

**STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH**

**NETHERLEE PARISH CHURCH**

**A CASE FOR THE RETENTION OF BOTH  
SUITES OF CHURCH BUILDINGS**

**PREPARED BY**

**Norman Bolton**

**Session Clerk  
Stamperland Parish Church**

**John Montgomery**

**Session Clerk  
Netherlee Parish Church**



## SUMMARY

The Presbytery's Draft Basis for Deferred Linkage Leading to Union states that, "Both churches at present used and occupied by Netherlee Parish (Church of Scotland) and Stamperland Parish (Church of Scotland) shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations."

The Presbytery Buildings Plan classified Stamperland Church as "4". It comments that "this score (*and the current vacancy at Stamperland*) leaves the flexibility necessary to address .... circumstances ..... The Stamperland buildings are prominently placed and appear in good heart. The challenge, in buildings terms, will be to decide on the future of the Stamperland buildings and, hopefully, aim for retention and innovation, this being a realistic prospect on a successful union."

The Kirk Sessions of both Stamperland Parish Church and Netherlee Parish Church firmly believe that for the foreseeable future it is essential to retain both sets of buildings to enable both congregations to participate fully in worship, to encourage current initiatives relating to innovative and alternative forms of worship, to maintain and promote both churches' key roles in our local communities and to support the development of outreach and mission both locally and further afield.

<b>CONTENTS</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY, LOCAL OUTREACH</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Stamperland</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Netherlee</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Netherlee Primary School</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Conclusions related to Local Community and Outreach</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>General observations and opportunities for development</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Attendance at worship if Stamperland were to close</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Conclusions related to worship and attendance at worship</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>BUILDING ACCOMMODATION AND CHURCH FINANCE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TABLES</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Accommodation usage at Stamperland</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Accommodation usage at Netherlee</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Stamperland Church</b>	
	<b>Accommodation summary, annual building costs, financial summary</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Netherlee Church</b>	
	<b>Accommodation summary, annual building costs, financial summary</b>	<b>15</b>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Under the current Presbytery Plan the congregations of Netherlee Parish Church and Stamperland Parish Church are to link and, in time, to unite. The Basis of Deferred Linkage leading to Union states that “both churches, at present used and occupied by Netherlee and Stamperland, shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations” and that, “the Presbytery Plan proposes a union between the congregations within three years of the linkage taking effect on the demission or translation of the Rev Thomas Nelson.”

The Presbytery Buildings Plan currently classifies Netherlee Church as “1” and Stamperland Church as “4”. In relation to Stamperland Church the Buildings Plan states that,

*“With the recent vacancy at Stamperland, the ‘4’ classification leaves the flexibility necessary to address these latest circumstances ..... The Stamperland buildings are prominently placed and appear in good heart. The challenge here, in buildings terms, will be to decide on the future of the Stamperland buildings and, hopefully, aim for retention and innovation, this being a realistic prospect on a successful union.”*

The Kirk Sessions of both Netherlee Parish Church and Stamperland Parish Church firmly believe that for the foreseeable future it is essential to retain both sets of buildings to enable our congregations to participate fully in worship, to maintain and promote our churches’ key roles in our local communities and to support the development of outreach and mission both locally and further afield. There is certainly a keenness for innovation and rejuvenation and a belief that, by effective use of ministerial, congregational and physical resources both churches will develop their existing activities, explore and implement new ideas and ventures and expand the role of the church in the communities of Netherlee and Stamperland.

This document presents the case for the retention of both church buildings and the designation in the Presbytery Buildings Plan of Stamperland Parish Church as a Category 1 building. Information is provided in relation to the use of the church accommodation, the stakeholders and the involvement of the local community. Information is also given in relation to worship and potential developments which would be contingent on the retention of the sanctuary at Stamperland. Data from a survey of members of Stamperland Church is presented which shows that, in the event of the closure of Stamperland Church, only a relatively small number of members would transfer to Netherlee and an alarmingly large number might abandon church attendance completely.

Appendix A presents some information relating to Stamperland Parish Church, its location, buildings and annual running costs. Appendix B presents similar information relating to Netherlee Parish Church.

## **2 SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY, LOCAL OUTREACH**

Both Netherlee and Stamperland buildings are used extensively throughout the week by church organisations, church-based organisations and local community groups. Tables 1 and 2 show, in detail for each church, the day-by-day occupation of the available accommodation, the organisations involved and the associated numbers of people attending.

### **2.1 Stamperland**

At Stamperland the availability of different sizes of hall accommodation enables the needs of different organisations to be met and the number of halls permits various organisations to meet concurrently. Parking in the vicinity of the church is relatively easy.

