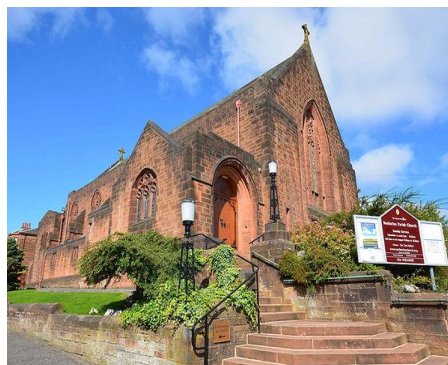


NETHERLEE AND STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024 EDITION



From the Editor

Welcome to February's newsletter as signs of Spring are popping up everywhere. I hope you are enjoying the longer days. The deadline for the next edition will be **Tuesday 12th March 2024**. Articles (and pictures in .jpg format) can be submitted at any time to the mailbox nandsnewsletter@btinternet.com (thank you).

Karen McQueen

Services

Our Sunday services are at 10.30 a.m. The mid-week services are on Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m. with coffee at 10.30 a.m. Please feel free to pop in for coffee on a Wednesday if you wish.

Resources for Lent

For those seeking resources for the period of Lent, please find the following suggested sources:-

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/2024-march>

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/lent-devotional>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/watch-and-pray-lent-reflections>

Marie Wilson

The staff and clients of Glasgow South-East foodbank are very grateful for the donations of hats, scarves, gloves, and hot water bottles donated by the congregation. They will accept more of the same during February as the cold weather is still with us unfortunately. They are also short of UHT milk and toilet paper.



As always donations can be left in the marked basket in welcome hall, and they will be magically transported to the foodbank.

Thanks as always for your continuing support.

Marjorie Lang and Catriona Gomez



Thank You for Coming

A big thank you to all who came along to the Shrove Tuesday event on 13th February. We raised **£314.40**; we will let you know soon what the money raised will go towards. We hope that you all enjoyed the pancakes and fellowship.

Barbara Cochrane

Sunday Club

The Sunday Clubbers have been journeying from Epiphany to Lent exploring how God calls to us, and knowing it is Him. We explored communication learning about how God called Samuel during the night, and how Jonah responded when asked to go to Ninevah. Coming right up to date, we watched the clip “How far I’ll go” from the film Moana, seeing how she is torn between what others expect or following a voice inside her that is calling her to do something different. It’s not all modern technology though as we also made paper cup phones! As we listened to each other through the string, we thought about how God talked to Moses and knew it was God. Forget me not was the theme one week; it may be hard to see something at times, but God is always there. We planted Forget me Not seeds and look forward to watching them grow. When we meet near Valentines Day, food is usually involved and this year we enjoyed making yummy message biscuits (Eilidh’s is illustrated above), but not before learning about some of our saints including St Andrew, St Columba and St Valentine.



Before all this fun, we started back after Christmas by taking down the tree we had entered into the Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you to those who made a donation in return for a knitted decoration; we raised £10. All are welcome in Sunday Club. We may be small, but we love our fellowship together.

Elaine Murray



The Guild

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

February

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 15 | Hat for Special Occasions | |
| 20 | Friendship Lunch at 12.30pm (Tuesday) | |
| 22 | Quarriers' Homes | Anna Magnusson |
| 29 | Church House | Angela Malloy |

March

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------|
| 01 | World Day of Prayer 10.30am (Friday) in Sanctuary | |
| 07 | The Scripture Union | |
| 14 | The First Lady | Liz Allen |
| 21 | Annual General Meeting | |
| /... | | |

The Guild (continued)

Our second meeting of the new year, on January 18th, was led by Willi Povey; on the day we wore something in our favourite colour. It was an interesting look at *The Tapestry of Life* using the colours of the rainbow. Answering set questions, we looked at how the various colours are interwoven with nature and our lives.

The following week our speaker was unable to come. Nonetheless the ladies celebrated Burns' birthday themselves. They sang some of his songs and one or two ladies recited their favourite poems making the afternoon an enjoyable celebration of The Bard.

