

CONNECTIONS

The joint magazine of Netherlee & Stamperland Parish Churches



December 2019 Edition 12

Distributed on the first Sunday of the calendar month

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

or by email on request to editor. Registered

Charity Nos SC003155 & SC 015303



Netherlee Church
Carol Singing
Tuesday 10th December

In aid of Shelter Scotland

Helping tackle Homelessness



Meet in Netherlee Church Welcome Hall

6.30 – 6.45pm

Hot chocolate & Christmas goodies on return to the Church

Bring Santa Hats and Torches or Lanterns

All welcome, but children need supervision.



David Milligan Quiz

Why not come along and try your luck? You don't need to come with a full team – you are always welcome and there will be plenty of people you can join in with!

Saturday 25th January 2020

6.45pm for a 7pm start

Stamperland Parish Church

BYOB.

Fish Suppers can be ordered on the night!!

Tickets (not incl. Fish Suppers) on Sale January 2020 £3 for Adults, Children Free.

Sounds International Community Choir



Christmas Charity Concert

Netherlee Church

Ormonde Avenue
Netherlee

Tuesday 3rd December 2019
at 7.30pm

Special guests
Netherlee Primary School
Mission Voices

Tickets: £5

Tickets available at door

All proceeds to
Macular Society

Programme sponsored by **STEWART Milne**



Why are Dasher and Dancer always taking coffee breaks?

Because they are my star bucks.



DECEMBER 2019 | £3.00

LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

IN THIS ISSUE

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOLY LAND

Tiberius and Bethlehem contexts

DISCIPLESHIP AND ME

Following Jesus around the world

'A REAL HONOUR AND A REAL PRIVILEGE'

Mark Evans DCs, President of the Diocese of Cairn

and much more of the £2.00



Share

Sheena Wurthmann



SHARE is a small group of women who have been following a range of Bible studies for several years. Our favourite studies are provided by York Courses. The York Courses produce study materials for Advent and Lent. The Advent course is 4 sessions and the Lent course 5 sessions. We tend to start our study early because of commitments at the festive events of Christmas and Easter.

The Advent study this year is titled "Who are we praying to?". The four sessions are ;

1. Praying with perseverance
2. Praying in the face of unanswered prayer
3. Praying for the marginalised
4. Prayer and covenant.

For each session the participants have a booklet that gives Bible readings and some discussion and questions for discussion at the meeting. For the group there is a CD that gives some description of the thinking of the person or people who have developed the course and discussion with other people. By the time this is published SHARE will be half way through the course but that doesn't mean you can't do this study on your own or with others at a time convenient to you. If you want more information just talk to me.





A Message from the Editor

Fraser Neilson



In true traditional spirit, Connections Magazine wishes all its readers and contributors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Publication	First Submission	Final Submission	Delivery	Uplift
Jan 20	No Publication			
Feb 20	Anytime	Fri 17th Jan	Sun 2nd Feb	
Mar 20	Mon 3rd Feb	Fri 14th Feb	Sun 1st Mar	
Apr 20	Mon 2nd Mar	Fri 13th Mar	Sun 5th Apr	
May 20	Mon 6th Apr	Fri 17th Apr	Sun 3rd May	
Jun 20	Mon 5th May	Fri 22nd May	Sun 7th Jun	

Changes to the Roll - Stamperland

Bill Paterson



Change of Address *We hope you are happy in your new abode.*

Name	From	To
Mrs Norma Wilson	Stamperland	Giffnock

Members Leaving *Sorry you have gone, but you take our best wishes with you.*

Name	From	
Mrs June Marshall	Giffnock	

The only trouble
with retirement...
you never get a damn day off!



Be nice to your kids.
They will choose your
Nursing Home.





Our Minister's Message

Reverend Scott Blythe



I don't know about the rest of you, but the last few weeks have felt as if someone had thrown the switch on the lights around us! As I reflect upon the change in our light - which is of course completely normal - I realised that we have had a gentle autumn period with lots of light and less storms to drive away the leaves. In fact, in the last few weeks in which we have had some beautiful days, I have been really struck by the browns and yellows, reds and oranges that we have been able to enjoy this year.

Yet, we are finding ourselves travelling at a rate of knots towards the Christmas Festival! It always seems to accelerate when we move beyond October. As we approach this celebration of God's Incarnation - being born one of us - it is significant that we reflect on the light in our northern hemisphere of the world.

Christ's coming is as a source of light amidst our winter darkness. We read of the star that the magi followed all the way to where the mother and the baby were. A star of particular significance and beauty. I remember a few years ago attending a talk given by an astronomer and astrophysicist at Wellington Parish Church in which he spoke of his conviction that from records kept by the Chinese there was a very significant super nova, it would seem, around the time of the birth of Jesus.

In the midst of our winter darkness, we long for the fresh light of spring, knowing that the winter is to come first. Moreover, as we approach this festival that so many of us enjoy with our families and friends, it might be worth reflecting upon our own lives and where there might be darkness that needs new light and hope this Christmas.

It might be the need to build bridges with friendships that have suffered!

It might be that there is part of our life that needs a lift - our career or a hobby that has waned and might need to be reinvested within.

Whatever, you might need to bring more into the light, I pray that this Christmas and Epiphany are a time where you find new hope and new joy!

Peace!

Scott

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

Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice?"





