

EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 8.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Lin Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Dennise Brown, Liz Chalmers, Alison Fairley, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Tom Kisitu, Crofton Palmer, Suzanne Riddoch, Angie Simpson, Michael Taylor

Apologies: Ros Fraser, Mary Hynd, Yvonne Paterson, Ian Welsh

To gain experience Tom Kisitu chaired the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a Bible reading and a prayer and thanked the Board for this opportunity.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th June were approved subject to two minor changes.

3 Finance

Our finances are on budget at the moment with the next big spend £900 for the replacement of the two kitchen windows. The drain in the car park needs to be unblocked. Piano tuning is also due to be carried out. There has been a slight increase in offerings. The gift day brought in a lot less than anticipated. It was agreed that before another gift day we would specify where the money was allocated so the congregation can focus on something. The coffee morning and table sale has been advertised in Kirk News and in the weekly notices. Dennise Brown has also put up some posters in the community. Sarah Johnston and one helper will work the kitchen and Dennise offered to help out also. Liz Chalmers will liaise with Sarah about food and will organise floats. Bob and Marion Henderson will run the book stall and Liz Chalmers and Alison Fairley will help out on the tables. Other board members have been asked to help out on the morning or on the Friday evening when people are going along to help set up. Maureen Nicol will sell quizzes and Board members have been given some to sell beforehand along with tea and coffee tickets. Any bric-a-brac not sold on the day will be held over until the coffee morning for shoe box postage on 15th November. The first £250 made on the coffee morning will be donated towards start-up costs for Messy Church.

Liz Chalmers has forms to fill out on the HMRC website for our two employees. Dennise Brown and Angie Simpson offered to help Liz work her way through the website.

We have had notification that as we are a charity with a budget of less than £200,000 we are exempt from water rates until 2021.

4 Property

Manse – There is no tasks needing carried out at the moment

Church and Halls – JM Builders have unblocked the **downpipe** at the back of the building. Ian Welsh has removed the **box behind the letterbox** at the Lancas door and has made the **noticeboard** for the front window of the church entrance. The **lights in the church** have been installed. Angie Simpson will check when the painting of the heaters in the activities hall will be carried out. Dyno Rod will fix the **drain in the car park** which overflows during heavy rain. Their call out charge is £100. The rendering that needs repair on the tower will require scaffolding so we will hold off on that at the moment. The outside of the windows in the group room, coffee area and session room are in a bad state. The session room one is worst as the cement is damaged so we will need to get a quote to fix that but the others can be painted just now with a view to replacing them next year. The property committee propose that we hire a skip to get rid of a lot of rubbish on the stage, under the stage and in the attic. A quote will be sought for our next meeting. An "Autumn Clean" morning was agreed on Saturday 15 November, 10.00am-12.00pm. The manse budget is underspent so we will decide at our next

meeting whether to take money from there to cover the cost of the replacement kitchen windows and other repairs, or whether to take money from the Investment Trust account.

5 National Stewardship Programme

Nothing to report

6 Hall Lets

Angie Simpson will meet with the Lighthouse Chapel to discuss the storage cupboard in the activities hall, it is very full making it hard to put the tables away. Angie will also discuss security as both front and back doors are regularly left unlocked and unattended. Angie reported that there are a couple of private lets scheduled.

7 Action Plan

Nothing to report

8 Report from Session

We are still two elders short on the Board, this will be discussed again at the next Kirk Session. Session would like us to become recognised as a Fairtrade church. This involves church groups of all kinds using Fairtrade coffee, tea, and moving towards using other Fairtrade products, like sugar and biscuits. The Board agreed to provide tea, coffee and sugar to the Over 50s and the Guild so they can trial it with a view to them providing their own in future. Angie will include details in the next lot of letters to outside organisations who use the premises.

9 Correspondence

Nothing to report

10 Any Other Business

Manse contents insurance – Liz received documentation advising us that we may have overlooked contents insurance for items that the church provides in the manse such as bathroom and kitchen fittings. Mike will look at his contents insurance policy to find out how much coverage he has and what items are covered and report on this at the next meeting.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The dates for the next coming year were agreed as follows:

20th October 2014

8th December 2014

16th February 2015

20th April 2015

15th June 2015

Mondays at 8pm with committees meeting at 7.15pm

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 9.05pm with each blessing the others and thanking Tom for his chairing of the meeting.