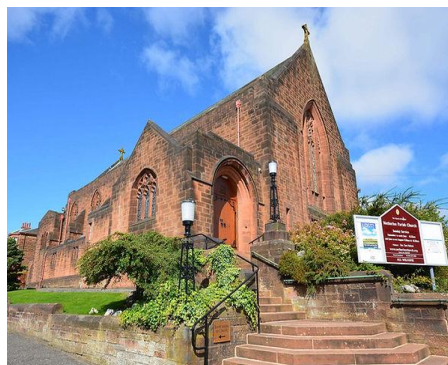


NETHERLEE AND STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023 EDITION



From the Editor

The deadline for the final newsletter of the year will be **Tuesday 5th December 2023**. Articles (and pictures in .jpg format) can be submitted at any time to the mailbox nandsnewsletter@btinternet.com (thank you). I look forward to hearing from you.

Karen McQueen

Services

The services for the remainder of November are at 10.30 a.m. as usual. Our December services will be:-

Sunday 3 rd	10.30 a.m.	Communion on First Sunday in Advent
Sunday 10 th	10.30 a.m.	Gift Service on Second Sunday in Advent
	3.00 p.m.	Time to Remember Service
Sunday 17 th	10.30 a.m.	Third Sunday in Advent
	6.30 p.m.	Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday 24 th	10.30 a.m.	Nativity Service with the Sunday Club on Fourth Sunday in Advent
	5.00 p.m.	Christingle Service
	11.45 p.m.	Watchnight Service
Monday 25 th	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 31 st	10.30 a.m.	Morning Service



Delivering the Church Flowers

As we prepare the rota for next year's flower delivery, we would be grateful for some new volunteers for this much appreciated service. You would generally have three or four duties a year which would require you to drop off flowers to maximum of three homes after the Sunday service on your week in the rota.

The bunches of flowers will be made up for you - although you are welcome to help - and of course, this opportunity is open to everyone (not just ladies)!

If you feel you could help us, please speak to Elaine Balfour, Sheila Dunn, Shirley Buchanan or Helen Illingworth.

Shirley Buchanan

Finance Matters

As we approach the end of another year, the Church's General Fund is not looking too healthy. At the end of October 2023, we showed a deficit on this fund of £22,000 with our forecast that this could rise to £30,000 by the calendar year end.



Looking ahead to 2024, our deficit is currently forecast to be nearer to £50,000. These are shockingly high figures. Clearly, we need to get back to a break-even position as soon as possible otherwise the Church's financial future looks pretty grim. Whilst we have generous reserves, all General Fund deficits must be taken from our reserves and at £50k a year we would wipe these out in 5 to 6 years.

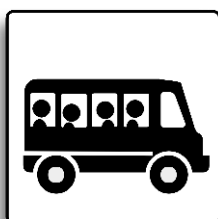
Since 1st January 2023 we have lost twenty-one members by death with our roll standing at six hundred and twenty-three (623) at 31st October. While we are controlling our costs, with a falling roll our income has reduced by £15,000 so far this year. In addition, our new contract for utilities will see our gas and electricity charges doubling in 2024 from £15,000 to £30,000. The impact of these two factors should cause all of our Members major concern.

The solution is clear; we must increase our income both from congregational givings and from the letting of our premises to community organisations, and at the same time reign in our expenditure to what we can afford. We cannot keep on supporting everything we have been doing for years with a congregation that is half what it was. The challenge we face is immense. None of us want to stop employing an Organist and Secretary or not to maintain our property, or to pay for cleaners, or a Gardener or Treasurer, or Auditor or continuing our Missional Outreach, but the reality is if we want to have or do them all we have to have the money to pay for them and the figures currently tell us we can't.

Letting our Premises

We have some gaps in the utilisation of our premises. It would help us generate more income if we could plug these gaps with more lets to community groups. If you know of any group or persons in our community who could be accommodated within our halls or rooms can you please let Elspeth in the Church office know so she can confirm what is available. Currently we charge £20 per hour which is one of the most competitive rates within our Parish. Our accommodation is very modern with excellent kitchen and toilet facilities. In addition to letting, we intend advertising our facilities to the community, but please let us know if you are aware of anyone, whether individuals or businesses who might be able to make use of our premises. We would be delighted to hear from you.

John Montgomery
Finance Convener



BB Minibus Back on the Road

Good news! The BB minibus has been repaired and is back in service, so if you require transport to church, please contact me on 07947-348500.