Netherlee Sunday Club & Senior Sunday Club - Elaine Murray



The annual swim was held at Eastwood Pool on 5th October with 36 participants from local churches all swimming 20 lengths. Our team of 11 were so enthusiastic and we must congratulate them. They will receive certificates at a later date and the amount of sponsorship they have raised will be announced soon.

Well done.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

Clarkston & District Committee

Vicky, Sandra, Marjorie, Walter and Russell

At the recent sponsor swim for Christian Aid 11 swimmers from Netherlee raised £787.00 and 7 swimmers from Stamperland raised £240.00 a great effort from all concerned. Thank you to all who sponsored the swimmers.

Our next fund raising event will be the Annual Art Show and sale in Carmichael Halls on Saturday 14th March ..put this in your diary now....This is an opportunity to view art work from local artists and purchase an original piece of art.....you will also be able to have a coffee and a scone!!!!

On behalf of the Christian Aid committee I would like to thank everyone for their continued support.



Community Transport East Renfrewshire SCIO

Volunteer Driver Project

PATIENTS FROM EAST RENFREWSHIRE

Do you need help to attend your medical appointment at your GP surgery, Clinics or Hospital?

ASK your surgery to register you with the service then you phone directly to arrange your appointments giving at least a week's notice

For more information: Call Anne Marie Kennedy

Telephone: 0141 881 6439



**EAST RENFREWSHIRE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE
PARTNERSHIP**





8.

Netherlee Sunday Club

Elaine Murray



The Sunday Club have been enjoying stories from the gospels of Matthew and Mark, learning more about Jesus Power to heal. Jesus does not hesitate to touch the sick, healing instantly and bringing new beginning to lives. We have learned that through healing, Jesus showed God's love, not just healing the sick, but from other situations like sadness and difficult relationships. We have also been very crafty last month. Have you seen the potato print freeze in the Large Hall at Netherlee? As we thought about feeding the 4,000 (if you don't believe our numbers check out Matthew 15:32-39) we tried to 'print' 4,000 people. We were a few short, but it helped us imagine such a large crowd.

As the Remembrance Service was at Stamperland this year, we looked at why the red poppy is the symbol we traditionally use during the preceding lesson. To our surprise, Duncan was wearing a purple poppy, which we learned is a symbol of remembrance in the United Kingdom for animals that served during wartime. This included horses, ponies, dogs and pigeons, many of whom lost their lives too. We finger painted poppy posters which were then added to the poppy display in Stamperland Church vestibule. On Remembrance Sunday itself, we enjoyed hearing how the youth organisations had helped the war effort in both the first and second world wars. We fell silent with the rest of the congregation before heading to the small hall where Helen, our Sunday Club Superintendent, had prepared games and activities not only for the Sunday Clubbers, but the Netherlee Anchor Boys, Stamperland Cubs and many other children who joined us. We made beautiful poppies which were then carried by those taking part in the parade which followed. It was lovely to make some new friends too.

Returning to theme the of healing, which seemed appropriate after Remembrance, we reflected on how Jesus wants to forgive us all and make us clean and free of that most deadly of all disease – sin. Some challenging discussions for our members, but we are proud of how the children deal with our topics, often asking questions that shows they are thinking about what we do each week.

Advent is now upon us and we are getting our entry ready for the Christmas Tree festival. The Sunday Club and Senior Sunday Club members will be getting involved in some of the services leading up to Christmas, the highlight being the Nativity service on the 15th of December. With our party on the 19th we have lots to look forward to.

We extend a warm welcome to all children P1 to P7 as well as S1 and beyond! Just come along, we'd love to see you. Joining us for the first time? Don't hesitate to get in touch via the Church Office to find out more, or simply meet us on a Sunday morning.

We will be taking a break after our Nativity Service and party, with Sunday Club returning on the 5th of January. The Sunday Club children, young adults and leaders would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2020!



Worship Rota – to December 2019

Rev Scott Blythe



Dates	Service	Service Times
December 1	Advent 1: Joint Communion Service - Netherlee	10:30
December 8	Advent 2 - Normal Service	10/11:30
December 8	Service of Remembrance - Netherlee	3:00
December 15	Advent 3 - Nativity Services	10/11:30
December 15	Choir Lessons and Carols Service - Netherlee	6:30
December 22	Advent 4: Joint Service - Netherlee	10:30
December 24	Joint Family Christmas Service - Stamperland	5:00
December 24	Joint Watchnight Service - Netherlee	11:30
December 25	Joint Family Morning Service - Stamperland	10:30
December 29	Normal Services - Choice of Carol Singing	10/11:30

Social & Fund-Raising - Stamperland

Kay Baird



On behalf of the Social and Fund Raising Committee we would be delighted to see you at the following events in Stamperland Church:

Jan 25th The David Milligan Quiz (and Raffle) will be held in the large hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Feb tba Fiddler's Rally (Date to be arranged).

Feb 22nd Church's 80th Birthday Party (Puppet Show)

Mar 4th Glasgow Philharmonic Male Voice Choir

Please keep an eye on future issues of the Order of Service for confirmation of dates, times and prices.

ER. Foodbank Stamperland

Parish & Beyond Committee



SHOPPING LIST

Thank you for your support!

