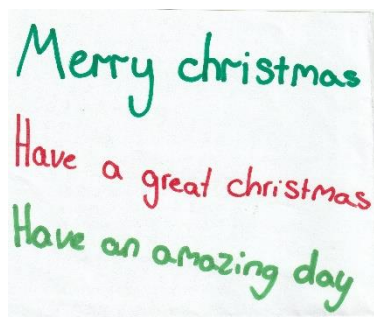
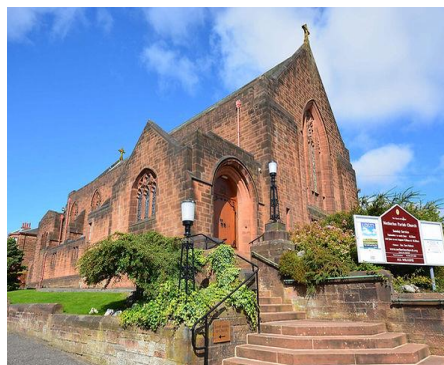


NETHERLEE AND STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 EDITION



From the Editor

The deadline for the first newsletter of the New Year will be **Tuesday 16th January 2024**. 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 and thank you Isla for helping me send Christmas greetings to all our readers.

Karen McQueen

Services

Our December services programme continues as follows, with 10.30 a.m. morning services as usual in January:-

Sunday 10 th	10.30 a.m.	Gift Service on Second Sunday in Advent (see below)
	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

The **Gift Service** is on **10th December** and there are two very deserving local appeals, one or other – or both – of which you may wish to consider supporting. **Glasgow the Caring City** would be delighted to accept unwrapped gifts of new children's toys, games, or books to be donated to families in Glasgow who are struggling to make ends meet this Christmas.

We are also supporting the **Lodging House Mission (LHM)** Christmas Appeal as advertised here. You may donate individual items for a pack if you wish. Thank you in advance for your generous support.



LHM 2023 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

WINTER GIFT PACK GIVE THOSE AFFECTED BY HOMELESSNESS A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

Winter Gift Packs contain: gloves, hat, sport socks, boxer shorts, toiletries gift set, selection box/sweets and an advice card for chaplaincy services.

Each pack will be given to one of our guests who find themselves isolated and affected by homelessness this festive season.

Donate a pack or sponsor the cost of a Winter Gift Pack at £15 or what ever you can to our Christmas Appeal.

HELP US SHARE SOME WARMTH THIS WINTER.

THANKYOU.



A transcript (in Microsoft Word) of Muriel Pearson's sermon on Sunday 19th November 2023 is available on request from the Editor. If you wish a copy, please email me at nandsnewsletter@btinternet.com

Karen McQueen

From the Minister - Reflection 2023

I am writing this on the 1 December 2023. I do so, marvelling at my children's capacity for excitement beginning to build. Today the first days in Advent calendars have been opened and apparently Eilidh saw a couple flakes of snow falling whilst walking to school. Liz says she was almost in orbit!



This time of year is one that we all love to see how excited children get. When we approach the birth of the child in the manger, we can get lost in thinking about how this is 'a time for the children'. Yet, the Christmas Story is one for all of us. When we look at the narratives in both the gospels of Matthew and Luke there are various people of different ages involved. There are the older parents of John the Baptist – Elizabeth and Zechariah. There is the faithful Simeon and the prophetess Anna. There are angels and shepherds, Magi and Herod the Great to name some of the others. These narratives which form the building blocks of Christ's coming into the world are wider than the story of what happens in Bethlehem. The coming of Jesus is the beginning of the process of human salvation.

I am one of those who deeply loves to see our salvation as a process that includes birth, teaching and ministry, death, and resurrection as one continuous act of love expressed by God. I think in seeking to hold all these elements together we see the vastness of what God has done for us. It begins, with the birth of a small child, in an obscure place in Bethlehem.