Alan Fairlie

New Video Screen in the Large Hall.

There is a new video screen in the large hall, replacing the previous system which was not very user friendly and difficult to operate. Best of all, there is now no awkward projector set up and no cable crossing the floor!



It is not a conventional TV, in that it has no aerial or satellite dish, but anything streamed via a laptop or tablet or phone can be displayed on the screen, or indeed any content already on a device. The screen can also display sound and vision from the Sanctuary when required. Some connection issues remain and are being investigated. A very unfortunate sequence of health matters involving our contractors has slowed progress of these investigations.

The system has been introduced to the Children's After School Service (CASS) who are very keen to use it for playing video games and DVDs. The Monday Lunch Club uses it for short Karaoke sessions with online software. It is intended to be used by any church groups and youth groups and, later on, 'outside' hirers of the Hall. The cost of using the screen depends on the circumstances and it is ideal for anyone or any group who might wish to set up a Film Night with DVD's – bring your own popcorn, ice cream and refreshments! Or maybe use it for home videos or slide shows – the choice is yours! For more information, and/or the pricing policy, please contact the writer.

Neil Planner

AV Team



A Poppy for Remembrance

Hello Everyone! I am writing this on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday. As the Poppy Appeal for 2023 comes to an end, I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped in any way.

As of today, 12th November, the total raised by the Coffee Afternoon and kind donations received is £1,043.

In this climate of the rising cost of living I am delighted with the effort made by you all.

As well as the Coffee Afternoon, a willing band of volunteers turned out to collect in Sainsbury's. Thanks to you all; your efforts are greatly appreciated. The total collected will not be available before this Newsletter is published. As always, I shall let you know as soon as I know.

Again, a huge thank you for all your efforts, however you were involved. Looking forward to next year's fund-raising activities. Watch this space for details.

Anne Mann

The Food Bank at Christmas

Try to imagine a Christmas without any gifts and little or no food! Sadly, that is the prospect for many families and individuals who are obliged to utilise the Food Bank.



In the knowledge that for so many it is a choice between heating or eating, the team at the Food Bank are hoping to provide some Christmas cheer by appealing to your generosity. Audrey and her team would like to provide the following to distribute at Christmas:-

- Pyjamas for children up to the age of 12
- Small toiletry sets for both men and women (round about £5 in value each to keep them alive)
- Boxes of biscuits and sweets

These are in addition to the basics which are required throughout the year but all the more necessary in the cold winter months, ie. cereal, coffee, tinned tomatoes, sweets, biscuits, and snacks (Cuppa Soup, Mug Shots etc.)

Our Church and its members always respond so generously to these appeals that it is a privilege to be in the position to deliver your donations to such a worthwhile cause. Therefore, throughout the month of December any donations deposited in the Food Bank receptacle in the welcome hall, will be gladly received and the Food Bank Team thank you in advance for your kindness and generous support.

Catriona Gomez



Rice Challenge – Help Us Reach Our Target

Thank you to all those who have bought our rice to help towards our 90kg target. We still have rice to sell, white and brown varieties, so please stop and buy some. Together we can help a farmer in Malawi feed her family and pay for a year of secondary education for one child. That is a significant economic shift and changes her life from subsistence to stability and offers a range of employment opportunities.

The rice costs £4.00 per kilo and is available in the Welcome Hall before and after the service on Sundays. You can pay for the rice in two ways - cash or using the card scanner. If everyone bought a bag - just one bag - a child could be in secondary school by Christmas.

Sheena Wurthmann

Donations of nearly new clothes and bric-à-brac for the nearly new shop at Cranhill are very much appreciated.



If you could please leave any such items, clearly labelled for Cranhill, in the cupboard in the Welcome Hall opposite the ladies' toilet. If this cupboard is full, please get in touch with me so I can make alternative arrangements regarding storage and/or collection. Many, many thanks for your kind generosity.

Gordon Lang

Sunday Club



Our Programme

In the Sunday Lessons we continue to follow stories from Mathew's Gospel. We have focussed on Love, and if you are in the Upper Room you will see our 'Love Graffiti Poster'. We also made a Love Mobile as we thought about who were the neighbours that God compels us to love. We also have had great fun using finger puppets to act out how the Pharisees did not practise what they preached.

At Remembrance we were very proud of our young people as they stood silent and paid their respects to those who gave so much and prayed for Peace in our world today. As Christmas approaches, we are starting to plan our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival and of course the nativity. We look forward to sharing these activities with you.