- * Milk (UHT or powdered)
- * Sugar (500g)
- * Fruit Juice (carton)
- * Pasta Sauces
- * Tomatoes (Tinned)
- * Tinned Veg
- * Cereals
- * Dried/ Boil in bag Rice
- * Tinned Meat/Fish
- * Instant Mash Potato
- * Sponge Pudding (Tinned)
- * Rice Pudding or Custard (Tinned)
- * Tea Bags/Inst coffee
- * Tinned Fruit
- * Jam/Spreads
- * Biscuits or snack bars

ALSO COLLECTING

- * Toiletries men and women
- * Nappies & Baby Food
- * Treats

East Renfrewshire Foodbank is a project of churches and community working together under charity no: SC029653

The foods chosen for January are as follows:

Tinned soup / packet cuppa soup, Breakfast cereals/porridge, Tinned spaghetti / macaroni / pasta shapes, Tinned baked beans/vegetables, Tinned meat/tuna/salmon, Instant Mash Potato, Sponge pudding (tinned)

Ladies/Gents toiletries including sanitary products.

UHT Milk and Creamed Rice or Custard (Tinned) are acceptable at any time.

If you would prefer to donate any other items please refer to the list as shown. If you are unable to carry heavy items please do not be deterred from donating, there are always lighter options available on the list.

The delivery of food taken to Barrhead at the end of October weighed 52.9kg. This will feed 5 single people for three days. The client numbers are at a steady average of 40 per week. If 40 single packages

are distributed that amounts to almost half a tonne per week, it is easy to see why stocks go down.

We are going to take part again this year in the **Advent Foodbank Collection**. Netherlee are going to join with us in this project. The season of Advent is a time of giving and the idea is that we would donate an item to the Foodbank each day of Advent. The food can be collected at home and brought to the Watchnight Service or if you prefer, can be brought to the church on a weekly basis, on a Sunday morning, or on a Wednesday morning to Open Door between 10.00 and 12.00. **Items should not be relating to Christmas** as it will be into January before the food is delivered to the Foodbank. Any item as shown on the Foodbank Shopping List would be greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your continued support which is very much appreciated. Again we would ask that items donated are within the **“best before” date**. The Foodbank will not distribute food which is out of date.



Changes to the Roll - Netherlee

Mabel Bell



By Profession of Faith

Name	Location	District	Elder
Mrs Nicola Todd	Eaglesham	91	M Bell

Death

Date	Name	Location	District	Elder
00-10-19	Mr Stewart Douglas	Giffnock	91	M Bell
10-11-19	Mr Robert McKay	Netherlee	35	G Cook
4-10-19	Mrs Dorothy Hall	Muirend	3	J McIntosh

Disjunction

Name	Location	District	Elder
Mr Hugh & Mrs Jane Mackinnon	Netherlee	30	J Dunbar
Mrs Elizabeth Paterson	Whitecraigs	69	A Gow

Sounds International Choir Concert

Netherlee Church

This year's promises to be a cracker, with the main choir, Netherlee School choir, solos by professional soprano/choir conductor Ellen Mawhinney and jazz pianist/accompanist Dan Brown. In addition, Mission Voices (from Lodging House Mission) will be singing a couple of songs - a fantastic night and great value as this year's ticket price is just £5!

As before, we will be inviting people to donate toiletries for East Ren Good Causes - there will be a bucket at the door on the night. All proceeds to Macular Society with donation to LHM. Tickets are available at the door.

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Pastoral Care

Please contact Grace Scott, 0141 637 2226



Your Pastoral Care Team are here for you. If you need ;

Transport to Church

Hospital

Doctors Appointment

Shopping

Could do with a chat

Have a prayer request



Please give two weeks notice of any requirement for transport for medical appointments

A few months ago, we introduced a Library service to you, and this month would like to commend this to you again. Kay is able and willing to exchange your library book, assist you with future choices of your favourite authors, or liked authors. Additionally, she can provide listening books and large print books. If you are not already a member of the library Kay will happily see to this for you, why not make use of this great service? We hope you will.

Remember that we are only a phone call away to help you with shopping, getting to Church, hospital and doctor's appointments and any other assistance that we can help you with.

Stamperland Church Open Door



Free Dementia Friendly Art Group

Stamperland Parish Church
Stamperland Gardens

Every Friday
2-4pm



No previous art skills needed.
Art Tutors are on hand to help!

Pop in for a chat
Tea and cake provided!

Email heartfor.art@crossreach.org.uk
Facebook [CrossReachHeartForArt](https://www.facebook.com/CrossReachHeartForArt)
Call 0141 620 3092

Stamperland Church Sanctuary is open on a Wednesday morning from 10.00 o'clock until 12.00 o'clock for quiet contemplation and personal prayer. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available in the vestibule where fellowship can be enjoyed.

Please come and support this activity.



Down Memory Lane in Stamperland - December 1979 - January 1980



Being the Christmas holiday break for most organisations, the reports from all concerned were mainly about parties and pantomime visits, and seasons greetings from all and sundry to the congregation, but in January the Church continued with the following paragraph from the Session Clerk's report;

The Church is not the building we meet in, it is the people who are members. It depends on you and me as to what kind of Church we will have in the 1980's. Stamperland is our Church and it is us, with God's help, who will determine what will happen in the future; no-one else will do it for us. It will need a great effort from every member if our church is to expand in the 1980's. It is our heritage. What are we going to do with it?

The Ranger Guide Unit reported that Lesley McCowan was working on a part time basis for the "Mercury" and one of her first contributions was an article about the Ranger Unit what was printed on the front page.

At the December Communion a large number of members came and went;

Mrs Mary Bell, Mr & Mrs C Harte, Mr C Stewart, and Mrs J Walker all by Profession of Faith.

