

Presbytery of Glasgow - Local Church Review

Report to the Superintendence Committee

[May 10th 2015]

Name of congregation: Netherlee Parish Church

The LCR Team: Roger Sturrock, Ada Macleod, Allan Vint, Garry Osbourne.

Initial meeting: Jan. 14th 2015 (combined meeting)

Main Meeting: March 12th 2015

Section I – Looking at the present

Brief overview

Netherlee Parish Church is situated in a residential area with a population of around 4500. The current minister (Rev. Tom Nelson) is expected to retire in 3 years time. There is an OLM attached to the church who helps with preaching and pastoral care. The church roll has experienced a decline from 900 to 650. Sunday services follow a traditional pattern with a choir and organ with occasional youth band involvement. There have been attempts in the past to develop youth outreach by employing an associate minister and three youth workers but in the last two and a half years there have been no specific personnel allocated to youth outreach. “Messy Church” has been run for over 5 years and has been successful in attracting community folks to activities. However it has become increasingly difficult to attract young people and children to Sunday church activities. A “welcome pack” is given out to new residents in the parish.

The Presbytery Plan calls for a Union with the neighbouring congregation of Stamperland. The Kirk Session sees this as a good prospect since both parishes are similar and both provide the catchment area for the local primary School.

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

The congregation is very conscious of the need to engage with the surrounding community in new ways. The church has made considerable progress in installing new audiovisual equipment that advertises church activities via repeater screens to the community groups that use the church buildings during the week.

Innovations, celebrations and learnings

The church is exploring a new initiative to develop a dementia project modelled along the lines of similar projects within Glasgow Presbytery.

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

The significant challenges facing this congregation are the need to engage with young people and young families as well as exploring how to “be church” to the majority of families who do not engage with church on Sundays. The action plan itemises ways in which these challenges can be met.

Section 2 - Looking forward

How do they look to achieve this?

Section 2 - Looking forward

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

1. Discussions with Stamperland Church on shared vision for future leading to linkage/union as per Presbytery Plan.
2. Develop Dementia Project
3. Building alterations.
4. Youth Development/Family worker

How do they look to achieve this?

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 be the key people responsible for taking this forward?	Who will provide support from the wider church? (NB the LCR team can help with this column)
1. Presbytery Plan	Joint meetings with Kirk Sessions to identify shared vision.	6/6/15	30/9/15	Both Session Clerks with Rev Tom Nelson and Rev Gray Fletcher	Independent facilitator
2. Dementia Project	Develop project plan and implement	1/3/15	1/3/16	Co-ordinator Mr Niall Illingworth and Community Matters Group	Crossreach, Alzheimer's Scotland for initial development
3. Buildings	Identify priorities for alterations to improve accommodation and oversee project.	1/6/15	31/12/17	Iain Alexander and 5 Year Planning Group from Congregational Board	CARTA and Funders
4. Youth/Family Worker	Depending upon outcome of item 1.	6/6/15	30/6/16	Both Kirk Sessions to have appointment team	Presbytery Youth Development Officer

What additional help or resources will the congregation need?

To identify a funding stream to support the youth/family worker.

How does the Presbytery Plan fit with these action points?

Union with Stamperland will lead to joint working on two sites with the OLM and youth family/worker.

Visiting Team - recommendations and advice

- ❖ The visiting teams' impression is of a congregation aware of the challenges facing them in their parish.
- ❖ The relationships within the kirk session and with the minister appear to be good and the team had the impression that the congregation is friendly and welcoming.
- ❖ There are specific challenges in engaging with young people and families within the community and closer working relationships with the congregation at Stamperland may enable the development of a common 'vision' for the area served by the two churches.
- ❖ The proposal to appoint a children/family worker is a good one but there will be a need to develop performance indicators to assess the efficacy of such an appointment.

Congregation comment

No Comment