For that choice, I will be forever grateful, and I hope that as we gather to celebrate with our friends and our families over our busy midwinter celebrations that we might all at some point take time to reconsider the depth and the wonder of God's love and care for all.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Scott



90kg Rice Challenge

Over the past few weeks, sale of the rice from Malawi has been slow. With all the activities over Christmas I think it wise to take a break. Rice will therefore not be available for purchase until Lent. This year Lent starts on Ash Wednesday 14th February. The first Sunday of Lent is 18th February 2024.

Thank you to all who have purchased rice and I look forward to providing more rice in the spring.

Sheena Wurtzmann

The Food Bank at Christmas

As reported in the November issue, the team at the Food Bank are hoping to provide some Christmas cheer to those in food poverty 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 alike)
- 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 have already begun to respond so generously to this appeal, and for this we thank you. Please continue throughout the month of December to leave any donations in the Food Bank receptacle in the welcome hall. These will be gladly received, and the Food Bank Team thank you in advance for your kindness and generous support.

Catriona Gomez

Sunday Club



Our Programme

While we have continued to follow the programme in Roots, Resources for Churches, we have also been beavering away preparing for Christmas. We won't spoil the surprise of our entry to the Christmas Tree Festival, but a lot of hard work has been going on at Sunday Club and in the homes of Club members and Leaders. Some long-hidden talents are being re-discovered so we hope you like our tree.

Nativity Service on Christmas Eve

We are hoping you can join us as we celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth at our Nativity Service on Christmas Eve. Although we are few in number, we will give it our all!

Thank you to Anna for our lovely Christmas logo above, and to Lucy for reminding us of children's excitement as we approach Christmas.

Karen McQueen





The Guild

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

December

- 07 Christmas Surprise
- 14 Christmas Party

January 2024

- 11 The Toledo on Film Tom Marchant
- 18 The Tapestry of Life
- 25 More Poetry Please Linda Biggar

On 9th November, our Pastoral Assistant Marie Wilson returned to tell us a bit more about her time here with members of the congregation. She used verses of the hymn "Be Thou My Vision" to define her thoughts and actions in her care for whomever she is visiting. A very thoughtful and encouraging meeting. Marie is a valued member of congregational life here in Netherlee and Stamperland.

Kay Baird came the following week to speak to us about Clarkston Library which was opened on 19th November 1960. She stressed that the library was not there simply to lend books but is a centre for public use. She listed several organisations that meet there in the afternoons such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Memory Group to mention but two. She ended by reading a poem entitled Varifocals and from an illustrated book to encourage us to keep using our library.

Mr. Alex Duncan came on 23rd November and gave us an interesting and informative insight into the work of the Vine Trust which has been working with volunteers for 38 years. At present they have a ship in Peru on the Amazon providing medical assistance to communities along the river. They are working with The African Inland Trust in Tanzania helping to build 40 houses for orphans with carers to create a village called Kazunzu on the southern shore of Lake Victoria. HIV progressing to AIDS is the main cause of death there resulting in so many orphans. Assistance is ongoing to help provide means of income such as a fish farm and schooling for the future.

On 30th November we had a visit from Russell McMillan to tell us about East Renfrewshire Good Causes founded by him in 2007. Having survived a double transplant, Russell wanted to find a way to thank the donor. The result being E. R. Good Causes based on the Christian ethos of being a good neighbour with small acts of kindness to those in need. This can mean a little single financial help to low-income families with a problem, for example, recarpeting a room in a house flooded by a leak in a pipe. His local church in East Kilbride has a Good Neighbour Club who receive referrals from frontline workers. In 16 years ERGC have given out £1,883,000 across 6,685 people.

To end 2023, we are looking forward to a Christmas Surprise on 7th December then the Tree Festival in the Sanctuary on 9th followed by our party on the 14th.

The Guild (continued)

On behalf of the Guild, may I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year.

Margaret Fear
Secretary

Netherlee and Stamperland Forum

Susan Watson, Senior Legal Manager at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), kindly addressed the Netherlee and Stamperland Forum on Monday 20th November. Susan has worked for SEPA since 2003 and she talked to us about the legal challenges associated with protecting Scotland's natural environment from businesses and individuals who cause it harm.