Mrs L Bell by resolution of the Kirk Session.

Mr & Mrs J Cochran, Mrs A Dougan, Mrs H Norrie, Mr & Mrs A Taylor and Mr & Mrs A Weir by Disjunction Certificate.

Those who left Stamperland were;

Mr & Mrs A Devlin, Mr & Mrs W Findlay, Mr & Mrs J Irvine, Miss J Wishart, Mr & Mrs I Chirry, Mrs J Young, Mrs K Harper, Mr & Mrs J McDowall, Miss M Anslow, Mrs A Murray and Dr and Mrs A D Howie.

Baptisms that took place on 16th December were;

Maurissa Kirsty Allan, Stamperland Ave

Julia Christine Halliday, 16 Randolph Gdns

Miss Gillian Elizabeth Mary Harte, 10 Randolph Gdns

Carolyn Louisa Neill, Clarkston Rd

Keri Marissa Struth, The Oval.

(No boys!!!)



Treasurer's Report

Allan Mathieson Treasurer Netherlee

Cumulative to October 2019



General Fund - At the end of October, the General Fund shows a surplus of £17566. This is £11,801 ahead of the Budget and £128 ahead of the same time last year on a like for like basis. I would highlight the following:

Income - Against budget the offerings including tax recovery on gift aid contributions are ahead by £5,646. The only heading showing a shortfall is under WFO offerings. This is down to members moving from the WFO scheme to the Gift Aid scheme. The income from the Use of Premises is £2,753 down on the budget. As reported in my previous report we had lost 2 tenants, but I am pleased to report that one of them, Enjoy a Ball, has started again under a new franchisee. At this stage it is expected that the deficit under this heading will have grown to circa £3,500 by the end of the year. Clarkston after School Care started their non - term club for when the schools are on holiday and the October holiday generated an income, to our Church, of £600.

Against last year, after 10 months, our Income is down only £997.

Expenditure - Ministry costs are running close to budget and last year's figures.

The other costs are showing a saving against budget of £8,430. The two main areas of saving are under R & M (£4,020) and Heat and Light (£1,749). With only 2 months remaining in this year it is expected that R & M will, at the end of year, still show a surplus against budget similar to that currently showing. The saving against budget under Heat and Light at the end of the year will be dependent on the weather conditions in the final 2 months of the year. Although it is expected that the surplus will decline in the last 2 months it is hoped that it will still be in surplus at the year end.

The Total Expenditure against last year shows a saving of £1,224

Reserves - Our Reserves have received £14,487 in dividends and interest. £4,616 has been spent from the Thomas White Legacy Fund, as reported previously. In November £5,000 has been taken from this fund and sent to St Rollox Parish Church. This was in response to the appeal from Glasgow Presbytery for funds to help St Rollox purchase furnishings and equipment



for their new church. Their original church was subject to a compulsory purchase order by Glasgow Council in order to make way for a new road. The appeal gave an estimated cost of £156,000, more than half of which is being funded by the General Trustees and grants received by St Rollox directly from external sources. St Rollox is very much a community church. The roll is 72 but on a Sunday the numbers are around 100 of which the majority are foreigners/students. The area is home to immigrants and asylum seekers. They run a community café and 2 days a week offer English classes and support to complete government benefit funding and other applications.

To date the Common Good Fund has dispersed £4,806, mainly to the East Renfrewshire Good Causes Fund.

Investments - The Investment Committee have reviewed, over the summer months, the performance of the 2 portfolios we hold with Hargreaves Lansdown. We have been happy with the dividends (£40,000) received over the last 4 years on our original investment of £300,000. The growth performance has however been disappointing. The funds have underperformed against their benchmarks in the last 4 years and although HL could give reasons for this what they failed to do was convince us that the performance of the portfolios against their benchmarks would improve in the foreseeable future.

The Investment Committee examined the performance of other investment platforms and recommended to the Session that we withdraw £100,000 from the HL portfolios and invest the proceeds with the Church of Scotland Investment Trust. Their portfolios have given, in the last 4 years, a similar income to that we have received from HL but their growth performance has been better than that achieved by HL. The Session, at their November meeting approved the recommendation from the Investment Committee.

The Investment Committee will continue to monitor the performance of these investments.





Netherlee Guild

Margaret Fear, Secretary



Jan	07	Ms. Sheila Gordon - Crossreach (Tuesday at Stamperland)
	22	Ms. Christine Finnigan - BBC News
Feb	05	Dr. P. Cairns - Seema's Project
	19	Dr. Duncan McIntyre - Iona
Mar	04	Ranald Mair - Social Work within the Kirk
	06	World Day of Prayer at St. Aiden's
	10	Friendship Lunch
	18	A.G.M.

Netherlee House

Jean Edgar



It is with regret that I intimate the closure of Netherlee House Care Home.

Sited in Netherlee Road, the House was opened over 25 years ago under the auspices of the McFarlane Trust.

The aim was to provide a home for life for 10 residents with learning disabilities and this was realised thanks to good management and caring staff. Government policy seems to have brought about this change and it is reassuring to know that the residents have been safely relocated in East Renfrewshire and Paisley.

We, in Netherlee Church, are richer for our connection with Netherlee House and the good work done there over the years.

Poppy Scotland

Anne Mann



As this years Poppy Campaign comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make this a successful year. The total sum raised will not be known for a while. I will let you know when I have the figure.

