

EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 19 March 2012 AT 8.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Bob Anderson, Lin Baillie, Lily Campbell, Liz Chalmers, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Mary Hynd, Sheila McCrum, Yvonne Paterson, Suzanne Riddoch, Angie Simpson Michael Taylor
Apologies: Dennise Brown, Jean Gordon, Crofton Palmer, Sheila Ward, Ian Welsh

The Rev Mike Frew opened the meeting with a Bible reading and a prayer

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 16th January 2012 were approved

Matters Arising: There is now an extra copy of the Church Hymnary at the Communion table

3 Finance

The Finance committee reported that **general income** is down slightly to date.

There has been an unexpected fee for the **video licence** of £136. This will be included in the budget next year.

Liz Chalmers received a bill for **water rates** of £2,818.06 but churches are exempt from water rates so Liz has been in touch with Scottish Water and awaits confirmation. Should difficulties continue the matter will be referred to the Church of Scotland's Law Department

There have been no fees paid by the **Guides** since February 2011. Angie Simpson agreed to follow this up.

Gas and Electricity rates are due for an increase. Electricity is to rise by 9p per therm but we haven't yet had confirmation of the increase in the gas.

The optical drive is not working on the **church laptop**. Mike has got a quote of £124 for this to be repaired, the Board approved the cost.

Alasdair MacMillan will be leaving us at the end of May and it was agreed that Mike would purchase a £25 book token from general funds as a leaving gift.

4 Property

Church and Halls -

Eight people turned up for the **spring clean** on 17th March and concentrated on the main church and the activity hall. It was agreed to have another date in the Autumn and to invite the organisations along so more can be cleaned. The date was set for Saturday 29th September.

Thorburns are dealing with a **blocked outlet** in the roof above the shoe box room which should solve the damp problem. They will also do general repairs and put a grill over the downpipe to stop it getting clogged with leaves. Cost is £150. The company will also attend to a **broken downpipe** above the activities hall.

Quotes for repair of **cracked rendering** are £1965 + VAT and £620 have been received. It was agreed to go with the quote for £650 from Scott and Davie. There will need to be some redecoration after the rendering is fixed.

Bob Anderson has offered to paint over the **graffiti** on the fire exit door.

Caledonian Glazing will fix a **broken window** in the tower at a cost of £55 approximately.

Mike has been in touch with Ark Housing about the **car park lights** and is awaiting a response.

Angie Simpson will action the fitting of a **kitchen fan**.

Manse –

Work on replacing the **sun lounge** started. An additional £400 is required for the engineer's fee for the sun lounge. This will be taken from our reserves. Angie Simpson will speak to the architect to see if the sun lounge will make any difference to the **insurance** on the manse.

The **front steps** have been repaired.

Redecoration of the **dining room** will be carried out at a cost of £331 once the sun lounge is finished. The choosing of a new **carpet** is in progress.

5 National Stewardship Programme

The sub committee haven't met yet although Yvonne Paterson has contacted the organiser for our area and now knows there is only a requirement for one major event at the end of the finance focus, probably a meal after a Sunday service. Organisations will be asked to focus on time during February.

6 Hall Lets

There is a new hall let for another AA meeting on Thursday mornings.

It was agreed to increase the hourly fees by around 4% starting in August. The Lighthouse Chapel will increase from £17 to £17.50. The groups will increase from £5.50 to £5.75. Private hire of the activities hall from £17 to £20 and a room from £12 to £14. One off hire of the hall will stay the same at £25 and a room at £15. Angie Simpson will pass these figures onto Mike Frew to be inputted on the website and will inform the organisations in April.

7 Report from Session

Nothing to report

8 Correspondence

Mike received a letter about changes to pension contributions but this doesn't affect us as we don't contribute to the cleaner's or music leader's pension.

9 Any Other Business

Kirk News – Mary Hynd highlighted that postage costs are increasing in April and she will struggle to meet the cost through donations and profits from Life and Work magazines. It was agreed that Mary would buy stamps and she would be reimbursed through general funds. The cost should be around £13 per quarter.

Gift Day – Suzanne noted that the gift day due to be held on 12th May will take place before another Kirk News is issued. It was agreed to make envelopes available in church and to advertise in the notices from 15th April.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The dates of the next meetings are as follows:

Monday 21st May 2012

Monday 18th June 2012

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 9.05pm with each blessing the others.