NETHERLEE AND STAMPERLAND PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2026

From the Editor

Enter any supermarket just now and you are faced with both Halloween and Christmas fare. The year seems to be speeding by, yet the weather is as confusing as ever. All we need remember now is to put the clocks back at 2.00 a.m. on **Sunday 25th October.**

The deadline for our penultimate edition of 2026 is **Tuesday 10th November.** As always, articles (and pictures in .jpg format) can be submitted at any time to **nandsnewsletter@btinternet.com**.

Karen McQueen



Church Services

Sunday services are at **10.30 a.m.** Wednesday services are also at **10.30 a.m.**, with the month end lunch on **28th October.** 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.

Ladies Group



On 31st July we had the first event of the newly formed N & S Ladies Group. We enjoyed a delicious meal and lots of chat at the Derby Café. Our next outing is on 23rd October when a group of us will be attending the Harlequin Panto *Sleeping Beauty* at East Kilbride Village Theatre. On 6th December, a group will be attending a live streaming of The Royal Ballet's *The Nutcracker* at Eastwood Park Theatre so there is much to enjoy. If you wish to join the group, please let Marjorie Lang know and she will add you to the WhatsApp group.

Karen McQueen



A Little Faith, a Little Wonder and a Touch of Christmas

I have to say I've found that Christmas seems to arrive earlier every year. No sooner have we put away the summer things than the shops begin filling with Christmas decorations, and before we know it, we are being asked to think about presents, plans and everything else that comes with December. I am not quite ready to start singing carols just yet, but it has got me thinking about the stories we tell, the things we believe, and the way faith finds its place in our everyday lives.

One of my favourite things about ministry is the opportunity to explore faith with people in different ways. Sometimes that happens through Sunday worship, sometimes in a conversation over a cup of tea, and sometimes by looking at something we might not immediately associate with church. With that in mind, I am considering holding a weekly Bible study throughout Advent, using Miracle on 34th Street as our starting point. For those who know the film, you will remember its questions about belief, trust and whether we can accept something that doesn't quite fit with what we think we know. Beneath the familiar Christmas story, there are some interesting questions for us to explore together about faith, hope and the way we look at the world. I would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in coming along. Before arranging anything, it would be helpful to know whether a daytime or evening gathering would suit people best. If you would like to take part, please contact the church office and let Elspeth know your preference. I will then arrange a suitable day and time. You don't need to have attended a Bible study before, and there is certainly no need to arrive with all the answers. Sometimes the most worthwhile conversations begin with a good question.



There is a verse in the letter to the Hebrews that says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." I like that thought. Faith doesn't mean that we understand everything or that we never have doubts. It means being willing to keep asking questions, to listen, and to trust even when the whole picture isn't clear. I suspect that most of us have had moments when life hasn't turned out quite as expected, or when something has challenged the way we thought things should be. Faith doesn't always give us an immediate answer, but it can give us a different way of approaching the questions.

As I settle into the rhythms of life and ministry here at Netherlee and Stamperland, I continue to appreciate the many ways in which people bring their own experiences, perspectives and gifts to our church community. We don't all think alike, and we don't all come to faith from the same place. That is something to value, because there is always more for us to learn from one another.

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A Little Faith, a Little Wonder and a Touch of Christmas (continued …)

So, as we move towards Advent, perhaps we can leave a little room for curiosity, a little room for conversation, and a little room for God to surprise us. And if a Christmas film helps us begin that conversation, then I think that is a rather good place to start.

With every blessing
Jillian xx
(stole picture courtesy of Elaine Murray)



With Thanks

Heartfelt thanks to everyone for all the wonderful love and support you are giving us at this sad time.
Marie Turnbull and Family

Minibus



Some of you may already be aware that we are now in possession of our new electric minibus, and in fact a few of those attending the first meeting of the Forum were lucky enough to get a wee hurl in it and pronounced it to be quite magnificent! It has now had the signage added to the bodywork, and as soon as the team of drivers have had a chance to drive it and to familiarise themselves with the new controls (...and when the diesel in the old bus has been used up too; waste not want not...) it will be fully in service.