Gifts

As we reported last month, after the Harvest Service on 8th October, the Sunday Club sold bags containing toppings for porridge, with the Seniors selling porridge oat biscuits in support of the work of Christian Aid.

With the teas and coffees money from that morning added, our final total was £160 which the Clubbers spent on gifts from the Christian Aid gift catalogue. We bought a bee hive, sheep, a clean water kit and three antibiotic kits. Thank you so much to everyone who supported us in changing lives around the world.

Elaine Murray



The Guild

The Guild meets on Thursdays at 2.00 p.m. and the programme for the next few weeks is:-

November

- 16 The Library
- 23 The Vine Trust
- 30 E.R. Good Causes

Kay Baird
Robert Alexander
Russell McMillan

December

- 07 Christmas Surprise

On 5th October, the new session opened with a thoughtful consideration of the third part of the Guild Theme "New Wines, New Wineskins" by our minister. Scott spoke of the Guild, along with the Church, needing new ways of doing things, though not purely for the sake of change. He quoted Matthew where Jesus said, "new cannot exist in old" and talked about the changes we are currently undergoing in the Church, seeking new ways to minister to the Congregation.

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The Guild (continued)

The following week we heard all about the Great British Sewing Bee from Jen Hogg who reached the semi-finals of the competition in 2019. After giving a short background to her life she told us of the of the interviews she had to go through including a meeting with a psychologist. She took us through the various stages and showed us items she had made.

Our speaker from BEAT was unable to come on 19th Oct. Willi very ably explained about the charity. It is an organisation which helps people with eating disorders and their families. She spoke about illnesses such as anorexia and their undermining of general and mental health together with adverse effects on the whole family. On a lighter note, we finished with a quiz on food.

On 26th October, the meeting took the form of extracts from a recording of the Guild Annual Gathering in Edinburgh on 9th September. We opened by singing Be Thou My Vision --one of the hymns which had been sung at the Gathering. The Reading was from Romans 5. The speaker at the Gathering, Professor Jason Leitch spoke about the Covid journey from the outset. He quoted Romans and his talk which was in three parts.

Hope in progress, Hope in us, Hope in Him

Jason spoke of his and his wife's missionary work in India and in conclusion returned to Romans.

On 2nd November we listened to an insightful and interesting talk by Mr A. Simpson from The Scottish Air Ambulance Service (SAAS). He showed us on screen the two helicopters based at Perth and Aberdeen, though the control centre is in Cardonald. With a pilot and two paramedics they work closely with other organisations such as RNLI in rescues and attending accidents. A lot of their time is spent transferring patients to Glasgow and Edinburgh from outlying areas. Small children are given a teddy bear for comfort and to keep. The SAAS provides a vital service for the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and we were filled with admiration for all the volunteers.

Margaret Fear

Secretary

Netherlee and Stamperland Forum

The Netherlee and Stamperland Forum reconvened on 16th October and was addressed by a man who is familiar to many, if not all of us: Professor Ronald Crawford. Professor Crawford established the Forum back in 2003 and the organising committee decided that it would be most appropriate to invite him to address us again approximately twenty years after the first meeting. On this occasion, Ronald talked to us about the likelihood that 'rank and privilege' played a deterministic role in an infamous miscarriage of justice, the trial of Mungo Campbell for the murder of Alexander Montgomerie, the tenth Earl of Eglinton, in 1769. Aside from the facts of the case, Campbell was, Ronald argued, never likely to receive a fair trial because his social status counted so strongly against him in court. The key point that Ronald made was that rank and privilege were definitive principles in eighteenth-century Scottish society. Rank and privilege – or, in modern parlance, social status – were applied to keep people in what was thought to be their *proper place*. /...

Netherlee and Stamperland Forum (continued)

By the end of the eighteenth-century, however, both terms were being contested. Philosophers including David Hume, Francis Hutcheson, and Adam Smith were beginning to theorise about social status and its implications. John Millar, professor of civil law at the University of Glasgow, met the issue head on in his 1771 treatise *Observations Concerning the Distinction of Ranks in Society*, arguing that as society commercialised and industrialised, new attitudes to authority were developing. According to Millar, 'merchants, tradesmen, and artificers' were becoming more 'independent in their circumstances'. He added that 'contemptuous and insolent behaviour to persons of superior rank and station' was on the rise. Millar is remembered today for his republican views, but he was also 'the unwitting prophet of popular revolution' who anticipated the calls for political reform that gathered strength in the final decade of the eighteenth century. The social evolution that Millar was tracking in his work was the context in which the Campbell trial took place.

