

## **Netherlee and Stamperland Church Newsletter August 2022**

### **Worship**

Sunday worship takes place at 10 30 each Sunday morning. We look forward to welcoming you.

### **BB MINI BUS - TRAVEL TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS**

For some years, volunteers have been providing a service of transporting worshippers to Sunday Service at Netherlee and Stamperland Church. This service is free of charge and will continue (now to Netherlee Church only) for the foreseeable future.

Worshippers are collected from their homes, driven to church for Sunday Service and returned home thereafter. If time allows, drivers are happy to return for those passengers wishing to remain for coffee in the large hall.

The BB Mini bus can be busy but demand changes almost on a weekly basis. If you (or friend/ family member) would like to know more about the service then please contact me (details below)

### **BB MINI BUS - VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

The BB Mini Bus is driven by a small but dedicated team of experienced volunteer drivers. 2 of these volunteers are due to "retire" in the near future and we are therefore seeking to recruit at least two replacement drivers at the earliest opportunity.

If you would like to volunteer as a driver, please contact me (details below) in the first instance. Full training will be given. Opportunities will also be given to travel in the bus as an observer to experience first-hand what is involved. Currently, volunteer drivers have to hold a D1 Driving licence.

### **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS - PRIVATE CARS**

In addition to the BB Mini Bus, worshippers have frequently been driven to Church by relatives or friends in private vehicles. This continues to be a valued and rewarding service for all concerned.

As far as can be established, no-one requiring transport is without a driver but if you (or someone you know) does need this facility then please contact me.

To help us expand this opportunity should need arise and are you willing to drive someone to Church then please contact me. (details below)

**Alan Fairlie**

## **The Forum**

We are delighted to share the Forum programme for the 22/23 session. Please put the dates in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you at the first meeting on Monday, 19 September at 7.30pm When Sheriff Alistair Watson will introduce us to the fascinating and complex topic of our penal system.

### **Forum Programme 2022/23**

Date	Speaker name	Title/Topic
19.09.22	Alistair Watson Sheriff at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court and Temporary Judge at Glasgow High Court	Prison as punishment or rehabilitation/ alternatives to prison sentences
17.10.22	David Webster Ret. Petroleum geologist, publications secretary of Geological Society of Glasgow	Fossil Grove- past, present and future
21.11.22	Audrey Flanagan Project manager at S.E. Foodbank	Role, activities and challenges of foodbank during cost of living crisis
16.01.23	Lee McConnell Retired former Olympic athlete and Scottish Athlete of the Year	Highs and lows of Sport
20.02.23	Harlequin Youth Theatre honorary president Christine Kyle	History, challenges, triumphs, role in the community
20.03.23	Jamie Redfern Director of Women's and Children's Directorate @ NHSGCC	Importance and benefits of third sector(charities) involvement in NHS

### **Glasgow South East Foodbank**

The foodbank would like to thank the congregation of Netherlee and Stamperland for their continuing support during these uncertain times Here are some statistics from foodbank over April, May and June;

887 households were helped consisting of 1675 adults and 1293 children. This help cannot be achieved without help from congregations such as ours.

This month the foodbank is requesting coffee, tinned fish and beans. There are further requests are for any recipes which can be adapted to using tinned produce instead of fresh . Any money saving ideas would be gratefully received. The foodbank are also considering buying and distributing electric throws which are seemingly cheap to run. If anyone can contribute to these ideas, please speak to me. Thanks again for all your support.

Marjorie Lang

## **Poppyscotland News.**

Hello again everyone.

The Poppy Appeal season is fast approaching. This year I would like to ask if there is someone out there who could assist me with the distribution and collection of collecting tins. Ideally it would be someone who could drive whilst I hand out the tins. It would be no longer than 2 days or 4 half days depending on how we arranged it. Timings can be flexible.

I will also be looking for volunteers to assist with the instore collection in Sainsbury during the 2 weeks running up to Remembrance Weekend. This is broken up into 2-hour shifts.

Anyone who feels that they have some time to spare can contact me Thanking you all in anticipation.

There are two Coffee afternoons arranged. The first is on 12th November 2022 in the Church Hall from 2-4pm. The second is on May 6th in the same venue at the same times. As always tombola prizes will be gratefully received. Nearer the time I will put the Poppy Box in the Welcome Hall.

Thanking you all for your continued support.

Anne Mann

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Thanks again for all your support.

Marjorie Lang

## **Soup and pud lunch**

We are holding a soup and pudding lunch after the morning service on Sunday 4th September. The proceeds will go to the roof fund.

