

CONNECTIONS

Magazine of Netherlee & Stamperland Church



December 2021

Distributed on the first Sunday of the calendar month

*Also available at www.netherleechurch.org &
www.stamperlandchurch.btck.co.uk/*

or by email from the editor at cumbrae14@ntlworld.com on request

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Our Minister's Message

Reverend Scott Blythe



Well folks, it has been a long time since we last had the chance to interact. A lot has happened, and I am sure many of us will be glad to have the magazine back. I want to thank Fraser Neilson as editor as always, for getting this done, as we hopefully move forward together.

We are entering the Season of Advent. A season that is rich with a whole host of traditional meanings. In some church traditions it is another penitential season in preparation for the Celebration of Christmas. As such for some traditions, this season is one that is seen to be one of longing and waiting. In some church music traditions this might be a season in which the hymns echo this waiting and longing - they might not proclaim many Hallelujahs!

Equally for many children, the manse family especially, it is a season of expectation and excitement. The opening of Calendar Doors each day just ramps up the hopes and celebrations that await us all this Christmas. For children this begins the big countdown!

Wherever, you stand in this season - whether you see it as one in which we must prepare for Jesus' coming again or whether for you it is the beginning of a time of celebration, a countdown to family, fun and excitement, whatever your perspective, this season is a rich one to savour and try and enjoy.

The pressures of getting the house clean for guests, rushing round the shops for presents, cooking, & baking, that can go on for weeks - all these things will happen. However, it would be a shame we did not take some time to consider the wonder of the season ahead. We all need to take some time, whenever we can in the weeks ahead, to stop and to think once again about:

The feelings that must be going through Mary's heart and head as she prepares to bring God's child into the world;

- The uncertainties and threats experienced by the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and the struggle to find shelter there
- The wonder of the shepherds tale that begins with shock and fear and leads eventually to songs of celebration and joy
- The journey of Magi as they travelled to herald the birth of a king for all people

If we all can take some time to ponder these events and their meaning for us, then our Advent and eventual Celebration of Christmas may be one that brings new hope and new light onto the tough dark memories of the previous year or two.

All best wishes for the days ahead! Scott



Poppy Scotland News

Anne Mann



At the time of writing, the Poppy Campaign 2021 is in full swing. This year feels much more normal. Door to door collections have taken place and in store collections took place in our local Sainsbury's, and I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back to a Coffee Afternoon which will have taken place before this magazine comes out.

I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered to help with this year's fund raising, and look forward to arranging further events in the coming months.

Once again, thank you to you all for your ongoing support.

Congregations Personal Messages

Netherlee & Stamperland



Alister and I would like to thank Stamperland Church for the lovely flowers given to us following Alister's recent hospital stay. It was a nice surprise and much appreciated

Anne & Alister Gill, Stamperland.

Margaret Armstrong, Stamperland, would like to thank everyone for their numerous letters and cards received since her recent illness. She is especially grateful for the many prayers offered as well as the flowers received from the Church.

One Liners for Christmas Cracker responses

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.



A man walked into the doctors, he said, "I've hurt my arm in several places" The doctor said, "Well don't go there any more"

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Phone answering machine message - "...If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key..." I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him 50 quid that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."

The Guild

Margaret Fear, Secretary



It was with real pleasure that the members were able to gather together again for a new session at the beginning of October,

We have enjoyed having an update on Starchild from Michaela and hearing about the Victorian Ladies occupying the Mansion in Rouken Glen.

November being a significant time for remembrance we are having a visit from Erskine Hospital to tell us about their continual work on behalf of veterans.

In December we are looking forward to being entertained by our Musical Duo and our Christmas Party.

In the New Year we will hear about the Sewing Bee on television then enjoy some poetry to celebrate Burns.

In between we have been getting to know each other through our informal afternoons at Stamperland and hearing from Steve Owens about his journey to ministry.

I wish everyone a Peaceful Christmas and a Good New Year.



