

## **EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

### **THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2012 AT 8.00PM IN THE BACK HALL**

**Present:** Lin Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Dennise Brown, Liz Chalmers, Alison Fairley, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Suzanne Riddoch, Angie Simpson, Sheila Ward, Ian Welsh

**Apologies:** Lily Campbell, Ros Fraser, Jean Gordon, Mary Hynd, Crofton Palmer,

The Rev Mike Frew opened the meeting with a Bible reading and a prayer. Nathan Baillie was welcomed to his first meeting

#### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Waste Collection** – Unfortunately there has been no progress from Mike and Angie's phone calls to the council so collections are still once a fortnight.

**3 Memorial Garden** – Mark Vrionides of Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust attended the meeting to let us know of his plans for working with Real Life Options in their garden. He told us there was an opportunity for our garden to be included in the project. It was agreed that Mark and his team would try and recruit members of the congregation and the public and, if there were enough volunteers, weekly sessions would start in March.

#### **4 Finance**

**Offerings** are down on last year but money coming in from organisations has increased and hall lets have gone up so we may break even by the end of the financial year.

**Roof repair** – The General Trustees offered a grant of £7,000 from the Central Fabric Fund, but we didn't require as much as that so we replied asking for only £2,000 and Presbytery came back with an offer of £3,500 so we agreed to accept that, putting the extra money aside for future repairs. This is with the approval of the General Trustees' Fabric Committee. Over £1,000 was raised through the sponsored walk.

Next year we need to raise more money through **fundraising**, maybe holding two coffee mornings/table sales, one in May and one in September. We will also hold a gift day on 13<sup>th</sup> April. These will be advertised in Kirk News.

Dennise will write a letter to anyone who pays **Gift Aid** asking them to make sure they pay enough tax to cover their donations. Crofton will compile a letter to the congregation to ask them to review their **offerings** in 2013.

The **proposed budget** for 2013 was discussed. The overall budget required is £59,703 with our Ministry and Missions costs being £30,619. Organist fees will be reduced as Marion Henderson does not wish to receive the full entitlement. We will keep the same independent examiner for the 2012 Annual Report but look into changing to a cheaper one for the next year.

#### **5 Property**

##### **Church and Halls -**

The **gate** at the front entrance is broken. It was agreed that Angie would get in touch with a blacksmith and ask him to take away the two gates and tidy up the hinges on the posts so they are not a hazard.

**Pat testing** is due to be done in September 2013. We will use Fresh Start again

There are two **leaking radiators**, one has been dealt with and Peter Bald has been asked to fix the other

Peter Bald was to fit a **thermostat** in the activities hall but noted that the wiring was damaged. Niven Baillie will be asked to either repair or replace the wiring.

After postponing the **decoration of the Activities Hall** it was agreed to get a quote from a company to carry this out

Alison Fairley asked whether something can be done about the **lights in the main church** as they are very dim which is not good during an evening service. This has been looked at before by Niven Baillie and he advised that the lights would need to be replaced which would mean scaffolding at quite a cost. This would be discussed long term by the property committee. Suzanne Riddoch asked if a hand drier could be fitted in the disabled toilet, there has never been one. Lin will ask Niven to arrange a quote.

#### **Manse –**

The **chimney** needs repaired at a cost of £170, Elite property Solutions will carry this out. There is also another chimney needing some attention as water comes in through the vent so this will be done at the same time

### **6 National Stewardship Programme**

Nothing to report, the group will meet in January

### **7 Hall Lets**

The AA has again requested to hold their New Year party – agreed

The Mother and Toddler group asked whether they can use the church address for correspondence from the bank. It was agreed that this was inappropriate

### **8 Report from Session**

Marion Henderson is the new Music Leader. She asked if she could receive the reduced salary of £1200, this was agreed and in light of this it was also agreed to award Marion 6 weeks holiday in the year.

### **9 Correspondence**

None

### **10 Any Other Business**

**Photocopier** – The current arrangement was due to expire in June but we have heard nothing so far so will keep paying the reduced rate until we hear otherwise. Mike will ask Maggie to provide a breakdown of usage so we can monitor this

### **11 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 18th February 2013

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm with each blessing the others.