On Saturday 9th November another successful coffee afternoon took place. The wonderful sum of £820. 85 was raised. Thanks to all those who helped in any way. Thanks also to everyone who came and made it a lovely afternoon. This sum excludes the sale of Poppyscotland merchandise which raised a further £151.

Thank you again for all your ongoing support.



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



The Pollock Family: As reported in the last edition Kasia Pollock, the mother of one of our Anchor Boys, is undergoing treatment for cancer now and over the coming months. The family has expressed gratitude for everyone's support. Please continue to pray for Kasia and her family at this time.

Our Growth Continues: In November BB Companies across the UK have to report their membership numbers to HQ. We were pleased to be able to report a fourth successive year of growth. In November 2015 we had 27 boys across all sections. The figure for 1 November 2019 is 66 boys, with new recruits having arrived since this date and more on the horizon. We are so grateful to all who have made this possible, from staff, parents and the boys themselves for spreading the word and bringing their friends.

Remembrance Service: We were pleased to have 30 boys and staff from all sections in attendance at this year's Remembrance Service. In addition to this being a hugely important event in its own right, it was great to see such a strong turnout from other Netherlee & Stamperland uniformed organisations, and a pleasure to join them in a post service parade led by our friends at 231 BB.

Anchor Boys (Monday 6pm - 7pm): A huge part of our growth over recent years has come from some healthy competition amongst the Anchor Boys for recruitment badges. We were therefore delighted to be able to present Angus Mitchell with his gold recruitment badge for having secured five new members to date, an achievement that received plaudits of BB CEO Bill Stevenson and Scotland Director John Sharp. A few of the boys have silver recruitment badges, and have plenty of time to follow in Angus' footsteps and convert them into a gold.

Since the last edition the Anchors have enjoyed their Halloween party, a Christian themed puppet show in the sanctuary, and the first airing of the trampette and box of the session. 14 of the boys also attended the Battalion Lego morning in Ibrox Parish Church, attended by around 40 members from throughout greater Glasgow. Recent Bible readings have included the Para-



-ble of the Prodigal Son and Jesus calming the storm.

Junior Section (Tues 7pm – 8.45pm): A video of a game of musical chairs at Junior Section's Halloween party became an internet sensation on account of Dylan Glen's ingenious battery powered fan inflated outfit, which created the illusion of him being carried around by a Sumo wrestler. The things you miss out on if you don't follow our Facebook page...

In addition to going viral the boys have been participating in paper plane challenges, vaulting, rugby skills, parachute games and learning about the life of Samson.

Company Section (Friday 7.30pm – 10pm): Meanwhile our Queen's men - Christopher Watson Sweeney, Calum Murray and Jack Nairn - were delighted to be able to offer help and support at the Service of Ordination and Introduction of Claire Herbert at Lodging House Mission (LHM). Claire was ordained as a Deacon and introduced to all as the newly appointed Chaplain of LHM at a service lead by Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery, Rev Dan Carmichael. We wish Claire every success and many blessings as she starts this new chapter in her career.

Three symbols of service were presented to Claire: a Bible declaring God's love for all creation; a basin and a towel through which Jesus showed His followers that to be disciples they must be servants of all; a phial of oil, symbolic of Jesus healing the sick and the suffering. Calum Murray was invited to present the oil to Claire and read a short passage expressing its meaning.

Christopher, Calum and Jack were fantastic, illustrating great confidence and going out of their way to be helpful to all throughout. In addition to their assistance with the service our Queen's men cleared up afterwards and set out the day centre for the next day's activities. They made a crucial contribution to a successful event for a hugely worthwhile cause, showing the BB at its best.

(Thank you to Christine McGowan for photographs and summary of LHM service).

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I woke up last night to find the ghost of Gloria Gaynor standing at the foot of my bed. At first I was afraid.....then I was petrified.



Netherlee BB Activities Autumn 2019

Presentation of Gold Recruitment Badge for Anchor Boys



The Queen's men at the Lodging House Mission



Junior Section Halloween Party



Remembrance Service at Stamperland 10th November 2019



Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers are all busy working away on various programme items from Home Safety, to Disability Awareness and Science.

Group Sleepover – the highlight of next month and a great way to kick-off our 80th anniversary celebrations for next year is a sleepover event for the whole group. In the middle of December we will be sleeping over at Flip Out Trampoline park!!



This will be the first time all of the sections have been away as a group and I am delighted that it will be our first official Beaver night away event.

As part of the night we will be joining our regular Friday DJ night, followed by a jumping session just for us, then some snacks and a movie before bedding down for the night (note - I did not say sleep). Next morning, after breakfast, we again have our own private jumping session before heading home.

Remembrance Service – all sections supported this year's Remembrance Service. Many thanks to all those who took part in the parade, read out details of Scouts involvements in the wars to the congregation, helped with the offering or were flag bearers or their escorts. Everyone was very smartly turned out and were respectful and attentive. Well done all.

It was nice that our colleagues from some of the Netherlee organisations were also able to support the service and parade in a good show of unity.

Thank You – as we were parading back to Randolph Drive one of our Cub



leaders, Felicity, caught her foot in a pothole and took a nasty fall. After a trip to Hairmyers I am pleased to say that it was only a bad sprain. Our thanks to all who stopped to help and offer assistance.



Congregations Personal Messages

Netherlee & Stamperland



I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to all Church members and especially my fellow Choir members for the beautiful flowers and food brought to me after my recent fall! I am progressing and trying to get back to normal as soon as I can!!