Campbell stood accused of 'wilfully and intentionally' shooting the tenth Earl of Eglinton when the Earl spotted him with a gun, presumably for the purposes of poaching, on his Ardrossan estate on 24 October 1769. Campbell threatened the unarmed Earl, and, during the skirmish, the Earl was 'wounded in the belly in a dreadful manner.' A murder charge, brought by the Crown, and a private prosecution, brought by the eleventh Earl of Eglinton, followed by the end of the year. Robert Macqueen led the case for the prosecution, supported by some of the finest legal minds in Scotland. Campbell was defended by an equally impressive legal team, which included John MacLaurin, David Rae, and Robert Cullen. MacLaurin argued from the outset that the charge ought to be homicide, not murder; the original indictment had been redacted in a way that was prejudicial to Campbell's defence; and that the 'high rank' of the deceased Earl of Eglinton was likely to influence the outcome of the trial. Uniquely, the defence succeeded in persuading the Court to seek an opinion on the case from the Recorder of London and the Attorney General of England and Wales on whether Campbell would have been charged with murder or manslaughter if he were to be tried in England. They concluded that, in England, the charge would undoubtedly be manslaughter, but the Scottish judges in Campbell's case refused to allow those opinions to be read out to the jury. MacLaurin raised a number of other procedural objections about the partiality allegedly shown to witnesses and, crucially, about the composition and membership of the jury. Before the trial was even fully underway, MacLaurin was deeply concerned about a potential miscarriage of justice.

Ronald persuasively argued that Campbell was not, in effect, tried in front of a jury of his peers. The trial took place in Edinburgh, far from Ardrossan, and of the forty-five potential jurors put up for selection, more than half were the proprietors of landed estates, seven were merchants, five were bankers, and the rest were businessmen or master tradesmen. Campbell was an excise officer, a former soldier, and he did not have an equivalent social status to the men who comprised the jury. Although an adjustment was eventually made by the Court, Ronald argued that 'from that moment on, the cynic might have concluded that Campbell's fate was sealed.' The prosecution cited dozens of witnesses, whereas the defence could only call three.

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Netherlee and Stamperland Forum (continued)

Several of the witnesses were employees of the Earl, including a man called Alexander Bartleymore who was, allegedly, involved in 'illegal activities' himself and had a score to settle with Campbell. Finally, Macqueen then piercingly mocked Campbell, on the grounds that a lowly excise officer could not possibly understand the true meaning of honour, a key part of his defence. The Campbell trial was never a fair one – a legal case that John MacLaurin first made in the eighteenth century and a historical case which Ronald Crawford is still pursuing today.

Campbell was found guilty of murder on 28 February 1770, despite the eloquent pleadings of the lead defence counsel. He was to be hanged at the Grassmarket on 11 April and his body was later to be anatomised. In the event, Campbell cheated the hangman and the anatomist by hanging himself in his cell. His body was initially buried on Salsbury Crag but, after a mob disturbed the grave and abused the corpse, he was later dropped into the Firth of Forth. MacLaurin, for his part, resumed his case in print, publishing many of the procedural and substantive objections he raised during the trial itself. Moreover, the possibility – even, the likelihood – of a miscarriage of justice was known within certain circles at the time. In 1770, for example, an enterprising London publisher produced an anonymous pamphlet called *A Dialogue of the Dead: betwixt Lord Eglinton and Mungo Campbell*. In the pamphlet, the (fictional) Earl says to the (fictional) Campbell 'if you think your trial was not fair, you shall have it over again; you shall be tried in Hell.' Campbell replied 'It would be superfluous, my Lord! I have been tried in SCOTLAND.' Ronald did not argue that Campbell did not *kill* the Earl; instead, he argued that Campbell did not *murder* the Earl. If the Court had made that important distinction at the time, Campbell would surely have lived. The case serves as a cautionary tale that procedural discrepancies and irregularities, based upon little more than status-based prejudice, can have a deleterious effect on fair and equal justice for every citizen before the law.

We could not be more grateful to Ronald both for his compelling talk and for all the time and effort he has given to the Forum over the decades. We are sure that we can count upon his ongoing support.

On **20th November 2023**, Susan Watson from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) will address us on the legal challenges associated with environmental protection. All are most welcome to attend the meeting in the Lesser Sanctuary of the Church at 7.30 p.m.