Connections Magazine Publication Dates 2022

Fraser Neilson

These submission dates are fixed in accordance with the needs of the printer, and cannot be changed. It is in everyone's interest to submit your articles within the periods shown below.

The final submission date is not the day you start thinking about it, then seek extensions, so please respect these requirements.

Publication	First Submission	Final Submission	Uplift/Delivery
February	2nd January	17th January	6th February
March	2nd February	21st February	6th March
April	2nd March	21st March	3rd April
May	2nd April	18th April	1st May
June	2nd May	16th May	5th June



Our Magazine and how it comes to you

Fraser Neilson -Editor



We are still finding our way out of the tunnel of the virus without a clear road ahead. This can be seen with ongoing personal safety rules or advice, and each persons desire to play it safe, one way or another.

Over the past 18 months we have had to adapt in many ways to life as we knew it and so it is for methods of communication. Many people have had to find their way with electronic devices for communication that they would never have previously contemplated.

With this in mind the Planning and Communications Committee is carrying out a survey of all members to see who would prefer an on line version of this magazine rather than a paper copy delivered to your door, whilst we still have the ability to do so.

Whilst I write this I am looking at the Stamperland method of magazine deliveries to overcome some volunteer delivery vacancies that have arisen during Covid, but not attributable thereto, so far with encouraging results, but the choice will be yours.

We are also looking at the deliveries themselves and have trimmed down our copies to a level equal to the numbers in the roll, as well as our spare uplift copies for visitors and organisations alike, until, or if, the demand increases.

This Christmas edition is our starter for ten but there will be no publication in January as usual, however, from February onwards we intend to have the monthly magazine as before, until June inclusive.

All contributors have been contacted and may I remind the congregation at large that you can submit articles of interest such as thank you notices, special birthday notices, etc. and short articles that you think may be of interest.

The fun fillers will still be there so if you have any, they are always welcome.

Send your articles by email to cumbrae14@ntlworld.com and I will insert them as received, subject to space editing.

For all regular contributors, they will receive a reminder of the deadline date for copy as before, as well as what is shown here in the magazine, and this must not be late otherwise you run the risk of it being held over to the next edition if the content is still valid.

So to all intents and purposes it is business as usual and I look forward to all your reports, stories, appeals, fund raising activities and more.

Fraser

Services in Netherlee & Stamperland Churches

Stuart Buchannan



SANCTUARY	SERVICE	TIME
December		
5th Stamperland	Advent 2 / Communion	10.30am
5th Stamperland	Time to Remember	3.00pm
12th Stamperland	Advent 3	10.30am
19th Stamperland	Advent 4 / Nativity	10.30am
19th Netherlee	Choir Lessons & Carols	6.30pm
24th Stamperland	* Christingle	5.00pm
24th Netherlee	* <i>Watchnight</i>	11.30/45pm
25th Stamperland	<i>Christmas Day</i>	10.30am
26th Stamperland	Boxing Day	10.30am
January		
2nd Stamperland	normal service	10.30am
9th Stamperland	normal service	10.30am
16th Stamperland	normal service	10.30am
23rd Stamperland	normal service	10.30am
30th Stamperland	normal service	10.30am

Details in italics means this service may not be on a Sunday

These services alternate annually between our two sanctuaries

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More Fun to bore the relatives at Christmas



Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.

"Doc I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home." "That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome. " "Is it common? " "It's not unusual."

Stamperland Church Gardens

The Gardening Team



At the beginning of Lockdown the garden team of 2 was increased to 7, who between them worked on the gardens surrounding the church buildings, to maintain, simplify and enhance the area for future lower maintenance. Connel Cranston remains on grass,



whilst Gregor & Alison MacFarlane took on the lower rose garden and bushes in Stamperland Hill with Bill & May Paterson & Margo & Fraser Neilson on the front and top side gardens where the bulk of the simplification was envisaged.



Initially a tree was removed thanks to John Curor and then Tony Ireland oversaw the removal of a damaged wall and bushes by contractors. He followed up by installing a timber surround for a future rose bed.