Hall accommodation is used each week by the uniformed organisations – BB, Guides and Scouts – as well as Stepping Stones (Sunday School), Guild, and also for congregational social and fundraising events – coffee mornings, lunches, dances, quizzes, concerts, drama, etc.. Arrangements are being progressed to establish a weekly lunch club for people living with dementia and, following comment at Presbytery related to the high cost of funerals, there are embryonic plans to provide accommodation and catering for post-funeral teas.

Hall accommodation is used each week by external agencies including Baby Sensory (activities for babies and toddlers), Heart for Art (a Cross-Reach dementia project which provides therapy for local people suffering from dementia), keep-fit classes of various kinds, Sounds International (a non-denominational, inter-faith choir some 100 strong) and others.

Halls are also used for an annual Community Art Exhibition and for occasional meetings of the local community council. Renfrewshire Youth Orchestra has used the sanctuary on several occasions for their concerts.

In any week around 700 people attend events, meetings and organisations at Stamperland. Taking account of parents delivering and picking up children from organisations the number of individuals accessing the buildings may approach one thousand per week.

The community of Stamperland generally holds the church in high regard and people living in the parish like to know “it is there” even though they may never attend any services. Church members visiting homes in connection with activities such as Christian Aid door-to-door collection generally get positive and supportive comments.

## **2.2 Netherlee**

Netherlee Church is a traditional, red, Dumfriesshire stone-built, church sanctuary supported by a Large Hall, Small Hall, Upper Room, Vestry, Waiting Room, kitchen and toilets including a disabled toilet and level access to the premises. Opened for worship in 1934, various improvements to the accommodation have been made over the years including the creation of a Lesser Sanctuary, an Audio Visual facility, disabled facilities, new toilets and, most recently, a new kitchen compliant with current hygiene and health and safety requirements. Currently we are looking to improve the accommodation to make it more welcoming and to improve the facilities for all users striving to meet all of the requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

A schedule of current usage indicates that our present accommodation is very fully utilised by both church and community organisations. If Stamperland were to be closed, Netherlee could not accommodate the resultant increased requirements within its premises. The opposite is also true. We believe the two sets of premises are complementary and both are, therefore, necessary for the continued mission within the enlarged Parish once the Linkage / Union is activated.

Netherlee's accommodation is utilised by the following church-associated organisations:-

- The Boys' Brigade - Anchor, Junior and Company Sections
- Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
- The Sunday Club (Sunday school as was) from 3 year olds to 12 year olds
- Share (adult Sunday school)
- The Guild
- The Choir
- The Netherlee Forum
- Alpha Groups (as demand requires)

The Church Library  
Youth Praise band (for special events)  
Senior badminton and All-age badminton  
Senior Country Dancing  
The Netherlee Lunch club (a weekly lunch club for people living with dementia with both church and community members).

Community organisations using the premises include:-

Mothers and Toddlers - 4 days per week  
Enjoy-a-Ball – 2 days a week  
Ladies Keep Fit Class  
The Old Eastwood Stamp Club  
Yoga  
Baby Massage Class  
Golf adult male and female keep fit  
The Dance Foundation  
The Performance Academy  
Pilates  
La Jolie Ronde – children's French classes  
Music Box – children's music class

A number of the Community users are commercial organisations who would not find suitably priced accommodation in which to meet if Netherlee Church were not available. We therefore provide a much-needed, local facility.

Netherlee Church has tremendous acoustics which allows us to host a variety of concerts within the main sanctuary which are appreciated by those who attend and by the musicians and choristers who perform.

Around 1200 people, including parents dropping off and collecting children, pass over the threshold of our premises each week. Whilst a good number are not church goers or members they would miss the presence of the church if it were not there. That is one of the challenges to us as a church, namely to engage with the un-churched and it will be a key part of the mission of the united charge. The attendances during the advent season increase dramatically at all our different services during this period. Clearly we are striking a chord with a great many people. Again both churches complement each other with different architectural styles providing greater opportunities to experiment with different styles of worship.

Netherlee Kirk Session supports the retention of both sets of buildings to meet the church and community needs of the enlarged parish. Indeed it will only be possible to meet our mission to the parish if both are available, otherwise the community we are reaching out to will be the losers. It seems only fair that the Presbytery Property Committee recognises this and re-considers its categorisation of the Stamperland buildings.

Financially, Netherlee is able to meet its future plans from its existing reserves as demonstrated from the attached financial statement. Maintenance of our buildings is part of our annual budgeting process as are ways of controlling our costs. We have a history of a generous congregation who we believe will support the needs of the united charge.

## **2.3 Netherlee Primary School**

Netherlee Primary School use Stamperland Parish Church for their end-of-term services, including Christmas and Easter services. Many years ago the school used to hold services alternately in both Netherlee and Stamperland Churches. However, the school expressed a preference for Stamperland as the layout of the chancel provides space for the school choir, school orchestra and others to perform and be seen. In recent years all school services have been held at Stamperland.

