

NETHERLEE AND STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUMMER 2026 EDITION

From the Editor

Welcome to our second summer edition. I spent last week on a long-awaited river cruise; we were meant to go down the Rhine but due to the recent very dry spell the river was too low to navigate and therefore



we had to spend most of the time diverted to the Moselle. Over the coming months, I will be using the great number of photos taken in both Catholic and Lutheran churches so watch out! This floral display caught my eye in Trier, Germany's oldest city.

We will now return to a monthly Newsletter with the next deadline being **Tuesday 8th September 2026**. As always, articles (and pictures in .jpg format) can be submitted at any time to nandsnewsletter@btinternet.com.

Karen McQueen



Church Services

The Sunday services will continue at **10.30 a.m.** throughout the summer. The Wednesday Services at 10.30 a.m. will resume on **5th August 2026**, with the first month end lunch on **26th August**. This lunch is a "drop in" any time from 11.00 a.m.; there is no necessity to have attended the service, all are welcome. Please call George Cowan on 07917 592667 if you require minibus transport.



Vestry Hour will resume in September.



Summer Office Hours

The church office summer hours continue with me working on a Thursday from home and on a Friday in the church office, both from 8.30am to 11.30am. I will be on holiday Tuesday 4th to Saturday 15th August inclusive, then will revert to my full office hours week commencing **Monday 17th August**.

Elspeth Reid

From the Minister

Friends,

It hardly seems possible that we are already at the end of July. It feels as though only yesterday we were looking forward to the summer months, and now here we are wondering where the time has gone. We enjoyed a lovely spell of warm sunshine that encouraged us outdoors, into our gardens, local parks and holiday destinations. More recently, however, the familiar Scottish weather has returned with a vengeance! The rain has reappeared, the temperatures have dropped, and the evenings already seem to be losing some of their brightness. It is a timely reminder that life is always changing, often when we least expect it.



For some, the summer months bring opportunities to travel, spend time with family and friends, or simply enjoy a change of pace. I hope that many of you have been able to find moments of rest and refreshment. Yet I also know that summer isn't always relaxing. For many parents and grandparents, the school holidays mean days filled with childcare, trips to the park, baking, games, sleepovers and plenty of energy! It can be wonderfully rewarding, but also wonderfully tiring. Whether your summer has been peaceful or particularly busy, I hope you have found time to pause and recognise God's presence in the ordinary moments of each day. Jesus understood the importance of stepping away from the busyness of life. After the disciples had returned from a particularly demanding time of ministry, He gently said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:31). Those words still speak to us today. Rest isn't always about going on holiday; sometimes it is simply allowing ourselves to pause long enough to remember that God is with us, sustaining us whatever our circumstances.

Although many activities pause a little during the summer, the life of our church certainly doesn't stop. Worship continues each Sunday, and it has been a joy to welcome familiar faces alongside visitors over the past few weeks. Our Wednesday Coffee Fellowship has also continued throughout July, providing a place to enjoy conversation, friendship and plenty of tea and coffee. These moments of simply being together are every bit as important as our organised events, because they remind us that church is not simply somewhere we come on a Sunday, it is a family that journeys together through every season of life. As we look ahead to August, many of our regular groups and activities will begin to return, and I look forward to seeing our church building becoming busier once again. Whether you have been away for part of the summer or have been here every week, you will receive a warm welcome.

May I also remind those who are unable to join us for worship that Home Communion is always available. If you, or someone you know, would appreciate receiving Communion at home, please speak to me or contact your district elder, who will be pleased to arrange this. In the same way, if you would value a visit from me, whether for a chat, prayer, or simply some company, please don't hesitate to let me know, or ask your elder to get in touch on your behalf. It is one of the greatest privileges of ministry to spend time with you, and I am always grateful for the opportunity to share in both the joyful and the more challenging moments of your lives. /...

From the Minister (continued)

Thank you, too, for the kindness, encouragement and support you continue to show me and Bill. We both feel incredibly blessed to be part of this church family, and I am thankful each day for the privilege of serving as your minister.

