

NETHERLEE AND STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025 EDITION



From the Editor

What a glorious start we had to the children's spring break! Hope you have had a chance to get into the great outdoors. The deadline for the next newsletter will be Tuesday **13th May 2025**. Articles (and pictures in .jpg format) can be submitted at any time please to the mailbox

nandsnewsletter@btinternet.com.

Karen McQueen (Picture courtesy of Dagmar Kerr)

Services

Service times are 10.30 a.m. on Sundays and Wednesdays. The monthly lunch will be on Wednesday 30th April.

For Your Diary – Holy Week

Meeting each evening at 7pm for worship during Holy Week, the remaining dates and venues this year are as follows. All are welcome.

Maundy Thursday Communion 17th April at St Aidan's Episcopal Church, Mearns Road

Good Friday 18th April at Netherlee & Stamperland Church, Ormonde Avenue, Netherlee



The Good Friday Pilgrimage will reflect on the 22nd Psalm. Short services will be held on the hour, every hour, with the option to walk with others between the venues. We are delighted to be joined by Orchardhill Church this year. All are invited to share in any or all of the services. Refreshments will be served after worship at Greenbank and Orchardhill.

8am	'Mocked by men'	Carmunnock
9am	'Verbally abused'	Cartsbridge Evangelical
10am	'Abandoned by God'	Busby
11am	'Leave Him to God Now'	Greenbank
Noon	'Desperately thirsty'	St. Joseph's
1pm	'To cruel nails surrendered'	St. Aidan's
2pm	'Robbed of His clothes'	Netherlee & Stamperland
3pm	'Delivered by you, so I praise you'	Orchardhill

Clarkston Churches Together



Finance Convener's Report to the Stated Annual Meeting

For those members who were unable to attend the Stated Annual Meeting of Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church on Sunday 30th March, the following is a precis of my Finance Report to the congregation.

The outcome for 2024 has proven to be far better than I could ever have predicted. My thanks are due to you the congregation for having taken on board the challenges facing us and have responded magnificently.

- We budgeted for a deficit of £39k
- The actual deficit was £7.4k
- i.e. £32k better than hoped for or expected

Why? - a variety of reasons mostly good but some bad.

- Good – Our income benefited from an extra £16k in response to our appeal to review your givings in 2024
- Good – Heat and Light was £8.5k lower than expected
- Good – Ministry costs were £1.3k lower
- Good – The letting of the Manse to the Blythe family generated £3k of income in 2024 and has continued into 2025
- Bad – Cleaning costs increased by £2.3k
- Bad – Salary costs increased by £0.7k

We also started to incur costs for our locum Ian of £3.5k in 2024 which should have been offset by a reduction in our *Giving to Grow* allocation from 121 George Street, but the offset was less than the costs for the locum. In 6 months, Ian has endeared himself to the congregation and to the children with his thoughtful leading of worship on a Sunday, his uplifting reflections on Wednesdays, his sense of humour and his attention to the pastoral needs of the congregation. Attendances on Sundays and Wednesdays have increased which has been a delight.

Our recent 2025 appeal asking you to consider reviewing your givings and making a lump sum donation if your circumstances permitted for the day to day running costs has so far generated £17,322 (including Gift Aid) from 69 members which is very encouraging especially as our roll has decreased from 623 at December '23 to 571 at December '24 – a loss of 52 with over 30 due to deaths. Can I say how grateful we are for the generosity of the congregation in 2024 and continuing into this year, however there are a large number of members who have not responded to the appeal.

The good news is that we are very fortunate to hold substantial reserves thanks to the careful oversight of our finances in prior years and to generous legacies from former members. I should like to acknowledge with gratitude legacies totalling £51k received by us in 2024 from the estates of Dennis Burt and Irene Morton. I should also like to acknowledge a number of smaller donations to the Church for pastoral care and funeral services conducted by Ian and Marie during 2024 and which have continued into 2025. Pastoral oversight at such difficult times is important and very much appreciated by the families of former members. /...

Finance Convenor's Report (continued)

The exceptional repair to our stained-glass windows, and upgrade costs to the AV system and the new website are met from our reserves and not from our General Fund which is for routine day to day running costs to our premises including the Manse. I hope the distinction is understood by everyone as from comments made to me, I am not sure it is. When we have a review of givings appeal it is for our General Fund costs which as I said at the beginning resulted in a deficit.

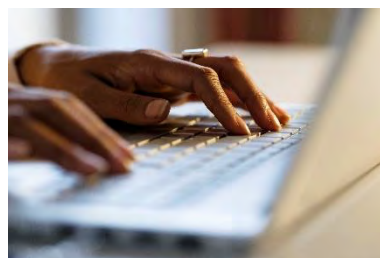
I then covered the information on Page 10 of the Accounts for our income and expenditure which showed we had total funds of £1,296k some £18k higher than 2023, most of which is unrestricted allowing us the freedom to choose what we do with them.