There is a real concern that, with schools becoming more and more secular, anything which might negatively impact on the school holding a service in their preferred manner would result in the school simply abandoning having a church service at all.

For many children (and, indeed, their parents) the school service is the only time that they are in a church.

## **2.4 Conclusions related to Local Community and Outreach**

Closure of Stamperland Church would have an adverse effect for the local community.

In particular, both Netherlee and Stamperland churches have well-supported uniformed organisations and the numbers currently involved in both church's organisations could not be accommodated in Netherlee. Reaching out to the parents of the children currently attending the youth organisations is seen as critical in any attempt to grow the church and it would be something of a disaster to alienate these groups of potentially interested people.

The local primary school could abandon holding end-of-term services.

Existing use of the halls by members of the local community whether attending events run by commercial businesses such as Baby Sensory Classes and keep fit sessions, charitable organisations such as Sounds International, local families hiring halls for children's parties, or the Cross-Reach Heart for Art would cease. The "church" would receive the blame for the cessation of such activities.

Stamperland Church stands prominently at the corner of Clarkston Road and Stamperland Gardens. Clarkston Road (B767) is one of the main arteries leading south from Glasgow City Centre. Anyone travelling on this route from central Glasgow to Clarkston, East Kilbride, or even Strathaven would pass remarkably few churches - Stamperland Church is, in fact, the only church between Glasgow and Strathaven visible from the main road. Closure of the church would certainly not go unnoticed.

## **3 WORSHIP**

### **3.1 General observations and opportunities for development**

Sunday morning worship in both Netherlee and Stamperland Churches is currently along fairly traditional lines. The attendance at a normal Sunday morning service at Stamperland Church is around 110. The attendance at a normal Sunday morning service at Netherlee Church is between 180 and 200. Both churches are experiencing declining numbers of regular attendees and the age profile of worshippers is dominated by those of pensionable age.

Both churches recognise the challenges of responding to the needs of existing members and of attracting new members particularly younger members who are likely to be working parents with children. We appreciate the need to develop alternative, inclusive and complementary forms of

worship which acknowledge demands brought about mobility or health problems which increasingly affect our older members or by time constraints such as family and work commitments which particularly affect younger adults. Increasingly, we believe that we need to ensure that our focus is that worship is not constrained to take place only on a Sunday or in a single format.

Both churches have some form of midweek worship or opportunity for prayer on Wednesday mornings; these services are attended by people in the older age range. Netherlee Church has a quarterly “Messy Church” attended by families from both Netherlee and Stamperland. Stamperland Church has just initiated “A Pie, A Pint and A Prayer” which seeks to reach out not just to those who cannot attend Sunday morning worship but to people who would not normally consider attending church and certainly not a formal church service; the first of these events was held on a Saturday evening in December. These first steps at providing alternatives to the “Sunday morning service” will, hopefully, lead to further developments and new forms of worship.

The nature of the two church sanctuaries is quite different. Netherlee Church has a rather beautiful, traditional, interior with red sandstone finish, elaborate stained glass, a rich-sounding organ; all these features are conducive to a somewhat hallowed atmosphere. Stamperland Church has a more modern feel; it has a plain brick finish, high clerestory windows all round the perimeter make it bright and light, it is wider than it is long and decoration is plain. All of the furniture in the chancel can be moved leaving a large open area. In this way, Stamperland Church lends itself more to non-traditional types of worship than Netherlee using media such as drama, dance and music. It is considered that the new ministry team could work with the congregations and, building on what we currently have, develop innovative and alternative forms of worship. There could be opportunities not just to serve the parishes of Netherlee and Stamperland but also the wider community defined by Clarkston Churches Together.

### **3.2 Attendance at worship if Stamperland were to close**

Stamperland Church lies at the centre of a triangle whose vertices are defined by three neighbouring Church of Scotland Churches – Netherlee, Greenbank and Williamwood. Each church is approximately 0.8 miles distant from Stamperland Church. Members living in the south of the parish of Stamperland are closer to Greenbank and Williamwood Churches than to Netherlee Church. Approximately one third of regular worshippers at Stamperland actually live outwith the parish of Stamperland.

In April 2014, shortly after the departure of Rev George Mackay, members worshipping at Stamperland had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire covering aspects such as their ability to increase their offerings, their ability to devote more time to assisting in the work of the church and also what they would do should Stamperland Church close. 112 questionnaires were returned.

Only 20 per cent of the respondents stated that it was very likely or quite likely they would attend Netherlee Church. Of those who said they would be likely to attend Netherlee in the event of Stamperland closing, 11 actually lived in the parish of Netherlee and one lived in Muirend, whilst six lived in the middle of Stamperland and three lived in areas of Stamperland much closer to Clarkston than Netherlee.