SEPA was established in 1996 and aims to provide an effective nation-wide system of environmental regulation and protection, with a view to improving the environment and supporting the health wellbeing of everyone in Scotland. It has two broad functions: regulation and issuing warnings. On the regulation side, SEPA does things like providing guidance on the good use of land, monitoring the water quality, and supervising the storage, and use of, radioactive substances and the disposal of radioactive waste. It has an array of surveillance and enforcement capabilities designed to help it uphold legally binding regulations. On the warning side, SEPA issues flood warnings and manages the risks associated with climate change, including raising objections to building on floodplains. As the senior legal manager, Susan leads a team of five solicitors who advise the environmental protection officers on the use of their powers. As a reporting agency, SEPA advises the Crown Office on the prosecution of individuals and organisations that breach environmental regulations.

Susan discussed some of the cases she has worked on and the penalties the courts can impose if environmental regulations are breached. The cases she mentioned were typically those of repeat offenders who were, ultimately, fined large sums of money for doing things like dumping industrial and commercial waste in a manner 'likely to pollute the environment or cause harm to human health'. The penalties for such offences range from fixed and variable monetary penalties to enforcement undertakings (i.e., an offender voluntarily agrees to make amends) and donations to good causes. Some businesses, such as whisky distilleries, are often keen to avoid prosecution, and they concede wrongdoing and accept their penalties out of court. Nevertheless, approximately 91 fixed monetary penalties and 18 enforcement undertakings have been handed down by the courts in recent years. Reservoirs, of which there are 680 in Scotland, are of particular concern to SEPA. The damage a polluted reservoir can cause to people and the wider environment is significant, and, under the current regulations, these must be properly managed by a designated reservoir manager.

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Netherlee and Stamperland Forum (continued)

In the case of one polluted reservoir on Harris, SEPA had to issue three enforcement notices to compel the three designated reservoir managers, who each blamed each other, to take steps to clean the reservoir or else face prosecution. Cases like this illustrate that, in the course of her work, Susan has had to contend with the complexities of environmental law as well as the resistance of individuals and organisations who have scant regard for Scotland's natural environment. Susan's instructive talk stimulated a great discussion about a range of environmental issues, such as the damaging effect of microplastics on the environment and how the money raised from fines is redistributed by the courts. We are very grateful to Susan for sharing her experiences and insights.

The Forum will reconvene on **18 December 2023** when Nan Steele will talk to us about the author and social reformer Caroline Norton (1808-1877). In 1836, Caroline left her abusive husband, George Chapple Norton MP, and tried, unsuccessfully, to secure a divorce from him in a much-publicised trial which implicated the prime minister Lord Melbourne and almost brought down the government. As a result of the malicious trial, Caroline was at one time known as a 'scandalous woman'. As ever, everyone is very welcome to attend. Talks are held in the Lesser Sanctuary of the church.

January Speaker

15 January: **Rev Liz Johnson Blythe** Church in the USA
(thank you to Liz's daughter Eilidh for illustrating this article)

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

Fraser McGowan



**CRANHILL
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST**

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

Christmas Cakes

A list is 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

Upcoming Events

Please note the Starchild Rock Choir event on 15th December is sold out! Look out for the Rock Choir coming to Netherlee and Stamperland Church in the Spring, again in aid of Starchild.

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!!

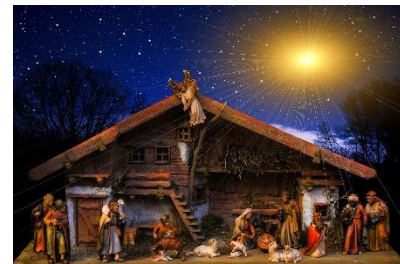
If you'd like more information on how to submit a tree please contact the Church
 Office 637 2503, nethandstamchurch@gmail.com
 Or Helen Illingworth: helenillingworth@virginmedia.com



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 Scottish Huntington's Association (SHA).

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 in 'street order' will be available for uplift after morning worship on 10th and 17th and we would really appreciate volunteers from the congregation who would be happy to deliver in their street or streets nearby by taking a bundle or two from the lesser Sanctuary. Thank you.

Helen Illingworth

Advert



Harlequin is proud to present its 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.