Yours in Him and for Him

Jillian x



Our Minibus and Window Restoration Projects

On behalf of our Church family we would like to thank those who have recently made generous donations in support of these important projects which enhance the life, work and witness of our congregation. Should you wish to make such a donation, in respect of either project, you may consider making your

donation directly to the church, by cheque or cash in a marked envelope which is placed in the weekly offering, or paid directly to our bank account, by bank transfer.

The account details are as follows:

Account name: Netherlee and Stamperland (Church of Scotland)

Account number: 00291475 Sort code: 80-12-88

Alternatively, there is a facility to donate using the DONA card reader in the Welcome Hall. However, the parameters of the DONA system restrict our ability to claim Gift Aid on such donations, and therefore we would respectfully ask that if you do choose this method to donate, please leave your contact details when prompted to do so, which will allow us to claim Gift Aid on your gift (where we have your mandate on record), and also allow us to acknowledge your generosity.

With sincere thanks for your prayerful support.

Yours in Him & for Him

Rev. Jillian Storrie

Thank You

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who responded to our recent appeal for juice and sugar for the Lodging House Mission. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness shown by our church family and the wider community. Your response has been a wonderful reminder of God's love in action and the compassion that exists within our community. The donations will help us continue to welcome and care for those experiencing homelessness, offering comfort and refreshments to those who need it most .



Please continue to keep the work of the Lodging House Mission, our volunteers, and all those we serve in your prayers.

With grateful thanks,

Christine McGowan & Barbara Cochrane



The Great Netherlee and Stamperland Bake Off – Let's Get Baking!

Get your aprons ready and your ovens warmed up — our very own Great Netherlee and Stamperland Bake Off is happening on **Saturday 29th August from 2pm to 4pm**, and we can't wait

to see (and taste!) what you've been creating. Whether you're a seasoned baker or someone who just loves a good excuse to make a mess in the kitchen, there's a category for everyone:

- **Traybakes**
- **Fruit Loaves**
- **Shortbread** (6 pieces)
- **Preserves**
- **Pancakes** (4 identical)
- **Two-tier decorated sponge cake**

Feeling extra enthusiastic? Enter as many categories as you like — it's just £1 per entry. We also have two special categories:

- For the men: **Scones** — 6 identical, any flavour
- For the children: **Decorated Cupcakes** — with entries welcome from pre-schoolers, Primary 1 - 3 and Primary 4–7

Just bring your beautifully labelled creations to the church on Saturday morning between **10am and 12pm**. Make sure your name and contact number are clearly attached.

Our judging panel is ready (and very excited) to sample your masterpieces. They include:

- **Rev. Jillian Storrie**
- **Barbara Cochrane**, our own expert baker
- **James Morton**, local resident and runner-up from *The Great British Bake Off* Series 3

They promise to be fair, friendly... and completely immune to bribery.

Even if you're not entering, come along for the fun. We'll have a tearoom serving tea, coffee, and plenty of delicious home baking. And don't miss the **prize-giving at 3.30pm** — it should be a highlight. It's set to be a brilliant afternoon of community, creativity, and cake. **We can't wait to see you there.**

Alison McKean for The Planning and Communications Group

On Wednesday 5th August we're holding an Open Afternoon at the foodbank. Drop in any time between 3pm and 6pm (entrance through the pink gate on Warren Street; step-free access through the car park opposite Holyrood School) for a

chance to see the foodbank, chat to staff and volunteers about our work, and watch the short documentary made about us earlier this year, *Our Neighbours*. We'll be screening it at regular intervals throughout the afternoon, and the team behind the film will be there to talk about it to anyone who'd like to know more. Entry is free and we'll be serving refreshments.

Marjorie Lang and Catriona Gomez





Sunday Club

On Sunday 21st June we thought about Jesus preparing his Disciples for their new life of preaching the Gospel. We enjoyed a game of Bible 'Guess Who?' where the children showed they really do know their bible people. The following Sunday was our last of the term so after the presentation of books by Jillian, we headed off to the Derby and the play park. The weather stayed fine but not too hot to melt the ice creams.