56 per cent of respondents stated that it is very likely or quite likely that they would attend an alternative church (not Netherlee) if Stamperland were to close. The reasons given for not attending Netherlee included that it would be easier and more convenient to attend either Greenbank or Williamwood Churches. The availability of car parking at Netherlee was seen as an issue as was the

steepness of the hill from Clarkston Road to Netherlee Church. Members living in parishes other than Greenbank, Williamwood and Netherlee indicated that they would be likely to attend their local parish church.

45 per cent (50 people) indicated they would be quite unlikely or very unlikely to attend any church at all if Stamperland Church were to close. It is possible that a considerable proportion of this group is elderly and might consider the walk to an alternative church as difficult and impractical. From the response to the questionnaire it appears that an alarmingly high percentage of regularly attending members would consider abandoning church attendance were Stamperland Church to close.

### **3.3 Conclusions related to worship and attendance at worship**

The two Kirk Sessions believe that retention of the two sets of church buildings would promote the development of worship. The contrasting and complementary styles of the buildings are in themselves, conducive to different and alternative forms of worship and of worship at times other than Sunday mornings.

The two sets of church buildings are well-placed to cover the extended parish; they are neither very close to each other nor are they at the extremities of the extended parish. However, closure of any one of the churches would be likely to result in a significant number of regular worshippers abandoning church attendance as either walking a further distance or finding convenient parking would be a challenge.

## **4 BUILDING FINANCE**

Appendices A and B present information relating to the church and hall accommodation at Stamperland and Netherlee Parish Churches respectively and also summarise some of the financial aspects associated with the maintenance and use of the accommodation.

It can be seen that both churches have accommodation which is, for the most part, well-suited to current requirements. Both buildings are in good state of repair and neither has major fabric concerns.

The costs of maintaining and running both sets of buildings are met by regular income from members' offerings, fund raising events and commercial lets. Both churches have the financial reserves to cover their on-going costs for the foreseeable future.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

The number of people making regular use of the accommodation at both Stamperland and Netherlee Churches is greater than could be accommodated in only one suite of buildings. Closure of a building would have a detrimental impact on a large majority of those people currently attending and using the accommodation. Closure would impact adversely on the local community and would damage the existing good relations between church and community.

The sanctuaries of Stamperland and Netherlee are of substantially different architectural styles. The differences offer potential to further encourage current initiatives relating to innovative and



alternative forms of worship. There could be opportunities not just to serve the parishes of Netherlee and Stamperland but also the wider community defined by Clarkston Churches Together.

The state of repair of both sets of church and hall buildings is generally satisfactory. Both churches have sufficient reserves to meet regular on-going fabric maintenance costs.

## **6 RECOMMENDATION**

The Kirk Sessions of Stamperland Parish Church and Netherlee Parish Church are agreed that that, for the foreseeable future, it is essential to retain both suites of church buildings. This is seen as a fundamental prerequisite in maintaining and promoting both churches' current roles within the local community and in supporting the development of outreach and mission. Retention will enable both congregations to participate fully in worship and encourage implementation of novel and alternative forms of worship. It is recommended that the current score of Stamperland Parish Church in the Glasgow Presbytery Building Plan should be altered from "4" to "1". Changing the score from "4" to "1" is seen as an essential step in enabling the two congregations to progress to an agreed linkage and ultimately to a union.