As was said in the letter sent to all members earlier this year, the wonderful generosity of the congregation over many years meant that we were in the very fortunate position of having the funds in our reserves to be able to buy the new bus, and also to refurbish the windows in the large hall. However, past experience also told us that members often feel moved to supplement these reserves by donating to specific causes, such as the bus and the windows, in addition to their regular givings which are used to support the day-to-day expenses of our Church life. I wish therefore to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made a donation in respect of the bus or the windows, or indeed both. At the end of August **£8,568** had been gifted for the bus, and **£3,772** towards the windows.

We are deeply appreciative of these gifts, as we are for your regular givings too. None of your generosity is taken for granted and each contribution is a blessing gratefully received.

Thank you, most sincerely.
Helen Illingworth
Session Clerk



From the Kerrs

Together with our son Steffen and his wife Alanna, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for all the love, prayers and generosity you showed us at this difficult time. I am pleased to report that Steffen and his precious son Angus are continuing to recover after their liver transplant surgery. It is going to be long road, especially for Angus who is being very brave. Mum Alanna is doing a wonderful job being with Angus most of the time, while the two grannies look after wee Paddy. He is now 3 weeks old and thriving. He was born into chaos but is just 'getting on with it'. His cuddles are a lovely tonic for all of us. Well, we enjoy them better during the day rather than 2am, but he is a baby and doing everything babies are supposed to do.

Please continue to keep them all in your prayers. And thank you for being the wonderful church family you have always been to us.
With grateful thanks
Dagmar and David

Sunday Club



We have been delighted to welcome visitors on a couple of Sundays in the past few weeks. On 13th September we watched a cartoon of the unforgiving servant and talked about forgiveness and the anger and frustration of the forgiving master. That resulted in a game of frustration – noisy good fun. The following week we enjoyed some snacks while discussing manna from heaven and the quails God provided to the fleeing Israelites. On 27th September, we looked at authority and being responsible, considering the sons who were asked to work in the vineyard. We ended the session with a game of giant jenga, I am glad to say without injury!

On harvest Sunday, the Christian Aid Harvest resources were used and we talked about how a groups of children in Sierra Leone are forming Nature Clubs and learning how they can help to protect their local areas from the effects of climate change by planting trees which help to clean the air, give shade, provide food and help protect the ground from the flooding effects of heavy rains on dry ground.Last Sunday we followed the story of the wedding feast invitations. We discussed what it was like to hold a party and made some invitations of our own.
The Sunday Club Team



PoppyScotland News

As I write this the preparations for this year's appeal are well under way. Names are now being taken for the in-store collection in Sainsbury's. This year Carole Diamond has stood down from coordinating this. My grateful thanks go to her for her years of service. Carole has been succeeded by Elinor Mair. Elinor would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels that they can donate 2 hours of their time to this cause. Her phone number is 07806093458.

The Coffee Afternoon will be on **Saturday 7th November from 2 till 4pm.** There will be the ever-popular tombola. The Poppy box will be in the Welcome Hall this week to receive all the wonderful prizes which are so generously donated year on year.
I will have tickets from Sunday 25th October priced at £5 for an adult and £2 for a child.
Thank you for your ongoing support of this very worthy cause.
Anne Mann

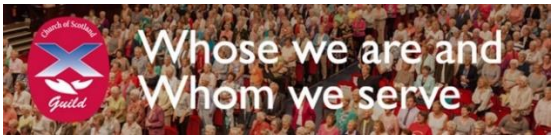
From the AV Team – Lumas Winds Quintet Concerts



Following their success in winning this year's Chamber Music Competition in Lyon, France, Lumas Winds Quintet provided an interesting and usual selection of music over both afternoon and evening concerts. Beginning with 'Opus Number Zoo' followed by 'Peter and the Wolf' – Prokofiev's classic tale of young boy Peter capturing a wolf. The audience of some 70 children and 50 adults enjoyed these dynamic performances presented and narrated by Millie Montgomery-Smith.

