKenzie gave a brief verbal report of the presbytery meeting held in May.

Netherlee Parish Church had been given permission to spend £34,650 upgrading the manse.

Rev Esther Ninian was leaving Mearns Cross Church at the end of August. Under the Presbytery Plan, Mearns Cross Church was to link with Broom Parish Church. However, Rev James Boag, minister of Broom Parish Church had stated that he was not prepared to take on the linked charge. As a consequence, Mearns Cross Church had been allowed to call a minister on five year reviewable tenure.

In November 2015 and in April 2016 Glasgow Presbytery will meet as a number of small groups and there will be no presbytery business conducted at these small gatherings. Gray Fletcher explained that there is a feeling that Glasgow presbytery is in some ways too big and it might be more appropriate to meet in smaller groups where discussions could be about more local issues. Constitutionally, none of these small groups can make any decisions. The concept of small group meetings is something of an experiment.

12 UPDATE ON VACANCY

The Interim Moderator advised that there was nothing to report and there had been no communications from Presbytery since the previous Session meeting. There would be one meeting of Presbytery next week and then no further meeting until September. He explained that, at some point, Presbytery would make a proposal which would be put to the two congregations of Stamperland and Netherlee.

David McKee said that it was important that there was clarity regarding the meaning of the terms "linkage" and "union".

Pat McIlraith said that she felt the meeting with representatives from Netherlee held two days earlier (6th June) had been very successful and very positive. She added that people would know her previously expressed views on union and linkage. Nancy Fisher said that it was clear that the two churches had a lot in common. If both churches were to act on some of the initiatives and ideas developed at the meeting we could both make good headway and common cause.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the dates of the next Kirk Session Meetings would be Monday 7th September and Monday 5th October. Subsequent to the meeting Gray Fletcher requested that the meeting on the 7th September was moved to Monday 14th September.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST 2015
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Gray Fletcher with prayer.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH CLEANER

The Session Clerk advised those present that Alison Macfarlane had indicated that she was interested in taking up the post of church cleaner. Alison had spoken with Jane Curror and understood the duties involved. The clerk advised that, if those present were in agreement, Alison would be offered the post which would involve ten hours per week. The hourly rate of payment would be the “living wage”.

Elders agreed with the appointment of Alison Macfarlane as church cleaner.

3. PROPOSED HALL LET

The Session Clerk told those present that a group called “The Community of the Risen Christ” had enquired about renting our large hall. The group would seek to use the accommodation for Family Worship and less formal activities on a fortnightly basis. Meetings would be on a Sunday afternoon. The Community of the Risen Christ was a multi-denominational Christian Group and currently met in Govanhill.

Connell Cranston said that he had met representatives from the organisation and shown them our church and hall accommodation. He had informed them that the large hall was not always available and indicated that on such occasions it might be possible for them to use either the church sanctuary or other hall accommodation.

Rev Jack Drummond said that he had spoken to two of the leaders of the Community, Mr and Mrs Horton, who lived in The Oval. He had been impressed by them and the aims and activities of the Community members. Membership was drawn largely from members of Roman Catholic churches; they were not in any way trying to attract members away from other churches; rather they sought to provide additional opportunity for their members to worship after Community members had attended morning worship at their own churches.

Elders were happy to proceed with the let should the Community of the Risen Christ pursue their enquiry and for Connell Cranston to make any necessary arrangements in connection with the let.

4. CLOSURE

The Rev. Gray Fletcher led the elders in saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2015
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer.

Mr Drummond said that we were all very much aware of the refugee crisis; it was one of the biggest problems facing Europe since the second World War. The problem didn’t have its origins in Europe, its origins were Syria, Iraq, Afganistan and north African countries. The problem was compounded with the involvement of human traffickers making vast sums of money transporting people in flimsy, overloaded boats across the Mediterranean.

It was, he said, often difficult to distinguish between economic migrants and refugees but, as Christians, we must remember that they are all human beings, children of God.

Mr Drummond said that the Bible has much to say about welcoming strangers and foreigners and read several verses including the following.

Exodus Chapter 22: Do not ill-treat or oppress a foreigner. Remember that you were foreigners in Egypt. Do not ill-treat any widow or orphan.

Psalm 146: The Lord protects the strangers who live in our land. He helps widows and orphans.

Malachai Ch 3: I will appear among you as judge and I will testify at once against those who take advantage of widows, orphans and foreigners.

Deuteronomy Ch 10: The Lord loves the foreigners who live with our people and gives them food and clothes. So then, show love for these foreigners, because you were once foreigners in Egypt.

Ephesians Ch 2: You Gentiles are not foreigners or strangers any longer. You are now fellow citizens with God’s people and members of the family of God.

Hebrews Ch 13: Remember to welcome strangers into your homes. There were some who did that and welcomed angels without knowing it.

Such examples show us the importance of caring for our fellow humans no matter who they were.

2. RETIRING OFFERING

It was agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to East Renfrewshire Good Causes a local charity which supports needy people in our locality.

3. ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

The Session Clerk said that most of the elders would know Mr and Mrs Carnachan and would be aware that both were very regular in their attendance at church. The Carnachans were not members and they had expressed both surprise and concern that their names were not recorded on the church roll. The Session Clerk asked the elders present if they were agreeable to having the names of Mr and Mrs Carnachan added to the church membership by resolution of the Kirk Session. All present were in agreement.

4. GARDEN OPEN WEEKEND

The Session Clerk said that elders would read in the intimation sheet of the very significant success of the Garden Open Weekend organised and hosted by Margo and Fraser Neilson. The event had raised £4,600 for the two chosen charities. The elders present congratulated Margo on this great achievement.

5 CLOSURE

Mr Drummond thanked the elders for undertaking their duties. The Kirk Session meeting was closed with all standing to say, "The Grace".

6. COMMUNION

The Rev. Jack Drummond led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2015
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with reading from Romans Chapter 12 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jane and John Curror, Margo and Fraser Neilson, Sheena Skelton, Janet Stewart, Grace Walker, Alastair Graham and Steven Owens. The Session Clerk advised that Grace Walker has requested that she stands down as an active elder.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 22 elders and 6 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 8th June

The draft minute of the meeting held 8th June was circulated prior to the meeting. Subject to correcting a date in Section 9.4.3 acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Janis Herriot. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

The draft minute of the meeting held on 23rd August was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Alan Henderson and seconded by Evelyn Graham. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

The draft minute of the meeting held on 6th September was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Ray McNiven. Minute then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Data protection letter to all members

Item 6.1 of the meeting of 8th June. The Session Clerk advised that the letter requesting members to sign a form agreeing that their name and address details could be maintained on both the Church Membership Roll and in connection with financial records should have been received by all members. Elders had been asked to deliver copies of the letter to homes as part of their pre-communion visits; letters to members living in areas not covered by a District Elder had been sent by post.

Approximately 150 replies had been received; this meant that about 200 members had still to return forms. Members who had not returned forms would be identified and elders would be asked to try to collect completed forms from these members.

6.2 Use of large TV screen

Item 9.2.1 of the meeting of 6th June. The Session Clerk stated that investigations had shown that the idea of locating the large TV screen in the vestibule was impractical. He asked elders to consider whether it might be practical to have the screen permanently mounted in the Session Room or to propose an alternative use for the screen.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Interim Moderator

Gray Fletcher advised those present that at a recent meeting of Clarkston Churches Together there had been a proposal that, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity members of CCT churches would be urged to use a prayer booklet entitled “Try Praying”. There was also a proposal that each church should purchase a banner with the intention that, during the Week of Prayer, each church would display the banner. Elders agreed that sufficient copies of the booklet were purchased for use by Stamperland’s congregation and also that a banner was purchased. The cost of the banner would be approximately £40.

7.2 Locum Minister

Jack Drummond advised those present that the funeral of Robert Fergusson would take place on Friday, 18th September at the Linn Crematorium.

7.3 Session Clerk

7.3.1 Letter from General Trustees

Norman Bolton advised that he had received a letter from the General Trustees in connection with the provision of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors at the manse. New legislation relating to smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors had recently come into force and Clyde Property Management had written to landlords and landlord’s representatives seeking permission to install appropriate detectors where necessary. The General Trustees had authorised Clyde Property Management

to proceed with the installation of any necessary alarms. Alan Henderson and Roy Alan indicated that they believed the manse was already fitted with the necessary alarms.

7.3.2 Fees related to church weddings and funerals

Norman Bolton said that there was a need to review the church’s guidance on fees related to the use of the church for weddings and funerals. Fees were last reviewed at some point in Alastair Cherry’s ministry. The Church of Scotland, in association with the Scottish Federation of Organists, offered clear guidance in relation to organist’s fees but did not offer any specific guidance on other fees or charges. The Session Clerk suggested that the Business Committee should be charged with looking at the issue and be asked to bring proposals to the Kirk Session.

8. SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

It was reported that Margot Young was undergoing the training required to become a PVG co-ordinator and accredited signatory.

8.2 Health and Safety

No report.

8.3 Food Hygiene

Anne MacKenzie advised elders that the kitchen had been found to be in an unsatisfactory condition on Sunday morning. It had been left in a messy state and the three sinks were blocked. The kitchen had been clean and tidy on the previous Friday afternoon and she asked whether there had been a hall let or party on the Saturday. Scott Russell said that the Junior BB had used the kitchen on the Friday evening; if the untidiness was due to the Junior BB's activities then he apologised.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Roy Alan informed those present that all of the flat roofs with the exception of the church had been re-felted. The cost of the work was £17,642.40.

New doors had been fitted to the main entrance to the church and to the emergency exit for the large and small halls. The cost of the new doors was £885. Alan advised that Connell Cranston had painted the new doors and also the railings at the church entrance. Elders thanked Connell for his work.

The gas boilers had been serviced.

9.1.2 Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

Kay Bolton reported that member's offerings had been maintained over the summer and were currently ahead of budget. She said that the rental income from the manse would be around £9,000 and that she anticipated she would be allowed to claim this amount from Edinburgh towards the end of the year. With an expectation that Gift Aid tax recoveries would be close to £10,000 she said she was hopeful that there would be a surplus of income over expenditure at the end of the year.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

No report

9.3. Mission

Nancy Fisher advised those present that there were no convenors for the Fund Raising and Stewardship Committees. Steven Owens had undertaken to attend these committees and review whether he could perhaps take on the role of convenor.

9.3.1 Fund Raising

Nancy Fisher said that David McKee was planning to run the David Milligan Quiz in the spring of next year; Alison Linich was organising a Camel Drive for a Saturday towards the end of October; and there was likely to be a Sounds International Concert towards the end of October or beginning of November.

9.3.2 Parish and Beyond

Evelyn Graham reported on a number of aspects.

Following the joint Session Meeting with Netherlee she had met with John Montgomery, Session Clerk at Netherlee. They had discussed the Open Door meetings which took place on Wednesday mornings at both churches. Netherlee Church had a short service at 10.00 am. John had indicated that anyone from Stamperland was very welcome to attend the service and transport from home to Netherlee church could be provided by minibus.

Evelyn said that she was preparing an article for Focus to try to attract more people to attend Open Doors on Wednesday mornings.

She advised elders that Jimmy and Margaret Mathieson were stepping down from the Open Door rota and expressed her thanks for all that they had done. Margaret Harte and Anne Martin had agreed to join the team.

Evelyn advised that the Parish and Beyond committee were again planning to sell Christmas Cards for the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

The Foodbank box was full to overflowing – unfortunately some of the items in the box were out of date; in some cases they were out of date by years.

9.3.2 Pastoral Care

Nancy Fisher told those present that members of the Pastoral Care Committee were in the early stages of considering running a Lunch Club. At present they were seeking advice on aspects related to PVG, Health and Safety and Food Hygiene. Once the committee were fully aware of requirements they would come to the Session with more detailed proposals.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Education

Stepping Stones

Scott Russell reported that Stepping Stones were basing this year's activities on the theme "The Bible's got Talent"; more specifically, they would be looking at some of the Old Testament, "Heroes". It was hoped that in the Spring Stepping Stones might lead a family-based service based on their work and interpretation of these Old Testament "heroes".

Stepping Stones had indicated that some of the children attending were keen to be more involved in Sunday worship, potentially by reading the Bible at some morning services. They wondered if the Order of Service might be "tweaked" so that members of Stepping Stones could be in church to listen to their fellow Stepping Stones members read the Bible.

There was a request from Stepping Stones that the announcement of the death of a member was made after members of Stepping Stones had left church. Jack Drummond said that he would be able to announce any deaths before the prayer of intercession should the Kirk Session wish.

Finally, Scott advised of a request from Stepping Stones to use part of the notice board in the hall vestibule.

Y@K – Youth at Kirk

Scott Russell advised elders of progress relating to a new initiative involving Stamperland and Netherlee churches seeking to engage with secondary school age youths. Through discussions with Netherlee an outline structure had been developed and a one-page document describing this was handed to elders. In summary, it was proposed that meetings would be held each Sunday evening in Stamperland Church Halls; each evening would open with a 'thought for the evening', followed by activities and games, 'time out' for a snack and then a concluding session wrapping up the 'thought for the evening'. A wide range of activities was possible including invited speakers and, on occasions, activities outwith the church environment, e.g. to cinema, climbing centre, bowling, etc..

It was envisaged that there would need to be three or four PVG-checked leaders on duty each evening. It was hoped that there would be sufficient adult leaders that any one adult volunteer would be on duty only once per month.

Meeting with Leaders of the Uniformed Organisations

Scott Russell said that leaders of organisations had been unavailable over the summer and that he hoped arrangements for a meeting could be made following the parade on Sunday, 20th September.

9.4.2 Stewardship

David McKee advised of progress with Stewardship. The Stewardship Season would incorporate the last two Sundays of October and the first Sunday of November.

It was hoped that there could be a Talent Show but there was a realisation that perhaps it was now too late to organise such an event.

There would be a meeting, open to all church members, to talk about stewardship and talents on Wednesday, 7th October. The meeting would look at what might be done to highlight Stewardship within the church including a Stewardship lunch. Two Bible Study evenings were planned.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

10.1 Deaths

Bill Paterson reported the death of Mrs Helen Hutcheson, 70 Nethervale Avenue.

10.2 New Members

Bill Paterson advised of two new members, Mr Richard Carnachan and Mrs Doreen Carnachan, by Resolution of the Kirk Session. The Carnachan's home address was 132 Randolph Drive.

11 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

Anne MacKenzie gave a brief verbal report of the presbytery meeting held in September in Sherbrooke St Gilbert's Parish Church. Key points included:

Major wood rot problems mean that Presbytery's normal meeting place, Govan Linthouse Church, will be unavailable for some time.

Nine congregations have not yet submitted their 2014 Annual Report and Accounts. Only 71 have submitted Annual Report and Accounts to OSCR.

Stamperland Parish Church is due to have a Local Church Review undertaken this autumn.

Giffnock South Church have submitted applications of work to cover aspects of heating, insulation, glazing and lighting costing £88,000.

The Committee for Community Responsibility are planning to hold a half-day seminar on funerals exploring two topics - the relationships between ministers and undertakers and funeral poverty. Significant concerns have been raised about the costs of funerals with burial costs and funeral directors costs varying significantly throughout Scotland. The Church of Scotland, along with other interested parties, is seeking to address the issue. The Fair Funeral Campaign was set up in 2014 to invite Funeral Directors to sign up to offer affordable packages and display clearly all of their costs. Churches are encouraged to ask their local Funeral Directors to sign up to the Fair Funeral Pledge. Congregations are also asked to consider providing practical as well as emotional support through, for example, providing a funeral tea in the church hall or cars to transport folk to the funeral.

Scotland-wide consultations have been undertaken to gather information on how churches can enable people with learning difficulties to feel that they belong in their church family and enable them to participate in the life and work and worship of their particular congregation.

The Palestine Ecumenical Forum of the World Council of Churches invited Christians to join together for a World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel between the 20th and 26th September as well as the ongoing request for prayer on the 24th of each month.

12 UPDATE ON VACANCY

The Interim Moderator advised that there was little to report. He said that there had been a meeting attended by himself, Tom Nelson and the two Session Clerks from Stamperland and Netherlee with Hilary McDougall and the Presbytery's Mission Strategy Convenor on 31st August. At that meeting there had been discussion about options for the "joining" of the two churches. The meeting concluded with Presbytery accepting the task of preparing draft proposals which could be discussed by the two Kirk Sessions at their meeting on 5th October.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the date of the next Kirk Session Meeting would be Monday 5th October. This meeting would be a joint meeting with the Kirk Session of Netherlee Parish Church. Subsequent Kirk Session meetings were agreed as 2nd November and 9th December.

14 OTHER MATTERS

Grace Scott said she wished to congratulate Jack Drummond on the nature of the services he had led at the Clarkston Care Home. The last service had been attended by almost a dozen residents and a slightly larger number of members from Stamperland; the atmosphere which had been created was really excellent and the content of the service had been most appropriate and very fitting.

15 PROGRESS FOLLOWING JOINT MEETING WITH NETHERLEE IN JUNE

The Session Clerk gave a PowerPoint presentation which summarised some of the activities undertaken during the meeting held on 6th June with representatives from Netherlee Parish Church. During the meeting a significant number of ideas had been developed in relation to

promoting the growth and development of the churches. The facilitator, Iain Campbell, had noted all of the ideas and had produced various summary documents. These included lists of actions which could be undertaken in the short term and others which were seen as long-term. There were also documents which summarised specific activities which elders considered priority actions and listed specific actions, timescales and names of people responsible for progressing activities.

The clerk said that there had been quite a delay between the meeting and the receipt of the documents and some of the enthusiasm generated on the 6th June had dissipated. Those present were urged to look at the ideas which had been recorded and the short-term actions which had been agreed and endeavour to make sure that steps were being taken to progress the outstanding actions.

16 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES JOINT KIRK SESSION MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2015

CONSTITUTION

In the Main Sanctuary of Netherlee Church on Monday, 5 October 2015 at 7.30 pm the Kirk Sessions of Netherlee and Stamperland met and was constituted with prayer, led by Rev. Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator of Stamperland.

1 SEDERUNT and WELCOME.

Rev Thomas Nelson, Chairman, 35 Elders from Netherlee and 25 elders from Stamperland were present as recorded on the Netherlee Sederunt sheet and Stamperland attendance book with apologies received from 12 Netherlee elders and 5 Stamperland elders. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 SETTING THE SCENE.

As this was the first time Tom had an opportunity to speak to both Kirk Sessions he thought he would start the meeting by getting us to think about where we are,

- The Church has for several years seen congregations diminish in size with fewer people entering the Ministry
- Each presbytery was charged with drawing up its own Plan in order to better use the resources of the CofS across the country, recognising there were not enough ministers to go around.
- In 2012 Glasgow Presbytery settled on a 10 year plan which involved the union of several congregations, with Netherlee and Stamperland being two such congregations. Other churches on the south side were in a similar position e.g. Busby to unite with Greenbank, Williamwood with Giffnock South, Park Church with Thornliebank etc.

- Life and Work in October has a good article by the convener of the Ministries Council describing initiatives to seek new forms of ministry for the future. We simply cannot continue as we have done. We need to look forward and embrace the challenges with change.
- We have very similar parish demographics, both comprise the catchment area of the Primary School. The congregations are within ½ a mile of one another. To have two ministers doing the same job in the same area is a luxury we can no longer afford to have
- This is a marvellous opportunity to pool our considerable resources and together form a new Ministry team using our existing buildings and enthusiastic members of our congregations to serve our area in a way more suitable to the 21st Century. The vision is for a new church with one ministry team and one Kirk Session committed to ministering the Gospel across the area of both Parishes. The Presbytery Plan allows for one Minister of Word and Sacrament, a Part time MDS and an Ordained Local Minister. That team would decide what kind of post the MDS would be to best serve the Church.
- When George MacKay demitted the charge of Stamperland the Presbytery automatically looked at the Plan and raised the question of how this could be progressed. Tom was asked if he was likely to retire at 65 and after thinking about it felt the best way forward for the Church in our area was that he should go at 65 and leave the way open for a new beginning for the ministry of our two Parishes. And so we have a draft proposal from Presbytery as to how we might navigate through the next few years in order to achieve this new church,
- It is not a case of one congregation taking over the other to continue the same old way of doing church. It is a merger, an equal coming together with one purpose and one direction. To serve the Church of Jesus Christ faithfully and creatively.

3. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT BASIS OF DEFERRED LINKAGE LEADING TO UNION.

3.1 Netherlee Views and Concerns

The Session Clerk summarised the points raised by Netherlee from its meeting on 4 October,

1. The wording about using Stamperland's manse in the first instance needs to be clarified as on completion of the linkage a decision on which manse will be used needs to be taken by the two Kirk Sessions.
2. Looking at what type of Minister is wanted could take some time. Jointly we need to clarify our vision and what we are looking for. We need to agree the principles and get a wholehearted commitment from Stamperland.
3. We believe that a better steer is required from the Church of Scotland as by now they should have a wealth of experience in relation to bringing churches together under linkage and union. Are there examples of "best practice" and of pitfalls.
4. We need clarification that it is both Churches that are looking for a new minister and not just Stamperland.
5. If we achieved a new Minister in 2017, that might not be a long enough transition.
6. The period of transition needs to be carefully managed so as not to disadvantage Netherlee.
7. The Draft fudges the position. A joint Vision needs to be agreed first
8. The joint Nominations Committee if it is proportionate to the roll what happens if there is dissent?
9. We believe Stamperland's Appeal needs to be withdrawn otherwise how can we even begin to produce a Joint Vision.
10. When Tom retires and the linkage is complete our congregations need to know once there is only one Minister who will lead worship at both Churches, what the times services will be held and just how will things work. The Ministry team we want will be very important.
11. The timescale suggested by Hilary was seen as too optimistic.
12. The draft is seen by us as very biased towards Stamperland.

13. Our joint meetings need to be non threatening, and positive and provide an opportunity for debate and challenge.

While all of these points and concerns are valid the critical ones to focus on are:-

1. The Stamperland Appeal needs to be withdrawn
2. Together we need to produce a Joint Vision document and agree it before we can consider moving forward as suggested in the Draft Plan.
3. Review the time scale as it is too tight.
4. Can Stamperland agree to full Union within 2 years of Tom retiring?

3.2 Stamperland's Views and Concerns

The Session Clerk summarised the views of Stamperland Church from its meeting on 4 October.

1. Within its Kirk Session there is a wide diversity of opinion and they have not come to a settled view. Their plan is to discuss it tonight and at their November meeting come to a final agreed view.

2. There is a very strong attachment to Stamperland Church. There are 3 broad groupings of Trustees:-

a). The first group cannot ever imagine not being independent.
b). The second group see issues with an ageing and declining membership and facing lots of challenges; it is a struggle to meet financial commitments; pressures to find leaders; civil law requirements; OSCR demands; Health & Safety issues; and PVG requirements. This group sees that coming together can mitigate some of these challenges by making best use of all resources and sharing skills. Joining together can help both Churches.

c). In the third group are those who see two churches coming together as something very positive and something to be welcomed. They recognise the problem areas we face and the benefits of working together. More than that, they see two churches stronger together than apart. They see us working together to try to reverse the decline in membership, to offer additional forms of worship on days and times to suit single parents, split families, shift workers, the elderly, and the chronically sick.

3. Looking specifically at the Draft basis for Deferred Linkage leading to Union they had the following comments:-

Clause 3 There is a concern about the vagueness of this clause. As to who would lead worship on Sundays, would it be the Minister, the OLM or the ½ MDS? Would it be week about or month about? Would it be the Minister who would take services at both churches each week? What would happen on special Sundays like Remembrance or Easter – how would the Minister decide in which church worship would be held? Wording also needs to be included to state that both churches will continue to be used once the two congregations are united.

Buildings Plan. Under the current Plan, Netherlee is classed as Cat.1 while Stamperland is classed as Cat 4. It is felt that this highlights one church as important and one as not important. Stamperland are looking for a level playing field that both sets of buildings are equal, both congregations are equal and both Kirk Sessions are equal. There is a concern about Stamperland being taken over by Netherlee.

Linkage and Union. There are those on the Kirk Session who see linkage as just about acceptable and Union as one step too far.

Time scale. They see the time scales as overly ambitious.

Manse. (Clause 8) Wording needs to be added to the effect that on completion of the linkage a decision on which manse will be used as the home of the Minister will be taken by the two Kirk Sessions.

Tom thanked both Session Clerks for their summaries and invited comments from the meeting.

3.3 General Discussion

For clarification on the Buildings Plan Tom Nelson confirmed that a Cat 4 classification meant that the Presbytery were “undecided” on the position – not that Stamperland was less important. It was up to both Kirk Sessions to decide what buildings they wanted to carry out their Parish mission.

In answer to a question on the practical difference between a Linkage and a Union Tom explained that under a Linkage there would be two Kirk Sessions, two Treasurers, two Session Clerks, etc., in short, two of everything with the Minister running ragged between the two. Under a Union one Kirk Session would control both sets of buildings and one enlarged congregation and only one set of sub-groups. The advantage is clear that it reduces the Minister's workload and simplifies the administration by reducing the number of people to fill key posts.

The new Minister is Minister of both churches. No change to number of organisations although there may be a challenge to consider uniting e.g. only one BB company (although that may be a step to far) but it illustrates the point. At the end of the day, it is up to the two Kirk Sessions to decide where we are going together and what we want.

Stamperland indicated that a lot depended on the views of the new minister who might try to dictate how the churches would work together which might not be in accord with the wishes of the Kirk Sessions. They wanted to know if the Kirk Session could overturn the wishes of the Minister and tell him/her what to do? It was felt that a minister who went against the wishes of his/her Kirk Session would do so at their peril.

Tom advised that discerning the right person is very difficult. Gray advised it was important that we were able to present our vision to any candidates - it was not for the candidate to ride roughshod over what we wanted.

Tom confirmed that Netherlee was very keen to work on a Joint Vision but that before we could even consider that it would be desirable indeed necessary for Stamperland to withdraw its appeal so that there was wholehearted support by both Kirk Sessions to develop the Joint Vision. There was a groundswell from the floor from Stamperland supporting this view. Norrie commented that the Presbytery Plan had been approved by Presbytery and by 121 George Street so Stamperland would have to prove that the whole basis of the Plan was flawed. It was difficult to see how Stamperland could win and if they lost the Presbytery might insist on going straight to a Union. Norrie recommended not continuing with the Appeal. Gray said that he believed any appeal would now be against the proposals detailed in the draft basis of deferred linkage leading to union and, in the event that the appeal was unsuccessful, the proposals as they stood could be enforced.

Norrie reminded the meeting that Stamperland was not self-sustaining.

Tom suggested we shouldn't dwell on the past but rather look forward to a new Ministry.

The view was expressed that Stamperland wanted to work together with Netherlee but with no time limit for completing a Union. Others saw no reason to postpone formalising the Union as soon as we could. For clarification, the time scale of two years ran from the date of Tom's retirement i.e. by 31 July 2020.

Netherlee pointed out it was up to the two Kirk Sessions to decide on the timings to suit us all.

David McKee from Stamperland was asked by Tom for his views. David commented that he had softened his views but he thought that they needed to consider the following carefully:

1. Stamperland needed to be clear on the question of where services would be held and when and by whom.
2. From his experience we needed to be careful about using an MDS or Pastoral Assistant for preaching.

3. For Pastoral care it was necessary for there to be a team to help the Minister.
4. It could easily take up to 18 months to find a new Minister.
5. The proposed time scale to achieve full Union he felt was not reasonable and that Presbytery were railroading us into making a decision before we were ready. He thought the Plan was for discussion!

The meeting was reminded that Stamperland were without a minister and had been relying on the goodwill of the Rev Jack Drummond, with whom the congregation were very happy, but could they continue to rely on him for a further 18 months? She hoped they could. Jack, who was present at the meeting, kept his powder dry!!

A final comment was made that it was felt Presbytery should have said right from the start that there was to be a Union; much time and effort had been expended looking at alternatives when Presbytery had been insistent all along on Union.

4 SUMMING UP

Tom summed up the views of the meeting:-

1. Stamperland had to formally agree to withdraw their Appeal.
2. Both Kirk Sessions to produce a Joint Vision – then develop the time scales.
3. The Stamperland Buildings Cat 4 to be challenged with help from Netherlee, if thought to be helpful.
4. The Draft basis document would require to be revised once we have worked out a Joint Vision.
5. Tom would advise Hilary of the outcome of our meeting tonight.

Work on the Joint Vision to start immediately with an outline vision being developed in advance of the next formal Kirk Session meetings on 3 and 4 November. At these meetings the outline vision document would be developed by each Kirk Session with subsequent joint meetings of the two Kirk Sessions being held to reach an agreed vision of the way ahead.

[Post meeting Note : A small group comprising the two Session Clerks and representatives from their Session sub groups would form the working party to produce the outline Vision.]

Norrie said he believed the majority view of those attending was positive and that the two churches were willing to pull together. Unlike the majority of churches in a suburban Linkage or Union we were fairly unusual in that Presbytery recognised the strength of both churches and were planning to keep both churches open. He was applauded for his comments.

It was suggested and agreed our next joint meeting should be held in Stamperland.

Stamperland thanked Tom for Chairing the meeting and for hosting it.

5 DATE OF NEXT JOINT MEETING.

To be decided once the November meetings have been held.

6 CLOSE

The meeting was closed by the saying of the grace together.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2015
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Second Thessalonians Chapter 1 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Kay Baird, Jean Cranston, Edith Moseley, Marie Owens, Connell Cranston and Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 25 elders and 5 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meeting held on 14th September and 5th October

The draft minute of the meeting held 14th September was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by David McKee. Minute signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

The draft minute of the meeting held on 5th October was circulated prior to the meeting. David McKee asked that in section 3.2 the point headed 2 be amended to read, "From his experience an MDS or Pastoral Assistant would not always preach." With this amendment acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Steven Owens and seconded by Ray McNiven. Minute signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Data protection letter to all members

Item 6.1 of the minutes of 14th September. The Session Clerk advised that some 130 responses were outstanding. Members who had not yet returned forms would be identified and elders would be asked to deliver a new version of the letter and consent form to those members in advance of the December Communion.

6.2 Use of large TV screen

Item 6.2 of the minutes of 14th September. Roy Allan and Steven Owens would investigate options for locating the large screen in the hall vestibule and using it to relay information about church events and activities. It was possible that the monitor might not be compatible with current technology.

6.3 Try praying booklet

Item 7.1 of the minutes of 14th September. The Session Clerk informed elders that the Business Committee were recommending the purchase of 100 copies of the booklet. These would be made available for members of the congregation to pick up early in January in advance of the week of prayer for Christian unity.

6.4 Fees for Weddings and Funerals

Item 7.3.2 of the minutes of 14th September. The Session Clerk advised elders that he had ascertained the charges for weddings and funerals adopted by local churches including Carmunnock, Greenbank, Netherlee and Williamwood. Based on these figures the Business Committee had proposed a series of charges. There was considerable discussion in relation to the proposed charge for the use of the church for weddings and an amended proposal was agreed as follows.

Funeral

Organist's fee	£75
Church Officer fee	£65

No charge for the use of the church but suggest that a donation may be appropriate.

Wedding

Organist's fee £75 (£150 if video recording is made)

Church Officer fee £65

No charge for the use of the church but suggest that a donation may be appropriate.

The Minister would have discretion to modify or waive these charges, particularly in relation to the use of the church.

6.5 Announcement of deaths

Item 9.4.1 of the minutes of 14th September. Steven Owens stated that several deaths had been announced on occasions when children were present in the sanctuary and asked if the previously agreed policy could be implemented. The Session Clerk said that on the occasions when this had happened there had either been a parade of uniformed organisations when children had been present for the whole service or Stepping Stones had been on holiday and any children present had been sitting with parents. Rev Jack Drummond said that he would announce deaths of members just before the prayers of intercession.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.3.1 Letter from Lodging House Mission

Norman Bolton advised that he had received a letter from the Lodging House Mission thanking the church for the donation of Harvest Goods.

7.3.2 Local Church Review

Norman Bolton said that Business Committee Convenors, Interim Moderator and Session Clerk had attended a meeting on 29th October at which the Local Church Review Team had explained the review process. The Review demanded completion of some rather lengthy documents which sought quite detailed information about the life and work of our church and our aspirations and plans for the future. Members of the Presbytery Team would come to the church on Thursday, 26th November to meet church representatives, ask questions and endeavour to assist us in developing our plans for future action in relation to the forward mission and ministry of the church.

The Session Clerk said that the nature of the Local Church Review meeting on the 26th November was not particularly clear. Some weeks previously the Team Leader had implied that the meeting could be attended by a large number of people; however, the format described at the meeting on the 29th October was one which suggested that it would be appropriate to have perhaps no more than a dozen to 16 elders, trustees or members present. He asked people who were interested in participating in the review meeting to speak to him.

In response to questions about the review and comparisons with quinquennial visitations Gray Fletcher stated that the concept behind the LCR process was that the new review came with the intention of being more forward-looking, supportive of new initiatives and to encourage churches; quinquennials tended to look at past achievements and resolution of any problem areas.

8. SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

Margot Young said that she had completed two sessions of training for the PVG co-ordinator role. The PVG regulations required that there were additional individuals with responsibility for the operation of PVG within the church and she would approach people to work with her.

8.2 Health and Safety

Jane Curror said that there now a paper towel dispenser in the accessible toilet in the church vestibule.

David McKee advised that there was a girl with visual impairment in the Rainbows. It would be necessary to highlight the noses of stairs in the hall with some form of high visibility tape or other markers and to fit a second, low-level, handrail. Alan Henderson undertook to ensure the provision of this requirement.

8.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Alan Henderson informed the meeting that the CCTV was not operating and he would request Rogers Security to service the equipment.

9.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported that income and expenditure were close to the budget figures.

In response to a question from David McKee, Kay confirmed that the church has a CCL licence enabling videos to be shown. The cost of the CCL licence this year was £462.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

Steven Owens reported that he would be seeking a group of volunteers to help him develop and plan the “Pie, Pint and Prayer” and asked interested parties to speak to him at the conclusion of the meeting.

It was reported that the Junior Section of the Boys’ Brigade were not organising a Christmas Fair this year. It was understood that the leaders of the junior section believed that the income was not commensurate with the effort involved and that they had alternative plans for fund-raising activities. The Fund Raising Committee would look at opportunities for congregational fund raising in relation to alternative events in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

9.3. MISSION

Nancy Fisher presented the Mission report.

9.3.1 Fund Raising and Social

Nancy said that Steven Owens had volunteered to take over responsibility for the Fundraising Committee and there would be a meeting of the Committee on Wednesday of this week.

Alison Linich is arranging the Camel Drive to be held on 7th November.

Arrangements have been made for the David Milligan Quiz to be held in April.

Arrangements for Sounds International Concert to be held probably 1st March are being made.

9.3.2 Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee met on 12th October. Key points included

- Transport arrangements continue with the Committee seeking to increase the number of drivers for Sunday and during the week;
- There has been no uptake of the Library Service but an article will be put in Focus regarding this.
- Discussions regarding a Lunch Club are ongoing with Committee members undertaking tasks to find out information on various points to be considered as it is felt this Venture should not be rushed into.

9.3.3 Parish and Beyond

Christmas cards for the Lodging House Mission and the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice are being sold on Sunday morning and, to date, around £300 has been raised.

The congregation were being reminded of our Wednesday morning Open Door and also Netherlee’s Wednesday Morning Service followed by coffee. There was a desire to encourage more people to attend.

It is planned to have the usual Christmas lunch for the Open Door Helpers in December.

At the last Peace and Justice Meeting the representatives were asked to contact their local councilors regarding the Refugee situation. Evelyn contacted Councilors Ralph Robertson, Mary Montague and Gordon McCaskill all of whom replied to her. The information received was that ER would be housing 50 families.

There are several agencies which are appealing for items and donations. The situation, together with how local communities can help, will be discussed by the Council. Evelyn will take the responses back to the Peace and Justice Committee which meets later this month.

9.4 NURTURE

Margo Neilson intimated that the Worship and Education Committees were scheduled to meet soon.

9.4.1 Stewardship

David McKee presented a review of the activities which had taken place during the Stewardship Season and looked to the outcomes and future plans. The initial meeting to organise the Stewardship events had been attended by 14 people. Around a dozen people had participated in each of two Bible Study evenings; those who had attended were very positive about the format and would be keen to participate in similar events. The three sermons preached by Jack Drummond during the Stewardship Season had been very effective in highlighting that Stewardship was not just about money but about wider service including the practical use of individual's skills and capabilities in a host of different ways.

Future plans to promote the development of a Stewardship Culture in the church included a discussion on talents at a Kirk Session meeting and a feature on talents and Stewardship in the February edition of Focus. A "Stamperland's Got Talent" event was being considered for the end of January 2016 and a 'Buddy Trustee' system was being investigated.

10 BUDGET FOR 2016

10.1 Budget Overview

A printed page showing various categories of income and expenditure including the actual out-turn for 2014, the estimated out-turn for 2015 and the proposed budget figures for 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Kay Bolton compared various income and expenditure figures highlighting the reasons behind any significant changes from year to year and explaining how the 2016 budget figures were derived.

Key points included the following: In 2015 we had seen a good response from the congregation to requests to consider increasing church offerings – it was assumed that this good state of affairs would continue. There had been a donation of £5,000 in March 2015 from the Stamperland Residents Association following the sale of the tennis club grounds – this was clearly a one-off donation. It was anticipated that the General Trustees would contribute £9,000 this year from the rental income for the manse towards the cost of the roof refurbishment. Some £6,000 income had been derived from the hall let to Baby Sensory – it was anticipated that hall lets would continue at the current level throughout the following year. Various church organisations had made donations this year including The Guild (£350) and the Scouts (£325). In the previous year the Guides had donated £160, the Brownies £55, Stamperland Pipe Band £500 and The Guild £400. Noting that the BB had not made a donation, Scott Russell said he would raise this with the BB.

Kay said that based on the assumptions she had described, the budget for 2016 showed a surplus for the year of £3,000. Elders commended the Treasurer for her presentation and for her good work throughout the year.

All present agreed the adoption of the proposed budget.

10.2 Employee Costs

The treasurer explained to the meeting that when Alison Macfarlane was appointed to the post of church cleaner the church had become a new employer and was obliged to register with HMRC. Understanding the requirements of HMRC, the process of registering and providing information to HMRC had proved difficult and was very stressful. In two years time there would be a requirement for the church to register for an employee pension scheme even though no employee of the church might wish or be eligible to join the pension scheme. She said that she had approached two firms of accountants to enquire about their costs for dealing with employee pay, employee tax and, eventually, employee pensions. O'Hara had quoted £432 per annum; Fields & Company of Giffnock had quoted £240 per annum.

The meeting agreed that Fields & Company should be paid deal with employee pay, tax and pension matters.

11. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

10.1 Deaths

Mr Robert Fergusson	181 Randolph Drive
Mrs Muriel Rae	Westlea Care Home, Neilston
Miss Helen Burt	5 Orchy Avenue
Mr Robert Miller (May 2011)	3 West Montrose St, Helensburgh.
Mrs Eleanor Barr	29 Nethervale Avenue

10.2 Change of Address

	From	To
Mrs Ruth Cooper	50 Brownlie St	101 Carmunnock Rd.
Mr David Macdonald	136 The Oval	32 Allison Place, Newton Mearns
Mrs Sheila Macdonald	136 The Oval	32 Allison Place, Newton Mearns
Mrs June Marshall	35 Heather Wynd	Walton Court, Giffnock
Miss Evelyn Campbell	67 Bowman St, Glasgow	Flat 37, Homeburn House 177 Fenwick Road, Giffnock

10.3 Adjustment of Elder's Districts

After discussion with Nancy Fisher and Evelyn Graham, Districts 9 and 10 will be merged and covered by Nancy; District 13, (formerly Grace Walker's district,) will be covered by Evelyn.

11 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

A printed report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

The Session Clerk drew the attention of those present to the paragraph summarising the World Mission project "Let us build a house". The Church of Scotland has been working to support activities in the Dhading region of Nepal since 2005. This region is one of the poorest in Nepal and was badly affected by the earthquake in April 2015. One of the projects being supported is the building of earthquake-resistant homes for over 7,000 families. Each house will cost around £500. The World Mission Council has challenged every presbytery in Scotland to raise money for at least one house, with the hope that much more will be forthcoming. The Session Clerk proposed that the retiring offering from the December Communion as well as offerings from the Christmas Eve services could go towards this appeal. All present agreed with this proposal.

12 PRESBYTERY PLAN

12.1 Current Position

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the current position. Both Stamperland and Netherlee elders had separately discussed the draft document, "basis of deferred linkage leading to union" prepared by Glasgow Presbytery. Views and concerns highlighted by each of the Kirk Sessions had been presented at the joint meeting of the two Kirk Sessions held on 5th October. The concerns and observations raised had been fed back to presbytery and a response was awaited.

One point made by the elders at Netherlee was that no substantive progress could be made whilst Stamperland Church had a live appeal against the Presbytery Plan. The Session Clerk said that this was an issue which had to be discussed this evening and a firm decision made on whether to leave the appeal active or to withdraw it.

The other task to be undertaken this evening was to review a draft document prepared by a group of elders from Stamperland and Netherlee setting out a joint vision for the two churches.

12.2 Stamperland's Appeal against the Presbytery Plan

There was a wide-ranging discussion about proceeding with the appeal or withdrawing the appeal.

Views were expressed that presbytery were making Stamperland "jump" and were forcing a decision to be made quickly when presbytery, themselves, had delayed matters and were going at a slow pace. Gray Fletcher indicated that the appeal process could take some six to eight months to reach a conclusion.

Other elders spoke to the effect that the appeal had to be withdrawn, that it was essential to go forward amicably and with trust. In the early days of the Presbytery Plan there had been fears that Stamperland Church would be closed – that was no longer the case with the plan explicitly stating that both sets of church buildings would be retained and used and that there would be Sunday worship in both churches.

Steven Owens said that he had been strongly in favour of the appeal against the plan; he believed that both the process used to develop the plan and the final result were flawed. However, he was now of the view that there was no point in continuing to appeal.

Gray Fletcher said that in the past, appeals against linkage or union were often about retaining a building or set of buildings. Stamperland’s current appeal would have to be that the process used to determine that Stamperland should have 0.7 FTE minister was flawed. If the appeal were successful, it might be that Stamperland’s allocation could be raised to 0.8 FTE. But, this would still mean that we would have to link up with another congregation.

One elder said she was amazed when she heard an elder at Netherlee say at the joint meeting that he thought the draft document, “basis of deferred linkage leading to union” was biased towards Stamperland. Gray Fletcher said that this showed how people in both congregations could feel strongly about aspects which could affect their own church.

Gordon Robertson proposed that the discussion be brought to a conclusion and that he proposed that Stamperland Parish Church withdraw its appeal against the Presbytery Plan. This was seconded by Evelyn Graham. Elders voted with 26 in favour of the proposal, with two voting against and two abstaining.

12.3 Development of a Joint Vision

The Session Clerk told the meeting that elders from Netherlee and Stamperland had met to develop a Joint Vision for the two churches. A copy of the draft Joint Vision had been distributed in advance of this evening’s Session meeting and the intention was that the seven points would be reviewed, with elders suggesting amendments or additions. Based on feedback from both Kirk Sessions a final document would be prepared which would then become the Joint Vision of the two congregations.

The Session Clerk took the meeting through the Joint Vision document, reproduced below. There was positive discussion in relation to all seven points and no alterations were proposed. The Kirk Session agreed to adopt the Joint Vision.

BUILDING TOGETHER

- Both Churches are working successfully, which is why Glasgow Presbytery has agreed to keep both places of worship and both suites of halls open. This is fairly unique in Linkage/Union terms. We are a vibrant force full of life and activities.
- We want to build on what we already have, and have already achieved. Working together we are keen to develop our existing activities, to explore and implement additional ideas and ventures and to expand the role of the church in our community.
- We are committed to always having Sunday morning services in both churches. Additionally we wish the new ministry team to work with the congregations and, building on what we currently have, develop alternative, inclusive and complementary forms of worship which recognise demands brought about by age or mobility or health or by time constraints such as family and work commitments and make full use of opportunities provided by new technologies. Our focus is that our worship is not constrained to take place only on a Sunday or in a single format.
- Our churches should be all inclusive to meet the needs of all age groups and abilities within the Congregations.
- We seek to interact with all organisations using our premises, to encourage them to become more involved in the whole life of the churches and not just to make use of the accommodation available.

- We seek to develop our relations with our Community. We have a natural “village” feel about the enlarged Parish stretching from Muirend Road to Clarkston Toll, and bounded by the railway line in the west and the River Cart in the east.
- Together we want to extend the Church Family, sharing our faith within the Parish.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the date of the next Kirk Session Meeting would be Wednesday 9th December.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
JOINT KIRK SESSION MEETING
MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2015
STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH**

1. CONSTITUTION

In the Main Sanctuary of Stamperland Church on Monday, 23rd November 2015 at 7.30 pm the Kirk Sessions of Netherlee and Stamperland met. The meeting was constituted with a reading from Colossians Chapter 3 and prayer, by Rev. Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator of Stamperland.

2 SEDERUNT and APPOLOGIES.

Rev Gray Fletcher, Rev Tom Nelson, 23 elders from Netherlee and 18 trustees from Stamperland were present as recorded on the Netherlee Sederunt sheet and Stamperland Sederunt book. Appologies received from 13 Netherlee elders and 8 Stamperland trustees.

3 JOINT VISION DOCUMENT

Rev Gray Fletcher suggested that the Joint Vision document be considered, initially, point-by-point.

3.1 Point 1

Agreed.

3.2 Point 2

Agreed.

3.3 Point 3

There was lengthy discussion and debate relating to the inclusion of the word, “always” in the first line.

Rev Tom Nelson said that he believed that use of the word, “always” would lock-in something which we might regret in the fullness of time and that it could be seen as closing down options. It could prove an impediment in finding a minister who would be committed to two churches and two Sunday morning services for all time. He suggested replacing the word, “always” with “the foreseeable future”. For quite some time ahead there will be Sunday morning services in both churches and any change could only follow from a decision made by the two Kirk Sessions and the new minister.

Mrs Catherine Nelson supported this change saying that the Joint Vision should not constrain worship nor the development of complimentary forms of worship; additionally, services could

alternate between church buildings. Alastair Graham said that, in line with Point 1, we should be seeking to make use of both church buildings as much as we could. Scott Russell said that the majority of the two congregations simply wanted to have their place of worship to be as it was and were quite unconcerned by Kirk Session structures, ministry appointments, etc..

Tom Nelson said that it was important that there was a coming together of members of both churches and the development of a new impetus and a new enthusiasm; we had to keep the future free for the work of God amongst us; that the same old model of church wasn't necessarily what we should cling to. Ships, he said, were not built to stay in a harbour – rather they were built for the open seas; we should be bold and trust the Holy Spirit to blow us along to new destinations.

Rev Gray Fletcher said that use of the word “always” does tie us down. There are certain Sundays, for example, Remembrance Sunday, when we might wish to do things at the same time. The use of “always” could be inappropriate and an alternative form of wording allowing “wriggle room” would be beneficial.

George Finlayson said that he believed the word, “always” served to protect both churches. Not having a service every Sunday could lead to not having services on a regular basis and eventual closure of one church.

Several suggestions for alternative wording were proposed. Alastair Graham proposed, “We are committed to attempting to have Sunday morning services in both churches”. Steven Owens proposed, “We are committed to alternating Special Sunday morning services between the two churches”. Helen Illingworth proposed, “We are committed to having Sunday worship in both churches”. Stuart Buchanan proposed replacing “always” with the “foreseeable future” but specifying an approximate timescale for the foreseeable future, e.g. five years or ten years.

Neil Illingworth said that he was excited by the idea of Union. He could envisage coming to worship at Stamperland some Sundays as an alternative to worshiping in Netherlee just as people from Stamperland would be welcomed at Netherlee. He emphasised the importance of being open to different visions for the future. Were he to be a prospective new minister of the linked charge of Stamperland and Netherlee, reading the word “always” in the Joint Vision would make him doubt the commitment to some of the new forms of worship expressed further on in the statement.

Fraser Neilson proposed that there was a vote on the inclusion of the word “always” and this was agreed. In the vote, 33 people voted in favour of omitting the word “always” with four people voting to retain the word “always”.

There was then a vote on the proposal put forward by Mrs Illingworth, namely that the first sentence should read; “We are committed to having Sunday worship in both churches.” Thirty people voted in favour of this proposal; five voted against.

3.4 Point 4

Agreed.

3.5 Point 5

Agreed.

3.6 Point 6

Agreed.

3.7 Point 7

Agreed.

3.8 Adoption of Joint Vision as amended

Gray Fletcher formally asked those present if they agreed with The Joint Vision as amended. It was agreed.

4 PRESBYTERY BUILDING PLAN

4.1 Classification of Stamperland Buildings as “4”

Norman Bolton outlined the background to the issue. Early drafts of the Presbytery Buildings Plan gave Stamperland Church a “category 4 classification”. He explained that in April 2014 he had written to the Presbytery Property Committee formally raising Stamperland Church’s objection to the category 4; in response, Anthony Ireland, the Convener of the Presbytery

Property Committee indicated that the category 4 meant “undecided” and simply meant that Presbytery had not come to a decision about Stamperland and its buildings. Mr Ireland stated that Stamperland would be fully involved in any decisions related to the future of the building and requested that the objection be set aside. Norman Bolton said that in response to Mr Ireland’s request he had agreed that the objection be “set aside”.

In May 2014 there had been a meeting at Stamperland attended by three representatives of Glasgow Presbytery – Rev Stuart Smith, Mission Strategy Convenor, Very Rev Bill Hewitt, Presbytery Clerk and Chris MacRae. At the meeting the presbytery representatives were very clear that, under the Presbytery Plan, they expected all of the existing church buildings at Stamperland and Netherlee (excluding Kirk House) to be retained and fully utilised and that both churches would have regular morning worship each Sunday.

More recently, in September 2015, we had received the document “Draft basis of deferred linkage leading to union”, Clause 3 of which stated, “Both churches at present used and occupied by Netherlee Parish (Church of Scotland) and Stamperland Parish (Church of Scotland) shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations.”

He said that there had been an assumption that the foregoing meant that in the Buildings Plan Stamperland’s ‘Category 4’ would automatically be changed to ‘Category 1’. He had therefore been surprised to discover that the timetable document produced by Hilary McDougall indicated that there was a requirement for the congregations of Netherlee and Stamperland to make a case for the retention of both sets of buildings. He advised that he had written to Alistair MacKenzie of the Presbytery Property Committee to seek clarification of the position and was awaiting a reply.

A significant number of those present spoke of being upset, disappointed, let down and astonished at the apparent need to have to justify the continued use of both buildings. Tom Nelson said that both churches are committed to the use of the two buildings – the accommodation is required to enable the uniformed organisations, church groups, community groups, primary school, etc. to meet. There is a clear case for retaining all accommodation. Gray Fletcher said that he believed that the issue was rather more related to presbytery procedures rather than there being any intention to close one set of buildings. With any vacancy, even such as a straightforward vacancy, various presbytery committees had to express a view; these included finance, property, strategy, etc. committees. To a large extent, these committees had to “tick boxes” to enable the Presbytery to give a church the right to call a minister; if correct procedures weren’t followed problems could arise. It wasn’t a case of “us against presbytery” but, rather of us getting caught up in presbytery procedures and some committees being out of synchronisation.

Several people highlighted that the timetable document produced by Hilary McDougall indicated that the congregational vote was planned to take place in May 2016 in advance of the Property Committee receiving the submission from Netherlee and Stamperland seeking a change of classification for the Stamperland buildings.

John Montgomery proposed that a Working Group should be established to prepare a case for the retention of both sets of buildings. The case for retention would look at the current and future use of the buildings, future developments, associated costs and available finance.

Rev Gray Fletcher proposed that establishment of a Working Group should be delayed until Norman Bolton had received a reply from the Presbytery Property Committee and the situation related to buildings was clarified with Presbytery. This was agreed.

5 CHANGES TO THE DRAFT BASIS OF DEFERRED LINKAGE AND UNION DOCUMENT

5.1 Clause 8 - Manse

John Montgomery said that Hilary McDougall had agreed to seek an amended form of words in relation to Clause 8 regarding the manse. The amendment would see the insertion into the second sentence after the words, “At the completion of the linkage” the following, “both Kirk Sessions, in conjunction with the minister and the Parish Property Committee, shall determine the future of the current manses of Netherlee Parish Church and Stamperland Parish Church.” The request to amend the wording had been submitted to Edinburgh.

5.2 Clause 10 - Power to Readjust

John Montgomery said that Hilary McDougall had consulted with Edinburgh and had received confirmation that this clause could not be amended save that the phrase “within 2 years” could possibly be amended to “within 3 years”.

5.3 Clause 3 – Places of Worship

Steven Owens requested that the first sentence of clause 3 be amended by the addition of the word “united”, thereby changing the final words to read “..... places of worship of the linked / united congregations”. It was agreed that John Montgomery would contact Hillary McDougall to seek the amendment.

6 FURTHER JOINT MEETINGS

6.1 Background

Gray Fletcher reminded those present that at the previous meeting it had been suggested it could be useful to hear of the experiences of other churches which had linked and united in order to learn of good practice.

6.2 Thoughts regarding Union

Tom Nelson had approached Rev Dr Leslie Milton, minister at Cambuslang Parish Church. Cambuslang Church had been formed by the uniting of three churches; one church had been sold, one was used largely for community purposes with one used for worship.

It was agreed that Dr Milton should be invited to address a joint meeting of Stamperland and Netherlee Sessions on Saturday, 23rd January. The meeting would be held in Netherlee Church; the start time would be 10.00am and the meeting would finish before noon.

6.3 Fresh Expressions

Tom Nelson had approached Rev David McCarthy, a Church of Scotland Fresh Expressions worker. It was agreed that he would be invited to address a joint meeting of Stamperland and Netherlee Sessions on Wednesday, 10th February. The meeting would be held in Stamperland Church and start at 7.30 pm.

7 WITHDRAWAL OF OBJECTION TO PRESBYTERY PLAN

It was confirmed that Stamperland Parish Church had formally withdrawn its objection to the Presbytery Plan. Norman Bolton said that he had received acknowledgement of the withdrawal from the Presbytery Clerk.

8 PIE, PINT AND PRAYER EVENT

Steven Owens advised those present of a forthcoming worship event at Stamperland Church. Based on the successful concept of A Play, A Pie and A Pint at Oran Mor, Stamperland were developing an alternative worship format incorporating food and drink along with dramatic renditions, readings, music and prayer. The first event was being held on Saturday, 12th December starting at 7.00 pm. Running in parallel was a Christmas Cinema which would show a children’s Christmas-themed movie. Steven advised that the event was open to everyone; there was no charge but donations would go towards the Church of Scotland’s “Let us build a house” appeal aimed at providing housing for 7,000 people following the severe earthquake in Dhading, Nepal, earlier this year. Volunteer assistance was sought to help with the children’s cinema (PVG people required) as well as those willing to participate in giving readings, leading singing, leading prayer.

9 CLOSURE

Rev Tom Nelson led all in saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER 2015**

IN THE SESSION HOUSE

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer and a reading from Luke Chapter 1, verses 39 to 45.

Mr Drummond said that what Mary did shortly after learning of her pregnancy would not be advised by today’s doctors. Luke’s gospel says she hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea where her cousin lived. Mary’s thoughts were not about herself but rather about her rather older cousin, Elizabeth. Although Elizabeth was described as being beyond child-bearing age she was pregnant with a baby who would become John the Baptist. Mary stayed with her cousin for three months and would have been helping her through the final months of pregnancy and would, in all likelihood, have been there at the time of John’s birth.

It was, he said, important to see that Mary didn’t get caught up in her own situation but, rather, thought of others and offered practical help. We should be mindful of her example in our own lives.

The gospel verses following the ones we had read were “Mary’s Song of Praise”. In just a few moments, he said, we would be singing the hymn, “Tell out my Soul, the greatness of the Lord”, which was based on Mary’s song. The messages within that hymn – thanks, praise, affirmation, hope for the future were clear and relevant for all of us.

2. CLOSURE

The Kirk Session meeting was closed with all standing to say, "The Grace".

3. COMMUNION

The Rev. Jack Drummond led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER 2015
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with modern, sweet-based account of the nativity and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean and Connell Cranston, Marie Owens and Margot Young.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 30 active elders, one retired elder and 5 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meeting held on 2nd November, 23rd November and 6th December

The draft minute of the meeting held 2nd November was circulated prior to the meeting. Having noted that the date of the meeting was 2nd November and not 4th November as written in the draft minute, acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Roy Allan and seconded by Jane Curror.

The draft minute of the meeting held on 23rd November was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Anne MacKenzie and seconded by David McKee.

The minute of the meeting held on 6th December was read by the Session Clerk. It was agreed by all present to be a true record of the meeting.

The three Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Power to Readjust

Item 5.2 of the minute of 23rd November. David McKee asked for clarification of what the “power to readjust” meant. Gray Fletcher said that the “power to readjust” applies to all congregations and meant that there was always the possibility of change if circumstances changed and that no decision could be absolutely binding forever.

David said that this effectively meant that “Edinburgh” would decide anyway so what can an individual congregation do?

6.2 Meeting with Netherlee on 23rd January

Item 6.2 of the minutes of 23rd November. Scott Russell said that having spoken with Rev Mike Gargrave at the Local Church Review meeting he believed that it would be useful to invite him to address the joint meeting of the two Kirk Sessions on 23rd January. Mr Gargrave had been minister at Mount Florida at the time of the union of Mount Florida and Battlefield East Churches to form Clincarthill Church. His experience of uniting two congregations would be useful.

Elders agreed that Rev Gargrave should be invited and the Session Clerk was asked to make contact.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.3.1 Letter from East Renfrewshire Council

Norman Bolton advised that he had received a letter from East Renfrewshire Council in relation to a proposal for the erection of a front porch at 9 Stamperland Hill. Trustees present agreed there was no reason to object to the proposed construction.

8. SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG

No report.

8.2 Health and Safety

Jane Curror reported that the noses of stairs between the hall vestibule and toilets had been marked with high visibility tape.

8.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Alan Henderson advised that the CCTV had been checked and a replacement part was being sought.

Two small water leaks had been reported; the company which had replaced the hall roofing would inspect the new coverings. It was possible that the water ingress was not related to the roof but to porosity in some of the brickwork.

9.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported that she had paid an invoice for £280 in relation to some minor repair work on the organ. The organ required significant maintenance work to bring it back to full working order.

She also reported that a legacy of £500 had been received and that the General Trustees had paid £9,120.75 from the rental income from the manse towards the cost of the relaying of the roof coverings.