**FACILITIES USAGE TABLE - STAMPERLAND CHURCH**

"SPACE"	USER GROUP	USER TYPE	Day(s)	Time & how long	Period of use	How many people	Age profile	
Church	Congregation	church	Sunday	10.30am / 2 hour	weekly	120	3 to 95	
Session Room	BB Bible Class	church	Sunday	9.45am / 3/4-hour		20	12 to 18	
Small hall	Crèche	church	Sunday	11am / 1.5 hour	weekly	4	0 to 3	
Large hall, lower hall and session room	Stepping Stones	church	Sunday	11AM / 1.5 hour	weekly	30	3 to 15	
Large Hall	Dance Class	business	Sunday	13:30 / 2.5 hours	20 weeks per year	15 - 20	40+	
Large & small hall	Baby Sensory	Business	Monday	8.30am / 8 hours	weekly	180	0 to 75	
Large & small hall	Brownies	church	Monday	6.00pm / 1.5 hours	weekly	24	7 to 11	
Large & small hall	Guides	church	Monday	7.30pm / 2.5 hours	weekly	40	11 to 16	
Church and lower hall	Pipe Band	charity	Monday	6.30 pm / 3.5 hours	weekly			
Session Room	Kirk Session	church	Monday (Wed)	7:00 pm 2.5 hours	monthly	35	25 to 85	
Small hall	Rainbows	church	Tuesday	6.00 pm / 1.25 hours	weekly	15	5 to 7	
Session room	Guild	church	Tuesday	7.30 pm / 2.5 hours	weekly	30	50 to 90	
Large hall	Sounds International Choir	charity	Tuesday	7.30 pm / 2.5 hours	weekly	70	20 to 85	
Church	Open Door	church	Wednesday	10.00am / 2 hours	weekly	15	50 to 90	
Large hall	Junior section, BB	church	Wednesday	6.00 pm / 1.5 hours	weekly	25	6 to 10	
Church and lower hall	Pipe Band	charity	Wednesday	7.00 pm / 3 hours	weekly	30	8 to 40	
Large & small hall	Scouts	church	Thursday	8.00 pm / 2 hours	weekly	15	11 to 15	
Large & small hall	Cubs	church	Thursday	6.30 pm / 1.5 hours	weekly	24	8 to 10	
Small hall	Beavers	church	Thursday	7.00pm / 1 hour	weekly	13	6 to 8	
Large hall and lower hall	Explorer Scouts	church	Thursday	8.00pm / 2 hours	weekly	2	15 to 18	
Large hall	Keep Fit	business	Friday	10.00 am / 12.00 am	weekly	15	60 to 75	
Small hall	Heart for Art	charity	Friday	2.00 pm / 2 hours	weekly	12	50 to 80	
Large hall and lower hall	Junior section, BB	church	Friday	6.15 pm / 2.25 hours	weekly	12	8 to 10	
Small hall	Sparks	church	Friday	6.15 pm / 2.25 hours	weekly	8	5 to 7	
Large, small & lower halls and Session Room	BB	church	Friday	7.45 pm / 2.75 hours	weekly	40	11 to 16	
			Saturday					
Whole Premises	Spring Fair & Christmas Fair	church	Saturday	10.00 am - 3.00 pm	May and December	200 - 600	1 to 90	
Large Hall	Coffee morning / afternoon	church	various			30 - 100+	5 to 90	
Large Hall	Social and Fundraising activities	church	various			30 - 100+	5 to 90	
Church	Concert / Clarkston Churches together e	church	various			30 - 100+	5 to 90	
Church	Easter Services	church				30	25 to 95	
Church and Large Hall	Netherlee Primary School	School	2 days	~ 650 pupils ~ 40 staff ~ 100+ parents		800+	5 to 70	
				Christmas and Easter services each year				
Large and small halls	Families living in parish and surrounding area	15 to 20 private hires of hall mainly for birthday parties						

## NETHERLEE CHURCH USAGE SCHEDULE

ACCOMMODATION		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAIN SANCTUARY	M A E							Morning Worship (180/200)
			Kirk Session (40) + Groups (18)		Choir (25)			
LESSER SANCTUARY	M A E	(12+ 14 helpers) Lunch club dementia Lunch club dementia Netherlee Forum (10/15)	Yoga (5) KS Groups (18)	(30/35) Mid week Service Guild (28)	Music Box (15) Guild (28) Choir	Baby Massage (10) BB Coy Sect (24)	Drama Class (30)	
LARGE HALL	M A E	50+ keep fit (10) Country Dance (30) BB Anchor Boys 9 4 <sup>th</sup> Brownies (24) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Guides (13)	Tuesday break(8) BB Junior Sect. Dance Found'n (30)	Golf keep fit (15)	50+ keep fit (10) Music Box (15) Dance Found'n 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Brownies (18) Choir	Enjoy-a-ball (90) Enjoy-a-ball 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brownies 1 <sup>st</sup> Brownies (24) BB Coy Sect	Enjoy-a-ball Senior Badminton (10)	Sunday Club (29) Church Coffee (50) BB Badminton (5)
SMALL HALL	M A E	Guild coffee morn Dementia lunch clu 4 <sup>th</sup> Brownies Forum Coffee	Toddlers (20) Toddlers (15) Pilates (10)	Toddlers (15)	1Toddlers (20) Toddlers (10) Dance Found'n 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Brownie Choir	Toddlers (10) Toddlers (10) Flower Comm (5) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rainbows (18/23) 1 <sup>st</sup> Brownies (24) BB Coy Sect	Drama Class French Class Flower Comm	Sunday Club (6) French Class (65)
UPPER ROOM	M A E	Stamp Club (12)		Youth Ministry (1)	Craftwork group (6) Choir Pilates (10)	BB Coy Sect 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rainbows 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brownies (18)	Drama Class	
VESTRY	M A E					BB Coy Sect		
WAITING ROOM	M A E					BB Coy Sect		Share (6)

# STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH

## LOCATION



Stammerland Parish Church is located at the junction of Stammerland Gardens and Clarkston Road, at the main entrance to the parish. It is a focal point of the community, the tall bell tower clearly indicating the building is indeed a church. The grounds surrounding the church are well-maintained with a mixture of trees, shrubs, grassed areas, flower beds and flower tubs. The grounds are unfenced contributing to a sense of openness and willingness to engage.



