

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

### **THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET *in hunc effectum* ON MONDAY 19 AUGUST 2013 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

**Present:** Lin Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Dennise Brown, Liz Chalmers, Alison Fairley, Mary Hynd, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Jean Gordon, Angie Simpson, Ian Welsh

**Apologies:** Ros Fraser, Suzanne Riddoch, Michael Taylor

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

#### **3 Finance**

Liz reported that she had noticed in July that funds were low so alerted Mike to the matter. The matter was somewhat resolved when the regular payment from the Lighthouse Chapel came in.

The finances have been struggling through during August as the grant from Presbytery for the Fire alarm and Emergency lighting and the Gift Aid money were paid in but voluntary income is down by £3366 from this time last year, and is £3,366 (16%) below budget. There is £8704.10 in the bank but £7,312.94 still to be paid this month. In September the gas bill and Minister's Travel are due along with agreed expenditure for the grass cutting, Xerox, JM Builders and HF Electrical. There are also £2,905.83 in direct debits to be paid out during September. There is therefore a real danger of the bank balance going into the red.

Mike had called this meeting so we could discuss matters as a Board; Liz shouldn't be carrying this burden alone.

#### **4 Way Forward**

After a discussion on each point the Board agreed the following:

- To pay from the Legacy Fund the remainder of the £5,198.33 cost of the Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting upgrade and installation. £4,000 was granted from Presbytery and the remainder was to be covered by a £1000 reduction in our Ministry and Missions costs, but this is not due to be paid until November. It is hoped it might be possible to reimburse the Legacy Fund later in the year.
- Inform the Congregation of the situation after the service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August and through Kirk News. Liz Chalmers will provide Mike Frew with a script and write a Kirk News article
- Encourage the Congregation to substantially increase their offerings by as much as they can afford. Mike indicated that voluntary income has decreased by 16% so he has increased his own offering by that much and encouraged those on the Board to do the same, thus giving a lead to the rest of the congregation
- Restrict property spending to urgent repairs, so we will not be decorating the activities hall in the meantime
- Enquire with Niven Baillie and Peter Bald on the cost of fitting a timer to the immersion heater that supplies the hot water to the taps in the toilets. Now that the 'fish key' is not being turned off due to the need to keep the emergency lighting battery charged up, this immersion is on all the time. Costs may be brought down by fitting a timer so that the immersion is only on for a couple of hours a day. A decision will be made on this at the next Board meeting
- We will go ahead with the Coffee Morning and Table Sale planned for 28<sup>th</sup> September

#### **5 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meetings are Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 and 18<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm with committees meeting at 7pm

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 7.40pm with each blessing the others.