The submission of the information to HMRC to enable the payment of Gift Aid was yet to take place.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

Steven Owens reported that the Business Committee had agreed that the committee structure should be modified with the Fund Raising and the Stewardship Committees moving to be part of the Strategy and Engagement Group. He reported that the Fund Raising Committee would start planning the Spring Fair in January and that the Stewardship Committee would be seeking to develop the initiatives started earlier this year by David McKee.

9.3. Mission

Nancy Fisher presented the Mission report. In relation to Pastoral Care, discussions regarding establishing a Dementia Lunch Club were ongoing. In relation to Parish and Beyond, the annual Open Door lunch was arranged for 16th December.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson advised that the Worship Committee had met on the 4th November.

There had been positive comments about the services which Jack Drummond had preached on Stewardship.

There had been discussion about parade Sundays; it was noted that the arrangement whereby trustees had assisted members of the uniformed organisations to uplift the offering had worked; it was considered that a review was needed of the organisation of the colour party and that members of the colour party should have rehearsals in advance of the service. It was planned that meetings would be held with leaders of the uniformed organisations to seek to “tidy up” procedures in relation to the handling of the colours.

Arrangements for Christmas Services had been made – there would be Christingle, Pyjama, Watchnight and Christmas morning services.

Arrangements for Communion Services were discussed with a view to ensuring that at the end of the service the uplift of the alms dish, the exit of elders with the elements and the Bible were better co-ordinated.

Willie Anderson asked why we stood for the exit of the Bible and not the entry of the Bible. Margo said that various arrangements had been in place with, latterly, in George Mackay’s time, the Bible being carried in during the singing of the first hymn. Gray Fletcher suggested that the Worship Committee consider the arrangements and bring a recommendation to a future Session meeting.

9.4.2 Education

Scott Russell advised that he would be speaking to the uniformed organisations about parades, the organisation leading the parade and the make-up of the colour party and the procedures to be followed.

He told those present that there was an opportunity for the church to send a youth member to the General Assembly and that he was planning to ascertain whether there was any interest from anyone eligible to attend.

The committee had also discussed some aspects of Stepping Stones and ways in which the Kirk Session might assist in increasing the number of young people attending and also supporting the

staff. There had also been mention of encouraging Stepping Stones staff to attend church; on occasions when there was a large number of staff compared with the number of children it could be appropriate for some staff members to remain in church for the whole service.

10 REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes to the Communion Roll.

10.1 Deaths

Mrs Sylvia Bell	19 Beechlands Avenue
Mrs Janet Wright	36 Leebank Drive
Mrs Renee Hamill	30 Strathview Park

10.2 Change of Address

	From	To
Mr Connell Cranston	93 Nethercliffe Ave	64 Riverside Park
Mrs Jean Cranston	93 Nethercliffe Ave	64 Riverside Park

11 PRESBYTERY ELDER’S REPORT

Anne MacKenzie gave some details of a conference to be held in Burnside Blairbeth Church, Rutherglen for churches with few or no children. The meeting would be on Saturday, 13th February and would offer resources and ideas for working with younger people. Congregations were urged to send representatives to the meeting.

12 UPDATE ON VACANCY

12.1 Draft Timetable

Gray Fletcher drew trustees attention to the revised Netherlee and Stamperland Draft Timetable produced by Rev Hilary McDougall. The key difference between the current version and the initial version was that the submission to the Presbytery Property Committee regarding the re-classification of Stamperland buildings from “4” to “1” was now scheduled for mid-January. In addition, there was indication that dialogue should start soon with the Presbytery Vacancy Procedure Committee in relation to Stamperland (in conjunction with Netherlee) having the right to call a minister by June.

12.2 Presbytery Buildings Plan

Scot Russell said that he wanted to highlight the wording related to Stamperland in the Presbytery Buildings Plan. Stamperland Church buildings were given a category 4 status whereas the Netherlee Church buildings were given a category 1 status. There was a comment in the Building Plan “that Netherlee’s category was ‘1’ since it can accommodate the united charges of Stamperland and Netherlee.”

Gray Fletcher said that the task of the people who would prepare the case for the re-classification of Stamperland’s buildings from ‘4’ to ‘1’ was to highlight the requirement for the retention of both buildings. The case would be prepared jointly by people from Netherlee and Stamperland. The case would argue that the two sets of buildings were required to accommodate both Sunday worship and the church organisations meeting during the week.

Norman Bolton said that the Buildings Plan did say some potentially positive things about Stamperland. The plan states, “With the recent vacancy at Stamperland, the ‘4’ classification leaves the flexibility necessary to address these latest circumstances.... The Stamperland buildings are prominently placed and appear in good heart. The challenge here in buildings terms will be to decide on the future of the Stamperland buildings and, hopefully, aim for retention and innovation, this being a realistic prospect on a successful union.”

David McKee said that the majority of the congregation want to attend Sunday morning worship in Stamperland Church. It would be important that when informing the congregation about the vote on the draft basis of deferred linkage leading to union that they were not told, “Stamperland church is definitely here for a long time.” Members needed to know what is happening so that they were clear about the future.

Alan Henderson said he was firmly of the opinion that the Church of Scotland was intent on selling the land on which the church was built.

Raymond Russell asked about the timescale in which the Presbytery Property Committee would consider the request to have both Netherlee and Stamperland Buildings classed as '1'. Gray Fletcher said that he believed the committee would give their decision sufficiently in advance of 1st March date on which the Presbytery Strategy Committee were scheduled to approve the final version of the basis for deferred linkage leading to union. The decision would certainly have to be known before both congregations were asked to vote. He said that we needed to proceed with hope and belief in the future; however, it was more important that we got things right rather than rushed to a conclusion.

David McKee said that we needed to get commitment from Presbytery if they want commitment from us.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the dates of the next Kirk Session Meetings would be as follows:

Sunday 10th January after morning worship (Attestation of Communion Roll, election Presbytery Elder and agreement of Safeguarding Statement)

Saturday, 23rd January – joint meeting with Netherlee at Netherlee. 10.00 am – 11.30 am

Sunday, 24th January after morning worship (to approve Annual Report). Subsequent to the meeting the Interim Moderator requested that this meeting was re-arranged for Sunday, 31st January as 24th January was the day chosen for Clarkston Churches Together pulpit exchange.

Wednesday, 3rd February at 7.30 pm

14 LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW – PART 3

The Session Clerk advised those present of the progress of the Local Church Review (LCR). In advance of the review meeting held on 26th November, the Interim Moderator and members of the Business Committee had met to complete Parts 1 and 2 of the LCR Forms. Broadly, these forms sought information on past and present activities within the church as well as statistical and financial information. The review meeting had been led by Rev Dr Roger Sturrock accompanied by Garry Osbourne and Alan Vint. There were about 16 people representing Stamperland Church. The LCR team had asked a range of questions many focussed on discovering what we considered to be the key challenges which we faced and how we might be planning to meet these challenges. We were then encouraged to consider our responses and, in the light of these considerations, complete Parts 3 and 4 of the LCR. We were enjoined to seek God's will for growth and not to believe that what we had done in previous years was necessarily valid in the 21st Century.

Part 3 of the LCR sought to develop a consensus view of how church members viewed different aspects of their church's current performance. From this consensus view a number of priority areas would be highlighted and some appropriate actions proposed to achieve certain goals. The priority areas and the planned actions would be described in Part 4 of the LCR.

The Session Clerk said that it was proposed that trustees would form into half a dozen small groups and each group would consider the various aspects of the church's current performance. There were about 20 questions or statements which had to be scored. Scores ranged from zero to five. It would not be right to score everything "5". Some scores could be "0" - this didn't mean the church wasn't performing properly – but lots of "0" scores wouldn't be terribly good. He also said that some of the points to be scored were rather difficult to understand; each group should simply give a score based on what they thought the statement might mean.

Trustees were put into six groups and each tasked with scoring all aspects. On completion of the exercise each group's scores were collected for later analysis. The meeting was advised that the Business Committee would use the scores to complete the Part 4 document before sending copies of Parts 3 and 4 to the LCR team. It was anticipated that the LCR team would come back to Stamperland in the Spring to continue the review process.

15 TRUSTEES TALENTS

David McKee reminded those present of the current focus of Stewardship on Talents. We were seeking to try to identify the talents present in the congregation and then to find ways of using them. Too often, people were rather shy about stating their talents or capabilities or areas of knowledge. At a previous Stewardship meeting he had carried out a short exercise in which he asked people to write down not their own talents but to write down what they considered were the talents of one of the other people at the meeting. This had proved interesting and effective and he said that he wished all present to do something similar this evening. Trustees were each given a piece of paper with the name of another trustee and asked to write a few words describing a key talent or skill or ability which that person possessed. The brief exercise proved interesting and amusing and there was agreement that it would be useful to devote more time at a subsequent meeting to undertake a more in-depth assessment.

16 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

17 SECRET SANTA AND REFRESHMENTS

Following the conclusion of the meeting everyone enjoyed light refreshments and the ‘Secret Santa’ exchange of gifts.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 10th JANUARY 2016
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev Gray Fletcher and 24 Trustees of whom 18 were elders.

3. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

3.1 Changes to the Roll

William Paterson, the Roll Keeper, intimated the recent deaths of two members.
Mrs Catherine Hammill, 30 Strathview Park
Mrs Catherine Martin, 8 Woodyet Park, Busby.

3.2 Current Roll

William Paterson presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2014			347
Number removed from Roll during 2015	by Death	16	
	by Certificate	0	
	by Otherwise	0	
			16
Number added to Roll during 2015	by Profession	6	
	by Certificate	1	
	by Otherwise	4	
			11
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2015			342
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2015			20
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2015			3

The Interim Moderator signed the Communion Roll Certificate.

4. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

Mrs Anne MacKenzie said she was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder until June 2016 but indicated that she wished to step down from the post at that time.

David McKee indicated that he would be able to take on the role of Presbytery Elder after summer. All present agreed that David McKee should be the Presbytery Elder from summer 2016.

5. SAFEGUARDING: CONFORMATION OF PVG PROCEDURES

The Session Clerk advised that in confirming the PVG procedures were being appropriately operated, three aspects had to be considered. These were the recruiting procedures, the record keeping procedures and the ensuring that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator was appropriately trained and accredited.

The Kirk Session was responsible for the operation of PVG procedures in relation to organisations which were under its jurisdiction; these included the Sunday School, The BB and The Guild. The Kirk Session was not responsible for PVG procedures in relation to the Scout or Guide organisations or for third parties, such as Baby Sensory, using the church.

He stressed that it was not the responsibility of the PVG Co-ordinator to ensure that there was a safe environment within the church and buildings and for people attending church events and organisations. It was the responsibility of everyone to keep an eye open for potential problems or suspicious behaviour. Any issues or potential issues should be raised with the PVG co-ordinator or the minister or the Session Clerk or the leader of the appropriate organisation. Issues should be raised discretely and confidentially.

5.1 Recruiting Procedures

The Session Clerk said that all applicants had to fill in a Disclosure Scotland Form. This form then had to be signed by the Minister or the Session Clerk or another appropriate person and also by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator who would send the completed form to Disclosure Scotland. Disclosure Scotland would undertake the appropriate checks and inform the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the outcome or of any issues.

At present, Margot Young was undergoing training to enable her to become an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks. Following John Curror's resignation from the post of PVG co-ordinator, Margo Neilson has taken on some of the co-ordinator responsibilities; however, she did not have current accreditation to act as signatory and she had used the PVG co-ordinator at Netherlee Parish Church to progress the required PVG check on Rev Jack Drummond earlier in 2015. Recently the Session Clerk advised that he had signed three

Disclosure Forms in relation to three BB Officers. Norman Bolton said that he considered that appropriate recruiting procedures were being followed.

5.2 Record Keeping Procedures

The Session Clerk said that he believed that accurate records had been maintained by the previous co-ordinators and that Margot Young would be following the necessary procedures when she had completed the training programme.

5.3 Suitability of PVG Co-ordinator

The Session Clerk advised those present that he believed that Margot Young had undertaken relevant training and that there was one further training session to be completed before she would be accredited as an authorised signatory.

In relation to training he advised that a refresher course would be held at Greenbank Church in the Spring which was aimed at people such as elders and trustees with responsibility for the broad oversight of PVG procedures.

5.4 Confirmation of PVG Procedures

The Session Clerk asked if anyone present had any questions about PVG procedures. There were no questions. The Session Clerk then read the following statement to the meeting:

- *“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, Margot Young, is being appropriately trained to allow her to be accredited as an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks.*

All present agreed that the statement was correct, and that it was being implemented in Stamperland Parish Church.

6 INTIMATION

6.1 Annual Report

The Session Clerk advised that preparation of the Annual Report was underway. Pages showing the financial information including income, expenditure and financial balances were complete. It was planned to have copies of the Draft Report available for trustees on Sunday 24th January so that the Trustees could meet to agree and approve the final version at a meeting scheduled for Sunday 31st January.

6.2 Meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session

The Session Clerk reminded elders of the joint meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session on Saturday, 23rd January. The meeting was being held at Netherlee and would start at 10.30am.

7. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES JOINT KIRK SESSION

In the Sanctuary of Netherlee Church on Saturday, 23 January 2016 at 10.30 am the Kirk Sessions of Netherlee and Stamperland met and was constituted with a reading from Ephesians Ch 3 v 7-11 and prayer, led by Rev. Tom Nelson Minister of Netherlee.

1 SEDERUNT and WELCOME.

Rev Tom Nelson Chairman, Rev Gray Fletcher Interim Moderator Stamperland, Rev Dr Leslie Milton minister of Cambuslang Parish Church plus 21 elders from Netherlee and 15 trustees from Stamperland were present as recorded on the Netherlee Sederunt sheet and Stamperland attendance book with apologies received from 20 Netherlee elders and five Stamperland trustees. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 THE CAMBUSLANG EXPERIENCE.

The Chairman welcomed Leslie Milton to our joint meeting and gave the background into the invitation to speak to us about his personal experience of uniting three churches in Cambuslang into one. We hoped that we might benefit from what went well and what were the pitfalls to be avoided. He then invited Leslie to address the meeting.

Leslie introduced himself by stating it was not an easy calling to Cambuslang which he had now been minister of for eight years. It was unrealistic to expect that uniting three churches into one would not be without its trials and challenges.

2.1 Where Cambuslang is now.

1. Last year Cambuslang had its LCR review.
2. After seven years what did the congregation have to say which was positive?
 - Union was the most dramatic and enervating experience and has come a long way to achieving a sense of oneness which took five years to achieve.
 - We can now talk about being in OUR NEW church. This surprised Leslie as it showed they had stopped thinking about the past.
3. Different ways people came together in worship. It was traditional on Sunday morning but is now contemporary on Sunday evenings. He introduced a Tuesday service to which about 50 people come along. Some only come to this service and no other.
4. He tried to forge a new identity built around Worship.
5. Some were asking what have we actually achieved in the last seven years. It was only when they wrote the answers down for the LCR that they realised how much has been achieved.
6. They introduced a Dementia Cafe which did all the right things but which didn't work for reasons they never understood or found out. It led to them joining with a local health group. They persevered and the health group suggested creating a Dementia garden which Cambuslang agreed to and created a walled garden.

The project which took off and greatly helps those who are scared of going out. Two things came out of it:

 - It was a new commitment of the congregation to a new project and gave them a new identity and common purpose. And
 - Faithfulness becomes something important
7. They tried setting down things done out of faithfulness.
 - They became very busy thinking about closer links with the Community. Some new links and some carried forward from their previous churches.
 - The LCR gave the congregation an appreciation and energy of what had happened in seven years. It is not always easy.

2.2 Some of the Difficulties.

What might have been done better?

- Older folk saw Cambuslang as the oldest village in Scotland.

- In seven years the nature of the Community has changed and that needed to be recognised and perhaps wasn't.
- The three churches held some of the history.
- The centre and upper reaches of Cambuslang housed the professional people in large houses, living alongside miners and steel workers in lower Cambuslang. They grew up together and created a social mix. The Church was separated from both classes. In the slum area, the Mission Hall worked well and the Church worked well but Mission and Parish Church didn't work. It took a new minister to stop the practice that baptism couldn't take place at the morning service in the Parish Church. Memories run very deep.
- The union of the churches was painful. A hurting community had to come together. The pain was largely around the buildings – because of memories and history. Leslie needed to understand the feelings of the people and the importance they attached to the buildings.

2.4 Some of the Difficulties

- Don't be beguiled by seeing Administration as all important. Having three buildings caught him in the middle.
- The members wondered whose side he was on. It was important for the Minister to be careful not to give the impression of taking sides.
- In the first one to two years folk waited to see before making a decision.
- Admin got in the way of leadership about what would make them grow in spirituality.
- How can we learn from history and move forward in faith
- They found themselves going in unexpected ways. Those were the big things – not sorting out the buildings

Our experiences will be different and we need to find our own way through it. **Remember our Purpose and Calling is the centre of God's mission for us.**

2.5 What has worked.

- Relationships have grown out of Worship.
 - Finding a new sense of service in the Community
- Both should be the strong basis going forward. The second will be easier than the first.

Leslie wished God's blessing on both congregations as we go forward together.

3 THE CLINCARTHILL EXPERIENCE.

The Chairman, Gray Fletcher and the two Session Clerks had met on Tuesday afternoon with the Rev Mike Gargrave, the former minister of Clincarthill whose situation was similar to ours as he was inducted initially as minister of Mount Florida until the minister of Battlefield East retired when he became the minister of the united charge. Mike had been invited to attend our meeting today but had an all-day conference for his Kirk Session.

His experience highlighted that buildings was a critical issue for him and his advice was if it became critical for us we should try to sort it out for ourselves.

He also advised that a joint approach by Tom and the new incumbent was critical to getting the link/union to work.

Our trump card is MISSION not ADMIN.

A pitfall waiting for him was the perception that everything was being done the Mount Florida way. He had to work very hard to dispel that perception and convince everyone he was working in the best interests of the combined congregations.

He thought a one year hand-over, if it could be achieved, was about right.

4 QUESTIONS FOR LESLIE AND COMMENTS

Tom thanked Leslie for his very illuminating experiences. Two messages he had taken from Leslie were :-

- Take your time and be patient developing different worship experiences and new ideas.
- With buildings - respect people who have built up both congregations. Listen carefully to what they say.

He then invited questions.

1. What is the membership of Cambuslang? – about 1000. (Our combined membership is about 940).
2. How many members did you lose? - about 70/80. Some felt alienated. Patterns of membership have changed. They have not added any new members since the union but their Sunday attendance has remained stable. The preparation of three into one was not well done. Staffing of three to two was acceptable to the Kirk Sessions but the communication to the congregations was poor. In the end, it was the congregation who voted for a straight Union with one minister and one full-time MDS. He emphasised the need to communicate well with the congregations
3. A comment was made that taking time was very important. We had started getting to know each other but still had to get to know the membership and we had to recognise and utilise the gifts and talents that existed. Leslie's initial issue was buildings. No matter what was said, there were winners and losers. Always remember are you creating a tension and be aware of the feeling of winners and losers. Do not victimise the losers. LISTEN very carefully to what you are told about what the buildings mean to members. He changed his outlook after listening to the comments from some of his parishioners. **“You need to create a spiritual connection”**
4. Were all three churches viable at the Union? One was, one was not and one was close to not being viable.
5. How can we cope with any sense of loss and how do we lessen the impact? You cannot necessarily avoid pain but if it is managed well then healing comes. You need to acknowledge that pain and listen carefully to each other. What is expressed on the surface is not always the full story. You need to manage the loss of a world that will not come back. Discern what is important to you both. You have to learn how to let the baggage go and you need to find a way forward together. Seek UNITY. **This is a new Opportunity to think creatively. Let things grow organically.**
6. Although we are keen to retain both sets of buildings it could end up splitting us and stop us uniting; this is a big concern. Leslie saw this as our challenge to find new ways of worship with two separate sanctuaries. If you genuinely want to unite then you need to bring this issue out into the open sooner rather than later.
7. One member posed the question should we come together into one building a.s.a.p. He couldn't see any advantage to having two separate buildings. He asked us to think about it. Given where we are currently, the Chairman thought it would not work.
8. It was up to us to find a way for it to work.
9. Union was still an issue for some Stamperland members who believed that a linkage was better than jumping into a union.
10. The Chairman commented that we needed to re-visit our vision statement and expand it. The Chairman summed up by saying the message was, we needed to listen. He then thanked Leslie for helping us to take a step forward and pointing out the challenges that we face. He had given us all a lot to think about and we were grateful to him for giving us of his time and experience.

5 CHANGES TO NETHERLEE'S HALLS

The Chairman was taking the opportunity because of this joint meeting to make the Stamperland Kirk Session aware that Netherlee was proposing to improve its Halls and Upper Room accommodation to make them more fit for purpose following the sale of Kirk House and

to better accommodate all users and to ensure they were up to current standards. At the same time we were looking closely at improvements to our heating system. This was not an attempt to make our premises better than Stamperland's but was just good house keeping and stewardship going forward. We planned to speak to the congregation about our plans at a meeting after the morning service tomorrow but in a spirit of closer co-operation between our two Kirk Sessions we wanted you to be aware of what we were planning. On behalf of Stamperland their Session Clerk said that was absolutely fine.

6 DATE OF NEXT JOINT MEETING

Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 7.30 pm in the main Sanctuary of Stamperland Church.

7 AOCB

There was no further business

8 CLOSE

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 12.00 noon by all standing and saying the grace together.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Psalm 138 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Nancy Fisher, Marie Owens, Grace Scott and Jimmy Mathieson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 22 elders and 5 other Trustees. 27

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 9th December, 10th January and 23rd January

The draft minute of the meetings were circulated prior to the meeting. David McKee asked that section 12.2 of the minute of 9th December be amended by the addition of the words, "and Netherlee" in the last sentence so that it read, "David McKee said that we needed to get commitment from Presbytery and Netherlee if they want commitment from us." With the incorporation of this amendment acceptance of the minute of 9th December as a true record was proposed by Scott Russell and seconded by Alison Macfarlane.

Acceptance of the minute of the 10th January as a true record was proposed by Jane Curror and seconded by David McKee.

Acceptance of the minute of the 23rd January as a true record was proposed by Kay Bolton and seconded by Jane Curror.

The Minutes were then signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.

6. SAFETY AND SECURITY

6.1 PVG

No report.

6.2 Health and Safety

Alan Henderson confirmed that the electrical sockets in the hall had been attended to.

6.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

7. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 Property

Alan Henderson informed the meeting that the CCTV system was now working and advised that the door closer on the hall entrance door required attention. The contract for servicing the gas boilers had been renewed at a cost of £450.

It was reported that the costs associated with the installation of a dishwasher in the kitchen were being investigated.

7.2 Strategy and Engagement

7.2.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens reported that there would be a Fund Raising Concert featuring Sounds International on Tuesday, 1st March. Tickets would be £5.00.

The Spring Fair would be on Saturday, 7th May and the theme would be “Rio Carnival”. The committee were seeking better engagement from Netherlee Primary School and were proposing that there should be a raffle prize of a Kindle Fire open to those pupils who submitted some form of artwork, poetry or story. Trustees agreed to the proposal.

The David Milligan Quiz would be held on Saturday, 19th March.

Steven made a plea for volunteers to assist with all of the fund raising activities and for people to join the Fund Raising Committee.

7.2.2 Stewardship

David McKee advised that he was willing to lead the Stewardship Committee in the immediate future. The Committee required additional members.

One person had responded to the Stewardship article in the December Focus. He had noted that Giffnock South Church had held a “Talent Auction” and was endeavouring to find out fuller details.

7.3. MISSION

7.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Evelyn Graham reported that the box for the Foodbank was being emptied monthly. Some members were donating goods on a weekly basis. The collection of items for Starter Packs would take place from 14th February to 13th March with items being uplifted before Holy Week. In relation to Open Door it was reported that in 2015 there had been 451 people attending compared with 489 the previous year. Despite this small decrease, the financial donations had increased from £537 in 2014 to £544 in 2015.

7.3.2 Pastoral Care

Margo Neilson presented a brief report on behalf of Grace Scott. Key points were:

- Cards are being sent on the first anniversary of a death and Jack Drummond was trying to visit local people around that date.
- Anne MacKenzie was endeavouring to ensure that church flowers were delivered, if possible, around the anniversary.
- The Memorial Book was up-to-date.
- There has been no uptake of the Library Service.

- Transport could do with some additional drivers.
- Discussions regarding a Lunch Club are ongoing with Committee members undertaking tasks to find out information on various points. The focus would not necessarily be for people living with dementia but there would be concentration on social and pastoral issues.
- Spring flowers will be delivered at Easter to members in Care Homes and to bereaved members.

7.4 NURTURE

7.4.1 Worship

Easter Services in Stamperland Church were planned as follows:

Palm Sunday	Morning Worship at 11.00 am
Palm Sunday	A Children's Service in the afternoon.
Holy Week	
Monday to Wednesday	Services led by Stamperland Young Elders at 7.00 pm
Thursday	Joint Communion Service with Netherlee at 7.00 pm
Good Friday	Clarkston Churches - services from 7.00 am
	Service led by Stamperland Young Elders at 6.30 pm
	Joint Service with Netherlee at Netherlee at 7.30 pm
Easter Day	Dawn Service in Linn Park with Netherlee
	led by Stamperland Young Elders at 7.00 am
	Morning Worship at 11.00 am

Clarkston Churches Together were planning to publish a leaflet detailing services in every church in the area which all churches would be asked to deliver to all homes in their parish. It was agreed by the Trustees that Stamperland Church should pay its appropriate share of the printing costs.

7.3.2 Education

Scott Russell reported that Fraser Johnstone had resigned from Stepping Stones and was looking to become involved with other aspects of church work.

Scott advised that the Boys' Brigade had introduced a new badge which could be gained by boys undertaking appropriate volunteer work within the church and asked trustees if they could think of tasks or activities which could usefully be done by boys.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

8.1 Change of Address

	From	To
Mr Peter Searil	13 Ailsa Drive	36 Legatson Drive
Mrs Fiona Khan	18 Stamperland Drive	142 The Oval
Mrs Elaine Maclean	9 Kilpatrick Gardens	Unknown

8.2 Adjustments to the Roll

Bill Paterson advised that the following people have requested that their names are removed from the Roll;

- Mr Cameron Maclean, 204 Moray Drive
- Mr Robert Walker, 82 Moray Gardens
- Mrs Catherine McCorkell, 23 Eaglesham Road

9. UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher told elders of progress since the previous meeting.

A document making the case for a change in the score of "4" for Stamperland Church in the current Presbytery Buildings Plan, prepared by representatives of both Stamperland Kirk Session and Netherlee Kirk Session, had been sent to the Convenor of the Presbytery Property

Committee on 26th January. The document stressed that both Kirk Sessions are united in the opinion that the change in designation is essential to enable the two congregations to progress to an agreed linkage and, ultimately, to a union.

Gray informed the meeting that he had consulted the Presbytery Clerk regarding the Unitary Constitution and the status of those who could vote at the Kirk Session Meeting when a decision was to be made on the Linkage leading to Union. The Presbytery Clerk had advised that only ordained elders could vote. The Presbytery Clerk had also advised that it would not be necessary to completely attest the Church Communion Roll before the congregation could vote. In response to questions Gray Fletcher confirmed that the vote of the Kirk Session is, in effect, only advisory. The votes which count are the votes cast by the members of the congregation. He also said that to vote members have to be present at church at the time of the vote. The date and time of the vote would be publically intimated on at least three Sundays prior to the day of the vote.

Asked whether all trustees could serve on the nominations committee (formerly the vacancy committee) Gray advised that every member of the church is eligible to be elected to the nominations committee.

10 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings were agreed as

10th February, 7:30 pm at Stamperland. Joint meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session

6th March, Communion

7th March, 7:00 pm Stated Annual Meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next full Kirk Session Meeting would be Monday 14th March.

11. LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW – UPDATE ON “WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR CHURCH?” AND PART 4 OF THE LCR

The Session Clerk gave a PowerPoint presentation summarising the results of the “LCR Part 3 Exercise” in which trustees had participated at the meeting on 9th December. He reminded the meeting that we had to score five statements on each of four themes – Worship, Church Community, Mission and Belonging. Not all of the statements which had to be scored were clear or unambiguous. Nevertheless, the scores served as indicators of whether the trustees generally believed that a particular statement was a good or bad descriptor of our church or its relations with other groups.

The next stage of the LCR process (Part 4) essentially required the members of the Business Committee to consider the scores from Part 3 and then describe some actions which could, in time, address those aspects of church life which had appeared to have scored less well.

In relation to **Worship** we scored ourselves high for the statements, “Where the Word is read and preached” and “Where the sacraments of baptism and communion are celebrated”; lowish scores were recorded for statements, “Where there is relevance to the people of the parish” and “Where people are enabled to journey in faith and grow in wholeness”. In Part 4 our response was that we were looking at new forms, styles and times of worship. It was appreciated that Sunday morning attendance at church was not a priority for many families who had “other commitments”. Accordingly, as a church, we were taking initiatives in alternative forms of worship such as Pie, Pint & Prayer, Messy Church and Y@K. These initiatives were being developed in conjunction with Netherlee.

In relation to **Community** we scored ourselves high on “Where hospitality is offered.” However, scores were on the low side in relation to, “Where grace, love and unity are shown, where people are encouraged, gifts are developed and shared”, “Where people grow as disciples”, “Where ministries of service and leadership are developed” and “Where structures are ordered and organised in a way that supports mission and good”. In Part 4 our response was that we have recently moved to a Unitary Constitution with new committees and that we are intent that this will enable us to develop and promote leadership skills within the membership and also that we are in the process of developing a Stewardship Culture within the church.

In relation to **Mission** we scored ourselves high on, “Where the Good News of the Kingdom is proclaimed” and “Where there is a response to human need by loving service”. However, scores

were on the low side in relation to, “Where unjust structures of society are transformed, violence of every kind is challenged and peace and reconciliation is pursued” and “Where the church strives to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”. In Part 4 our response was that we are not active in campaigning in terms of demonstrating on the street, etc.. However, we were involved in a range of activities such as being members of the Peace & Justice Forum, we are a Fair Trade Church, we support the Local Food Bank, we are active in our local Christian Aid including supporting door-to-door collections, Art Exhibition, Sponsored Swim, we regularly support charities including Presbytery Projects, Mary’s Meals, WaterAid, HIV Aids, Mary’s Meals, etc and other charities on a one-off basis, e.g. Nepal Earthquake “Build a House” appeal. The Guild also support a wide range of projects.

In relation to **Belonging** we scored ourselves high on, “Where local relationships - parish neighbours & ecumenical groups are nurtured.” We scored ourselves lower in relation to “Where the church engages with the Church of Scotland, its Councils and Committees”, “Where the church identifies and connects with the worldwide church” and “Where our relationship with the Church past, present and future, is recognised and celebrated. In Part 4 our response was that we have good links with neighbouring churches through Clarkston Churches Together and that at present our key activity and key focus has to be on the Presbytery Plan and developing and growing links with Netherlee.

Norman Bolton said that the LCR Team had reviewed our responses and had come back with a request that we completed a table in Part 4 of the LCR which summarised key areas we had identified as needing to be addressed, the actions we planned to take, the timescale in which the activities would be undertaken, the people who would lead the actions and whether we were seeking assistance from “the wider church”. He said that it was important that every Trustee was aware of the future actions and that Trustees took responsibility for ensuring that we carried out the planned activities. The LCR team would be reviewing our progress.

12 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**JOINT KIRK SESSION MEETING
 NETHERLEE AND STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2016
 IN THE SANCTUARY at STAMPERLAND CHURCH**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Psalm 150 and a prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Tom Nelson, Rev Alistair Bull and Rev David McCarthy, 21 elders from Netherlee and 15 Trustees from Stamperland. Eleven elders from Netherlee sent apologies.

3. INTRODUCTION

Tom Nelson said that it was his pleasure to welcome David McCarthy to the meeting and that he was looking forward to hearing of some new ways of worship and ministry. The coming together of Stamperland and Netherlee churches was an opportunity to do something wonderful and exciting and he hoped that David's presentation would open up new ideas and ways of thinking which could be adopted or adapted to the new situation. David, he said, was originally from Magheralin, a village about 20 miles south of Belfast. He had been involved in setting up new churches, firstly in Spain and then in the east end of Greenock where he had established a new "missionary church". David was now based in Edinburgh as the Church of Scotland Fresh Expressions Development Worker.

Tom also welcomed Rev Alistair Bull, Secretary of the Church of Scotland Mission and Discipleship Council. Alistair had been chaplain to Yorkhill Children's Hospital, Parish Minister in Kilbarchan and was currently involved in leading West Mearns Church which meets in Whitecraigs Rugby Club.

Tom remarked that fifty years ago the Church of Scotland would establish new charges in areas where new houses were being built. New charges might not now be the best way forward; in new situations Fresh Expressions was providing new ways of engaging with society and tonight we would have the opportunity to learn more about some of these new initiatives.

4. FRESH EXPRESSIONS

David McCarthy thanked Tom for his introduction. He said that it was always good to see what churches were doing and the ways in which God worked in them. God, he said, had called us here and we were a gift to the local community and the local community was a gift to us. Our experience meant that we knew about our community and gave us an insight and wisdom in relation to our community which he didn't have. Not everything he would mention would thus be necessarily applicable to our particular circumstances.

It could be easy, he said, to develop a strategy and ideas for a way ahead and even to putting something into practice; however, it was just as easy to lose focus and lose sight of why God was calling us to do this. We have to do things not just with our heads but also with our hearts.

As a prelude to defining what is meant by a fresh expression of church David, showed an extract from a video of a 'church' – Zac's Place - in south Wales. Zac's place was a kind of drop-in cafe/bar. It looked to serve the marginalised and outcast of society; anyone could walk in the door. It was run by caring Christians who were non-judgemental. Discussion was encouraged but with a deliberate focus on Bible study. The narrator on the video said it was difficult to define the transition from "church in a bar/pub?" to "church in a bar/pub" (no question mark); however, it was clear it had become a loving, caring, community of faith serving people on the margins.

Before defining Fresh Expression, David said it was opportune to define "church". A good definition was given by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury. "Church, whether inherited or fresh expression is the space in which, in the company of others, we come across the risen spirit of Jesus Christ who transforms us."

There were three further definitions of models of church – the 'Attractional model', the 'Engagement model' and the 'Emergent model'.

Within the Attractional model we seek to make what we are and what we do more attractive to people so that they want to join us. We might change the interior of the building; we might change the style of worship; we hope that this will encourage people to join.

Under the Engagement model we realise that, no matter how attractive we are, only a minority of people come to us. So we need to go out and engage with them. We go out; we engage; we bring them to us.

In the Emergent model we go out; we engage; but, rather than bring people back to us as in the Engagement model, we stay. The groups to whom we go out may represent a location or a demographic or a cultural interest. We develop and shape an expression of church which is suitable and appropriate and true and relevant to that group.

Messy Church is intended to be a "fresh expression of church". Families come to Messy Church; whilst there is a focus on children's activities we seek to engage with parents or

grandparents; we develop a relationship with them at that time and place. But if we expect the parents or grandparents to come to church at 11.00 am on Sunday morning, that is Engagement. Messy Church should be regarded as a “church” in its own right. A successful Messy Church would be one where there was a deep sense of fellowship amongst those attending. We should not expect those attending or associated with Messy Church to come to “standard church”.

Within society it is widespread to think of church as a building or as practices which take place within that building. However, Church, first and foremost, is a set of relationships that God has given through Jesus. To help relationships develop we have certain practices; some of which will last a long time others will be short-lived. The practices are to serve the relationships which Jesus gives us and not the other way round. Too often and too easily we focus on buildings and practices, not relationships.

David highlighted four words which he said neatly draw together some very key ideas. The words were Contextual, Missional, Formational and Ecclesial. God, he said, has given each of us a context or setting in which we live. As we engage in sharing this hope which is ours in Jesus, we don’t do it in a vacuum or abstractly; we do it in a place, in a time, in a setting. On a Sunday we may worship in a place such as this (the sanctuary) but, as we go out in Mission, we move to a different place, to a different setting. The different setting may be difficult for us and present us with challenges but we reach out in love. Formational is a word talking about discipleship and signifying the process of developing or clarifying faith. Recalling the earlier definition of Church as being a place where transformation occurs, for some, church is a place where there is a growing in faith; for others it is a place in which faith is first formed; it is a place of discipleship. Ecclesial is rather a ‘churchy’ word meaning simply talking about church. It means talking, not just about fresh ways of worshipping or of social action or of evangelism, but of growing the church community in wholeness and in a fresh way.

A fresh expression of church is a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church. It will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples. It will have potential to become mature expression of church shaped by gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context.

Traditional expressions and fresh expressions of church should not be seen as being in conflict; rather, they complement each other. They are not rivals but should represent the best way of reaching out to people.

As a church we are aware that we currently only have a significant relationship with a minority of people. How do we go about engaging with other people within our parish? Looking at Stamperland, it was set up as a Church Extension Church. This was effectively taking a model of church which worked in one area and replicating it somewhere else. Since the opening of the church in 1940 there have been huge cultural and social changes. In the 1940s when the Church started, the ‘attractional model’ might have been the natural one. As the move through the 1960s took place the ‘engagement model’ may have been appropriate. And now, we may possibly need to look at a third way.

In seeking this new way we don’t replicate what has been done elsewhere. Our context is different. We need to listen – listen to God and listen to the community within our community with which we might be seeking to engage. Everything we do should be underpinned by listening to God and the wider church. David backed the need to listen with his experience of setting up churches in the Costa del Sol in Spain and in the East-end of Greenock. In both cases months were spent listening. In Spain he spent over a year talking to members of the expat English and German communities in cafes and bars and working with Spanish Church to discern what was needed. In Greenock there had been serious decline with four, once-healthy, parish churches reduced to a small rump. A lot of time was spent talking to all kinds of people – MPs, MSPs, MEPs, journalists, schools, housing associations – to find out what people thought of the East-end of Greenock, of the needs of the community and of what church would mean in the east end of Greenock. Only then, rather than being seen as someone from outside parachuted into a community and seeking to impose your ideas, you become seen as someone who can do things with the people of the community to achieve what they want; you build

relationships with the community. You begin to love and serve, not with your assumptions but, having listened, you will have heard the community say, 'Here is how we need to be loved. Here is how we need to be served. - Let's do it together'. You are not doing things to people or for people but with people. When that happens you begin to build community. Rubbing shoulders with people and working with people is how you build relationships, develop friendships and start to care for one another. You get to know about people's lives and they get to know about yours. As community, dignity, value and togetherness develop then you can begin to explore discipleship.

David used two New Testament passages to illustrate some ideas of Fresh Expression. John Chapter 1 describes the incarnation of Christ. Was this, David asked, a fresh expression of the second person of the Trinity? Acts Chapter 15 describes the church spreading from the Jewish community to the Gentile community. The cultures were very different. One of the key messages is to understand or appreciate the wildness of God. David said that we are tempted to domesticate God and to do things in the way with which we are comfortable; we want to reach out but we want to do it on our terms. However, the spirit of God does things differently. God is good, God is loving but he isn't safe in the sense that we might like. He will hold us in the palm of his hand but we may go through fire and deep water in those hands. The early Jewish Christians had practices which had served them well and had defined their relationship with God in the past. But post Jesus Christ things were new and different. In Acts Chapter 15 there was a decision that new followers would not be burdened with the 'old traditions and culture' and disciples from the old tradition were sent to bless this new expression of church. Later in the story of Acts, when there was famine in Jerusalem, the new expressions of church gathered resources and blessed and cared for the traditional expression. This he said was something important to note; there is not competition between expressions but serving together in the name of Christ.

David indicated that there is a wealth of information on Fresh Expressions available from the internet and highlighted the following sites as good starting points. www.freshexpressions.org.uk was a site hosted by Fresh Expression. The following sites are both Church of Scotland sites:

<https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/>

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/emerging_church

Before offering concluding remarks David showed a video describing some of the experiences of a Fresh Expression church in the borders which had received funding support from the Church of Scotland Emerging Ministries Fund. The new form of church is in an area covered by the parishes of Hutton, Fishwick and Patton.

In his concluding remarks David asked what are we going to do with this great opportunity God has given us, with this great adventure God is calling us to take? There are challenges and the challenges might disrupt. What we shouldn't worry about is the second or third or fourth step; we should concentrate on the first steps to which God is calling us. The disciples, standing by their boats, were called to join Christ and had to take their first step. Together, he said we are called on an adventure. In all the great adventure stories we don't know what is round the corner – that's what makes a great story. But we know that Jesus is round the corner. Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" and also, "I am with you always." That, he concluded, is the great hope in which we take our first step.

5 REFLECTIONS ON FRESH EXPRESSIONS

5.1 Tom Nelson

Tom Nelson thanked David for being incredibly good at opening up what has been a journey which many of us recognise, from the days when people would queue up to join a new church extension church to the current situation where we wonder how we can get people into or involved with church. In talking about trying to bring people into church we risk giving out the impression that we want to keep our institutions going and we are really looking for financial support from new people. Tonight David's talk showed that we need to engage with people

where they are at and not expect them to come into our culture. He had highlighted challenges and given us all a great deal to think about.

Recently, a local teacher had told him that many local families were ‘property rich but cash-poor’. Were we really aware of this fact? It highlighted, at a very local level, that we had a lot of listening to do. Did we really know the pressures under which many families are living? Tom said that we had two wonderful churches; we are touched by a sense of God’s purpose and we want to share that. There was a need to take some time to consider what we should do and review the resources required and the resources available. David McArthy emphasised that the Fresh Expressions team would be keen to help with planning and implementation of new ideas.

5.2 Alistair Bull

Alistair Bull said that we should be encouraged because we have a God who works in our lives and has worked in our lives and through our church. The challenge is to believe that the same God who would work with us yesterday and today will be with us tomorrow. When we feel vulnerable or are faced with change and uncertainty, we can retreat into our comfort zones and the things that are familiar. However, there can be opportunity for new life and fresh opportunities. He said that he had experience of seeking to know how God works in the most tragic of circumstances when he was a healthcare chaplain, he had sought to know how God worked in people’s lives in an affluent suburban area and in an urban parish. There were all different contexts; we have a different context but the one thing which unites us all is the God who overarches us and cares for all of us. He said we have just scratched the surface of the topic this evening and he hoped we would continue the journey together. The two churches had new opportunities and he would watch progress with prayerful interest.

6 PROGRESS WITH LINKAGE AND UNION

Tom Nelson reminded those present of the current position.

The two churches had made a joint submission to Presbytery Property Committee regarding the requirement to maintain both sets of buildings and to change the building category given to Stamperland from “4” to “1”. Once this issue has been resolved then actions would commence for the two congregations to agree the joint basis of linkage and union.

7 CLOSURE

Tom Nelson thanked David McCarthy once again for his presentation and for the thoughts and ideas which had been triggered.

The meeting was closed with David McCarthy leading all in prayer.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 6th MARCH 2016
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Gray Fletcher with prayer and a reading from Genesis Chapter 15.

2. DEVOTIONS

Gray began by asking if we could recall the saying, “Cross my heart – hope to die.” This was an expression which children would use to show how serious they were about convincing their listener what they were saying was true. Some versions were extended to say, “Cross my heart – hope to die, Stick a needle in my eye.”

He said that the reading was one with which many people would not be familiar. It was about the covenant that God made with Abraham. We are all familiar with contracts. If you buy a car or a house or pay for something with a credit card there is an exchange of paperwork. In Genesis the contract between God and Abraham was rather more messy – a smoking firepot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the pieces of the animals which Abraham had laid out. It wasn’t a neat piece of paper. Moreover, the contract was one-sided in that only God made a promise. When we break our contract – our covenant – with God, only God pays.

This morning, he said, with celebration of Communion, we would be thinking about the New Covenant. Recalling the words of the children’s saying, ‘Cross my heart – hope to die’, who dies? Whose body was broken? Whose blood was shed?

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Retiring Offering

The Session Clerk said that it had been previously agreed that if Starter Packs could accept financial donations as well as donations of goods the retiring offering should be sent to Starter Packs. Evelyn Graham had ascertained that financial donations could be accepted and therefore the retiring offering would be for that charity.

3.1 Presbytery Building Plan – Change of Classification for Stamperland

The Session Clerk advised that the Presbytery Property Committee had responded to the submission seeking the change of building category for our church from “4” to “1” by agreeing to recommend the change to Presbytery subject to a number of conditions. Presbytery would be asked to agree the change of category on Tuesday, 8th March. It was agreed that there would be a special meeting of the Kirk Session on Monday, 7th March to discuss the proposed amendment to our building classification.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Gray Fletcher led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion. At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**MINUTES OF THE
STATED ANNUAL MEETING
HELD on MONDAY 9th MARCH 2015 at 7.30pm**

Chairman Rev. G. Gray Fletcher BSc BD

Constitution The meeting was constituted with a reading from Romans Ch 12, verse 1 to 8 and prayer.

Notice Rev Gray Fletcher read the Notice calling the meeting and confirmed it had been read in Church on three consecutive Sundays.

Minute of Stated Annual Meeting 2014 The minute of the meeting held on Monday 10th March 2014 was accepted. The acceptance was proposed by Alan Henderson and seconded by Gordon Robertson.

Matters Arising No matters arising.

Chairman's Report Rev Gray Fletcher said that it had been almost a year since he "preached the church empty" on 30th March. As Interim Moderator a major part of his role was to make sure the work and activities of the church kept running. He felt that the church was progressing well and thanked the many people who undertook the day-to-day tasks. There had been considerable work in relation to the Presbytery Plan and developing the connection with Netherlee.

He thanked Rev Jack Drummond for all the work he did as locum minister. Jack was well-liked by the congregation and Gray said that he had been very fortunate in having a locum and being able to leave the regular preaching and pastoral work in such good hands.

Presentation of Annual Report including Treasurer's Report Norman Bolton presented the Annual Report and Accounts. In summary, in 2014 total income was £88,778, total expenditure was £78,850 and the year ended with a surplus of £9,928.

Offerings paid through Gift Aid along with the tax recovered contributed 53% of income and represented the most important source of income. Freewill offerings and open plate together accounted for almost a quarter of ordinary income (23%). Fund raising activities were £3807 and represented some 6 per cent of income. Income from the use of premises was £8151.

Significant items of expenditure were the contribution to the National Ministry and Mission Fund (£36,175), Locum Minister (£7,099) and to Glasgow Presbytery (£2,320); we had no control over these items.

Expenditure associated with the buildings, which include insurance, manse council tax, cleaning of the church and halls and fabric repair and maintenance was £14,385. Much of the maintenance and repair tasks within the church, including the upkeep of the church grounds, were undertaken by volunteers and this helps to keep expenditure under control. Heating and lighting costs were £6,304.

During 2014, we received a legacy of £5,000 pounds and bank interest amounted to approximately £600.

The Church of Scotland has instructed all churches to adopt a sustainable stewardship culture. In this culture members would review their financial contributions and their commitment of time and effort to church-related activities on a regular annual basis. We didn't really do anything on stewardship last year. The Gift Day held in 2014 resulted in donations of just over £2000 compared with the target of £7,000. Promoting a culture of regular annual review is one of the challenges we face and it is rather imperative that we undertake some form of stewardship review this year.

Despite running at a deficit we should note that our reserves at £102,201 are very healthy and would be the envy of many a congregation. Of this sum, £47,000 is earmarked for the "Roof Replacement Fund".

Thanks are due to Norman Walker for acting as Gift Aid Convener and also Anne MacKenzie for continuing as Freewill Offering Convener.

Finally, thanks once again to Ian McNab for his time spent auditing the accounts.

Fabric Report Roy Allan presented the fabric report. He said that the committee completed 2014 within budget and achieved the following.

Annual service of central heating boilers.

Renewal of fluorescent lighting tubes in the large hall.

Re-tiling of front steps to the church along with a section of hallway.

Upgrading of vestry with new ceiling and carpet and, later on in the year, a roof repair.

After the departure of our minister repairs and upgrades to the manse were undertaken including re-hanging of all windows and external doors, purchase and fitting a new carpet and also purchase of the flooring belonging to the Mackays.

Painting of several rooms including bathroom to bring the property up to a standard for rental.

As usual minor repairs and decoration were undertaken within church and halls.

Alarm system given an annual safety check.

In conclusion Roy thanked all who were involved in the various projects during the year, with a special mention to our treasurer who managed to convince the General Trustees that a large proportion of our manse repair costs should be refunded, which kept the fabric within budget.

Social and Fundraising Report Norman Bolton presented a brief report on social and fund-raising activities. The major fund-raising activities had been the Spring Fair, the David Milligan Quiz and the Sounds International Concert. The ticket sales at the concert totaled exactly £1,000; we donated £100 to the choir and half of the remainder (£450) was donate to the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice. Purely social events had included a Burns supper and a beetle drive.

Session Clerk's Report Norman Bolton said that George Mackay's surprise announcement about being called to the linked charge of Hyndland and Broomhill had started a whole chain of events - dealing with vacancy, interim moderator, locum minister, General Trustees, Estate Agents and so on. There had been work to prepare the manse for renting with help from Kay, John & Jane Curror, Connell Cranston, George Fairweather, Alan Henderson and Scott Russell.

He said that in Jack Drummond we had an excellent locum minister. Jack had quickly learned the names of virtually all of the congregation, he was renowned for pastoral care with frequent visits to members in their own homes and in hospital. We would, he said, all like to keep him as our minister for the next ten years. Jack really has kept the congregation spiritually well-nourished and the numbers attending regularly on a Sunday morning were actually increasing.

During 2014 there had been one baptism, two weddings and eight funerals – a smaller number of funerals than usual. Church membership at the start of 2014 was 355. At the end of the year it was 347. Youth organisations are still relatively strong – each week there are nearly 200 young people taking part in the uniformed organisations. Scouts have shown a big increase in the last two years (from 33 to 65). Guides numbers were steady but the BB had a slight reduction, most notably, in Junior sections. All youth organisations could benefit from additional adult leaders.

Holy Week services were well attended as was the early morning Dawn Easter Day Service in Linn Park – these services had been led by our young elders.

Norman said that the new unitary structure was starting to work but there remained a lack of volunteers to serve on committees and particularly a lack of people willing to lead committees. He said he didn't believe that any committee required sacrificial amounts of time or effort from members and leaders but keeping our church going, never mind developing, needed volunteer effort and we really need to look long and hard at what we can do with the resources available.

There were, he said, many positive elements in our church in terms of outreach and helping others. Flower ministry, prayer ministry, pastoral care; our contributions to the wider work of the church – support for the East Renfrewshire foodbank, for the Presbytery's Lodging House Mission and Church House Bridgeton projects, for Mary's Meals, Childrens' Hospice Association, Ebola Appeal, Water Aid and CofS HIV Programme, for Williamwood Home and Erskine Home and, indirectly for the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

Finally, he thanked Gray Fletcher for his work as Interim Moderator saying that he had guided us skilfully through during the sometimes rather slow process of dealing with the vacancy and the Presbytery Plan. He said that we could look forward with confidence knowing that Gray was there to help ensure we remain a thriving congregation.

Vote of Thanks

The proposer said that we had had a dramatic year with the departure of George Mackay and the upheaval and changes that followed from that event. The church faced many challenges but it was reassuring that we had a good group of people working for the church and working for its future. He thanked all who had presented reports and everyone who had contributed.

Closure

Rev Gray Fletcher closed the meeting with benediction

..... Session Clerk

..... Chariman

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 7th MARCH 2016
IN THE SANCTUARY**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Jane Curror, Marie Owens, Grace Scott, John Curror, Fraser Macintosh and Scott Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 20 elders and 6 other Trustees.

4. PRESBYTERY PROPERTY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING BUILDING CLASSIFICATION

4.1 BACKGROUND

Rev Gray Fletcher said that the sole business of the meeting was to consider the proposal from the Presbytery Property Committee that the Stamperland Building Classification should be changed from “4” to “1”. The proposal would be submitted for approval by Presbytery at its meeting the following evening.

The wording which was published in the Presbytery billet for 8th March 2016 was as follows:

Stamperland

A joint submission from Netherlee and Stamperland to change the building classification for Stamperland from ‘4’ to ‘1’ to allow vacancy procedure to move forward.

The Committee recommend the following for approval.

That Stamperland classification be changed, from 4 to 1*, with condition that :-

- a) On the occurrence of any breakdown in the process of linkage to union the classification would be further reviewed.
- b) Until union, any property project over £5000 would require to be approved by the Presbytery Property Committee.
- c) The Manse for the united congregation will be 25 Ormonde Avenue, i.e. the current Netherlee Manse.

**“Buildings are given ‘1’ classification if they will be required to remain in use during the lifetime of the Presbytery Plan.” Presbytery Plan Buildings Appendix*

Gray Fletcher asked those present for their views and comments on the proposal.

4.2 DISCUSSION

There was a lengthy discussion with many trustees making a wide range of comments.

Steven Owens said that he had an issue with the first condition. He had a fundamental disagreement with the intention of moving to a union. Whilst he accepted that we could not have our own minister and linkage was inevitable, he believed that we could manage our own affairs and union was a step too far.

Raymond Russell said that he objected to the second condition. We didn’t want to have to wait for years to be allowed to undertake work on our buildings. Gray Fletcher said that the restriction on the ability to undertake significant building work was essentially due to some churches in the linkage or union process spending very large sums of money to try to ensure that their church would become the preferred building. Within Glasgow Presbytery at least one church had incurred huge debt in relation to fabric expenditure and the Presbytery Property Committee was endeavouring to ensure this would not happen again. The restriction on fabric expenditure was not aimed at Stamperland in particular.

Pat McIlraith said that she viewed the statement as bribery – we were being forced to go into union. Bill Paterson said that whilst the end point might be union we had the opportunity to move to union in our own way; should we keep on objecting, Presbytery might enforce union in a way we would rather avoid.

Alan Henderson said that we had often been told that in relation to the number of ministers in the Church of Scotland it made no difference whether churches were linked or united. He believed most people wished linkage; union in two or three year’s time was not democratic. He asked why the word ‘union’ had to appear in so many statements. Gray said that in his personal view ‘linkage’ and ‘union’ were not substantially different; however, ‘linkage’ could result in two churches pulling apart rather than going forward together. In rural areas where there could be long distances between churches there seemed to be a preference for linkage. In urban settings, where distance was not a factor, there was a preference for union.

There was some discussion about the third condition – the manse. It was accepted that reasons for selecting 25 Ormonde Avenue as the Manse included the fact that the current Stamperland Manse did not meet the minimum accommodation requirements specified by the Church of Scotland and that Stamperland Manse was not owned by the congregation.

David McKee spoke against agreeing to accept the proposal. He said that we should be fighting for our church and for our children’s future rather than rushing down to Netherlee. Acceptance could be the start of a slippery slope and he feared closure of our buildings. In the proposal only Stamperland buildings were mentioned; why was there no mention of the Netherlee buildings? There was a desire for both congregations and both churches to be treated equally; the restrictions on building expenditure should apply to both churches. Netherlee was described in the Buildings Plan as a “1 since it can accommodate the united charges of Netherlee and Stamperland”.

Alastair Graham said that he believed that union was, in the long run, inevitable. We should be concentrating on managing the process of linkage leading to union to ensure that the two congregations and the two churches would gain maximum benefit. Our church, he said, meant a lot to us all. People like Anne MacKenzie and Pat McIlraith had grown up in the church since childhood. He had joined the church a long time ago and wanted it to flourish. Margo Neilson said that in five years time many of the people at the meeting would no longer be active in the day-to-day running of the church. Getting together with Netherlee would enable resources to be shared and could ensure the future of Stamperland. David McKee responded that in five years time the “young elders” would still be here. They wanted to build the church up; to ensure there were many more people around including many more young people. The conditions attached to the proposed change in building score could, he said, affect the future progress.

4.3 DECISION

Rev Gray Fletcher said that it was time to bring the discussion to a halt and proposed that there should be a vote on whether or not to accept the proposal of the Presbytery Property Committee. He proposed that the vote should be on the basis of a show of hands. This was agreed.

Trustees voting to accept the proposal numbered 17. Trustees voting not to accept the proposal numbered 8.

4.4 INFORMING PRESBYTERY

Rev Gray Fletcher asked those present if they were content for the Session Clerk to send an extract minute to Presbytery regarding the decision to accept the proposal of the Property Committee. All agreed.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Gray Fletcher reminded Trustees that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 14th March.

6 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14th MARCH 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 5 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jane Curror, Marie Owens, Jackie Silcock, Roy Allan, John Curror, Rev Jack Drummond, Alastair Graham, Fraser Mackintosh and Steven Owens.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 23 elders and 4 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 3rd February, 10th February, 6th March and 7th March

The draft minute of the meetings were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Session Clerk advised that Section 5.1 of the printed copy of the draft minute of the 3rd February was missing the word “and Netherlee” from the sentence “David McKee said that we needed to get commitment from Presbytery and Netherlee if they want commitment from us.” The formal minute to be signed by the Moderator incorporated the change.

Noting the incorporation of this amendment, acceptance of the minute of 3rd February as a true record was proposed by Raymond Russell and seconded by Bill Paterson.

Acceptance of the minute of the 10th February as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Scott Russell.

Acceptance of the minute of the 6th March as a true record was proposed by Nancy Fisher and seconded by Kay Bolton.

Acceptance of the minute of the 7th March as a true record was proposed by Margot Young and seconded by Janet Stewart.

The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Letter from Sounds International

The Session Clerk read a letter from Sounds International thanking the church for the donation of £100 following the fund-raising concert held on Tuesday, 1st March.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

Margot Young told those present that she was in the process of obtaining copies of the new PVG form. There was a requirement for a considerable number of people covered under previous arrangements to complete a new form.

7.2 Health and Safety

No report.

7.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

No report.

8.1.1.2 Church Organ

The Session Clerk reminded those present that the Treasurer had advised the Kirk Session in the autumn that Duncan McClure, the organist, had indicated that, despite several visits by Harrison & Harrison, the company which maintained the pipe organ, there were a number of organ notes and stops which did not function. The Session Clerk said he had now received a report from Harrison & Harrison detailing essential repair work to the organ. The cost of repairs which required immediate attention was approximately £15,000 (plus VAT); the cost of work which could possibly be delayed for up to five years was approximately a further £15,000 (plus VAT). There would be a slight reduction in total cost if the less urgent repair work was undertaken at the same time as the urgent repair work.

There were options which could be considered including repairing the present organ and purchasing a new digital electronic organ. It was proposed that an ad-hoc committee should be set up to review the options and make recommendations for the way ahead. The membership of the committee would include Duncan McClure, Connell Cranston, Scott Russell and Norman Bolton. The committee were instructed to liaise with both CARTA and Glasgow Presbytery.

8.1.1.3 Youths congregating at the rear fire exit

Scott Russell advised that he had received an e-mail from a person living in Stamperland Hill immediately opposite the rear, fire-exit door of the church. For some time youths had been loitering on the steps at the exit. It was reported that alcohol was consumed and cannabis smoked. Local residents had contacted the police on a significant number of occasions, sometimes making up to three calls on any one evening. The police, however, did not appear to be taking the matter seriously and the residents were asking if the church could take some action. Alison Macfarlane advised that on one occasion she had found two people sleeping in sleeping bags at the back door.