## CHURCH BUILDINGS

The oldest part of the current building was dedicated in February 1941 and was designed as a “hall-church”. This section of the church buildings currently comprises a large hall, three smaller halls, kitchen, toilets, various office accommodation and storage.

The present sanctuary was opened in 1964. The interior of sanctuary is very open, bright and gives a sense of spaciousness. The decoration and fittings are fairly plain and uncluttered. Architectural features and detail are predominantly defined by horizontal and vertical lines and give the



interior a “modern, feel”. The general atmosphere is one of calmness. The chancel is unusually wide and the furniture (communion table, lectern, font and even pulpit) can be moved to leave an extensive open space on a slightly raised level. This provides an environment for different forms of worship and the

space is well-suited for performances by choirs, orchestras, theatre groups, etc..

The sanctuary is the preferred location for the local primary school to hold end-of-term services, for Clarkston Churches Together to hold events such as film screenings and plays and for the congregation to use as a venue for fund-raising concerts by choirs, orchestras, bands, etc..

The sanctuary is accessible by wheelchair and has a DDA compliant toilet suitable for use by disabled people. An induction loop system is provided for people with hearing impairment.

## CHURCH HALLS



Hall accommodation is spread over four halls. These are known as the Large Hall, the Small Hall, Lower Hall and Session Room.

**The Large Hall** (*see left*) is approximately 19m long and 10.5m wide.

The large hall can seat approximately 200 people. There is a stage at one end.

**The Small Hall** (*see right*) is approximately 11m long and 6m wide. It can seat approximately 50 people.

Both the **Large and Small Halls** are wheelchair accessible.



**The Lower Hall** (*see left and right*) is approximately 9m long and 6m wide. It is wheelchair accessible.



**The Session Room** (*see right*) is approximately 9m long by 6m wide.

The Session Room is close to the church kitchen but is not wheelchair accessible.

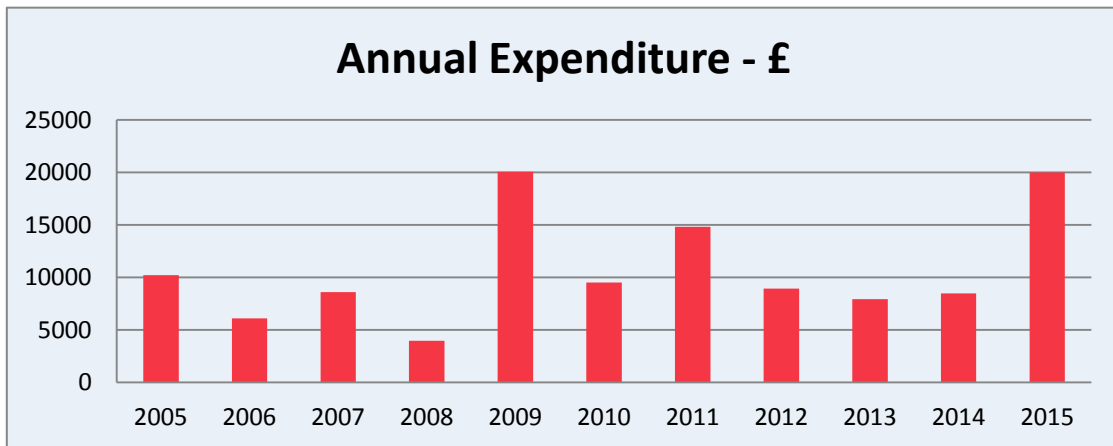
It can seat approximately 40 people.



## ANNUAL BUILDING COSTS

### BUILDING MAINTENANCE

The annual maintenance and repair costs associated with the church sanctuary, church hall and church manse are shown in the chart below and over the past ten years have averaged £10.7k.



The high expenditure in 2009 was associated with re-glazing the church vestibule, refurbishment of the gents' toilet and the late invoicing of work undertaken the previous year. The higher than usual expenditure in 2011 included the installation of a new boiler and a number of radiators in the manse. The high expenditure in 2015 was incurred through the replacement of roof coverings on the flat roofs of the original hall-church building.