I referred to page 11 of the accounts which shows our Balance Sheet.

- Our Church of Scotland Investments have increased from £134k to £139k
- Cash at Bank shows a very healthy balance of £598k
- Our total finances from Page 10 have increased to £1,296k.

Let me turn to the current year and our predictions for 2025:-

- Our income is likely to reduce from £209k to £208k
- our expenditure is likely to increase from £222k to £228k
- Our anticipated deficit is therefore £20k on our General Fund.



The main reason for higher expenditure is a full year of the higher gas and electricity prices – up £6k and other costs also up £6k, i.e. salaries; professional fees; cleaning and miscellaneous, offset by lower Ministry costs down £6k – but Ministry costs account for some 61% of our total expenditure and goes straight to the central church for ministry costs at home and overseas.

Given your response to our appeal so far, I am hopeful the deficit will be much lower than the budget. Nevertheless, we need to be prudent as we are still not balancing our books. The Finance Committee is very conscious that the burden of meeting these costs rests on the shoulders of a lower roll of members and there will come a time when you can't dig any deeper and we cannot keep asking you for more. I can hear you say, **“ENOUGH IS ENOUGH”**. We will need to think more creatively and consider how best to utilise the funds we have for use within our church and Parish. Helen's report highlights all the good work we do locally, nationally and internationally. It would be a sad day if we became very inward looking and stopped our wider work - but that may be the reality we will need to face.

Before I bring this report to a close let me thank the Committee for all their hard work during 2024. Their support has been invaluable, and I am particularly fortunate that I have 2 qualified accountants on the Committee to help and advise us on accounting and investment technicalities which augments the skill sets of the other members. Let me also thank Lawrence Renn our treasurer and Martin Aitken & Co Ltd., our Independent Examiners for their support throughout the past year. /...

Finance Convenor's Report (continued)

Moderator that concludes my report to the congregation on our 2024 activities That said the congregation has the right to be informed of the churches finances and to ask any questions about them. I will be happy to try and answer any questions the congregation may have. There were no questions.

John Montgomery

Finance Convenor



***What has been is what will be,
And what has been done is what will be done;
And there is nothing new under the sun."***

O.T. - Ecclesiastes 1:9 (RSV)

In the course of my reading I recently came across the following anonymous contribution to the *Scots Magazine* for December 1783, in a series of Letters by someone calling himself 'Theophrastus'. (The name in Greek can be translated "He of God-like speech"). The Letters are designed to compare the situation in the city of Edinburgh in 1763 – in respect of morality, customs and manners etc. – with that of his own day at the time he writes, viz. the end of the year 1783. In this extract he turns to the issue of church-going:

"In 1763 — It was fashionable to go to church, and people were interested about religion — Sunday was strictly observed by all ranks as a day of devotion; and it was disgraceful to be seen on the streets during the time of public worship — Families attended church, with their children and servants, and family worship was frequent. — The collections at the church doors for the poor amounted yearly to £1500 and upwards."

"In 1783 — Attendance on church is much neglected — Sunday is made a day of relaxation — Families think it ungentee to take their domestics to church with them — The streets are often crowded in the time of worship; and in the evenings they are shamefully loose and riotous — Family-worship is almost totally abolished, and it is even wearing out amongst the clergy — The collections at the church doors for the poor have fallen below £1000 — So that, with more people, and more money, [he means a larger population, with more money in circulation in Edinburgh] the collections at the church-doors are lessened near £600 a year."

As usual the French have a word for it: perhaps *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!*

Ronald Crawford

With Thanks

Mum and I would like to thank Sheila Dunn and the flower team for the beautiful flowers we received on Palm Sunday; they brought such joy. Thank you too to everyone who has offered their love, help and support at this difficult time. Jim is home, at least for now, and I am grateful to everyone providing the care to allow him to be here. He too is now able to enjoy these lovely blooms.

Karen McQueen





Sunday Club

Over the past few weeks we have covered a range of topics. We have dressed up and walked in the steps of the prophet Isaiah, foretelling the birth of Jesus, then considered how the prophecy came true but perhaps not in the way people were expecting a King to be born. The news headlines of the day provided an art activity.

On Mothering Sunday we thought about the gift of mothers and Anna made a beautiful gift (pictured) for her Mum. We have

also thought about how Jesus was tempted in the desert. Jelly Tots were involved first to tempt the children, then to keep them occupied whilst listening to the story! We played an elimination game using the key elements of the story, with yet more Jelly Tots as rewards. Apologies to the parents who had to deal with the effects of the sugar rush.