Fraser Neilson reminded the meeting that we had previously taken a variety of initiatives regarding youths gathering at that location. On police advice we had fitted then removed

external lighting at the door; we had also fitted a high-frequency sound deterrent device which was still in place. There was a proposal that we should install a CCTV camera system to monitor the area.

The Session Clerk was asked to write to the police seeking their advice on the matter.

8.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported that offerings for the first two months of the year were on target.

The Sounds International concert had raised £465 for church funds. In addition to this amount, £100 was donated to the choir to support their own charitable fundraising activities.

In relation to expenditure we had paid Presbytery dues of £2,249, £210 for repair of the CCTV system and £468 for the annual Copyright Licence.

Kay informed those present that, having served as auditor for 15 years, Ian MacNab had indicated that he wished to relinquish the post and that we would need to find a replacement. The Session Clerk was asked to write to Ian MacNab and thank him for his diligent work over the period.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Stewardship

David McKee advised that he had received a handful of replies from members willing to take on some tasks and that he would follow these up after Easter.

8.3. MISSION

8.3.1 Pastoral Care

Nancy Fisher presented a brief report. There was still a need for additional drivers to assist in transporting members to and from church on a Sunday morning.

8.3.2 Parish and Beyond

The response to the request for donations for Starter Packs hadn't been as good as in some previous years.

Evelyn Graham reported on the Peace and Justice Forum. The committee was arranging a hustings meeting in connection with the Scottish Government elections. The meeting would be held in Eastwood House on Thursday, 21st April.

Evelyn also advised that Edith Moseley wished to step down from attending the meetings and that Jan Barr was willing to take over from Edith. The meeting planned for September would be held in Stamperland Church.

David McKee asked whether the Cradle Roll was being kept up-to-date. He said that the last entry appeared to be 2011. Grace Scott advised that the Cradle Roll was maintained by Liz Robb and that arrangements were presently in-hand to add recent names. There had been only a few baptisms in recent years.

It was confirmed that the Baptismal Register was maintained and was up-to-date. The Baptismal Register was inspected annually by Presbytery.

8.4.3 NURTURE

8.4.1 Worship

8.4.1.1 Dates for parade of uniformed organizations

Margo Neilson said that the worship committee had discussed the dates for parades of uniformed organizations. The 2nd October had been suggested. Whilst this was close to Remembrance Sunday the Kirk Session agreed that this should be the date for the parade and harvest thanksgiving. The Remembrance Sunday parade would be on 13th November.

8.4.1.2 Monthly Communion

Margo said that a large number of people had attended the monthly communion in February. She indicated that Jack Drummond had mentioned some concern with the use of the Common Cup and asked elders to tell her if they knew of any members who were put off attending the monthly communion services because of the use of the Common Cup.

On the topic of Communion Margo asked elders for their opinion of the effectiveness or otherwise of the way in which the communion elements were taken from the church at the

conclusion of the service. There was agreement that the previous practice of elders lining up in front of the front pew before leaving the church had been better; the worship committee would review the practice at their next meeting.

The Worship Committee had agreed that there would be a focus on the work of The Gideons at the morning service on Sunday, 17th April and that there would be a baptism on Sunday, 24th April.

8.4.2 Education

Scott Russell reported that there had been discussions with youth organisations in relation to parades and the carrying of Colours on parade. Each organization had a different view of appropriate practice; Iain Marshall said that he followed the practice set out in the BB Drill Book. Scott said that he would advise the leader of the organisation which had responsibility for carrying the Queen’s Colour in advance of the appropriate parade.

There had also been discussion regarding the order of marching in a parade. Recently the BB had led parades but this was essentially because no one other than the BB Captain appeared to wish to take responsibility for commanding the parade. Peter Dale, BB Captain, indicated that he was happy to revert to the situation where organizations took it in turn to command and lead the parade.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

9.1 Change of Address

	From	To
Ms Heather Dempster	27 Bunberry Terrace, East Kilbride	7 Guthrie Terrace Crosshouse Kilmarnock

9.2 Adjustments to the Roll

Bill Paterson advised that the following people have requested that their names are removed from the Roll;

- Ms Lynne Caldwell, 25 The Oval
- Mrs Gillian Kirkwood, 102 Stamperland Drive
- Mrs Jane Kidd, 1 Cothal Cottage, Fintry
- Mr Andrew McIlraith, 5 Lomond Crescent, Beith
- Mrs Angela McIlraith, 5 Lomond Crescent, Beith
- Mrs Margaret Campbell, 28 Alyth Gardens
- Mrs Gail Frame, 58 Monteith Drive

9.3 New Member

Elders agreed that Miss Helen Dunbar be added to the Roll by Order of the Kirk Session.

9.4 Review of Communion Roll

Elders agreed that an ad-hoc committee be established to advise the Kirk Session regarding members who had not responded to the letter requesting agreement for their names to be on the Communion Roll. Kay Bolton and Bill Paterson agreed to serve on the committee.

10 Presbytery Elder’s Report

Anne MacKenzie presented a verbal report, highlighting the following items.
 Rev Jeanne Roddick of Greenbank Parish Church would be the new Moderator of Presbytery.
 Presbytery heard a report from Angela Molloy and Graham Hyndman on activities at Church House. Funding from the General Trustees and from Government was supporting the building of an extension to the present property; the new annex should be open this summer.

The Property Committee had only one item of business – the recommendation that the Stamperland Buildings Classification was changed from “4” to “1”. The recommendation had been approved.

A training on Messy Church was taking place in Burnside Blairbeth Church on Saturday, 23rd April.

The World Mission Committee thanked the 12 congregations in Glasgow Presbytery which had donated £4,067 to the Build-a-House Nepal Project. The Church of Scotland had raised a total of £80,000. The Session Clerk advised that Stamperland’s donation of £1,453 had been sent directly to Edinburgh and would not be included in the Glasgow Presbytery total.

Rev Dr Graham Blount would share the job of Presbytery Clerk with the Very Rev William C Hewitt from 1st July.

A minister is to be appointed to engage effectively with the Arts Community in Glasgow and, within this, to develop and nurture a new ecclesial community, grafted in the Church of Scotland, which is contextually and culturally relevant to the Arts Community. Presbytery will contribute £15,000 towards the cost of this ministry over the next five years.

The annual Inspection of Records will commence on 11th April.

11. UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher summarized progress since the previous meeting. As reported by Anne Mackenzie the change of Building Classification from “4” to “1” was approved by Presbytery.

A joint meeting of Stamperland and Netherlee Kirk Sessions was planned for Monday 4th April at Netherlee Parish Church at which it is hoped the Draft Basis of Linkage leading to Union document will be agreed. Hilary MacDougall and David Sinclair, Convener of the Presbytery Strategic Planning Committee, would be present.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Dates of next meeting was agreed as Monday, 4th April 7:30 pm at Netherlee. Joint meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
JOINT KIRK SESSION
MONDAY, 4th APRIL 2016**

1 CONSTITUTION

In the Sanctuary of Netherlee Church on Monday, 4 April 2016 at 7.30 pm the Kirk Sessions of Netherlee and Stamperland met and were constituted with a reading from Philippians Ch 1 and prayer, led by Rev. Tom Nelson Minister of Netherlee.

2 SEDERUNT, APOLOGIES and WELCOME.

Rev Tom Nelson Chairman, Rev Gray Fletcher Interim Moderator Stamperland, Rev. David Sinclair minister of Wellington Parish Church and Convener of the Presbytery Strategy

Committee, Rev. Hilary McDougall, Presbytery Congregational Facilitator plus 28 elders, 1 associate elder, 1 ministry candidate all from Netherlee and 18 elders, 1 trustee from Stamperland were present as recorded on the Netherlee Sederunt sheet and Stamperland attendance book with apologies received from 13 Netherlee elders, 2 associate elders and 9 Stamperland trustees. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly David and Hilary.

3 THE DRAFT BASIS OF DEFERRED LINKAGE LEADING TO UNION.

The Chairman suggested we go through the Draft Basis document clause by clause and invited Hilary to lead us through it together.

Clause 1 – Agreed with no comments or questions

Clause 2 – Agreed with no comments or questions

Clause 3 – Agreed with no comments or questions

Clause 4 – Agreed with no comments or questions

Clause 5 – Agreed with no comments or questions

Clause 6 – The words “maintenance of the Manses” seemed to be at variance with the allocation suggested in Clause 8. David Sinclair agreed to look at it again. It was suggested that these words might be omitted from clause 6 which would be acceptable to both Kirk Sessions.

ACTION: DS/HMcD

Clause 7 - Agreed. Tom confirmed yet again he would retire when he reached age 65 at the end of July 2018. In appointing a nominations Committee the maximum number would be 13 (to avoid a tied vote) and would normally be split in proportion to the size of the congregation. (Netherlee 610, Stamperland 330) so it might be 8/5 or 7/6. Later on, Niall Illingworth suggested that in a spirit of equality he thought the Committee should be evenly split which was welcomed by the meeting. David advised that there was the flexibility to agree the split at local level, what was in the Draft was the method recommended by the Church of Scotland. David emphasised that a Nominations Committee should be seeking to be unanimous in its recommendation of a minister as no minister would want to take up a charge where the Committee was evenly split or where there was only a narrow majority. If that scenario arose the Committee needed to take a step back and re-consider their position.

Clause 8 – It was thought the allocations mentioned in this clause were probably correct and that Clause 6 needed to be re-drawn as suggested above.

ACTION: DS/HMcD

Clause 9 - Agreed with no comments or questions

Clause 10 – This clause prompted the greatest number of comments and questions. The time span from deferred linkage to full Union appeared to have been reduced from 5 years to 3. The original document specified 2 years which was thought to be too short and Hilary had spoken to the Strategy Committee who had revised it to 3 years but Presbytery was not prepared to increase it to 5 years. The point was made that Stamperland had been told that Presbytery had said it didn't matter to them whether it was a linkage or a union – was that correct? And how do we move it forward? David tried to explain that the Presbytery plan had stated Netherlee / Stamperland was to be a linkage leading to a Union. What was being asked tonight was consent to a deferred linkage now, with a basis of Union to be considered in the future and would be the subject of a separate debate.

What would happen if both Kirk Sessions decided in 3 or 4 years time that a Union wasn't going to work? David responded there would need to be a very good reason and his Committee, if satisfied there was good reason, would ask Presbytery to look at it again. He re-iterated tonight's document was looking at a deferred linkage and that it would be perhaps five years from now that we would be looking at Union. We need to acknowledge tonight that this document is not a basis of Union but we recognise Union is where we are heading.

Tom thought we needed to be clear what we wanted to do in the future. With linkage nothing changes. A new Minister would not stay if there was no vision for the future together. We needed someone to excite us and not just keep things going as they have always been done. We need something new and creative.

If we agree this document tonight the strategy committee would consider it at its meeting on 26th April and it would go to Presbytery at its May meeting with the congregations being asked to vote in June.

The view was expressed from Stamperland that although they had not voted on the Linkage leading to Union the belief was that the majority of the Kirk Session were in favour of it.

David McKee expressed his concerns over the process adopted by 121 George Street and Presbytery on this matter and was inclined to ask for a more open ended arrangement on the time frame to reach Union. David Sinclair thought if there was a time to ask for an extension it was not at the beginning but perhaps after 3 years.

Pat McKenzie thought it was no use being so open ended - a new minister needed to feel that we wanted to go forward together.

Norrie Bolton indicated that most were happy with linkage and the doubters should take comfort from what has been said tonight about Union that Presbytery would not impose a Union.

Helen Illingworth thought that part of the reason the document was not “just right” was because we are just drifting. We needed to expand our joint vision and not be worrying about time scales and manses. We need a shared vision and if we work at that together then the other matters will not be at all important.

4 NEXT STEPS

Each Kirk Session needed to meet separately and vote simply on “Is it Linkage leading to Union” or “Is it Linkage only”. The result of the votes from each Kirk Session would be reported to the Strategy Convener before the meeting on 26 April. Any agreement is to be subject to Clause 6 and 8 being sorted out as discussed this evening.

ACTION: NB /JSM

It was noted the Netherlee Kirk Session were scheduled to meet tomorrow night and it was suggested that Stamperland Kirk Session might meet after the morning service on Sunday 17th April.

5 AOCB

There was no further business. Tom Nelson then thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the discussions and invited the Rev. Gray Fletcher to close the meeting.

6 CLOSE

The Rev. Gray Fletcher then closed the meeting at 8.55 pm with prayer and by saying the grace together.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4th APRIL 2016
IN THE LOWER HALL, NETHERLEE PARISH CHURCH**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 18 elders.

3. THE DRAFT BASIS OF DEFERRED LINKAGE LEADING TO UNION

The Interim Moderator said that the single item of business was to vote on the document, "Draft Basis of Deferred Linkage Leading to Union". He said that there had been considerable discussion on the document at the Joint Kirk Session Meeting held just a short time previously and he asked whether anyone wished to speak before moving to the vote. With no one indicating an intention to speak the meeting moved to vote. Eleven elders voted in favour of accepting the document. Seven elders voted against accepting the document.

4. COMMENTS

Steven Owens said that he had voted against the document. However, with the majority view being in favour he would now give his support and effort to ensure a successful outcome to the proposals within the document. Norman Bolton thanked Steven for this support and said that he believed that, working together, the two congregations and the two churches could look forward to a secure long-term future.

5. CLOSURE

Rev. Gray Fletcher led the elders in saying 'The Grace'.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th MAY 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Philippians, Chapter 2 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Jane Curror, Janis Herriott, Edith Moseley, Marie Owens, Grace Scott, Connell Cranston, John Curror, Alan Henderson and James Mathieson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 19 elders and 5 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 14th March, 4th April and 4th April

The draft minute of the meetings were circulated prior to the meeting.

Acceptance of the minute of 14th March as a true record was proposed by Scott Russell and seconded by Ray McNiven.

Acceptance of the minute of the joint session meeting with Netherlee held on 4th April as a true record was proposed by Steven Owens and seconded by Evelyn Graham.

In relation to the minute of the meeting of Stamperland Kirk Session on the 4th April, Steven Owens advised that he would continue to voice objection to the proposed Linkage leading to Union up to the time of the congregational vote. Acceptance of the minute of the 4th April as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Evelyn Graham. The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Citation from Presbytery of Glasgow

The Session Clerk read a citation from Presbytery requesting that two or three representatives from Stamperland attend the meeting of Presbytery on 10th May at Sherbrooke St Gilbert's Parish Church at which the Local Church Review Report would be presented. Steven Owens and Anne Mackenzie agreed to represent the congregation.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

The Session Clerk advised that the church's PVG Register had still to be shown to presbytery as part of the Inspection of Records.

7.2 Health and Safety

No report.

7.3 Food Hygiene

No report.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

No report.

Scott Russell advised that he had contacted the police in relation to youths gathering at the back door. He said that the light at the back door was now permanently on; Fraser Neilson and Roy Allan indicated that this light was fitted with a timer and undertook to investigate why the light was not being controlled.

8.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported that offerings for the first four months of the year were on target. She advised that the church had received a donation of £350 from The Guild. In relation to Fund Raising activities the David Milligan Quiz had raised £628.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens advised that the Sounds International Concert had raised £465. He advised that the current focus was on the Spring Fair and that all arrangements were progressing satisfactorily.

8.2.2 Stewardship

David McKee said that there were no significant initiatives progressing at present. He had noted that on the first Sunday in April there had been no printed Order of Service and intimation sheet and that the screen had not been used to display the words of the hymns. He said that we should look to see if there were members within the congregation who had talents which could be used to do these things.

8.3. Mission

8.3.1 Pastoral Care

Nancy Fisher presented a brief report. Again, she stressed the need for additional drivers to assist in transporting members to and from church on a Sunday morning.

8.4 Nurture

8.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson said that the worship committee would meet on Sunday, 8th May.

8.4.2 Education

No report.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

9.1 New Members

Ms Helen Dunbar	Flat 34, Homeburn House	177 Fenwick Road, Giffnock
Mr Stuart Bruce	1 Craighill Drive	Clarkston
Mr Ann Bruce	1 Craighill Drive	Clarkston

9.2 Adjustments to the Roll

Bill Paterson advised that the following person should be removed from the Roll;

Mr Richard Kidd, McLaren Place, Netherlee.

9.3 Attestation of the Roll

The Session Clerk advised that the Communion Roll was being “laid on the Communion Table” for a number of Sundays in May to enable members to check the information on the Roll. Elders would be asked to “Attest the Roll” at the meeting of the Kirk Session prior to the Communion service on the 5th June.

9.4 Data Protection Letters

The Session Clerk advised that a third version of the letter to members seeking their explicit agreement for their names to be on the Communion Roll was available. Fifty six people had yet to respond to either of the previous two requests. Envelopes with the name and address of these non-responding members were on the table and every elder was asked to check whether anyone in their district was amongst those who had yet to respond.

10 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher summarized the current position

Following the joint meeting of Stamperland and Netherlee Kirk Sessions on Monday 4th April and the subsequent agreement of both Kirk Sessions to the wording of the Draft Basis of Linkage leading to Union document, the document would be presented to Presbytery at its meeting on Tuesday, 10th May. If Presbytery agreed the document it would then become the Basis of Linkage leading to Union document and members of both congregations would vote on its acceptance. The vote would be held on the same Sunday in both congregations. It was suggested that 5th June would be an appropriate date. The ballot would be organized by Presbytery. The ballot would be a secret ballot with voting papers issued to record an individual’s vote.

It was proposed that there should be an opportunity for members to ask questions about the Basis for Linkage leading to Union and it was agreed that Gray Fletcher would chair a Q&A meeting following the morning service on 15th May.

Gordon Robertson said that he believed that thanks were in order for the work undertaken by the Session Clerk in relation to everything that had taken place subsequent to the departure of George Mackay.

Gray Fletcher said that if both congregations voted to accept the Basis of Linkage leading to Union then it could be hoped that a joint Nomination Committee might be established before summer. Members of the Nomination Committee would not necessarily be elders but should be representative of the two congregations in respect of all demographics such as age, gender, etc.. The committee would be responsible for preparing parish profiles, advertising the vacancy, listening to applicants preach, drawing up short-lists and interviewing potential ministers. Committee members needed to be available to attend worship at the applicants’ churches. Members would need to be aware of their congregation’s aspirations and objectives and of the preferences in relation to styles and forms of worship. The Nomination Committee would not chose a minister – members of both congregations would, as is normal practice, vote on the matter.

Elders were asked to consider people whom they believed would be potentially appropriate members of a Nomination Committee.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of next meetings were agreed as Wednesday, 8th June and Wednesday, 7th September.

12 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 5th JUNE 2016
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Gray Fletcher with prayer and a reading from Matthew, Chapter 22, verses 1-10.

2. DEVOTIONS

Rev Gray Fletcher said that the parable of the wedding feast always reminded him of a story about a grand New York society wedding. Everything had been organized – reception suite booked, menu planned, invitations sent out and acceptance replies received. Then the groom took cold feet and the wedding was called off. Unfortunately there were no refunds on the reception. The bride knew what she had to do – she would throw a party, send out invitations to all the local homeless shelters and, at the meal, serve boneless chicken in honour of the groom. Jesus parable tells the story of a king who threw a party, but none of the people he invited showed up for his party. In Jesus' parable, the king is throwing the party for his son who was getting married. Since he was a king, and this was his only son, you can imagine that it was going to be quite a celebration and it would be a tremendous honour to be invited! All of the plans had been made, invitations sent, food prepared; but on the day of the celebration, no one showed up!

The king sent his servants to see where the people were and why they had not come to his celebration. The people all began to make excuses about how busy they were. The king was very upset, so he told his servants to go out into the streets and invite everyone they saw to come to his son's wedding celebration. They did exactly what the king told them to do and the Bible tells us that the wedding hall was filled with guests.

Gray continued, saying that in this story, the King is God and, of course, Jesus is His Son. God is going to have a great celebration for His Son in Heaven and we have all been invited. He said he couldn't imagine why, but some people will actually turn down God's invitation. He concluded by saying, “You've been invited - I hope you will accept God's invitation.”

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Welcome to Fiona Crawford

The Session Clerk welcomed Fiona Crawford, Presbytery Strategy Officer, who was attending to oversee the vote on the draft basis of deferred linkage.

3.2 Retiring Offering

It was agreed that the retiring offering would be donated to the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council specifically to support the “Two Betty's Hostel Project” in Malawi. The hostel was built with money bequeathed by Betty Walls of Edinburgh and Betty Bone of Dundee to

accommodate trainee women teachers in Embangweni in Malawi. The donation would help towards the cost of furnishing within the building.

3.3 Attestation of the Communion Roll and Roll of Adherents

The Session Clerk reminded elders that copies of the Communion Roll and Roll of Adherents had been placed on the Communion Table for inspection on most Sundays in May. A number of people had advised that their names were not recorded in the Rolls.

Communion Roll

Mr Alexander G Thomson, 2 Stamperland Drive wished to be a member.

Elders were aware that Mr Thomson attended regularly along with his wife who was a member. It was agreed that Mr Thomson’s name should be added to the Communion Roll “by resolution of the Kirk Session”.

Roll of Adherents

Three people had expressed a desire that their names be on the Roll of Adherents.

Mrs Margaret McKee, 102 Stamperland Avenue.

Mrs Helen Wood, 92 The Oval.

Mrs Cathy Allan, 185 The Oval.

It was agreed that Mrs McKee, Mrs Allan and Mrs Wood should be added to the Adherents Roll “by resolution of the Kirk Session”.

Minor errors and amendments

A number of minor errors such as incorrect addresses or spelling errors had been identified and these would be corrected by the Roll Keeper.

Attestation of the Roll

Subject to the additions and minor amendments noted above it was agreed that the Communion Roll and Roll of Adherents were correct and that the formal attestation procedures of the Roll had been completed.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Gray Fletcher led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

5 CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

A congregational vote regarding the Draft Basis of Deferred Linkage was held after the morning service.

Ballot papers were issued and collected.

The counting of ballot papers was overseen by Fiona Crawford.

Fiona Crawford announced the result of the vote:

Agreeing to the terms of the draft basis of deferred linkage 112

Disagreeing to the terms of the draft basis of deferred linkage 9

6 CLOSURE

Rev Gray Fletcher led the congregation in saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Matthew Chapter 5 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jan Barr, Jean Cranston, Edith Moseley, Marie Owens, Sheena Skelton, Janet Stewart, Connell Cranston, John Curror, Fraser Neilson and Steven Owens.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 19 elders and 4 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated with the addition of Presbytery Elder's Report.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 4th May and 5th June

The draft minute of the meetings were circulated prior to the meeting.

Bill Patterson said that the information in Section 9.2 was incorrect. Richard Kidd had, in fact, asked for his name to remain on the Communion Roll. With this amendment, acceptance of the minute of 4th May as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Ray McNiven.

Acceptance of the minute of the 5th June as a true record was proposed by Jane Curror and seconded by Raymond Russell.

The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Letter from William Anderson

The Session Clerk read a letter from William Anderson in which has asked to be relieved of his duties as a visiting elder. Willie Anderson was thanked for his long and faithful service as an elder.

6.1.2 Paul and Alison Linich

The Session Clerk told the meeting that Mr and Mrs Linich were moving home from Stamperland to Fenwick. As a consequence of the move, Paul had relinquished the post of Leader of the Junior section of the Boys' Brigade and Alison Linich would be relinquishing her role within Stepping Stones and her leadership of the Rainbows.

The Session Clerk was asked to write to Mr and Mrs Linich to convey the thanks and appreciation of the Kirk Session.

It was noted that Scott Russell had taken over as leader of the Junior BB.

6.1.3 Youth congregating at the emergency exit

Norman Bolton said that he had met with Police Officer Karlyn Sagan from Giffnock Police Station in relation to seeking advice on the youths congregating at the emergency exit. She had advised that it might be appropriate to install a motion-sensitive light at the area. The installation of a CCTV camera or dummy camera might act as a further deterrent. PO Sagan indicated that the police would increase the frequency with which patrols passed the area on Stamperland Hill and that the community police officer at Williamwood High School would be asked to take appropriate steps to deal with the issue.

Scott Russell said that the neighbour who had highlighted the issue had noted that the operation of the external light at the door area had apparently resulted in fewer youths gathering in the area and that there had been much less noise; she was grateful to the church for taking action.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

The Session Clerk said that Sheila Macdonald, formerly of The Oval but now living in Newton Mearns, was planning to attend church. Mrs Macdonald was a wheelchair user and would require assistance to get out of the taxi which would bring her to church. The Duty Teams were asked to keep a watch for the taxi's arrival and to assist Mrs Macdonald. Jack Drummond said that Mrs Macdonald might attend on Sunday, 12th June.

7.2 Health and Safety

7.2.1 Padlock on back gate

Jane Curror advised that it was hard to see to get the key into the padlock on the gate at the exit to the lower hall in the darkness. The Fabric Committee agreed to investigate options to improve this matter.

7.2.2 Fire Extinguishers

Anne MacKenzie told the meeting that the Chubb representative had visited the church and halls to inspect the fire extinguishers. He would send a report but she understood two of the extinguishers were either old or of an inappropriate type.

Anne also reported that Chubb appeared to have the wrong contact details. Roy Allan advised that he received information from Chubb and would check that they had up-to-date, relevant contact details.

David McKee asked a question about keys and access to the church and halls and whether there was a register of keys and key holders. He was told that there was a register of keys and that it was held by Connell Cranston.

7.3 Food Hygiene

Anne MacKenzie advised that a health inspector had paid a visit to inspect the kitchen. He had commented that the kitchen looked "quite old" but didn't have any issues with the condition. Margot Young had asked the inspector about the installation of a dishwasher. The inspector had advised that an 'industrial dishwasher' would be required and that it should not be located near the gas cooker. He also advised that the installation of a dishwasher would allow one of the sinks to be removed.

Margo Neilson said that there was an opportunity to review the use of the cupboard space within the kitchen. Mugs, rather than cups and saucers, were increasingly being used; cutlery, including large knives, was stored in a variety of locations and in a variety of containers. Margo offered to work with Margot and Anne to see how the kitchen storage might be better used.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

Alan Henderson reported that the hand-dryer in the gent's toilet had been repaired.

Alan also reported that the price of an industrial dishwasher would be around £1,000. These units would have a cycle time of about 4 minutes. He had identified three or four models which could possibly be installed in the kitchen but he would consult with a joiner before coming to the trustees with a firm, costed proposal.

8.1.2 Finance

8.1.2.1 General

Kay Bolton reported that the total funds raised by the Spring Fair amounted to £2306.

She advised that donations to the retiring offering at the previous Sunday's Communion Service were £152.70 and that a cheque had been sent to the World Mission Council to support the development of the 'Two Betty's Hostel' in Malawi.

8.1.2.2 Closure of the Netherlee Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland

Kay advised the meeting of the impending closure of the Netherlee Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. The closure would mean that there would be no night safe at Netherlee. On a Sunday, the leader of the duty team would need to take the night safe wallet to the RBS branch

at Giffnock; they would then either have to bring the night safe key back to church straightaway or ensure it was brought back to church the following Sunday. Kay indicated that collecting the night safe wallet from Giffnock could present a problem; Raymond Russell volunteered to collect the night safe wallet from Giffnock.

An alternative option could be to move the church's bank account from the Royal Bank to the Bank of Scotland at Clarkston but that move could be complicated for a variety of reasons.

Those present agreed that the church should continue with RBS as its banker and use the night safe at Giffnock.

8.1.2.3 Church Organ

Kay reported that representatives from Harrison & Harrison had been present at the church at the end of May to tune the organ. Rather than tuning the organ they had spent time attending to failing leatherwork for which they had charged £371.

Norman Bolton reminded those present that an ad-hoc committee had been set up to look at options regarding the organ including repair of the existing instrument and the installation of an alternative digital organ. Approaches had been made to CARTA to seek their advice and also to Glasgow Presbytery.

CARTA had advised that the existing organ has historical significance and the Session Clerk had asked CARTA to initiate procedures to have the organ granted a "Historic Organ Certificate". Being in possession of a "Historic Organ Certificate" could help the chances of getting third-party funding to assist in financing the refurbishment work. However, CARTA advised that a key issue in terms of securing funding is 'accessibility and outreach' rather than historical significance. It could take up to two years to go through the process of seeking a grant and there was no guarantee of success. CARTA also advised that should a digital instrument be chosen it was crucial that nothing be done which would impact on the installation of the existing pipe organ.

Whilst dialogue was taking place with CARTA, Duncan McClure had learned of the availability of a 'nearly-new' digital organ. This instrument was about six months old and had been installed in the house of an elderly gentleman who was now in a retirement home. This instrument and appropriate amplifier and loudspeakers could be installed at Stamperland at a cost of £13,000 – a saving of £6,500 on the price of a new system. It would have a ten year guarantee. Norman said that the previous evening Connell Cranston, Duncan McClure and himself had gone to Merrylea Church where a virtually identical instrument had been installed less than two years previously. All three had been favourably impressed.

Norman Bolton said that he had also been in touch with the Presbytery Buildings Committee Convenor to ascertain the committee's view. One option which the Presbytery Committee was asked to consider was the purchase of a digital organ which would be used whilst applications were being made for third-party, grant funding for the full refurbishment of the existing pipe organ and the refurbishment completed. He had anticipated protracted discussions but had been surprised to receive an e-mail at about 5.00 pm on the day of the Session Meeting advising the Committee's decision. The decision was "that no authorisation would be given or put to Presbytery for the expenditure indicated to repair the Lewis Organ at this time but that the purchase and installation of a digital instrument was approved". The position was that we had permission, if desired, to purchase and have installed the "nearly-new" digital organ.

Scott Russell argued that we should not proceed with the purchase of the digital organ but, rather, spend money on the first phase of the refurbishment of the Lewis pipe organ. This view was supported by a good number of those present who indicated that we had a responsibility for the maintenance of an instrument which was over 100 years old and of historic significance. David McKee was concerned that a digital organ was a "moveable" item and didn't represent a statement of confidence in the long-term future of the church. Ideas were put forward for the establishment of an organ fund and for fund-raising organ concerts.

Alastair Graham noted that the decision of the Presbytery Committee was that both organs would be "in tandem". Both would be available and that it was not proposed to decommission the existing instrument.

Following considerable debate the matter was put to a vote. Thirteen people voted in favour of the purchase and installation of the “nearly new” digital organ and seven people voted to ask the Presbytery Property Committee to reconsider their decision.

Scott Russell volunteered to assist in the process of applying to various bodies to seek funds to refurbish the Lewis pipe organ.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Fund Raising

No report.

8.2.2 Stewardship

No report.

8.3. Mission

8.3.1 Pastoral Care

No report

8.4 Nurture

8.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson said that the worship committee had met on Sunday, 8th May and discussed communion arrangements.

8.4.2 Education

Scott Russell said that he was having leaflets printed to promote the Junior BB. He wondered if the Kirk Session would approve the expenditure of around £40 to have leaflets printed to promote Stepping Stones. Trustees approved the printing of the promotional leaflets.

9. REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

9.1 May Meeting

Printed copies of the report were circulated before the start of the meeting.

Alan Henderson asked about the paragraph in which Anne Mackenzie wrote that “the Presbytery Plan is coming adrift. Several congregations have been given permission to call a minister on Reviewable Tenure because of appeals or a minister left in one charge not being agreeable to work on a linkage or union or else the two congregations cannot agree.”

Gray Fletcher said that the problems highlighted by Anne were largely the consequence of the “employment status” of Church of Scotland ministers. If a minister had unrestricted status they could remain in their charge “indefinitely”. Where two or more churches were identified to link, then, if one became vacant there might be no short-term prospect of linkage if the minister in the other church indicated that they did not wish to become minister of the new linked charge. In such a case presbytery could give permission for the vacant church to call a minister on reviewable tenure.

Alan Henderson also asked about the Build a House project and Stamperland’s contribution. The Session Clerk said that Stamperland Church had contributed over £1,500, enough to build more than three homes. Alan said that we should seek to publicise this information more widely.

9.2 Anne MacKenzie

The Session Clerk reminded the meeting that this was Anne’s final report as Presbytery Elder. Anne had been appointed Presbytery Elder in January 2003 and had served faithfully for more than 13 years. Anne indicated that prior to being Presbytery Elder for Stamperland she had attended Presbytery as a Guild representative for six years. Anne was thanked for her long and diligent service.

10 ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

10.1 New Members

Mr Alexander Thomson

2 Stamperland Drive

10.2 Adjustments to the Roll

Removals

The following have asked to be removed from the Communion Roll.

Mr James Law	64 Nethervale Avenue
Mrs Louise Law	64 Nethervale Avenue
Mrs Charlotte Thornton	60 Stamperland Avenue

Additions to Adherents Roll

Mrs Margaret McKee	102 Stamperland Avenue
Mrs Helen Wood	92 The Oval
Mrs Cathy Allan	185 The Oval

It was reported at the meeting that Mrs Cathy Allan had died on the morning of 8th June.

Changes of Address

Mr Richard Kidd	Flat 17, McLaren Place	44 Glen Farq, East Kilbride
Miss Fiona Curror	4 Leebank Drive	9 Nethercairn Road, Mansewood
Mr Iain Fulton	31 Lothian Drive	12, Greenbankl Ave, Stockport
Mrs Patricia Madden	10 Kirkdene Ave	16 Hillcrest Ave
Mrs Fiona Tuckfield	New Luce, Newton Stewart	14 Melbourne Avenue, Eastriggs
Mrs Maureen Lawrie	125 Stamperland Gdns.	Care Home, East Kilbride

It was reported at the meeting that Mrs Maureen Lawrie had died the previous week.

11 LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

It was noted that Presbytery had received the Stamperland LCR at its meeting in May. Anne Mackenzie said that Roger Sturrock had spoken very highly and positively about Stamperland.

12 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher reported the results of the congregational votes on Sunday, 5th June.

At Stamperland	112 had voted for the basis of deferred linkage. 9 had voted against the basis of deferred linkage.
At Netherlee	210 had voted for the basis of deferred linkage. 5 had voted against the basis of deferred linkage.

The results of the vote would be presented to Glasgow Presbytery at its meeting on 21st June. Subsequent to this meeting, the Presbytery Clerk would notify Edinburgh who would ratify the result.

Gray advised that he and Tom Nelson had been trying to arrange a meeting with the Presbytery Vacancy Procedure Committee. With the composition of Presbytery Committees changing over the summer it was not clear whether Rev Linda Walker was or would still be the point of contact for the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Hopefully this would be clarified quite soon. It was normal practice for members of the Vacancy Procedure Committee to meet with the Kirk Session of the vacant charge or, in our case, with the Kirk Sessions of Stamperland and Netherlee. It might be possible to have a meeting before summer; otherwise the meeting with the Vacancy Procedure Committee could be delayed until late August or September. Should arrangements proceed quickly then it might be possible to elect a Nominations Committee in late August or early September.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 7th September.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say "the Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
JOINT KIRK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, 19th JUNE 2016**

1 CONSTITUTION

In the Sanctuary of Stamperland Church on Wednesday, 19th June 2016 at 7.30 pm the Kirk Sessions of Netherlee and Stamperland met and were constituted with prayer by Rev. Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator of Stamperland.

2 SEDERUNT, APOLOGIES and WELCOME.

Rev Tom Nelson Moderator, Netherlee, Rev Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator Stamperland and Rev. Linda Walker, Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee.

24 elders were present as recorded on the Netherlee Sederunt sheet with 23 apologies for absence from Netherlee.

Approximately 18 elders and trustees were present representing Stamperland.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Rev Linda Walker was introduced and her role in relation to vacancy procedures within Glasgow Presbytery was briefly described.

3 VACANCY PROCEDURES

All present were issued with a publication which summarised the current vacancy procedures.

3.1 Summary of the Three Stages

Linda Walker gave a brief review of the procedures explaining that there were essentially three stages. The first stage generally involved the Interim Moderator and various presbytery officials and committees and ended with the Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee advising the Interim Moderator on the Right to Call. The second stage saw the significant involvement of the Kirk Session and the Nomination Committee with the third stage (hopefully) seeing the preaching of a sole nominee, the vote of the congregation and the involvement of Presbytery leading to (hopefully) the induction of the minister.

3.2 Stage One

Within Stage One there were a series of steps which would lead to a congregation being given permission to call a minister. Permission required a number of conditions to be met. Three key conditions included the following:

- Presbytery Property Committee needs to be assured that the financial matters of the congregation are in order and that Ministries & Mission contributions are up-to-date.
- There are no Superintendence issues affecting the congregation.
- The manse has been inspected.

In relation to Netherlee and Stamperland it was advised that there were no financial issues affecting either congregation and also that no superintendence issues related to either congregation.

It was advised that Stamperland Manse did not conform to the current criteria for Church of Scotland manses. Linda Walker said that she had recently been Interim Moderator at Williamwood and that the Williamwood manse had not met the minimum criteria; it was not necessarily the case that a non-conforming manse would prevent or limit a congregation being granted permission to call. The fact that the Stamperland manse would only be a temporary home for the new minister and family would be considered. There was a suggestion that it might be possible to rent a “fully conforming house” for the period leading up to the Netherlee Manse becoming available to the new minister.

The Session Clerk of Stamperland was asked to contact the tenant living in the Stamperland Manse and advise them of the likely inspection of the property by Presbytery Representatives. The Session Clerk was also asked to keep an eye on the lease arrangement to ensure that the manse would be vacated in plenty of time for the arrival of the new minister.

Linda Walker indicated that the Interim Moderator should complete the Vacancy Schedule.

Linda Walker advised that two copies of each churches Electoral Register should be sent to the Presbytery Clerk along with an extract minute of the relevant Kirk Session Meeting at which the Communion Roll was attested.

3.3 Stage Two

In preparation for Stage Two, Linda Walker advised that thought could be given to creating the Parish Profile. The Parish Profile should include each churches latest Local Church Review as an Appendix. She advised both Kirk Sessions to think about the congregations, the local parish areas, the current ministry and what both churches wished to see in the future. An advisory committee from Presbytery would meet with both Kirk Sessions to explore the vision for future ministry and this would assist in the preparation of the Parish Profile. She emphasised that the Parish Profile should paint a realistic and accurate picture. The Parish Profile had to be approved by both Kirk Sessions.

One item which had to be discussed and voted on by each Kirk Session was in relation to the appointment of a minister in a same sex relationship or civil partnership. This issue had the potential to be divisive and required careful and sensitive handling. The decision would be made by elders. Two week’s notice had to be given of the Kirk Session meeting at which there would be a vote on the issue.

The Interim Moderator would arrange congregational meetings to appoint a Nomination Committee. It was mentioned that it had been agreed that the Nomination Committee would be made up of seven members from Netherlee Church and six members from Stamperland Church. Linda advised of the need to ensure, as far as possible, that the membership of the Nomination Committee was representative of the age, gender and involvement in church life of the congregation. She said that, ideally, there would be more members from each congregation willing to serve on the Nomination Committee than there were positions available so that the congregation could see that appointment to the committee was fully democratic and not a “stitch up”. She appreciated that congregational voting might not result in getting a committee membership fully representative of the age and gender profile of the congregation.

Subsequent to the formation of a Nomination Committee a Presbytery Advisory Committee would meet with the Nomination Committee for discussions on how to proceed.

In response to questions Linda Walker indicated that permission to call could be given in September but that, as a consequence of summer holidays, it could be delayed until October.

4 CLOSURE

The Rev. Linda Walker closed the meeting with prayer.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2016
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

Devotions took the form of several Old Testament readings.

The first set, Exodus Chapter 3 verses 11 and 12 and Exodus Chapter 4 verses 10 to 14 related to God asking Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and Moses saying, “No, Lord, I am not a good speaker please send someone else.”

In the second reading, Judges Chapter 6 verses 14 to 16, God ordered Gideon to go and rescue Israel from the Midianites. But Gideon protested that his clan was the weakest in the tribe of Manessah and that he was the least important member of his family.

The third set of readings was from Isaiah Chapter 6. In verses 5 and 8 Isaiah goes from saying he is a sinful man who is doomed, to answering God’s call of “Whom shall I send?” and replying “Here I am. Send me.”

Finally, Jack Drummond read verses 4 – 10 of Chapter 1 of Jeremiah in which God tells Jeremiah he has been chosen to be a prophet and Jeremiah responds that he is too young, doesn’t know how to speak.

Jack said that these great men of God all tried to make excuses to avoid the work which God was calling them to do. They claimed to be too young, too inarticulate, too insignificant, too inexperienced. Yet they were chosen by God and, importantly, God worked with them and through them.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Retiring Offering

It was agreed that the retiring offering would be donated to Robin House Children’s Hospice.

4 CLOSURE

Elders stood to say “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Luke Chapter 14 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Edith Moseley, Janis Herriot, Marie Owens, Margot Young, Connell Cranston, John Curror, George Fairweather, Fraser Neilson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 21 elders and 2 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 8th June, 19th June and 4th September

The draft minute of the June meetings were circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute of 8th June as a true record was proposed by Roy Allan and seconded by Gordon Robertson. Acceptance of the minute of the 19th June as a true record was proposed by Steven Owens and seconded by Kay Bolton.

The minute of the meeting on the 4th September was read to the meeting by the Session Clerk. Acceptance of the minute of the 4th September as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Scott Russell.

The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Locum Minister

6.1.1 Sam Esler and George Fraser

Rev Jack Drummond advised those present that Sam Esler was far from well and had very recently moved to the Darnley Care Home where his wife, Grace, was also being looked after. On a more positive note he was pleased to inform elders that George Fraser was back home and coping well.

6.2 Session Clerk

6.2.1 Letter from Presbytery Clerk

Norman Bolton read to the meeting a letter and an extract minute which he had received from the Presbytery Clerk at the end of June. The Session Clerk was instructed to engross the Extract Minute in the minutes of the first Kirk Session meeting. The Extract Minute was as follows:

AT GLASGOW the 21st June 2016 the Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.

Inter Alia:

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Netherlee and Stamperland

Following congregational votes of 210 for and 5 against at Netherlee and 112 for and 9 against at Stamperland, Presbytery is asked to approve the Basis of Deferred Linkage for the congregations of Netherlee and Stamperland (as presented at item 46 of Strategic Planning report, May Presbytery 2016).

Presbytery is asked to note that the PPTG concurred with the Basis of Deferred Linkage on 16th June 2016.

Presbytery received the Report and approved the recommendation.

Extracted by me this 22nd day of June 2016.

Signed William C. Hewitt

Very Rev William C. Hewitt
Clerk of Presbytery

6.2.2 Letter from East Renfrewshire Foodbank

Norman Bolton read some excerpts from a letter from Ag Law, a member of the Foodbank Management Team. In the letter Mrs Law expressed thanks to the 20 churches throughout East Renfrewshire who have donated food on a regular basis. Of the 64 tonnes of food distributed by the Foodbank in the past three years, 20 tonnes was donated by churches. A total of 8,200 people had been fed; of this number there had been 1256 single people, 848 couples, 770 small

families and 593 large families. The Foodbank asked that their thanks be conveyed to the congregations.

Thanks had been conveyed to the congregation during Sunday morning intimations and it was agreed that a copy of the letter should be printed in an edition of Focus.

6.2.3 Resignation of Presbytery Elder

The Session Clerk said that he had received correspondence from David McKee, Presbytery Elder. In his e-mail David had said since his wife, Lynsey, unexpectedly had to take on the leadership role of the Rainbows on a Tuesday evening this fact and family commitments would make it difficult for him to attend Presbytery on a regular basis. As a consequence, he wished to relinquish the post.

The Session Clerk asked for a volunteer to take on the role of Presbytery Elder. There were approximately nine meetings of Presbytery each year. Meetings were held at Sherbrook St Gilbert's Church. Gray Fletcher stressed that it was important that the church had someone who could attend and speak at a Presbytery meeting should a matter of importance directly affecting the church be tabled at Presbytery.

Norman Bolton asked all elders to consider whether they could take on the role. Presbytery had to be informed of the name of the church's Presbytery Elder by Friday afternoon. It would be good if someone present at the meeting would feel able to take on the role and advise him of this by mid-day Friday.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

7.1.1 PVG Co-ordinator

The Session Clerk reminded the meeting that there had been a hiccup regarding Margot Young being registered by the Church of Scotland as our PVG co-ordinator. He said that he currently had a newly-completed form ready to send to Edinburgh. Kay Bolton said that Margot had phoned her that afternoon to say that the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh were in the process of sending her further forms.

It was hoped that Margot would soon be formally registered or recognised as the PVG co-ordinator.

7.1.1 Safeguarding Training Courses

The Session Clerk advised that Presbytery were running a series Safeguarding Training Courses for Co-ordinators, Volunteers and Elders. Elders were being specifically encouraged to attend a training course. Ideally, all elders should attend a course. Norman Bolton said that it could be ten years or more since most elders had attended any form of safeguarding training and all should consider whether they could attend.

An elders course was being held locally on 15th September 2016 at Giffnock South Church from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. There would be another course specifically for elders on 17th January 2017 at Springburn Church. Courses for Volunteers (which elders could attend) were held at least once per month.

Some questions were asked regarding disclosure checks and training. Gray Fletcher confirmed that elders and volunteers should attend Church of Scotland PVG training and not rely on training provided for other duties. The Session Clerk undertook to confirm requirements for disclosure checks.

7.2 Health and Safety

Jane Currer advised that she was not aware of any issues. One small pane of glass in the large hall was broken but was not believed to constitute an immediate risk.

7.2.2 Fire Extinguishers

Following the annual inspection of fire extinguishers reported in the minute of the June meeting, two new replacement extinguishers had been purchased and installed.

7.3 Food Hygiene

No issues.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

Roy Allan reported that an e-mail had been received from CARTA in Edinburgh in relation to the lighting in the sanctuary. After years of unsuccessfully attempting to establish appropriate contact Norman Bolton had received a response to the effect that if the now obsolete, 8-foot long, fluorescent tubes were replaced by 8-foot long LED tubes, CARTA would not require to be involved.

Roy was not certain that straightforward replacement was possible. He undertook to discuss the matter with Alan Henderson and report back.

8.1.2 Finance

8.1.2.1 General

Kay Bolton reported that despite the rather low and patchy attendance at morning worship over the summer months, offerings were approximately £1,000 ahead of budget.

The Retiring Offering from the September Communion was £162 and a cheque for this amount had been sent to Robin House.

8.1.2.2 Expenditure

The main expenditure had been the purchase and installation of the digital organ. As the organ was “not brand new” no VAT had been payable on the instrument. The total cost was £13,000. The Buildings and Contents insurance had been amended to include the new organ.

With Alan Henderson having moved house the postman could no longer deliver the church mail to Alan. A new post-box had been purchased at a cost of £35 and fitted adjacent to the main hall entrance.

8.1.2.3 Closure of the Netherlee Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland

Kay advised the meeting that all banking was now being carried out at the Giffnock Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. The duty team were now taking the night safe wallet to the RBS branch at Giffnock and she urged team leaders to bring the night safe key back to the church immediately after depositing the wallet. She expressed thanks to Raymond Russell for collecting the night safe wallets from Giffnock.

8.1.2.4 Auditor

Kay reported that she had approached the person suggested by Fraser Neilson who he believed might have been willing to act as Auditor. Unfortunately that person had said he couldn't act as Auditor. She said finding an Auditor was important; if we couldn't find a volunteer we would be forced to pay for a professional company to undertake the audit. Kay said that she would ask Netherlee Church whether they had a member of their congregation who might be willing to audit our church accounts.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens reported that Fraser Mackintosh had joined the Fund Raising Committee. The committee would meet soon.

8.2.2 Stewardship

In response to a question from Steven Owens, David McKee indicated that he had relinquished the post of Stewardship Co-ordinator.

8.3. Mission

Nancy Fisher said that neither the Parish & Beyond Committee nor the Pastoral Care Committee had met over the summer but meetings were being planned. Evelyn Graham and Jan Barr were attending a meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee the following day.

Nancy said that there had been an increase in the number of people asking for transport to attend hospital and that there was a need for more volunteer drivers. Potential volunteers should speak to Bill Paterson. There was also a need for more volunteer drivers on a Sunday morning. Potential drivers should speak to Grace Scott.

Bereavement cards were being posted as required and the Baptismal records are up-to-date.

Slow progress was being made regarding the Lunch Club. No further progress could be made until a dishwasher was installed in the kitchen. It was reported that Alan Henderson was

dealing with tradesmen to establish exactly what had to be done to install a suitable dishwasher in the church kitchen. Roy Allan agreed to give the matter priority attention.

8.4 Nurture

8.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson said that the worship committee was arranging meeting dates. She also asked for additional volunteers to join the committee.

Harvest Thanksgiving service was scheduled for Sunday, 2nd October. Parades of Uniformed organizations would take place on 2nd October and 13th November.

8.4.2 Education

Margo reported that the Education Committee had not met but would do so soon. Youth organizations were back and up-and-running. All uniformed organisations had been informed of the parade dates – 2nd October and 13th November.

Stepping Stones leaders met on 29th August to plan the session ahead. The first topic would be learning about Our Church / Our Community. Stepping Stones are hoping to arrange dates when the children can help at the church front door – welcoming worshippers, handing out hymn books, assisting with the uplifting of the offering, etc.. Leaders of Stepping Stones are aware of reducing numbers; a leaflet had been produced which will be distributed through the uniformed organisations and, depending on the reaction, may also be distributed via the primary school.

9. REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

9.1 Change of Address

Mr and Mrs A Thomson from 2 Stamperland Drive to 22 Windlaw Road,
Carmunnock

9.2 Deaths

Mrs Sheila Cassells	44 Randolph Drive
Mrs Edna Campbell	27 Nethervale Avenue
Mrs Maureen Lawrie	125 Stamperland Gardens
Mrs Cathy Allan	185 The Oval

Mrs Cassells, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Lawrie had been members; Mrs Allan was an Adherent.

10 UPDATE ON VACANCY

10.1 Summary

Gray Fletcher reminded those present of items which had been discussed at or actioned subsequent to the meetings in June.

Copies of the attested Communion Roll had been sent to Presbytery. A copy signed by the Presbytery Clerk had been returned and was with the Roll Keeper. The Roll should be updated every six months so that all eligible to vote are on the Roll.

10.2 Meetings to consider Church's practice in relation to human sexuality

Gray Fletcher reminded elders that there is a need to hold Kirk Session meetings to decide whether Stamperland Church and Netherlee Church are willing to depart from the traditional position of the church in relation to ministers in a Civil Partnership or Same-Sex marriage. Following consultation with the Vacancy Procedures Committee, meetings of each of Netherlee and Stamperland Kirk Session had been scheduled for Monday, 19th September and Tuesday, 27th September. Because of building works at Netherlee Church, members of Netherlee Kirk Session would meet in the sanctuary at Stamperland.

If, at their meetings on 19th September, both Kirk Sessions decide “not to depart”, there would be no requirement for the second meeting.

If there is a requirement for a second meeting, the vote of the first meeting is regarded as “indicative” and the vote of the second meeting is regarded as “declarative”. If the declarative vote of the two Kirk Sessions is for a different outcome, then the decision “not to depart” becomes the default position.

The two Kirk Sessions would meet separately. Voting would be carried out by secret ballot, supervised by the Vacancy Procedures Committee.

Steven Owens requested to see a copy of the regulations. Gray Fletcher undertook to send a copy of the Vacancy Procedures to Steven.

10.3 Nomination Committee

Gray Fletcher advised that the likely date for the election of members to the Nomination Committee was Sunday, 23rd October. Elders were encouraged to give names of members they believed would be suitable representatives of the congregation to the Session Clerk who should then speak to the potential members and outline the task involved.

During discussions Scott Russell asked whether some children could be involved in the selection of the new minister. He said that it is now established practice in primary schools that some school pupils sit in during the interview process for head teachers.

Gray Fletcher indicated that under church law at a Stated Annual Meeting a member could not be nominated and elected to the Congregational Board if they were not present at the meeting. However, if the member had submitted their apology for non-attendance, they could be elected to the Board. He believed that a similar arrangement would apply to the election of members of the Nomination Committee and undertook to check that this would be the case.

10.4 Draft Parish Profile

The Session Clerk that he and John Montgomery, Session Clerk at Netherlee, had produced a first draft of the Parish Profile. It was the responsibility of the 13 members of the Nomination Committee to produce the final document which would be submitted to the Kirk Session of both Stamperland and Netherlee churches for their approval before it was formally published.

Elders could access a copy of the document via the church web site or take away a paper copy at the conclusion of the meeting. Comments and suggestions for improvement of the document would be welcome.

11 CLARKSTON YOUR TOWN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Session Clerk said that he had been approached by a representative of East Renfrewshire Council to publicise a consultation exercise in which the Council were seeking the views of residents as to how the Council might “improve” Clarkston and make the “town centre better”. The official indicated the council was keen to hear the opinions of individuals, groups and organizations including local churches.

Norman Bolton gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting that people were attracted to Clarkston by good transport links and by the excellent education offered by the local schools. It was unlikely that many if, indeed, any people were attracted to Clarkston by the fact there were ten churches in the immediate locality. Perhaps, rather than emphasizing “church”, the local churches emphasized what happened in their buildings - interesting talks, lectures, debates, music, choirs, drama, a place to meet people, activities for young people, teenagers, older people, groups with particular needs – as well as “Sunday worship” there could be an increased interaction.

Elders then split into groups to discuss their response to the challenge raised by the Council. Comments made by the groups included the following:

Compared to Giffnock the place is a dump.

Car parking is difficult even a nightmare.

Roads are in poor repair.

Pushing wheelchairs around the Clarkston area is difficult

The “roundabout” at Clarkston Toll is not a “roundabout”; there are numerous near-misses caused by the fact that traffic “on the roundabout” does not have right of way over traffic travelling west down Busby Road.

Merging lanes, parked cars and bus stops in the immediate vicinity of Clarkston Toll contribute to traffic chaos.

The number of Charity Shops is seen as excessive. It is realised that they are used by many local residents as places to donate and by many others as a destination for good-value purchases.

There is a superabundance of Estate Agents.

There is a lack of variety of small (specialist) retailers.

The public toilets at Clarkston Toll are closed.

Facilities at Overlee Park could be significantly improved.

On-road parking near Overlee Park should be restricted. Railings should be erected to stop children running out of the park gates straight on to the road.

New transport links are required between Clarkston Toll and the new Health Centre near Williamwood Railway Station.

The Council should consider using church premises as locations for meetings of various groups, e.g. parent and toddler, pre-school nursery provision, etc.

The Council should consider advertising local events and highlighting organisations which meet in Clarkston.

The Council should consider financially supporting organisations which meet in Clarkston and are specifically targeted at attracting people from the local area.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as

Monday, 19th September

Tuesday, 27th September

Wednesday, 26th October

Monday, 5th December

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jane and John Curror, Alastair Graham and James Mathieson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher and 21 elders.

The Interim Moderator welcomed two members of the Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee – Ms Dot Getliffe, Locum at St Enoch Church, Hogganfield and Mr Duncan Mitchell, Session Clerk at St Columba’s Church, Glasgow.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Gray Fletcher advised that there was one item for discussion. That was to vote on whether or not to depart from the Church's practice in relation to human sexuality in respect of the current vacancy. He suggested that the matter be discussed until 8.15 pm at which point a vote would be taken.

He advised that at 8.30 pm we would join with Netherlee Kirk Session (who were meeting in the sanctuary as a consequence of building work being undertaken in Netherlee Church) to hear from Rev Linda Walker, Convenor of the Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee, about the procedures relating to the election of a Nominating Committee.

5. CHURCH'S PRACTICE IN RELATION TO HUMAN SEXUALITY

5.1 Discussion

Many elders spoke in relation to the topic and presented a range of views.

5.2 Vote

On conclusion of the discussion there was a secret ballot. The votes were counted by Duncan Mitchell and verified by Dot Getliffe.

Voting for departing from the Church's practice - 19 elders.

Voting against departing from the Church's practice - 2 elders.

5.3 Result of the vote of Netherlee Kirk Session

The Interim Moderator informed the meeting of the result of the Netherlee vote.

Voting for departing from the Church's practice - 29 elders.

Voting against departing from the Church's practice - 9 elders.

5.4 Follow-up Meeting and Vote

Gray Fletcher reminded elders that the outcomes of the ballot at both meetings were considered to be "indicative". In the light of both Kirk Sessions having voted in favour "of departing", Church legal procedure required that there was a second vote on the matter. The second vote would be "determinative". The Kirk Session meetings at which the second ballot would be conducted would both take place on Tuesday, 27th September.

6 PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF A NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Addressing both Kirk Sessions, Rev Linda Walker said that there were two main options for conducting the election of the Nominating Committee. The election would take place in both churches following the morning services on 23rd October. In the first option, the congregation would be presented with the names of nominees; those in favour of the named person would stand to be counted. In the second option there would be a printed ballot paper and each member of the congregation would place a mark against the names of those people they wished to elect.

Both Kirk Sessions agreed that the ballot paper represented the preferred option.

Linda Walker advised that members of the congregations should be asked to give recommendations for suitable candidates for the Nominating Committee to the appropriate Session Clerk. The Session Clerk should then speak to the recommended individuals and ascertain that they were willing to serve and, if so, ensure that each candidate had a proposer and seconder.

Ballot papers would be produced and handed to every member as they came to church on the 23rd October; this would allow members to pray about the issue.

Linda Walker said that it was important that the potential candidates and the eventual make-up of the Nominating Committee was representative of the congregation; she appreciated that this was not an easy task.

Linda Walker advised that members of the Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee would meet with the Nominating Committee shortly after the election.

7 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Kay Baird, Norman Bolton, Jane and John Currer, Connell Cranston and Marie Owens.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher and 17 elders.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

4.1 Appointment of Clerk

The Moderator informed those present that in the absence of Norman Bolton, Mrs Margo Neilson was willing to undertake the duties of Session Clerk and prepare the record of the meeting if the Kirk Session was in agreement. Elders agreed and Mrs Neilson took the “oath de fidele”.

4.2 Business

Gray Fletcher advised that there was only one item of business. That was the second, determinative vote on whether or not to depart from the Church’s practice in relation to human sexuality in respect of the current vacancy.

5. CHURCH’S PRACTICE IN RELATION TO HUMAN SEXUALITY

5.1 Discussion

No elders wished to speak on the matter.

5.2 Vote

Voting for departing from the Church’s practice - 15 elders.

Voting against departing from the Church’s practice - 2 elders.

5.3 Result of the vote of Netherlee Kirk Session

The Interim Moderator informed the meeting of the result of the Netherlee vote.

Voting for departing from the Church’s practice - 26 elders.

Voting against departing from the Church’s practice - 8 elders.

6 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
HELD IN THE SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2016
AT THE CLOSE OF MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting constituted with prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Evelyn Graham, Mr and Mrs Carnachan and Peter Dale.

3. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The Session Clerk indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to elect five members to the Nominating Committee. The edict intimating the meeting had been read to the congregation at the morning services held on the two previous Sundays. Articles in Focus and the Sunday Order of Service had described, in broad terms, the role of the Nominating Committee. The names of seven members who had been proposed and seconded and who had confirmed their willingness to serve were printed on the ballot form handed to the members and adherents of the congregation on their way in to church. He asked the meeting whether there were any further nominations. There were none.

4. VOTE

The Session Clerk informed the meeting that each person should vote for up to five people. Completed voting slips were collected by the tellers.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with benediction.

6. RESULT

On completion of the counting of the votes the Interim Moderator announced the results. A total of 84 people had voted. The people elected to serve on the Nominating Committee were Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mrs Christine Finnigan, Mr Peter Dale, Mr Ronald Kirkwood and Mr Steven Owens.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th OCTOBER 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Psalm 84 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Marie Owens, John Curror, George Fairweather, George Finlayson, Alastair Graham, James Mathieson, David McKee and Steven Owens.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 20 elders and four other Trustees.

Mr Ronald Kirkwood was welcomed to the meeting. It was explained that Ronnie Kirkwood had been ordained as an elder in Stamperland but had moved to Greenbank Church in 1981. The Moderator said that arrangements should be made to re-admit Mr Kirkwood as an elder.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 7th September, 19th September, 27th September and 23rd October

Draft minutes of the meetings held in September were circulated prior to the meeting.

It was pointed out that the heading of section 9 of the minute of 7th September was incorrect and it was amended to read "Report from Roll Keeper". With this amendment acceptance of the minute of 7th September as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Kay Bolton. Acceptance of the minute of the 19th September as a true record was proposed by Anne MacKenzie and seconded by Ray McNiven. Acceptance of the minute of the 27th September as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Anne MacKenzie.

The minute of the meeting on the 23rd October was read to the meeting by the Session Clerk. Acceptance of this minute as a true record was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Jane Curror.

The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. TRIBUTE

Norman Bolton read a tribute to Sam Esler. He recalled that Sam had been ordained as an elder 9th February 1969 and had served as Session Clerk from November 1990 until December 2000. A copy of the tribute was placed in the Tribute file.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Letter from Lodging House Mission

Norman Bolton read excerpts from a letter from Lodging House Mission acknowledging the donation of the gifts from the Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

7.1.2 Letter from CofS Solicitor regarding Data Protection Compliance

Norman Bolton read excerpts from a letter from the Church of Scotland solicitor relating to compliance with the EU data protection law and, specifically, in relation to the church membership roll. After more than four years of discussion, the EU-wide General Data Protection Regulation which will come into force in May 2018 will no longer require that explicit consent is given by members of religious organisations for their personal details (i.e., name and address) to be held on a data base. Notwithstanding this important relaxation, it was vitally important that the church roll must be kept secure so as to prevent unauthorised access and accidental loss and that no information was disclosed to any third-party without the explicit consent of the person concerned.

7.1.3 Letter from CofS regarding nominations to serve on church committees

Norman Bolton read excerpts from a letter in which it was intimated that the Church of Scotland is seeking some ninety people to serve on a range of national committees. He explained that the range of committees could be viewed on the Church of Scotland web site. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should indicate their interest to the Session Clerk.

7.1.4 Letter from Business Stream

Norman Bolton advised that he had received correspondence from Scottish Water Business Stream regarding registering for exemption in relation to charges for the supply of fresh water

and drainage services. To maintain exemption the church had to register on-line. This had been done and it was hoped that maintaining exemption status would, in future, be much simpler.

7.1.5 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Clarkston Churches Together evening service marking the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity would be held in our church on 21st January 2017. The preacher would be Rev Sally Foster Fullerton. Stamperland would be expected to provide tea and coffee after the service.

7.1.6 World Day of Prayer

The Clarkston Churches Together service for the World Day of Prayer (Friday, 3rd March, 2017) would be held in our church.

8 SAFETY AND SECURITY

No issues were reported in relation to PVG, Health and Safety or Food Hygiene.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Fraser Neilson advised that he had received a quotation from Poletex in relation to the external cleaning of the church vestibule windows and the clerestory windows on the north, west and south sides. Cleaning would be undertaken quarterly at a cost of £45 per visit. Elders agreed to accept the quotation.

Scott Russell raised an issue related to the “push-bar” on the fire escape door for the large hall. Whilst the push-bar worked well in relation to opening the door, he believed the mechanism was such that it was not easy to close and lock the door. Several people indicated that, whilst it might not be easy, there was a straight-forward procedure to close the door. It was agreed that a diagram giving a step-by-step explanation of how to close the door should be provided. If, after some time, it was apparent that people were still finding closure difficult, then a new type of bar would be fitted.

A question was raised about the servicing of the defibrillator and it was confirmed that this was undertaken by Brian Stokes.

9.1.2 Finance

9.1.2.1 General

Kay Bolton reported that Alex Johnston was willing to act as Independent Examiner of the church’s annual accounts. Mr Johnston is the Independent Examiner for Netherlee Parish Church’s accounts. It wasn’t clear whether he would charge a fee.

Recent expenditure has included a service of the heating boilers at a cost of £645 and the replacement of a fan on a boiler at a cost of £361.

9.1.2.2 Budget for 2017

A draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. The information presented included the actual income and expenditure in 2015, the anticipated out-turn for 2016 and the proposed budget for 2017. Kay Bolton took the elders through the figures.

Key points included the following:

Donations in 2015 were high as a result of the £5,200 donation from Stamperland Residents’ Association.

The payment from General Trustees represented income from renting the Manse. It was not planned to request any payment in 2016 but to let funds accumulate so that in 2017 there would be finance available to cover the cost of renewing the manse bathroom plus re-decoration of the property. It was hoped that the costs of refurbishment and redecoration would be covered by the accumulated rental funds as would costs associated with the arrival of a new minister - £2,000 disturbance allowance and £1,500 removal costs.

The fabric costs of £14,500 in 2016 included the purchase and installation costs of the new digital organ.

It was anticipated that with no unforeseen costs arising in the next two months 2016 would end with a small surplus in the annual accounts.

Elders present approved the draft budget.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

9.2.1 Fund Raising

No report

9.2.2 Stewardship

There being no Stewardship Co-ordinator there was no report.

9.3. Mission

Nancy Fisher said that work was proceeding in the background.

Nancy said that there had been an increase in the number of people asking for transport to attend hospital appointments, etc. and that there was a need for more volunteer drivers for this type of duty and also on Sunday mornings.

Nancy said that it was fitting that tribute had been paid to Sam Esler earlier in the meeting. Sam had been instrumental in establishing Open Door on Wednesdays. In relation to Open Door, the lunch for Open Door volunteers had been arranged for 14th December.

A brunch was being planned for 5th February with proceeds going to a local charity.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson advised that Colin Kirkwood had joined the worship committee and that Karen Cramb would attend when possible.

The recent committee discussions had concentrated on activities related to Christmas. There was a proposal that there would be a Gift Service to which members of the congregation and of organizations would be invited to bring a gift for a child which would, subsequently, be donated to East Renfrewshire Good Causes, Women's Aid, Social Services, etc.. Elders approved the proposal.

Services and events planned for the Christmas period included a family Christmas Movie Evening; Christingle Service; Pie, Pint and Prayer event; Stepping Stones Nativity Play in conjunction with the Gift Service; Pyjama Service; Watchnight Service; Christmas Day Service.

9.4.2 Education

No report.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

10.1 Change of Address

	Old Address	New Address
Mr Alan Henderson	98a Stamperland Hill	6 Strathkelvin Lane, East Kilbride
Mrs Vicky Henderson	98a Stamperland Hill	6 Strathkelvin Lane, East Kilbride
Mrs Catherine Mair	14 Greenholme Ave	8 Riverside Court, Linnpark Ave
Mrs Grace Esler	5 Homeblair House	Darnley Court Care Home, Nitshill
Mrs Nancy Bruce	131 Stamperland Gardens	Glenafton Care Home, Pollokshields
Mrs Marion Conejo	66 Stamperland Ave	45 Strathview Park

10.2 Deaths

Mr Sam Esler 5 Homeblair House, Giffnock

11 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher reminded those present of recent events. Both Stamperland and Netherlee Kirk Sessions had voted to depart from the church's traditional position on human sexuality. On the previous Sunday both congregations had elected members of their congregation to the Nominating Committee. Those elected by Stamperland were Mrs Christine Finnigan, Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mr Peter Dale, Mr Ronnie Kirkwood, Mr Steven Owens and Mr Norman Bolton. The next step would be for the members of the Nominating Committee to meet with the Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Retiring Offerings

It was agreed that the retiring offering at the December Communion would be sent to WaterAid. It was agreed that the offering from the Christmas Watchnight Service would be sent to the Lodging House Mission.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 5th December. Any meetings required to progress vacancy matters, e.g. approve the Parish Profile would be intimated at Sunday services and also via e-mail and telephone.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 2016
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

Devotions were based on a reading from Isaiah Chapter 9.

The Book of Isaiah, the second longest book in the Bible, was generally regarded as being in three parts. Largely written around 800 BC it includes themes which foresee the time when Jerusalem will become the centre of God’s worldwide rule, but only after episodes of subjugation by forces of Assyria and subsequently Babylon; following periods of invasion and exile a royal saviour or messiah would appear.

Isaiah forecast the birth of Christ 800 years before the event. Some aspects of Christ’s kingship might not have been as imagined at that time; the view may have been of a rich and powerful king sitting on a throne and ruling the people of Israel rather than the Christ, growing up in humble circumstances, leading disciples and dying, crucified on a cross.

Jack said that the Hebrew scriptures did not have punctuation such as we are used to. We might not know whether there were commas or full stops between the words “Wonderful” and “Counsellor”; “Mighty” and “God”. Whatever, the phrases at the end of the passage “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” stood for all time.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Elders were reminded of the Kirk Session Meeting the following day. Agenda and minutes were available. The main business of the meeting was likely to be completed within an hour. Following that there would be a Christmas bite and Secret Santa.

As agreed previously the retiring offering would be donated to Water Aid.

4 CLOSURE

Elders stood to say "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 5th DECEMBER 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Isaiah Chapter 9 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Nancy Fisher, Marie Owens, Jackie Silcock, Sheena Skelton, Margot Young, Roy Allan, George Finlayson, Alan Henderson, James Mathieson, and Steven Owens.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 27 elders and 4 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 26th October and 4th December

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 26th October were circulated prior to the meeting.

It was pointed out that the date in Item 7.1.5 should have been 22nd January. With this amendment acceptance of the minute of 7th September as a true record was proposed by Ronnie Kirkwood and seconded by Fraser Neilson.

The minute of the meeting on the 4th December was read to the meeting by the Session Clerk. Acceptance of this minute as a true record was proposed by Scott Russell and seconded by Kay Bolton.

The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Referring to Item 7.1.5 in the Minute of 26th October, the Session Clerk said that the evening service would start at 7.00 pm. Tea and coffee would be served after the service.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Grace Walker

Norman Bolton intimated that Grace Walker had informed him of her intention to resign from the eldership and leave the Church of Scotland to become a member of Destiny Church at Shawlands where many of her family were already members. He noted Grace's responsibility for the Prayer Meadow, the Prayer Pages in Focus and her long association with Christian Aid.

She had been a faithful district elder and had been a particularly dedicated visitor to many members both within and outwith her district.

8 SAFETY AND SECURITY

No issues were reported in relation to PVG or Food Hygiene.

Jane Curror reported that the broken window pane in the large hall had been replaced by John Curror and Connell Cranston and thanked them on behalf of the Kirk Session.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

In the absence of Roy Allan and Alan Henderson, Norman Bolton informed the meeting that a quotation had been received for work to fix water ingress in the attic study at the Manse. The cause of the leak was damage to the rear skew and associated flashing; scaffolding would require to be erected at the rear of the property. The opportunity would be taken to clean vegetation and silt from gutters, dormer skews, etc. The cost was provisionally estimated as £1,315 plus VAT. Trustees agreed that the work should be undertaken.

Fraser Neilson advised of two officers in the Boy's Brigade, one of whom worked for a company which was willing to investigate the possibility of replacing the fluorescent tubes in the church with LED tubes, as recommended by the C of S. The BB officer and the company for which he worked had all necessary certificates for H&SW and scaffolding to reach the roof. It was proposed that, initially, one fluorescent tube would be replaced by a new LED-based tube. If the replacement proved satisfactory then they would quote for the replacement of all tubes. Those present agreed that the trial should go ahead.

Fraser Neilson also advised that the same company had proposed cleaning the inside of the clerestory windows in the church. The price would be £175 plus VAT. Trustees agreed that the offer to clean the inside surface of the windows should be accepted. It was agreed that the cleaning should be carried out only once and that a decision on the frequency of internal cleaning would be considered later in 2017.

Fraser advised that external cleaning of the clerestory windows had been carried out on the west and south sides by Poletek, the company who advertise in Focus. On the north side, only the windows nearest Clarkston Road had been cleaned; the windows on the Stamperland Hill side could not be accessed from ground level because of the old boiler house building and the window cleaner was not insured to use ladders.

Fraser informed the trustees that illustrated instructions for closing the fire escape door for the large/small hall had been prepared and would shortly be laminated and fixed to the door. George Fairweather said that the same push-bar mechanism was used on the emergency doors in the lower hall and it was agreed that the same instructions also be fixed to these doors.

9.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported that the retiring offering at the previous day's communion service was £205 and that a cheque for that amount had been sent to Water Aid.

Kay also reported that income from Hall Lets had been particularly good in 2016. Already £12,200 had been received; this compared with the budget for the whole year of £8,500. Some of the additional income was a consequence of some organisations which normally used hall accommodation at Netherlee Church using our halls while the Netherlee Halls were inaccessible during the building renovation work.

Recent expenditure had included a new Christmas tree and lights for the church vestibule. She suggested that a new tree should be purchased for the church sanctuary for Christmas 2017; the present tree was old and in poor condition. Trustees approved the expenditure.

Norman Walker intimated that he would shortly be submitting the claim for Gift Aid. He said that there were names of some people who had donated which he couldn't recognise on the church roll. Elders assisted in identifying these people; in some cases offerings given by wives had been associated with bank accounts bearing the husband's initials or wife's married surnames weren't associated with their previous maiden names.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

9.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

The Session Clerk read a brief report from Steven Owens.

Trustees were encouraged to promote attendance at the Christmas movie night on 17th December the last fundraising event of the year. Due to lack of availability of all needed to run a Pie, Pint and Prayer evening, this planned event was cancelled.

Plans for integrating Stewardship as part of the remit of the social and fundraising committee were being progressed and new committee members were being sought.

An ad-hoc committee will be set up early in January to start preparations for the Spring Fair. A suggestion box has already been placed in the vestibule looking for ideas of a theme and stalls that might work to encourage attendance. The committee will review the financial impact of each area to decide what changes should be made. Katrina Mitchell had indicated she was happy to serve on this committee.

The committee discussed the restoration of the church organ at its last meeting and agreed to offer support in securing funding. This would include planning of events to raise funds as well as preparation of funding applications.

The committee was always open to hearing ideas for events to enhance the social elements of being a church as well as for financial return.

9.3. Mission

9.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Evelyn Graham reported that the sale of Christmas Cards had raised some £267 for Lodging House Mission and the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. Donations received at the Sunday Brunch planned for the 5th February 2017 would be given to East Renfrewshire Good Causes. Russell Macmillan of East Renfrewshire Good Causes would speak to the congregation as part of the morning service.

There would be no Open Door on the 21st or 28th December.

The recent meeting of Eastwood Peace and Justice Forum had been attended by Jan Barr and herself. Topics discussed included the work of the Tear Fund, SCIAF and Christian Aid. Climate Change had also been a major point and letters had been sent to Jackson Carlaw, MSP and Kirsteen Oswald, MP seeking information about initiatives being taken by the Westminster and Holyrood Governments and their own roles in this field.

9.3.2 Pastoral Care

Grace Scott said that there was a need for more volunteer drivers. There were just about enough volunteers for Sunday mornings but more were desperately needed to meet the demand for transport to attend hospital appointments, etc. Volunteers should speak to Bill Paterson.

Cards were continuing to be sent to families on the first anniversary of a bereavement. Jack Drummond also visited these families.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson advised that the Gift Service had been brought forward to 11th December to allow the organizations such as Women's Aid, Paisley to make sure gifts were delivered to the needy families in advance of Christmas morning.

9.4.2 Education

Scott Russell reported that the number of children attending Stepping Stones had remained steady since the start of the session. Leaders were working hard and the children were enjoying the lessons and activities.

The committee was hoping to start new initiatives in relation to adult education. One idea was a "film night" where, following the showing of a film, there would be discussion. This event could happen two or three times a year; the committee were looking for suitable films.

Scott mentioned the initiative Y@K. Unfortunately, with Alison Linich having moved away to Fenwick and with Scott himself heavily committed to the Junior BB and his own work, Y@K had been put on the back-burner with no immediate possibility of further development.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

10.1 Change of Address

	Previous Address	Current Address
Mrs Karen Turner	247 Bonnyton Ave, Eaglesham	64 Hill Drive, Eaglesham
Mrs Janet Angus	31 Randolph Drive	Wellmeadow Nursing Home, Newton Mearns
Mr Scott Russell	177 Randolph Drive	4 Bellcraig Court, Busby

10.2 Adjustments

Bill Paterson advised that Mrs Grace Walker, 82 Moray Gardens and Mrs Mandy Thorn, 94 Monteith Drive have asked to be removed from the Roll.

11 PRESBYTERY ELDER'S REPORT

Alastair Graham gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 8th November. The meeting had been addressed by Lynn Paterson who spoke on Tear Fund. Presbytery business was dominated by two topics which had been discussed at great length.

The Kirk Session of Gallowgate Church had submitted a request for approval of building work priced at just over £40,000. Presbytery Property Committee, whilst agreeing that the planned work would alleviate some health and safety issues, had concerns that significantly more work, probably costing around £400k, was necessary. It was eventually agreed that the congregation, which numbered around 20, should be invited to Presbytery to present their thoughts.

The second issue concerned the refusal of the Home Office to issue visas to two members of the Diocese of Hyderabad in Pakistan to visit Scotland following an invitation from Presbytery.

12 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Norman Bolton reported on the current status.

The Nominating Committee had met with Rev Linda Walker, Convener of the Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee on 6th November. At that meeting, Mrs Diane Levey had been elected as Convener. Alistair Gow, a member of Netherlee but not a member of the Nominating Committee, was appointed as Clerk.

Norman reported that the Nominating Committee had met the previous evening to review and develop the Draft Parish Profile. It was anticipated that a final version would be available early in the new year for the consideration and approval of both Kirk Sessions.

There were three outstanding actions on the part of Presbytery without which further progress would be limited. The first was that Stamperland Manse has to be inspected by representative(s) of the Presbytery Fabric Committee. Their approval of the suitability of the manse, the condition of the fabric and stipulation of any essential remedial or upgrading work was a pre-condition to being given permission to advertise the vacancy. The second was that formal approval was required from Presbytery's Finance and Superintendence Committees; there was no reason to anticipate formal approval would not be forthcoming from these committees. The third was that a Vacancy Schedule had to be completed by the Interim Moderator. As yet, Gray Fletcher had not been sent a blank schedule.

13 OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Lodging House Mission

Alastair Graham advised that the Lodging House Mission were planning to extend their opening hours on a Saturday and were looking for volunteers between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Individuals could volunteer for, say, two hour periods during these times.

13.2 Notice Boards

Fraser Neilson informed the meeting that Connell Cranston and himself were planning to replace the clear, plastic front panel on the former Community Council Notice Board located in the church grounds at the corner of Stamperland Gardens and Stamperland Hill. Questions were raised about the Notice Board on the church wall at Clarkston Road; it was agreed that no action be taken until a new minister was chosen.

14 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next 'ordinary' Kirk Session meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 8th February.

A meeting to appoint the Presbytery Elder, attest the Roll and agree the PVG statement would be held on Sunday, 8th January at the close of morning worship.

The date of the meeting to approve the Annual Report and Accounts s would be announced later; the likely date was Sunday, 29th January with the meeting taking place at the close of morning worship.

Meetings to progress vacancy matters, e.g. approve the Parish Profile would be intimated at Sunday services and also via e-mail and telephone.

15 CLOSURE

All present stood to say "the Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2017
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev Gray Fletcher and 26 Trustees of whom 21 were elders.

Apologies were received from Jane and John Curror, Ray McNiven, Willie Anderson and Scott Russell.

3. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

3.1 Changes to the Roll

William Paterson, the Roll Keeper, intimated the recent death of Mrs Isabella Clark, 101 The Oval. Mrs Clark was on the supplementary Roll.

3.2 Current Roll

William Paterson presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2015		342
Number removed from Roll during 2016	by Death	4
	by Certificate	0
	by Otherwise	<u>16</u>
		20
Number added to Roll during 2016	by Profession	0
	by Certificate	2
	by Otherwise	<u>2</u>
		4
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2016		326

Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2015

19

Number of adherents as at 31st December 2015

5

The Interim Moderator signed the Communion Roll Certificate.

4. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

Mr Alastair Graham said he was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. The Session Clerk asked whether anyone else present wished to be considered for the position; no one indicated any desire. Accordingly, it was agreed unanimously that Mr Graham should serve as Presbytery Elder.

5. SAFEGUARDING: CONFIRMATION OF PVG PROCEDURES

The Session Clerk advised that in confirming the PVG procedures were being appropriately operated, three aspects had to be considered. These were recruiting procedures, record keeping procedures and ensuring that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator was appropriately trained and accredited.

The Kirk Session was responsible for the operation of PVG procedures in relation to organisations which were under its jurisdiction; these included the Sunday School, The BB and The Guild. The Kirk Session was not responsible for PVG procedures in relation to the Scout or Guide organisations or for third parties, such as Baby Sensory, using the church.

He stressed that it was not the responsibility of the PVG Co-ordinator to ensure that there was a safe environment within the church and buildings and for people attending church events and organisations. It was the responsibility of everyone to keep an eye open for potential problems or suspicious behaviour. Any issues or potential issues should be raised with the PVG co-ordinator or the minister or the Session Clerk or the leader of the appropriate organisation. Issues should be raised discretely and confidentially.

5.1 Recruiting Procedures

The Session Clerk said that all persons serving as leaders in organisations had to fill in a Disclosure Scotland Form. This form then had to be signed by the Minister, Session Clerk or other appropriate person and also by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator who would send the completed form to Disclosure Scotland. Disclosure Scotland would undertake the appropriate checks and inform the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the outcome or of any issues.

Although Margot Young had attended training to enable her to become an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks, she had not been officially recorded in Kirk Session minutes as PVG co-ordinator at the time of training. As a consequence, according to the Church of Scotland, the training attended by Margot was not valid and has to be repeated.

No Disclosure Forms had been completed in the past year. In a previous year, the PVG co-ordinator at Netherlee Parish Church had signed our forms and submitted them to Disclosure Scotland.

Norman Bolton said that he considered that appropriate recruiting procedures were being followed.

5.2 Record Keeping Procedures

The Session Clerk said that he believed that accurate records had been maintained by the previous co-ordinators and that Margot Young was following the necessary procedures.

5.3 Confirmation of PVG Procedures

The Session Clerk then read the following statement to the meeting:

- *“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, Margot Young, is being appropriately trained to allow her to be accredited as an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks.*

All present agreed that the statement was correct, and that it was being implemented in Stamperland Parish Church.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Annual Report

The Session Clerk advised that preparation of the 2016 Annual Report was underway. The pages presenting the financial information including income, expenditure and financial balances were virtually complete. Payment of £10,416 in relation to Gift Aid was made by HMRC on 30th December. 2016 had ended with a financial surplus. It was planned to have copies of the Draft Report available for trustees on Sunday 22nd January so that the Trustees could meet to agree and approve the final version at a meeting scheduled for Sunday 29th January.

6.2 Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Session Clerk reminded Trustees that in October 2016 Kay Bolton had indicated that Alexander Johnston, a Chartered Accountant living in Netherlee was willing to act as the Independent Examiner of our Annual Accounts. Mr Johnson was the Independent Examiner for both Netherlee Parish Church and Broom Parish Church. Mr Johnson had indicated that his fee for undertaking the examination would be less than £200 but that he was unable to provide an exact figure without having sight of a prospective client's books.

The Session Clerk proposed that the meeting appoint Mr Johnston as Independent Examiner; the proposal was seconded by Steven Owens. Trustees agreed unanimously to appoint Mr Johnston as Independent Examiner.

6.3 Meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session to agree Parish Profile

The Session Clerk reminded trustees of the joint meeting with Netherlee Kirk Session the following Sunday (15th January) at the close of morning worship at Stamperland. He advised that paper copies of the draft Parish Profile were available for anyone who did not have access to the on-line version.

7. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

KIRK SESSION MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 29th JANUARY 2017 AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev Gray Fletcher and 30 Trustees of whom 25 were elders.

3. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Session Clerk led the Trustees through the Draft Annual Report, copies of which had been distributed to Trustees the previous Sunday.

The Trustees confirmed the accuracy of the information presented on Page 1.

Norman Bolton asked the Trustees whether there were any suggestions for any modifications to the text or figures presented on pages 2 to 7. Steven Owens proposed that the paragraph on page 6 in relation to the pipe organ be amended with additional wording which indicated that a proportion of the costs of the refurbishment of the pipe organ would come from congregational funds. This proposal was seconded by Alan Henderson. Trustees agreed that the wording should be amended.

Norman Bolton proposed an amendment to the second paragraph on page 8 with the insertion of a second sentence as follows: "At 31st December 2016, the funds held by General Trustees on our behalf amounted to £11,164." Trustees agreed the proposed amendment.

Norman Bolton drew the attention of those present to the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities on page 7 then sought confirmation that the Trustees understood their responsibilities.

Norman Bolton led the Trustees through the financial section of the report. Page 9 summarised the receipts and payments and highlighted that there had been an excess of receipts over payments of £7,861. Page 10 presented the balances. He drew attention to the line on page 10 headed, "Investments" and advised that the Treasurer had received information earlier in the week that the value of the investment at 31st December 2016 was £4,023, a gain of £347 over the year. This information was repeated in Note 5 on page 11. The revised figures would be incorporated in the accounts.

Norman Bolton advised the Trustees that an Appendix should be inserted after Note 8 on page 13. The Appendix was headed "Funds Held on behalf of the Congregation by the Church of Scotland General Trustees". There was one fund which represented the net income from the Manse rental and it had a credit balance of £11,164 on 31st December 2016.

Trustees were asked if they had any questions regarding the financial statements. There were none. Norman Bolton then asked Trustees to formally approve the Accounts, subject to the inclusion of the updated value of the investment and the incorporation of the Appendix to the Notes. Formal approval was given and the Treasurer and Session Clerk were authorised to sign the Accounts on page 10.

Approval was also sought and given for the Session Clerk to sign the Annual Report and Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities on page 7.

4. VACANCY SCHEDULE

The Session Clerk said that the Vacancy Schedule was being prepared. There were four sections to the schedule – Section A to be completed by the Ministries Council, Section B to be completed by the Kirk Sessions of the two churches, Section C to be completed by the Presbytery Vacancy Procedure Committee and Section D which comprised Guidance Notes.

Section B required agreement from the Kirk Sessions in respect of certain payments.

- The Kirk Sessions had to agree to make payments to the Parish Ministries Fund by Standing Order. The Session Clerk stated that Stamperland Church currently do this and would do so as long as required.

In relation to a new minister coming, initially, as minister at Stamperland Parish Church and then as minister of the linked charges of Netherlee and Stamperland, there were certain costs to be met. These costs would be divided between the two churches. The split between the two congregations was proposed as follows:

Listed Expenses

Stamperland 50 per cent
Netherlee 50 per cent

Removal Costs

Stamperland 100 per cent as the new minister is inducted to Stamperland
Netherlee 100 per cent of the cost of relocating from Stamperland Manse to Netherlee Manse

Disturbance Allowance

Stamperland 50 per cent
Netherlee 50 per cent

Manse Costs

Each church will meet 100 per cent of their manse costs until the new minister moves into Netherlee Manse at which point the cost of the Netherlee manse will be split in accordance with the Ministry & Mission allocations, i.e.: 24 per cent Stamperland and 76 per cent Netherlee

It had been previously agreed that work to prepare Stamperland Manse for a new minister would be undertaken and costs met from congregational funds.

In response to a question Gray Fletcher explained that a congregation’s financial allocation to Ministry and Mission funds was based on the congregation’s income and expenditure over a five year period. It was a “rolling figure”. The proportion mentioned above of 24% to Stamperland and 76% to Netherlee could change.

Trustees indicated that they were content with the allocations of the expenses and costs.

5. CLOSURE

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

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2017
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Psalm 27 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Marie Owens, Jackie Silcock, Margot Young, John Curror, Alastair Graham, Scott Russell and Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 21 elders and 5 other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 5th December, 8th January and 29th January

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 5th December, 8th January and 29th January were circulated prior to the meeting.

In respect of the minute of 5th December it was pointed out that the addresses of Mrs Janet Angus and Scott Russell in Randolph Drive had been transposed. With this amendment acceptance of the minute of 5th December as a true record was proposed by Kay Bolton and seconded by Alison Macfarlane. Acceptance of the minute of 8th January as a true record was proposed by Roy Allan and seconded by Steven Owens. Acceptance of the minute of 29th January as a true record was proposed by Alan Henderson and seconded by Ray McNiven.

The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Award of Historic Organ Certificate Grade II*

Norman Bolton advised the meeting that the board of the British Institute of Organ Studies had awarded a Historic Organ Certificate Grade II* in relation to the Lewis pipe organ installed in the church. A Grade II* award means that the organ is "considered one of the UK's particularly important organs and is of more than special interest". He proposed that the certificate was framed and located adjacent to the organ console. He also presented a copy certificate to Anne MacKenzie, whose husband, Jim, had installed the instrument into the church in 1964 and had maintained it since that date.

6.1.2 Presentation of New Testaments to first year pupils at Williamwood High School

The Session Clerk advised that he had received a letter from Kenneth MacPhie, Schools Co-ordinator of Glasgow South Central Branch of The Gideons to advise that New Testaments had been presented to all of the S1 pupils at Williamwood High School.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG and Food Hygiene

No issues were reported in relation to PVG or Food Hygiene.

7.2 Health & Safety

Jane Curror reported that there were no issues related to Health & Safety.

7.3 Insurance

The Session Clerk advised that the Church of Scotland were requesting that the topic of Insurance be raised as a regular item at Kirk Session Meetings. Regular reviews should be undertaken to ensure that the individual church's insurance cover was adequate and to confirm that buildings and contents were properly covered. The review should also take account of activities or proposed activities being undertaken and ensure that such activities were or would be fully covered by the insurance policy.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

9.1.1.1 Dishwasher

Roy Allan said that the price for purchasing and installing a dishwasher in the kitchen would be approximately £1,100. It was proposed that the dishwasher would be located below the worktop in what was currently the right hand cupboard of the sink unit. Those present agreed that the purchase and installation of the dishwasher should proceed.

8.1.1.2 Church Lighting

Roy Allan reported that a quotation of £2,474 + VAT had been received for the installation of LED tubes as direct replacements for the fluorescent tubes in the sanctuary. The new units should have a life of 20,000 hours and consume only about one quarter of the electric power of the old fluorescent tubes. Those present agreed that the work should be undertaken. Alan Henderson agreed to liaise with the contractor to ensure that the replacement fittings were appropriate and the electrical installation work was undertaken in accordance with electrical safety requirements.

8.1.1.3 Water leak in hall entrance space in vicinity of old boiler house flue

Alan Henderson agreed to investigate the dampness appearing in the area of the old boiler house flue and above the doors into the Large Hall. There was a possibility it was, in some way, related to the fixing of the new roof covering.

8.1.1.4 Cleaning of sanctuary windows

There was positive comment in relation to the improvements brought about by the cleaning of the external and internal surfaces of the clerestory windows. It was agreed that external cleaning would be carried out quarterly. No internal cleaning would be undertaken in the immediate future and the need for internal cleaning would be reviewed at the end of the year.

8.1.1.5 CCTV

Alan Henderson agreed to investigate the cost of replacing the current CCTV system. The system had been inoperative for several months and purchase of a new system was likely to be more economical than fixing the present system.

8.1.1.6 Painting of church halls

Roy Alan said that the BB were wondering whether some of the senior Company Section boys might be able to assist with the painting of the walls in some of the hall areas. There was a general feeling amongst Trustees that there were safety issues which would require to be comprehensively addressed and, in the immediate future, having the assistance of the boys wasn't a realistic option.

Areas in need of re-decoration included the ceiling of the Large Hall, walls in the Small Hall and Session Room.

8.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported on some major items of income.

HMRC had paid £10,415 in relation to Gift Aid. The money had been received on the 30th December, 2016.

During 2016 income from Hall Lets had totalled £13,208. At the end of 2016 there had been a surplus of income over expenditure of £7,861.

She advised that the Guides had served mince pies and mulled wine at the end of the Nativity Service on 18th December and had donated £142 to the church; the Scouts had donated £325 in December and Clarkston Care Home had made a donation of £50 recognising Rev Jack Drummond's holding of monthly services at the Home.

In relation to expenditure the bill for repairing the manse roof had been £1,578. Water ingress had been apparent on the ceiling of the top floor room. Presbytery Dues for 2017 were £2,455 and these had been paid. The cost of the Christian Copyright Licence for 2017 was £470 and this had also been paid.

8.1.3 Christian Copyright Licence

The Session Clerk said that we were obliged to pay copyright licence fees for various activities including the projection of hymns on the screen, the printing of various articles such as in orders of service or Focus and the screening of videos or films. He said that we should be making returns to Christian Copyright Licence International (CCLI) on a regular basis advising which material we were reproducing. Returns should be made on-line via the CCLI web-site.

Kay Baird volunteered to make the returns to CCLI.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

Steven Owens reported that the members of the fund raising committee had been agreeable to the option of integrating Stewardship with the remit of the Social and Fundraising committee.

Katrina Mitchell had agreed to be a member of the ad-hoc Spring Fair committee and Elaine Addington-Hall had agreed to be a member of the Fundraising committee. The date of the Spring Fair would either be 6th or 13th May – the decision would be made following a meeting with the uniformed organisations on 19th February.

The David Milligan Quiz would be held on 25th March. Alastair Graham would be the quiz master.

8.2.2 Strategy

Steven told the meeting that he and Margo Neilson were seeking names of people who were interested in leading worship. The aim would be to have training courses to assist those interested in developing appropriate skills. So far, seven members of Netherlee Parish Church had indicated their interest but, as yet, there had been no expression of interest from anyone at Stamperland.

8.2.3 Engagement - Photocopier

Steven advised the meeting that the photocopier was now out of warranty and that Capital Solutions had offered an extended warranty at a cost of £575 per annum. One option was to decline the warranty and pay for any necessary servicing and repair work. A second option was to purchase a new machine which would come with a three year warranty. Discussions with Capital Solutions indicated that the option involving the purchase of a new machine would turn out cheaper over a three year term than taking an extended warranty on the existing machine. The cost per copy for a new machine was lower than that of the current printer and, assuming that the number of pages printed per year did not change, the saving in print-per-page costs more than offset either warranty costs or the capital cost of a new machine. Additionally, there was the potential to sell the existing copier, although the sale price might only be a few hundred pounds.

Trustees agreed the purchase of a new photocopier.

8.3. Mission

8.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Nancy Fisher advised that the Open Door Christmas Lunch had been well-attended. Support for the Foodbank remained high. It was suggested that an approach was made to ask if a poster highlighting the church's Foodbank donation point could be displayed in Garry's Convenience Store.

Nancy informed the meeting that Russell Macmillan of East Renfrewshire Good Causes had addressed the congregation on Sunday 5th February and that donations for East Renfrewshire Good Causes at the Sunday Brunch following the service had totaled £451.

Arrangements were being made to give the congregation an opportunity to donate "Real Easter Eggs" to either the Foodbank or Paisley Womens' Aid.

Nancy advised that the committee were developing plans for a once-a-month Lunch Club.

In conjunction with Stepping Stones arrangements were in hand for making Easter Cards to be delivered to Care Homes and to housebound elderly residents.

8.4 Nurture

8.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson said that more than 120 gifts had been brought to the Gift Service on 11th December. Stepping Stones had enjoyed participating in the service and the eventual recipients of the gifts had been most grateful.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Changes to Roll

Bill Paterson reported two deaths.

Miss Sally Woods, 7 Stamperland Hill

Mrs Mary McKenzie, Wellmeadow Lodge Nursing Home, Newton Mearns

9.2 Elder's District

Bill Paterson advised that Ronnie Kirkwood had taken over responsibility for District 28 from Willie Anderson.

9.3 Roll Books

Bill Paterson intimated that Elders’ Roll Books were available at the meeting.

Anne MacKenzie said that she had received a lot of phone calls from members who had not received Freewill offering envelopes for the current year. She reminded elders of the importance of lifting the freewill envelopes and delivering them to members when they visited in connection with the December communion.

9.4 Removal of names from the Roll

Norman Bolton reminded those present of the actions undertaken in connection with data protection requirements and the seeking of explicit written approval from members that their names should be on the Communion Roll. Letters explaining the legal situation regarding data protection requirements had been sent to members advising that they should sign and return consent slips if they wished their names to remain on the Communion Roll. Some 35 people had not responded to any of the three separate letters which had been sent to each of them. It was apparent that these people had no interest in maintaining their membership of the church. Trustees agreed that the names of those who had not responded should be removed from the Communion Roll.

10 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher and Norman Bolton summarized the current status.

The Parish Profile was accessible from the websites of both Netherlee and Stamperland churches.

The vacancy was included in the listing of vacancies on the Church of Scotland web site.

An advertisement had been prepared and accepted for publication in the April edition of Life & Work.

There was still an outstanding action on the part of Presbytery Fabric Committee to inspect Stamperland Manse. Whilst their approval of the suitability of the manse, the condition of its fabric and stipulation of any essential remedial or upgrading work was no longer a pre-condition to being given permission to advertise the vacancy it could affect the subsequent timetable.

It was agreed that quotations for refurbishment of the manse bathroom and for decoration work should be sought in advance of the current tenants leaving the property.

11 ARRANGEMENTS FOR STATED ANNUAL MEETING

It was agreed that the Stated Annual Meeting would be held on Sunday 12th March and would be integrated into the morning service.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 15th March.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 5th MARCH 2017
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer and a reading from Matthew Chapter 4.

2. DEVOTIONS

Jack said that Lent was a time for reflection. The passage he had read was about the temptation of Christ. Jesus had taken time to reflect before he began his ministry. In the solitude of the desert he had been tempted three times. Through fasting he was hungry; the first temptation was to turn stones into bread, to relieve his hunger. The temptation was to use his powers in a selfish way and not for the benefit of others. The second temptation related to using his powers to launch himself from the highest point on the temple of Jerusalem and to fly and not fall to death. This would immediately catch people's attention and effectively make him a celebrity. However, Jesus wished to use his power not to draw attention to himself but to the greatness of God. The third temptation was to be made the ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth if only Christ would worship the devil. Christ resisted this; he would only worship God.

Jack said that we are all tempted in many ways. We are tempted to worship other gods. Money, material goods, power, the admiration of ourselves by others are things that we can be tempted to search after. Lent, a time for reflection, can be used to ensure we aspire to what is right.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Retiring Offering

It was agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to the Friends of Williamwood House.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Jack Drummond led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**MINUTES OF THE
STATED ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY 7th MARCH 2016 at 7.30pm**

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting chaired by the Interim Moderator, Rev. G. Gray Fletcher, BSc, BD. Meeting constituted with reading from Psalm 32 and prayer. Confirmed that the Notice calling the meeting had been read in Church on three consecutive Sundays.

2 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Acceptance of the Minute of the meeting held on Monday 5th March 2015 proposed by Steven Owens and seconded by Alan Henderson.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Rev Gray Fletcher thanked everyone for the smooth running of the church during his two years as Interim Moderator. He thanked Rev Jack Drummond for all his work as Locum Minister and noted the considerable progress in relation to working more closely with Netherlee.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

Norman Bolton presented the Annual Report and Accounts. In 2015 total income was £99,512, total expenditure was £88,221 resulting in a year-end surplus of £11,474. Summary of principal sources of income presented along with breakdown of significant items of expenditure. These included the renewal of the felt roofing on the flat roofs of the hall vestibule, session room, small hall and church vestibule at a cost of £17.6k. At the end of 2015 financial reserves stood at £117,168. Of this sum, £50,000 was earmarked for the "Roof Replacement Fund".

Thanks expressed to Ian McNab for his work as auditor and examiner of the accounts not just for 2015 but over a considerable period of time.

5 FABRIC REPORT

Alan Henderson presented the fabric report. Main expenditure was replacement of felt roofing over the halls and vestibule. Boilers had been serviced; one required repairs. New external doors fitted to church entrance and to fire exit for Large and Small Halls. Remedial painting and decorating had been carried out where necessary.

6 SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING REPORT

Steven Owens reported on social and fund-raising activities including Spring Fair, David Milligan Quiz, Sounds International Concert and Camel Drive.

7 SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

In his Session Clerk's report Norman Bolton said that 2015 had been a busy year. We had been subject to a Local Church Review and there were numerous meetings associated with future developments and developing closer links with Netherlee. Lots of ideas generated but following them through is challenging. Agreement to focus on Pie, Pint and Prayer; Messy Church; Youth at Kirk; developing and strengthening Stewardship Culture; establishing a Lunch Club.

At the end of 2015, 342 members on our Roll – a reduction of five over the year. Encouragingly, six members joined by profession of faith with five joining in other ways. Although 342 members on Roll, many were not interested in retaining membership. Lack of response to requests to confirm their wish to be on the Roll indicated at least 40 names should be removed. Number of young people attending Sunday School much less than twenty years ago. BB numbers declining but increases in Guides and Scouts reflect changes within the parish with more Roman Catholic families residing in Stamperland.

Many families are "busy" and have no time for church on a Sunday. Need to consider alternatives to "Sunday Church" and to "Sunday morning Sunday School". Working more closely with Netherlee could enable new forms of outreach such as having paid-for children's ministry or old-age ministry workers.

Fortunate to have Jack Drummond as Locum. Congregation very appreciative of everything he does; his diligent visiting of members at home and in hospital; his conduct of worship; his support of all activities within the church.

Our “Young elders” played significant roles in the Easter and Christmas services. Various members have been diligent in doing little tasks throughout the year and we are, as a congregation, pulling together.

Special thanks expressed to Gray Fletcher for providing guidance and clarifying issues and ensuring that the life of this church has continued in a positive manner.

8 VOTE OF THANKS

Vote of thanks to all who had presented reports proposed by Steven Owens.

9 CLOSURE

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

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th MARCH 2017
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Isaiah Chapter 55 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Jane Curror, Marie Owens, John Curror, David McKee and Fraser Neilson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 21 elders and three other Trustees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 13th February and 5th March

A draft minute of the meeting held on 13th February was circulated prior to the meeting. It was pointed out that the final paragraph of section 8.3.1 should be headed **8.3.2 Pastoral Care**. With this amendment acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Alan Henderson and seconded by Ronnie Kirkwood.

The Session Clerk read the minute of the meeting of the 5th March. Acceptance of this minute as a true record was proposed by Ronnie Kirkwood and seconded by Steven Owens.

The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Letter from David McKee

Norman Bolton said that he had received a letter from David McKee. In the letter David said he had not attended Stamperland Church over the past few months. He said that he felt dissatisfaction with the direction of the church and felt that the time was right for himself and his family to explore pastures new. He therefore wished to take time out from being an active elder at Stamperland and during this time he would consider where in the Church of Scotland his future lay. Elders agreed that his name was taken off the list of active elders and placed on the list of those on sabbatical leave.

6.1.2 Letter from Presbytery regarding Inspection of Records

Norman Bolton advised that the Presbytery Inspection of Records would take place on 24th March.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

Margot Young advised that she was now receiving e-mails from Glasgow Presbytery.

Margot also advised that she was waiting for the new forms from the Church of Scotland at 121, George Street, Edinburgh in relation to applying for Disclosure.

7.2 Food Hygiene

Margot Young advised she had checked with the advisor for East Renfrewshire regarding the location of a dishwasher close to a gas cooker. Whilst it was possibly not ideal it was not against regulations.

7.3 Health & Safety

No report.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

8.1.1.1 Water leak in hall entrance space in vicinity of old boiler house flue

Alan Henderson reported that the dampness appearing in the area of the old boiler house flue and above the doors into the Large Hall had been investigated. The cause had been a combination of defective pointing and the blockage of a drain. Both had been rectified.

8.1.1.2 CCTV

Alan Henderson informed the meeting that new CCTV system had been installed with cameras covering the hall entrance door and the fire escape door at the rear of the building. The new system permitted remote monitoring via the internet. To enable this, a router booster had been temporarily located in the hall cloakroom; a permanent solution would be developed. It had also become apparent that the current CCTV monitor was defective and required replacement.

8.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton reported that offerings were on target and that income from Hall Lets was ahead of budget. Items of expenditure had included the purchase of the dishwasher at £936, CCTV replacement at £275, the pointing on the boiler house flue at £108 and £50 for window cleaning. In addition, £200 was paid to the accountant for undertaking the Independent Examination of our Annual Accounts for 2016.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Engagement

8.2.1.1 Photocopier

Steven Owens advised that the replacement photocopier had been installed on Monday 13th March. A training session had been arranged for Monday, 20th March.

8.2.1.2 Worship Training

Steven advised that several people had indicated they were interested in attending worship training events.

8.2.1.3 Summer Playgroup at Netherlee

Steven reported that he and Scott Russell were in contact with people at Netherlee in relation to the proposed summer activity.

8.2.1.4 Holy Week Services

Steven reported that he and Scott Russell had started planning the Holy Week services.

8.2.1.5 Distribution Holy Week Leaflets

There was discussion about the distribution of the Clarkston Churches Together Holy Week Leaflets to every home in the parish. Norman Bolton said that in 2016 only about half of the leaflets had been delivered. Scott Russell proposed that, if the availability of the leaflets was known, then it might be possible to organise a “delivery Sunday afternoon” when volunteers would meet at the church, deliver leaflets and return to the church for a communal tea and cake event. Elders were supportive of this idea.

8.2.2 Fund Raising and Stewardship

Steven reminded those present that The David Milligan Quiz would be held on 25th March. The date of the Spring Fair had been decided as 6th May. Organisations had been contacted and each was planning what they would do.

8.3. Mission

8.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Nancy Fisher said that the Parish and Beyond Committee had met but that there was little to report. Support for the Foodbank was continuing and plans were in hand to seek donations of Easter Eggs.

The possibility of preparing and publishing a calendar for 2018 was being considered.

8.3.2 Pastoral Care

Plans were in progress to deliver Easter cards and flowers to housebound residents.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Changes to Roll

Bill Paterson reported that following the decision at the previous Session Meeting regarding members who had not responded to letters in relation to data protection, 37 names had been removed from the Communion Roll. These names are listed below.

Name	Last known address
Mrs Alison Allan	14 Bennan Place, East Kilbride
Mrs Donna Marie Baker	141 Glanviller Road, Middlesex
Mr John Barnes	3 Stamperland Crescent
Mrs Shirley Barnes	3 Stamperland Crescent
Mr John Best	61 Stamperland Gardens
Mr George Carmichael	40 Nethervale Avenue
Mrs Patricia Considine	47 Stamperland Gardens
Mr Stephen Corrie	62 The Oval
Mrs Anne Corrie	62 The Oval
Mrs Heather Dempster	7 Guthrie Terrace, Crosshouse, Kilmarnock
Mrs Joyce Denovan	Park House Manor Care Home
Mrs Elaine Foster	12 Calderside Grove, East Kilbride
Mrs Lyn Gordon	3 Stewart Avenue, Newton Mearns
Mr James Harrison	21 Drumby Crescent
Mrs Unda Harrison	21 Drumby Crescent
Mr Ian Johnston Formerly	588 Clarkston Road
Mrs Deborah Johnstone	23 Gloucester Avenue
Mr Colin Johnstone	23 Gloucester Avenue
Mr Richard Law	81 Monteith Drive
Mrs Patricia Law	81 Monteith Drive
Mrs Lorainne Lawrie	Moscow, Ayrshire

Mrs Fiona Leathern	142 Stamperland Gardens
Mrs Patricia Madden	16 Hillcrest Avenue, Newton Mearns
Mr Kenneth McCarlie	22 Cromarty Gardens
Mrs Vivienne McCarlie	22 Cromarty Gardens
Mrs Moyra McDonald	1 Birch Avenue, Busby
Mrs Christine McDougall	6 Arthurlie Drive, Giffnock
Mrs Elaine McLean	Clyde Valley
Mr Graeme McLean	14 Ormond Avenue
Mrs Jane Nimmo	77 Busby Road
Mrs Deobie O'Shea	153 The Oval
Mrs Jean Paterson	Ardrossan
Mrs Dawn Stokes	35 Linn Drive, Muirend
Miss Jennifer Templeton	44 Semphill Gardens, East Kilbride
Mrs Diane Todd	3 Stamperland Gardens
Mrs Valerie Turner	Hill Crescent, Clarkston
Mr Leslie Wilson	418 Clarkston Road, Muirend

10 PRESBYTERY ELDER

Alastair Graham advised that he had been unable to attend the recent meeting. He explained that he was not receiving e-mails from Presbytery and had not been given access to the Presbytery Elder's section of the Presbytery website.

11 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher and Norman Bolton advised that there was little to report. The vacancy now appeared on the Church of Scotland website which listed all parish vacancies and would be featured in an advertisement in the April edition of Life & Work.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 NEW HALL LETS

Connell Cranston intimated two new hall lets. The new lets were a Yoga Class run by Danny McGinlay which used the lower hall on a Tuesday and a Weight Watchers Class which met on a Wednesday morning.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The dates of future Kirk Session meetings were confirmed as Monday, 24th April, Wednesday, 17th May and Monday, 19th June.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say "the Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 24th APRIL 2017
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Romans Chapter 8 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Evelyn Graham, Janet Stewart, Margot Young, Marie Owens, Alastair Graham, Alan Henderson, and James Mathieson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 19 elders and 8 other Trustees.
The Moderator welcomed Karen Cramb.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minute of meeting held on 15th March

A draft minute of the meeting held on 15th March was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Kay Bolton and seconded by Margo Neilson

6 SAFETY AND SECURITY

6.1 PVG

The Session Clerk advised that Margot Young was still waiting for the new disclosure application forms from the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. Additionally, he advised that he was waiting for a call from Glasgow Presbytery in relation to processing Margot's application to be registered as a Co-ordinator.

6.2 Food Hygiene

Nothing to report.

6.3 Health & Safety

Jane Curror advised that the fabric towel in the accessible toilet in the church vestibule should be removed as it was not hygienic; the hot air drier was fully operational.

6.4 Insurance

Steven Owens advised that no activities planned for the Spring Fair would involve any particular risk and would not require any additional insurance cover.

7. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 Property

7.1.1.1 Dishwasher

Roy Allan advised that the dishwasher had been installed in the kitchen but was yet to be commissioned. Questioned regarding whether the dishwasher would be operational in advance of the Spring Fair Roy stated that it would.

7.1.1.2 LED Strip Lights in the Sanctuary

Norman Bolton said that the new LED strip lights had been installed in the sanctuary and that trustees could experience the hugely improved illumination at the close of the meeting.

7.1.2 Finance

7.1.2.1 Income and Expenditure

Kay Bolton reported that offerings and other income were doing well. Recent expenditure had included the purchase of the replacement photocopier at a cost of £2,820, the installation of the new sanctuary lights at a cost of £2,470 and the purchase of a new monitor for the CCTV system at a cost of £85.

Kay said that many of those present would be aware of the recent problems with one of the radio microphones and suggested that a new radio microphone was purchased using money from the Copper Fund. The cost would be about £125. Trustees agreed with the suggestion.

7.1.2.2 Duty Teams

Kay advised that with a number of elders having retired or being on Sabbatical leave several of the Sunday morning Duty Teams were short of members. She asked whether it might be possible to co-opt members of the congregation to assist without the member becoming a Trustee. The Interim Moderator said that this would be possible and Trustees indicated that they were happy for the Treasurer to approach potential volunteers.

7.2 Strategy and Engagement

7.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

Steven Owens informed the meeting that arrangements were in hand for the Spring Fair. All of the organisations were fully briefed on their specific roles. There would be a few more things which would attract children and it was hoped that Netherlee Primary School would assist in communicating with the parents of school children. He said that there might be a “Science Challenge” and a lifeboat display. This year there would be no bric-a-brac or second hand books; these would not be the things which people saw when entering the halls.

Steven indicated that he was looking for help with delivering letters to businesses in Clarkston seeking donations.

7.2.2 Holy Week Services

Steven Owens said that he and Scott Russell wished to thank everyone who had assisted with the Holy Week Services including those who had read and those who had done ‘Door Duty’. All of the Holy Week services had been recorded and the videos uploaded to You Tube. He advised that we should consider further use of You-Tube in going forward.

7.3 Mission

7.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Nancy Fisher said that over 100 Easter Eggs had been donated and had been passed to the East Renfrewshire Foodbank. The Foodbank had sent a letter to both Jack Drummond and Evelyn Graham expressing the thanks of the Foodbank volunteers and asking that this appreciation was conveyed to the congregation. Nancy said that the letter had been read to the congregation one Sunday morning.

7.3.2 Pastoral Care

More than 20 Easter cards and flowers had been delivered to housebound residents and quite a number of thank-you letters had been received.

Over 100 pairs of shoes had been collected for Blythswood Care.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Changes to Roll

8.1.1 Change of Address

Bill Paterson reported the following change of address

	From	To
Mr Richard Carnachan	132 Randolph Drive	Flat 16, 823 Clarkston Road
Mrs Doreen Carnachan	132 Randolph Drive	Flat 16, 823 Clarkston Road

8.1.2 Transfer by Certificate

Bill Paterson reported that Mrs Mary Logan, River Court, 203 Busby Road had transferred to Greenbank Parish Church.

8.1.3 Removal

Bill Paterson reported that Mrs Irene Heron, Flat C, 3 Fairfield Court has asked to be removed from the Roll.

8.1.4 Reinstatement

Bill Paterson reported that Mrs Joyce Denovan, Parkhouse Manor Care Home had been put back on the roll. Her name had been added, in error, to the list of those being removed for not responding to the letters relating to Data Protection requirements.

8.1.5 Elders Roll Books

Bill asked elders to return their roll books so that all Roll Books could be brought fully up-to-date.

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

No report

11 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher and Norman Bolton advised that there was little to report. An advertisement had been printed in the April edition of Life and Work; the vacancy was on the Church of Scotland website. Expressions of interest or enquiries from interested ministers were awaited.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The dates of future Kirk Session meetings were confirmed as Wednesday, 17th May and Monday, 19th June. There was some discussion about the agenda for future meetings and whether there should be time set aside for discussion on particular topics or whether trustees should spend some time meeting in their committee groups. No specific conclusions were agreed.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2017
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from John Chapter 8 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Rev Jack Drummond, Jean and Connell Cranston, Alastair Graham, James Mathieson, Fraser Neilson, Raymond Russell and Scott Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, 19 elders and 8 other Trustees.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minute of meeting held on 24th April

A draft minute of the meeting held on 24th April was circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Roy Alan and seconded by Marie Owens.

5 CORRESPONDENCE / INTIMATIONS

5.1 Lanarkshire Society of Organists

The Session Clerk said that he had received a request from the Lanarkshire Society of Organists (LSO) asking if it would be possible for them to come to Stamperland Church on the afternoon of Saturday, 13th January and play the church organs. All present agreed that it would in order to welcome them. Anne Mackenzie said that the LSO would expect afternoon tea to be provided.

6 SAFETY AND SECURITY

6.1 PVG, Food Hygiene, Health & Safety, Insurance

No reports.

7. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 Property

7.1.1.1 Dishwasher

Alan Henderson advised that the dishwasher was fully operational.

7.1.1.2 Brickwork above Emergency Exit in Sanctuary

It was reported that there were cracks in the brickwork above the emergency exit door leading out to Clarkston Road from the sanctuary. Trustees present gave their permission for a structural survey to be carried out at a potential cost of £300 to determine what remedial work might be required.

7.1.2 Finance

7.1.2.1 Income and Expenditure

Kay Bolton reported that the Spring Fair had raised £2,330.69 – an amount similar to the previous year. A donation of £450 had been received from The Guild. Donations in relation to funerals to date totalled £750.

Recent expenditure included £2,472 for installation of the new LED lighting tubes in the sanctuary. A new radio microphone had been purchased at a cost of £136.95 using money from the Copper Fund.

7.2 Strategy and Engagement

7.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

Steven Owens thanked everyone who had been involved with the Spring Fair. Kay had reported the financial outcome of the event. A lot of young families had attended; there had been an e-mail sent by Netherlee Primary School to all parents and this had encouraged some families to attend. People had left the Spring Fair with a smile on their face.

Two non-church groups had participated in the Spring Fair – Sandra and David Cowie had created a display related to RNLI and staff from CrossReach had a display about Heart for Art. It was agreed that retiring offerings from the June and September Communion would be sent to Heart for Art and RNLI respectively.

7.3 Mission

No report.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Changes to Roll

8.1.1 Change of Address

Bill Paterson reported the following change of address

	From	To
Mr Paul Linich	85 Monteith Drive	79, Main Road, Fenwick
Mrs Alison Linich	85 Monteith Drive	79, Main Road, Fenwick

9 PRESBYTERY ELDER

No report

10 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher and Norman Bolton advised that there was little to report. A second advertisement would be printed in the June edition of Life and Work; the vacancy was on the Church of Scotland website. Expressions of interest or enquiries from interested ministers were awaited.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of 19th June would remain as a provisional date should there be a need for a meeting.

12 CLOSURE

Rev Gray Fletcher reminded those present of the Carmunnock Conventicle taking place on Sunday 21st May and marking the 250th anniversary of the church. All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
JOINT KIRK SESSION
SUNDAY, 2nd JULY 2017**

2 CONSTITUTION

In the Sanctuary of Stamperland Church on Sunday, 2nd July after morning worship, the Kirk Sessions of Netherlee and Stamperland met and were constituted with prayer by Rev. Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator of Stamperland.

2 SEDERUNT

Rev Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator Stamperland.
Elders attendance as per the Sederunt Books.

3 SOLE NOMINEE

3.1 Rev Scott Blythe

Gray Fletcher said that everyone present would now know that the Nominating Committee was unanimous in proposing that the Rev Scott Blythe be invited to preach to both congregations as sole nominee.