On 1st February, Niall Illingworth gave us an insight into becoming an author. He started by telling us how he began writing his first book set in West Virginia, a place he has never visited. Encouraged by family and friends he wrote two sequels. He outlined the pros and cons of writing and said he has had help with grammar and proofreading as he has undertaken the publishing himself. Niall set his fourth book in the southside of Glasgow having learned that it was helpful to write about places and types of people known to him. Niall cited his experience as a Police Officer as being advantageous to this book, from which he read a short passage. Niall concluded by telling us about his new novel which he hopes to launch soon. Reading a short extract from it has certainly whetted our appetites.

On 8th February, we were entertained by Ian Thomson who related amusing anecdotes of his life in music. At the age of four he was given a guitar; it may have been old, but it was the start of his lifelong love of music. In 1955, with his friend Brian, they started a group and for the next 12 years they went on the road. They played with famous singers such as Van Morrison, the Hollies and Ken Dodd. Now Ian goes into primary schools to play music, sometimes rock 'n roll, to 5 to 7 year olds. He loves to see them dance so freely and naturally to the music. Ian firmly believes in the value of music in life so introducing it to children pleases him greatly.

Margaret Fear
Secretary

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



Netherlee and Stamperland Forum

In January, the Reverend Liz Johnson Blythe was kind enough to address the Netherlee and Stamperland Forum on the role of the Christian Right in American society. Liz has been the minister at Castlemilk and Carmunnock Parish Churches since January 2023. She grew up in the suburbs of Dallas, Texas, took degrees from the University of Texas at Austin as well as Princeton Theological Seminary, and her first parish was in Baltimore, Maryland.

During the course of her presentation Liz was, seemingly, in no doubt about the aims of the Christian Right – a movement of political Christians who pursue conservative agendas in both secular and non-secular contexts – and the consequences of their views.

Liz's talk hinged upon the apparent contradiction at the heart of American public life. The United States was established by the descendants of those who had fled religious persecution in Europe. As such, the U.S. constitution guaranteed that there would not be an official religion, that there would be no religious tests for public officeholders, and that no restrictions would be placed by Congress on individuals to worship as they pleased. And yet, a huge majority of members of Congress are Christians, and there has never been an openly non-Christian president of the United States. This contradiction is neatly summed up by the presidential oath of office. The constitution does not require that the president-elect take the oath with their left hand placed upon the bible; and yet all-but-four incoming presidents have chosen to do so. The expression 'so help me God' is not part of the oath's official text. For better or worse, Christianity is a cultural cornerstone within this secular system of government and this contradiction forms part of how the Christian Right has acquired political power in the United States.

Members of the Christian Right are invariably constitutional originalists – which means they believe the constitution ought to be interpreted in line with the original understanding at the time of ratification (1787-88), leaving no room at all for changing social attitudes or modern political realities. Despite the separation of church and state and the constitutional guarantees underpinning pluralism, the Christian Right virtually insists that prospective officeholders are Christian conservatives who will uphold its world view. While demanding freedom of speech and religion for itself, the Christian Right is, generally, highly suspicious of religious pluralism, and it is, typically, deeply hostile to social liberalism. The Christian Right is by no means exempt from the contradiction at the centre of American public life.

Liz noted that the Christian Right emerged in the aftermath of the Second World War, partly in reaction to the countercultural movement of the 1960s and 1970s, which encompassed the anti-Vietnam War protests and the notable Supreme Court rulings which guaranteed the constitutional right to abortion and outlawed prayers in state schools. She usefully identified four tendencies of the Christian Right: (1) the assumption of moral absolutes (2) the equation of private morality with public policy (3) a strong belief in capitalism and (4) a shared sense that 'traditional values' are under threat from within and without. Over the decades, these characteristics have combined to form a 'siege mentality' that has turned the Christian Right into a quasi-authoritarian movement. /...

Netherlee and Stamperland Forum (continued)

Since the 1990s, politicians on the right have started to capitalise on this mentality, which partially explains the resurgence of the far-right/the formation of the 'alt-Right' as a major force in American politics. Without making any party-political points, Liz pointed out that the emergence of the Christian Right has had major political and societal consequences which are, at least, worth considering if our shared aim is to maintain cohesive, democratic societies.

We are grateful to Liz for giving us a pithy account of a major social and political force, not least because there is due to be a pivotal set of elections across the world this year. More than forty per cent of the global population will go to the polls in 2024, a higher percentage than at any time in the history of democracy, and Liz certainly helped us to understand one of the significant players in western politics at present.

