

## **Netherlee and Stamperland Church**

**Kirk Session met at 7.30pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

### **1 CONSTITUTION**

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe with Prayer.

### **2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES**

There were 34 Elders present with apologies from 12 Elders as per the Sederunt sheet.

### **3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

The draft Agenda was agreed with 5 additional items under AOCB.

### **4 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Kirk Session minutes of 06/02/2023 and 08/03/2023 were approved.

### **5 DISCUSSION TOPIC – *determine our digital presence in our neighbourhood***

Our digital presence has been in hiatus for a while. The merging of the two Facebook accounts went awry. Scott has checked with Caroline MacVey who still has access and she could delete both accounts if we so wished. Scott proposed we should and asked if Session agreed, the majority of those present agreed.

Scott asked Session if we should have a new page, and while some said yes we had no volunteers to manage the account. Maybe between now and our June meeting we should explore this further.

Scott suggested an alternative – using existing accounts such as Netherlee (and Stamperland, Clarkston, etc if they exist) Neighbours to promote our events. The process could be to supply Elspeth in the Church Office with the ‘advert’ for your event, and she will then email it to the said account. This of course relies on us having someone willing to accept our information and post it. This will require further research, please forward ideas and suggestions to Scott.

### **6 WRITTEN REPORTS**

Scott asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose or highlights to mention:

**Communion Roll** – February and March reports previously circulated. Stuart Buchanan (Roll Keeper reported that to date in April we have lost four members – Beatrice MacKay, Peter Laurie, Gavin McFadyean and Ayliffe MacPhail (date unknown).

Communion Roll now stands at 638 members from 651 members at 31.12.2022.

**Finance** – Neil Planner gave us an informative and thought provoking presentation on Digital Giving. Information had been previously circulated (**Appendix A**).

Many questions were raised. Some questioned the ‘high’ set up costs while others felt the ongoing charges were reasonable. As so much of our weekly givings come via Standing Orders and Direct Debits some questioned the role of this method in Sunday offerings. A general view emerged supporting this new method as being ideal for (a) Sunday coffee in the Large Hall; (b) one off events such as Soup & Pud lunches; and (c) tapping into the substantial weekly footfall in the Welcome Hall. Positive experiences with Poppy Scotland last year supported this view. The ability to change which funds can receive the donation and an option to cancel with just one month’s notice were welcomed. Session supported Neil’s choice of the most suitable machine.

Scott asked Session if they wished to progress this project, the majority of those present agreed.

**Fabric** – Stuart Buchanan, standing in for Tony Ireland who is on holiday in Washington DC, gave an update on the previously circulated (**Appendix B**) General Update & Recommendation on the Netherlee and Stamperland roof project.

April 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 – The main work of repairs and re-slatting the sanctuary roof are complete, delayed somewhat by periods of heavy rain last November and in March. Work on the lower areas will run into June 2023. Financially we have ‘equilibrium’ as there have been no serious changes to contract prices and contingency sums. When Tony prepared this update on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 all contractors and professional fees being paid, left in hand a credit of £576,907 plus £45,000 Grant Aid promised but not yet received. The balance on contractors cost still to be paid of £297,928 leaves us with the sum of £278,979 plus £45,000 Grant Aid, and it is hoped this will cover any uplift that might occur when we realise the full costs related to the exposure of the south aisle stonework.

The high quality of the original construction has stood out in the course of the current works so thanks are owed to our founding fathers. The quality of Fulton’s lead and slate work is a joy to see and our architects have ensured the new lead works are of an improved more efficient design.

The report also highlights what is not covered by the current roof project, i.e. the Large Hall, Small Hall, Welcome Hall and Kitchen. One benefit of the scaffolding with the current job is that we have been able to better scrutinise some of these roof areas where we suspect and/or know where we have problems. In fact Tony regularly asked the roofers to call him when the rain was at its worst so he can access areas to document the problems. The lead flat roof areas and lead valley gutters and skews of the Kitchen roof area are where we have uncovered rot in a ‘just in time’ situation which had we not found it could have developed to something worse. While we have a quote of £127,000 to fix this issue, Tony wished to exercise an ‘abundance of caution’ and ‘hold off’ until we know the outcome of the exposure of the south aisle stonework. In tandem we also checked with Presbytery and the General Trustees that this change in the project’s contract and costs would be accepted by them, and we have received such assurances.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 – We get the advice from our engineer that two of the four buttresses on the south aisle do require structural support to address the movement in the stonework at eaves level. The movement has stopped but it leaves a legacy of vulnerability and damage to the south aisle area, promoting the water ingress highlighted in the Update paper. Needless to say because of the persistent water ingress and cracking there is rot at the buttresses and at the valley gutters in the buttress area. The engineer has recommended placing a metal plate on both sides of the two affected buttresses which will restore the integrity of the structure and our rot specialist has quoted for the necessary repairs. The cost of the metal work is £2,000 for material and labour, while the rot treatment will take the total additional cost in this exposed area to £10,000.