Doris Duncan (Netherlee)

A big thank you to everyone who contributes to the "Sweetie Treats" on a Sunday morning. It is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year,

The Stamperland Sweetie Lady.

I would like to thank all the people who helped me, and my children, after I fell and hurt my ankle during the Remembrance Parade, and to all those who have asked after my well-being since. There were lots of people involved, but I don't know everyone to be able to thank you personally. I'm pleased to say that my ankle's healing nicely and I hope to be back at Cubs soon.

Felicity Rose, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 79th Stamperland Scout Group.

With many thanks and gratitude to all my friends in Netherlee Church for their good wishes for my recovery from my recent surgery and for the very beautiful church flowers.

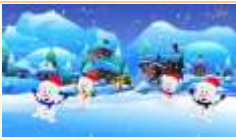
Irene Carmichael, Netherlee

We wish to express our thanks for the many fond wishes we received to mark our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Jean and Alan Edgar, Netherlee



If you are not meant to have midnight snacks, why is there a light in the fridge?



Netherlee GSE Food Bank

Anne Hind on behalf of Glasgow South East Foodbank



As I write this I can tell you that we are busy preparing for Christmas at the Foodbank.

We open on 4 additional days to allow us to give people a Christmas Meal Bag and a gift for each member of the family.

This is a big job as purchasing, wrapping and distributing requires to be done but the delight on the faces of those who receive them is well worth it.

We give either scarf, hat, gloves and socks with a toiletry if possible to everyone so if you would like to donate that then we would be delighted to receive any of these items.

Our meal bag consists of tinned ham, tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, tinned custard, tinned vegetables and tinned soup. In addition we try to give everyone a Christmas pudding and mince pies along with some chocolate.

Many thanks for your ongoing support and a Merry Christmas to all.

Ongoing list of items required.

Tinned fish, Fruit, Jam, Chocolate, Meat, Shaving Foam and Sanitary wear - Pads not Tampons.

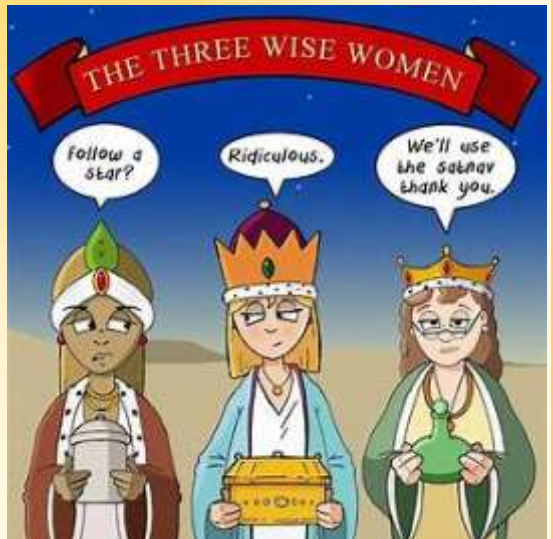
Gift Day - Stamperland

Kay Bolton, Treasurer



As intimated in the September/October edition of "Connections", Stamperland Church is suffering from a shortfall in income and is facing a deficit at the end of the year. It was therefore decided to hold a Gift Day to try to reduce the deficit.

The Gift Day took place on 19th October and was poorly attended with most people preferring to put their donation envelope in the offering bag on subsequent Sundays. To date, we have received £2,752. The trustees are very grateful to all those who contributed to this amount which will help to improve our financial outcome at the end of the year.





23.

Stamperland Flower Calendar

Contact Mrs May Paterson—0141 571 8652



1st Dec Service at Netherlee
15th Dec Miss Helen Dunbar
29th Dec Mrs G Marshall

8th Dec Mrs C Anderson
22nd Dec Service at Netherlee

5th Jan Mrs A Charlton
19th Jan Mrs E Moseley

12th Jan Mr W Anderson
26th Jan Mrs A Martin

2nd Feb Mrs J Marshall
16th Feb Mrs M Boyce

9th Feb Mrs M Allan
23rd Feb Miss J Stewart &
Mrs E Macpherson

As in previous years we plan to distribute Poinsettia Plants within the parish and local care homes. If you wish to donate a plant please bring it to church on Sunday 8th or 15th December. Many thanks.

Netherlee Church Flowers

Shirley Buchanan 585 3929



1st Dec Mabel Bell
15th Dec Anne Warnock
29th Dec Church Flowers

8th Dec Joan Dunbar
22nd Dec Church Flowers

5th Jan Sheila Dunn
19th Jan Vacant

12th Jan Jean Balfour
26th Jan Sarah Sinclair

Thanks again to all who donate so generously for our flowers and to all the ladies who arrange them each week for us to enjoy in church. Thanks too, to the ladies who prepare the flowers and deliver them, they are very much appreciated by those who receive them.

The ladies of the flower committee would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas.



Sunflowers don't typically come to mind when you think of winter, snow and the festive season, however, Starchild thought it would be nice to warm your hearts this

Christmas with the thought of Sunflowers! Michaela is just back from Uganda where a few memorial services were held in memory of our dear Rony. Michaela, alongside her Ugandan brothers Frank and David, some friends and children, scattered Rony's ashes at the Mango Tree School and Learning Centre in Jinja. They also planted sunflower seeds where we plan to build the Sunflower Sanctuary in his memory.