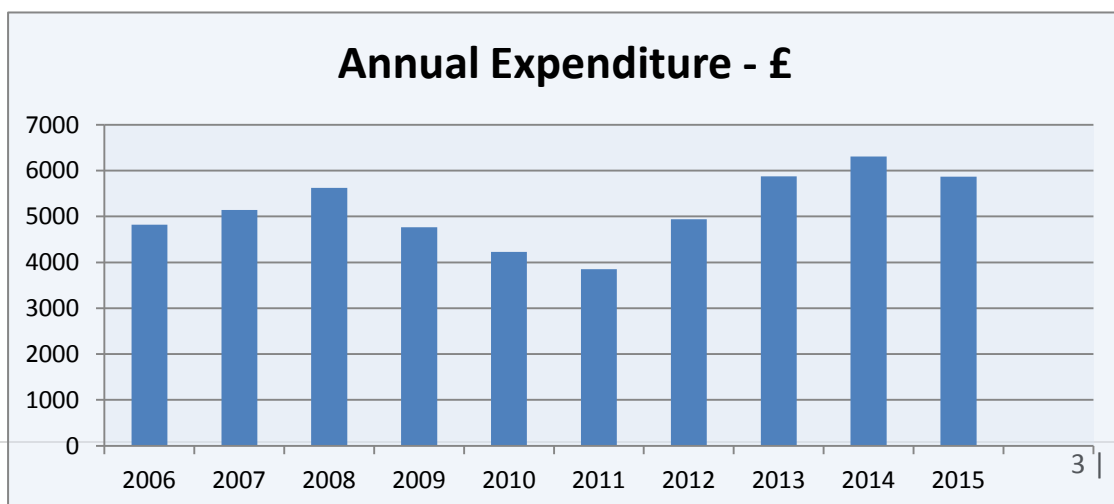
There do not appear to be any significant problems currently affecting the building fabric. Large areas of the building roofs are flat which is probably not the best design option for the west of Scotland. The roof over the sanctuary was replaced about 25 years ago and, whilst it shows no signs of ageing or imminent failure, funds have been accumulated to cover the costs of relaying the roof should that become necessary.

### HEATING AND LIGHTING

Heating of the church and hall accommodation is provided by hot water radiators. The majority of the heating in the sanctuary is from finned pipes running below the pews. Heating in the halls is from floor-mounted radiators or wall-hung radiators. Hot water is provided by a fleet of four gas-fired boilers which are reasonably new and relatively efficient. Accommodation is divided into four zones and separate heating can be provided to each zone. In the four years from 2007 to 2011 we achieved over thirty per cent savings in energy use by attention to proactive management of heating. More recently, the replacement of some old floor-standing radiators by modern, more-efficient, wall-hung units has brought about some further savings.

Lighting in the church is by a mixture of fluorescent tubes and incandescent bulbs. Where appropriate low energy bulbs are used. Emergency lights are installed throughout the building.

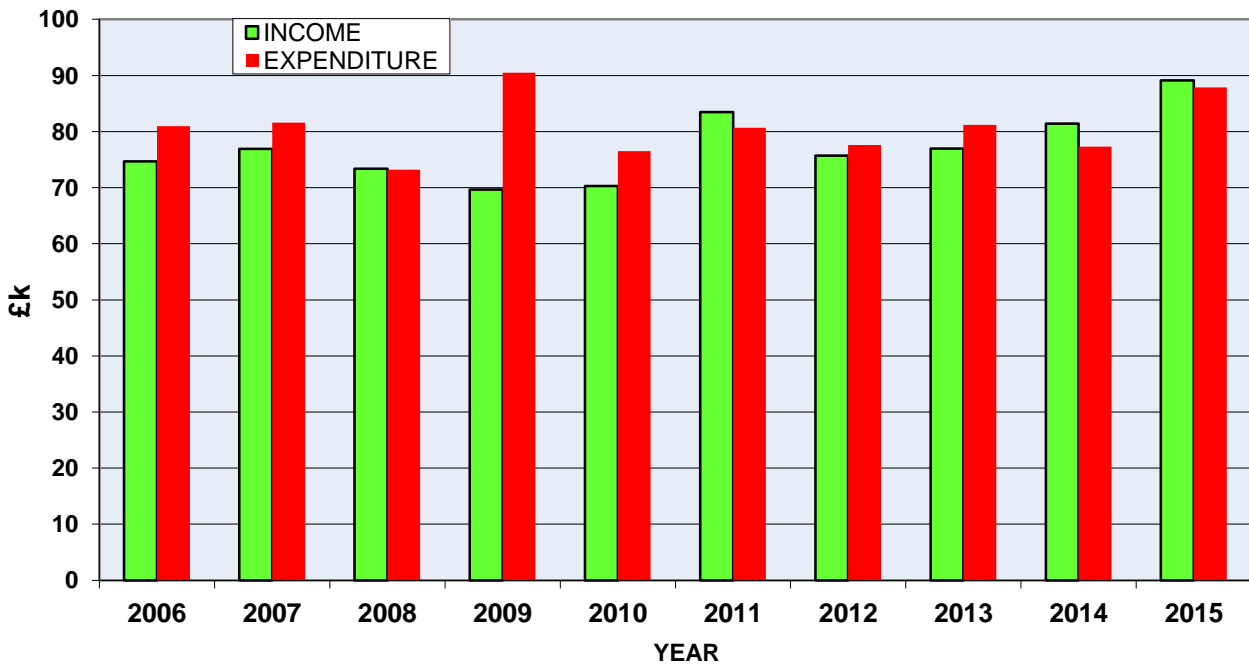
The annual costs of heating and lighting are shown in the chart below.