Diane Levey, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, spoke briefly about Scott Blythe. Scott had been brought up in East Kilbride where his father still lived. Scott had been ordained as a Church of Scotland minister in the mid 1990s but was currently serving as minister in the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains in New Jersey, USA. He was married (his wife, Liz was an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church of the USA) and had two young children (Duncan aged four and Eilidh aged two). In various conversations she had had with him Scott had expressed how much he felt that coming to Netherlee and Stamperland was his calling and how excited he felt about his new ministry in the two parishes.

Rev Gray Fletcher said that the date suggested for the sole nominee to preach was Sunday 3rd September. It was proposed that Rev Scott Blythe would conduct worship at Netherlee Parish Church at 10.00 am and at Stamperland Parish Church at 11.30 am. Gray Fletcher asked if these arrangements were agreeable. All present indicated their agreement.

3.2 Expenses incurred by sole nominee in travelling to preach

Rev Gray Fletcher stated that it was the congregations’ responsibility to reimburse expenses incurred by the sole nominee in travelling to preach on the 3rd September. Scott Blythe would be travelling from New Jersey to Scotland and would be staying with his father in East Kilbride. He would be accompanied by his wife and two young children. The members of the Nominating Committee felt that it would be right to offer to cover the travel costs of the whole family and not just those of Scott Blythe. The travel costs were anticipated to be in the region

of £1,700 and there would be no accommodation costs. Those present agreed that the travel costs of the whole family should be met by the two congregations.

4 SEPTEMBER COMMUNION AT STAMPERLAND

Norman Bolton, Session Clerk at Stamperland, said that Communion was normally celebrated on the first Sunday of September. With the sole nominee preaching on the first Sunday of September, this would not be possible. Rev Jack Drummond was happy to celebrate Communion on Sunday, 10th September. Stamperland elders agreed with the change of date.

5 CLOSURE

The Rev. Gray Fletcher led those present in saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES JOINT KIRK SESSION SUNDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER 2017

1 CONSTITUTION

In the Sanctuary of Stamperland Church on Sunday, 3rd September at 3.00 pm, the Kirk Sessions of Netherlee and Stamperland met and were constituted with prayer by Rev. Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator.

2 SEDERUNT

Rev Gray Fletcher, Interim Moderator.

Rev Tom Nelson, Minister of Netherlee Parish Church.

Elders attendance as per the Sederunt Books.

A large number of members of Netherlee and Stamperland Churches were also present as observers.

3 ELECTION OF SCOTT BLYTHE

3.1 Result of the Congregation’s Vote

Rev Gray Fletcher read the edict advising the result of the vote to elect Rev Scott Blythe, BSc, BD, MBA as minister of Stamperland Parish Church in deferred linkage with Netherlee Parish Church.

Votes For the election of Rev Scott Blythe, BSc, BD, MBA 367

Votes Against the election of Rev Scott Blythe, BSc, BD, MBA 3

Accordingly, Rev Scott Blythe, BSc, BD, MBA was declared Minister Elect.

3.2 Introduction of Rev Scott Blythe

Rev Gray Fletcher invited Mr and Mrs Blythe into the sanctuary and introduced Scott to the company as the Minister Elect of Stamperland Parish Church in deferred linkage with Netherlee Parish Church.

Scott spoke briefly, thanking everybody who had been involved in the planning and arranging the two services at Netherlee and Stamperland. He said that it was a joy to accept the invitation to be the minister elect and that he looked forward to working with everyone in both churches.

4 CLOSURE

The Rev. Scott Blythe closed the meeting with prayer and benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2017
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev. Jack Drummond with prayer and a reading from Genesis Chapter 14.

2. DEVOTIONS

Jack said that the passage he had just read was about God’s promises to Abraham, the promise of being the ancestor of many nations, the promise of the “promised land”. It took a long time for all of the promises to be fulfilled. It was the fourth generation of Abraham’s descendents – Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses – before the Israelites reached the promised land. In the intervening time the Israelites had suffered starvation, enslavement in Egypt and forty years of wandering in the desert before the promise was fulfilled.

The story of God’s people in both Old and New Testament times, he said, is one of people on the move, a story of surprises and new directions. The Christian Church is, in many of the poorer countries of the world enjoying a time of expansion. There are now more Christians than at any time in history. However, in western countries, in the developed world, the Christian Church is facing difficult times.

God’s timescales are not always those of man. Many of the great men and women of the Bible faced hard times, obstacles and difficulties; during these times of trial they kept their faith. And, today, God calls us all to be faithful.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Retiring Offering

The Session Clerk reminded elders that it has previously been agreed that the retiring offering should be donated to the RNLI.

3.1 The Call

The Session Clerk advised elders that he would be intimating to the congregation that The Call and related documents were available for signing at the close of worship. He explained the reasons for signing the Call and indicated which groups should sign The Call, The Paper of Concurrence or The Paper of Association. He also indicated the availability Mandate forms for people who could not attend church to sign the Call in person.

The Session Clerk invited elders to sign the Call before attending morning worship.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Jack Drummond led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion.

At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2017
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from 1st Timothy and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean and Connell Cranston, John Curror, Alastair Graham.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 22 elders and 8 other Trustees.

The Moderator extended a welcome to Colin Kirkwood who was attending a Kirk Session Meeting for the first time.

The Session Clerk informed the meeting that Edith Moseley had indicated her intention to retire from active eldership. He also advised that Pat McIlraith was unlikely to return as an active elder for quite some time.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of meetings held on 17th May, 2nd July, 3rd September and 10th September

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 17th May, 2nd July and 3rd September were circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute of 17th May as a true record was proposed by Steven Owens and seconded by Alan Henderson. Acceptance of the minute of 2nd July as a true record was proposed by Ronnie Kirkwood and seconded by Norman Walker. Acceptance of the minute of 3rd September as a true record was proposed by Roy Allan and seconded by Alison Macfarlane.

The minute of the meeting held on 10th September was read by the Session Clerk. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Scott Russell and seconded by Margo Neilson.

5 MINISTER ELECT: REV SCOTT BLYTHE

5.1 Next Steps

The Session Clerk said that there were a number of issues which needed to be discussed and agreed including aspects related to the Manses of Netherlee and of Stamperland and of costs associated with the new manse family taking up residence in the manse.

5.2 Designation of Manses

Norman Bolton advised the meeting of developments related to Manses of Netherlee and Stamperland Churches. Several years ago, the plan was that the new minister inducted to Stamperland would live in Stamperland Manse up to the time when Rev Tom Nelson retired from Netherlee. At that point, our new minister and family would move from Stamperland Manse (109 Ormonde Ave.) to Netherlee Manse (25 Ormonde Ave) as Netherlee Manse met the Church of Scotland criteria for manses whilst Stamperland Manse did not. With Rev Scott Blythe and family arriving in late November they faced living in Stamperland Manse for only eight months before having to move into Netherlee Manse.

Tom and Catherine Nelson had proposed an option which would eliminate the need for the Blythe family to move twice. Tom and Catherine graciously offered to move from Netherlee Manse to the retirement house they have purchased in Rutherglen in advance of the Blythe family arriving, thereby enabling the new manse family to move straight into 25 Ormonde Avenue.

In order for this to happen, Church Law required that the Nelson's home in Rutherglen would be temporarily designated "Netherlee Manse" and the current Netherlee Manse would be designated "Stamperland Manse". Approval for this was required from the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, from Glasgow Presbytery and from Stamperland and Netherlee Kirk Sessions. Both Edinburgh and Glasgow had approved the manse designations. The Session Clerk said that he was now looking for the agreement of Stamperland Kirk Session. All present indicated their agreement with the proposal for the designation of manses.

5.3 Financial Arrangements related to Manses

Norman Bolton advised that financial arrangements would need to be agreed by Stamperland and Netherlee Kirk Sessions in relation to the use of the newly designated manses. The arrangements were, in large part, necessary to ensure compliance with HMRC rules relating to ministers and manses. Netherlee Church would be required to make payment to Tom Nelson for using Mr Nelson's home as Netherlee Manse. In a similar way, there was a requirement for Stamperland Church to make payment to Netherlee Church for use of 25, Ormonde Avenue as Stamperland Manse.

Norman advised that there would also need to be agreement between the two Kirk Sessions in relation to apportioning removal costs, manse decoration costs and other expenses related to the arrival of the Blythe family. He proposed that a small ad-hoc committee be established to meet with a similar committee from Netherlee to resolve financial arrangements. He suggested that the membership of the ad-hoc committee would comprise Session Clerk, Treasurer and Norman Walker and that the committee should be given authority to agree "reasonable allocation of costs" and that, only in the event of there being significant disagreement between the members of the two ad-hoc committees would the full Kirk Session be consulted. All present approved the establishment of the ad-hoc committee, the proposed membership and agreed that the committee should have the delegated financial authority suggested.

5.4 Letter from Rev Scott Blythe

Gray Fletcher informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Rev Scott Blythe stating that he, Scott Blythe, accepted the call to be the next minister at Stamperland in deferred linkage with Netherlee.

5.5 Possible date for Induction

Gray Fletcher advised that the likely dates for the induction of Rev Scott Blythe were 30th November and 7th December. Presbytery would decide the date.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Presbytery Property Committee – Report on Inspection of Manse

Norman Bolton said that he had received the report of the Presbytery Property Committee relating to Stamperland Manse, 109 Ormonde Avenue. Overall, the conclusion was that “the property was suitable for habitation without any major concerns”. The report highlighted that there was no loft insulation, that flashings around chimneys should be checked as should the soffit and fascia boards adjacent to the property at 111 Ormonde Avenue. It was suggested that the gas fired boiler should be subject of a service contract and that a carbon monoxide detector be fitted in the basement near the gas boiler. A number of minor repairs were also suggested.

6.1.2 Youth gathering in the vicinity of the fire exit in Stamperland Hill

Norman Bolton said that he had received a phone call on 20th August from a resident in Stamperland Hill. She called to say that youths had gathered at the hall exit door in Stamperland Hill around 2.00 am / 2.30 am that morning. There had been a lot of noise, shouting and fighting. She said that many of her neighbours were concerned at the situation. It had not been an isolated incident; there were frequent gatherings of youths. Residents were disturbed by the noise and concerned that there could be an escalation into a serious incident. She said that the police did not respond to calls from the “church’s neighbours” and the local residents were getting to their wits end regarding what to do. She asked whether the light above the door could be switched on at night.

Various elders commented. Alan Henderson said that the police were notorious for not responding; community police had been withdrawn. Fraser Macintosh said that it was nigh impossible to make contact with the local councillor by phone. Margo Neilson said that she had been troubled by people standing around the door area while she was in the print room. Scott Russell told elders that he had phoned the police on one occasion on a Friday evening whilst the BB were in the halls. Fraser Neilson said that the problem of youths hanging around the church and grounds had existed for years; as the years passed the youths causing the trouble changed but the problem remained. Steven Owens said that there were wider issues – spray painting of walls, etc., was becoming more prevalent in the Stamperland area.

Steven Owens said that there was a CCTV camera positioned high up above the exit door; it looked downwards onto the landing area but it had not caught the disturbance on the morning of the 20th August. He suggested moving the camera to widen the coverage of the general area. Some elders said that they did not like the idea of the church having lots of CCTV cameras “spying” on the public.

The discussion concluded with the Property Committee being asked to investigate the possible installation of additional CCTV cameras to cover specific areas around the church buildings.

6.1.3 Local Church Review

The Session Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Rev Hilary MacDougal of advising that there would be a follow-up LCR meeting on 4th October. Members of the Business Committee and the Interim Moderator would attend the meeting which would be held at Stamperland.

6.1.4 Letter from David McKee

Norman said that he had received a letter from David McKee requesting that a Certificate of Transference be sent to Mossneuk Parish Church, East Kilbride. In his letter David wished everyone at Stamperland well.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG, Food Hygiene, Insurance

No reports.

The Session Clerk advised those present of Presbytery Safeguarding Training Courses for Volunteers and for Kirk Sessions. The most appropriate course for Kirk Sessions would be held on 22nd January 2018 at Burnside Blairbeth Church.

7.2 Health and Safety

Jane Curror informed the meeting that she had received a large tome from the Church of Scotland – the Health and Safety Toolkit. The Toolkit had a number of sections, all of which

had to be completed. Jane reminded those present that all trustees are collectively responsible for building safety and for safe use of the buildings for all users.

The toolkit was designed to be a 'live document' and continually updated. It provided a guide to the main safety risks within properties. Aspects covered included fire safety, food safety, risks associated with gas and electricity, risks associated with maintenance activities, etc.. It was the responsibility of trustees to assess the potential hazards within the building, determine ways of minimising risk and develop formal Health & Safety Policy and Procedures. Jane asked for the assistance of everybody to ensure that Health and Safety procedures and policies were properly developed and implemented.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

8.1.1.1 Manse

Roy Alan said that the actions specified in the Presbytery report on the manse would be attended to as would the investigation into the options for the CCTV coverage of the church and grounds.

8.1.1.2 Brickwork above Emergency Exit in Sanctuary

Roy advised that a structural survey had been undertaken of the brickwork above the emergency exit door leading out to Clarkston Road from the sanctuary and that he had managed to have the survey completed at no cost to the church. The problem was not considered to be structurally serious and a local builder had been contracted to effect repairs to the brickwork including provision of a reinforced lintel and the fitting of new wooden doors. The cost of the work would be around £800.

8.1.1.3 Replacement of Fluorescent Lights in Large and Small Halls

Roy advised that a quotation for the installation of replacement LED tubes and for the repainting of the ceiling in the Large Hall was awaited.

8.1.1.4 Issue with gas cooker doors

Alison Macfarlane said that there was an issue with the oven doors of both gas cookers. When the doors were pulled to open them both cookers moved forward. Roy said that the Property Committee would investigate and seek to resolve the matter.

8.1.2.1 Income and Expenditure

Kay Bolton reported that offerings were running a little ahead of the budget. The offering on the 3rd September had been £985. She said that the church had received a legacy of £500 and that income from hall lets was £8,800 for the first eight months of the year.

There had been expenditure on the manse following the departure of the tenants. A considerable amount of rubbish had to be removed from the property and professional cleaning would be required to bring the property to a lettable condition. The walls of the two main downstairs rooms, the hall, staircase and landing, the rear bedroom and the small front bedroom had been painted at a cost of £400 for labour and £150 for paint. Minor repairs including fixing light fittings in the study, renewing beading round the laminate floor and fixing a cupboard handle had also been undertaken. The back door was in poor condition and would require the fitting of new hinges.

On a positive note, Kay said that she had managed to obtain exemption from paying Council Tax while the property remained unoccupied. Permission to re-let the manse had just been granted and Clyde Property would be asked to manage the letting.

The Treasurer advised that there would be various expenses related to the arrival of our new minister. Costs would include travel expenses associated with Scott Blythe preaching on the 3rd September, removal costs and the "disturbance allowance" of £1,740. Some of the costs would be split with Netherlee. It was, however, quite likely that we could face a deficit by the year end.

8.1.2.2 Recoding of Offerings

Anne Mackenzie made a plea that care was taken when recording offerings against envelope numbers during the count on Sunday mornings.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

Steven Owens advised that there had not been a meeting of the Strategy and Engagement Committee.

8.3 Mission

8.3.1 Pastoral

Nancy Fisher advised that now the kitchen was equipped with a dishwasher, the Pastoral Committee was looking at the detailed requirements relating to the establishment of a Lunch Club.

8.3.2 Parish and Beyond

Christmas Cards would be sold for the Lodging House Mission and the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

Donations from the Harvest Thanksgiving Service would be donated to The Lodging House Mission. The LHM served over 100 meals per day, six days a week and relied on Harvest donations from local churches. There was a list of items of food which the LHM preferred and also a list of items they did not wish. Scott Russell asked if members of the uniformed organizations could bring gifts to the Harvest Service and was told gifts would be very welcome from everybody. Scott said he would advise the youth organizations of this.

Nancy advised that the committee was proposing to organize the publication of a calendar for 2019 in collaboration with Netherlee Church. Trustees were happy with the proposal.

Finally, Nancy said that the committee was looking at lesser-known charities whose activities might be appropriate for the church to support on a long-term basis.

8.4 NURTURE

8.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson reminded the meeting that there had been a very good response to the request for Christmas Gifts last December with the congregation's donations going to a family charity in Paisley. She did wonder whether the congregation might feel that they were being asked to contribute to too many good causes at present – Mary's Meals, Blythswood shoe box, etc. – and sought the views of those present. Steven Owens said that he supported the idea of Christmas Gifts and Nancy Fisher thought that there was sufficient length of time between the October request to support Blythswood and the December gift appeal. It was agreed that the congregation should be asked to support the Christmas Gift appeal.

Steven Owens said that he had been in contact with Presbytery in relation to the running of a course for worship leaders. Presbytery was having a meeting the following day to discuss the leader's course and further information should be available quite soon.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Changes to Roll

9.1.1 Death of Member

The meeting was advised of the death of Mrs Joyce Denovan, Parkhouse Manor Care Home, 577 Parkhouse Road, G78 1TE.

9.1.2 Change of Address

Bill Paterson reported the following change of address

	From	To
Mrs Janet Scott	17 Linnpark Court	Parkhouse Manor Care Home, 577 Parkhouse Road, G78 1TE

9.1.3 New Member

Mrs Elizabeth Murray, 23 Strathtay Avenue.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next meetings were agreed as Monday, 23rd October and Wednesday, 22nd November.

11 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2017
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Romans Chapter 12 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jan Barr, Jean Cranston, Jane and John Curror, George Finlayson, Nancy Fisher, Evelyn and Alastair Graham, James Mathieson, Grace Scott and Sheena Skelton.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 19 elders and 7 other Trustees.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of meeting held on 11th September

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th September were circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Norman Walker and seconded by Ronnie Kirkwood. Minutes signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the close of the meeting.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Local Church Review

The Session Clerk advised that the follow-up LCR meeting had taken place on 4th October. Presbytery had been represented by Rev Hilary MacDougal and Rev Roger Sturrock; Stamperland had been represented by the Business Committee and the Interim Moderator. Copies of pages 12 and 13 of the LCR which included the LCR visiting team comments and the updated Action Plan were circulated to those in attendance. Norman Bolton said that the comments were generally very positive; it would be important to address the actions identified in the Action Plan.

6 MINISTER ELECT: REV SCOTT BLYTHE

6.1 Induction of Rev Scott Blythe

The Session Clerk advised that he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk, Rev George Cowie, enclosing an Extract from the Minute of the October Meeting of Presbytery. The extract minute was as follows:

AT GLASGOW, 10th October 2017, the Presbytery of Glasgow met and was constituted.

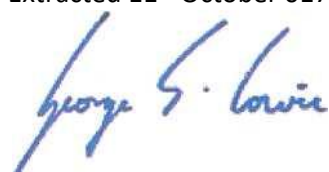
Inter Alia:

Vacancy Business

Stamperland

Presbytery sustained the Call from Stamperland in deferred linkage with Netherlee to the Rev Scott Blythe and agreed to meet in hunc effectum at Stamperland Church, at 6.45pm on Thursday 30th November, for the service of Induction and Admission at 7pm.

Extracted 11th October 017



Rev George S Cowie
Presbytery Clerk

The letter also contained an Edict to be read to the congregation by the minister on Sundays 19th and 26th November.

In his accompanying letter George Cowie remarked that he was very much looking forward to the induction. He recalled that in 1990 he had a student attachment at Stamperland Church whilst his wife, Marian, served as a probationer at Netherlee.

6.2 Arrangements for the Induction Service

The Session Clerk advised that plans had to be made for the induction. The induction would be in two parts. The first was the formal induction service which would be organised by Presbytery; the second was a more informal social event during which the Interim Moderator and Locum Minister would be thanked for their work during the vacancy and Scott welcomed as the new minister. It would be followed by serving of tea, coffee and home baking in the halls. Planning and arranging the second part was the responsibility of Stamperland.

Gray Fletcher said that Presbytery would be in contact regarding the arrangements for the Induction Service. Presbytery would meet and constitute at 6.45 pm; Gray believed that the Session Room would be an appropriate meeting place. It was likely that ministers and elders from Presbytery would process into the sanctuary during the singing of the first hymn; those directly involved in the induction would take their place on the chancel; the other members of Presbytery would sit in the front central pews. At the conclusion of the service, presbyters would make their way back to the Session Room to complete a number of items of business and then formally close the presbytery meeting. Members of Presbytery would expect to be served refreshments at the conclusion of their meeting. Gray Fletcher offered to ask members of Carmunnock Church to assist in serving presbyters which would allow members of Stamperland to be present at the induction service and not have to leave early. This offer was gratefully received.

The meeting agreed that invitations to the Induction should be sent to various people including local councillors, the head teachers at Netherlee Primary School and Williamwood High School as well as to all local churches. A large number of people could potentially be in attendance; with possibly 150 from Stamperland, 200 from Netherlee and with representatives from local churches and from presbytery the number attending could approach 500.

6.3 New Church Noticeboard

The Session Clerk advised that arrangements were in hand to have a new external sign on the wall facing Clarkston Road. The sign would show the name of our new minister.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Defibrillator

Norman Bolton said that he had recently received a letter from Scottish HART advising that the model of defibrillator in the church (G3 Powerheart) was becoming obsolete and advised that it should be upgraded to a G5 version. He said that he was seeking advice from Brian Stokes regarding the need to replace the unit which had been placed in the church by the Craig Stokes fund. He said that Trustees might also wish to consider whether it was necessary to have access to a defibrillator in the church.

7.1.2 Friends of Linn Park

Norman Bolton said that he had received a letter from the Friends of Linn Park. This was a local group which had an interest in protecting, improving and promoting the green space of the park. The letter was essentially asking the church to promote awareness of the group and its aims.

8 SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG, Food Hygiene, Insurance

8.1.1 PVG

Margot Young advised that the Church of Scotland had appointed a new safeguarding manager. Margot also advised of training courses for volunteers. Local courses were being held at Newlands South Church on Friday 10th November and Croftfoot Church on 25th April. Attendees would receive a certificate. Margot undertook to speak to individual elders advising them of requirements to attend.

8.2 Health and Safety

The members of the Property Committee undertook to assist with completing sections of the Health and Safety Toolkit.

8.2 Food Hygiene

Anne MacKenzie advised that there were holes in the woodwork of some of the kitchen cupboards.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Roy Allan informed the meeting of a number of aspects of fabric which were being given attention.

The brickwork over the emergency exit door in the sanctuary had been removed and replaced. A steel lintel had been inserted. The old wooden doors had been replaced with new ones, a new push bar mechanism fitted and the doors painted.

A new external light had been installed at the hall entrance; it was activated by a light sensor.

The fluorescent tubes in the large and small halls would be replaced in November with LED tubes at a cost of £1,360 plus VAT. The ceiling of the large hall would also be repainted in November; the cost would be £800 for labour plus approximately £200 for paint.

New kick boards would be fitted under the cupboards in the kitchen. Any holes found in the cupboards would be attended to.

Looking to some future work, Roy advised that a quotation for replacing the metal-framed windows in the church halls with double glazed PVC units had been requested. He also advised that the electrical wiring in the church was due for inspection and safety testing.

9.1.2 Finance

9.1.2.1 Recent Expenditure

Kay Bolton reported that there had been a recent increase in expenditure. The cost of the work related to the fire door in the sanctuary was £800. Maintenance work associated with fire extinguishers had cost £248 and boiler maintenance had cost £591. Expenditure related to the manse had included £168 for re-hanging the back door and £230 for deep cleaning prior to a new tenant moving into the property. New tenants have been found for the manse and they were anticipated to move in before the end of November.

The Treasurer advised of various expenses related to our new minister. Travel costs related to Scott Blythe preaching on the 3rd September had been split equally with Netherlee; the amount paid by each church was £1017. New robes had been purchased which would be presented to Scott at the induction. The total cost of the robes was £345.50 and with this cost also shared equally with Netherlee, Stamperland's contribution had been £172.75.

Further costs would include removal costs and a "disturbance allowance". Again, some of the costs would be split with Netherlee.

9.1.2.2 Budget for 2018

A draft budget had been circulated along with the minutes prior to the meeting. Kay led the trustees through the draft budget line-by-line.

The estimated outturn of offerings for 2017 looked as though they would to be slightly down from the previous year although within the figure budgeted for 2017. The 2018 offerings were therefore maintained at the 2017 level. Fund raising in 2017 was below the budget figure as only two events had taken place and she proposed a slight increase for the next year. Donations related to funerals were significantly higher in 2017 than previous years but she did not think that this was likely to be repeated. The Treasurer said that she was planning to claim £5,000 from the General Trustees before the end of 2017 and anticipated claiming £6,000 in 2018 to offset fabric expenditure.

In relation to expenditure, Kay said that she was waiting for information regarding payment of Ministry and Mission and of Presbytery Dues and had used figures which were broadly similar to the previous year in preparing the budget. Expenditure related to minister's travel and telephone would increase next year when we have a full-time minister. Fabric expenditure was set at £11,000 to reflect the possible replacement of the hall windows. Manse Council Tax payments of approximately £3,000 had been included in the budget. Other items were estimated to be in line with the previous year's expenditure. Marie Owens requested that the Sunday School budget be raised from £200 to £300 and this was agreed. Kay explained that the item entitled, 'telephone, posts, printing and stationery' included the cost of internet access at £400 and the church telephone at £340 per annum as well as costs of publishing Focus and of photocopying. Overall, the proposed 2018 budget showed a small surplus.

Trustees present approved the draft budget noting that the figures for Ministry and Mission and for Presbytery Dues were liable to change.

In a comment related to the anticipated out-turn for 2017, Scott Russell informed the trustees that the BB Junior Section were planning to give a donation to church funds before the end of the year.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

9.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

9.2.1.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens said that the committee were in favour of having a Spring Fair in 2018 but that he would not be able to co-ordinate the event; the committee were seeking someone who could lead the organisation and planning of the Fair.

Work had started on planning various events in 2018. The first event would be a Quiz with the likely date being 27th January.

Steven said that an outcome of the LCR process was that restrictions on property related expenditure had been relaxed. He had started identifying sources of grant funding to progress the refurbishment of the church organ.

9.2.1.2 Stewardship

Steven said that following the LCR he was planning to invite a speaker from Church of Scotland headquarters to come and speak to elders about Stewardship. Also, in advance of the next Kirk Session meeting work would start on developing a rolling three-year programme for Stewardship.

9.3 NURTURE

9.3.1 Worship

Margo Neilson reported on a recent meeting of the worship committee.

A Christmas Gift service was being planned for 10th December. Following discussions with the representatives of the East Renfrewshire Foodbank it was proposed that gifts of selection boxes of biscuits or chocolates would be appropriate with, possibly, also a small toy suitable for a child. Youth organizations as well as the congregation would be invited to contribute.

The Stepping Stones staff were keen to participate in a Nativity Service on 24th December. Steven Owens and Scott Russell were arranging to lead the Pyjama Service for early evening on the 24th December.

Margo also indicated that it was planned to decorate the Christmas Trees in the late afternoon of the 3rd December. The Session Clerk was urged to contact Scott Blythe to see if he could manage to be involved.

9.3.2 Education

Scott Russell advised that all uniformed organizations had been informed of the Remembrance Day service and parade.

9.3.3 Retiring Offering on Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed that the retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday should be donated to Erskine Home.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

10.1 Adjustments to Roll

10.1.1 Removed by death

The meeting was advised of following deaths.

- Mrs Jennifer Laing 123 Randolph Drive
- Mrs Elizabeth Brown Linwell House, Braemount Care Home, Paisley, PA2 8EA
- Mr Andrew Clark 9 Riverside Court, Linnpark Avenue

10.1.2 Removed by certificate

Mr David McKee, 10 Tannin Crescent, East Kilbride to Mossneuk Parish Church, East Kilbride

10.1.3 Amendment

The address of Mrs Elizabeth Murray as printed in the previous minute was incorrect. The correct address is 27, Strathtay Avenue.

11 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates of the next meetings were agreed as Wednesday, 22nd November, Sunday, 3rd December and Wednesday, 6th December.

12 FOCUS MAGAZINE

Fraser Neilson told those present that some of the regular contributors to Focus had not provided articles for the November edition and as a consequence it had rather more “fun” items than he wished. He urged everyone planning an event to consider, well in advance, the need to highlight it in Focus. Print deadlines and publication dates required that information had to be provided sometimes months in advance. For example, information about a quiz in January would need to be provided well before the end of November if it was to feature in the December/January edition of Focus.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2017
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Philippians Chapter 2 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean and Connell Cranston, Jane and John Curror, George Fairweather, Alastair Graham, Alan Henderson, Janis Herriot, Fraser Neilson, Fraser Macintosh, Alison Macfarlane, James Mathieson, Marie Owens and Janet Stewart.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 17 elders and four other Trustees.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of meeting held on 23rd October

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th September were circulated prior to the meeting. Steven Owens advised that paragraph 9.2.1.2 should be re-worded to say that the outcome of the LCR was that restrictions on property-related expenditure were 'likely to relax' rather than 'had been relaxed'. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Steven Owens and seconded by Roy Allan. Minutes signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the close of the meeting.

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Defibrillator

Norman Bolton said that he had contacted Brian Stokes. Brian had advised that the current unit was fully operational with pads not due to be replaced until May 2018 and that the battery appeared to be in good order. Brian advised that we should wait until the battery in the existing unit required to be replaced at which time, depending on the finances of the Craig Stokes fund, consideration could be given to replacing the battery or the complete unit.

6 MINISTER ELECT: REV SCOTT BLYTHE

6.1 Induction of Rev Scott Blythe

The Session Clerk advised that the Induction Service was organised by Presbytery. The Presbytery Clerk planned to come to Stamperland on 28th November to review detailed arrangements such as accommodation for Presbyters, placing of microphones, etc..

Arrangements were in hand for the informal social event and for the serving of refreshments at the end of the evening. Margo Neilson advised that the police had been advised of the induction and that car traffic and car parking associated with the induction would be significantly greater than usual.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Locum Minister

Jack Drummond advised that Mrs Elsie Brown, 3 Monteith Drive had been attending church regularly in recent weeks and wished to become a member. She had previously been a member of the Church of Scotland. Elders resolved that Mrs Brown should become a member of Stamperland Parish Church.

Jack Drummond also advised of the death of Mrs Joyce McNab.

7.2 Session Clerk

7.2.1 Changes to trustees

Norman Bolton said that Pat McIlraith was now in a care home and it was unlikely that she would return to good health in the near future. It was not appropriate that she should bear the responsibilities of being a trustee and he proposed that Pat's name be removed from the list of

trustees. Those present agreed. Norman also commented that Rev Gray Fletcher would cease being a trustee as from 1st December.

7.2.2 Elder's long service certificates

Norman Bolton highlighted the lengths of service of a number of elders. Notable services were as follows:

Gordon Robertson,	51 years	ordained at Crosshill Victoria Church in April 1966
Alastair Graham,	47 years	ordained in October 1970
Fraser Mackintosh	45 years	ordained at Battlefield West Church in 1972
Connell Cranston	42 years	ordained at Crosshill Queens Park in August 1988
Janet Stewart	35 years	ordained in May 1982
Edith Moseley	33 years	ordained in February 1984
Margo Neilson	33 years	ordained in February 1984
James Mathieson	33 years	ordained at Strathbungo Queens Park in October 1984
Nancy Fisher	32 years	ordained in May 1985
Anne MacKenzie	31 years	ordained in August 1986

George Fraser was ordained at Garthamlock in 1958. He had been an elder for 59 years.

David Dundas was ordained at Oatlands Trinity in 1964. He had been an elder for 53 years.

Elders who had served for more than 30 years were entitled to a long service certificate signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly. At the General Assembly of 2015, it was agreed that further certificates could be issued at intervals of ten years thereafter and that certificates should recognise the period of active service as an elder which might not be the same as the length of time from ordination.

The meeting agreed that the Session Clerk should seek certificates for qualifying elders.

7.2.3 Retiring Offerings

It was agreed that the retiring offering from the December Communion should be donated to WaterAid. It was agreed that offerings from the Watchnight Service should be donated to Lodging House Mission.

8 SAFETY AND SECURITY

8.1 PVG, Food Hygiene, Insurance

8.1.1 Health and Safety

Members of the Property Committee had carried out an initial assessment of the requirements of the Health and Safety Toolkit. It was agreed that the Jane Curror and Norman Bolton would review the documentation and seek to progress its completion.

8.2 Food Hygiene

Anne MacKenzie advised that the holes in the woodwork of some of the kitchen cupboards had been fixed. A new replacement battery had been fitted in one of the electric cookers.

8.3 Insurance

The Session Clerk advised that following the letting of the manse the insurance company had been informed of the change from the property being vacant to being occupied.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Roy Allan informed the meeting of a number of aspects of fabric to which attention had been given. The light at the rear emergency door was operational. The fluorescent tubes in the large and small halls had been replaced with LED tubes. New kick boards had been fitted in the kitchen.

Some lights in the sanctuary had failed and required attention; as he had advised at the previous meeting all of the wiring in the sanctuary was due an inspection at the beginning of the new year.

9.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton said that new tenants had moved in to the manse on Friday, 17th November. The rental income, after Clyde Property deducted their expenses, would be approximately £1,000 per month.

Kay said that a church member had very kindly gifted a donation of £3,000 and the Boys' Brigade Company Section and Junior Section had donated £200.

Kay highlighted a number of items of expenditure including a Christmas Tree (£150), eight pumped vacuum flasks (£111), hymn number cards (£41), notice board (£195) and table cloths (£91). Payment for flasks and tablecloths would be taken from the Copper Fund.

The Treasurer advised that, as yet, she had not received notification of the Ministry and Mission allocation for 2018.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

9.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

9.2.1.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens said that the committee had confirmed the date of 27th January for the David Milligan Quiz. The Spring Fair would take place on either 12th or 19th May following consultations with the uniformed organisations. Kay Baird had agreed to take on the role of co-ordinating the Spring Fair.

9.2.1.2 Stewardship

Steven said some initial discussions had taken place but that the committee wished to involve Scott Blythe before making significant decisions. Consideration was being given to focus on finance in 2018 with the idea of seeking funding for a significant project.

9.3 Mission

9.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Nancy Fisher said that there had been a good response to the sale of Christmas Cards with people purchasing cards making payments of more than the price of the cards. As a result the Lodging House Mission cards had raised £132 and Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice cards had raised £200.

The Open Door Christmas lunch was planned for Wednesday, 13th December. Following that Open Door would be off until 10th January.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson said that there had already been a wonderful response in relation to the Christmas Gift service on 10th December with a significant number of donations having already been received.

A leaflet detailing the services in December was being prepared and would be handed out to the uniformed organizations.

9.4.2 Education

Scott Russell advised that all uniformed organizations had been informed of the Induction and the Gift Service.

The conduct of the organizations on Remembrance Sunday was praised. It was noted that the failure of police being in attendance had prevented a march past by the organizations.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

10.1 Adjustments to Roll

10.1.1 Removed by death

Bill Paterson advised the meeting of following death.

Mr David MacDonald, 32 Alison Place, Newton Mearns.

11 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates of the next meetings were noted as Sunday, 3rd December and Wednesday, 6th December.

It was agreed that a meeting would be held after morning worship on either 7th or 14th January to attest the Communion Roll, elect the Presbytery Elder and confirm the PVG Procedures and

also that a meeting would after morning worship on either 21st or 28th January to approve the Annual Report 2017. The chosen dates would be advised later.

12 INTERIM MODERATOR AND LOCUM MINISTER

The Session Clerk said this was the last Session Meeting with our Interim Moderator and Locum present and it was appropriate to thank both gentlemen. Gray and Jack had been appointed in March 2014 – three and three quarter years – as long as some ministers serve as minister of a parish.

As Interim Moderator, Gray’s focus had been rather more on the administrative aspects of church life than the spiritual aspect. Gray had moderated more than 40 meetings of Stamperland Kirk Session, 10 meetings held jointly with Netherlee Kirk Session, three Congregational Stated Annual Meetings as well as at least three major congregational meetings. Most Kirk Session meetings were preceded by a meeting with either members of the Session Business Committee or the Session Clerk.

Gray became Interim Moderator at a time when the Presbytery Plan was in flux and he led us through testing times both in negotiations with Presbytery, in discussions with Netherlee and in unifying diverging views within the session and congregation regarding our future. He brought a wealth of relevant experience and insight to the situation and guided us with calmness through the complex and often frustrating processes which led, ultimately to the election of Scott as our new minister.

Norman said that, as Interim Moderator, Gray was always positive in his support for Stamperland Church having a long-term future. We had gained Presbytery’s commitment to the buildings of both Stamperland and Netherlee being fully used and to Sunday services being held in both churches for the foreseeable future. As a congregation and as a Kirk Session we had much for which to thank Gray.

Norman said that all of Gray’s work with us was undertaken in parallel with his primary role as minister of Carmunnock Parish Church and also as a husband and father. Therefore, in thanking Gray we should also extend our thanks to his wife, Maureen for her forbearance and patience these past nearly four years. He added that shortly after Gray was appointed Interim Moderator, Maureen became rather ill and that all trustees were delighted that she had made an excellent recovery.

In his concluding remarks Norman said that he would thank Jack on behalf of the congregation at the close of the next Sunday’s morning service.

Gray Fletcher replied saying that he wished to thank everyone for all they had done. At the outset his time as Interim Moderator he had no knowledge of the people or the circumstances of the congregation to which he had been appointed. Serving as Interim Moderator for three or four years was possibly not typical. Two churches in Rutherglen had, in the same period as Stamperland, both had four or five Interim Moderators with Interim Moderators seeking to be relieved after fairly short periods of time. So, he said, we must have been OK as he had never at any stage considered stepping down. Elders and trustees had made his task easy. We had a good Session Clerk and a good committee structure with good committee convenors. Importantly, too, Gray said we had in Jack and excellent Locum Minister who did a wonderful job in keeping the congregation together.

Gray said that over the period elders and trustees had to deal with thorny issues. There had been robust debate with, at times, strongly held and divergent opinions being aired. However, once a decision or course of action had been agreed there were no hard feelings or disgruntlement. Rather, there had been positive commitment by all to follow through agreed decisions.

Gray also highlighted the positive roles played by Tom Nelson, John Montgomery and the Kirk Session members of Netherlee.

In his concluding remarks Gray offered his best wishes to Stamperland and its new minister for its immediate future and for its longer-term future in linkage with Netherlee.

Margo Neilson thanked Gray for his remarks and said that she wanted to highlight and thank Norman and Kay Bolton for all they had done during the vacancy to keep the church moving

forward, binding us together and ensuring that the congregation remained positive throughout the vacancy period.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2017
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Norman Bolton welcomed Rev Scott Blythe to his first Kirk Session meeting at Stamperland and introduced him to the elders. Scott Blythe constituted the meeting with a short prayer

2. DEVOTIONS

Scott said Advent was a time of waiting. A time of waiting for God and for God’s coming to the world. God chose to be human to show how much he values human life in general and each person’s life, in particular. Being human involves stresses, tensions and concerns; God is aware of these feelings.

Advent is a time of waiting. In present day society, however, we don’t have a waiting culture; rather, we seek instant joy and gratification. We are, said Scott, losing our understanding about being patient and getting surprised. God surprised us by coming to earth as a human child. God continually surprises us. This, he said, is what Christmas is all about.

Scott Blythe then led the elders in prayer.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Retiring Offering

The Session Clerk reminded elders that, as had previously been agreed, the retiring offering would be donated to WaterAid.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Scott Blythe led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion. At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2017
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Moderator, Rev Scott Blythe, with a reading from Psalm 46 and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Roy Allan, Jean and Connell Cranston, Jane and John Curror, Alastair Graham, Janis Herriot, Colin Kirkwood, James Mathieson, Marie Owens and Janet Stewart.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Scott Blythe, 20 elders and four other Trustees.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of meetings held on 22nd November and 3rd December

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November were circulated prior to the meeting. Several elders indicated that they believed the dates of ordination listed in section 7.2.2 were incorrect. Gordon Robertson believed his ordination date was June 1966; Evelyn Graham believed Alastair Graham's ordination year was probably 1977 or 78 rather than 1970. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Scott Russell and seconded by Steven Owens.

The Minute of the meeting held on 3rd December was read by the Session Clerk. Acceptance of the minute as a true record was proposed by Ronnie Kirkwood and seconded by Gordon Robertson.

Minutes signed by Moderator and Session Clerk at the close of the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Session Clerk


5.2.1 Extract Minute from Glasgow Presbytery

Norman Bolton read an Extract Minute from the meeting of the Presbytery of Glasgow which he had been sent from the Presbytery Clerk with an instruction that it be engrossed in the Minutes of the next meeting of the Kirk Session. The minute read as follows:

CERTIFIED INDUCTION

It is hereby certified that Rev Scott Blythe, Pastor of the
Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains in New Jersey, USA,
was inducted to the pastoral charge of Stamperland, in deferred linkage with Netherlee
this 30th day of November 2017, by the Presbytery of Glasgow.

By authority of the Presbytery of Glasgow.



Presbytery Clerk

5.2.2 Letter from Rev Dr Karen Campbell, Convenor – Safeguarding Committee

Norman Bolton said that he had received a letter advising that the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Committee had initiated a review of Policy, Procedure and Practice related to Safeguarding within the Church of Scotland and Church of Scotland Congregations. The

review was being led by Rev John Christie, Chris Robinson and Ranald Mair and would involve consultations and meetings with a wide range of interested parties; it was possible that our congregation might be consulted.

Safeguarding was a very important issue and we had to be seen to be actively complying with all of the requirements of the church's safeguarding procedures. Norman indicated that there was a safeguarding training course for Kirk Session members being held on 22nd January at Burnside Blairbeth Church. Around 12 elders indicated their intention to attend the training event.

6 SAFETY AND SECURITY

6.1 PVG, Food Hygiene, Insurance

6.1.1 PVG and Health & Safety

No report.

6.2 Food Hygiene

Anne MacKenzie advised that there was an issue with loose tiles above the gas cookers in the kitchen. Anne requested that a sign was placed in the kitchen advising that the extractor fan be switched on when cooking or when boiling kettles on the cookers. Steven Owens undertook to arrange production and fitting of a suitable sign.

6.3 Insurance

No issues noted.

7. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 Property

Alan Henderson advised that the failed lights in the sanctuary were now operational. The church's five year electrical safety certificate expired next year and a wiring inspection was planned for early in 2018.

7.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton said that regular offerings were on target. The retiring offering following the December Communion amounted to £150 and a cheque for this amount had been sent to WaterAid.

Kay highlighted two items of fabric expenditure incurred in November - the repair to the brickwork above the emergency exit in the sanctuary and the provision of a new door (£990) and the cost of fitting new LED lights in the large and small halls (£1872). She said that the Council Tax payment for December for the manse at 25 Ormonde Avenue was £286.60. Costs had been incurred through the removal expenses of the minister but the exact amount to be paid was not yet known. Kay advised that she had requested £4,050 from the General Trustees from the funds accumulated through the rental of the former manse at 109, Ormonde Avenue and that the Trustees had agreed to this request.

The Treasurer advised that no notification of the Ministry and Mission allocation for 2018 had been received.

7.2 Strategy and Engagement

7.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

7.2.1.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens said that tickets for the David Milligan Quiz would be available in January. The Fund Raising committee would be meeting on 17th January at 10.00 am and he invited the Moderator to attend.

7.3 Mission

7.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Nancy Fisher said that the Open Door Christmas lunch was planned for Wednesday, 13th December. Following that, the next meeting of Open Door would not be until 10th January.

Nancy advised that Rev Jack Drummond had given information on families who had been bereaved and also families who had had a child baptised.

7.3.2 Guides

Nancy Fisher told the meeting that Christine Mailley and Anne McCann had both been given 40 year Service Awards at a recent Thanks and Recognition Event held by The East Renfrewshire

Guides. This was a significant achievement. The Session Clerk was asked to write to Christine and Anne expressing the Kirk Session's appreciation of their outstanding work and commitment.

Nancy said that she and the Guides had been disappointed that no one from the congregation had supported the Guide's Fund Raising event on the 4th December.

Nancy reminded those present that The Guides would, as usual, serve mince pies and mulled wine after the church service on Sunday, 17th December and urged everyone to support this event.

7.4 Nurture

7.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson said that there had been a tremendous response in relation to the Christmas Gift service on 10th December with an almost overwhelming number of donations already received. A small team of volunteers agreed to take the gifts to Barrhead on Monday, 11th December.

7.4.2 Education

No report.

8. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

8.1 Adjustments to Roll

Bill Paterson advised the meeting of following changes

8.1.1 Change of Address

	From	To
Mrs Sheila Macdonald	32 Allison Place Newton Mearns	Wellmeadow Lodge Care Home Newton Mearns
Mrs Christine Hartley	7 Gordon Drive Netherlee	4, Old Castle Gate Cathcart

8.1.2 New Member

Mrs Elsie Brown 3 Monteith Drive, Stamperland

8.1.3 Removed by death

Mrs Joyce McNab 76 Stamperland Drive

9 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was agreed that a meeting would be held after morning worship on Sunday, 14th January 2018 to attest the Communion Roll, elect the Presbytery Elder and confirm the PVG Procedures and also that a meeting would be held after morning worship on Sunday, 28th January 2018 to approve the Annual Report 2017.

10 CLOSURE

All present stood to say "the Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 14th JANUARY 2018
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev Scott Blythe and 26 Trustees of whom 21 were elders.

3. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

3.1 Current Roll

William Paterson presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2016		326
Number removed from Roll during 2017	by Death	8
	by Certificate	2
	by Otherwise	<u>38</u>
		48
Number added to Roll during 2017	by Profession	0
	by Certificate	0
	by Otherwise	<u>3</u>
		3
 Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2017		 281
 Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2017		 17
 Number of adherents as at 31st December 2017		 5

The Moderator signed the Communion Roll Certificate.

4. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

Mrs Evelyn Graham advised that her husband, Alastair, was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. The Session Clerk asked whether anyone else present wished to be considered for the position; no one indicated any desire. Accordingly, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Graham should serve as Presbytery Elder.

5. SAFEGUARDING: CONFIRMATION OF PVG PROCEDURES

The Session Clerk advised that in relation to PVG procedures three aspects had to be considered. These were recruiting procedures, record keeping procedures and ensuring that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator was appropriately trained and accredited.

The Kirk Session was responsible for the operation of PVG procedures in relation to organisations which were under its jurisdiction; these included the Sunday School, The BB and The Guild. The Kirk Session was not responsible for PVG procedures in relation to the Scout or Guide organisations or for third parties which using church accommodation.

He said it was not the responsibility of the PVG Co-ordinator to ensure that there was a safe environment within the church and buildings and for people attending church events and organisations. Rather, it was everyone's responsibility to keep an eye open for potential problems or suspicious behaviour. Any issues or potential issues should be raised with the PVG co-ordinator or the minister or the Session Clerk or the leader of the appropriate organisation. Issues should be raised discretely and confidentially.

5.1 Recruiting Procedures

The Session Clerk said that all persons serving as leaders in organisations had to fill in a Disclosure Scotland Form. This form then had to be signed by the Minister, Session Clerk or other appropriate person and also by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator who would send the completed form to Disclosure Scotland. Disclosure Scotland would undertake the appropriate checks and inform the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the outcome or of any issues.

Although Margot Young had attended training to enable her to become an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks, she had not been officially recorded as PVG co-ordinator at the time of training. As a consequence, according to the Church of Scotland, the training attended by Margot was not valid and has to be repeated.

No Disclosure Forms had been completed in the past year. Norman said that a few days ago, Scott Blythe had completed a Disclosure Form which had been handed to the assistant PVG co-ordinator at Netherlee Parish Church for completion and subsequent processing by Disclosure Scotland.

Norman Bolton said that he considered that appropriate recruiting procedures were being followed.

5.2 Record Keeping Procedures

The Session Clerk said that he believed that accurate records had been maintained by the previous co-ordinators and that Margot Young was following the necessary procedures.

5.3 Confirmation of PVG Procedures

The Session Clerk then read the following statement to the meeting:

- *“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, Margot Young, is being appropriately trained to allow her to be accredited as an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks.*

All present agreed that the statement was correct, and that it was being implemented in Stamperland Parish Church.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Annual Report

The Session Clerk advised that a draft version of the 2017 Annual Report was available for Trustees. A meeting was scheduled for Sunday 28th January at which Trustees would meet to agree and approve the final version. The Session Clerk asked that Trustees inform him in advance of the meeting of any errors and of any changes and amendments they wished to the document.

7. CLOSURE

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

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 28th JANUARY 2018
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator, Rev Scott Blythe, with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev Scott Blythe and 25 Trustees of whom 17 were elders.
Apologies received from Jane and John Curror.

3 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Moderator led the Trustees through the Draft Annual Report, copies of which had been distributed to Trustees two weeks previously. Copies of pages 5 and 6 and of pages 10 and 11 which included updated figures were circulated at the meeting.

The Trustees confirmed the accuracy of the information presented on Page 1 and indicated that they were content with the wording of pages 2 to 7 (including the updated pages 5 and 6).

The Moderator asked the Treasurer about the changes on pages 10 and 11. She confirmed that the changes referred to values of funds held by Edinburgh as at 31st December 2017. The figures had only been provided by Edinburgh the previous week.

The Moderator advised the Trustees that the Budget had been updated since it had been approved in October 2017. Kay Bolton explained that the changes related to increases in the National Stipend Fund Allocation and Presbytery Dues and also for payments related to the renting of 25 Ormonde Avenue from Netherlee Church. The changes resulted in a forecast deficit of £3,290 compared to the small surplus of £250 in the budget approved in October.

Trustees were asked if they had any questions regarding the financial statements. There were none. The Moderator asked for the Trustees approval of the Accounts and this was given.

4. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2018
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Moderator, Rev Scott Blythe, with a reading from Matthew Chapter Six, a Lenten address and prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Janis Herriot, Janet Stewart, Alastair Graham, Alan Henderson, James Mathieson and Raymond Russell.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Scott Blythe, 23 elders and six other Trustees.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of meetings held on 6th December, 14th and 28th January

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 6th December, 14th and 28th January were circulated prior to the meeting. All agreed that the minutes were a true record. Minutes signed by Moderator and Session Clerk at the close of the meeting.

5 ARRANGEMENTS FOR STATED ANNUAL MEETING

5.1 Date

The Session Clerk informed the meeting that the date proposed for the Stated Annual Meeting was Sunday, 18th March with the meeting starting at the close of morning worship. This arrangement was agreed.

5.2 Arrangements

5.2.1 Calling Notice

The Session Clerk informed those present that the calling notice would be read at the morning services on 4th, 11th and 18th March. The calling notice highlighted that one of the purposes of the meeting was to elect Trustees. A number of the present Trustees would retire following their election three years previously and they would be eligible for re-election. However, there was an opportunity to elect at least half a dozen further trustees. All present were asked to consider names of members who might be willing to serve and could be approached with a view to standing for election.

5.2.2 Agenda

The Session Clerk proposed that the agenda for the meeting would be essentially the same as the previous year and that the items covered would be Treasurer's Report, Property Report, Social & Fundraising Report, Session Clerk's Report and Minister's remarks. This was agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 PVG Training Course

Norman Bolton said that there had been a misunderstanding about the format of the PVG training course being held on 22nd January at Burnside Blairbeth Church. Whereas, previously, similar events had been open to all elders the new series of training events had restricted numbers. In a letter explaining the changes, Caroline Norwood, the Presbytery Safeguarding Trainer described the previous events as being information or awareness events rather than training courses. In relation to the current training course, potential attendees had to give names and contact details and would be advised if there was a place available.

It was agreed that the Session Clerk should write to Presbytery and ask that a course be held in Stamperland Church in the autumn of 2018 which could be attended by trustees from Stamperland and neighbouring churches.

6.1.2 The Year of Young People

The Session Clerk said that the Church of Scotland was encouraging churches to engage with the Year of Young People (YOYP) initiative. YOYP was a Scottish Government initiative covering aspects including culture, education, enterprise and regeneration, equality and discrimination, health and well-being and participation and was described as a platform for those aged from 8 to 26. There was a YOYP website and the Church of Scotland had a section of its own extensive website dedicated to YOYP. The Church of Scotland were organising a series of YOYP Conferences and had developed various toolkits for churches including arranging a YOYP service. Information had been passed to Stepping Stones. Elders agreed that

if Stepping Stones leaders attended events their costs would be reimbursed by the church. It was also agreed that Scott Blythe would look at the possibility of planning relevant events within the church including a service in the autumn.

6.1.3 Letting of Stamperland Manse

Norman Bolton said that he had received a letter from the General Trustees advising that the tenancy agreement for the letting of the manse was a six month Short Assured Tenancy. It commenced on 17th November 2017 and would extend to 18th May 2018 at which point the tenancy would continue on a two month rollover and (not less than) two months is the period of notice required if either party wishes to terminate the let.

Norman also advised that Clyde had arranged for PAT testing of electrical items in the manse. PAT testing related to the electrical safety testing of portable appliances; in the manse these included the cooker, washing machine, fridge, freezer and dishwasher!

6.1.4 Digital Projector

Norman Bolton informed the meeting that the portable digital projector had gone missing; it was not in the cupboard behind the organ console. The projector was used by various organisations and its storage in a cupboard in the sanctuary was considered appropriately secure.

All organisations were asked to check their cupboards to see whether the projector might have been placed there for safekeeping and someone had, subsequently, omitted to return it to the cupboard behind the organ.

6.1.5 Netherlee Men's Association

Norman Bolton said that many of the men present would have received an e-mail invitation to the Men's Association Christmas Night Out at the Ashoka South-side restaurant on 1st March at 7.30 pm. He advised that those wishing to attend should either e-mail Gordon Lang or, if they don't have access to e-mail, to speak to himself.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

No report. The meeting was informed that Rev Scott Blythe had passed the Disclosure Scotland checks.

7.2 Health & Safety

George Finlayson said that when he arrived for the meeting he had noted that there was no one in the hall vestibule on "door duty". This observation led to some discussion, the outcome of which was that there was not, at present, an issue. The organisations using the hall accommodation were happy with the arrangement whereby they have responsibility for ensuring the closing the door shortly after their organisation's start time / change over time and for answering the door, making use of the CCTV to ascertain the identity of those seeking entry.

It was highlighted that one of the duties of the Sunday morning duty team was to ensure that the hall entrance door was closed shortly after the beginning of morning worship.

It was agreed that appropriate text was added to the hall let conditions in relation to third parties having responsibility for ensuring that access to the building was appropriately controlled.

7.3 Food Hygiene

No issues noted.

7.4 Insurance

No issues noted.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

Roy Allan advised that the church's five year electrical safety inspection was due and that Alan Henderson was making the necessary arrangements.

Connell Cranston advised that a section of the central heating pipework supplying the small hall was badly corroded and would be replaced in the summer.

8.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton said that she had paid the Presbytery Dues for 2018. At £2,714 the amount was an increase of £259 on the previous year's amount.

She advised that the Ministry and Mission allocation for 2018 was £50,931 an increase of £2,610 from the previous year.

Kay told the meeting that, from 1st January we were paying £1,300 per month to Netherlee Parish Church for the rental of the manse at 25, Ormonde Avenue. This was balanced, to an extent, by receipts of rental income from the former manse at 109 Ormonde Avenue. Monthly rental income for this property was, after fees and expenses charged by Clyde, around £910 and the money was paid directly to the General Trustees. She said that she anticipated we could claim an amount from the General Trustees sufficient to cover the rental costs of 25, Ormonde Avenue.

Payments to Netherlee would cease at the end of July when Scott Blythe became minister of the linked churches.

Marie Owens said that the budget for 2018 included £300 for Stepping Stones. She asked if this amount could be paid to Stepping Stones to allow them to purchase tablets for use by the children and to part-fund an outing. The cost of the outing would be shared with the children's parents. This was agreed.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

8.2.1.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens informed the meeting that the David Milligan Quiz had been well attended with 70 people taking part. A sum of £530 had been raised.

The date chosen for the Spring Fair was Saturday, 19th May. All of the organisations had indicated they could manage that date. The fund raising committee had arranged to meet leaders of organisations on the afternoon of Sunday, 25th February with a view to deciding the nature of each organisation's participation in the event.

8.2.1.2 Retiring Offerings

Steven Owens said that the committee proposed to ask the congregation to nominate the charities which would receive the retiring offerings following the four communion services in 2018. They would seek to decide on two local charities and two national charities. Additionally, it was proposed that one of these charities was nominated as "charity of the year" and would be the recipient of the donations made at the Christmas Watchnight service.

An intimation would be placed in the Order of Service asking for nominations and there would be a subsequent ballot which would allow the members of the congregation to vote for their preferred charities.

8.3 Mission

8.3.1 Parish and Beyond

Nancy Fisher said that the Open Door Christmas lunch was a success. The committee were continuing their work of supporting bereaved families and those who had had a child baptised in recent times.

8.3.2 Pastoral

Nancy Fisher said the pastoral committee were planning to hold a meeting soon and were in the meantime busy with their usual tasks of flower minister and arranging and assisting with transport both to church and to hospitals.

8.4 Nurture

8.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson said that she hoped to arrange a meeting of the worship committee members with Scott Blythe.

8.4.2 Parades of Uniformed Organisations

It was confirmed that there would be a parade of uniformed organisations on 25th February, the Sunday marking the anniversary of Stamperland Church's first ever service on 25th February, 1940.

It was agreed that there would be meetings with the minister to plan future parade dates covering the Dedication Service in September / early October; Remembrance Sunday in November; and the Anniversary Service in February which often coincided with the Scout and Guide "Thinking Day".

There was discussion about parades and the requirement for having a police presence to enable organizations to march to and from the church service. It was agreed that clarification of the requirements would be sought on both the requirement for police permission to hold a march and for police presence to enable the march to proceed.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Adjustments to Roll

Bill Paterson advised the meeting of following changes.

9.1.1 Change of Address

	From	To
Mrs Hilda Kean	14 Strathtay Ave	Parkhouse Manor Care Home
Mr Alastair Graham	18 Stamperland Drive	2, Glen Grove, East Kilbride
Mrs Evelyn Graham	18 Stamperland Drive	2, Glen Grove, East Kilbride

9.1.2 Removed by death

Mr David Waugh Eastwoodhill Care Home

10 PREPARING FOR LINKING

10.1 Introduction

Scott Blythe reminded everyone present that Tom Nelson would retire in less than six months at the end of July. Currently, with Sunday morning services at Netherlee and Stamperland starting at 10.30 and 11.00 am respectively, and with only one ordained minister, it would not be possible to continue as at present. Change was required. Scott said that Stamperland and Netherlee would be a linked charge with two buildings and that both buildings had a future. There was an urgent imperative to resolve how worship would be conducted; there was a need to consider worship times and, indeed, the ongoing worship process. He said that he had established a small working group consisting of four representatives from each church to look at options, to discuss the pros and cons of each and to prepare a document which would inform the Kirk Sessions. Scott emphasised that decisions would be made by the Kirk Sessions and not by the working group.

