

EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 8.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Lin Baillie, Dennise Brown, Lily Campbell, Liz Chalmers, Alison Fairley, Ros Fraser, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Jean Gordon, Crofton Palmer, Angie Simpson, Sheila Ward, Ian Welsh

Apologies: Mary Hynd, Yvonne Paterson, Suzanne Riddoch, Michael Taylor,

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 18th June 2012 were approved with one change. It is the electricity payment which is due in June, not the gas payment.

2a Membership

With the sad death of Bob Anderson there is a vacancy on the Board to be filled. Mike approached Nathan Baillie and he accepted the offer. The Board agreed Nathan should be the new co-opted member. His name will go to the SAM in 2013 for election by the congregation

3 Finance

The Finance committee reported that we were below target on income. It was thought this is mainly due to a **reduction in weekly offerings** and standing orders, because of deaths or people moving away. **Staffing costs** are slightly below target and **building costs** are within budget. The **income tax refund** is currently £2018 and the **gas and electricity bills** are lower than expected as we are now on the new rates so we may break even at the end of the financial year. Crofton offered to write an article for the Sunday notices explaining the **financial situation** to the congregation in the hope some will be able to increase their offerings. It was also agreed that once a year a letter will be sent to all those who give their offerings via standing order to ask them to review their giving. Crofton agreed to compose the letter. The **Ministry and Missions Allocation** for the coming year is £32,448 although we will still receive an endowment which will mean a slight reduction.

Minimum wage went up slightly so the cleaner has received a small increase.

The coffee morning raised £632 which exceeded expectations. It was agreed that £500 of this would be put towards the roof repair and the rest would go into general funds.

Roof Repair. The Board discussed the finance for the roof repair. We have been awarded a grant of £6000 from the Fabric Loan Trust which is a huge bonus and we have received a donation of £250 from a member of the congregation. The Board agreed to pursue the grant application to the Central Fabric Fund and the Baird Trust, and took up Mike's offer to organise a fundraising event of a walk/cycle along the Water of Leith Walkway. Any shortfall will be taken from reserves.

The Board also reviewed the cost of holding **weddings and funerals** in the church and agreed that the cost of the use of the church for a wedding for members would be £100 and non-members £150. For funerals there would be no cost for members and a charge of £100 for non-members. The fee for the beadle and organist for both will increase to £60.

Kelly the **Music Leader** has decided she will leave at the end of November, the Board reviewed the wages and agreed they were within the recommended scale so will not need to increase for the new appointed Music Leader. The salary for 2013 will be £2520, with a deputy's fee on holiday Sundays of £55

4 Property

Church and Halls -

The Board agreed to accept the quote for the **roof repair** from JM Builders of £9,500 after Mike consulted with Ian Jameson the Presbytery Consultant Architect who said he can see no reason not to go with this lower quote. There had also been a quote of £13,200 (plus VAT from) A Thorburn. The builders will be instructed to start work as soon as they are able, hopefully before the weather turns. The congregation will be kept up to date with progress. The planned **autumn clean** of the premises has been postponed as the halls will need a good clean after the roof repair. Instead a **garden tidy** has been arranged for Saturday 27th October from 10.00am until 12.00pm. There has been no progress in the memorial garden but this will now wait until the nicer weather. It was agreed to ask Douglas Bald - to install the **thermostat for the halls** at a cost of £97. There are a couple of repairs to be done; a strip light in the back hall and some damage to a cupboard. **Waste collection** is now fortnightly so a letter will be sent to organisations to ask them to think about disposing of their rubbish elsewhere if the wheelie bin is full and that if there was a fine for bins being overflowing it will be divided between the organisations. It was also agreed that if we are able to obtain a second bin, and there is a charge for this, that the fees for renting the halls will increase accordingly. The **front door** wasn't closing properly so Frank Gordon has shaved a bit off it as a temporary repair, the door may need to be replaced in the future.

Manse –

Mike has replaced the **doorbell**. The **blinds** have been installed in the sun lounge. Extra **loft insulation** has been fitted at no charge, though vents are still to be fitted. The **chimney** has still to be repaired and there are still a couple of bits of **snagging** in the sun lounge

5 National Stewardship Programme

Nothing to report except that Mike will be visiting the Over 50s and the Guild in February to talk about the stewardship of time

6 Hall Lets

Angie is chasing up letters from organisations re days and times for use of the hall

7 Report from Session

Nothing to report

8 Correspondence

New wording for **Gift Aid** declarations has been received from the Head of Stewardship. Dennise Brown will use this on new forms.

The church solicitor has informed us we can now have the treasurer and 4 other members as signatories for **cheques**.

A letter was received from the **Guild** declining our request for help in painting the activities hall due to the age and health of their members.

9 Any Other Business

Mike requested permission to buy replacement **pastoral cards**. These are very useful when visiting those in hospital and the bereaved and cost £2.85 for 10. It was agreed the money would come from general funds, as agreed when the Quiet Place fund was absorbed into these.

Mike reminded those on the **welcome rota** that a meeting is to be held on Monday 1st October to be chaired by Mike and Sheila Ward

The **Christmas tree and nativity scene** will need to be put up in early December. Mike offered to co-ordinate this and Ian Welsh, Ros Fraser and Crofton Palmer offered to help. Mike will ask Nathan Baillie as well.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The dates of the next meetings are as follows:

Monday 15th October 2012

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 9.25pm with each blessing the others.