

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 26 MARCH 2012 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Sederunt: Mesdames L Baillie, B Bald, L Campbell, S Davidson, A Fairley, M Fulton, M Marshall, S McCrum, S Riddoch and R Welsh
Messrs C Campbell and Rev M Frew

Apologies: Mesdames C Edwards, J Fox, J Gordon, M Tully and S Ward
Messrs I Welsh

The Rev Michael Frew opened the meeting with a reading from Mark Chapter 8 and a prayer.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of meeting Monday 6 February 2012, previously circulated, were approved.

2. Communion Roll: Session noted

a) Deaths: Mrs Muriel Paterson, 12 Redhall Crescent

b) Additions: Nil

c) Removals to separate list as address unknown: Mrs Ann Donaldson

Mrs Jacqui MacKay

Mrs Ann Mitchell

Mrs Winifred Narrie

Mr David Strachan

Mrs Angela Wilson

d) Change of Address: Mrs Bella Hunter of Redhall Grove, whereabouts unknown
John and Anne Black of 12 Longstone Grove now 46 Longstone Crescent
Lindsay McIntyre of Longstone Street to 16/1 Sighthill Drive
Rosemary Reid of 11 Redhall Gardens to 7 Wolsey Avenue, Bonnyrigg EH19 3LU

3. Register of Personnel Working with Children or Protected Adults

The Register was presented to Session with there being no changes since the last review in March 2012. The list was approved by Kirk Session.

4. Minister's Report

Nazareth: The minister recorded his appreciation of Kirk Session's encouragement of his involvement with The Nazareth Trust and reported that the last trip was particularly instructive as the hospital faces the same similar funding challenges to those of the Church of Scotland, with the need to cut "staff" in order to balance budgets.

Over 50s Group: The Over 50s Group wish to celebrate Communion at their Maundy Thursday meeting. Session gave their approval for this to take place.

Easter Sunday: Sunday Club Leaders wish to take a break on this date. We either need to find 2 people who would be willing to cover for this day to work with the children or make arrangements to welcome the young people into Church on that day. If we were to welcome them into Church the minister asked for Sessions' view on children participating in Communion on this occasion. Our general policy is that it is fine after consultation with parents, but we have two girls whose parents do not attend services. Rita Welsh and Lily Campbell agreed to cover for Easter Sunday therefore the discussion regarding Communion did not continue.

Evening Services: Numbers at the monthly Prayer Service and New Month – New Worship are not large but the Prayer Service participants are keen to continue. New Month – New Worship will need to be reviewed in conjunction with St David's Broomhouse for their thoughts on the situation. Session agreed they are happy for the Prayer Services to continue whilst there is willingness amongst the participants. The New Month – New Worship should be reviewed around June 2012 to consider its future.

Holiday Club: Are Session in agreement in principle to a Holiday Club going ahead in August. Session agreed.

5. Pastoral Care

A small group met on 12 March to consider the responses to the Elder's Questionnaire and so far there have been offers for people to serve as secretary and bereavement care, welcome and children's elders.

Regular visits were defined as four times per annum and occasional as one time per annum.

Responses to the Member's Questionnaire have started to come in but it is too early to discern any real pattern but the majority of returns so far are expressing a preference for Kirk News and visits by request. As we are now past the deadline for return of the Member's Questionnaires and only around 90 have been returned so far deliverers were asked to check with their members if they had them ready for collection or had sent them directly to the Church.

6. Worship Committee

Nothing to report

report./

7. Lent Course

It was reported around 16 people had attended the course and had enjoyed the opportunity to do this type of study together. It was felt that the specific timeline set for the course had worked well and people were willing to commit to this type of meeting. Most of those who attended indicated they would be interested in attending a similar type of group in the future.

8. Board Report

Manse Sun Lounge: The minister reported he and Maggie are really pleased with the work being done on the new sun lounge and it looks as if it will be completed ahead of schedule.

Elders for Congregational Board: The Clerk has still to finalise these for 2012/13

9. Presbytery Report

Final Presbytery Plan: The Presbytery Plan was passed as drafted and Slateford Longstone will retain a minister of Word and Sacrament along with each of the congregations in our grouping.

Also corrections have been made to the final version to include Redhall School in our profile. As yet we have not had a response from Presbytery to the query we raised regarding the status of the Parish Grouping in view of the changes to paid personnel in our grouping.

Commission of Assembly: Rita Welsh is a member of this Commission and they meet between Assemblies to consider complaints or similar issues that may arise.

Working Lunch: Rita Welsh attended a presentation by Liberton North who have developed a training course for Leaders in the Congregation. Rita found this programme to be very interesting. The people who developed it would be willing to introduce this to any other congregations who may be interested in using it. Rita thought it may be worthwhile for current and new leaders and would lend itself to a study group. Whilst we would not do anything with it now it is something we could bear in mind for future use as we develop our new Pastoral Care Strategy.

Mission Shaped Ministry: Presbytery are running a course on Mission Shaped Ministry and Rita Welsh would be interested in attending this. Session agreed to support Rita's participation in the course and we are asked to contribute £100 towards costs for the course. Session agreed to meet these costs.

10. Correspondence

Heart & Soul: A reminder of the General Assembly event on Sunday 20 May. There will be more publicity coming out and the minister would like to encourage some of our members to meet up and attend the worship part of this event together.

11. Date of Next Meeting

This was fixed for Monday 28 May 2012 at 7.00pm in the Session Room

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.00pm with each blessing the others.

SUZANNE E RIDDOCH
Session Clerk

REV. MICHAEL W FREW
Moderator