December Speaker

18 December: **Nan Steele (Volunteer with the National Trust)**
Caroline Norton, a Scandalous Woman

Updated printed versions of the programme are available from the Welcome Desk in the Lesser Sanctuary of the church.

Fraser McGowan

Upcoming Events

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

Williamwood House

WINTER FAYRE

Strathtay Avenue, Netherlee, G44 3YA

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

11 am - 2 pm

Residents' Crafts, Carols & Calendars
Heart for Art Exhibition & Hand Picked Vendors
Lucky Dip including a Luxury Hamper Star Prize
Bakery Stall, Bottle Stall, & much more!

Tickets **£2.00** & include tea/coffee/home baking

A visit to
Santa's grotto
for the children.

www.crossreach.org.uk

The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council

Netherlee Chamber Music Series

Christmas Concert

in aid of
'Alzheimer's Society'

SUNDAY | 3 DEC | AT 7 PM

AN EVENING OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC OF GREAT
VARIETY PERFORMED BY PROFESSIONAL
MUSICIANS AND TALENTED STUDENTS

**£10 / £5 CONCESSIONS
(UNDER 18 - FREE)**

TICKETS AT THE DOOR

Netherlee and Stamperland church
130 Ormonde Avenue, G44 3SL

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival will take place on
Saturday 9th December
From 2pm - 4pm
In Netherlee and Stamperland Church
130 Ormonde Avenue G44 3SL

Please come along, admire the creative designs, vote for your
favourites, then enjoy some festive refreshments while your children
join in with Christmas craft activities in the halls.

Home Baking Stall - Chocolate Tombola - Book Stall
...and Santa may drop by!!

If you'd like more information on how to submit a tree please contact the Church
Office 637 2503, nethandstamchurch@gmail.com
Or Helen Illingworth: helenillingworth@virginmedia.com



The **Sounds International Christmas Concert** will take place in the Church on **Tuesday 12th December** at 7.30 p.m. Tickets priced £5 will be available on the door on the night with proceeds going to the Huntington's Disease Association.



Christmas Tree Festival

There is still time to register your entry for the festival. We would like to invite organisations with a connection to Netherlee and Stamperland Church, to design and display a Christmas tree for everyone to admire. How you choose to construct and decorate your tree is entirely up to you. It might be a traditional spruce, real or artificial, or you might build a tree from scratch, perhaps using recycled or upcycled materials... Your tree might be decorated with a theme that reflects the ethos and aims of your organisation, or a cause you are supporting...or not... There really are no rules, except that any lights on the tree need to be battery operated. The trees should be brought along and erected on the Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon.

If you would like to submit a tree, and have not already done so, please contact the church office: nethandstamchurch@gmail.com or Helen Illingworth: helenillingworth@virginmedia.com *The Children and Youth Ministry Group*

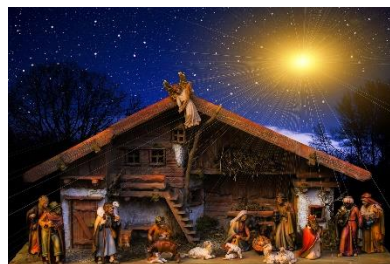
Christmas Cakes

A list will be available in the Welcome Hall for anyone who would like to order a Christmas cake. The cost of the cakes remains at £7.50. These make great gifts for family and friends or just to say 'thank you' to someone special.

Barbara Cochrane

Christmas Card Delivery Service

We will be offering a christmas card delivery service to homes **within the parish** of Netherlee and Stamperland in December. Cards can be dropped off in the collection bags on Sundays 3rd, 10th and 17th December and will be delivered in the weeks beginning 10th and 17th.



The suggested donation per card is 30p – less than half the price of a second class stamp! – with proceeds going to a charity or charities supported by the congregation.

Bundles of cards will be available for uplift after morning worship on 10th and 17th and we would really appreciate volunteers who would be happy to deliver in their street or streets nearby by taking a bundle – or two. Spread Christmas cheer and get a bit of exercise at the same time – win win!

Helen Illingworth

Advert



Harlequin are proud to present
their family-friendly panto
Mother Goose, playing at
Eastwood Park Theatre



Tuesday 16th to Saturday 20th January 2024. Tickets priced £16 and £18 (plus booking fee)
are available from Seaty (online booking platform) using the following link
www.seaty.co.uk/hytmothergoose.