Once ready, the rose garden was planted up with bottomless pots into which new roses were planted. These keep the slate chips away from the earth and the pots allow the roots to find their way down into the earth below. This was successful if this past summer is anything to go by. The remainder of the area was surrounded by acquired cobblestones to match elsewhere and finally finished off with grass turf. Red chips were added below bushes in the front gardens and although it has taken but a few minutes to tell you, it has been many months of work, and a good bit of blethering, to achieve the end result, not to mention cups of tea.



The Manse Garden

Tony Ireland



If you are not yet tired from all the work described in the previous page another major project was also in full swing in recent months down at the Manse

After a lead time of some five months S & D Builders were contracted to attend to the refurbishment of the manse garden in early October and mostly enjoyed good weather for their work.

The clearance of everything down to earth level was first, followed by the preparation works, then the finishing works, the contract taking 11 working days.

The Fabric Committee is pleased with the finished product as is the manse family who now have an easily managed family friendly space. In many respects the "old" garden was very much original and the works now completed will accrue long term value to our property.



In some cases work of this nature is better told and understood in pictures so we hope you enjoy the picture progress in a before and after format.





Fabric Committee Advice
Norrie Bolton



Domestic fire and smoke alarms – urgent action is required BY YOU

Scottish Government legislation requires that every home in Scotland must have interlinked fire alarms installed and operational before 1st February 2022. Inter-linked means that, if one alarm is triggered, all alarms will sound, so you will always hear an alarm wherever you are in your home.

Every home must have, as a minimum, the following alarms:

One smoke alarm in the living room or the room you use most

One smoke alarm in every hallway or landing

One heat alarm in the kitchen

If you have a carbon-fuelled appliance, like a boiler, fire, heater or flue in any room, you must also have a carbon monoxide detector in that room.

All smoke and heat alarms should be mounted on the ceiling.

Homeowners are responsible for the purchase and installation of the alarm system.

The Scottish Government advises that the cost for an interlinked system with sealed, long-life battery alarms in a two storey house could be around £220. This cost appears to me to be rather optimistic. Installation entails climbing a stepladder, drilling holes in the ceiling, screwing the alarm base onto the ceiling, fitting the alarm unit into its base and, finally, ensuring it is working properly and “properly interlinked” to all of the other alarms. A lot of homeowners will be well able to install the alarm system themselves. However, many people cannot undertake such DIY tasks and will have to employ a tradesperson.

Members of the Fabric Committee have discussed how we might assist our church members and, indeed, all householders living in our parish to choose and install appropriate alarm systems. We are proposing to set up a “help centre” through which we can answer questions and offer advice. This could include both submitting and answering written questions, and also face-to-face sessions. We are also interested in hearing your ideas regarding the information and assistance you would like.



SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm
FATHER'S SONG IN CONCERT
 supporting Starchild

FATHER'S SONG is a vocal band of over 30 men drawn from a number of different churches in and around Glasgow and we are delighted to welcome them to Netherlee Parish Church. No tickets are required, though an offering will be uplifted for the Starchild Charity.

A video of **FATHER'S SONG** singing with renowned worship-leader GRAHAM KENDRICK can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSbKSNymwks>

Stamperland Sanctuary Flower Calendar

May Paterson 0141 571 8652



December

5th Mrs Christine Anderson
 12th Miss L Robb & Mrs J Cranston
 19th Miss Helen Dunbar

January

2nd Donation
 9th Mrs Kay Bolton
 16th Miss Grace Scott
 23rd Mrs Anne Martin
 30th Mrs Jean Marshall

February, March and April services will be at Netherlee Sanctuary and flowers will be provided by Netherlee Flower Calendar. If you usually have a date in these months

I will contact you to arrange/share a date in the months of May, June, July or August when worship is at Stamperland sanctuary.

We are looking for additional help with flower arranging and distributing flowers. If you can assist in any way please contact me.

Double Booked

A mate has two tickets in a corporate box for England v Ireland on Saturday. He didn't realise it was the same day as his wedding, so he is advertising for someone to take his place.

