

EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2013 AT 8.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Lin Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Liz Chalmers, Alison Fairley, Ros Fraser, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Mary Hynd, Jean Gordon, Yvonne Paterson, Suzanne Riddoch, Angie Simpson

Apologies: Crofton Palmer

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 held on 23rd September were approved after a couple of minor corrections.

3 Finance

Weekly offerings, the plate and standing orders have again slightly increased, the Gift Aid claim of £1490.13 has been received and expenditure has been kept to a minimum so we have enough money in the bank to pay our current expenses. The Ministry and Missions payment of £2,000 is due by the end of the year. It was agreed that if it looks like we might not manage to pay the £2,000 as well as other expenses Liz will inform Mike so another meeting can be called to discuss next steps. Liz will write a short report for the next Kirk News to thank the congregation for their efforts and to keep them informed of the financial situation. Marion Henderson is holding a sponsored Hymn Play and has already been pledged over £300 for church funds. The coffee morning and table sale raised £840.49. Thanks to Mike for his contribution towards the central heating repair at the manse. The Guides have made a final donation and we have received confirmation that there will no Guides in the church halls for the foreseeable future.

Liz received an email from Noll Robertson who is about to run 3 businesses from home offering to give a donation from her profits to the Hutton Trust while having our name on her publicity. After some discussion it was agreed to decline the offer as Kirk Session had agreed some time ago not to endorse or appear to endorse any businesses or products not connected to the church. Mike agreed to email Noll. Liz Chalmers and Crofton Palmer are making enquiries about a company to carry out the annual audit.

4 Property

Church and Halls - A fire drill will was held on Sunday 13th October after the morning service. All went well. It was agreed to hold a fire drill once a year. Mike has spoken to Bryan Baillie about the vestry area exit in the hope that it does not need to be designated as a fire exit. For a congregation of our size two fire exits may be sufficient. When confirmation has been received from the fire officer the fire exit sign will be replaced with a blank plate leaving the emergency light there. Niven Baillie has fitted a **timer** for the water heater at no charge and changed bulbs in the church. The **light** in the church leading to the office area is still to be repaired. The **roof** above the small halls, the **air thermostat** in the activities hall and the **rendering** at the top of the church tower are still to be addressed. Elite will investigate the rendering and if they can reach it with a ladder they will fix it free of charge. James McCallum will also provide a quote. Mike will also ask James McCallum to check the roof above the room used for the shoe boxes in case there are leaves blocking the drain as there is still damp spreading along the roof and walls. Ken Chalmers has replaced the **lock** on the back door. The **microwave** was a gift from the Lighthouse Chapel and was brand new so there is no need for PAT testing until the next scheduled time. Lin reported that Neal Mackay from Garvald Edinburgh has been in touch with a view to working in the **memorial garden**. Garvald work with adults with learning difficulties and are looking to start a new group and our garden would be the ideal project for them. Debra Green is hoping to start up the group by

the end of October. Mike was going to clear up the leaves at the front of the church but the **shovel** has gone missing from the back door. The Board gave permission for a replacement to be purchased. The cleaner reported that on two occasions some **wall heaters** have been left on overnight. Angie will get in touch with everyone that uses the halls to remind them to make sure the heaters and lights are turned off before leaving for the night. Signs will also be put on the hall and outside doors as a reminder.

Manse – Mike informed the Board that when it has been raining water comes down the chimney in the back bedroom. Mike will contact Elite and James McCallum to obtain two quotes then report back to the Board

5 National Stewardship Programme

Mike reported that an additional person it was hoped would join the group has had a bereavement so no progress has been made

6 Hall Lets

We have received confirmation that a music club for children for an hour on a Monday morning is due to start. There has been two private lets for parties and the AA have asked to use the hall for their Hogmanay party but have not responded to our offer with a slightly increased fee. Angie asked whether it is expected that people who hire the hall have their own public liability insurance. Angie was advised to check the Church of Scotland website for official confirmation

7 Report from Session

The Kirk Session have organised a sub-committee to organise a parish audit. Once this is underway the committee will think about a building review

8 Correspondence

None

9 Any Other Business

Mike reported that the new photocopier was in place and Maggie will be setting up codes for users in the near future

Ernie Whiteoak has let Mike know that he intends to retire in December so someone will need to be recruited to print off the weekly notices; an appeal will be made in the notices and Kirk News

We have a **vacancy** in both the elected and elder members so we were asked to come up with names of people who may be interested.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The dates of the next meetings are to be changed so they are now as follows:

9th December 2013

17th February 2014

7th April 2014

16th June 2014

All on a Monday at 8pm with committees meeting at 7.15pm for a trial period

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm with each blessing the others.