The members of the working group were Diane Levey, Glenda Cook, Stuart Buchanan and Alastair Gow from Netherlee and Jane Curror, Margo Neilson, Norman Bolton and Steven Owens from Stamperland. Scott said that he wanted the members of the working group to engage widely with members of the congregation.

Scott said that he wanted to work to the spirit of the agreed document, "Basis of deferred linkage leading to union between Netherlee Parish Church of Scotland and Stamperland Parish Church of Scotland, Clarkston". Both churches should be looking at the questions, "Where we are trying to get to and what we are trying to achieve?", "Are we working well together?" and "In what ways could we work better together?".

10.2 Worship options

Scott said that he saw two options in relation to Sunday morning worship. The first was to have one service on a Sunday and alternate the building in which worship took place. The second was to have two services on a Sunday, one in each church and to radically alter the start time of each service from current practice.

10.2.1 One service option

In the one service option, Scott's proposal would be for worship to be shared between buildings in three-month blocks. On occasions such as Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Sunday the services would be considered separately from the three month blocks and would be shared equally between the two church buildings.

Under this option we would be seen as two communities worshipping together and working together to serve the enlarged parish. At any service the number of people in the congregation would be greater; there would be a combined choir; there would be a better atmosphere with a fuller church, enhanced singing, more children. The present two church communities would get to know each other and build relationships. Being together and working together more could be achieved. The Sunday Schools would also meet together; with shared leadership and resources Sunday School could be more interesting for the children and offer more activities.

Under this option there would not be Sunday morning worship in each building each week. Some members might not like this and would not be prepared to participate in attending the other church. As a consequence some members might be lost.

10.2.2 Two service option

In the two service option, the minister would conduct Sunday morning worship in each church. The first service would start early in the morning; the second service would be much later in the morning. A 10.00 am start for the first service was seen as the earliest realistic start time. The earliest practical start time for the second service would be 11.45 and, more realistically, 12 noon. Arrangements for Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Sunday would be different.

10.2.3 Use of MDS

Scott said that he was aware that many people had believed that the planned 0.5 MDS post would have enabled two centre worship. However, he said that it was very unlikely that an applicant for the MDS post would be willing or able to conduct worship. Indeed, it was quite possible that there would be no applications at all for the MDS post. There was a dearth of people wishing to be MDS or deacons or assistants and it would be unwise to believe that suitable ministerial resource might become available. Steven Owens agreed that this was the current position regarding ministerial resource.

10.3 Church Buildings

Scott told the meeting that he had come to Stamperland and Netherlee as an outsider. From that viewpoint he was all too aware that there was considerable work required to the church buildings at Stamperland to bring them up to a standard which most people would consider was acceptable. He was aware that money might have been an issue but proper attention had not been given to ensure the facilities, layout and internal decoration were fit for the 21st century.

The toilets were, he said, disgraceful. Those present recalled that the ladies toilet was last refurbished over twenty years ago. The layout of the building with a multitude of steps and stairs made many areas, including toilets, really inaccessible.

The present generation of parents with young children would not put up with sub-standard facilities; they would vote with their feet. If restaurants offered facilities akin to those in the church, they would hemorrhage customers. There was a real, urgent requirement to upgrade much of the hall accommodation. Upgrading was also necessary with respect to the audio visual systems in the sanctuary. In addition, he reported that a member had complained that the hearing loop system was not working properly and he requested that its operation was checked.

10.4 Group Discussion and Feedback

Trustees broke into small groups to discuss the issues raised by Scott and then reported back.

10.4.1 Group 1

Marie Owens reported for Group 1. She said that they agreed with the comments highlighting the need for building work. Regarding worship they had talked about taking the church forward and who would be doing what in the church in 30 years time; in this respect they liked Option 1. They did consider whether in Option 2 the length of first service could be shortened to 45 minutes. However, allowance also needed to be given to providing the minister with time to get his thoughts together before starting the second service.

Scott Blythe commented that he would really want 35 to 40 minutes available at the end of any service to allow him time to engage, interact and speak to members of the congregation.

10.4.2 Group 2

Margo Neilson reported for Group 2 saying that they could see the rationale behind Option 1. However, there was a feeling that this could be a step too far and too quickly for some and that some people would be content with a change to the time of the service as long as it was in "their

church". Group 2 was also supportive of the building work but wondered if there would be a guarantee that, having spent money, the building would be used for a long time.

Scott responded to the issue of guaranteeing the building would be used for a long time. He said that Presbytery recognized the need for both buildings. However, "things happen" and no one can pretend that buildings will last forever. We should proceed on the presumption that the buildings aren't going to "fall down" or suddenly become redundant and are no longer required. Scott also said that he had spoken to Netherlee Kirk Session on the need to change about ten days previously. Netherlee were aware, he said, that there would be significant changes following Tom Nelson's retirement. There were, he said, two approaches to achieving major changes. One was to attempt gradual change over a lengthy period of time. There would be a small change followed by a period of catching up, then another small change and a further period of catching up. Eventually, however, people would often run out of steam before they got to the desired destination. The alternative approach was to make bold changes seeking to reach the end destination in one swift move. This could have consequences but you need to live with them. At Netherlee the opinion seemed to be that if we went for Option 2 we would lose members. If there was then a move to the Option 1 destination there would be a further loss of members. The best option was, therefore, to take one big step and adopt Option 1.

Scott said that he fully appreciated the feeling of many members in regard to memories and history and emotion and that he was empathetic to their experiences.

10.4.3 Group 3

Steven Owens reported for Group 3 saying that there were concerns regarding both options. There were questions over how people from Stamperland would get to Netherlee and vice versa. There were also practical differences regarding "offerings".

The Group had wondered whether an OLM / Reader/ Assistant could lead worship swapping churches with the minister every month. They also wondered if lay members of both congregations could lead worship; about five people had declared an interest in leading worship. Steven said there was a general consensus that Option 2 was preferred.

Scott commented that using lay worship leaders would put quite a strain on them; they would be required to lead worship approximately once per month. This was a big commitment but it was a possibility. He said that he would have concerns that congregations would not turn up in good numbers to services conducted by the lay worship leader. Congregations should be asked for their views on this option.

10.4.4 Group 4

George Fairweather reported for Group 4. He said that two services on a Sunday morning led by one minister was not practical. The three month alternation could work but was likely to result in losing people. The elderly, in particular, would find getting to Netherlee an issue and there would be difficulties with car parking. There could also be issues with offerings which could decline if people only donated when they attended church.

Scott commented that the minibus would be available to transport people between buildings.

10.4.5 Group 5

George Finlayson reported for Group 5. He said that there wasn't agreement in his group regarding the options. Option 1 seemed sensible; however, George felt that we had been railroaded into accepting the linkage document by the promise of having worship every Sunday morning in each church. He said that he had told members in his elder's district that services in both churches would be a consequence of agreeing the linkage. Additionally, there was concern that we didn't have the finance necessary to upgrade the building.

In relation to the point about finance, Scott pointed out that the church now had the possibility of selling the former Stamperland manse to raise capital of around £300k.

10.6 Concluding Remarks

Scott Blythe thanked everyone for contributing to the discussion. He said that no decision would be taken at this time. There would be an opportunity for further discussion at the joint Kirk Session meeting to be held on 14th March.

Scott undertook to ask an architect to have a look at our church buildings with a view to determining possible new configurations and associated costs.

11 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The following dates were agreed.

4 th March	Communion
14 th March	Joint Meeting with Netherlee KS (at Stamperland)
18 th March	STATED ANNUAL MEETING
18 th April	Stamperland Kirk Session

12 OTHER BUSINESS

Bill Paterson asked if Rev Scott Blythe should be recorded as a member of Stamperland Parish Church on the Communion Roll. Scott said that he believed he was still, formally, a member of Moncreiff Parish Church, East Kilbride. He said he would approach the church to request a Certificate of Transfer.

In relation to Mrs Blythe, Scott said that Liz would formally be a member of the Presbyterian Church of America and he would ask her what she wished to do in regard of becoming a member of the Church of Scotland. The Session Clerk advised that she could become a member of Stamperland Parish Church by ‘resolution of the Kirk Session’ if she so wished.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 4th MARCH 2018
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Rev Scott Blythe constituted the meeting with the reading of Mark, Chapter 8, verses 31 to 38 and prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

Scott said the gospel passage contained tough words which Peter did not like to hear. The context of the passage was the beginning of Jesus journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. The journey was not going to end in glory but with confrontation and Jesus wished to prepare his disciples for that eventuality.

In verses just prior to those he had read, Scott said that Mark relates a strange healing story in which Jesus took two attempts to heal the sight of a blind man. Later in his gospel, Mark recounts the healing of Blind Bartimaeus which was achieved in one attempt. Between these two incidents the gospel recounts a lot of Jesus teaching of the disciples. Jesus teaching was all about following. Initially, the disciples did not really know or understand what it would mean to follow Jesus; by the end they did.

Scott said that we are called to follow. We need to be open to God; open to his asking us to go 'this way' and not 'that way'. The journey we are asked to take may not be the one that we plan or expect.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Retiring Offering

The Session Clerk proposed that the retiring offering be donated to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). This would acknowledge the craft fair which Christine Finnigan was holding at the close of the service in aid of MSF. Elders agreed with the proposal.

3.2 Environmental Risk Assessment

Marie Owens said that she wished to raise a health and safety issue regarding the environment around the church. Had a risk assessment been undertaken in relation to the environment, were there policies related to severe weather and were there procedures related to snow clearance around the church? The Session Clerk said that Health & Safety was a regular agenda item for Kirk Session meetings and it would be appropriate to discuss the matter at the next regular Kirk Session meeting.

There was a request that the discussion should take place with attendance during the discussion limited to elders.

The Session Clerk said that thanks were due to Scott Russell and the boys of the BB who had cleared snow on Friday and to the Owens family who had carried out further clearance on Saturday. He said that all paths and steps around the church were in good order on the Sunday morning, somewhat in contrast to the local pavements.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Scott Blythe led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion. At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
JOINT KIRK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, 14th MARCH 2018**

1 CONSTITUTION

In the Sanctuary of Stamperland Church on Wednesday, 14th March, the Kirk Sessions of Netherlee and Stamperland met and were constituted with a reading from Mark Chapter 10, a short explanation of the gospel passage and prayer by Rev. Scott Blythe.

2 SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

Rev Scott Blythe, Minister of Stamperland Parish Church..

Rev Tom Nelson, Minister of Netherlee Parish Church.

Elders attendance as per the Sederunt Books.

For Stamperland: 19 Elders, 5 Trustees, 4 apologies.

For Netherlee: 26 Elders, 1 Associate Elder, 9 apologies.

3 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

3.1 Rev Scott Blythe

Scott Blythe said that the verses from Mark's gospel posed difficult questions and that tonight's meeting would face a difficult question regarding how the two congregations could work and worship together. A small working group comprising four members from both congregations had met to look at options and issues regarding the conduct of worship in both churches subsequent to the retirement of Tom Nelson. Their recommendations would form the basis of the evening's discussions.

3.2 Rev Tom Nelson

Tom Nelson reminded those present of the excitement there had been when the two Kirk Sessions had worked together to produce the Basis of Draft Linkage leading to Union, the Joint Vision Statement and the Parish Profile. He said that he was delighted to have Scott as a colleague. Scott had thrown himself into activity and was working in both schools.

Tom said that it was appropriate now for the two Kirk Sessions to renew their joint activity and face the future together. We had a pool of talents, resources and gifts and together we would be strong. We should be excited by the creative opportunities being opened to us.

4 OPTIONS FOR WORSHIP IN EACH CHURCH

4.1 Introduction

Scott Blythe circulated a paper which was based on the discussions of the working group charged with looking at options for worship in both churches following the retirement of Tom Nelson. There was a commitment to continue worship in both churches for the foreseeable future.

The outcome of the working group discussions was that the proposal that Sunday morning worship should take place at Netherlee at 10.00 am on a Sunday morning and at Stamperland at 12.00 noon.

Other options included the following:

- A Sunday morning service in one church and a service on a different day in the other church or on a Sunday evening. This option was considered unlikely to be successful.
- An early service in one church followed by a later service in the other church with the times and locations of the churches being "flipped" on a regular basis, e.g. every week, every month or every three months. This option was considered to have the major disadvantage of being disruptive causing uncertainties about service times and location and not conducive to 'family arrangements'.
- The employment of MDS resource which would enable worship at both churches at their "usual times". This option was dependent on the recruitment of an MDS who was able and willing to lead worship. It was not credible to believe that such an MDS resource could be recruited by August and, in reality, there was no certainty that such a resource was currently available or likely to become available.
- The use of lay members of both churches to lead worship. Whilst the involvement of lay members might be greatly important in the future, the reality of the situation was that the requirement to lead worship on a regular and frequent basis would be too demanding on the relatively small number of potential lay worship leaders and was, therefore, not a realistic option.

- Having only one Sunday morning service and rotating the venue for the service on a weekly, monthly or three monthly basis. Feedback from church members to people on the working group had indicated that this was not a popular option and so had been discounted.

Scott said that we would hear from people that 10.00 was too early and that 12.00 was too late. He said that if 10.00 was too early for some, then they could go to the 12.00 service at the other church and vice versa. Scott said that it was important that he had a reasonable amount of time after a morning service to speak with people. Often, a minister's week had to be planned around information they receive when speaking to people at the end of worship. They learn of people in hospital; of people needing pastoral care and counselling; they learn of joys or sadness in people's lives; only by taking time to interact with people could relationships be built between minister and member. To ensure that the minister didn't rush from the first church to the second and, in consequence, restrict the time available for meeting people it was necessary to have substantial time set aside after close of worship at the first church and the start of worship at the other.

4.2 Special Services

Scott Blythe said that arrangements for services at special occasions, for example, Easter, Christmas and Remembrance Sunday, would be different. There would be joint services attended by both congregations. The locations for the services would be shared. Looking, for example, at Christmas services, he said that five services would be "joint services". These would be the final Sunday in Advent (usually with children performing a Nativity Play), the Carol Service led by the choir, an early Christmas Eve (family) service, a Watchnight Service and a Christmas Day service. Two of these services would be held in one church and three in the other; the following year three services would be held in the first church and two in the other.

4.3 Administrative Arrangements

With members of one church attending the other there could be administrative issues such as dealing with church offerings. Scott Blythe said that these would not be insurmountable and could be worked out and should not be considered at this meeting.

4.4 Group Discussion

Those present at the meeting were asked to join groups which were led by the members of the working group tasked to look at the issue of worship arrangements. The groups were given time to consider the proposed options and the group leaders then presented summaries of each group's discussion points.

4.5 Group Feedback

4.5.1 Group 1

Steven Owens said that for some in his group the service time was not important. However, speaking personally he said a 12.00 start was too late and that he would actually transfer his church membership to the church with the 10.00 am start. He felt that the 12.00 start would not suit families and that they would be likely to drift away.

Steven said that there needed to be a growing friendship between the two congregations. There had been starts along this path with the two church choirs combining for special services and with families from Stamperland attending Messy Church at Netherlee. Plans for Messy Church at Stamperland had been dropped with the intention of ensuring a larger, stronger attendance at Netherlee. He supported the idea of a joint church magazine.

4.5.2 Group 2

Norman Bolton reported that the representatives from Netherlee had said that the reaction of their congregation in relation to changing service time from 11.00 to 10.30 had been pretty positive and that they thought that the move to a 10.00 am start at Netherlee would probably be 'all right'. However, virtually everyone in the group believed that a 12.00 start time would not be popular and would be very disruptive for families. There were comments that Duty Teams would, depending on the church, have to start a lot earlier and finish a lot later than at present.

4.5.3 Group 3

Alistair Gow said that people in his group all considered the proposed 12.00 start at Stamperland to be too late and bad for Stamperland's congregation. Flipping the venues for the different start times was considered disruptive for both families and the elderly. It was suggested that the time for tea and coffee at Stamperland could take place before the service but even with this change the group was concerned that attendance at a service starting at 12.00 would fall.

4.5.4 Group 4

Stuart Buchanan said that many of the comments of the previous groups reflected those of his group. He stressed that flipping the start times would be confusing and reflected that what was being proposed was "an imperfect solution to a difficult problem".

4.5.5 Group 5

Margo Neilson said that her group had concerns that 12.00 was too late. Whilst tea and coffee could be served before the service and offerings could be taken at the door on the way in, the noon start would not be welcomed by the majority of the congregation. Members in her group had wondered whether the services could be shortened by, say, cutting out one hymn to allow the service at Stamperland to start at 11.45. Members of the group had wondered about the possibility of having a student assistant or a Locum.

Scott Blythe indicated that a student assistant would not be able to lead worship and that Presbytery rules would not allow a Locum to be employed.

Margo said that it had been pointed out during the discussions that the proposed changes were part of a trial from August to December and would be reviewed in January.

Scott said that he fully appreciated the difficulty of finding a solution. Not everyone would be happy with the outcome but we had to get something into place which would run from August through Christmas and could be reviewed early in the new year.

4.6 Further Comments

4.6.1 Neil Illingworth

Neil Illingworth said that he was aware that there was more of an issue regarding the later start time of 12.00 than with the 10.00 start time. He wondered whether the length of the first service could be such that it finished at 10.45. Allowing 30 minutes for the minister to speak to individuals at Netherlee then it would be possible to start the service at Stamperland at 11.30.

4.6.2 Alastair Graham

Alastair Graham said that he believed the proposed 12.00 start time was, psychologically, too late. Doing something to bring forward this time would, he believed, be important in getting people to accept the change. He wondered whether the minister's "meet and greet" of the congregation at Netherlee could be brought forward to before the service, thereby allowing the service at Stamperland to be brought forward to before noon.

4.7 Scott Blythe's view

Scott thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion. Having listened to the responses of the groups and individuals he said that he would be happy to have services lasting no longer than 45 minutes which would enable the service times to be 10.00 – 10.45 at Netherlee and 11.30 – 12.15 at Stamperland.

Having indicated these revised service times, Scott said that he sensed those present were content with the revised proposal. He said that it was not the original intention that a decision should be made at this meeting but that a second meeting would be necessary to allow those present to take soundings of the opinions of the congregations. However, if those present were happy, the meeting could decide to agree the revised service times. It was important that those present would act to convince the congregations of the merit of the revised service times.

4.8 Conclusion

Scott Blythe asked those present if they were "happy with the proposed revised times", "willing to give it a go" and "see how it is in January". We would, he said, all have to "sell the positives which include meeting the commitment and desire of people to have worship in both buildings". Those present agreed unanimously.

5 CHURCH MAGAZINES

Scott Blythe advised that there was an opportunity to produce and publish a joint church magazine. The magazine would pull together information and stories from both congregations. It was agreed that this option should be pursued and both Session Clerks were tasked with advising Scott of the names of those involved with the publication of the Link and Focus Magazines.

6 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

SUMMARY OF STATED ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, 12th March 2017

1. **CONSTITUTION** Meeting chaired by the Interim Moderator, Rev. G. Gray Fletcher, BSc, BD. Meeting was held as part of morning worship and was constituted with prayer.
2. **NOTICE** It was confirmed that the Notice calling the meeting had been read in Church on three consecutive Sundays.
3. **PREVIOUS MEETING, 2016** Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016 proposed by Alan Henderson and seconded by Gordon Robertson.
4. **MATTERS ARISING** There were no matters arising.
5. **REPORTS** A document summarising the reports was handed to all present.
 - 5.1 **Annual Report** The Session Clerk advised that copies of the Annual Report would be available at the conclusion of the morning service. He said that summaries of the reports from the treasurer, the fabric committee, social and fundraising committee were given on the sheet handed to all members of the congregation as they arrived for morning worship.
 - 5.2 **Treasurer's Report** In presenting the Treasurer's Report Norman Bolton advised that in 2016 total income was £89,154, total expenditure was £81,293 resulting in a year-end surplus of £7,861. A summary of principal sources of income was presented along with breakdown of significant items of expenditure. These included the purchase and installation of the digital organ at a cost of £13k.
At the end of 2016 the total financial reserves (including investments) stood at £125,376.
 - 5.3 **Fabric Report** Roy Allan reported that fabric expenditure was over budget as a consequence of the purchase of the digital organ. The usual bits and pieces of remedial works were carried out including boiler servicing and repairs. Fencing at the rear of the church was

replaced; CCTV monitor repaired; broken windows in the hall replaced. Various paintwork was tidied up but nothing major had been undertaken. There were no major costs associated with the manse; manse fabric condition was monitored by the letting agents.

Thanks expressed to all who assisted with fabric maintenance.

5.4 Social and Fundraising Report Steven Owens reported that the Social and Fundraising committee raised £3,454 over the year. The focus was not just on finance but also about facilitating social engagements and encouraging people who don't attend church to share in fellowship; the committee was happy that this second aim had been achieved. Highlights included the David Milligan Quiz, a concert by Sounds International and the Spring Fair. Thanks expressed to all who assisted with the social and fundraising events.

5.5 Session Clerk's Report The Session Clerk said that 2016 had been a year of votes – for Brexit, for Trump and, in June, our congregation voted to accept the Presbytery Proposal of deferred linkage with Netherlee. In October, the congregation voted to elect a nominating committee. With over 200 churches vacant the only way ahead was for churches to come together and share scarce ministerial resources. In 2016 we lost four members by death one of whom was Sam Esler. Sam's involvement with Stamperland Church lasted over seventy years from Sunday School pupil and Scout to Teacher, Scout leader, Elder and Session Clerk. We all owed much to Sam. Norman expressed the congregation's thanks to Jack Drummond and Gray Fletcher. During vacancy a church can drift – but thanks to Jack, Gray and the efforts of trustees and ordinary members, we were moving forward with an assured future.

6 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES The Session Clerk said that there was opportunity for 20 new Trustees. Only if more than 20 names were proposed would there be an election. Karen Cramb and Colin Kirkwood indicated their willingness to be Trustees.

7 CLOSURE The meeting was closed with the Interim Moderator leading the congregation in saying "The Grace".

The above summary was presented at the Stated Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 18th March 2018. Acceptance of the summary as a true record was proposed by Connell Cranston and seconded by Alison Macfarlane.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th APRIL 2018
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Moderator, Rev Scott Blythe, with prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean and Connell Cranston, Jane and John Currer, Alison Macfarlane, Jackie Silcock, Janet Stewart, Margot Young, Alastair Graham, Fraser Mackintosh, James Mathieson and Gordon Robertson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Scott Blythe, 18 elders and three other Trustees.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of meetings held on 12th February, 12th March and 14th March

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 12th February, 12th March and 14th March were circulated prior to the meeting. In relation to the minute of 12th February it was pointed out that the heading for section 8.3.1 should be **Pastoral**. With the incorporation of this amendment, adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Scott Russell and seconded by Marie Owens. Adoption of the minute of 12th March as a true record was proposed by Steven Owens and seconded by Ronnie Kirkwood. Adoption of the minute of 14th March as a true record was proposed by Ray McNiven and seconded by Ronnie Kirkwood. The Minutes were signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk at the close of the meeting.

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Minutes of 12th February

Item 6.1.4 Digital Projector

The Session Clerk advised that as the original projector had not been located a new projector had been purchased. It would be kept in a locked cupboard in the Session Clerk's Room.

Item 8.4.2 Parades of Uniformed Organisations

The Session Clerk advised that it was necessary to seek police (and local authority) permission to hold a march of the uniformed youth organisations and that it was also a necessity to have a police presence to enable the march to proceed.

Item 10.3 Church Buildings – Hearing Loop System

The Session Clerk advised that he had purchased a device for testing the hearing loop system. Tests had indicated the hearing loop was functioning as it should. There were no “dead spots” within the sanctuary and signal transmissions could be picked up in the entrance to the sanctuary and also the hall entrance area. Hearing aids with “M” and “T” switches should be switched to the “T position”.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Presbytery Inspection of Records

The Session Clerk informed those present that the Presbytery Inspection of Records would take place the following day at Renfield St Stephen's Church.

6.1.2 Participatory Budgeting Event

The Session Clerk informed those present of the Participatory Budgeting Event being organised by Netherlee Parish Church. Netherlee has set aside £5,000 for community improvement in Netherlee and Stamperland and, through the event being held on Saturday, 9th June, were letting the local community decide for themselves which projects should received funding. Netherlee were keen that representatives from Stamperland Church should be involved and the publicity material was highlighting both the involvement of both churches. A very wide variety of projects could be considered eligible; projects both large and small were welcomed and could range from a healthy living project to a community safety idea, from a community art project or something fit and active with a sporty theme, to organising an outing for the “house bound”. Any local community, voluntary or non-profit organisation - even informal groups – could apply for funding from £100 - £1,000 to put ideas into action. At the event, groups seeking funding would pitch their idea to everyone present. Everybody attending who has pitched or listened to a pitch would then vote on all the presentations and applications. The project with the highest number of votes will receive the funding requested. The project with the second highest number of votes will also receive the funding requested. The process will continue with the subsequent highest voted projects being funded until all £5,000 has been allocated. Funding decisions will be made on the day and they would be made by the participants.

The Moderator advised that Participatory Budgeting was being promoted by both local and national government as a way of empowering and encouraging people to make local decisions.

The Session Clerk asked for names of Stamperland trustees and members who would be willing to assist in running the event.

6.1.3 Data Protection

The Session Clerk said that many of those present would be aware of the impending implementation of the EU **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** on 25th May 2018. As a church we had sought permission from members to have their names and addresses entered on the Communion Roll and relevant information retained in relation to freewill offerings and Gift Aid. There were, however, other aspects which the church had to consider in relation to the provisions of the GDPR. The church magazine, Focus, had names, addresses and phone numbers of various people; copies of Focus were available on-line at the church's web site. The Year Book, not available on line, also had a range of contact details for elders, trustees and leaders of organisations. The church's web pages gave some contact details – mainly for leaders of organisations. Permission had to be sought from the individuals concerned to have their personal information published in these ways. The Session Clerk advised that he had prepared a "Personal Information Consent Form" and asked that all trustees complete and return a form to himself.

Advice had been received that church member's contact information (e.g. home address) should not be published in Kirk Session Minutes. So, for example, in relation to changes in the Communion Roll, exact details of a member's address should no longer appear.

The Session Clerk said that some churches had been advised to remove Cradle Rolls from public display. However, as the Cradle Rolls in Stamperland only gave individual's name and date of baptism, it was not necessary to remove them.

The Session Clerk also advised that, in relation to small groups such as those offering transport to and from church it was quite appropriate for those involved to have the contact details of the people to be transported and of the drivers doing the transportation. Such information should be maintained within the group.

6.1.4 Netherlee Parish Church, 90th Anniversary

The Session Clerk advised that Netherlee Parish Church were celebrating their 90th Anniversary on Sunday, 22nd April and said that he would write to their Session Clerk extending the congratulations and good wishes of the congregation, Kirk Session and minister of Stamperland Parish Church.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

No report.

The Session Clerk is to write to Presbytery seeking a training event for Trustees to be held locally.

7.2 Health & Safety

No report

7.3 Food Hygiene

It was advised that the dishwasher had been repaired and was fully operational.

7.4 Insurance

No issues noted.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

Roy Allan advised that a quotation was being sought for the trimming of the trees adjacent to Clarkston Road.

In relation to the annual inspection and maintenance of the fire extinguishers an offer had been received from a former employee of Chubb to service and maintain our fire extinguishers at a price approximately half that of Chubb. The person offering this service had been maintaining our extinguishers for many years. It was agreed that President Fire Solutions should be asked to carry out future maintenance and inspection work.

Plans were in hand to install a second light at the entrance to the halls to improve the illumination of the area between the pavement on Stamperland Gardens and the hall entrance. The church's five year electrical safety inspection was due and Alan Henderson was making the necessary arrangements. The cost of the inspection had been quoted as £1,640.

8.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton said that offerings had been doing well despite the bad weather; this was attributable to the fact that many offerings were given by Standing Order.

Donations of £450 had been received from The Guild and of £325 from the Scouts.

Notable items of expenditure had included £313 for the new digital projector; £46 for the tester to check the Hearing Loop; £275 for the repair of the repair of the dishwasher. It was anticipated that there would be a refund of £101 for the return of the failed rinse pump. There had been an expenditure of £250 in relation to resolving an issue with the heating of the Large Hall.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

8.2.1.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens advised that a meeting was scheduled for the next day to undertake more detailed planning of the Spring Fair. He stressed that there would be no bric-a-brac stall.

8.3 Mission

No report.

8.4 Nurture

No report.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Adjustments to Roll

Bill Paterson advised the meeting of following changes.

9.1.1 Change of Address

	From	To
Mr Colin Kirkwood	Stamperland	Newton Mearns

9.1.2 Removed by death

Mrs Dorothy Hunter

9.1.3 Additions

All present agreed that Rev Scott Blythe should be added to the Roll by resolution of the Kirk Session.

10 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Evelyn Graham said that Alastair Graham was not able to attend the Kirk Session meeting. However, Alastair had informed her that there was little to report in relation to recent meetings of Presbytery. Meetings had been very short. Scott Blythe said that business was over in less than half an hour and there was little comment or debate.

11 PREPARING FOR LINKING: SERVICE TIMES

The Moderator said that he had made a presentation about the changes to service times to the congregation at Netherlee Parish Church the previous Sunday and that he planned to give the same presentation to the Stamperland congregation at Sunday's morning service.

Various ideas had been proposed and were being considered in relation to reducing the length of a morning service to around 45 minutes. These included announcing the intimations at 11:25, having the offering collected on the way into church before the service or during the singing of a hymn.

A review of the service times and service arrangements would be carried out in January to ascertain if there were any essential elements of worship missing or anything seriously lacking.

12 DEVELOPING A VISION FOR MISSION

12.1 Introduction

Scott Blythe said that there was a need to develop a vision for our churches future. He remarked that up to 30 or 40 years ago Church of Scotland churches conformed to an essentially standard model, largely imposed from above. Congregations had a Kirk Session, a Woman's Guild, a Sunday School; there were uniformed organisations; there were events such coffee mornings, Sales of Work, etc.. That pattern was no longer the case. The changes had, to a significant extent, been led by developments in theological practice in Latin, Central and South America where greater emphasis had been placed on the needs of the people in the district or region served by a church. Needs would vary from place to place and, as a consequence of striving to meet these needs, the nature of "the church" in different places would vary. There was no single model for "church".

He said we need to consider new approaches, to see how we could build new relationships with our local community. Where things we did no longer worked we should abandon them. When we did something new or different we should evaluate the outcome and consider whether to keep on doing it or to try something else.

Scott said that he would read Luke Chapter 10, verses 1 to 12. He wanted everyone to listen carefully and note key words or phrases which caught their attention. He would then re-read the passage and afterwards ask those present to get together in small groups, with the aim that people in each group would compare the phrase or phrases which they had found most significant. People in each group would then be asked to relay back to the meeting the words which others in their group had found significant and why. He said that the passage was multi-layered; it was confusing; there would be different responses.

In reporting back it was clear that different people had found different significant words, phrases and sections and also different interpretations. Key words and comments included the following:

"Take back the peace." This is not a Christian act; having given "the peace" taking it back is wrong.

"Move on". Don't waste your time with people who are not interested.

"Plentiful harvest." and "Pray for the workers". There is a huge opportunity. It is also a huge task.

"Healing all the sick." Impossibly huge amount of effort demanded - all and not just some of sick.

"Lambs among wolves." "Don't take possessions." A daunting task from the outset.

"Kingdom of God." God is always close.

"Don't move from house to house." If things going well stay and keep doing what is "going well".

12.2 Developing a Vision

Scott said that Jesus had a clear plan for mission – do we? There was, he said, a specific-ness about Jesus' plan. There was a structure. Jesus told the followers to go to that town; don't stop and speak to others along the way; don't get sidetracked.

In mission not all are called to be evangelists. Mission is not all about trying to convert. Start with 'the peace' and, if people respond, then work on it. Otherwise, if someone doesn't want your peace, then move on. Offer peace; offer hospitality; offer healing. Offering healing is not necessarily curing sickness but it is offering hope. So what we need to consider is what it could mean in Stamperland for our church to offer peace, hospitality and healing. Hospitality could mean many things; an example of hospitality was the church's ability to provide hall accommodation to youth organisations, to families for parties, to local organisations. Definitions of peace, hospitality and healing were not narrow or restrictive.

He urged everyone present to re-read Luke Chapter 10 and to think carefully about what needs there are in our community and how we could offer peace, healing and hospitality. The process of developing a vision would take time.

13 OTHER BUSINESS

Evelyn Graham intimated that the afternoon event had raised £670 for the hospice and she thanked everybody who helped both volunteer helpers and those who attended. Congratulations were expressed to Evelyn for arranging the event and the very successful outcome.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday, 16th May.

15 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2018
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Moderator, Rev Scott Blythe, with prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Jean Cranston, Jane and John Curror, Janis Herriott, Grace Scott, Sheena Skelton, Janet Stewart, Gordon Robertson and James Mathieson.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Scott Blythe, 16 elders and five other Trustees.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of meeting held on 18th April

The draft minute of the meeting held on 18th April was circulated prior to the meeting. Adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Marie Owens and seconded by Alan Henderson. The Minutes were signed by the Moderator and the Session Clerk at the close of the meeting.

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Participatory Budgeting Event

Alastair Graham said that he had turned up to attend the Participatory Budgeting Event on the 9th June only to find that it had been cancelled. Apparently there had only been a small number of requests for funding from various local organisations and groups and the total funding requested had been less than the £5,000 available. Funds had thus been disbursed without the Participatory Budgeting Event taking place.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Session Clerk

6.1.1 Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute 11th November 2018

The Session Clerk advised that he had received information from Glasgow Presbytery relating to events to mark the centenary of the end of the first World War.

One event was to encourage every Church in Scotland to have a local Piper play - ‘Battle’s O’er’ at 6am on Sunday, 11th November. A second event was to encourage every Church in

Scotland to have a local Bugler or Trumpet player to play the Last Post at 6.55pm on Sunday, 11th November.

6.1.2 Elders long Service Certificates

The Session Clerk advised that Long Service Certificates for elders were available and would be presented to the respective elders at the morning service on 20th May.

6.1.3 Replacement of Projector and Screen in Sanctuary

The Session Clerk said the digital projector in the sanctuary had been installed around 16 or 17 years ago and was now starting to malfunction. A number of firms had quoted for the provision and installation of new digital projector and screen system in the sanctuary. Different firms had suggested quite different schemes. These included having two smaller screens either side of the chancel or one larger screen on the wall behind the old organ console. The display screens types varied from translucent plastic to “normal reflective screens” to TV monitors. Digital projectors varied from short-throw back projectors to ultra-long-throw projectors. Indicative prices ranged from approximately £8,000 to £14,466. He said that it was too soon to make a decision and that further discussions would need to take place with potential suppliers to clarify what form the optimum system might take.

7 SAFETY AND SECURITY

7.1 PVG

No report.

7.2 Health & Safety

No report

7.3 Food Hygiene

No report

7.4 Insurance

No issues noted.

8. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

8.1 Resources

8.1.1 Property

Roy Allan advised that the five year electrical safety inspection was being undertaken. The contract for maintaining the fire extinguishers had been placed and the first inspection is scheduled for October.

Roy advised that he had received advice that the trees on the Clarkston Road side of the church were silver birches and should only be trimmed in the autumn.

The property committee had considered options for the re-location of toilet facilities providing easy access from the hall accommodation and also various possibilities for eliminating steps between the floor level of the large and small halls and the kitchen. The practicality of the some of the ideas had yet to be established.

8.1.2 Finance

Kay Bolton said that presbytery had approved the accounts and she would now send a copy of the 2017 Annual Report to OSCR.

Income for the first four months of the year was on budget.

8.2 Strategy and Engagement

8.2.1 Fund Raising and Stewardship

8.2.1.1 Fund Raising

Steven Owens advised that arrangements were in hand for the Spring Fair. He said that the organisers were looking for as many people as possible to assist and anyone who did not have a specific job should speak to Steven.

A request to the congregation seeking suggestions for organisations or charities who would be suitable recipients for communion Sunday retiring offerings would appear in the next Sunday's intimation sheet.

8.3 Mission

Nancy Fisher reported that the Mission Committee had met recently. One action resulting from the meeting was that Scott Blythe was going to seek support from Clarkston Churches Together to establish a rota for the conduct of services at Clarkston House.

9. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

9.1 Adjustments to Roll

Bill Paterson advised the meeting of following changes.

9.1.1 Change of Address

	From	To
Mrs Isobel McIlwrick	Stamperland	Newton Mearns

9.1.2

Additions

Rev Scott Blythe		Netherlee
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10 REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER

Alastair Graham said that he had attended the May meeting of presbytery. He said that the Moderator, Ian Galloway, had an interesting sense of humour. In his opening remarks the Moderator said that an anagram of Episcopal was 'pepsi cola'; an anagram of Presbyterian was 'best in prayer'. From this he had then asked presbyters to turn to their neighbour and discuss with them why it was so good to be Presbyterian. This first part of the meeting had been interesting. Thereafter, there had been endless reports greeted by the majority of presbyters with little sense of enthusiasm.

11 PREPARING FOR LINKING

The Moderator said that there had been a meeting with himself, Rev Tom Nelson and the two Session Clerks to look at a variety of aspects which would follow Tom's retiral and the linking of the two congregations. Topics discussed had included Kirk Session meetings and the recruitment of someone to the ½ MDS post.

11.1 Kirk Session Meetings

The Basis of Deferred Linkage document required that there were at least three joint Kirk Session Meetings in any one year. After some discussion the ministers and session clerks considered that it could be beneficial to have joint Kirk Session meetings at approximately two-monthly intervals. The effectiveness of this arrangement would be reviewed after a year. KS meetings would be held on the first Monday of the month. The venue and the responsibility for minute taking would alternate between the two churches and the two session clerks.

Proposed meeting dates were as follows:

- Monday, 3rd September 2018
- Monday, 5th November 2018
- Monday, 4th February 2019
- Monday, 8th April 2019
- Monday, 3rd June 2019

Additional Kirk Session meetings could be arranged when required. Topics which were specific and relevant to only one church could be discussed in separate meetings.

Scott Blythe asked those present if they were agreeable to adopting this suggestion. All present indicated their agreement with the proposal.

11.2 Pastoral Care Assistant

The Moderator advised that the recruitment of someone to fill the ½ MDS post should be started as soon as possible. The post would be funded by Edinburgh. The person would be employed by the Church of Scotland Ministries Council but would be responsible to the local minister. The normal procedure would be to advertise the post through the Church of Scotland Ministries Council vacancy list and web site.

In response to a question about whether the appointed person would be an ordained or lay person, Scott indicated that the primary requirement was probably for someone with a real

interest in and a strong commitment to pastoral care. The post could well be of interest to a retired, ordained minister or to a younger minister seeking a part-time post. All present indicated their agreement that the MDS recruitment should proceed.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday, 3rd September.

13 CLOSURE

All present stood to say “the Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 3rd JUNE 2018
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Rev Scott Blythe constituted the meeting with the reading of Psalm 8 and prayer.

2. DEVOTIONS

Scott said that he and his family had recently visited Iona. Initially, the weather had been dull but on their final day the sun had emerged and, on the drive home, all of his family and, in particular, his wife Liz, had been struck by the beauty of the countryside – Mull, Ardnamuchan, Ben Nevis, Glen Coe. Nature was inspiring; God’s creation was special. This morning, in the Communion, we were reminded of how God could make ordinary things special.

The psalmist spoke of mankind being “little less than God” and having power over all creatures. Yet, look at what mankind had done in relation to care of the environment, stewardship of the earth and all of its resources. The beauty of nature served to remind us all of our responsibilities for our world.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Retiring Offering

Steven Owens said that he had had a limited response from the congregation in seeking to identify a prospective organisations to receive retiring offerings.

One proposal, from Margaret Boyce, was to support Eastwood Link Club which sought to deal with mental health issues in our local community. A second proposal was to support Scottish Autism which was celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Steven suggested that the June retiring offering be given to Eastwood Link Club and that the offerings in December, including the retiring offering at communion and the offerings at the Watchnight and Christmas services, be donated to Scottish Autism. Elders agreed with the proposal.

4. COMMUNION

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Scott Blythe led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion. At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**JOINT KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2018
IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY OF NETHERLEE CHURCH**

1. CONSTITUTION

The Kirk Sessions met for Communion and were welcomed by Rev Scott Blythe, Moderator, who constituted the meeting and conducted the Communion Service. Alistair Gow and Mike Buchan performed the duties of Right and Left Hand respectively. At the conclusion of the service the business meeting then took place at 7.25 pm.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev. Scott Blythe. For Netherlee there were 32 Elders plus 2 Associate Elders with apologies received from 19 Elders and one Associate Elder all as per the Netherlee Sederunt Sheet. For Stamperland there were 19 Elders and four other Trustees with eight apologies for absence as recorded in the Sederunt Book.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Marie Owens, Janet Stewart, Margot Young, John Curror, George Fairweather, Alastair Graham, Fraser Neilson and Norman Walker.

4. DISCUSSION TOPIC - STRATEGY FOR MISSION AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

4.1 Imminent Events

The Moderator recapped on the letter which had been issued to every member-household in the Parishes either electronically or by mail inviting members to participate in events aimed at developing a strategy for mission across the two parishes.

The first event would be held in Netherlee Lesser Sanctuary on Saturday 15th September and would be a simple process of Prayer and preparation for the work that is about to start. The Moderator would have four short readings and addresses during the hour of the meeting. People would be free to join in or leave as they chose. Tea and Coffee would be available.

Subsequently, there would be on Saturday 20th and Thursday 25th October events held in Netherlee Church to “Gather the History” of both congregations. He said that he was looking for items about the Life & Work of Ministry and Mission, recollections of the life and faith of both churches, times of significant ministry and events which were either “highs” or “lows”. Different aspects would be recorded on different colours of post-it notes and a collage created from these post-it notes. One colour would represent “good and positive” events, another colour would represent “times when the spirit was active in the church” and a third colour

would represent “times when things have been tough”. The aim was to enable members to articulate their thoughts and views in a non-threatening way.

The collages or friezes created would be put up in the church halls so that all members, including those who had not participated directly at either event could have their opportunity to both see and contribute to the Gathering of History process. Members of the Strategy Group would be there to answer questions and assist the process.

4.1 Congregation’s Views on Changes to Sunday Morning Service Times

The Moderator asked the meeting to break into groups of two or three and talk about any feedback on the changes to service times so far.

The following feedback was received. There were no negatives.

1. The revised timings had worked well at Netherlee during the summer during which period there had been no introit or anthem. The addition of the introit, anthem and closing organ music could affect the overall length of service.
2. At Stamperland some members felt the 10.00am start time as too early and the 11.30 am time as too late. However, there had not appeared to be a significant reduction in attendance over the summer. Arrangements could be considered to make transport available to members wishing to attend the earlier or later service.
3. At Stamperland consideration should be given to having organ music played after the intimations had been read and the entry of the Bible and minister.
4. At Stamperland the serving of tea and coffee before the service was not working well. Arrangements should be made to revert to serving refreshments post-service.
5. Concern was expressed about the continuation of the two services and the long-term effect on the Minister. The Moderator responded that he was quite comfortable taking two services each Sunday.
6. There had been concern that services would be held in one church for six months and then in the other church for the next six months. There had been relief when it was resolved to hold two services every Sunday, one in Netherlee and one in Stamperland. Members understood the need for the change in service times and appeared to have reacted well to the change.

5 KIRK SESSION REPORTS

5.1 New Arrangements

The Moderator explained he did not wish to unnecessarily spend time on the various reports. Convenors and Clerks should ensure that all elders and trustees had a copy of the report in advance of a meeting. The Moderator would assume every elder had read them and, unless there were any questions, he would presume that the reports were acceptable.

He recommended that when the reports were issued any clarifications or questions should be directed to the Convener and resolved, if possible, before the meeting. The attention of the Kirk Sessions should be sought for items or actions or events requiring or representing a change of policy or a significant expenditure of finance. Items requiring to be dealt with at the joint session meeting should be advised to the relevant Session Clerk for inclusion in the Agenda.

5.2 Stamperland Kirk Session Reports

5.2.1 Written Reports

Written reports were provided in relation to the Communion Roll, Finance, Fabric, Session Committees and Correspondence and are presented in the Annex of this minute. There were nil reports on Food Hygiene, PVG, Insurance and Presbytery.

5.2.2 Verbal Reports

Health & Safety

Jane Curror advised that the front steps leading from Stamperland Gardens to the church front door were eroded and constituted a safety hazard. She was advised that the Fabric Committee had the matter in hand.

New Projection System

Norman Bolton advised the meeting that the existing projection system was over 16 years old

was in need of upgrading. The new system would have a large screen positioned off-centre behind the choir and the projector would be sited on the rear wall. Illumination would be much brighter. Two quotations – one for £11,500 and a second for £12,900 – had been received. In response to a question he explained that although there would still be only one screen it would be larger with all images more clearly visible from any seat in the church. He was asked where the cost would be met from and he advised it would be capital expenditure and would be met from the Fabric Reserve Fund with the likelihood of some of the cost being met by funds held by General Trustees. He would take advice on the matter.

5.2.3 Approval of Reports

The Moderator asked the Stamperland Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented both in print and verbally. Those present agreed.

5.3 Netherlee Kirk Session Reports

5.3.1 Written Reports

Written reports were provided in relation to finance, fabric, sub committees; and correspondence. There were nil reports on Food Hygiene, Insurance and Presbytery.

5.3.2 Verbal Reports

PVG

Mike Buchan apologised for no written report and commented as follows:-

- He was introducing Bruce Young his successor to the process and arranging for him to attend a co-ordinators course.
- He was contacting all organisations under the control of the Kirk Session to see if there were any changes in personnel including the BB, The Sunday Club and the Lunch Club for Dementia sufferers.
- He was to review the safeguarding file to remove people no longer involved and match these records with the congregational records.
- He encouraged PVG holders to attend training courses. There would be one held in Netherlee on 17 February 2019. He also encouraged elders to attend a Kirk Session training course with the next one being held in Cathcart Trinity Church on 10 September. Those interested to see him after the meeting

Communion Roll

Mabel Bell, the Roll Keeper, advised the meeting that since the report was issued with the agenda she had to report two further deaths; that of Mary M Stewart on 21st August and that of Mary Soutar on 2nd September. At 3rd September 2018 the roll stood at 585.

5.3.3 Approval of Reports

The Moderator asked the Netherlee Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented both in print and verbally. Those present agreed.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 NETHERLEE

The minutes of the meetings of 5th June, 5th, 21st and 26th August 2018 were approved.

6.2 STAMPERLAND

The minutes of the meetings of 16th May and 3rd June 2018 were approved.

The Moderator and Clerks were then authorised to sign the minutes.

7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Joint Kirk Session Meeting Monday 5th November 2018 at 7.30 pm in Stamperland Church
The discussion topic would be Early Talks on Union.

Committees - Netherlee Meetings as per the finalised schedule as already issued.
Stamperland Meetings as advised.

9 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 8.15 pm with all present standing to say “the Grace”.

ANNEX WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING

FINANCE REPORT Kay Bolton, Treasurer

Full details of all income and expenditure to August 2018 were provided on an accompanying paper. In summary, offerings were approximately £284 below the budget figure to the end of August. This was due to lower than usual attendances during the summer months. We have not yet claimed tax of £10,000 on Gift Aid. Nor have we claimed any funds from the General Trustees as we have not yet had significant (fabric) expenditure.

Notable expenditure:

- New flooring in the gent’s toilet and lower corridor - £667.
- Electrical testing which took place in the church in June - £912.
- Boiler repair - £144.

PROPERTY REPORT Roy Allan – Property Convenor.

New flooring in gent’s toilet and lower ground floor passageway fitted.
Various relatively minor painting tasks undertaken.
Repair work on one of the gas central heating boilers.
Possibility of raising floor level between halls and kitchen corridor under consideration.
Annual fire extinguisher inspection and servicing arranged for October.

MISSION REPORT Nancy Fisher

Pastoral Care: Nothing new to report. A meeting will be arranged to discuss the way ahead.

Parish and Beyond: Nothing new to report. A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 5th September.

SAFE GUARDING REPORT Margot Young

New dates for training have come in. Some are in our area.
Thursday, 25th October, 2018 at Maxwell Mearns Church.
Thursday, 12th February, 2019 at Netherlee Church..

ROLL KEEPER’S REPORT William Paterson

Change of Address

	From	To
Mrs Isabel McIlwrick	Netherlee	Newton Mearns
Mr Howard Fisher	Giffnock	Clarkston
Mrs Nancy Fisher	Giffnock	Clarkston

New Members

Mr Kenneth Dean

From Cardross to Netherlee

Adjustments to Roll

Member Leaving.

Mrs Emily Clark of Netherlee, moving to Netherlee Parish Church.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2018
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Rev Scott Blythe constituted the meeting with prayer.

2. BUSINESS

2.1 Retiring Offering

The Session Clerk advised that no organisation had been nominated to receive the retiring offering. Mary's Meals was suggested and all present agreed with this proposal.

2.2 New Member

The Session Clerk said that Mrs Jodie Dean had advised she wished to become a member. Mrs Dean was the wife of Kenneth Dean who had recently joined by transfer from Cardross Parish Church and their two children had been baptised in Stamperland Church the previous Sunday. Mrs Dean appeared to be having a problem in getting a transfer certificate from her previous church. All present agreed that Mrs Dean should become a member by resolution of the Kirk Session.

3. COMMUNION

3.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Scott Blythe led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion. At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**JOINT KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2018
IN THE SANCTUARY OF STAMPERLAND CHURCH**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Moderator, Rev Scott Blythe, Moderator, with reading from Philippians Ch 2 and prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev. Scott Blythe. For Netherlee there were 29 Elders and 1 Associate Elder with apologies received from 9 Elders and 1 Associate Elders all as per the Netherlee Sederunt Sheet. For Stamperland there were 18 Elders and four other Trustees as recorded in the Sederunt Book.

3. APOLOGIES

For Stamperland: apologies received from Jean Cranston, Marie Owens, Janet Stewart, Connell Cranston, John Curror, George Fairweather, Alastair Graham and Fraser Neilson.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with the addition of three items under AOCB – the procedure for announcing deaths at Netherlee, the recruitment of new members to Netherlee’s Fabric Committee and aspects related to the sounding of the fire alarm at Netherlee during an event in the summer.

5. DISCUSSION TOPIC – EARLY TALKS ON UNION

5.1 Listening Circles

The Moderator advised that those present would be divided into groups. Each group would be a ‘Listening Circle’. The group would operate by ‘listening’ and not ‘discussing’. Within each group there would be a ‘note taker’. This evening three questions relating to union would be posed. Each person in each group would have two minutes which they could use for reflection, for speaking or for remaining silent on each question. During that period other members should only speak to seek clarification of a point. There should be no discussion but, rather, group members should reflect on what was said.

Scott said that debate can lead to confrontation with people reacting without due thought and consideration to something that was said. Often the way the church operates means that people respond to situations without appropriate reflection and events unfold creating apparent “winners” and “losers”. Listening and analysing was an important process.

5.2 The Topics

The Moderator said that Listening Circles should cover the following three questions:

- When the issue of union is raised what is your initial reaction or feeling?
- What are the main obstacles or problems to union proceeding between both congregations. Are there things that need to be overcome in order for union to occur?
- Is the concept of Listening Circle a useful one?

The group activity lasted about half-an-hour and, at the end of the activity the Moderator asked that each group’s scribes should send him a copy of the notes.

5.3 Concluding remarks

The Moderator thanked all for taking part. He said that the topic of union was important. We had to take time to reflect on issues and not rush the process. Currently we have time; we may see the need to set up groups to look in detail at specific issues over a period of a few months. We did, however, need to be mindful that there was a timescale set by presbytery and the issue couldn’t simply be set aside until the point when presbytery sought to act. At that point, forcing people together could be a painful process with groups ending up feeling they were either winners or losers and with no harmonisation. We had the opportunity to find the best-possible, consensus decision.

6 KIRK SESSION REPORTS

6.1 Stamperland Kirk Session Reports

6.1.1 Reports

Written reports were provided in relation to the Communion Roll, Elder's Districts, Finance, Fabric, Social, Fundraising and Stewardship, Mission and Worship, Presbytery and a number of items of correspondence and intimations and are presented in the Annex of this minute. There were nil reports on Food Hygiene, PVG and Insurance.

6.1.2 Issues

The Moderator asked if any Stamperland Committee Convenors wished to raise any issues. None did.

6.1.3 Approval of Reports

The Moderator asked Stamperland Trustees if they accepted the reports as printed. Those present agreed.

6.2 Netherlee Kirk Session Reports

6.2.1 Written Reports

Reports from the various groups were circulated by email.

6.2.2 Issues

The Moderator asked if any Netherlee Committee Convenors wished to raise any issues.

6.2.2.1 Retiring Offering

Allan Mathieson informed the meeting that the retiring offering from the previous Sunday had been only £49. The retiring offering had not been mentioned in the Order of Service nor in the intimations and he suggested that the congregation were given a second opportunity to contribute on the last Sunday of November. The recipient of the retiring offering was Al Shurooq School for the Blind. Trustees agreed with the suggestion.

6.2.2.2 Mission

Alastair Gow reflected that both Netherlee and Stamperland had a Mission Committee and proposed that the two groups might work more closely with a joint meeting being held on 3rd December. Evelyn Graham, representing Stamperland, agreed to the proposal.

6.2.2.3 Food Hygiene

An elder asked whether a mechanism could be established to ensure awareness of events in the church(es) which involved catering, food preparation and serving of food. The Moderator said that consideration would be given to this aspect.

Norman Bolton said that he had become aware of the possible need for churches to have policies regarding food allergies. Whilst we might all be aware of allergies such as 'peanut allergy' or 'gluten intolerance' Food Standards Scotland had published a list of 14 common ingredients linked to allergies and intolerances. These included many cereals, egg, milk and even celery. With "home baking" often being available at events in churches it was clearly difficult to know exactly what any one item might contain. Exactly who was responsible for ensuring awareness was not clear.

It was agreed that representative from both churches with interest in food hygiene should meet to discuss the topic and bring recommendations to the next Kirk Session Meeting.

6.2.3 Verbal Reports

6.2.3.1 Roll Keeper

Mabel Bell reported the deaths of three members - Jeanette Boyd, John Mann and Jean McKellar.

6.2.3.2 PVG

Mike Buchan presented a short verbal report in which he highlighted that Cath Dunbar wished to relinquish the post of assistant PVG Co-ordinator. Mike thanked Cath for her considerable work and indicated that Bruce Young was undergoing training to enable him to take on the duties of assistant PVG Co-ordinator.

Mike also reminded those present that there were a number of PVG training courses being held including one at Netherlee in the coming months. Trustees were invited to review the courses being offered and indicate their intention to attend by writing their name on sheets displayed in the sanctuary.

Scott Blythe added his thanks to Cath Dunbar for her work as assistant coordinator

6.2.4 Approval of Reports

The Moderator asked the Netherlee Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented both in print and verbally. Those present agreed.

6.3 Session Clerk - Correspondence

6.3.1 Linking of Netherlee Parish Church with Stamperland Parish Church

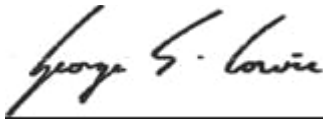
Norman Bolton advised that he had received a letter from Rev George S Cowie, Presbytery Clerk on 6th September 2018. The content of the letter was as follows:

Dear Mr Bolton

Linking of Netherlee Parish Church and Stamperland Parish Church

I write to you in your role as Session Clerk to give formal notification for the Kirk Session minutes of Stamperland Parish Church of the linking of the parishes of Netherlee and Stamperland.

The service of linking having been held in Netherlee Parish Church on Thursday 6th September 2018, the parishes of Glasgow: Netherlee and Glasgow: Stamperland are now linked.



Rev George S Cowie
Presbytery Clerk

6.3.2 Instruction from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Norman advised that Session Clerks had received an e-mail dated 26th September 2018 from the Presbytery Clerk advising of an instruction from the General Assembly as follows: *The General Assembly instruct Kirk Sessions (meantime) to meet in conference, to reflect on the state of decline of the national Church and in particular how that affects the Church locally and determine what their vision and mission is for the next three years in collaboration with Presbytery Planning teams.*

Those present agreed that the matter would be the discussion topic for the next Kirk Session Meeting.

6.3.3 Questionnaire from Mission Committee of Glasgow Presbytery

Norman advised that Session Clerks had received a request to complete a Questionnaire from the Mission Committee of Glasgow Presbytery. Topics included Messy Church, work with Dementia sufferers or elderly people, men's groups, family groups and experience related to IT, websites and Facebook. Norman said that he would co-ordinate responses from Mr and Mrs Illingworth, Stuart Buchanan and himself.

6.3.4 Request from Safeguarding Committee of the Church of Scotland

Norman advised that the Safeguarding Committee of the Church of Scotland has asked for the views of Kirk Sessions in relation to the need to undertake criminal record checks of people undertaking duties within the church which currently do not require membership of the PVG Scheme. The implication is that there could be a number of individuals undertaking key tasks who have not had a criminal record check.

There was considerable discussion about the nature of the people being referred to as 'undertaking duties within the church' – possibly ranging from persons working in the church

office, a painter or other tradesman working on the premises, someone (anyone) attending a club or class in the church such as “Golf Fit”, a parent of a Sunday School child helping at a Sunday School coffee morning, or even, an elder visiting a vulnerable person at their home. The general conclusion was that the current levels of checking and the current levels of supervision of ‘unchecked individuals’ by the staff leading the youth organisations and other organisations associated with our two churches was sufficient. It was agreed that Mike Buchan, Steven Owens and Scott Russell would meet and produce a summary statement for the next Kirk Session Meeting.

7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 NETHERLEE

The minutes of the meetings of 3rd September, 2018 were approved.

7.2 STAMPERLAND

The minutes of the meetings of 3rd September and 9th September 2018 were approved.

The Moderator and Clerks were then authorised to sign the minutes.

8 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

8.1 Netherlee – Fabric Committee

Iain Alexander advised that the Fabric Committee were looking for new members and urged people from Netherlee to consider volunteering. There was, he said, no requirement to be competent in the technicalities of building maintenance and he hoped that there would be at least one lady volunteer to ensure the fabric committee enjoyed the views of a wide range of people.

8.2 Netherlee – Fire Alarm

Iain Alexander reminded those from Netherlee of the incident in the summer when the fire alarm had sounded shortly after the end of morning worship whilst many people were enjoying tea and coffee in the large hall. Even as the alarm sounded, tea and coffee were still being poured into cups; there was no apparent urgency to exit the building. It was vital that everyone heeded an alarm and that building evacuation proceeded immediately.

Iain advised that there would be a fire drill one Sunday in the not too distant future and that he would write an article for inclusion in the church magazine. It was advised that one of the duties of the Sunday morning duty team was to act as fire wardens ensuring the evacuation of the building.