It's at Chelsea Registry Office at 4pm. The bride's called Sarah, she is 5' 4", pretty, and a really good cook!





Netherlee Sunday & Senior Sunday Club



Sunday Club:

We have continued to follow, along with the congregation, stories of Jesus' teachings from Mark's gospel. We've been thinking about how we can be generous in our giving - not just with money, but with our time and our talents too, and then how Jesus helps us through the more difficult times in our lives. We are also looking forward to the season of Advent, when we will be meeting in our Stamperland buildings and turning our thoughts to the preparation of our Nativity service.

Senior Sunday Club:

To mark COP26, the girls created an interactive poster which you may have seen in the Netherlee Welcome Hall. It illustrates how although we all face the same storm of climate change we are not all in the same boat; the poorest in our world are most affected and least protected. You are invited to add a boat with your prayer for climate justice to the poster.



Christmas Tree Festival

Helen Illingworth

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival will take place on Saturday 18th December From 2pm – 4pm In our Netherlee Building

Please come along, admire the creative designs, vote for your favourite and enjoy some festive refreshments in the halls.

If you'd like more information on how to submit a tree please contact **the Church Office 637 2503**, netherleechurch@gmail.com
Or Helen Illingworth 633 5685, helenillingworth@virginmedia.com



Carol Singing for Shelter Scotland

Elaine Murray

Save the Date - On Tuesday 14th December we will be Carol Singing in the streets around the Netherlee Sanctuary.

Please join us to sing that evening and enjoy hot chocolate and goodies on our return. The more we are heard, the more money we can raise for Shelter Scotland. Meet in Netherlee Church Welcome Hall at 6.30 - 6.45 and bring a Santa hat, torch or lantern No audition required!! All welcome, but children must be supervised.



Harlequin Eastwood Theatre for Youth

A huge thank you to Connell Cranston, Norrie Bolton, Elspeth Bennett and everyone who stepped in, first when ERC cancelled our rehearsal lets, then to allow us to perform in the Stamperland sanctuary.

Along with thousands of other performers across 36 countries we performed a selection of musical theatre songs for which we were given free rights for the period of Remembrance weekend.

The performance was well received by our audiences and the positive effect on our members' wellbeing was amazing; we can't thank you all enough. Hope to see you at our future performances if we are allowed to return to our home venue, Eastwood Park Theatre.

Karen McQueen, Club Secretary



1st Stamperland Brownies**Kirsty Stewart & Alison Gill & Lisa**

Following a rigorous risk assessment process we were absolutely delighted to return to Brownies in September and even more delighted that we are full to capacity. With some activities adapted for Covid safety we can confidently say that we are running as close to normal as possible and the girls are so far enjoying their Monday nights.

We have had a jelly baby themed evening, we have made some edible crafts, had our Halloween party, and dare I say it we are in the midst of Christmas crafts to sell to parents as part of our fundraising for this year. We are hoping to invite parents along in December, again in a Covid friendly manner. On this night, the Brownies are going to make their promise as a whole pack.

This is different to our normal Brownie promise night as girls would usually make their promise individually. However, as the children all grew up and most of them turned 10 and went off to Guides during the 18 months we were off, we have (almost) a whole new pack of Brownies who have not made their promise and so we thought it would be nice to incorporate it into an evening with the parents and do it as a whole pack. We are hoping we will have a smooth transition into 2022 with lots more activities planned, and lot of badges completed.

We thank Stamperland church once again for working together with us on our risk assessment and making sure everything is safe for ourselves and our Brownies on a Monday evening.

Kirsty Stewart, Alison Gill, Lisa Little and our 6 young helpers who are very much appreciated - Abbie, Jodie, Rebecca, Millie, Ellie and Lucy.

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Ah, The Modern Days

I just saw a grandpa help a youngster who was staring into his phone, to cross the street.



Patient: "Doctor, you have to help me, I think I can see in the future."

Doctor: "When did it start?"

Patient: "Next Friday."



Glasgow South East Food Bank

Marjorie Lang



The fresh food project is going well and as always, a big thank you to everyone who supports it.

