

Presbytery of Glasgow - Local Church Review

Report to the Superintendence Committee

Name of congregation: Stamperland

The LCR Team: Roger Sturrock, Allan Vint , Garry Osbourne

Initial meeting: 29.10.15

Main Meeting: 26.11.2015

Section 1 – Looking at the present

Brief overview

STAMPERLAND CHURCH was established in 1939 when the local Churches of Greenbank, Netherlee and Williamwood came together to help found the church. Stamperland church is situated in a suburb just a little south of the Glasgow City boundary. It is a community of a little over 5,000 people living in about 1460 homes over 95 per cent of which are owner-occupied. Approximately 40% of the congregation live outwith the parish boundary. The church became a vacant charge in 2014 when the Rev. George Mackay demitted office. Jack Drummond is the current Locum.

What are the values that the congregation consider as shaping and directing the life of their church?

Good communication is seen as important in keeping the congregation working together in a vacancy. Everything is underpinned by a Christian ethos and perspective.

Innovations, celebrations and learnings

The church is attempting to engage with the youth organisations that use the premises during the week. These include the BB, Guides and Scouts which together attract approximately 185 young people during the week. The congregation has met with the leaders of these organisations and as a result family services and a “Pyjama Christmas Eve service “ have been successful events.

New initiatives to engage with the community include “a pie, a pint and a prayer” evening on a Saturday in the church hall as an alternative form of worship involving talks, prayer, readings and singing. There is also a plan to develop “Messy Church” in conjunction with Netherlee Parish Church. A Sunday evening club for teenage young people is being developed by a small group of elders from Stamperland and Netherlee and the club will be known as Y@K (Youth at Kirk).

The church has recently adopted a Unitary constitution with a resultant new committee structure which is hoped will encourage the development of leadership skills and stimulate more people to take on leadership roles.

Are there any significant challenges facing this congregation and how are they working to overcome them?

The congregation has the challenges of being in a vacancy, an ageing congregation and a declining membership.

There has been uncertainty about the future of the buildings but they have been recently been re-classified as 1 by presbytery.

There is a desire to pursue closer ties with Netherlee church and to fill the vacancy at Stamperland. Three young Elders have become involved in leading worship services. A real effort is being made to engage with organisations that use the church and to inform the surrounding community of on-going church activities.

Is there anything to note around compliance with Church Law and General Assembly Deliverances?
None.

Section 2 - Looking forward

How do they look to achieve this?

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What key area(s) does this church wish to move forward with in the next 5 years?

How do they look to achieve this?

TABLE (see next page)

What additional help or resources will the congregation need?

In order to develop youth work activities advice and support from the Presbytery youth co-ordinator would be valued. There is the possibility that Stamperland and Netherlee churches could support a youth worker to work between both churches.

How does the Presbytery Plan fit with these action points?

The presbytery plan proposes a linkage and subsequent union with Netherlee church. The congregation at Stamperland have debated this proposal at length and it is clear that there are differences of opinion within the kirk session and the congregation. Some are in favour of a linkage with Netherlee but no union but there is an overall desire to develop closer working relationships with Netherlee. Clearly more discussions around these issues are required between the kirk sessions of Stamperland and Netherlee.

Visiting Team - recommendations and advice

The visiting team were impressed with the realistic way in which the folks at Stamperland have dealt with the challenges of a vacancy period. Our impression is of a congregation that is enthusiastically grappling with the many changes in the community that they serve and we were pleased to see how 'open' the church is to innovation in worship and outreach.

Clearly more joint working with Netherlee will enable a vision for the future to be realised and the filling of the vacancy at Stamperland will facilitate this aim.

Are there any specific points for the Superintendence committee to note?

None.

Congregation comment

[This section provides the opportunity for the congregation to comment upon the report if they so wish.]

To what key area does this action relate?	What actions will you take to move forward in this area?	Aim to start by	Aim to complete by	Who will take this forward?	Who will provide support from the wider church?
WORSHIP	Develop Pie, Pint, Prayer	Now	On-going. Plan for success – at least four events per year – hopefully, one per month.	Group of (Young) Elders from both Stamperland and, hopefully, Netherlee.	No external support required
	Messy Church	Now	On-going	Young elders, Sunday School teachers.	Learning from and working with Netherlee. It is envisaged that the “Messy Church” would alternate its meeting place between Netherlee and Stamperland.
	Y@K	Spring /Summer 2016	By 2018 have a thriving group of young people and Y@K should be on-going.	Young elders from both Netherlee and Stamperland Churches. Hope that members of Y@K will	Presbytery Youth Development Co-ordinator? Suzi Farrant – Cof S Edinburgh?
COMMUNITY	Develop Stewardship Culture	Now	On-going	Locum (new Minister), Session	Always looking to others for good practice
MISSION	Lunch Club for people living with Dementia	2016	On-going	Pastoral Care committee of Stamperland Kirk Session	Looking to others for good practice. Build on our experience of Heart for Art and also our links with Williamwood Home (local CrossReach care home). May get some support from local authority....
BELONGING	Developing and growing the links with Netherlee	started	2020+	Both Kirk Sessions	Presbytery Committees and advisors.
NEW MINISTER	Joint Nomination Committee with Netherlee	Mid 2016	Early/mid 2017	Presbytery and both Kirk Sessions	Presbytery