As ever we welcome all children into Sunday Club so please let any visitors know we are here for their children. Our first meeting of the new session will

be on **Sunday 6th September 2026**. We look forward to welcoming old friends and new.
The Sunday Club Team

Ladies' Group

Calling ladies of all ages! We have begun to set up a ladies' group similar to the men's association (can't see green cheese) for social evenings/days away. The ideas would be led by the group. If you are interested in being part of this, please either e-mail (marjorie35@hotmail.co.uk) or message me (07732938631) your name and phone number and I will add you to the WhatsApp group.

Marjorie Lang



The nearly new shop at [Cranhill Development Trust](#) (CDT) is open for business. As you know it continues to satisfy a real need for some of the folks in that area of Glasgow. Your donations of nearly new clothes and

and bric-à-brac are most welcome.

As I mentioned previously the CDT have a 'Bra Bank' within the shop. Monies received from this and all other donations are used to help with the running of the Trust. Please label any such bags accordingly. Similarly, if you are donating items considered as rags please mark those bags appropriately. As always items should be labelled for Cranhill and left in the cupboard in the Welcome Hall opposite the ladies' toilet. If this is full, please get in touch with me so I can make alternative arrangements regarding storage and or collection. For more information click the link to their website above.

Many thanks.

N&S Coordinator Gordon Lang

To Celebrate the USA's 250th Anniversary

(Reproduction of Professor Ronald Crawford's article published in the Glasgow Herald)

Saturday July 4, 2026

A SCOTTISH PERSPECTIVE

The overlooked Scots who played key roles in America's Declaration of Independence

Ronald Crawford

AS the United States today celebrates the fourth of July and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence – when Americans proclaimed their right to be treated as an independent nation free from British colonial rule – Scots everywhere have cause to celebrate with them.

That's because of the huge, but largely unrecognised, contribution Scotland and its people have made to the founding and subsequent growth and development of America. In particular, we neglect the important role played by three Scots – two in the approval and signing of the final Declaration, and the third in its subsequent publication and dissemination.

As a native of Paisley, and as a historian with a special interest in 18th century Scotland and America, I still find it remarkable that, of this trio, two of them – though knowing each other were not native to the town – spent their formative years in Paisley before emigrating to colonial America.

America is in fact all over Paisley – if you know where to look.

Most obviously, just outside the main entrance to Paisley Abbey, there are two life-size statues of two poets – Robert Tannahill and Alexander Wilson. One (Tannahill) was in the shadow of the other (Wilson), whose fame rests not so much on his verse but as the justly celebrated father of American ornithology and precursor of John James Audubon.

Alexander Wilson (1766-1813) did not emigrate to America: he "fugitated" there to escape imprisonment for sedition. But that was in 1794, almost two decades after the Declaration of Independence.

Moving further up the High Street, on the modern campus of the University of the West of Scotland, formerly the University of Paisley, there stands another life-size statue. This is the Reverend John Witherspoon (1723-1794), which is the work of distinguished Scottish sculptor Alexander Stoddart.

If you can get close enough to it you will discover it is a replica of Stoddart's original outside the chapel of Princeton University, New Jersey. The legend running round the plinth of the American version celebrates Witherspoon, sixth President of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), teacher of future US presidents and, prior to his emigration to America, Church of Scotland minister of the Laigh (or Low) Church, Paisley. Witherspoon's church survives in New Street as the Paisley Arts Centre.

John Witherspoon signed the Declaration, one of only two Scots to do so. The other was James Wilson (1742-1798), originally from Ceres, Fife, who, unlike Witherspoon, also – as a lawyer practising in Pennsylvania – put

his name to the American Constitution. Wilson attended the University of St Andrews and, it is thought, some law classes at Glasgow.

When he was contemplating the offer of becoming head of Princeton College Witherspoon received successive visits from two men, themselves Princetonians – Richard Stockton and Benjamin Rush. The latter was then a medical student at Edinburgh. They were deputised by the college trustees to try to persuade Witherspoon to accept their invitation, which they eventually succeeded in doing.

Both men would sign the Declaration. We might picture the scene in the winter of 1776: three men round a table in the minister's Laigh Church manse in Paisley, two of them Americans, hammering out the prospects awaiting Witherspoon in Princeton. All three were men of destiny set to pay their part in the American Revolution.

Years later, in the College chapel, John Witherspoon would officiate at the marriage of Rush to Stockton's daughter.