If you would rather donate food as always this will be gratefully received and handed out to those who need it most.

At Christmas the food bank will be working with referral agencies to help 200 households. They will be provided with a supermarket voucher, a prepayment meter top up, and a Christmas goodie bag.....chocolate etc. If anyone would like to donate either selection boxes or any other chocolate Christmas goodies it would be very well received

Thank you for all your continued support



Request for Sunday Readers

Marjorie Lang



If anyone would like to do a reading or a welcome on a Sunday morning between the beginning of January and the end of April, could you please contact me on marjorie35@hotmail.co.uk stating whether a reading or welcome, and if you have any preferred dates

Thank you



Gordon Lamb

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takes more than machines....

**Printers for Netherlee &
Stamperland Connections**



Glasgow 278 (Netherlee) Boys' Brigade
www.facebook.com/netherleeboysbrigade
Alistair Haw, Captain
alistairhaw@yahoo.co.uk 07434521928



Anchor Boys (P1 – P3, Mondays, 6.15pm – 7.15pm):

As previously reported the Anchor Boys are looking for a year of growth after a large number were promoted to Junior Section last year. With that in mind we were delighted to present our first recruitment badge of the year to Brody Watson. We are hopeful of presenting a few more over the coming weeks. Anchor Boys is generally a fairly frenetic and noisy affair amongst all the hockey, basketball, gymnastics and dodgeball.



But it was noticeable that you could have heard a pin drop during the retelling of the parable of the wise and foolish builders (Matt 7: 24-27). It is our hope that the boys go on to build their house on The Rock.



Junior Section (P4-P6, Tuesdays, 7pm – 8.30pm):

It's all change at Junior Section this year, with lots of new faces coming up from Anchor Boys to replace a similar number having been promoted to Company Section. The boys have been working on team building skills, drill, bible knowledge, biscuit decoration, hockey, environmental issues, code breaking and now moving on to Remembrance activities. Not forgetting the much loved Halloween Party in between.

It was great to be able to hold these again further to restrictions having been lifted. Our Leaders continue to plant seeds (Mark 4: 26-29).

Company/Seniors (P7-S6, Friday, 7.30pm – 10pm): Company Section is delighted to have received seven P7s coming up from Junior Section, the largest number of promotions for a good few years. It's a big jump up from Junior Section, but all are settling in extremely well. Having cleared the hurdle into Company Section we are urging them, and all of the boys, to "keep the faith, fight the good fight and finish the race" (2 Timothy 4:7). After settling in with some games nights and a quiz and pizza night the boys of all ages are getting back into the swing of full BB nights indoors, which were significantly

disrupted for this age group last session. We approach the year ahead with optimism, and look forward to working with our friends at 231 (Stamperland) BB with some joint activities on a Friday night and also as part of church activities on Remembrance Sunday, and beyond.



Contact: Alistair Haw, as above.



The Boy's Brigade Mini Bus

Alan McDonald

Do you find it difficult to get a parking place close enough to the church, Stamperland or Netherlee? If you do, why not try using the BB bus.

You will be picked up from your home and returned there after the service.



The bus service is available to all members or adherents of the congregation who live within the joint parishes, and operates to whichever sanctuary is hosting the service.

If you are interested in joining us or if you want to know more, please let your elder know or contact Alan McDonald (077414 69898)

**Why did the man get fired from the orange juice factory?
Lack of concentration.**

**Why don't they play poker in the jungle?
Too many cheetahs.**

What do dentists call their x-rays? Tooth pics!



Beach Sales

A couple lived near the ocean and used to walk the beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach pretty much every day. She wasn't unusual, nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around furtively, then speak to them.

Generally the people would respond negatively and she would wander off, but occasionally someone would nod and there would be a quick exchange of money

or something she carried in her bag. The couple assumed she was selling drugs, and debated calling the cops, but since they didn't know for sure they just continued to watch her.