8.3 Announcement of deaths and funerals

Scott Blythe said that he believed that it had been the practice in Netherlee Church for the minister to announce the deaths of members and the associated funeral arrangements during the service just prior to the prayer of intercession. He said that, in his view, this procedure detracted from the flow of the service and that he would prefer to make such announcements before worship started and, if possible, to have the information in the printed Order of Service.

He advised that it was not always possible to give full details. Information regarding the date and time of the funeral service might not be available in time for it being printed in the Order of Service or even to be announced on the Sunday morning.

Following discussion there was a clear desire for the names of deceased to be included in the prayer of intercession.

9 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Joint Kirk Session Meeting Monday 4th February 2019 at 7.30 pm in Netherlee Church

Stamperland Kirk Session would meet at the close of morning worship at the beginning of January to attest the Communion Roll, appoint the Presbytery Elder, agree the PVG statement and approve the budget for 2019. There would be a second meeting at the close of morning worship at the end of January to approve the Annual Report.

10 CLOSURE

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

**ANNEX
WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING**

**ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT – William Patterson
Communion Roll Changes
Change of Address**

	From	TO
Miss Susan Wright	Netherlee	Netherlee
Mr George Fairweather	Stamperland	Netherlee
Mrs Jean Fairweather	Stamperland	Netherlee
Mrs Patricia McIlwraith	Stamperland	Barrhead

New Members

Mrs Jodie Dean	Netherlee.
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Adjustments to Roll

The following have been removed from the roll by death.

Mr James Mathieson Stamperland
Mr Hugh Findlay Busby

Due to the retiral of Edith Mosely, District 16, Mrs Janet Coid, Clarkston, was moved from District 16 to District 27 (Kay Bolton).

District Changes

Due to the shortage of elders, I have had to make changes to the districts. Some districts have no change, some have more houses and some have been allocated new districts. I have tried to keep numbers of members in districts down to eight or nine per elder. There are also some elders moved to new districts. There are two sheets in the Elders Notice Board, in the Session Room. One sheet shows the old setup and one shows the new. This means that instead of having eight districts with no coverage, it is now down to two. Needless to say we still need additional elders to cover these districts.

FINANCE REPORT - Kay Bolton, Treasurer

Offerings are about £1,000 down on the budget figure at the end of September. Income from Hall Lets is ahead of the budget by £900. As you will be aware, the main item of expenditure since we last met has been the new audio visual system which cost £10,455.60. I have claimed this amount back from the General Trustees from the rental income of our manse and am awaiting the outcome. I have already received £912 from the General Trustees for the cost of electrical testing in the Sanctuary and £667 for the new flooring in the lower corridor and gents toilet. We have had to purchase a PC which is compatible with the new AV system at a cost of £249. This amount will be taken from the Copper Fund.

FABRIC REPORT Roy Allan – Property Convenor.

Awaiting quotes for repairs to or replacement of crumbling steps at access from street to church front door.
New screen and projection equipment fitted and commissioned. Thanks to all involved in technical side for advice.
Electrical survey. Alan Henderson is awaiting quotations for some recommended upgrading and replacement works.

SOCIAL, FUNDRAISING & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – Steven Owens

Stewardship

The committee are planning to run a “Gift Day” in March 2019 with a view to asking members of the congregation to make a one off donation to church funds. The campaign will also ask members to consider their weekly offering, especially those who set up a Standing Order as they are less likely to think about increasing once it’s sorted and out of sight.

Spring Fair

The committee are agreed that it would be sensible to continue with a Spring Fair for 2019. Our Spring Fair is naturally running its course with fewer helpers available, a change in the availability of items for the silent auction and increased “competition” from family days, etc. It is intended to run a Spring Fair 2019 which is revised and would not require as much from each volunteer in the planning process as well as on the day. A more detailed programme will be available at the start of 2019, however suggested dates are 11th or 18th May.

Quiz

The David Milligan Quiz is being planned for 26th January following the usual format. All are encouraged to attend for a great night of fellowship as well as a great opportunity to contribute to church funds.

Other events

The committee are considering an event in June which has been run before. Work will continue on finalising this event and further information provided early in 2019.

As Sounds International have been providing a concert here for some years the committee did consider approaching them. As they continue to perform annually at Netherlee it was felt that this was just duplication and meant fewer people would attend each event. A different choir have therefore been approached to provide a concert in the sanctuary towards the end of 2019. Unfortunately we were unable to secure their services this year which was the original plan.

Upcoming Magazine input

December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advert for the David Milligan Quiz
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A short article will be provided highlighting the upcoming “Gift day”
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article about “Gift day” and envelopes inserted to Stamperland bundles

MISSION REPORT – Nancy Fisher

Parish and Beyond

The Parish and Beyond Committee have met twice since the last Session Meeting.

The Services at Clarkston House have now been established on the last Tuesday of the month at 11.a.m. Rev. Scott Blythe has arranged a rota for the clergy of Clarkston Churches Together to come along to the services.

As the December service falls on Christmas Day, a time for singing carols has been arranged for Tuesday 11th December at 11.00 a.m.

The Committee are asking members of the congregation to collect an item for the Foodbank on each day of Advent. The idea had been suggested to the Committee by Scott Blythe Details of this will appear in November’s Magazine.

Arrangements have been made to hold the annual Christmas lunch for the Open Door helpers and friends on Wednesday 12th December 2018

Contact between the Parish and Beyond Committee and the Mission Committee at Netherlee has been made and both Committees unanimously agreed at the possibility of the Committees working together and, initially, it is hoped to hold a joint meeting in the near future to discuss how this would be taken forward.

Pastoral Care

At the recent meeting of the Pastoral Care Committee, in conjunction with the Worship Committee, we discussed transport arrangements for Armistice and agreed to put lists out in the vestibule, one offering transport and the other requesting car drivers.

In moving forward, the Committee have agreed to have a Christmas Afternoon Tea, and it is hoped to gauge from that, if there is an interest in setting up a Lunch Club.

The library service and lifts to hospital are ongoing. Bereavement cards and Baptismal Role are up to date. We are awaiting a list of this year's funerals from the minister.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Margo Neilson

Notes from meeting of 16th September 2018

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Anne Mackenzie, Karen Cramb, Marie Owens, Margo Neilson

Apologies: Colin Kirkwood

CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS We felt it would be helpful to have this Calendar.

LOOKING AT START OF SERVICE It was felt that after Norrie delivered the Intimations, the entrance of the Choir, Bible and Minister was quite messy. Our suggestion, after some discussion was that after the intimations, perhaps Duncan could play some music and the congregation stand for the Bible coming in. It was also suggested that the congregation stand (if possible) for the offering Hymn and remain standing for the offering prayer. Would it be possible to have a Hymn familiar to the children in Stepping Stones after the All Age Address?

BAPTISM SERVICE It was agreed that the recent Baptism Service was very nice and personal to the family involved but wondered if "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" could be included and that some time was given to Stepping Stones who present the child being baptised with Flowers and a Book. Stepping Stones also asked if the children could come nearer the Chancel to see the Baptism.

COLOURING BOOKS We discussed the possibility of having colouring books and pencils available for visiting children in Church. Stepping Stones agreed to take this on board and organise it.

PARADE SUNDAY Can the uniformed organisations be involved in Parade Services? Helping to uplift the offering, Reading the Bible, Handing out the Order of Service at the Door.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE After the success of the collection of Selection Boxes and Biscuits last year, it was agreed that we approach the congregation again this year. We will be in touch with the contact for the Food Bank. A date for this service will be agreed with Scott.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT NETHERLEE Working with the Pastoral Care Committee, we plan to have a sheet of paper in the entrance vestibule inviting members of the congregation who require transport to Netherlee to put their name down.

SESSION CLERK CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS - NORMAN BOLTON

Correspondence

Presbytery

An e-mail dated 26th September 2018 has been received from the Presbytery Clerk advising of an instruction from the General Assembly as follows: *The General Assembly instruct Kirk Sessions (meantime) to meet in conference, to reflect on the state of decline of the national Church and in particular how that affects the Church locally and determine what their vision and mission is for the next three years in collaboration with Presbytery Planning teams. We need to agree how we will undertake the instruction.*

A request to complete a Questionnaire has been received from Rev William Wilson and Rev Mike Gargrave, Convenor of the Mission Committee of Glasgow Presbytery. The questionnaire includes questions about Messy Church, work with Dementia sufferers or elderly people, work with men's groups and family groups and experience related to IT, websites and Facebook. Responses are requested to be submitted by end November.

Safeguarding Committee of the Church of Scotland

The Safeguarding Committee of the Church of Scotland has asked for the views of Kirk Sessions in relation to the need to undertake criminal record checks of more people undertaking duties within the church which currently do not require membership of the PVG Scheme. The implication is that there could be a number of individuals undertaking key tasks that have not had a criminal record check. The Safeguarding Committee is keen to hear views about whether you think that the risk to children, vulnerable adults and your congregation in general, would be reduced by introducing criminal records checks for roles that are not considered 'regulated' work and indeed whether you think this step would be proportionate in reducing the risk of harm in your congregation. Responses are required by 16th November.

Other

Elders and members were greatly shocked and saddened by the death of Jimmy Mathieson on the 12th September. Jimmy's association with Stamperland began in 1995; he had been ordained as an elder Strathbungo Queens Park, in October 1984 and had been delighted to receive a Long Service Certificate earlier this year. In recent years Jimmy had served as Beadle but ever since becoming a member at Stamperland he had worked tirelessly for the church undertaking a wide range of tasks. He had worked as church gardener, had climbed the church bell tower several times, had fixed many leaks in the roofs; he had pointed brickwork, fixed railings, mended windows, painted walls and doors and floors. He delighted in polishing the church brassware and the communion tables.

Jimmy had always sought to work in the background and someone remarked to me that he undertook many tasks that few of us or indeed any of us would ever know about. Jimmy was always in a good humour; he had tales to tell and spoke to all in the same friendly way no matter who they were.

The high regard in which he was held and affection of many was reflected in the attendance at the Linn Crematorium and at the subsequent service in the church to celebrate Jimmy's life. His passing has saddened us all.

The retiring offering from the September Communion was £117.54 and was donated to Mary's Meals.

Donations of food at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service were taken to Lodging House Mission. Donations to Water Aid at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service amounted to £140.

The first edition of the joint church magazine, Connections, was published on Sunday, 7th October. The magazine was printed in full colour by an external printer with an initial print run of 800 copies.

Two applications were received for the advertised post of Pastoral Assistant and both applicants were invited for interview. Disappointingly, neither applicant took up the invitation to attend interview.

The post of Pastoral Assistant is being re-advertised with an amended job description.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT - Margot Young.

I attended a co-ordinators meeting last month.

We were introduced to Noelle Maye from Church of Scotland Safeguarding. She is our main point of contact when needing information/ help.

We received updates on data protection and there was a helpful question and answer session.

I have started up-dating Safe-Guarding Register.

PRESBYTERY ELDERS REPORT – Alastair Graham

Presbytery Meeting, 9th October, 7.00pm at Giffnock, Orchardhill Parish Church.

The meeting was opened in the usual way by Rev Roy Henderson, Moderator.

There are two items I would bring to the attention of The Session which are as follows;

1. Glasgow City Group of The Women’s Guild.

Helen Kerr, Head of The Glasgow City Group, was invited to speak on the work of the Guild and she gave full account of The Guild Project and its six component parts which was both informative and interesting;

For information, the six points to The Project are as follows;

- a. Crossreach
- b. Sailors Society
- c. The Boys Brigade
- d. World Mission Council
- e. Project Partner...Malawi Fruits
- f. The Free to Live Trust

She amply demonstrated the sterling work of The Guild and was thanked by The Moderator for her presentation. He also urged that we should wholeheartedly support The Guild in its work at every opportunity.

2. Discipline Overture.

A presentation was given by Mr Hynd from Broomhill Church on the changes to be made to Disciplinary Procedures within the Church. The background to it is that the procedures were both lengthy and cumbersome in relation to the number of people involved and it was clear that a streamlining of the process was necessary to allow for decision making to happen more speedily than at present. This exercise has been going on for some time but the end result is now within sight.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY, 13th JANUARY, 2019
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by Rev Scott Blythe with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev Scott Blythe and 20 Trustees of whom 16 were elders.

3. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

3.1 Current Roll

William Paterson presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2018		281
Number removed from Roll during 2018	by Death	6
	by Certificate	2
	by Otherwise	<u>0</u>
Number added to Roll during 2018	by Profession	0
	by Certificate	1
	by Otherwise	<u>2</u>
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2018		276
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2018		17
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2018		5

The Moderator signed the Communion Roll Certificate.

3.2 Changes to Communion Roll

William Paterson presented the following information.

3.2.1 Change of Address

Mrs Fiona Tuckfield from Eastriggs to Gretna.

3.2.2 Removal by Certificate

Miss Helen Dunbar, Giffnock

3.2.3 Removal by Death

Mrs Mary Moncrieff, Stamperland

Mr James MacKenzie

4. ELECTION OF PRESBYTERY ELDER

Alastair Graham advised that he was willing to continue as Presbytery Elder. The Moderator asked whether anyone else present wished to be considered for the position; no one indicated any desire. Accordingly, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Graham should serve as Presbytery Elder.

5. SAFEGUARDING: CONFIRMATION OF PVG PROCEDURES

The Session Clerk advised that in relation to PVG procedures three aspects had to be considered. These were recruiting procedures, record keeping procedures and ensuring that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator was appropriately trained and accredited.

The Kirk Session was responsible for the operation of PVG procedures in those organisations under its jurisdiction, namely the Sunday School, the BB and the Guild. The Kirk Session was not responsible for PVG procedures in relation to the Scout or Guide organisations or for third parties which used church accommodation.

5.1 Recruiting Procedures

The Session Clerk said that all persons serving as leaders in organisations had to fill in a Disclosure Scotland Form. This form then had to be signed by the Minister, Session Clerk or other appropriate person and also by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator who would send the completed form to Disclosure Scotland. Disclosure Scotland would undertake the appropriate checks and inform the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the outcome or of any issues. Norman Bolton said that he considered that appropriate recruiting procedures were being followed.

5.2 Safeguarding Coordinator

The Session Clerk said that he was delighted to say that Margot Young, having completed all necessary training, had, at long last, been formally approved as an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks.

5.2 Record Keeping Procedures

The Session Clerk said that he believed that accurate records had been maintained by the previous co-ordinators and that Margot Young was following the necessary procedures.

5.3 Confirmation of PVG Procedures

The Session Clerk then read the following statement to the meeting:

- *“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, Margot Young, is appropriately trained to allow her to be accredited as an authorised signatory for PVG Scheme record checks.*

All present agreed that the statement was correct, and that it was being implemented in Stamperland Parish Church.

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Annual Report

The Session Clerk advised that a draft version of the 2018 Annual Report would be available for Trustees on Sunday, 20th January. A meeting at which Trustees would agree and approve the final version could be held on Sunday, 27th January. The Session Clerk asked that Trustees inform him in advance of the meeting of any errors and of any changes and amendments they wished to the document.

7. CLOSURE

The Moderator closed the meeting.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**MEETING OF TRUSTEES HELD ON
SUNDAY, 27th JANUARY, 2019
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION

The meeting was constituted by the Moderator, Rev Scott Blythe, with prayer.

2. SEDERUNT

Rev Scott Blythe and 28 Trustees.

3. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Moderator led the Trustees through the Draft Annual Report, copies of which had been distributed to Trustees the previous week.

The Trustees confirmed the accuracy of the information presented on Page 1. Norman Bolton informed the trustees that up-to-date information regarding the number of Scouts had been

received and that words in italics in the second last paragraph on Page 3 should now read as follows: “with the combined roll standing at 223 in December 2018. The number of boys attending the Scout Group is 72 with 34 being in the Scout and Explorer Scout sections”. The moderator asked the trustees if, with this amendment, they were content with the wording on pages 2 to 7. Trustees indicated that they were. Norman Bolton then asked the Trustees if they were happy for him to sign on their behalf at the top of Page 7 and Trustees indicated in the affirmative.

Norman Bolton led Trustees through the figures on Page 9 which summarised the Receipts and Payments made in 2018 and Page 10 which showed the end of year financial balances. Whilst the accounts showed an excess of receipts over payments of £2,967 this had been dependent on requesting £12,034 from the accumulated manse rental income from the General Trustees. Without this contribution there would have been a deficit. He said that Pages 11, 12 and 13 provided notes to the accounts and more detailed information about sources of income and items of expenditure. There were no questions from Trustees and the Moderator asked the Trustees to formally approve the accounts. Approval was given and the Session Clerk and Treasurer were authorised to sign Page 10 of the Accounts on behalf of the Trustees.

4 APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR 2019

The Session Clerk explained that Budget presented on Page 14 did not form part of the Annual Report which had to be submitted to OSCR but that it was required to be included the version submitted to the congregation, Presbytery and Edinburgh.

Kay Bolton, the Treasurer, explained some of the detailed budget lines to the Trustees. Offerings in 2019 were assumed to be similar to those in 2018 but members should consider raising their givings at least in line with inflation. It had been assumed that the planned Gift Day would raise at least £4,000. With ‘Open Door’ and ‘Sunday Break’ having contributed just over £1,000 in 2018 the figure of £5,000 for Other Offerings, Donations, Gift Days, etc appeared reasonable. Income from the use of premises had been strong in the previous year and the figure assumed was similar to that of 2018. Overall, the total “ordinary” income assumed for 2019 was, at £85,800 only a little greater than the actual income of £83,080 for 2018.

In expenditure Kay advised that ministry costs including National Ministry and Mission allocation and Presbytery Dues were showing an increase of about £3,500 over the previous year. Local costs were being budgeted at £6,000 but there was some uncertainty in relation to these. With the linkage minister’s costs were shared with Netherlee in a ratio of 70:30 as were costs associated with the manse. As a consequence, expenditure on items such as manse council tax and manse building insurance were lower than the previous year. Kay highlighted the increased budget in relation to Telephone, posts, printing and stationery. The increase in the budget figure was largely the consequence of having the new Connections magazine commercially printed.

The treasurer said that the budget showed fabric expenditure at £25,000. This was a significant expenditure but could be largely met by requesting funds from the manse rental income. Overall, the budget projected a deficit of just over £2,000.

Scott Blythe stated that the Fabric Committee had indicated that significant amounts of expenditure would be required over the next few years. The Electrical Condition Survey had highlighted the need for upgrading all of the electrical circuits and associated hardware at a potential cost of £40,000 plus VAT. There was a need to replace the windows in the hall accommodation which could cost £20,000. Advice had been received that the gas boilers were approaching 20 years old and, whilst currently operating satisfactorily, could not realistically be expected to last indefinitely. In addition, regular on-going maintenance would be required.

Church of Scotland law required that fabric expenditure of over £50,000 in any three year period required permissions to be sought from both Presbytery and General Trustees. We were clearly in this position and would need to prepare a good case in order to gain permission to proceed. As a first step the members of the Kirk Session Business Committee would convene at the close of this meeting to begin planning developing the case for proceeding with fabric work. Having noted the issue of fabric expenditure, Trustees agreed the budget as proposed.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present standing to say, "The Grace".

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES

**JOINT MEETING OF THE KIRK SESSIONS
IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY AT NETHERLEE
AT 7:30PM ON MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2019**

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe, Moderator, with prayer.

2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

For Netherlee there were 38 Elders with apologies from 9 Elders, as per the Netherlee Sederunt Sheet.

For Stamperland there were 16 Elders and 3 other Trustees as recorded in the Sederunt Book; with apologies from Connell Cranston, Jane and John Curror, Alastair Graham, Alan Henderson, Ronnie Kirkwood, Margo Neilson, Jackie Silcock, Janet Stewart and Margot Young.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with no additional items under AOCB.

4 DISCUSSION TOPIC – 2018 General Assembly Remit

The remit from the General Assembly was as follows: – to reflect on the state of decline of the national Church and in particular how that affects the Church locally and determine what their vision and mission is for the next three years in collaboration with Presbytery Planning teams.

Scott started the discussion by asking all present to think back 20, 25, or 30 years and recall the position the Church had in their lives and society. How have things changed? He said that the meeting would have two tasks to complete. The first task was to make a list of the changes identified. From this list the second task would be to discuss what changes we should think about to develop our ministry in this secular age.

Those present were split into 6 groups to undertake both tasks. On completion, each group provided feedback on one change in society and suggested how this could shape our mission. The broad themes are noted in the table below and the full notes are included as Appendices 1 - 6.

THEN	NOW
Many members – few women had full time careers – Sunday was special, a day of rest	Few members – many women have full time careers – shopping, sport and entertainment available 24/7
Religious belief led to membership via marriage and baptism	Have these just become pleasant social events, membership not required
The church was a respected body in society	Media mainly reports negative behaviours
Church was the hub of many social activities	Numerous alternative sources now available
Christian nation with input to the school curriculum	Increasingly difficult to get access and interact with the schools
Once happy with make and mend approach to life, happy to take guidance from others	Materialistic and disposable way of life leads to demands for more freedom

Two actions were agreed following the discussion and feedback. The information would be added to that gathered already as part of the discernment process, as we seek clarity and purpose for the future. In addition, in fulfilment of the edict, it would be shared with the Presbytery Clerk.

Scott also asked that if anyone had further thoughts and reflections from the evening’s discussion, they should feel encouraged to bring them to one of the forthcoming Listening Posts which would form the next part of our consultative discernment process.

5 WRITTEN REPORTS

5.1 NETHERLEE

The Moderator asked the Netherlee Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented both in print and verbally. Those present agreed.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions or issues from the reports that had not already been satisfactorily answered by the Conveners. There were none.

As the collection for Tear Fund was gathered, Alan Fairlie was warmly welcomed to his first Kirk Session as a new Elder, having been Ordained and Admitted on 02/12/18.

Mabel Bell (Rollkeeper) reported the deaths of two members – Mrs Helena White and Mrs Christine Brown.

Allan Mathieson (Treasurer & Finance Convener) intimated that as of 01/04/19 there will be a 38% increase in our electricity prices. Aside of the efforts made by Edinburgh to seek the best deal, he sought permission to make enquiries to mitigate as much of the forecast increase as he could. This was granted, and at the suggestion of Alistair Gow he was also given the authority to strike a better deal if one could be secured.

5.1.1 Insertion for the Inspection of Records

It is certified that Safeguarding recruitment procedures are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons doing regulated Work with Children and Protected Adults in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the Congregation’s Safeguarding Coordinators are appropriately trained to allow these persons to be accredited as authorised signatories for PVG record check.

5.2 STAMPERLAND

The Moderator asked the Stamperland Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented both in print and verbally. Those present agreed.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions or issues from the reports that had not already been satisfactorily answered by the Conveners. There were none.

The groups Parish & Beyond (Stamperland) and Wider Mission (Netherlee) are now meeting jointly and this has been well received.

One correction noted for the Minute of 27/01/19 – boys and girls Scouts.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Netherlee Kirk Session Minutes of November 5th and 2nd December 2018 were approved.
Stamperland Kirk Session Minutes of November 5th 2018 and 13th & 27th January 2019 were approved.

The Moderator and Session Clerks were then authorised to sign the minutes.

7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

7.1 Joint Communion Services

The Moderator said that following the success of our joint Remembrance and Christmas services in 2018, he would like to propose joint Communion services in 2019. Change would be required as Netherlee had three communions while Stamperland had four per year. He proposed four a year to allow a 50:50 split, to be held on the first Sunday of March, June, September and December. March and September would be Stamperland, June and December would be Netherlee. The host church would organise the Communion service according to their tradition. This change would be reviewed in 2020. Those present agreed.

7.2 Conduct of Communion at Netherlee

Stuart Buchanan (Netherlee Session Clerk) then asked the Netherlee Kirk Session if they would be happy to try doing Communion without the formal procession. Alistair Gow commented that it would be best if the Serving Elders always started from the front seats, as extracting themselves from a joint congregation could (hopefully) prove tricky. This will also be reviewed in the future. Those present agreed.

7.3 Appointment of Pastoral Assistant

Marie Wilson has been appointed as Pastoral Assistant for Netherlee and Stamperland Churches. She has nursing, hospice and lay chaplaincy experience. She will be working three days a week

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

Joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions at 7.30pm on Monday 1st April 2019 at Stamperland

9 CLOSE

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

ANNEX

STAMPERLAND REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING

1 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT – William Patterson

1.1 Communion Roll Changes

The following have been removed from the roll by death.

Mrs Anne Kirkwood.	Stamperland
Mr Colin Campbell.	Netherlee.

2 FINANCE REPORT - Kay Bolton, Treasurer

2.1 2018 Accounts

The 2018 accounts were approved by the Trustees at a meeting on 27th January 2019. The accounts show a surplus of £2967. However, had we not claimed £12,034 of Manse rental income from The General Trustees, we would have had a deficit of £9,067. The accounts have now be passed to Alex Johnston for examination.

2.2 2019 Items of income and expenditure

The David Milligan Quiz which took place on 26th January raised £531.
Presbytery Dues of £2819. have been paid.

- Provision of accessible toilet in the church halls.
- Within a few years the gas boilers which provide the heating throughout the building will require replacement.
- Consideration needs to be given to improving the layout, functioning and accessibility of the buildings to meet our perceived needs in future years.

As well as these major items, general upgrading and regular, on-going, maintenance work will be necessary in most areas of the building.

2.3 2019 Budget

The 2019 budget was approved at the meeting on 27th January.

Offerings in 2019 were assumed to be similar to those in 2018; we should remind members to consider increasing their offerings at least in-line with inflation. It was assumed that the Gift Day, planned for spring, would raise £4,000. Income from hall rentals was set at £13,000.

Expenditure in most categories was assumed to be similar to the previous year. There is an increase of £3,417 in our National Ministry and Mission allocation and costs associated with “telephone, posts, printing and stationery” have been increased to reflect the increased costs of having the Connections magazine printed commercially.

It is difficult to forecast the fabric expenditure. Major refurbishment of the electrical systems in the halls and sanctuary is required with total costs, including VAT, likely to be in the region of £40k to £50k. Additionally, there is a need to replace the windows in the hall accommodation and make provision for replacement of the gas central heating boilers. The financial commitments are such that presbytery permission will be required before work can be authorised. For the purposes of preparing the budget a fabric expenditure of £25,000 was assumed and this was largely met by assuming that we would request and receive £20,000 from the manse rental income fund held by the General Trustees. With this assumption the draft budget indicated a deficit for the year of just over two thousand pounds.

Discussions will be ongoing regarding the upgrading of our halls and facilities and the preparation of a case to proceed with the work to go to Presbytery and The General Trustees in Edinburgh. Depending on the scope and scale of fabric work we may consider seeking financial assistance from various external bodies such as The Lottery Fund.

3 FABRIC REPORT Roy Allan – Property Convenor.

3.1 Minor repairs

In January, while the large hall was having ceiling cleaned and painted, we instructed the painter to carry on and give same treatment to both small hall and session room.

Small repair carried out on one heating boiler.

Contractor has been instructed to repair steps at church entrance at a cost of £2,000. This work is clearly weather dependent and will take place as soon as feasible.

3.2 Fabric development

We are in process of putting together a long-term plan for fabric maintenance and development. Work required includes:

- Following the electrical condition survey, the rewiring and upgrading of electrical switchgear in the halls and sanctuary. The work will probably be split into two phases with the first tranche being the halls. One quotation has been received and another is awaited. Costs (including VAT) are likely to be between £40k and £50k.
- Replacing all windows in large and small hall, kitchen and session room with modern frames. Cost likely to approach £20k

4. SOCIAL, FUNDRAISING & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT - Steven Owens

No report

5 MISSION REPORT – Nancy Fisher

5.1 PARISH AND BEYOND COMMITTEE

Since the last Kirk Session Meeting the Parish and Beyond Committee have met with Netherlee Wider Mission Committee. While some areas of the Committees are similar, Wider Mission covers a much broader range. The joint meeting was very successful. Both Committees were agreeable to having joint meetings and this will avoid duplication in some areas and help

towards integration in the linked charge. Parish and Beyond will continue to work in areas relevant to Stamperland.

During December, a request had been made by the Parish and Beyond Committee for people to donate one item of food for each day of advent. This proved to be very successful with a considerable amount of food being donated to the Foodbank at Barrhead. This amounted to a total weight of 171 Kg.

On Wednesday 12th December a short service was conducted by Scott for the Open Door Helpers and this was followed by lunch.

Parish and Beyond met on 30th January. Following a full discussion, it was agreed that we would obtain further information on some of the areas in which Netherlee Wider Mission Committee are involved with a view to investigating the possibility of Stamperland involvement.

5.2 PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Since our last report the Pastoral Care team have been kept busy. Apart from our usual routine of transporting people to Church, helping out with hospital and GP appointments, Library book exchanges, we assisted the Flower Convenor in the distribution of Ponsettia's to the housebound, sick, and Nursing home members. These were well received and folks especially in the Nursing homes were glad to have been remembered by their Church.

For some time we have been thinking about starting a Lunch Club for those unable to get out but were thwarted by not having a dishwasher. No excuse now! The week before Christmas we entertained 34 people from the church and also local folks to an old fashioned afternoon tea with entertainment, games and lovely food. It was very successful and we have plans to do something similar in the Spring.

Grace has met with Marie Wilson, the Pastoral Care Assistant, and felt encouraged. Marie is keen to work with us and enable us to do what we need to do.

Grace thanks everyone for their help.

6. WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Margo Neilson

No report

7. SESSION CLERK CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS - NORMAN BOLTON

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Presbytery

The Annual Statistical Return was sent to Presbytery in January. At the end of 2018, the key statistics were:

Number on roll	276
Number of elders	25 (12 male and 13 female)
Number of "other trustees"	12 (6 male and 6 female)
Number of baptisms	2
Number of weddings	1
Number of funerals	4

Presbytery sends the statistics for all congregations to Edinburgh.

7.1.2 Rev Archie Chisholm

A letter was sent to Rev Archie Chisholm expressing the sympathy of the members of Stamperland Church on the death of his wife Margy. In his reply, Mr Chisholm expressed his thanks and indicated that he, his wife and family often reminisced with great fondness of their time at Stamperland.

7.2 Other

7.2.1 Special Collections

The retiring offering from the December Communion and offerings from the Christmas Eve services amounted to £310 and was donated to Scottish Autism.

7.2.2 Pastoral Assistant

Following the re-advertising of the post for a Pastoral Assistant, two applicants were interviewed in December. Both candidates performed well. The post was offered to Ms Marie Wilson on condition that her references and application for PVG proved to be acceptable. Ms Wilson is expected to be in post by February.

7.3 Meeting of Business Committee

The Convenors of the Kirk Session Committees met on Sunday 27th January to discuss plans for fabric work including ongoing building repair and maintenance work and building development. At the meeting Roy Allan outlined key maintenance work required within the next few years including:

- Rewiring and upgrading of electrical wiring and switchgear in the halls and sanctuary. Costs (including VAT) likely to be between £40k and £50k.
- Replacing metal framed windows in the hall accommodation; cost approaching £20k.
- Provision of accessible toilet in the church halls.
- Replacement of central heating gas boilers; cost potentially around £20k.
- Consideration to improving the layout, functioning and accessibility of the buildings to meet our perceived needs in future years.

As well as these major items, general upgrading and regular, on-going, maintenance work would be necessary in most areas of the building.

Roy Allan was able to give an assurance that the current electrical installation was not “unsafe” and did not pose an imminent risk to people or the fabric. However, the electrical circuits and equipment did not conform to current standards for new installations and they required to be replaced.

Scott Blythe said that church law required approval from both Presbytery and General Trustees for fabric expenditure in excess of £50k in any three year period. Clearly, the work being planned fell into this category. In the current climate, seeking approval from both Presbytery and General Trustees would require that a persuasive case was developed and presented. The case would need to look at the requirements the congregation had of the buildings for the next five to ten years. This would require the development of a “vision” for our future and the subsequent production of plans to enable its implementation. Scott said that the congregations of both Netherlee and Stamperland were in full agreement regarding the requirement for church buildings at both locations in order to meet the current and perceived future needs of those using the two sets of accommodation. Building layout, convenience, accessibility and provision of storage were all features which needed consideration as did the ability to ensure ongoing financial viability.

It was agreed that members of Stamperland and Netherlee congregations with architectural knowledge and building services knowledge should be asked to inspect our buildings with a view to highlighting options for their development; others with financial knowledge should be asked to look at options for funding building development work.

It was stressed that church members should be informed about the review and of the intention to ensure the church’s continued presence at the Stamperland site. Maintenance work was continuing to be undertaken; a contract to have the steps leading to the church front door repaired had been let; painting of hall ceilings had only just been completed; replacement of the gas cookers in the kitchen was under consideration; minor work was planned to convert the old Session Clerk’s Room into office accommodation for the Pastoral Assistant.

8. SAFEGUARDING REPORT - Margot Young.

No report

9. PRESBYTERY ELDERS REPORT – Alastair Graham

No report

APPENDIX DISCUSSION NOTES

30 years ago	Now	Implication / comment
Group 1		
Greater numbers in church in 1990s Fewer mothers working Fewer shops open No football / sports on Sundays Far more ministers and	People living longer = mostly over 50s in church Too many distractions on Sundays Fewer jumble sales / beetle drives / whist drives No drama group	

churches locally Less sport on TV Schools – more RE than now Divinity (religion) not dismissed More social events Church drama groups	Too many distractions for young people Not enough encouragement from parents for children to attend church People more materialistic	
Group 2		
Church had more influence and was more highly-regarded. General Assembly was a sort of “Scottish Parliament” General Assembly was well-covered in serious Scottish press.	“Religion” widely portrayed in all media in negative tones. Christians denigrated in media. Going to church is perceived as “unusual” and “odd” Majority of people have no interest in church – but there are outpourings of grief (piles of floral bouquets / teddy bears / football scarves) when a “celebrity” dies or there is a harrowing child accident / killing.	Do people feel a need to show support or “grieve”?
Fewer “working mothers”. Young wives groups, Mother & Toddler Groups, Playgroups, etc. were seen as “good for children” as well as being important sources of social interaction for young mothers and as support for young mothers. Families with one parent working were less well-off; in consequence, “Nearly New” clothes and jumble sales played an important / useful role.	Mothers & Toddlers are now “Grandparents and Childminders” groups. Alternatives – charity shops, cheap clothes shops – not the same role for local churches	<i>Are families really better off?</i>
Fewer people worked on Sundays. Shops were not open. Church was “something to do” on a Sunday.	Lots of family activities compete with “Sunday Church”. “Family time” is taking children to ‘events’ – parties, sport, dancing.....	Does church at 11.00 on a Sunday morning fit with the lifestyle of a family?
Church was at the centre of social events in the community. Dances, whist / beetle drives, concerts, drama,	Much wider choices of entertainment available. Music, theatre, cinema, clubs, eating and drinking	
Children were allowed to roam, if not ‘far and wide’, at least “out of sight of parents”.		

Older people were not “frightened to go out at night”.		
Youth Fellowship, Young adults groups “Badminton Clubs”, etc.... were active “Cheap entertainment / pastimes through Church involvement”	After young people become too old for Scouts, Guides and BB the churches do not offer any attractive follow-on groups. More young people involved in tertiary education They often have part-time jobs They have more “disposable income” -	
	Much more emphasis on “suit me time”. 24-hour shopping 24-hour gym TV increasingly watched “on demand” Cinemas are “multi-screen” with choice of start times	Why is “church” one hour on a Sunday morning? Why is the only flavour “vanilla”?
		Looking to the future? Shorter working hours should lead to more leisure time. But families may have less income than at present. Could this lead to a revival of some of the things the church did 30+ years ago and more focus on the church in the community?
Group 3		
Church more rigid Church meant more to families than it does now So many at Sunday School Changes to society – more options now than ‘Church’ Changes to family life – many more working mothers Society has changed in terms of membership of all clubs and societies Demographics and ethnicity changed Shops all open on Sundays Many people use church building – but not for faith Things are dispensible now Science and Technology vs. God Target parents 25 – 40 get people into church Something about church that	Changes to society – more options now than ‘Church’ Changes to family life – many more working mothers Society has changed in terms of membership of all clubs and societies Demographics and ethnicity changed Shops all open on Sundays Many people use church building – but not for faith Things are dispensible now Science and Technology vs. God Target parents 25 – 40 get people into church Something about church that is	

is there for people Tap into resource of parents who have had their children baptised	there for people Tap into resource of parents who have had their children baptised	
Group 4		
More people children around church Bible / Hymnbook More to do (S.S. / Y.F.) More “membership culture” BB attendance linked to Sunday School / Church Routine School – part of curriculum Cultural - Mums at home, etc. No Sunday shopping	Fewer people /children Fewer people joining / taking membership More competing factors, e.g. football, clubs Change in demographics School – varies between Local Authorities and head-teachers. Sunday now a working day / leisure Cultural shifts – work, activities, dress More non-believers, people of other faiths.	Re-define membership Different times for worship Different forms of worship How do we engage with schools?
Group 5		
More children through SS and YF More members Church had prominent place in Community / Institutions Church was open Traditional set-piece worship Voice in the country More weddings On reflection – were we welcoming? Less inclusive Complacence More Communion services	Greater percentage of working parents Less judgemental about children coming without parents More outreach Social life is elsewhere –all age groups Messy Church Social media in worship Midweek service / Open Door Variety of worship reflecting life changes	Shout out what we do Be essential in the Community Be more visual in the Community - get noticed! Know our community in order to determine new direction Next Question – HOW?

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 3rd MARCH 2019
IN THE SESSION HOUSE**

1. CONSTITUTION

Rev Scott Blythe constituted the meeting with prayer.

2. RETIRING OFFERING

It was agreed that the retiring offering be given to Glasgow, the Caring City.

3. PASTORAL CARE

The Session Clerk asked elders present to advise Grace Scott of members in their districts who could benefit from a visit from our new Pastoral Assistant, Marie Wilson.

4. COMMUNION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Communion Arrangements

Margo Neilson advised elders of slightly different arrangements in relation to the attendance at communion of the congregation and choir of Netherlee.

4.1 Communion Service

The Rev. Scott Blythe led the elders into the church to celebrate and serve Holy Communion. At the conclusion of the service the minister pronounced the benediction.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**SUMMARY OF
STATED ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, 18TH MARCH 2018
HELD IN THE SANCTUARY AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. CONSTITUTION Meeting chaired by the Minister, Rev. Scott Blythe, BSc, BD, MBA. Meeting was held at the close of morning worship and was constituted with prayer.

2 NOTICE It was confirmed that the Notice calling the meeting had been read in Church on three consecutive Sundays.

3 PREVIOUS MEETING, 2017 Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 18th March 2017 proposed by Connell Cranston and seconded by Alison Macfarlane. All present indicated their agreement.

4 MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

5 REPORTS A document summarising the reports was handed to all present.

5.1 Annual Report The Session Clerk advised that copies of the Annual Report would be available at the conclusion of the meeting. Summaries of the reports from the treasurer, the fabric committee, social and fundraising committee were all on the sheet handed to all attending.

5.2 Treasurer's Report In presenting the Treasurer's Report Norman Bolton advised that in 2017 total income was £95,781, total expenditure was £89,606 resulting in a year-end surplus of £6,175. A summary of principal sources of income was presented along with breakdown of significant items of expenditure.

At the end of 2017 the total financial reserves (including investments) stood at £131,848. Rev. Scott Blythe thanked Kay Bolton for her work throughout the year.

5.3 Fabric Report Roy Allan advised that various repairs had been undertaken to the manse and that many of the rooms had been re-decorated prior to new tenants moving in. Following the successful installation of LED strip lights in the Church it had been agreed to replace all of the fluorescent strip lights in both the large and small halls. New CCTV cameras had been fitted at both the front and back doors and lighting at these doors also updated with LED lights.

A commercial dishwasher had been purchased and installed in the kitchen with some remedial joinery work undertaken at the same time. Cracks in the external brickwork above the emergency exit of the Church leading out to Clarkston Road had been investigated; there were no issues with structural integrity and cosmetic repair had been undertaken. The emergency door had been replaced.

Thanks were expressed to all who assisted with fabric maintenance.

5.4 Social and Fundraising Report Steven Owens advised that the social and fundraising committee had merged with the Stewardship committee. The newly formed committee would look to address areas linked to Stewardship in 2018 and would welcome new members to work with them on the committee.

2017 had seen a number of events. The annual David Milligan Quiz had been well attended and provided an opportunity to both socialise and raise money. Arranging the Spring Fair was always a big task. It is the main fundraiser and is an event which for many in our community is the only time they will be inside the church buildings. Innovations in 2017 included the BB assault course and the creation of a science laboratory in the sanctuary. The brownies had created “plant people” all of whom were sold very quickly. Steven thanked all members of the Social and Fundraising committee who helped organise the event and the committee, in turn, wished to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the event a success. In 2017 a total of £2,651 was raised towards church funds.

Scott Blythe expressed his thanks to all who assisted with social and fundraising events.

5.5 Session Clerk’s Report Norman Bolton said that 2017 had been a busy year. In February the Pipe Organ had been awarded a Historical Organ Certificate Grade II*; LED lights were installed in the sanctuary; a dishwasher was installed in the kitchen; a new photocopier had been leased. In March CCTV cameras were installed at the front and back doors of the halls. October saw a follow-up to the 2016 Local Church Review. The Review Team had been positive and would look to see that we addressed the actions identified in the Action Plan. November saw hall lighting upgraded with LED fittings providing a brighter environment and reducing electricity consumption.

A donation of £451 was made to East Renfrewshire Good Causes at a Sunday Brunch in February. Regular donations to the foodbank were complimented by donations of over 100 chocolate eggs at Easter and a large number of gifts at Christmas. We had donated backpacks to Mary’s Meals, shoe boxes to Blythswood Care and harvest items to the Lodging House Mission. Financial donations had been made to Williamwood House, Erskine Home, Water Aid, Lodging House Mission, RNLI and Heart for Art.

The most significant event of the year was the induction of our new minister, Scott Blythe, on 30th November. It was a memorable time for us all and for Scott who arrived in Glasgow with his son Duncan while his wife, Liz and daughter Eilidh, were stranded in the USA without a passport. At the induction our thanks was expressed to Rev Gray Fletcher, our Interim Moderator and to Rev Jack Drummond, our Locum Minister for everything they had done for us over the three and three quarter years of the vacancy.

Scott became the eighth minister in the 78 years of our church’s life. During this time our home and work lives had seen enormous changes; however, many aspects of our church life would still be familiar to our parent’s or even grandparent’s generations. We have a bit of catching up to do and changes were required. By 2025 the number of active ministers in the Church of Scotland was forecast to reduce to 350. Change would happen and we were part of this change

as our linking with Netherlee Church demonstrates. Whilst change could be challenging and scary it could also be exciting and would certainly bring new opportunities.

5.6 Adoption of Reports Adoption of the Reports as a true record was proposed by John Curror and seconded by Gordon Robertson. All present indicated their agreement.

6 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES The Session Clerk said that there was opportunity for 20 new Trustees. Only if more than 20 names were proposed would there be an election. There were no nominations. It was agreed that members could be co-opted to serve as trustees.

7 CLOSURE The meeting was closed with the minister leading the congregation in saying “The Grace”.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
JOINT MEETING OF THE KIRK SESSIONS
IN THE SANCTUARY AT STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
7.30PM ON MONDAY 1st APRIL 2019**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe, Moderator, with Prayer

2. SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

For Stamperland there were 20 Elders as recorded in the Sederunt Book; with apologies from Nancy Fisher, Evelyn Graham, Alastair Graham, Marie Owens, Steven Owens, Norman Bolton, William Paterson, Janis Herriot, Jackie Silcock, George Fairweather, Janet Stewart and Fraser Neilson.

For Netherlee there were 21 Elders with apologies from 15 Elders, as per the Sederunt Sheet.

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with one additional item under AOCB – the forthcoming Joint Easter Service, with family communion, to be held at Netherlee at 10:30am on Sunday 21st April.

4. DISCUSION TOPICS

4.1 Pastoral Care – where are we now and where do we go?

The Moderator outlined examples of formal and informal types of pastoral care that we currently provide and emphasised that a great deal of good work is already being done. Examples of formal pastoral care included the following:

- Pastoral Visitation Teams led by Grace Scott and Patricia McKenzie
- Care & Share
- Monday Lunch Club
- Heart For Art
- Williamwood and Clarkston House services

Examples of informal pastoral care included the following:

- Looking out for each other all the time
- Gordon Robertson visiting homes

Guild visiting members
Visits to Williamwood & Clarkston Houses

The Moderator then highlighted that his job included a lot more than just preparing for Worship, Worship and making visits. Administration, School Chaplaincy, Presbytery responsibilities and Development for the future of our two churches all impinge on his time. The linking of the two churches has changed the staff to task ratio. Over the two congregations we once we had three people, now it is one and a half. We have an increasingly elderly population. So, as our staff resources have decreased the demand is increasing and will continue to do so.

Those present then split into six groups and considered the following two questions:

- (i) are we happy with what we are doing now,
- (ii) do we have any suggestions for how we approach this in the future?

The responses from the six groups included the following observations:

- Not everyone is fully aware of current work.
- Don't seem to cover the fit and the healthy.
- Providing limited solid support is better than over-stretched slap-dash approach.
- Elders already have heavy workload so not too much slack.
- How to address mental health issues
- Focus those with greatest difficulties
- Bigger team required
- Training by new Pastoral Assistant
- Triage system to allocate appropriate resource to each individual situation

Scott thanked everyone for their input. He stated another service he was happy to provide was Home Communion for people who were homebound. Alan Fairlie commented that he knew of a Pastoral Group set up at Park Church and asked if he should visit and report back on his findings. This offer was warmly accepted. This discussion will be included in our current discernment process.

4.2 Summary of recent Worship survey

Scott reminded everyone of the short survey undertaken at the start of the year which asked both congregations about the changes made to Worship in 2018. He presented the results which, when simplified, equated to 90% being happy with no issues, but 10% mentioning an issue they were not happy with. Interestingly, there was no one common issue - they were all concerned about different issues! Scott asked whether, in light of this, should we proceed with the worship and service arrangements which we currently have without any further changes. Those present agreed.

4.3 Reflections on Union

Scott reminded everyone of a previous joint Session Meeting at which our emotional response towards Union and the practical issues that would, undoubtedly, arise as we progress to Union was discussed. He asked the six groups formed earlier to revisit these findings and discuss, firstly, how we feel about it now and, secondly, what, if any, practical steps or working groups we might take or set up.

The responses to the first aspect included the following:

- Some people still fear Union as they equate it to becoming just one building
- Union also equals fear of the unknown
- The Linking was going well with many joint activities such as joint Kirk Session meetings, Remembrance Service, Christmas Services (in 2018) and Communion and Easter services in 2019.
- Successful cross Group working – Parish & Beyond (Stamperland) with Wider Mission (Netherlee)

Responses in relation to the second aspect included:

Church of Scotland statistics tell us that when a Union occurs it inevitable that some members are lost – we need to minimise this and take our congregations with us.

All of the groups and organisations using accommodation in Stamperland could not be accommodated into Netherlee – and vice versa – so serious planning work required to work out any future building changes.

Following the feedback from the six groups a number of questions were raised.

One was, “What are the “church law” differences between a Link and a Union?” Scott explained that in a Union there would be one Kirk Session, one set of Accounts and one Stated Annual Meeting.

Some comments were made that, in effect, we already operate like a Union with all the activities that we do jointly, like having joint Kirk Session Meetings.

There was a question regarding whether there an expected timeline or deadline for moving from Link to Union? In response, Scott intimated that he has had no pressure from Presbytery; indeed they are keen to visit the Netherlee Kirk Session to review their last Local Church Review. Normally moving from Link to Union could take up to three years. However, if things were progressing and an extension of one or two years was requested Scott did not think Presbytery would object.

A question was asked regarding examples where United churches continued to use two buildings? Scott could not bring any locally relevant examples to mind, and undertook to ask Presbytery.

Stuart Buchanan commented that there seemed to be a positive attitude to the progress being made with the Link, but that the fear was Union would equate to a single building. If the Union happened sooner rather than later, then, as mentioned above, we would still require both sets of buildings. So if those who were “frightened” saw a Union would still result in there being two buildings, then the Link progress could continue and the fear of Union would dissipate. This, he suggested, would be better than prolonging the fear for years? Obviously, at some point – five, ten or 15 years in the future – as the numbers attending continue to decline it would be obvious to all that a reduction or radical change to our buildings might be necessary.

Scott asked whether we set up a working group to look at this. Those present did not agree believing that we probably already know enough and that each church should consider it on their own in the first instance.

Alistair Gow said we should carefully consider the pros and cons before making any decision; Scott concurred and said he would discuss this approach with Presbytery.

Scott asked those present if they agreed with this approach, building a case for presenting to the congregations for a vote and subject to the provisos mentioned above. Those present agreed.

5 WRITTEN REPORTS

5.1 STAMPERLAND – See Appendix

The Moderator asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose or highlights to mention. There were none. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none. He then asked if the reports should be accepted as presented. Those present agreed.

5.2 NETHERLEE

The Moderator asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose. There were none. He then asked if there were highlights to mention. Alistair Gow thanked everyone who had volunteered to assist at Lodging House Mission on Saturday 4th May. As they got more than expected a split shift system has been introduced to allow all to participate. The Moderator asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none. He then asked if the reports should be accepted as presented. Those present agreed.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Stamperland Kirk Session Minutes of 27th January, 4th February & 3rd March 2019 were approved. Netherlee Kirk Session Minute of 4th February 2019 was approved. Jim Ferguson intimated a change was required to the Minute of 11th March 2019 – Page 1 / Point 4140 /

Paragraph 2 / start of Line 15 becomes – total income from offerings. With this adjustment the Minute was approved.

7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Joint Easter Service – Netherlee – 10:30am – Sunday 21st April

The Netherlee custom is to have an informal family communion at this service. The suggestion from several Netherlee Elders is that the serving duties are performed by a team of Netherlee and Stamperland Elders working in partnership as a display of linked, joint working. Seven Elders would be required from Stamperland. Those present agreed. Ronnie Kirkwood, Jane & John Curror and Gordon Robertson volunteered and Stamperland undertook to find three further volunteer elders.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions at 7:30pm on Monday 3rd June 2019.

- Stamperland committee meetings as advised.
- Netherlee committee meetings as per schedule issued.

9 CLOSE

The meeting was closed with all present saying The Grace.

APPENDIX

REPORTS

1 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT – William Patterson

1.1 Communion Roll Changes

Change of address

Mrs Sandra Diamond From Stamperland to East Kilbride

The following has been removed from the roll by death.

Mrs Hazel Thompson Stamperland

2 FINANCE REPORT - Kay Bolton, Treasurer

2.1 Summary of income and expenditure

Offerings are slightly ahead of the budget figure for the end of March due to increased donations in the Open Offering at the joint communion service with Netherlee. We have received a donation of £325 from the Scout Group.

Painting of the ceilings of the large and small halls and session room cost £2,000. Renewal of the external steps amounted to £4,000.

3 FABRIC REPORT Roy Allan – Property Convenor.

3.1 Minor repairs

The external steps leading from Stamperland Gardens to the church front door have been replaced, the railings repainted and the banisters re-varnished. The total cost was £4,000.

A new radiator has been fitted in ladies' toilets to replace outdated leaking one.

The drain from the toilets have been pressure-cleared of blockages and are now running freely with no back flow or flooding.

3.2 Fabric development

Quotes now received for replacement of all the single-glazed, metal-framed windows in halls, session room, kitchen, offices, etc., in double-glazed, brown-coloured, pvc frames. This will improve insulation, reduce heat loss and provide for better ventilation. The total cost would be £13,500.

Quote also received for raising floor level between hall and the corridor to the session room. This would improve access for people with mobility issues to the toilet facilities in the Session Clerk's office and to the kitchen / Session Room in general. The price would be £2,000. A second quote for the electrical rewiring and upgrading work is still awaited.

4. SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT - Kay Baird

We had our meeting on the 13th March to start preparing for the Spring Fair which is being held on Saturday 11th May. We have decided to have the following stalls: Baking, Books/DVD's, Toys, Bottle and Tombola along with Coffee shop and model train display. Norman Walker is going to make up a quiz to be displayed on the large screen in the church. All donations for the above stalls are very welcome with two boxes being placed in the vestibule for this purpose. Our next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 17th April 10.00am.

5 MISSION REPORT – Nancy Fisher

5.1 Parish and Beyond - Evelyn Graham

Members of the Parish and Beyond Committee, once again, met with Netherlee's Wider Mission Committee on Monday 4th March. At that meeting it was agreed that Stamperland would take part during Lent in the 90Kg Rice Challenge. 90Kg of rice is the amount of rice a farmer in Malawi has to sell to enable him to send a child to secondary school for a year. The rice has been available to purchase at Stamperland at £3.00 per kilogramme bag. By participating in this we can directly see that we are helping to provide a better life for those in some of the poorest communities in Malawi.

Netherlee is an Eco Church and the Parish and Beyond Committee have asked Sheena Wurthman who is responsible for this area to come and talk to them about what exactly this means. It seems that Stamperland Church may already be carrying out some of the requirements for this.

5.2 Pastoral Care – Grace Scott

We continue to offer the same support. There has been an increase in requests for hospital/doctors appointments transport, which we have been able to sustain but any additional help would be greatly appreciated.

It has been good to share with our new Pastoral Assistant and recently had an afternoon with Trust Housing residents who all took to Marie, so we are all benefiting from her input.

Plans are afoot to hold a further Afternoon Tea, late May or early June. We have had very good feedback from our Christmas venture and are keen to build on that.

Any ideas or help as to how we can support folks will be welcomed.

6. WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Margo Neilson

No report

7. SESSION CLERK: CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS - NORMAN BOLTON

7.1 Presbytery Inspection of Records

Presbytery Inspection of Records took place on 19th March. In general, the inspection was satisfactory but there were issues with the Property records. Although the Manse is let through Clyde Property and Clyde Property ensure that certificates related to gas, electricity, legionella, etc. are maintained up-to-date, Presbytery are now requesting that we obtain paper copies in order to demonstrate compliance.

In relation to the church, Presbytery is requesting that we have a professional Asbestos inspection undertaken so that the potential presence of any asbestos can be formally quantified. Copies of current gas safety certificates and PAT test information have also been requested by Presbytery

7.2 Fire and CO₂ Alarms in the Manse

Clyde Property have advised that the smoke detectors fitted in the manse do not comply with recently introduced legislation. There is a requirement to install hard-wired, interlinked alarms in the hall, living room and kitchen. A heat detector rather than a smoke detector will be fitted

in the kitchen to avoid false alarms associated with activities such as normal cooking and making toast. The General Trustees have agreed that the work should be undertaken.

7.3 Questionnaire related to Changes to Sunday Worship

At the end of January the congregation had opportunities to comment on the changes to the pattern of worship following the linking with Netherlee. Sixty responses were received from the Stamperland congregation. Of these, 56 stated they were “content with the changes to Sunday morning services” and four were “not content”.

7.4 Retiring Offering from March Communion

The retiring offering from the March Communion amounted to £259.50 and was donated to Glasgow, the Caring City.

7.5 Elders Conference

A conference to inspire and enthuse current and future elders in the Church of Scotland with a fresh vision and understanding of the characteristics of Christian discipleship, and to encourage them to explore their role as elders in creating and deepening a culture of discipleship is being held from Friday 7th June at 17:00 to Sunday 9th June at 14:00 at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine, Fife. The cost for attendance including accommodation, meals and refreshments is £150. Anyone interested should speak to the Session Clerk. Assistance will be given with the costs incurred.

7.6 Additional Elders

Glasgow Presbytery is looking to nominate ‘Additional Elders’ to serve on Presbytery Business Committees. Any elder interested in volunteering to serve should speak to the minister or Session Clerk.

8. SAFEGUARDING REPORT - Margot Young.

No report

9. PRESBYTERY ELDERS REPORT – Alastair Graham

No report

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

MEETING OF TRUSTEES HELD ON SUNDAY, 12th MAY 2019 AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe, Moderator, with Prayer.

2 SEDERUNT

The Moderator and 17 Trustees.

3 HALL ACCOMMODATION WINDOWS

The Moderator said that there was one item of business and asked the Session Clerk to present the information.

The Session Clerk reminded those present that Trustees had previously been advised of the poor condition of some of the original metal-framed windows throughout the hall accommodation. The condition of the external mortar and internal plasterwork around some of the windows was poor or very poor; many of the windows were difficult to open. In total, there were 37 windows

in the hall accommodation comprising 258 individual glass panes. The metal-framed windows were all original and would have been installed in 1939 or 1940.

A quotation for work to replace of all of the windows with new, brown uPVC-framed, double-glazed units had been received. The total cost would be £13,500.

The Moderator asked if Trustees agreed with the proposal to install the new windows. All present indicated their agreement.

4 CLOSURE

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

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES JOINT MEETING OF THE KIRK SESSIONS IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY AT NETHERLEE 7.30PM ON MONDAY 3rd JUNE 2019

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe, Moderator, with Prayer.

2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

For Netherlee there were 33 Elders with apologies from 9 Elders, as per the Sederunt Sheet. For Stamperland there were 16 Elders and 4 other Trustees as recorded in the Sederunt Book; with seven apologies.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with no additional items under AOCB.

4 DISCUSSION TOPICS

4.1 Next steps towards Union – during which we were joined by Stuart McGill from Glasgow Presbytery Strategic Planning Department

Scott summarised the discussion from the previous Kirk Session and asked if this was correct and that those present were happy to continue exploring the steps towards Union. It was made clear that no final decisions would be made this evening. Those present agreed. Scott then introduced Stuart McGill from Glasgow Presbytery Strategic Planning.

Stuart McGill explained that some parts of the basis for Union, a Church of Scotland document required for all Unions, were not negotiable. These were standard practice and therefore of little relevance to our meeting this evening.

Stuart stated that essentially there were three steps –

- (i) the two Kirk Sessions agree the basis for Union;
- (ii) the two congregations vote to accept the basis for Union; and
- (iii) it goes to Presbytery for approval. In his experience Presbytery would normally “rubber stamp” the decision given the positive steps (i) and (ii) taken.

Timings could be

- (a) the draft basis of Union document prepared by Presbytery over the summer
- (b) the document circulated to the Kirk Sessions in time for discussion at next first Joint Kirk Session on Monday 2nd September
- (c) placed before the October meeting of Presbytery
- (d) a service of Union in November. The date of Union would be decided at the last minute to accommodate as many attendees as possible. These timings may change

Stuart McGill next explained the sections of the basis of Union that are negotiable and would require input from the Kirk Sessions.

Name of the new united charge:

The Moderator and the Session Clerks had researched the locale for possible names but as Williamwood (House – centrally located?) is already taken and Linn had other connotations (Crematorium) Scott proposed the new united charge be known as the **Parish of Stamperland & Netherlee (Church of Scotland)**.

Stuart McGill said the proposal complied with Church of Scotland rules for names, and accurately described the situation. Those present agreed with the proposal.