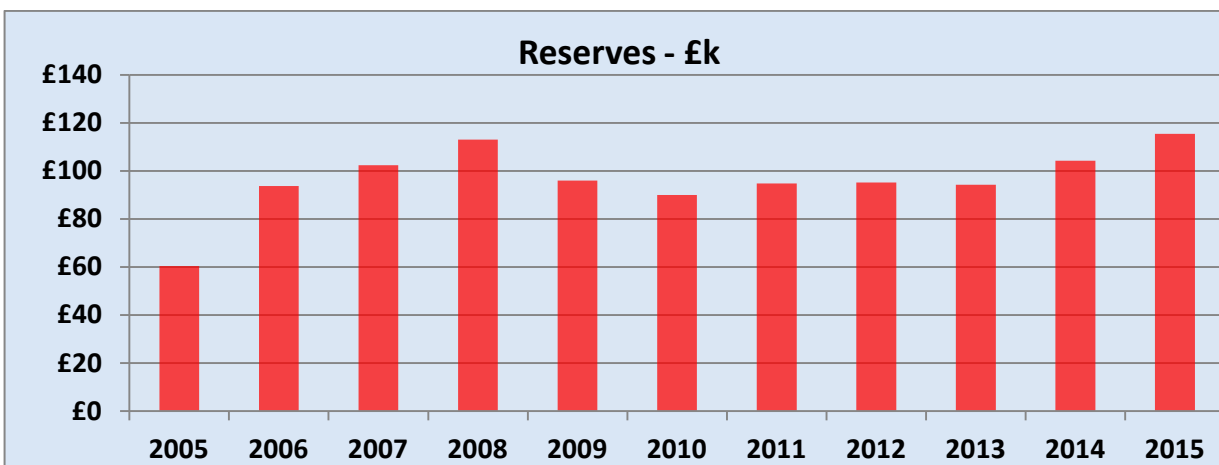
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In common with most churches, the number of members has been in decline for the last 50 years. From a peak membership of 1030 in 1959, the current membership of 342 is now almost the same as it was in 1940 when the church was first established. Over the last ten years membership has reduced from 443 - a reduction of almost 25 per cent. With reductions in membership the financial support of the church falls on a smaller number of members and, in particular, the members who are actively involved in the life and work of the church. During this ten year period, ordinary expenditure exceeded ordinary income (defined by the Church of Scotland as total income minus legacies and bank interest) in six years, as shown in the chart below. In the last five years the congregation has been developing a stewardship culture and despite reductions in membership we have seen an increase in income.

**ORDINARY INCOME & EXPENDITURE - THOUSANDS OF POUNDS**



Fortunately, Stammerland Church has benefitted from legacies and from bank interest. This income is not recognised by the Church of Scotland as “Ordinary Income” but it very real and it has enabled us to build up significant financial reserves. At the end of 2014 the total bank and cash balances stood at £102,201. About £50k of these reserves is held as a “Roof Contingency Fund” in the event of the flat roof over the sanctuary requiring replacement. The remainder is available for congregational use.



# NETHERLEE PARISH CHURCH Sanctuary and Hall Accommodation



**Views of the Sanctuary**





**MAIN HALL**

**(Looking towards the stage)**



**Entrance Hall**



**Upper Hall**



**Small Hall**

**NETHERLEE PARISH CHURCH  
STATISTICS - ALL IN £'000**

<b>CALENDAR YEAR</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>OFFERINGS INCOME</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>TOTAL ORD. EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>TOTAL H &amp; L</b>	<b>TOTAL M &amp; R</b>	<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>CONGREGATION NUMBERS</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
2007	217	197	222	98	10	23	1088	808
2008	220	198	217	95	15	21	1100	788
2009	225	200	231	112	17	20	1158	774
2010	221	189	224	108	16	18	1077	753
2011	227	193	229	109	17	27	1077	734
2012	233	204	242	117	21	17	1104	721
2013	233	204	231	105	22	24	1072	713
2014	224	196	213	86	19	15	1229	633
2015	215	199	209	80	19	15	1750(E)	610
<b>Notes</b>								
1	In 2014 there was a major purge of the roll which removed a significant number of members with whom we had lost touch.							
2	In 2015 we sold Kirk House to reduce costs which could no longer be justified. . Membership when it was purchased in 1967 stood at approx 1800. Proceeds from the sale amounted to £525,000 and accounts for the increase in our reserves.							
3	Although membership has declined the congregation continue to be very generous. Netherlee is one of the top 5 churches in Glasgow Presbytery supporting the work of Presbytery and the wider church with its contributions to Ministries and Mission.							
4	Netherlee has benefited from a number of very generous legacies in recent years.							