After a couple of weeks the wife said, "Honey, have you ever noticed that he only approaches people with boom boxes and other electronic devices?" He hadn't, and said so. Then she said, "Tomorrow I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go lie out on the beach. Then we can find out what she's really doing."

Well, the plan went off without a hitch and the wife was almost hopping up and down with anticipation when she saw the girl talk to her husband and then leave. The man walked up the beach and met his wife at the road.

Well, Is she selling drugs?" she asked excitedly in a hushed voice. "No, she's not," he said, enjoying this probably more than he should have! "Well, What is it, then? What does she do?" his wife fairly shrieked.

The man grinned and said, "She sells batteries."

"Batteries?!" cried the wife with astonishment.

"Yes," he replied calmly.

"She sells C cells by the seashore."

The Meaning of the Bible

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"



The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"



The Forum

The Forum Team



The first meeting of the Forum took place on 15 November and attendees were fortunate enough to hear from Dorothy Buchanan, chair of the Friends of Linn Park. At short notice, Dorothy agreed to talk to us about the work the Friends do in the park. She explained that the Friends are dedicated to protecting, improving, and promoting this beautiful greenspace. During the course of the evening, it became clear that they are more than succeeding in their efforts.

The Friends of Linn Park are a group of volunteers who carry out maintenance and conservation work in the park. They are independent of Glasgow City Council, but the two work together in the interests of the community they serve. Dorothy explained that, like all voluntary organisations, the Friends are dependent upon the different strengths and interests of the membership. One particular interest is wildlife. The Friends are involved in gathering data for two Citizen Science projects. The first requires participants to walk a set route in the park and record the number and types of butterflies they see on their way. The second is a nest box project that the Friends became involved with after a young volunteer asked if they could raise money for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. There are 60 nest boxes in the park, sponsored by individuals and organisations, and they are regularly monitored using small cameras. The information the Friends gather is fed into a larger dataset that, in turn, helps to give scientists and conservationists a nationwide picture of the state of our wildlife. It is notable that the nest box project was first proposed by a young volunteer. From what Dorothy said, it is clear that the work of the Friends is a truly multigenerational effort.

2 July 2021 marked a hundred years since Linn Park first opened its gates to the public. The original plans to celebrate the centenary were cancelled due to the pandemic, but the Friends made the most of the good weather and the money they raised to mark the occasion safely. Throughout the year there have been family fun days, several days of tree planting, and other activities designed to further improve biodiversity in the park. There was a centenary day celebration, too, during which a piper played, and beautiful postcard sets were distributed among the attendees. The history of the park is an important part of the Friends' work. They have, for example, raised £32,000 to improve the visibility and accessibility of Cathcart Castle. They also honour the link between Mary Queen of Scots and the park. Queen Mary, supposedly, watched the Battle of Langside from Court Knowe and, to mark the 450th anniversary of the battle, the Friends organised an event which, intriguingly, involved dressing up and sword fighting lessons. All of these events underlined to us that, as well as doing vital work like litter picking, improving drainage,

and strengthening hedgerows, the Friends also conserve the history of the park.

Linn Park has been a source of strength for many of us over our lifetimes, and certainly during the darker days of the pandemic. We were very grateful to Dorothy for speaking to us and, through her, to the Friends of Linn Park for the excellent work they do in conserving and improving a vital public space.

Stewart Carle will talk to the Forum on **Monday 20 December 2021** at 7.30pm about his reflections on the policing reforms that have taken place in recent years. Stewart, who will be known to many of us, has recently retired from Police Scotland after a long and distinguished career.

Monday 20 Dec	Stewart Carle	Police Scotland: Reflections on the Reform Programme
Monday 17 Jan	Ken MacIntosh – former MSP and Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament	Confessions of a Presiding Officer – Q&A Session
Monday 21 Feb	Peter Ross – Author	The Stories and Glories of Graveyards
Monday 21 Mar	Dave Pearson – Director, Star Renewable Energy	Heat Pumps: Separating Fact from Fiction

I've entered the snapdragon part of my life. Part of me has snapped and the other part is draggin....



Wishing everyone A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year
From the Magazine Production Team