If anyone could provide a pudding or make some soup please speak to Barbara Cochrane next Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August.

This is usually a fun event and we hope to see as many of you as it is an opportunity to extend after service fellowship!

Thank you.

Barbara Cochrane

## **Welcome and Readings volunteers**

If anyone would like to do a welcome or reading during the morning service from October- February please contact Marjorie Lang.

Marjorie Lang

## **News from Cranhill**

The Nearly New shop at Cranhill Development Trust has reopened after the summer break and would welcome any donations of clothing or bric-a-brac.

Please leave any such items at the church, securely bagged and clearly marked for Cranhill.

Thanks.

Gordon Lang

## **News of Muriel Forbes**

Many of you have been asking about Muriel Forbes since her move from Cranhill to Tiberias. Here is her June Blog.

Hospitality and House of Grace are synonymous. Not only are there coffee and water and sweet treats as a visitor, but hospitality is at the heart of the vision of the House of Grace itself, opened to receive former prisoners transitioning to life 'on the outside' by Kamil and Agnes Shehade in 1982. Growing up, Jamal and Thomas did not realise there was anything different about their home, until they discovered school friends were forbidden to visit because of fear of what 'former inmates' might do. Over time, this attitude softened a little and even some of their friends' parents came around. The welcome is so warm, the atmosphere so welcoming, it is easy to understand why.

Kamil and Agnes had a vision for the abandoned shell of The Church of our Lady in downtown Haifa. They rebuilt it, and opened it as a half-way house for men leaving prison as some of the most marginalized people in Israeli society. Over time, the city of Haifa have allowed government buildings and banks to grow up around the little church, as if to hide it. But it is still here, and people still seek it out and find refuge here.

11% of the population of Haifa is Arab (some prefer Palestinian), and 20% across Israel, but they make up 40% of the prison population in Israel. Some of these men have been imprisoned for a long time for minor crimes, most have faced enormous struggles in life, including a lack of stability in family life, poor education and lack of opportunity. It is difficult to find well paid work, build a home, raise a family; in short, to flourish. Recent laws in Israel such as the 2018 Nationality Act, which define what it means to be an Israeli and demotes Arabic to a second language no longer required on legal documents, make things even more difficult for men who

may be illiterate and certainly would not have been taught Hebrew to any high standard. And some have been so long in a harsh prison environment that kindness and good relationships with partners and children are harder to sustain.

Through its programmes, House of Grace helps men find some inner peace, some self-esteem, learn some skills and build better relationships. Over time, obvious needs for family support in the community and young people who have far less spent on them in terms of education and after school activities led to new programmes. The infrastructure of this became really important in the pandemic.

This is what grassroots activism is. Small acts of grace on limited budgets, bearing fruit over time in unforeseen ways. And still faithful to Kamil and Agnes's Matthew 25 faith.

I was struck by the similarities in response from House of Grace with Cranhill Development Trust, based In Cranhill in the east end of Glasgow, where I was minister for 17 years. Food parcels, internet access, IT to allow kids to access lessons, just keeping the human connection going. And after the pandemic, the social isolation still being experienced where young people have lost two, almost three, of their most formative years.

Haifa is only about an hour from Tiberias. I need to hang out there more, for myself. I need that kind of open handed welcome.



Jamal Shehade at House of Grace

## **A Fond Farewell – Helen E MacVey**

Dear All,

You have been an amazing family to me, I have grown up in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour at Netherlee. I have known what it is to be loved by a community of people who love Jesus and have nurtured me in my faith.

I have enjoyed many happy times at Netherlee at Brownies, Sunday school trips, Youth fellowship nights and friendly, (if not slightly competitive) Quiz nights!

I've had opportunities to lead workshop, nurture children and young people at Youth Fellowship and I have had the privilege of being part of the eldership in our community.

God is spurring me on to a new chapter of service at a new church (Re-hope Southside). I am excited at what is next. I will be officially leaving Netherlee as a member but I will definitely be back to visit and enjoy a cuppa with dear friends.

May God bless Netherlee and Stamperland in this next chapter in the life of our church.

Love and Blessings,

Helen E MacVey

Jeremiah 29:11 <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

## **Sunday Club**

Our Sunday Club will return on the 4<sup>th</sup> September and we look forward to exploring and responding to the word of God together. Old and new members in P1 - P7 are most welcome, just come along to the Welcome Hall before the service.

Elaine Murray