This Christmas we want to warm the hearts of the children Rony loved so much by building them a holistic centre where they can feel safe and supported. A place where they can work together in their struggle to bring about a much-needed change in their culture.

The Sunflower Sanctuary will provide a secure environment where they can grow, develop skills and find love, acceptance and hope. Starchild has been

reaching out to children with autism and disabilities but dear friends, we *really* need your assistance. If you feel you would like to donate to this project we would be most grateful! You can do so right here through our beautiful Christmas Campaign. These



people are in desperate need, and we hope you will consider a donation this Christmas. We are happy to provide sunflower donation certificates as Christmas presents! Please feel free to email us info@starchildcharity.com Please consider a donation at

justgiving.com/campaign/sunflowersatchristmas

Much Love to you all at Netherlee and Stamperland church. We wish you all a wonderful blessed Christmas and thank you for your continued support.

From all at Starchild www.starchildcharity.org



Netherlee Forum Session 2019 - 2020

Sheena Wurthmann



The schedule of meetings for the new session is as follows:

16th December	Neil Young	The black bit at the end of the golden banana
20 January	David Coleman	Chaplain to Eco-Congregation Scotland
17th February	Simon Walker	Saving bodies and minds; Suicide, Spiritualism and support during the first world war.
16th March	Jan Savage	Learning disability and inclusion. Are we there yet?

We would encourage you to come along and enjoy the various talks. The meetings are held in the Lesser Sanctuary at Netherlee starting at 7.30. They last about 45 minutes to allow for time for questions and answers. We finish the meeting with tea.

In October, the Forum was delighted to hear from David Beckett about his travels in Louisiana and the Mississippi Delta. David's journey around that part of United States was motivated by his well known love of music. He and his wife Pauline visited many sites associated with songs, creating their own vivid account of twentieth century American history through the music of the era.

David's main point was that much of the American experience is immortalised in popular song. Traumatic episodes have remained in public consciousness thanks in part to songs that captured the emotions of the time. Bob Dylan's song The Death of Emmett Till is about the lynching of an African American teenager in 1955. The song conveys the terrible injustice faced by African Americans at that time. David explained that music can help people to process their emotions as they reflect upon the troubling events of the past.

David and Pauline visited many places associated with American jazz, blues and soul music. They started their journey in New Orleans and travelled up the Mississippi Delta to Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Natchez, Vicksburg and



Clarksdale before returning to New Orleans via Greenwood and Zachary. They visited the site of the Rhythm Night Club in Natchez where 209 people died when the club caught fire in April 1940. The many songs about the fire give the impression the fire marked the loss of a major cultural institution, helping people to process their grief. David and Pauline also visited the Tallahatchie Bridge in Greenwood; the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale, Mississippi; and the famous Clarksdale crossroad where blues musician Robert Johnson allegedly sold his soul to the devil in exchange for musical success.

It was a pleasure to hear from David – a familiar face in Netherlee Church – about his musical pilgrimage around the Mississippi Delta. As David said, music sends a message to the soul better than anything else. In November, historian Dr Lesley Orr will address the Forum on women's suffrage and the Church of Scotland.

The meeting on the 17th December will be a presentation by Neil Young. Neil is the Youth Team Leader of St Paul's Youth Forum which has changed things in Blackhill. The project started in 1995 as an opportunity to play football but it has expanded and diversified. As the project has developed the level of crime and gang activity has diminished. Neil is going to talk about "The little black bit at the end of the golden banana". Come along and hear this inspiring story

The speaker on 20th January meeting will be Rev. David Coleman. David is the chaplain to Eco-Congregation Scotland and will be talking about Creation Time and celebrating the environment. I hope there will be a good attendance at this meeting as the congregation prepare to work towards an eco-congregation award.

231st Glasgow Company Section, Junior Section & Sparks Joint

Christmas Fair

Saturday 7th December 2019
10am to 1.00pm
Admission Free On Entry
 Stamperland Parish Church Halls,
 Stamperland Gardens, Clarkston

Why not come along and support the boys and their officers in their Seasonal Fund-Raising Activities.

Have a Coffee, meet some friends, Make some Friends.

Coffee Shop	Model Railway Display	Cake & Candy
Bouncy Castle	Hot Chocolate	



Stamperland Guild

Evelyn Graham



Dec

10th Christmas Party

Jan

14th Old Victorian Glasgow Lesley Bennet

21st Gideons Bill Coulter & Ian Smith

28th TV Humour Chris Scott

Feb

5th (Wed) Joint Project evening at Netherlee, Seema's Project, The Free to Live Trust

11th British Heart Foundation, Laura Stockwell

18th Visit to Cardwell Bay Garden Centre

25th Tales of Joyce Grenfell , Yvonne Waring

Mar

3rd Grahamston the Forgotten Village, Craig Mains

6th (Fri) World Day of Prayer – St Aydan's

10th Joint Friendship Lunch with Netherlee Guild, Williamwood Golf Club

17th Fashion Show, Taylor Fashions

24th Musical Evening, Grace Nevin

26th (Thur) Netherlee Daffodil Tea

31st A G M

It is hard to believe that we are into December again, where has the past year gone.? We are concluding the first three months of our winter programme, on 3rd December Stuart Bruce will talk about the Approach to Advent and on the 10th we will have our Christmas Party.

