

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 8 October 2012 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

**Sederunt:** Mesdames B Bald, S Davidson, M Fulton, M Marshall and S Riddoch  
Messrs C Campbell, Rev M Frew and I Welsh

**Apologies:** Mesdames L Baillie, L Campbell, C Edwards, A Fairley, J Fox, J Gordon, M Hynd, S Ward and R Welsh

The Rev Michael Frew opened the meeting with a reading Ephesians chapter 4 and a prayer.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of meetings Monday 28 May and Sunday 23 September 2012, previously circulated, were approved.
2. **Communion Roll:** Session noted
  - a) Deaths: John Wright, 41/5 Laich Park Road  
Dennis Manser, 20 Baberton Mains Dell  
Robert Anderson, 120 Kingsknowe Road North  
Bella Hunter, Braeside Home, Liberton Brae
  - b) Additions: Nil
  - c) Removals: Betty Girdwood, Redhall Crescent to Gorgie Dalry Parish Church  
Sheila McCrum to Kirknewton Parish Church
  - d) Change of Address: Joanne Ormiston to 53 Dolphin Road EH14 5RY, tel: 623 0974  
Helen Carruthers to 13 Avontoun Park, Linlithgow, EH49 6QG  
Jack Docherty to Main House, Erskine Edinburgh Home, 468 Gilmerton Rd EH17 7SA  
Charles Duncan to Struan Lodge, 54 Balgreen Avenue, EH12 5SU

Following on from our last meeting where it was noted some members had advised they wished to be removed from the Roll the minister spoke with Lynne Campbell and she has decided she does wish to remain a member of the congregation therefore will no longer be removed from the Roll.

### 3. Minister's Report

**Thanks:** The minister thanked Session for postponing the September meeting while his wife and son were in hospital, and for the care, prayers and support shown by elders and members of the congregation during that time

**Food Bank:** The minister reported that there had been no requests for assistance since the Food Bank was established, though it is publicised in Kirk News and the church website

**Crèche:** With some parents of young children attending church from time to time, the need for a crèche is rather urgent. The minister sought assistance in organising this. No-one immediately came to mind to organise a crèche. It was thought it may be worth asking the people who do Take Away if any of them would be interested in working with others in a rota.

**Baptisms:** At the recent baptism of two children in the same family, the grandparents had acted as sponsors. The minister explained that this is allowed under the Church of Scotland's regulations. The mother, who also took the vows, is attending the Start! Course

**Membership of Session:** The minister raised the prospect of ordaining additional elders, in the belief that we are particularly lacking in male members of Session. Session agreed it may be time to look for new elders and are to consider any people they think may be possible nominees and put names forward at our next meeting.

**Mission Shaped Ministry:** Rita Welsh has been attending a Mission Shaped Ministry course and is finding this relevant to our situation. The minister and Rita think a conference would be useful to see if we can apply some of the learning she has been doing.

### 4. Pastoral Care

**Church Visiting:** New visitors have received training and been allocated 1 or 2 people to visit. Those who were to get regular visits have been assigned a visitor.

**Bereavement Visits:** Chris Campbell has agreed to carry out some bereavement visits along with Alison Fairley and Marion Marshall

### 5. Worship Committee

**Harvest Service:** Worship committee had agreed to holding an all age service on 30 September and this took place as agreed with donations being passed on to Bethany Christian Trust.

**Bereavement Service:** It is planned to hold this service on Sunday 9 December. Lily Campbell and Elizabeth Strong have agreed to help with this.

**Souper Sunday:** The committee has been asked to look at organising a service using material provided. We still plan to do a retiring offering and will serve cake with the coffee.

**Uniformed Organisations:** It is hoped we will hold a Christmas service on Friday 7 December.

**Christmas Services:** It was agreed we will hold a Watchnight service on Monday 24 December and a Christmas Day service. Retiring offering monies will be donated to Bethany Christian Trust.

**Corn Exchange:** If we are asked to form a choir to sing outside the Corn Exchange before their party nights this year it was agreed we would do this and any funds raised would be donated to Tear Fund.

## 6. Board Report

**Weekly Offerings:** It was reported our offerings are going down and an article will be put in Kirk News. The reason for decline seems to be people who have left the congregation.

**Roof Repair:** Work is due to start.

## 7. Presbytery Report

**Safeguarding:** Presbytery advised the following;

- a) instruct Kirk Sessions to comply with all guidance issued by the Safeguarding Service in relation to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. (Sections 2.8 & 2.9).
- b) instruct Kirk Sessions to ensure that all formally recruited Congregational Pastoral Care Visiting Group members who support 'protected adults', as defined in the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007, have the opportunity to attend safeguarding training in their congregations, and are strongly encouraged to do so. (Section 2.9).
- c) ensure ministers within their bounds co-operate fully with the Safeguarding Service and Ministries Council in complying with the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme as introduced by the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.
- d) instruct Kirk Sessions to ensure that all volunteers and paid staff have a copy of the new 'pocket guide' to safeguarding: Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk: Key Information for Volunteers and Staff. (Section 2.12).
- e) encourage congregations to make full use of the new Safeguarding Handbooks. (Section 2.7).

It was agreed that Suzanne Riddoch, our Safeguarding Officer, would investigate the possibility of a visit to Session from a staff member of the Church's Safeguarding Office

## 8. Correspondence

**Youth for Christ:** We have been advised they have a Scottish Officer whose remit is to encourage Churches in their youth work. Alan Gray is our local ministries field officer.

## 9. Any Other Business

**Kirk News:** Lin Baillie is trying to make up lists for Kirk News delivery. It was agreed all members are still to receive a copy of Kirk News regardless of whether they responded to the questionnaire or not.

**Christmas Card:** It was agreed we would produce a Parish Christmas Card for distribution early December.

**10. Dates of Next Meetings:** These were fixed for Monday 5 November 2012, Monday 14 January 2013, Monday 4 March 2013 and Monday 13 May 2013 to be held 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