On Palm Sunday we were involved in the early part of the service, helping to gather and pile up the palm branches. We then retired to the upper hall for some freestyle Easter craft.

We would love any young person from 3 years to P7 to join us on a Sunday morning to learn about Jesus through stories, games and craft. Young visitors are always welcome!
The Sunday Club Team



Poppyscotland News

This year sees the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Sadly the world is not at peace and the need to support our Service Personnel, both those who are still serving and those who served in years gone by, is very pertinent. Poppyscotland supports many individuals and families in times of great need. Last year the wonderful people of Netherlee and Stamperland raised the sum of £5,574.26 to help Poppyscotland provide life-changing support.

In order to continue raising funds, there will be a Coffee Afternoon in the Church Hall on **Saturday 10th May between 2 & 4pm**. Tickets priced £5 will be available from myself or at the door on the day. There will be the, ever popular, Tombola. The Poppy Box is in the Welcome Hall to collect donations for this.

Thanking you all for your continued support.
Anne Mann

An Easter Thank You

We would like to thank the members of Netherlee & Stamperland Church for their donations of Easter Eggs for the service users at the Lodging House Mission

Special treats such as the chocolate eggs you have given represent an opportunity for our struggling visitors to share in Easter in a way that we all consider “normal”. One of our goals here at the LHM is to try to encourage those who visit us each day to make the effort to take part in all the activities and events that the rest of society participate in. For those whose life is complete chaos even a small thing can make such a difference.



Obviously, a chocolate egg on its own will not feed a body. Neither will one act of generosity feed a soul yet taken together with the ongoing work of providing balanced meals, practical and emotional support, educational opportunities, spiritual guidance and various activities a difference is being made. On behalf of the staff, volunteers and visitors at the LHM thank you for all the ways in which you support our work. We wish you all a Happy Easter.

June Macleod
Manager LHM

Our 2025 Annual General Meeting
‘Together we can’
Strengthen Relationships, Transform Lives



With our Guest Speaker
Margaret Fraser
Director of
Together Leading Communities

Time 6pm Date 30th April 2025



Bible Society Magazine

The latest magazine of the Society, as well as other content, has a very interesting article on providing bibles to Ukraine in times of war. We have a good supply of this free magazine in the lesser sanctuary – please help yourself.

Tony Ireland

James Findlay Nelson Trust Fund

The Trustees of the James Findlay Nelson Trust Fund met recently, and it was suggested that a short article for the Church newsletter would be helpful, partly to remind you that the fund is still operating, but also for your encouragement. The Fund continues to receive occasional donations from members of Netherlee and Stamperland Church and from family and friends who choose to remember James in this way, often to mark a birthday or some similar anniversary. Tom and Catherine are particularly grateful to all who have contributed to the Fund. At the end of March 2025, the Fund stood at £12,382.



As many of you will remember the Fund was set up to provide grants to young people (not in full time employment) from the Netherlee/Stamperland area or school, or with connections to the Nelson family (which has spread about a bit now). Unfortunately, since Covid, there have not been so many people going trips, but last Spring a group of 5 young folk from Blackburn, known to our daughter Mairi and son-in-law, Sam, went on a short retreat and training course, which seems to have had a lasting effect on the young people attending, as seen in the following reports:

Jake Best (age 17) wrote: *“Thank you for the kindness that the Trust has offered to people in Blackburn Diocese. The purpose of the trip was to build up people in their faith and then send them out to be missionaries in their own settings. It was also a very fun time, which I don’t have in my small church. A small group of us from Burnley College has set up a prayer group, which we were encouraged to do to support each other. We are planning to have a stall at the next Welcome Week to show other people that there are Christians in this college too, which has a high Muslim population. Rev Cheesman told us about his wife’s brother, called James, who died. I am sorry to hear this, but glad that this kind of Trust Fund has been set up to help others remember him.”*

Paulette Kouacou (age 13) wrote: *“Thank you for considering my application. When we came from D R Congo, we did not have Christian friends, but now because of this trip I have many other Christian friends. We read the Bible together and worship God in songs. We also have fun together and pray for each other. Because of this I have a WhatsApp group with my friends from around the Diocese and we support each other and encourage one another with prayer and Bible verses. Thank you for the offer to support my going to this event, which strengthened my faith.”*

And last summer, the Trustees were pleased to sponsor a young schoolgirl, Beth Collison from Glasgow, who was undertaking a 4-week mission trip, working with prison families in USA. Beth’s father is a minister in Findlay Memorial Church in Glasgow, and we have known the family for many years. /...