How did this concert event come about? Chris Vettraino, oboe player had the idea. He was a pupil at Netherlee Primary School and Williamwood High School and is very keen to promote oboe playing and to give children a opportunity to see and hear all these woodwind instruments at first-hand. He and his fellow players visited three schools the day before, talking to pupils and teachers and distributing concert leaflets.

Lumas Winds are based in London and have toured extensively – see their website **https://lumaswinds.com/**. In May this year they made their first live broadcast and were interviewed on BBC Radio 3 by Katie Derham for the **In Tune** Programme. They were extremely pleased with all the facilities Netherlee and Stamperland Church has to offer. Not least the top-notch food and refreshments for après performance(s) beautifully set out by Barbara and team as always! Chris Vettraino says that they are keen return next year for a second Festival! Our 'Peter and the Wolf' recording can be seen on our You Tube channel here - *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrCbwaz03Fs&t=232s*
AV Team. - Peter Diamond, Lorraine Johnston, Julie Cowan, Luke Brown, Neil Planner



The Guild

The Guild got off to a good start this Session when Rev Jillian Storrie joined us and gave an interesting and informative talk on the theme for this session "Beyond the Walls". This is the final theme in the three-year strategy "Let us Build a House".

At the second meeting – Nostalgia Revisited – Kevin Smith had a slide show of shops of bygone days. This was followed by everyone taking part in trying to identify various well-known faces and, probably most popular of all, we tried to identify pictures of singers of the 50s, each picture being followed by a short extract of their number one song.

The programme for the next few weeks is as follows:-

October

15th	Erskine Veterans	Alison Sturgeon
22nd	The First Lady	Liz Allan
29th	Halloween	Guild

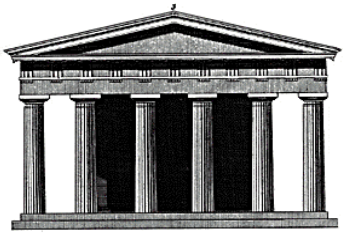
November

5th	Musical Entertainment	David Murray
12th	Autism and the Church	Rev. Steven Owens

An invitation is extended to anyone to come along on a Thursday afternoon.

Nancy Fisher for The Guild

The Forum



In September, the Forum was addressed by Professor Ronald Crawford on the topic of Adam Smith's landmark book *The Wealth of Nations*, published in March 1776. Although Ronald is a historian, his talk had some surprising contemporary resonances. He made a series of interlinking points, principally about the modernity of the *Wealth of Nations*, arguing that it is 'a treatise' – a strident work of history, philosophy and psychology all in one. Smith cared deeply about the state of the world, holding principled and practical objections to colonialism and slavery. While he is often, correctly, associated with the term 'productivity', his famous book was not, Ronald concluded, just a 'dry economics textbook'. On the contrary, it was a book that changed the world. Ronald concluded by drawing some parallels between Smith's *Wealth of Nations* and Marx's *Das Kapital*, a comparison which is not often made given both philosophers are thought to have made fundamentally opposing contributions to economic thought. After the talk, Ronald answered some important questions, such as 'what would Smith make of artificial intelligence'. We are, as ever, very grateful to Ronald for delivering such a stimulating talk.

On **Monday 19 October**, Rev. Gordon Armstrong, the chaplain to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will address the Forum about his important work in that role. All are most welcome to attend.

