

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Sederunt: Mesdames L Baillie, B Bald, S Davidson, C Edwards, A Fairley, J Gordon, M Hynd, M Marshall, S McCrum, S Riddoch, M Tully and S Ward
Messrs C Campbell, Rev M Frew and A MacMillan

Apologies: Mesdames L Campbell, J Fox, M Fulton and R Welsh
Messrs I Welsh

The Rev Michael Frew opened the meeting with a reading from 1 Peter 5 vv 1-7 and a prayer.

The minister welcomed the Rev Joanne Hood, Liz Brown and Colin Beck all from Broughton St Mary's who had come to talk to us about their current Pastoral Care model.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of meeting Monday 5 December 2011, previously circulated, were approved.

2. Communion Roll: Session noted

- a) Deaths: Tom Smith, New Carron Court, Falkirk
- b) Additions: Nil
- c) Removals: Nil
- d) Change of Address: Nil

Session noted:

Attestation of the Communion Roll as at 31 December 2011.

Annual Statistics: The Clerk has submitted Annual Statistics as at 31 December 2011 to Presbytery as follows:

Members as at 1.1.11

271 (incl 2 adherents)

Removed	by death	8	
	by transfer	6	
	<u>otherwise</u>	0	-14

Added	by profession	4	
	<u>by transfer</u>	2	+6

Members as at 31.12.11

263 (incl 2 adherents)

Supplementary Roll as at 31.12.11

30

Session noted and accepted the statistics.

3. Pastoral Care

Broughton St Mary's Pastoral Care Report:

- Not all Elders visited all of their District as they knew some people would not be interested.
- Not all Elders were comfortable doing visits
- Some Elders had retired so some Districts were not covered. Had to decide should new Elders be sought just to cover Districts or should they be ordained for other reasons.
- Looked at what was already being done naturally within the congregation
 - One person was naturally doing the welcome so became the Welcome Elder
 - One person was naturally doing ministry with children & young people so became Children & Young People Elder
- Once these were in place and acknowledged it was decided it would be good to have a Bereavement Elder (within congregation and parish) and someone volunteered to take this on.
- Once these three positions were in place a Pastoral Care Team was set up with the addition of a Convenor, Prayer Elder and Frail Members Elder.
- Volunteers were then sought from the congregation to carry out visits and deliver magazines and flowers
- There is an annual training session for all visitors across the congregation.
- The Pastoral Care team meets every two months with regular attendance
- Contact is maintained through a Welcome Book and a Welcome Pack and a Christmas card is sent to any visitors who have entered their details in the Visitors' Book throughout that year.
- There is a library with books to help children and families with issues such as bereavement, family breakup, bullying, etc.
- Priorities for visits are people in nursing homes and the housebound as they can't get to church. People who are sick or may have any other issues would also be visited where possible.
- There is a Christmas party for the elderly and housebound and also at Harvest they deliver plants to the elderly, housebound and those in nursing homes.
- Transport Convenor organises transport to and from church but also for any appointments if they can help.
- Bereavement care involves visiting those who have been bereaved and also recognising the anniversary.

There followed some questions from Slateford Longstone

1. How do they keep in touch with lapsed members? – Still looking at ways to deal with this effectively
2. Do Elders still do visits to members? – There are still visiting Elders but not all members are visited and where they don't want a visit members have details of a contact Elder. Often those delivering magazines will pass on information about those who may be in need of a visit. It is known details can be passed to the Pastoral Care Team or the Elder delegated to a specific ministry.

In summary the process is always evolving and changing to adapt to current needs.

The minister thanked our visitors for taking the time to come and speak to us and for the insight they had given us into their process and the visitors left the meeting.

Pastoral Care Discussion: Session were in agreement that we would like to proceed with the Broughton St Mary's model playing to people's strengths and what they would be interested in doing. A questionnaire has been drafted for the congregation to assess their thoughts on membership, visiting, etc. From this we would work out membership and visiting needs. It was agreed the clerk will collate the responses to the Elders' questionnaire issued prior to the meeting. Marion Marshall, Alison Fairley, Mary Hynd and the clerk offered to assist with collation of the congregation responses.

4. Minister's Report

Prayer Service: First one was held in January with around 11 attendees and the next one is planned for February

Lent Study Group: Around 11 people have signed up so far for the study group. The minister asked if people would be interested in a topic looking out at world issues or a more personal study. The majority of people at the meeting said a more personal study would be preferred.

The Carbon Fast: The minister has received a copy of a booklet from Tear Fund encouraging people to do things to help with reducing carbon output during Lent. It was agreed we should send for some of these and make them available to the congregation.

5. Worship Committee

Holy week Services: There will be Holy Week Services, in collaboration with our neighbouring churches, on Palm Sunday at 6.30pm then every evening from Tuesday to Friday with all these services starting at 7pm.

Communion: It was agreed we would move Communion from Sunday 1 April to Sunday 8 April (Easter Sunday)

6. Congregational Board

The clerk advised there will be a full meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board on Sunday 4 March 2012 immediately after morning worship to approve the Annual Statement of Accounts.

7. Presbytery Report

Final Draft of A Plan for Presbytery: The final draft of the Presbytery Plan has been received and it states that "Slateford Longstone should be led by one Minister of Word and Sacrament inducted on a Basis of Reviewable Tenure". The minister suggested we respond to Presbytery with the following comments on our profile:

- ask to include reference to Redhall Special School also being in our Parish
- On the reference to us contacting Fairmilehead and Morningside United Churches regarding their work with mature adults and the elderly we should advise that one church did not respond to our enquiry and the other advised they do not have any special ministry to that age group.
- We should also ask Presbytery what happens about our Parish Grouping now that each congregation will have benefit of a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Session agreed to all of these points being raised and the clerk will respond on our behalf.

8. Correspondence

CrossReach: A letter has been received from CrossReach asking if we can supply them with details of a contact from the congregation. Two people already receive correspondence from them and it was agreed to leave as is.

Heart & Soul: Advance notice there will again be an Assembly Sunday event in Princes Street Gardens. The date is Sunday 20 May and the theme is Heart & Soul.

TryPraying: This initiative is being run again this year. We will reply saying we might be able to take part and it was agreed we would focus on TryPraying at the Prayer Service in March.

9. Heating

It has been very cold during services the past two Sundays. The heating came on earlier but the thermostat may have cut off if the temperature was reached earlier than the time of the service. The thermostat was adjusted during the service on 5 February and has now been change to a higher temperature before it will cut off. The minister will also check to see if the boiler thermostat level can also be increased.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

These were fixed for Sunday 4 March immediately after morning worship and Monday 26 March and Monday 28 May all meeting at 7.00pm in the Session Room

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.40pm with each blessing the others.

SUZANNE E RIDDOCH
Session Clerk

REV. MICHAEL W FREW
Moderator