James Findlay Nelson Trust Fund (contd)

Beth (age 17) wrote: "I wanted to email you to tell you how grateful I am for the support of the Trust in making it possible for me to go to America. The trip was honestly a life changing experience that has brought me so much closer to God. The purpose of my visit was to participate in Camp Julian Oaks, a camp for children who have been abused, neglected or have families within the prison system. For many of the campers all three of these applied. I did two camps while there and got to know some wonderful people that really touched my life, and I shall remain in contact with. Throughout my time in California, I was really stretched in my faith. I have returned home with a bigger picture of the world around me, but also a newfound love of my

own community. This experience will have lasting effects on my life in many amazing ways and I couldn't have made it there without your generosity. I am forever grateful."

When the Trustees met in March, we were pleased to be able to award a further two grants. A brother and sister from the same family are off to America this summer to work as volunteers in a Christian camp for young children and we look forward to hearing reports of their experiences.

The Trustees would like to encourage other young people in the Netherlee and Stamperland area to consider some form of short-term Christian mission or service. Requests for funding to attend Christian training courses, and in particular the Keswick Convention would also be welcomed. We would be pleased if the congregation would make this known amongst young people in the congregation and local area, in the youth organisations and in the schools. Further information can be obtained from any of the Trustees who currently are Catherine Nelson; Rev Tom Nelson; John Montgomery and Helen Illingworth. Application forms are available by emailing me directly at catherinenelson@ntlworld.com.

Catherine Nelson

Glasgow Close Knit Exhibition

Over the past few Tuesdays, 15 - 20 crafters have been meeting to knit or crochet squares to make into blankets for the above exhibition. We currently have approximately 200 squares which will make several blankets. We will continue to meet in the Small Hall every Tuesday between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm. Please join us in this project or bring your own craft. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served to keep up our energy levels.



Elinor Mair



The Guild

For our penultimate meeting for this session on 20th March we had fun having a Holy

Beetledrive - substituting a beetle with a church. We still enjoy competing in small groups to be the winners!

We had a successful A.G.M. on 27th March to finish this year's programme. A reminder to our current members our Annual Outing will be on **Thursday 15th May**.

Till we meet up again in October have a pleasant and, I hope, a sunny summer.

Margaret Fear

Secretary

AV Update March 2025

The new cameras and video system were installed in the week preceding Sunday 23rd March and our audience viewing figures over Sundays 23rd, 30th March & 13th April 2025 currently show a total of 483 views compared to last year's similar period of 17th, 24th March and 7th April – a total of 388 views. That's a 21% increase, accompanied by an instant 6 'likes'. Figures would have been even higher but for an elusive digital gremlin in the live streaming setup which resulted in the loss of the Sunday 6th April service for which I very much apologise. More testing is ongoing and as a result viewers may find an expected 'live streamed' service later uploaded and appearing under the 'videos' heading on our You Tube channel.



Big thanks to Stuart Buchanan who stepped in on Sunday 13th April to assist due to Lorraine & Neil being away.

Neil Planner for the AV Team, Peter Diamond, Lorraine Johnston and Luke Brown



On behalf of Glasgow South-East Foodbank we would like to thank everyone who donated in any way to our Easter Project, either by donating eggs or Easter treats or donating via the collecting can in the welcome hall.

Also thank you for the groceries and toiletries which are donated weekly. These are very gratefully received by the clients of the foodbank. Their WISHLIST is as always:-

- U H T milk
- tinned fish and meat
- coffee and
- diluting juice

Thank you. As always, your generosity makes a difference.

Marjorie Lang and Catriona Gomez

Cranhill Development Trust continue to operate in the former Church Hall of what was Cranhill Parish Church. Within the building the nearly new shop continues to raise money, from the sale of nearly new clothes and bric-à-brac, to help in the running of the Cranhill Development Trust.



If you have any such items could you please leave them in the cupboard adjacent to the ladies' toilet in the Welcome Hall clearly labelled 'Cranhill'. If there is no space available, please get in touch with Gordon Lang on 077458 43387 to make alternative arrangements. It's also worth mentioning clothes which might be considered rags (no underwear or socks please) can be donated and labelled accordingly.

For information on the great work the [Trust](#) offer please check out their website. Very many thanks in advance. It's very much appreciated by me, but more importantly, by the people in the area and surrounds of Cranhill.

Gordon Lang

Advert

Harlequin Youth Theatre presents Alan Parker's

Bugsy Malone



Play by Alan Parker

Words and Music by Paul Williams

By arrangement with Faber Music Ltd on behalf of Warner/Chappell Music Ltd

EASTWOOD PARK THEATRE
Wed 4th - Sat 7th June 2025
Evenings 7.30pm | Sat Matinee 2.30pm

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. SC052420