Fraser McGowan for the Forum Organising Committee

A huge thank you to all who contributed in any way to the success of the fundraising event we had in September. A huge thanks also to Jillian for her call out for the bake sale and to those who gave me donations on the Sunday. We eventually raised **£680.00** which was a tremendous amount; thanks again for your generosity. The money will go a long way with £400 of it being match funded.
Marjorie Lang and Catriona Gomez

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



Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2026

We are so grateful to you for supporting LHM year after year, it means a lot to us. We've put together a short list of the things we need most. If you're able, please pick from these - we've thought it through so it reflects what we actually use. We've also included a few everyday essentials we usually have to buy; donating these would save us money that we can redirect to other areas of our work. Your help allows us cook hot, nutritious lunches and provide emergency food parcels for those who are struggling. If a cash donation is easier, we'll use it to buy fresh fruit, veg and other perishables we need, keeping meals healthy and cutting waste. Thank you from The LHM Team

Cereal	***Tinned Fruit***	***Tinned Goods***
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nut	*Pears*	*Baked Beans*
Weetabix	*Pineapples*	*Chopped tomatoes*
Rice Crispies	*Mandarins*	*Coconut Milk*
Sugar Puffs	*Fruit Cocktail*	*Condensed Milk*
Frosties	***Other***	*Potatoes*
Coco Pops	*Diluting/fresh juice*	*Custard*
Cheerios	*Coffee*	*Rice Pudding*
Porridge	*Biscuits*	*Butter Beans*
Dried Goods	*Crisps*	*Cannellini Beans*
Cous Cous	*Tea Bags*	*Chickpeas*
Bulgur wheat	*Long life milk*	*Tinned lentils*
Paprika, Cumin	*Rapeseed Oil*	***Other***
Lentils	*Plain Flour*	*Brown Sauce*
Mixed herbs	*Corn Flour*	*Tomato Sauce*
Garlic powder	*Mustard*	*Vinegar*
Onion powder	*Butter*	*Soya Sauce*
Chilli powder	*Bottle lemon/lime juice*	*Worcestershire Sauce*
Crushed chillies	*Dry yeast*	*Olive oil*
Ground coriander	*Baking Powder*	*Vegetable oil*
Black pepper	*Red wine vinegar*	*Gravy Granules*
Salt	*Apple Cider Vinegar*	*Veg Stock cubes/ bullion*
Pasta	*Vanilla Extract*	*Jelly*
Long grain rice	***Essentials***	*Sugar*
Bay Leaves	*Washing up liquid*	*Tomato Paste*
Lasagna Sheets	*Washing Powder*	*Passata*
Coriander	*Toilet Tissue*	

Food Parcel Items

pot noodles/packet noodles	*Tinned ham, corn beef, tuna,*	*Tinned spaghetti, spaghetti hoops*	*Tinned meatballs, macaroni, tinned dinners eg:curries*
instant mash	*Microwave rice pouches, pasta pouches*	*Biscuits, cereal bars*	*tinned soups packet soups*

We are having a concert by Bearsden Fiddlers on **Saturday 14th November at 7.00 p.m.** This will feature our very own John Curror and the proceeds going to Christian Aid. The tickets are priced £10.00 which includes a supper. If you would like a ticket or any other information, please speak to any member of the Team.

Majorie Lang for the Christian Aid Team

Christmas Cakes



It is that time of year again when I will be taking orders for Christmas cakes. They are being made and maturing in the spare room! There will be an order form on the Welcome Desk or you can email me directly. This year unfortunately the cost has had to increase slightly to £8 due to the rising costs of ingredients. I have not finalised which charities to support, but will include the Lodging House Mission and one other, which I will let you know. If you wish to email me, let me know which kind of icing you would like - Royal (spiky) or Fondant (smooth); Gluten free will also be available.

Thank you for your support

Barbara Cochrane



Reverse Advent

This year we would like to try something a little different and organise a Reverse Advent to support the Food Bank and Lodging House Mission with their Christmas Appeals. We will display a poster in the Welcome Hall and add to the Order of Service the items that are being collected by these charities who support some of the most vulnerable in our community. Each week there will be specific items suggested for donaion; folk can bring these along on the Sunday from the first week in advent until the end of December. The final weeks will feature the type of foods requested for the start of the New Year. There will be collection boxes in the Welcome Hall and the items split between the Food Bank and Lodging House Mission. Hope that makes sense!!

Any queries - check with myself or Marjorie Lang.

Barbara Cochrane





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