

EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 7 APRIL 2014 AT 8.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Lin Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Dennise Brown, Liz Chalmers, Alison Fairley, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Mary Hynd, Tom Kisitu (in attendance), Crofton Palmer, Yvonne Paterson, Suzanne Riddoch, Ian Welsh

Apologies: Angie Simpson, Michael Taylor

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 17th February and the joint meeting with Kirk Session on 3rd March were approved.

3 Finance

Overall there is a slight increase in income up to March so there are no financial worries at the moment although payments are due to our Ministry and Missions allocation and our Presbytery dues. As there is over £8,000 in the general bank account Liz Chalmers will replace the £1,200 borrowed from the Legacy fund. Liz has spoken to Jim Byers and he does not recommend opening a new account in order for surplus funds to be paid into so that it earns interest, he instead suggested extra money could be put into our account held by the General Trustees. The Board agreed to give Liz permission to move funds as appropriate. The church has gratefully received a donation from the Tully family of £400. Liz Chalmers has written a thank you letter. This money will be put into the Legacy Fund until a proper and fit use can be found for it. The Gift Day is scheduled for 21st June. Crofton will advertise this in the June edition of Kirk News, it will also be in the notices every Sunday from 18th May. A coffee morning and table sale has also been organised for Saturday 6th September 2014. Mike's planned study leave is in late May and early June. Ministries Council pay pulpit supply costs for study leave. Liz Chalmers will pay this out of church funds then claim it back.

4 Property

Manse – Before the meeting the property committee met at the manse to carry out the annual inspection. The committee looked at each section of the schedule to check the condition of the building. There was found to be a cracked gutter at the rear of the building, the garage door and outer wall of the garage need some attention due to cracks, the felt needs replaced on the shed roof, the central heating is due a service. One of the radiators does not heat up properly. The skylight window on the stairs is rotting so will need replaced. Mike offered to replace the **shed roof felt** and the Board agreed to pay for the felt. The Board also agreed that the **skylight** should be replaced, the **cracks in the garage** should be fixed and the **guttering** will be replaced. Mike agreed to contact JM Builders and ask them for a price to carry out this work. If the cost seems reasonable Mike will instruct him to go ahead, if not, a second quote will be sought. D Bald will service the **central heating** and see what needs to be done about the faulty **radiator**. The Board got a quote for replacing the **lounge bay window** two years ago but decided it didn't need done then. The Board agreed to look at finances in September with a view to getting it replaced before the winter. Claire Fleming who was appointed to the Board at the SAM will join the property committee.

Church and Halls – Niven Baillie from HF hopes to supply and fit 200watt equivalent **lights for the main church** to replace the existing ones which are not bright enough, and are now obsolete. If it is a case of simply replacing bulbs he will be instructed to go ahead. Niven will also be asked for a price to lower the lights above the pulpit and organ so bulbs can be replaced without the use of scaffolding in the future.. Frank Gordon will provide a quote for replacing the two **kitchen windows** which are rotting. There is water in one of the

emergency lighting covers, Mike will ask JM Builders to have a look to see where there is a leak. This will hopefully be a small job of a loose roof tile. Ian Welsh will get in contact with the roofer John Brazil who is looking after the **flat roof** as it still needs some work carried out. Angie Simpson visited Garvald when they were working on the **Memorial Garden** and it is looking good. They have cleared a lot of the overgrowth, making small fires to dispose of the leaves and weeds. The daffodils are in full bloom and the group planned to put down grass seed before they broke up for the Easter holidays. Angie managed to get a brown bin from the Council and Ian Welsh offered to paint the church name on it.

5 National Stewardship Programme

The coffee morning and auction of talents on Saturday 1st March went well. Yvonne Paterson reported that she had observed many conversations between different members over their talents and offers of help. Mike noted that the task now is to maintain what has been achieved. The event also pulled in some unexpected income. Next year will be concentrating on giving of money.

6 Hall Lets

Angie Simpson highlighted the need to review the charges for hall lets especially the Lighthouse Chapel which has been the same for two years. It was agreed to increase the lighthouse Chapel rent roughly by the rate of inflation which makes it a quarterly charge of £1,700 instead of £1,650. The charges for private and commercial lets will increase by £1.00 to £23 for the regular rate on the activities hall and £28 for a one-off use of the activities hall. Lin Baillie will ask Angie to inform those concerned of these changes. Real Life Options have not paid for two months now. Crofton will email Angie asking her to get in touch with them giving one last chance to pay or they will not be allowed to use our premises for future meetings.

7 Action Plan

Suzanne and Mike met with Hazel Hastie for an update on progress. The Board have now agreed that Mike will try to find a property convenor via the skills exchange. Mike will also look into the cost of putting a noticeboard onto the side window at the front door which will face outwards so the Board and organisations can advertise services, meetings and events.

8 Report from Session

The Elders currently on the Board are Lin Baillie, Dennise Brown, Alison Fairley, Mary Hynd, Suzanne Riddoch and Ian Welsh. There should be eight Elders on the Board and this will be discussed at the next Kirk Session

9 Correspondence

Mike has received an offer from Claire Fleming's sister to hold a Pampered Chef party in aid of church funds. This was discussed then agreed that there had been two in previous years, one by the Guild, the other by Lin Baillie to raise money for Shoe box postage and the Board felt that this avenue may be exhausted with the congregation. Mike will get in touch to regretfully decline the offer

10 Any Other Business

None

11 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is as follows:

16th June 2014

Monday at 8pm with committees meeting at 7.15pm

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