

EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 15 APRIL 2013 AT 8.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Lin Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Dennise Brown, Lily Campbell, Liz Chalmers, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Mary Hynd, Crofton Palmer, Yvonne Paterson, Suzanne Riddoch, Michael Taylor, Sheila Ward

Apologies: Alison Fairley, Ros Fraser, Jean Gordon , Angie Simpson, Ian Welsh

The Rev Mike Frew welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a Bible reading and a prayer.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meetings on 18th February and 4th March were approved.

3 Finance

The Finance Committee reported that weekly offerings continue to be under budget. The independent examiner's fees have gone up by £200 which has not been budgeted for. Nothing else concerning at this stage

There has been a donation already for the **gift day** scheduled for 20th April. Envelopes will be available for the congregation on Sunday 21st April. Sheila Ward has offered to organise tea and coffee on the day.

Dennise and Liz will be adhering to the new policy on claiming **gift aid** on all small donations which can bring in a maximum of £1250 per year.

The organisation of the **coffee morning**/table sale on Saturday 11th May is under way. Liz Chalmers handed tickets out for Board members to sell before the day. The banner will be put up outside the church for advertising. Crofton will advertise in the Sunday notices.

Mary Hynd brought to the attention of the Board a fundraising opportunity. We can sign up to easyfundraising.org.co.uk where members can elect for a percentage of what they spend on-line to be donated to our church. More information will be sought so a final recommendation can be made at our next meeting.

4 Property Church and Halls

JM Builders found and fixed a problem on the roof above the **shoe box room**.

Liz Chalmers tried to fix the **toilet seat** in the ladies but didn't manage so Michael Taylor offered to have a look.

We have felt for some time that our **fire safety** equipment was in need of upgrading and modernisation so we asked a fire safety officer from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to visit the premises. Her main findings were that the existing fire alarm does not comply with current regulations, and that emergency lighting must be installed.

One quotation has so far been obtained for these works from HF Group totalling £4259 +VAT. Given our anticipated ordinary income the Board's total 2013 budget for repairs and maintenance on church premises is just £4000 so these works will put us in some difficulty. On the advice of the Presbytery Treasurer, Mike will write to enquire whether grants might be available to help with the cost from the Housing Scheme Fund or the Fabric Loan Trust, or whether it would be possible to receive a reduction in our Ministries and Mission Contribution. If there are no grants available we will consider withdrawing funds from our reserves.

Mike will seek a second quotation, and we hope to commission the works at our next meeting on Monday 17 June.

Mike will submit an action plan to the fire safety officer

We received the following quotes: £1480 for the painting of the **activities hall**, £429 for the replacement of the **light units** in the activities hall, and £225 for the installation of a **hand drier** in the disabled toilet. It was decided to postpone all of these as the fire safety improvements will take priority.

It was agreed that work that will be carried out will be carried out to replace the **thermostat** in the activities hall at a cost of £405 and the **light switch** in the ladies toilet to be replaced at a cost of £26. There is a **loose slab** covering a drain alongside the front path that needs to be repaired, Mike will get a quote from Scott and Davie, Plasterers. There is a damp patch appearing in the office so Mike will ask JM Builders to check that **roof**.

Liz Chalmers reported that the **gas meter** is being replaced. Liz will liaise with the Gas Board.

PAT testing is due to be carried out on Friday 19th April by Fresh Start.

The **outside lighting** is poor, this will be looked into in the Autumn.

Manse

The hall, stairs and landing will be decorated this year, Mike will get two quotes for our next meeting.

The neighbours at 52 Kingsknowe Road South are planning an extension. Nathan will look at the plans on-line to see if there is any reason for us to object to this.

5 National Stewardship Programme

Nothing to report

6 Hall Lets

Money has been received from Real Life Options – Nothing else to report

7 Report from Session

Nothing to report

8 Correspondence

Mike had received an email from Mark Vrionides of Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust saying there is interest in the gardening from Choices and Robin Scott. This will be advertised in the notices.

Mike also received correspondence about copyright laws in relation to photocopying music, but it was agreed with Marion Henderson that no action is required

9 Any Other Business

Photocopier – Mike has had notification that the City Council contract runs out on 17th June and information about a new contract available from Xerox, as recommended by the Council. Mike will get in touch with Xerox to negotiate a contract.

Membership of Board – With the ordination of Dennise as an Elder, we now have an extra Elder on the Board and a vacancy for an elected member. The Board are to think about someone from the congregation to co-opt onto the Board to even up the numbers and make their suggestions to Mike or Lin.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with Kirk Session on Monday 29th April at 7pm to discuss the local church review

Next full Board meeting is Monday 17th June 2013 at 8pm with committees meeting at 7pm

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm with each blessing the others.