This answer is what we needed to address our concern and the concern held by our contractors and architects as to the issues at the south aisle stonework. The figure of £10,000 is a modest uplift in the overall contract cost of £730,000 and allows us to ask Session to approve the adding of the Kitchen roof works to the existing contract. Relating this back to the figures in the Update paper we will be in the exceptional position that, after spending £127,900 on the Kitchen roof, we will have funds in hand, separate from own reserves, of more than £150,000. In addition the heavy footfall through the Welcome Hall should no longer notice buckets catching drips from the leaking roof.

Scott asked if there were any comments or questions

Alistair Gow asked if a less expensive approach of patching the various parts of the Kitchen roof was also being considered. In response Stuart (a) listed the 13 aspects of work being proposed which highlighted the breadth of what is required; (b) commented that previous patching had failed; and (c) as we have the funds, ring fenced and available from the General Trustees only for use in property, then it would seem sensible to do the job ‘properly’ for the future users of our building.

Scott asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Scott asked if Session understood the proposal, and the majority of those present agreed.

Scott then asked Session if they accepted the proposal, and the majority of those present agreed.

Scott finally asked if anyone wished to register an objection or to abstain, there were none.

**Planning & Communication** – Diane Levey (Convener) intimated her re-location to the other side of the country in the summer and encouraged members of Session to volunteer to co-ordinate our 'almost' monthly Newsletter, only minimal word processing skills required.

**Safeguarding** – Bruce Young (Convener) distributed Key Information for workers and volunteers.

**Insurance** – John Montgomery (Finance Convener) intimated he was expecting a significant reduction as we now only have one church and one manse.

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented to the meeting, and the majority of those present agreed.

## 7 AOCB

1. **Inspection of Records** – Took place on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Orchardhill Church in Giffnock, and every year we strive to improve the keeping of our records, to which end we are committed to the following –
  - Numbering minute pages – actioned by the Session Clerk from the start of 2023.
  - Approving minutes at the start of the meeting instead of at the end – actioned by the Session Clerk from April 2023.
  - Property items not available to be sent to Presbytery as soon as possible –
    - Church & Hall (1) Gas Safety Certificate for 2020 (2) Fire Risk Assessment for 2022 – Iain Alexander (Fabric Convener)
    - Manse (1) Gas Safety Report plus Service Contract for 2022 (2) PAT Testing report of 2022 (only for portable electrical items provided by the congregation within the manse) – Iain Alexander (Fabric Convener)
2. **Cluster Session Event** – Scott intimated the plan to hold this on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – more details soon – a joint working Session with Greenbank and Busby looking at the difficulties we are all experiencing as the traditional Elder/District model of working no longer being sustainable or fit for purpose – and hopefully finding ideas that may lead to solutions.
3. **90kg Rice Challenge** – Some members have expressed interest in this to Sheena Wurthmann and she thinks we should do it. After discussion with the Session it has been decided to launch this at the start of September this year and push on through until Harvest time.
4. **Helping folk** – Barbara Cochrane wished to update Session of the following initiatives that have recently come, or will come to fruition –
  - Free period products will soon be available in our Ladies Toilets.
  - Folk who hire our premises for parties have been told to help themselves to tea/coffee and biscuits, and already we have received positive comments on this 'friendly' gesture. Who knows, maybe we might get a digital donation in the future.
  - To help the many users maintain good hygiene standards we have produced more signage and checklists for the kitchen and servery.
5. **Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2023** – Marjorie Lang asked for volunteers to assist with door to door collections, something we have not done for a while due to Covid. Feel free to request your own street or specify a level street without steps if you wish. The intention is to also ask members of the congregation to help with this as well.

## 8 FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Kirk Session at 7:30pm on Monday 4th September 2023**
- Scott intimated that we will no longer be seeking volunteers for Communion at Session meetings as David Beckett and his team of Elinor Mair, Elaine Balfour and Niall Illingworth have intimated they are happy to carry out this service, for which we say thank you very much.
- Group and Committee meetings as per schedules issued

**9 CLOSE**

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

**APPENDIX A  
Digital Giving Proposal by Neil Planner**

**APPENDIX B  
Roof Project General Update & Recommendation by Tony Ireland**

**ANNEX  
WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING**

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Scott Blythe  
**Minister**

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Stuart Buchanan  
**Session Clerk**