Places of Worship:

This section will require to be re-written to account for the fact that both church buildings will be retained for Worship.

Scott highlighted that both Stamperland and Netherlee were in good financial health and thus could be trusted to make any necessary decision themselves over either building in the future should running two buildings cease to be viable.

Stuart McGill agreed it was sensible to highlight both buildings were to be used for Worship as this would give us more flexibility in the future with different forms and/or styles of Worship.

Stamperland Manse:

Stuart McGill confirmed that once the Union has taken place the new Parish of Stamperland & Netherlee could dispose of the Stamperland Manse if it chooses.

Scott noted that the Stamperland Manse is currently let therefore providing income. Once united we could decide to continue this, or decide to sell. The money raised would be available to invest in our new united parish.

Scott pointed out that the proceeds of the sale would actually be held by the Trustees in Edinburgh on our behalf. Furthermore, any expenditure over £50,000 would require permission first from Presbytery and then from the Trustees in Edinburgh.

Stuart McGill commented that (i) this “permission process” applies to all spending not just the proceeds of this Manse, should it be sold; and that dialogue with both groups is wise as you plan your project. Ian Alexander (Fabric Convener at Netherlee) confirmed that both these points were valid from recent experience with hall upgrades.

Various questions were asked about the implications re Finance – bank accounts, OSCR, Charity numbers etc. Stuart McGill confirmed that in the Union there would be one of everything rather than two. He was unsure if we get a new Charity number or keep one of the current ones – he would let us know.

Scott also commented that under union there would be one Kirk Session and one Stated Annual Meeting. Once union occurred we would also have to review our “management structure”.

Stuart McGill concluded by stating that he hoped to have the draft basis for Union ready for consultation by August/September. In addition to this being discussed at our next Kirk Session he also suggested that we also review our Presbytery Plan at the same meeting, as our Union states clearly where we are heading. Scott thanked Stuart McGill for his assistance and Stuart McGill then left the meeting.

4.2 Final steps in the discernment process - please also refer to Appendix A

Scott Blythe summarised the output from the final discernment event that took place on 18th May, explaining that the focus for our future mission and activities is becoming clearer.

Scott then shared demographic information –

Who do we have in our parish?

Due to the long term rise in house prices it is mainly 2nd/3rd time buyers as first time buyers cannot afford to buy a house unless they get significant help.

Folk do not leave – they love staying here. There is also a shortage of properties that would allow downsizing – so often people stay until forced to move as a consequence of health issues.

We have families and we have empty nesters.

What type of church do we want to be?

Five choices were presented – everyone had three votes enabling them to nominate three aspects. The results were as follows:

- 1 Worship
- 2 Local Mission
- 3= Fellowship – Multi-generational – Pastoral Care
- 3= Education – Development of People of Faith
- 4 Mission out with the Parish

In addition there was a clear desire to:

- be seen doing things together
- advertise and make it known what we do
- worship more together

Scott finished by highlighting the fact that, outside of existing uniformed organisations, there is not much provision within the two parishes for teenagers aged 13-17. Community Police say there is not a serious drug problem or a gang culture in the area, rather occasional trouble (setting bins on fire). The Police have plans to create a space for this group, possibly at Netherlee Pavilion, and provide a level of staffing. There was a question regarding whether the two churches could assist by providing funds, helpers, hospitality?

Trustee's Comments

Scott asked for feedback and got stunned silence.

Scott said that in looking forward we should consider families in our parish. We should consider the growing elderly population. Within our churches good work already exists with Monday Lunch Club and Heart for Art. It could be relevant to explore group bereavement care. There was, he said, lots to reflect on and think about over the summer months.

5 WRITTEN REPORTS

5.1 NETHERLEE

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

5.1.1 PVG

Bruce (PVG) asked for permission for Michael Buchan to step down and for Edinburgh to be notified. Those present agreed. Moderator and Session Clerk thanked Mike for his service. Mike will support Bruce over the coming months as he settles in. Bruce also intimated that a Safeguarding Panel will have to be formed.

5.1.2 Finance

Allan (Treasurer) intimated that the final total of the retiral collection for Sri Lanka was £1,188.07. Scott thanked all for their generosity over the three Sundays including the joint communion. Allan proposed that we round this up to £1,200 and then double it by taking £1,200 from the Thomas White Legacy Fund (currently £14,500) as its purpose is “grants to General Congregational Funds of the Church with the power to assist extra parochial objects which may need assistance.” Those present agreed.

5.1.3 Other

Barbara (Events) intimated the Summer Concert on 16th June and as of next week breakfast at 9am before the service at 10am. As always – helpers wanted!

Ian Alexander (Fabric) requested volunteers to help put the bins out on a Wednesday.

5.1.4 Approval of Reports

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

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. Those present agreed.

5.2 STAMPERLAND

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

5.2.1 Parish and Beyond

Nancy Fisher asked permission for Stamperland to begin the process of becoming an eco-congregation. Sheena Wurthman of Netherlee has previously spoken on this topic and has agreed to assist. Those present agreed.

5.2.2 Approval of Reports

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

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. Those present agreed.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Netherlee Kirk Session Minute of 1st April 2019 was approved.

Stamperland Kirk Session Minutes of 1st April and 12th May 2019 were approved.

7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was none.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions at 7:30pm on Monday 2nd September in Stamperland.

Netherlee committee meetings as per schedule issued.

Stamperland committee meetings as advised.

9 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

APPENDIX A

NOTES OF DISCERNMENT PROCESS DREAMING FOR OUR FUTURE

Reflecting on all that we have learned

We began by reflecting on the history of mission within the separate congregations

This led to identifying some strengths and weaknesses:

- **Strengths:**
 - Good at working together towards clear purposes
 - Hospitable congregations and friendly
 - Good at raising money where clear objective set out e.g Starchild, Cranhill Foundation
 - Strong compassion for wider community, desire to serve there
 - Good care within congregations, desire to show love to members
 - Very good participation with Youth Organisations within community

- **Weaknesses**
 - Coping with change is something that is struggled with in both congregations
 - Issues with lack of wider community involvement - no new leaders/people involved. Issues for recruiting officers
 - The issue of the future provision for buildings and concerns about managing two indefinitely
 - Issues of being 'fully inclusive' - are we really welcoming only to some and not others
 - When mission activities cease due to lack of new leadership there is a mourning experienced and some fear

THEN WE HAD THE LISTENING POSTS:

- Learned that our communities were consisted of family homes that were generally privately owned and occupied (>95% in community)
- People buying houses are generally more 'settled' second/third-time buyers (prices generally do not allow for single people or newly married couples without assets buying)
- People are mainly supporting themselves through work/pensions, not a great deal of poverty issues within our communities (not necessarily lots of cash around within families - some may have extended themselves to move into area)
- We have lots of families with children and lots of retired people. There are not many young people aged between 20 and 30 in community
- Our communities are split between CofS families, Roman Catholic Families, Secular Families, Minority of Other Christian families, Minority of other religious families
- The community consists of people who are either employed or may have retired. Not many people in late retirement as there is limited housing available for such people in this community
- People stay in the area, it is a popular area to retire within, which means there could be 'empty nests households' and possibly 'isolated individual houses'

Any thoughts/omissions?

WHAT DO WE THINK ARE THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE CHURCH?

- Worship
- Community - mixed age preferably
- Education/Development of faithful
- Service within local Community
- Service to World Community
- Discuss and **rank these priorities?**

CONVERSATION WITH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM

- Area is generally one that is not a great problem area for the police
- Issues that crop up are due to lack of resources for 13-17 year olds to be and to have fun. Keen to try and develop space and place for young people in community, need resources (money and people?)

DWELLING IN THE WORD

Philippians 1: 27, 2: 5-11

DREAMING FOR OUR FUTURE

What does this information mean for us as we seek to find ways to provide:

- Worship for this community?
- Service for this community?

OTHER ANNEXES WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING

1 ROLL KEEPER'S REPORT – William Patterson

1.1 Communion Roll Changes

No changes advised.

2 FINANCE REPORT - Kay Bolton, Treasurer

2.1 Summary of income and expenditure

Attached is a statement of the financial position in relation to the budget as at 30th April 2019. Total income was £23,135. Total expenditure was £32,947. We have therefore spent £9,812 more than our income.

Total offerings are ahead of the budget figure by £134. We have not yet claimed tax on Gift Aid donations, nor have we made any claim to the General Trustees in relation to using manse rental income to pay a significant amount of our fabric costs. The total from the Spring Fair which took place in May amounted to £1,400 and is therefore not included in the Fund Raising figure.

On the expenditure side we have paid Presbytery Dues for the year in full and are slightly ahead with our Ministry and Mission payments for the whole year.

2.2 Stewardship

Offerings have not increased with inflation over the last few years. The Stewardship Committee was seeking to foster the culture of regularly reviewing offerings and was planning to organise a Gift Day in 2019. Income from a Gift Day was included in this year's budget. Unless we can raise approximately £4,000 with a Gift Day, we could be looking at a deficit at the end of the year of around £6,000 to £7,000.

3 FABRIC REPORT Roy Allan – Property Convenor.

3.1 Fabric development

New Windows have been ordered to replace all of the metal-framed windows throughout the hall accommodation. Contractor hoping to start towards end of June depending on deliveries of frames.

On electrical side we have two quotations; question of delaying work for a year is under discussion.

Quote also received for raising floor level between hall and the corridor to the session room. This would improve access for people with mobility issues to the toilet facilities in the Session Clerk's office and to the kitchen / Session Room in general. The price would be £2,000.

3.1 Manse

The gas central heating boiler required attention and also the fitting of an external flue guard. The cost of £224.21 was deducted from the rental income paid to General Trustees by Clyde Property.

The cost of installing new fire and smoke detectors and alarms in the manse to comply with new regulations will be £355.42. This amount will be deducted from the rental income paid to General Trustees.

4. SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT - Kay Baird

The Spring Fair raised £1,400.

5 MISSION REPORT – Nancy Fisher

5.1 Parish and Beyond

The Parish and Beyond Committee continue to meet with the Wider Mission Committee at Netherlee. At the last meeting it was noted that both Stamperland and Netherlee members had helped at the Lodging House Mission. Netherlee are involved with Starter Packs and the Parish and Beyond Committee plan to arrange a one-off collection for Starter Packs during next Session. Stamperland have in the past done this.

At the Wider Mission Meeting we had Rev. Muriel Pearson speak to us about Cranhill as Netherlee have an established link with them. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the members of the Wider Mission Committee to visit Cranhill in September as Rev. Muriel Pearson was keen that the linkage of Cranhill with Netherlee/Stamperland was of mutual benefit.

Netherlee is an Eco Congregation and Sheena Wurthmann came to a meeting of the Parish and Beyond and gave a very informative talk about becoming an Eco Congregation. Sheena has provided us with information and guidance regarding this and the Parish and Beyond Committee plan to meet in August to plan the way ahead. We would welcome the approval of Stamperland Kirk Session to start this process.

5.2 Pastoral Care

In view of the success of the Christmas event, Pastoral Care are planning on holding an Afternoon Tea in June. Consideration is also being given to holding a Prayer Meeting on alternate Wednesday mornings.

Apart from this Pastoral Care continues to offer the usual services.

6. WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Margo Neilson

No report

7. SESSION CLERK: CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 East Renfrewshire Prevention Team

Contact from Ross Kelly, Prevention Team Support Worker at East Renfrewshire Council, to advise of services and help the team provide to local residents to ensure they are kept safe from any stress, worry and financial harm. Team members are happy to visit individuals or groups to give short informal chats about the help they provide. For example, the free nuisance call blocker device which we have fitted around 900 of so far and how this has helped benefit individuals live more independently in their home. Further information can be found at the website: www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/prevention. The team would be pleased to receive names of individuals who we believe would benefit from a visit of a team member.

7.2 Press Releases

The participation of Netherlee and Stamperland Churches in the 90kg Rice Challenge was featured in the Extra newspaper published at the beginning of April. The article was noted by the editor of the East Renfrewshire Community Magazine for Newton Mearns, Busby and Clarkston and resulted in a further article being published in the May edition of the magazine. The Extra is generally keen to receive news and information related to events associated with local churches. Information for inclusion in The Extra should be e-mailed to janet.bee@jpress.co.uk.

7.3 Intimation regarding BB Queen's Badge Volunteers and Lodging House Mission

As part of the volunteering for the Boys Brigade Queens' Badge, Calum Murray, Jack Nairn and Christopher Watson-Sweeney from the 278th Company, The Boys' Brigade will be volunteering at the Lodging House Mission for a week in July. As well as giving of their time and talents, it would be lovely if they could donate specific items of food and clothing which are always in need. The boys would welcome food donations of sugar, baked beans and tinned meat (corned beef or ham).

For clothing, boxer shorts, socks, joggers, denim jeans, shoes and belts can be used by the LHM. All other items are well-stocked at the moment so please just what is on the list.

Look out for the Boys in the Netherlee Welcome Hall and Stamperland Vestibule before the morning Services on Sunday 16th June and Sunday 21st July to receive any donations. If you bag is too heavy to carry, or another day suits you better, please just contact Elaine Murray on 07900 277944 or elaine.murray@westrock-mps.com who will arrange for the items to be collected..

8. SAFEGUARDING REPORT - Margot Young.

No report

9. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT - Jane Curror

No health and safety issues have been raised.

10. PRESBYTERY ELDERS REPORT – Alastair Graham

No report

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
JOINT MEETING OF THE KIRK SESSIONS
IN THE SANCTUARY AT STAMPERLAND
7.00 PM ON MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2019**

2. CONSTITUTION

The Kirk Sessions met for Communion and were welcomed by Rev Scott Blythe, Moderator, who led the Communion Service and constituted the meeting.

2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

For Netherlee there were 33 Elders with apologies from 9 Elders, as per the Sederunt Sheet. For Stamperland there were 21 Elders and 4 other Trustees as recorded in the Sederunt Book; with seven apologies.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with no additional items under AOCB.

4 PRESBYTERY DOCUMENT - BASIS OF UNION

4.1 Introduction

Scott Blythe updated those present on the development of the Basis of Union document. At the previous Session Meeting, Stuart McGill had spoken to a “generic” Basis of Union document. Subsequent to that meeting and in consultation with the Presbytery Clerk the document had been slightly amended and copies had been circulated with the meeting Agenda and Minutes. Scott then led all present through the document, clause by clause.

4.2.1 Preamble

The proposed date for Union was 1st January. This date is most convenient from the point of view of the church treasurers as the new financial year would coincide with the formation of the new united congregation. Separate annual accounts and OSCR reports for the year 2019 would be undertaken, as previously, for each church. The service of Union would, most likely, take place sometime in January 2020.

4.2.2 Name

The name of the united congregation would be Netherlee and Stamperland (Church of Scotland) following the Church of Scotland requirement that the names of combined churches, if retained, should be in alphabetical order.

The Scottish Charity Number would be advised.

All present declared the clause acceptable.

4.2.3 Transference of Property and Funds

All property and finance held by each church would belong to and be held by the united congregation. All present declared the clause acceptable.

4.2.4 Places of Worship

Both Netherlee and Stamperland churches would remain as places of worship. The new Kirk Session would have the power to decide whether this arrangement would change in the light of new circumstances.

If, at some point in the future, the Kirk Session should decide that any building was surplus to requirements then, subject to approval of Presbytery and, if necessary General Trustees or General Assembly, the building could be sold, let or otherwise disposed of. Arrangements for dealing with the financial proceeds were specified. In the case of Stamperland where the title deeds were held by the General Trustees, the money would go to the Consolidated Fabric Fund (held by Edinburgh) and be earmarked for purposes of the united congregation. In the case of Netherlee manse, where the title deeds are held locally, the money would go to the Fabric Fund of Netherlee & Stamperland for purposes of the united congregation.

All present declared the clause acceptable.

4.2.5 Territorial Responsibility

The boundaries of the united charge would be those of the two current congregations.

All present declared the clause acceptable.

4.2.6 Kirk Session and Congregational Management

Clauses 5 and 6 of the document specified that the new Kirk Session would be comprised of all of the elders of both congregations and that, with both existing congregations currently operating under a Unitary Constitution, trustees would be able to vote on all temporal matters in line with OSCR requirements.

All present declared the clause acceptable.

4.2.7 Minister

Scott Blythe said that this clause stated he would continue as minister of the united charge and he asked whether the meeting wished that he should withdraw to allow discussion. Those present indicated there was no need for discussion and all present indicated the clause acceptable.

4.2.8 Manse

The manse of the united congregation would be that currently owned by Netherlee. A decision on the future of the Stamperland Manse would be taken by the new united Kirk Session.

All present declared the clause acceptable.

4.2.9 Ministerial Support

This clause specified that the stipend for the charge should be in accordance with the National Stipend Scheme.

All present declared the clause acceptable.

4.2.10 Power to Readjust

This clause allows the united congregation to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery should the need arise.

All present declared the clause acceptable.

4.3 Next Steps

Scott Blythe said that he would inform Stuart McGill that the Draft Basis of Union document was acceptable to the members of both Kirk Sessions. The document had been sent to Edinburgh by the Presbytery Clerk and, although there had been no response at the date of the meeting, the Presbytery Clerk did not anticipate any changes would be proposed.

Scott advised that it was likely that in October someone from Presbytery's Strategic Planning Group would address the congregations in both churches explaining the need for union and answering any questions before a ballot would be held.

The result of the ballot in both churches would be communicated to Presbytery at its meeting in November and if presbytery affirmed the decision arrangements would be made to confirm the Union of the congregations would be effective from 1st January 2020.

Scott Blythe asked if there were any questions or comments.

It was agreed that there was a need to provide information on the implications and consequences of union to the members of both congregations. This information should make clear that there was an intent to maintain the two suites of church buildings for both worship and the life of the congregation until the Kirk Session might deem otherwise. It was agreed that the information should be sent to every member by post and that there should also be a presentation to each congregation one Sunday morning. The information sent to members would highlight the date of the vote and also that, in order to vote, a member would require to be present in church, on the Sunday morning of the ballot.

In advance of the vote each church would require to Attest the Roll.
In selecting a date for the vote the Kirk Sessions should try to avoid the Sundays associated with the October school break.

5 DEVELOPING OUR ECO CONGREGATION ROLES AND ACTIVITIES

Sheena Wurthmann spoke about Eco Congregations. She said that at the previous meeting trustees from Stamperland had confirmed their interest in becoming an Eco Congregation. Whilst Netherlee was currently an Eco Congregation, once we united, both churches would require to re-apply for Eco Congregation status.

The process of applying was essentially one of self-certification. There were three levels of award – Gold, Silver and Bronze. Four aspects had to be considered; they were a “general environmental audit”, an assessment of “spiritual living”, an assessment of “practical living” and finally an assessment of “global living”.

The general environmental audit looked at aspects such as energy management within the church buildings, recycling, etc.. Spiritual living involved assessing how much attention the church gave to environmental matters in worship activities and in other activities. Practical living looked at how we could improve the environmental impact of our churches and their activities making them more sustainable. The final aspect, global living, was very wide and sought to assess how we might seek to communicate and influence both our neighbours and others in minimising environmental damage, limiting global warming, etc..

To carry out the audit Sheena suggested the creation of a team of around ten people. Membership of the team would comprise elders, church members and young people from the youth organisations. The team would report to the Kirk Session and inform the congregations regularly. The team would establish their own timetable Scott Russell pointed out that badgework in the BB encourages this type of activity and that young people, generally, have an interest in environmental matters.

It was agreed that a team should be formed and that volunteers should contact Sheena Wurthmann directly. Scott Blythe said that he expected Sheena to inform him soon that she had lots of volunteers

6 MOVING FROM DISCERNMENT TO ACTION

6.1 Discernment

Scott Blythe summarised the discernment process, the outcomes and possible ways ahead.

There had been a range of meetings, listening post exercises both within and without the two church communities and analysis of demographic information for the two parishes. Outputs from the meetings and consultations had led to the identification and ranking of five main priority areas. These were:

- 1 Worship
- 2 Local Mission
- 3= Fellowship – Multi-generational – Pastoral Care
- 3= Education – Development of People of Faith
- 5 Mission outwith the Parish

6.2 Outcomes

Looking to the future Scott said there were many opportunities.

Working together

Scott said that it was important that

- The congregations worked more closely in future. Not only should the congregations work more closely but it was important that the local community were aware that we were working more closely
- The congregations should worship together more often. Most people liked it when the church was fuller, the singing was better, there was a sense of togetherness. Strong worship leads naturally to working together.
- The formal uniting of the two congregations was a practical step forward.

Bereavement Care Group

Establishing a Bereavement Care Group was something to be considered as a priority. Such groups provide strong links into the community. The church can be supported by professional staff from other sectors such as the Local Authority and local medical practices. Support can be provided in areas such as financial advice. Problems of isolation and loneliness can be addressed.

Worship Journey

Scott said that we should consider what he called a “Worship Journey”. Often, he said, a minister tries something new or different at worship and the congregation don’t like it. Trying to talk about different forms or types of worship is difficult because, if you haven’t actually experienced the form of worship being proposed, you probably can’t appreciate what is being discussed.

New forms or formats of worship on a Sunday morning is not what is being proposed. The idea is to explore, in a practical way, other types of worship and possibly use them as guides for worship on occasions other than a Sunday morning. So, for example, he said we could attend a Quaker Meeting or an Anglican Evensong.

Practical Assistance Examples

There are ideas for undertaking projects in which the church would be seen to be serving the wider community. An example was helping elderly people with shopping. It is a practical project – shopping is necessary. It gets people who may be relatively non-mobile out of their homes. It provides human contact for isolated people. It provides friendship. Clearly there are opportunities for serving and assisting in our wider community.

Working with young people

Our youth organisations are well-supported. However, a large number of the youth in our area do not attend and enjoy the opportunities offered by BB, Scouts and Guides. The local police are considering establishing a venue for local youths, probably at the Netherlee Pavilion. This could provide an opportunity for the churches to assist through provision of volunteers to help with managing activities.

Suggestions from those present included considering the employment by our two churches (or indeed, the churches of Clarkston Churches Together) of a youth worker. It was highlighted that, if a youth worker were engaged, the criteria for success would not be the increased number of young people attending church but, rather, the number of young people engaged in the activities.

7 WRITTEN REPORTS

7.1 STAMPERLAND

Scott asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose or highlights to mention. There were none.

7.1.2 Correspondence

Letter from Presbytery Clerk re St Rollox Church, Glasgow

Norman Bolton said he had received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk asking that the congregation consider making a donation to the development of St Rollox Church. The previous St Rollox building had been subject to compulsory purchase and the available funds had been used to create a new multi-purpose building. However, funds were insufficient to properly equip and furnish the new building.

After some discussion John Curror proposed that each church has a retiring offering to raise a donation for the furnishing. Those present agreed.

Defibrillator

Norman Bolton said he understood that both churches had a defibrillator provided by the Craig Stokes memorial fund. Both units, whilst serviceable, were apparently now considered as becoming obsolete. If the units were to be replaced he suggested that it might be appropriate if they were located outside the church buildings and, thereby, accessible 24 hours a day and not just when the church buildings were occupied. In recent months East Renfrewshire Council had installed about 30 public access defibrillators and Norman said that he had approached the local

councillors with a view to ascertaining what was required to install a defibrillator external to a building. Those present agreed that new defibrillators should be installed externally.

Church of Scotland Chief Officer

Norman Bolton informed the meeting that the Church of Scotland had announced that day the appointment of Dave Kendall BSc, FRSC, an elder at West Kirk East Kilbride, as Chief Officer.

7.1.3 Approval of Reports

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

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. Those present agreed.

7.2 NETHERLEE

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

7.2.1 Community Matters

Diane Levey informed the meeting that updated New Resident's Booklets were available.

7.2.2 Mission

Alistair Gow advised that the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal would be the last week in October. Additionally, he reminded those present that the last Saturday in September was the next date for the duty at the Lodging House Mission.

7.2.3 PVG

Bruce Young advised that the full handover of responsibility for PVG from Michael Buchan to himself was not quite complete and e-mails from Edinburgh were still being addressed to Mike. Dates of Safeguarding training had been advised. Bruce also said that a Safeguarding Panel has still to be formed.

7.2.4 Funding for St Rollox

Following the discussion in relation to the request to Stamperland for support for St Rollox Church,

Alistair Gow proposed that Netherlee consider making a donation from the Common Good Fund.

7.2.5 Defibrillator

Iain Alexander advised that the battery of the defibrillator in Netherlee Church had been recently replaced. Dagmar Kerr undertook to investigate the age of the defibrillator and assess the timeframe over which a replacement unit should be considered.

7.2.6 Correspondence

St Andrew's Church, Sri Lanka

Stuart Buchanan told the meeting that he had received a letter from St Andrew's Church thanking the members of Netherlee and Stamperland Churches for their financial donation following the bombing. The money was used to purchase motor bikes.

Well equipped spaces in the right spaces

Stuart Buchanan advised that the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland were "developing an Asset Plan for the Church of Scotland's estate with a view to recommendations being made to the General Assembly in 2020". In developing the plan the General Trustees were seeking the views of a wide variety of individuals with an interest in property and church property. Meetings were being held at locations throughout Scotland. There was an on-line questionnaire seeking views of interested parties.

7.2.7 Approval of Reports

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

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. Those present agreed.

8 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Netherlee Kirk Session Minute of 3rd June 2019 was approved.

Stamperland Kirk Session Minute of 3rd June 2019 was approved.

9 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was none.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions at 7:30pm on Monday 4th November at Netherlee Church.
Netherlee committee meetings as per schedule issued.
Stamperland committee meetings as advised.

11 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING

1. FINANCE Kay Bolton

Offerings are down by £1,800 for the seven months to the end of July compared to the budget figures.

We are already over the budget figure for fabric by £3,000. Our share of the cost of the redecoration of two rooms in Netherlee manse amounted to £612.

Fabric expenditure proposed in the next few months will include:

replacement of the roof covering over the large hall – cost £14,000

replacement of windows in the hall premises – cost £13,500

We should have approximately £24,000 with the General Trustees by December 2019 from manse rental income and I hope we can use much of this to offset these costs. However, we will still end the year with a deficit of several thousand pounds.

It was agreed earlier in the year that we would hold a Gift Day to try to boost our income. Having spoken with Scott and with several other people, I have arranged to have the Gift Day on Saturday 19th October. An article and Gift Day donation envelopes will be in the next issue of Connections.

2 FABRIC Roy Allan

Over the summer months we have had contractors giving us quotes for replacement windows in all halls and rooms on first floor. The presbytery have now given approval for this work. Preferred contractor has been appointed and work will commence very shortly.

We found after one very rainy weekend a leak had occurred in the large hall roof. Presbytery approval was again sought and permission granted to recover the hall roof. As the weather has been fairly kind this work has now been carried out.

There are some issues with wiring in the building and rewiring quotes have been sought in view of costs we will again seek the appropriate approval.

Finally we have some minor repairs and paintwork to be carried out in the manse. This will hopefully be completed shortly.

**3 ROLL KEEPER Bill Paterson
Communion Roll Changes**

Change of Address

	From	TO
Mr Ian McNab	Stamperland.	Clarkston.
Mr Colin Kirkwood	Newton Mearns	Netherlee
Mr Peter Dale	Stamperland	Netherlee

Adjustments to Roll

The following has been removed from the roll by death.

Mrs. Grace Esler. Darnley Court Care Home.

4 HEALTH AND SAFETY Jane Curror

Three health and safety issues have been highlighted recently.

1. The electric heater in the vestry needs to be PAT tested and safety stickered.
2. The two "lone workers" who are regularly in our buildings (Alison MacFarlane and Marie Wilson) should both have copies of the Church of Scotland Health and Safety leaflet.
3. The building's exterior lighting at the entrance to the main halls and the exit from the lower hall will be checked and, if necessary adjusted or repaired.

Action on all of the above is "in hand".

5 SESSION CLERK

5.1 Correspondence

5.1.1 Presbytery Clerk

5.1.1 Property

Removal of the £5,000 financial limit on property repairs / renewals previously set by Presbytery in relation to Stamperland Buildings was removed at the meeting of Presbytery on 18th June 2019.

5.1.2 Inspection of Records

Manse Safety Certificates

Copies of safety certificates for gas, CO2 and system requested to be provided no later than 16th August.

Copies of Gas Safety Certificate, Energy Performance Certificate, Legionella Risk Assessment, PAT Test Certificates 2019 and Electrical Inspection Certificate 2018 sent to Presbytery on 6th August.

Manse Condition Schedule

Copy of Manse Condition Schedule requested to be provided no later than 16th August.

Copy not yet sent to Presbytery.

5.1.3 St Rollox Parish Church

Letter received asking Kirk Session to consider making a donation to assist with the furnishing and equipping of the new St Rollox church building.

5.2 Recommendations for Moderator of the General Assembly, 2020

Request received from CofS in Edinburgh seeking recommendations for person who might serve as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2020. The nominee could be a minister, deacon or elder. Recommendations close 6th September 2019.

5.3 Safeguarding

Letter from Glasgow Presbytery advising training dates for Safeguarding Courses. All elders are "strongly encouraged" to have attended a course. The most appropriate (and convenient) course will be held at Williamwood Parish Church on Thursday, 23rd January, 2020.

5.4 Manse Letting

Correspondence received on 6th August from Clyde Property advising that several matters related to the manse fabric and equipment require attention. These include the external light for back steps, plasterwork in the porch, loose front step, issues with the freezer, the fridge and the dishwasher, the gas fire in living room, the hot tap in the bathroom and the condition of the external paintwork on the loft dormer.

In June Clyde advised that the fire alarm system had to be replaced. The replacement work was authorised and has been completed.

5.5 Defibrillator

The defibrillators at both Stamperland and Netherlee, donated in 2007 by the charity established in memory of Craig Stokes, both require new batteries. The units are becoming obsolete and, rather than spend money on new batteries, consideration should be given to installing new defibrillator units. In addition, rather than having the units installed within the church buildings it might be more useful to install the new units on an external wall so that they are available 24-hours a day. East Renfrewshire Council have recently installed 23 public access defibrillators. One is located at the Clarkston Library / Clarkston Halls. One is located at the Netherlee Pavillion.

I am currently in correspondence with Local Councillors to see whether we can make use of the experience of our local council in reaching decisions regarding new defibrillators.

5.6 Margo Neilson

A letter was received from Margo Neilson advising of her intention to step down from membership of the Business Committee and Convenor of the Worship Committee.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
OF STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH
TO VOTE ON PROPOSED BASIS OF UNION
HELD ON SUNDAY, 6TH OCTOBER 2019
IMMEDIATELY AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. BACKGROUND

Intimations were announced to the worshippers present at Stamperland on Sundays 22nd and 29th September that meetings would be held of the congregations of Stamperland and Netherlee after Worship on Sunday 6th October 2019 for the purpose of voting on the proposed Basis of Union for the congregations of Netherlee Parish Church and Stamperland Parish Church.

An Edict regarding the meeting was read by Rev Scott Blythe at the commencement of the morning service at Stamperland on the 29th September.

Copies of the Basis of Union document were posted or delivered or handed to all members and adherents of Stamperland Parish Church along with a letter from the minister explaining the circumstances and outlining the purpose of the meeting.

2 PRESBYTERY STAFF

Rev Mrs Hilary M^cDougall was in attendance at Stamperland Church as the representative from the Presbytery of Glasgow and was responsible arranging and conducting of the ballot. Hilary advised those present that the vote was concerned with the terms and conditions specified in the document, "Basis for Union". The congregations of Stamperland and Netherlee had previously voted on the issue of "Union".

She advised that voting slips would be distributed to all present but that only members and adherents as recorded in the Communion Roll were entitled to vote.

3 CONDUCT OF BALLOT

Rev Mrs Hilary M^cDougall was assisted by Margo Neilson and John Currer in distributing, collecting and, subsequently, counting the ballot papers.

4 RESULT OF THE VOTE

Hilary M^cDougall announced that the number of votes cast at Stamperland was:

For the Basis of Union	70
Against the Basis of Union	12

Hilary advised that the number of votes cast at Netherlee was:

For the Basis of Union	152
Against the Basis of Union	0

5 NEXT STEPS

Hilary M^cDougall thanked the congregation for their participation. She advised that the result of the ballot would be presented to the meeting of Presbytery on Tuesday, 8th October. It was likely that Presbytery would agree to proceed with making arrangements for a Service of Union to take place early in 2020.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

NETHERLEE & STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCHES
JOINT MEETING OF THE KIRK SESSIONS
IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY AT NETHERLEE
7.30pm on Monday 4th November 2019

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe, Moderator, with Prayer.

2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

For Netherlee there were 32 Elders with apologies from 10 Elders as per the Sederunt Sheet. For Stamperland there were 18 Elders and 3 other Trustees with 7 apologies as recorded in the Sederunt Book.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with 4 additional items under AOCB.

4 DISCUSSION TOPIC – Working towards Union

Scott intimated that following approval from Glasgow Presbytery, the union of Netherlee and Stamperland Churches, to form the united charge of **Netherlee & Stamperland (Church of**

Scotland), will take place in January 2020. Dependant on the availability of members of Presbytery there will be a Service of Union in either January or February. Scott proposed this take place in Stamperland as the Service of Linkage was in Netherlee. Those present agreed. Scott intimated that OSCR had approved the use of the Netherlee charity number for the new united charge. This route had been chosen as it avoided the significant cost of a full audit. He said that a number of questions or issues had to be tackled. At a strategic level what changes might be required to our current committee and group structure to help us going forward? Progress already evident with Wider Mission (N) and Parish & Beyond (S) already working as one. The plan is to present proposals for discussion and approval at our Kirk Session in February 2020.

At an operational level there are a number of key tasks to be undertaken. Examples included:

Two Congregational Rolls will need to become one. (Districts may well need to re-numbered.) Scott asked for two volunteers to assist the two Rollkeepers with this task.

Karen Cramb and Bruce Young volunteered to assist and were thanked for stepping forward.

PVG contact with 121 George St will be necessary (Margot Young and Bruce Young).

Scott closed by asking what does it mean to be a church with two buildings? He asked those present to think about this between now and February. What are the benefits and what would “doing it well” look like? He advised trustees to try to think creatively and ‘outside the box’ and reflect on what being such a congregation would be like.

5 WRITTEN REPORTS

5.1 NETHERLEE

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

5.1.1 Investment Funds

Allan Mathieson (Treasurer) intimated that the Finance Committee had been reviewing the HL Investment Fund (£297k) over the past 12 months, and were neither satisfied with the recent fund performance, nor convinced this would change.. The committee were happy with the performance of the Church of Scotland Investment Fund, and therefore proposed to transfer £100k from the HL Investment Fund to the Church of Scotland Investment Fund. There were no questions. Those present agreed.

5.1.2 St Rollox

Allan Mathieson (Treasurer) referred to the letter from the Presbytery Clerk and the appeal for funds for St Rollox that was raised at the previous Kirk Session. Having reviewed the background the committee felt this was a worthy cause and recommended a donation of £5,000 from the Thomas Whyte legacy fund. This would be the full donation from Netherlee, therefore no need for the previously suggested £1,000 from the Common Good Fund. There were no questions. Those present agreed.

5.1.3 Fabric

Iain Alexander (Fabric) proposed two items of expenditure (i) replacement of the carpet in the rear living room in the Manse (£794); and (ii) alterations to widen the pulpit stairs (£1,254). There were no questions. Those present agreed. It was also agreed to continue with the new procedure with the Communion Table bible at Worship rather than return to using the pulpit even after these alterations.

5.1.3 Reverse Advent Calendar

Alistair Gow (Wider Mission) proposed the idea of Food Bank Advent Calendar during December. This is like a “reverse” Advent Calendar, so rather than getting something daily during December you would be giving something daily. The plan would be for us to give something every day and keep it in a box at home, finally bringing it to Church on Christmas Eve. Some question was raised as to would this be better done in November to give at Christmas time. Scott and Alistair both said the idea fitted well with December to reinforce the concept of daily giving, and the Food Bank was happy to receive the items in January. It was agreed to proceed with the idea.

5.1.4 Starter Packs

Alistair Gow (Wider Mission) then intimated that the plan was to do something similar in February or March 2020 with household items to raise the profile of Starter Packs. There were no questions. Those present agreed.

5.1.5 Acceptance of Reports

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

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. Those present agreed

5.2 STAMPERLAND

Scott asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose or highlights to mention. There were none.

Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions:

5.2.1 Social and Fundraising

Kay Baird (Social) asked for the contacts at Netherlee so they could begin working together. Barbara Cochrane and Marjorie Lang agreed to meet after the meeting.

Kay advised of a planned event at Stamperland, a Fiddler's Rally, to be held on Saturday 15th February 2020.

5.2.2 Acceptance of Reports

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. Those present agreed.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Minute of joint Netherlee & Stamperland Kirk Sessions of 02/09/19 was approved.

Minute of Congregational vote at Stamperland of 06/10/19 was approved.

Minute of Congregational vote at Netherlee of 06/10/19 was approved.

7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUISINESS

7.1 Tear Fund

Allan Mathieson (Treasurer) reminded us of our (Netherlee) commitment to support Tear Fund and thanked everyone for their donations.

7.2 Retiring Offering at December Communion

Allan Mathieson (Treasurer) proposed the Retiring Offering at December Communion should go to Lodging House Mission. Those present agreed.

7.3 Minibus departure time at close of morning worship

Coffee time for minibus passengers – Sheena Wurthmann asked if it would be possible to allow these folk to join us for fellowship in the Large Hall after Worship. Alan McDonald intimated this had been offered previously with minimal uptake, but was happy for this to be reviewed again. It was agreed that Sheena would canvas those who use this service and if there was uptake let us know. Alan and Christine McGowan said they would be happy to devote the increased time commitment if it is required, and were sure the other drivers would do likewise.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

Inaugural meeting of united charge Netherlee & Stamperland (Church of Scotland) Kirk Session at 7:30pm on Monday 3rd February 2020 at Stamperland.

Netherlee committee meetings as per schedule issued.

Stamperland committee meetings as advised.

9 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

ANNEX WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING

1 Pastoral Care

Very successful afternoon event about six weeks ago attended by around 70 people including some carers. Lot of effort in making arrangements to ensure people were able to attend. A second event is being planned for around Mid February (St Valentine's theme?)

Transport is being provided to help people attend doctor, dentist and hospital appointments. Some members of Netherlee Church have made use of the service.

There are six people on the driver rota – additional members would be welcome.

The uptake of the service to provide library books is rather limited. Perhaps there needs to be more effort to publicise the service and encourage its use.

Maintenance of the Cradle Roll and sending of bereavement cards is on-going.

Prayer Group meets on Wednesday mornings and there is a move to develop the Prayer Meadow.

Grace Scott attended a meeting on the topic of Bereavement Counselling. Scott Blythe is keen to develop a counselling service. Most likely, the counselling would be held in Clarkston Library and Netherlee Pavilion rather than a church. Significant training would be required of the volunteer counsellors. The timescale for establishing the service would be of the order of a year.

2 Social & Fundraising

Several events planned including:

Film night – Saturday 16th November at Stamperland. Film “The Greatest Showman”

David Milligan Quiz – Saturday, 25th January 2020

Fiddler's Rally – Wednesday evening, Early February 2020

Event(s) to mark Stamperland Church's 80th birthday in February would include; Clincarthill Church puppet group; Glasgow Philharmonic Choir – Wednesday, 4th March

The next meeting of the Social and Fundraising Committee would be Monday, 11th November.

3 Parish & Beyond

Parish & Beyond Committee was now well integrated with the Wider Mission Committee at Netherlee.

The Blythswood Shoebox appeal had resulted in Netherlee and Stamperland providing a total of 98 filled shoeboxes.

The Advent “Food calendar” organised by Stamperland last year would probably be repeated. It was likely that Netherlee Church would participate this time and the matter would be raised at the next Session Meeting by Alistair Gow.

Lodging House Mission Christmas cards would be delivered to Stamperland at the beginning of November.

Netherlee Church have well-established links with Cranhill church. Half-a-dozen elders from Stamperland visited Cranhill Church on 28th October to see and learn about the some of the activities which the church provides and supports for people living in Cranhill. (Alastair and Evelyn Graham, Nancy Fisher, Jan Barr and Ray McNiven).

Cranhill Church lease their church building from Cranhill Development Trust (CDT). The annual lease costs around £4k and is a very cost-effective means of “having a church”. The congregation numbers around 30 to 40 and many are not native Scots – many are Nigerian. The Church / CDT offer a wide range of services. A nearly-new shop is one; it fills the whole of the sanctuary area and is an important source of income. Another service is the provision of access to on-line computers with assistance and advice available when required. Around 1200 people use the church facilities. The CDT has around 50 enthusiastic volunteers and some eight or nine full-time employees.

4 Fabric

Tests of fire alarm system and emergency lighting had shown alarm system OK but a number of emergency lights failing to last the three hour period. Alan Henderson has arranged inspection and replacement of failing units.

Electrical re-wiring of whole building. Alan Henderson is seeking a quotation for work related to the hall accommodation only.

Hall replacement windows. The style of the windows has had to be amended to permit half of the windows to open for ventilation purposes. Roy Allan to advise Joe McDaid to proceed with all haste to install all windows by early December.

Manse external paintwork. The quotation provided by Clyde Estate Agents for painting work associated with the rear dormer extension, front door and front porch had looked to be reasonable value for money and Clyde were asked to confirm scope and costs before being given final instruction to proceed. It became evident that the painter had not quoted for the dormer (likely to be the most costly part of the work) and a revised quotation for the work is awaited. Meanwhile Roy Allan will request a second quotation for the work.

The dishwasher in the manse has been replaced with a new unit after an attempt to repair the old one was unsuccessful.

One of the gas cookers in the church kitchen requires attention to re-instate the spark ignition of the hobs.

6 Finance

The Gift Day has so far raised £2,412. This compares with the target of £4,000.

Offerings are down £2,000 from the budget figure so far in 2019.

The cost of resurfacing the Large Hall roof (£13.8k) has been reclaimed from the manse rental income fund held by the General Trustees. There is currently only £9k in the rental fund.

The revised cost of the new hall windows is £16.5k. Some of this cost could be reclaimed from manse rental income but only if invoices associated with the work have been paid and receipted copies can be sent to Edinburgh by 10th December

Income tax recoveries on Gift Aid donations are being processed and should amount to £10,500 which will bring our current deficit down to £8,500. If we pay for the windows in full this year and can claim £9k from the General Trustees our deficit at the end of the year could amount to £16k.

A new dish washer has been installed in the manse at a cost of £227

7 Other

Jackie Silcock relinquishes being a trustee with effect from 4th November

Fraser Neilson is giving up his role as “church gardener / groundkeeper” at the end of the year.

8 ROLL KEEPER’S REPORT

Change of Address	From	To
Mrs Norma Wilson	Stamperland	Eastwood Care Home

Adjustment to Roll		
Mrs June Marshall	Giffnock	Removed from Roll by request

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH AND NETHERLEE PARISH CHURCH
SERVICE OF UNION
SUNDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2020
AT STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH**

A Service of Union was conducted by Rev Dan Carmichael, Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow. The service was attended by members of both congregations and by representatives from Presbytery.

After the Service of Union, Rev Hilary McDougal, Deputy Presbytery Clerk, handed a letter giving formal notification of the union of the parishes of Stamperland and Netherlee as below:



26th January 2020

Mr Norman Bolton
3 Paidmyre Crescent
Newton Mearns
G77 5AQ

Dear Mr Bolton,

Union of Stamperland Parish Church and Netherlee Parish Church

I write to you in your role as Session Clerk to give formal notification for the Kirk Session minutes of Stamperland of the union of the parishes of Stamperland and Netherlee.

The service of union having been held in Stamperland Parish Church on Sunday 26th January 2020, the parishes of Glasgow: Stamperland and Glasgow: Netherlee are now united as Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church of Scotland.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Rev Hilary McDougall
Depute Presbytery Clerk

Rev George S. Cowie
PRESBYTERY CLERK
gcowie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Tel: 0141 332 6606
Mob: 07588 801 678

260 Bath Street
Glasgow, G2 4JP



Church of Scotland Glasgow Presbytery: SC007691

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**MEETING OF TRUSTEES
HELD ON SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2020
AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**

1. ATTESTATION OF COMMUNION ROLL

1.1 Current Roll

William Paterson presented the following information.

Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2018		276
Number removed from Roll during 2019	by Death	4
	by Certificate	1
	by Otherwise	<u>1</u>
		6
Number added to Roll during 2019	by Profession	0
	by Certificate	0
	by Otherwise	<u>0</u>
		0
Number on Communion Roll as at 31st December 2019		270
Number on Supplementary Roll as at 31st December 2019		18
Number of adherents as at 31st December 2019		5

The Moderator signed the Communion Roll Certificate.

2. APPROVAL OF THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Moderator led the Trustees through the Draft Annual Report, copies of which had been distributed to Trustees the previous week.

The Trustees confirmed the accuracy of the information presented on Pages 1 to 7 and 9 to 13. There were no questions from Trustees. The Moderator asked the Trustees if they approved the report. Approval was given with the proposed signatories authorised to sign Page 10 of the Annual Report on behalf of the Trustees.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

**SUMMARY OF
STATED ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, 17th March 2019

2. CONSTITUTION Meeting chaired by the Minister, Rev. Scott Blythe, BSc, BD, MBA. Meeting was held at the close of morning worship and was constituted with prayer.

3. NOTICE It was confirmed that the Notice calling the meeting had been read in Church on three consecutive Sundays.

4. PREVIOUS MEETING, 2018 The chairman asked if there were any corrections or amendments proposed to the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 18th March 2018. There being none the chairman proposed their acceptance and all present agreed by saying, "Aye".

5. MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

5 REPORTS A document summarising the reports was handed to all present.

5.1 Annual Report The Session Clerk advised that copies of the Annual Report would be available at the conclusion of the meeting. Summaries of the reports from the treasurer, the fabric committee, social and fundraising committee were all on the sheet handed to all attending.

5.2 Treasurer's Report In presenting the Treasurer's Report Norman Bolton advised that in 2018 total income was £95,814, total expenditure was £92,847 resulting in a year-end surplus of £2,967. A summary of principal sources of income was presented along with breakdown of significant items of expenditure. Norman advised that, had we not been in receipt of manse rental income, we would have faced a significant deficit.

At the end of 2018 the total financial reserves (including investments) stood at £134,662.

Rev. Scott Blythe thanked Kay Bolton for her work throughout the year.

5.3 Fabric Report Roy Allan said that during 2018 the main expenditure of the year was the installation of a new screen and projector in the sanctuary to replace the previous projector which had reached the end of its working life.

The electrical system for the buildings was due a five yearly examination; this was carried out in the middle of the year. The report highlighted that, due to the age of the electrical systems in the hall and the church, re-wiring and upgrading was becoming necessary and plans were being developed to have the partial rewiring recommended in the report carried out.

The flooring in the ground floor and toilet areas had been recovered with hard-wearing floor covering. New hand driers were installed in the toilets serving the hall accommodation with one of the hand driers relocated to the accessible toilet in the church vestibule.

The central heating system was given its annual maintenance and some minor repairs carried out. Various bits and pieces of every-day maintenance had been undertaken such as filling and painting knocks and scrapes, replacing light bulbs, etc.. Roy expressed his thanks to all who had assisted with fabric maintenance.

Rev. Scott Blythe thanked Roy for his report and for the efforts of all who had assisted with the maintenance of the buildings.

5.4 Social and Fundraising Report Steven Owens advised that during the year he had to give priority to his own work and studies and had relinquished leading the social, fundraising and stewardship committee. Kay Baird had taken over and he wished her well in her new role.

Despite cold, wet, January weather the David Milligan Quiz attracted over 80 people and raised £531 for church funds. The quiz was dedicated to Gordon Barr who had been responsible for devising the questions and had, sadly, died just weeks earlier.

The Spring Fair had some different stalls and activities from previous years and, again, people had attended who do not otherwise come to other church events. However, the total raised was only £1,607 and he said it was apparent that the approach to fund raising through this type of activity needed to be reconsidered.

Scott Blythe expressed his thanks to all who assisted with social and fundraising events.

5.5 Session Clerk's Report Norman Bolton said the most significant event of 2018 was the formal linking of the parishes of Netherlee and Stamperland on Thursday 6th September 2018. For most members the only apparent change had been the timing of Sunday services. For the minister, the linking had seen a greatly increased workload with responsibility for two churches and two congregations. Linking was more than sharing a minister or having two Sunday services - it is about two congregations working together with common aims and goals. To achieve this, our minister is seeking to involve everyone in developing a vision for our future. The linking agreement provided for a Pastoral Assistant and, after due process, Marie Wilson had been offered the post.

Over the year youth organisations had seen an increase in numbers. However, member numbers were not the most important factor. Rather, it was the achievements of the young people in their badge work, their teamwork and their commitment to regular attendance which were important – achievements which would serve them well in their adult lives. We were very grateful for the hard work of the leaders of the organisations and the inspiring activities they provide.

At the end of 2018 we had 276 members on the Congregational Roll, five fewer than the previous year. Three new members joined the church. Six members died and two transferred to other churches. At the beginning of 1940 our church had no members. People in local churches, in presbytery and in Edinburgh had realised in the late 1930s the need for a church to serve the people moving into the new houses of Stamperland parish. They had vision and they commissioned the design and build of our original hall-church.

By the late 50s the leaders of our church saw the original hall-church accommodation was insufficient to cope with the demands of the congregation and the church organisations. Church leaders and church members had a vision for a new building. The result of their effort and commitment is the building we are in today. With a thousand members on the roll they built a sanctuary with a capacity for 600. This morning, there are fewer than 100 of us present.

Our sanctuary is large and used only a few hours a week. Around us we see the aspirations of our predecessors. It is now our responsibility to develop a vision for our church which will ensure it is able to meet the needs of the 21st century. After almost 80 years of use, our hall accommodation, in particular, is beginning to require substantial upgrading. We need to consider seriously how we can adapt our buildings to be fit for the 21st century.

There have been some suggestions;

- Remove the pews, level the floor, make the sanctuary area a large hall. Retain the chancel area and use the space for Sunday worship.
- Remove the pews, level the floor, create rooms or small halls on each side of the sanctuary with a fairly large central hall. Retain the chancel area and use the space for Sunday worship.
- Refurbish the Large Hall and make it the sanctuary; create flexible spaces in this area; develop the lower hall, session room, etc., for other purposes.

We need to assess what church would look like in 2030 and 2040. Our minister is trying to help us assess this through the “Listening Post events”. You all have views; you all have ideas; if we can capture them then we will have knowledge and insight and hopefully, the wisdom to make appropriate decisions.

Churches are run by volunteers. Without them little or nothing would happen. Our church could always do with more help and with more volunteers. Many vital tasks go largely unnoticed. Maintaining the church roll, setting up communion, putting out no-parking cones, washing dishes, printing Orders of Service, counting money, maintaining financial records, records to demonstrate compliance of many different regulations, maintaining fabric and the church grounds, making sure the central heating works, arranging hall lets, flower arranging and flower distribution, distributing magazines, baking for Sunday break, making sure the hearing loop is working are just some examples. To all of our volunteer help we offer a big, “thank you”.

Rev. Scott Blythe thanked Norman for his report.

6 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES The Session Clerk said that there was opportunity for 20 new Trustees. Only if more than 20 names were proposed would there be an election. Russell Brown indicated that he was willing to serve as a Trustee. The Chairman asked for those in favour of Russell serving as a Trustee to say “Aye”. All present responded in the affirmative.

7 CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS The Rev Scott Blythe thanked all of the Trustees. He said that they gave their time and efforts graciously. He said he was very grateful to the elders for their pastoral care work which they had been undertaking for a very long time.

Scott thanked all the trustees who had presented their reports to the meeting and also the members of the congregation who had attended worship and stayed for the meeting.

8 CLOSURE The meeting was closed with the minister leading the congregation in saying “The Grace”.

STATED ANNUAL MEETING, 2019 REPORTS

1. TREASURER’S REPORT

Total Receipts in 2018	£95,814
Total Expenditure in 2018	£92,847
Excess of Receipts over payments	£ 2,967

Main sources of income

Offerings	£54,433
Gift Aid Tax claimed	£10,326
Rental of halls	£13,481
Donations	£ 2,815
Fundraising	£ 2,138
General Trustees	£12,034

Main items of Expenditure

National Stipend Allocation	£51,652
Presbytery Dues	£ 2,714
Ministry Expenses	£ 1,842
Fabric Maintenance	£ 2,841
Projector & screen	£10,456
Heating & Lighting	£ 4,634
Insurance	£ 2,932
Manse Council Tax	£ 2,146

Funds at 31 st December 2018	£130,495
Value of investments at 31 st December 2018	£ 4,167
Funds held by General Trustees on behalf of the congregation (rental income from manse letting)	£ 13,913

Thanks to all members of the congregation for their continued financial support of the church.
Thanks to Anne MacKenzie and Norman Walker for their work in relation to Freewill Offerings and Tax Recovery.

Kay Bolton, Treasurer

2 FABRIC REPORT

During 2018 the main expenditure of the year was the replacement in the sanctuary of a new screen and projector to replace existing equipment which had reached the end of its working life.

The electrical system for the buildings was due a five examination; this was carried out in the middle of the year. The report highlighted that, due to the age of the electrical systems in the hall and the church, re-wiring and upgrading was becoming necessary. We are now planning to have the partial rewiring recommended in the report carried out.

The flooring in the ground floor and toilet areas was recovered with hard wearing floor covering.

New hand driers were installed in the toilets serving the hall accommodation, doing away with the need for paper towels. One of the hand driers was relocated to the accessible toilet in the church vestibule.

The central heating system was given its annual maintenance and some minor repairs carried out.

Various bits and pieces of every-day maintenance were undertaken such as filling and painting knocks and scrapes, replacing lightbulbs, etc..

Roy Allan, Fabric Convenor

3 SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING REPORT

Despite cold, wet, January weather the David Milligan Quiz attracted over 80 people and raised £531 for church funds. A very enjoyable evening was had and it was encouraging to welcome people attending the quiz for the first time. The quiz was dedicated to Gordon Barr who had been responsible for devising the questions and had, sadly, died just weeks earlier.

The Spring Fair had a range of different stalls and activities from previous years and, again, we saw people attending who do not otherwise come to other church events. However, the total raised was only £1,607 and it is apparent that we need to reconsider our approach to fund raising through this type of activity.

Steven Owens resigned as Social, Fundraising and Stewardship Convenor

4 SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

In years to come the most significant event of 2018 will be seen as having occurred on Thursday 6th September 2018, when the parishes of Netherlee and Stamperland were formally linked. To most members of both churches the only apparent change has been the timing of Sunday morning services; to minister the linking brought about a greatly increased workload with responsibility for two churches and two congregations. However, linking is more than sharing a minister or having two Sunday services. It is about two congregations working closely together with common aims and goals. To achieve this, our minister is seeking to involve everyone in developing a vision for our future and there have been (and still are) opportunities for everyone to be involved in deciding what we should be trying to do.

As part of the linking agreement, our churches were given permission to recruit a Pastoral Assistant. Job descriptions were produced and the post was advertised by the Church of Scotland. Eventually, several applications were received and, following interviews in December, Marie Wilson was offered the post with her starting date set as early in 2019.

Our youth organisations continue to do well. Over the year there was an increase in numbers but it isn't the numbers which are significant; rather it is the achievements of the young people in their badge work, in their teamwork and in their commitment to regular attendance – achievements which will serve them well in their adult lives. We are very grateful for the hard work of the leaders of the organisations and the inspiring activities they provide.

At the end of 2018 we had 276 members on the Congregational Roll, 5 fewer than the previous year. Three new members joined the church. Six members died and two transferred to other churches.

When we look at membership we see a peak between the 1960s and 1970s. Since 1980 there has been a pretty steady decline.

At the beginning of 1940 our church had no members. But people in local churches, in presbytery and in Edinburgh had realised in the late 1930s the need for a church to serve the people moving into the new houses of Stamperland parish. They had vision and they commissioned the design and build of our original hall-church.

By the late 50s the leaders of our church were aware that the accommodation of original hall-church was insufficient to cope with the demands of the congregation and the whole range of church organisations. The church leaders and the church members had a vision and a desire for a new building that would better meet their needs and the result of their effort and commitment is the building we are in today. With a thousand members on the roll they built a sanctuary with a capacity for 600. Today, there are fewer than 100 of us.

- Our sanctuary is large.
- It is used for only a few hours a week.
- The time has come when we need to have a vision.
- Around us we see the aspirations of our predecessors. It is now our responsibility to develop a vision for our church which will ensure it is able to meet the needs of the 21st century.

After almost 80 years of use, our hall accommodation, in particular, is beginning to require substantial upgrading. We need to consider seriously how we can adapt our buildings to be fit for the 21st century.

There have been some suggestions;

- remove the pews, level the floor, make the sanctuary area a large hall. Retain the chancel area and use the space for Sunday worship.
- remove the pews, level the floor, create rooms or small halls on each side of the sanctuary with a fairly large central hall. Retain the chancel area and use the space for Sunday worship.
- Refurbish the Large Hall and make it the sanctuary; create flexible spaces in this area; develop the lower hall, session room, etc., for other purposes.

There is demand for hall accommodation; our buildings could be adapted to meet different needs.

What we need to assess is what will church look like in 2030 and 2040? Our minister is trying to help us assess what might be the case through the “Listening Post events”. If you can’t manage to them speak to Scott or myself or other elders and trustees. You will all have views, you will all have ideas, and if we can capture them then we will have knowledge and insight and hopefully, the wisdom to make appropriate decisions.

Churches are run by volunteers. Without them little or nothing would happen. Our church could always do with more help and with more volunteers. There are lots of vital tasks which require to be undertaken and which largely go un-noticed. Keeping the church roll up-to-date, setting up communion, putting up hymn numbers, putting out no-parking cones, washing dishes, creating and printing Orders of Service, counting money, banking money, collecting night safe wallets, maintaining financial records, ensuring the protection of vulnerable groups and maintaining records to demonstrate compliance, ensuring fire safety equipment and procedures, maintain the building fabric and the church grounds, changing lightbulbs, fixing hinges, fixing leaks, making sure the central heating works, arranging hall lets, flower arranging and flower distribution, distributing magazines, baking for Sunday break, making sure the hearing loop is working. To all of our volunteer help we offer a big, “thank you”.

Norman Bolton, Session Clerk

The above record of the 2019 Stated Annual Meeting was approved at the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation of Netherlee and Stamperland (Church of Scotland) held on 20th March 2022. No Stated Annual Meetings were held in 2020 or 2021 as a consequence of legal restrictions on gatherings of people in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Consequent to the Union of the congregations of Netherlee Parish Church and Stamperland Parish Church on 1st January 2020, this is the final entry recorded in the Kirk Session minute book of Stamperland Parish Church.

..... Session Clerk

..... Moderator

Sunday, 20th March 2022