We have had several very enjoyable evenings in November, starting with a joint meeting on 5th November, at Stamperland, with Netherlee Guild. Marie Wilson our Pastoral Assistant told us about her journey to being appointed and what her work entails. The following week we were interested to hear from Ag Law about the work of the East Renfrewshire Foodbank and to learn



about the distribution of the food that we donate. Several ladies from Netherlee joined us on our evening visit to the Strathaven Gift & Coffee Shop, and finally we had a very enjoyable night watching videos set to music with Vivienne Macdonald.

Our evenings in January are very varied. They range from the Guild Project for Crossreach, to hearing about Old Victorian Glasgow, then to the work of the Gideons and finally to what we know will be a light hearted evening hearing about TV Humour from Chris Scott.

We meet in the Session Room at Stamperland Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings and do hope that you will come along to any evening which is of interest to you.

All the members of the Guild wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Communication

David Dundas, Stamperland



A vicar (age 36) in West London became a regular guest on the Jolly You Tube Channel and has garnered more than 100,000 Instagram followers with his "60-second sermons" together with a generous number of family photographs.

He sees this as a good platform to make meaningful posts about faith and the Church of England. He says -

"People come to my account because they want to hear good news".

Communication is seldom easy, but we are likely to be surprised what can be achieved with sufficient endeavour and imagination.

A quotation by an American business man comes to mind –

"If you find yourself standing still, you are actually moving backwards." I ask myself

"When considering the apparent decline in active Christian communication, is there a mistaken belief we are merely standing still?"

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Netherlee Advent Calendar

Helen Cross



“Netherlee Set to Unveil its First Living Advent Calendar”.

Residents across Netherlee have come together to spread some alternative festive community cheer this year by taking the average Advent calendar experience to a new level. The introduction of a Living Advent Calendar is set to create some magic for everyone to enjoy in the countdown to Christmas.

Each evening of Advent houses across Netherlee will unveil a unique festive window display, created with imagination and creativity and no doubt a lot of glitter. A map of the houses taking part has been created which will allow the local community, friends and family to enjoy each of the displays and bring neighbours and communities closer together during what can be a very busy and chaotic period.

Commenting on the idea one of the organisers who first came across a Living Advent while living in London, Helen Cross reflects, “People can often feel lost and alone during the Christmas period and now more than ever it’s important we harness the idea of community. I hope the Living Advent will bring people and families together whether they are participating or window spotting and generate some festive cheer while also allowing people to get creative and share some fabulous Christmas spectacles from their windows. I hope this will be the first of many Living Advents to come in Netherlee.”

#netherleelivingadvent. See Advert on page 3

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Love Actually

Mission & Discipleship Church Without Walls Team

Every Boxing Day people across the land resolve that next Christmas will be different. In January, when the bills arrive, they promise that next Christmas will be simpler, less indulgent and cheaper. According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year. Perhaps next year, by refusing to conform to every tradition and everyone's expectations, we will recapture the wonder, the magic and the awe of Christmas and 'remember what it's all about'.

November magazines include articles on how to approach Christmas – 'Twenty Six Ways to Simplify Christmas'; or 'Five Reasons Why I'm Not Simplifying Christmas'. There are some radical work-saving, stress-busting, money-saving strategies out there. One woman recommends leaving the Christmas tree fully decorated all year. Hers has been in the corner of the sitting room, festooned in tinsel, baubles, lights and all, for *sixteen* years. It's true. For most of the year it is wrapped in sheets with the reminder, 'Do not open until December'.

Perhaps, after all, even on Christmas Day, reflecting on how simple or how lavish it has been is to miss the point. Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do-list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

'Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?
What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!'

(Dr Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*)

A German proverb goes: 'The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing'. That seems a pretty good definition of simplicity to me: recognising the extraneous and superfluous for what it is and focusing on 'the main thing'. Authentic simplicity has to be an inward reality before it bears the fruit of an outward lifestyle. Attempts to create the outer beauty without the inner actuality are doomed to legalism and frustration.

'The main thing' is to recognise the significance of that first Christmas, the Nativity. The birth of Jesus Christ was marked by astonishing simplicity. The highpoint of history, the climax of eternity, was not marked with grandeur, pomp and pageant. Rather, a pregnant teenager had no option but to deliver



her child in the stark and smelly surroundings of a stable, the only warmth provided by the body heat of sheltering animals. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus, the Bible tells us, did not come with majesty and opulence, but 'full of grace and truth', to reveal God – a God who is love – and to bridge the gap between us and that lavishly loving God.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually. As Christina Rossetti's carol puts it, 'Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas.' Perhaps, as we make our plans, we should be less concerned with how simple or extravagant our Christmas will be. Perhaps the touchstone of all that we do should be love: and how we respond to the extravagant love of God and how we love those around us.

The Day after Christmas

A Short Story for Christmas



It was the day after Christmas at St Peter and St Paul's church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John, the vicar, was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures.

Immediately, Father John's thoughts turned to calling in the local policeman but as he was about to do so, he saw little Nathan with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John approached Nathan and asked him, 'Well, Nathan, where did you get the little infant?

'Nathan looked up, smiled and replied, 'I took him from the church.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish grin, Nathan said,

'Well, Father John, about a week before Christmas I prayed to Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'



**Just been to Tesco's
and swapped 50
raisins for a 100
sultanas. I can't
believe the currant
exchange rate.**



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them"*



**Stamperland
Youth
Organisations
Parade
Sunday 10th
November
2019**



**To the Joint
Service with
Netherlee at
Stamperland.**