Future Forum Meetings

On **19th February**, Professor Tahseen Jafry will address the Forum on climate justice and, crucially, what it means for all of us. On **18th March** we welcome **Dr Simon Cuthbert** telling us about life on Mars.

Everyone is most welcome to attend and encouraged to bring a friend along, too. The Forum is held in the Lesser Sanctuary of the church at 7.30 p.m.

Fraser McGowan and The Forum Organising Committee

Upcoming Events

Soup & Pudding Lunch

There will be a soup and pudding lunch in the large hall after the service on **Sunday 25th February**. Come and join us for food and fellowship.



Community Event

On **Saturday 2nd March** we are having a Community Event in Netherlee and Stamperland Church halls from 2pm. This will include a table-top sale, primarily for children's and baby items. Tables will cost £5 and to book a table, please contact Marjorie Lang (07732938631) or me, Barbara Cochrane (07805042151).



Bike for Good (Scottish Charity Number SC042707) will take away any bikes donated on the day to refurbish and sell on.

They will also have information on lessons, led rides, e-bikes, and cargo bike loans.

There will be a second-hand book stall and a tearoom with home baking.

The following have been invited to attend but have yet to confirm:- East Renfrewshire Council, PetsnVets, Home Energy Scotland. If anyone has a contact in an organisation of community interest, please let Marjorie or I know.

Barbara Cochrane

Starchild Events

**A Call to Worship with
FATHER'S SONG**


Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church
130 Ormonde Avenue, Glasgow G44 3SL
Saturday 17 February 2024 at 7.00pm

 Supporting the work
of Starchild Charity


No ticket required - All ages welcome!
There will be a retiring collection for the work of www.starchildcharity.com

Father's Song is a vocal group of 30 men from various churches throughout Central Scotland. It's their desire to share their faith through the singing of contemporary praise songs, giving thanks and honour to God.


www.fathers-song.org.uk

**ROCK
CHOIR** 
LIVE

Enjoy a magical, uplifting performance from
the UK's favourite contemporary choir

In aid of 

Sunday 24th March (doors 6:30pm)
Netherlee, Stamperland Parish Church
Ormonde Ave. G44 3SL

Nibbles & Drinks reception (donations appreciated)
Tickets: £6, under 15 years: £3 (available via EventBrite)



Poppyscotland News.

Hello again Everyone! Now that the dust has settled on the Christmas and New Year activities, it is time to think about ongoing fundraising for Poppyscotland. Last year the wonderful total of **£6,881.87** was raised in Netherlee and Stamperland. Thanks to all who helped in any way towards this total.

At present I have arranged a Coffee Afternoon for **27th April**. This will take place in the Large Hall between 2 and 4pm; tickets are priced £4 for adults and £1.50 for children. As has become the custom, there will be the ever-popular Tombola. The Poppy Box will be in the Welcome Hall to receive donations for this Tombola from Palm Sunday, 24th March. Thank you all in anticipation of your ongoing generosity. If you know of any small businesses who would like to take a table at this event, selling their wares whilst supporting Poppyscotland, please ask them to contact me. As we move to more use of cards for donations, can I remind you all that the card reader is available in the Welcome Hall for donations to Poppyscotland as well as other good causes.

I am very grateful for all the loyal support you have given to Poppyscotland over the past seven and a half years. I wonder if any of you would be willing to assist me to form a group to help plan and execute further fundraising events? I feel that new blood could bring some fresh ideas for future events. I can be contacted by email at john-mann4@sky.com or on my mobile 07796277544.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Anne Mann

An Invitation from our Friends at Giffnock South Church

A trip is arranged every year for the congregation of Giffnock South, but gradually we have had a mixture of people joining us from Williamwood, Mearnskirck, Park & Pollokshaws. There are still some spaces left for this year's trip to Cheshire from 5th to 9th May staying at Wychwood Park Hotel.



Allander Travel provide a very comfortable bus for our travels. A booking form and itinerary can be obtained by emailing the editor at nandsnewsletter@btinternet.com. If anyone is interested, please contact Elaine Clarke on 07306 894744.

Nancy Fisher