Besides these two Scottish signers of the Declaration, Witherspoon and James Wilson, it is for the purpose of memorialising another Paisley emigre to revolutionary America that my article is dedicated.

That is partly because of his trade – he was a hands-on craftsman, a bookseller, binder and circulating library proprietor – but also from a determination to avoid the limelight.

Robert Aitken (1735-1802), if he is mentioned at all, earns no more than a footnote in most histories of the birth of the United States.

I have described him as a "Conduit of Liberty", based on research I undertook some years ago in the Library Company of Philadelphia, where I was fortunate to be permitted daily access to Aitken's personal manuscript book of orders and accounts, his so-called "daybook", meticulously updated day and daily in his own hand.

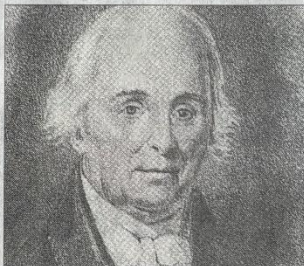
There I found entries for all the great names of the American Revolution, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, but excluding George Washington, who, one supposes, was too preoccupied with fighting the British redcoats to buy and read books from Aitken's shop.

Originally from Dalkeith, Aitken was probably attracted to Paisley by the town's rapid expansion as a centre of hand-loom weaving enabling its manufacturers to offer at least seasonal employment and relatively high wages.

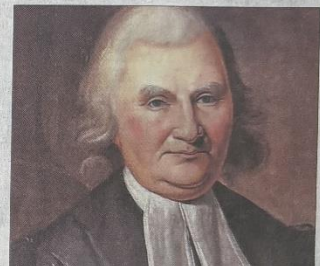
Aitken found there a means of exploiting his natural talent for entrepreneurial drive and commercial innovation. He opened a small bookshop in the town centre that incorporated a circulating library, thus recognising and exploiting Paisley's growing reputation – which stayed with it for more than a century-and-a-half – for self-enlightenment allied to an enthusiasm for learning.



John Trumbull's painting, Declaration of Independence, depicts the five-man drafting committee of the Declaration of Independence presenting their work to the Congress



Robert Aitken: Printed Declaration in magazine



John Witherspoon: Signed Declaration



A rare 1776 printing of the US Declaration of Independence, one of just 11 known to survive and the only copy outside America, has been discovered at The National Archives in London

After a sojourning visit of a few months in 1769, when he tested the market in Philadelphia for bookselling and publishing, Aitken, with his wife Janet (Skeoch), son Robert and daughter Janet, left Scotland for good in 1771. It is probable, though not certain, that Witherspoon – who had departed Scotland for America three years earlier – played a part in encouraging Aitken, one of his parishioners, to emigrate.

After the signing of the Declaration – begun in July 1776 but not fully completed until August – it was Aitken from Paisley who earned from Congress the right to print and disseminate the document via the pages of his Pennsylvania Magazine, an influential though short-lived serial publication read

“It was Aitken from Paisley who earned from Congress the right to print and disseminate the document

by the great and the good throughout the 13 former colonies now at war with what they had once regarded as the mother country.

To edit his journal Aitken had hired a certain Thomas Paine, who had recently arrived in America with a letter of recommendation from Benjamin Franklin of Craven Street, London, in his waistcoat pocket. But that, as they say, is another story...

Ronald Lindsay Crawford PhD DLitt is an honorary visiting professor in history in the University of Strathclyde and author of *The Lost World Of John Witherspoon* (Aberdeen University Press, 2014) and *Scotland And America In The Age Of Paine* (also AUP, 2022)

Window Renovation Project

Folks who have been attending the large hall to enjoy coffee and a chat over the summer will have seen that the major works to the hall windows have progressed at pace. The works are in fact now complete to the windows on the south and west face of the hall leaving only the north windows to be finished when the temporary Perspex covers will be removed. The process has been to take out the rectangular window frames, take them away for workshop refurbishment, work on the metal borders which are seated in the stonework, then bring the frames back to be resealed in those metal borders



and secure them there with specialist mastic.

The windows were first installed when the hall was built in 1928, so they were due some TLC and are now pristine once more.

Tony Ireland



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[Netherlee and Stamperland Parish Church](#)

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