

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

**Sederunt:** Mesdames L Baillie, D Brown, S Davidson, M Fulton, M Hynd, M Marshall, S Riddoch and S Ward  
Messrs C Campbell, T Kisitu, and Rev M Frew

**Apologies:** Mesdames L Campbell, A Fairley, J Fox, J Gordon, S Taylor and R Welsh  
Mr I Welsh

The minister welcomed I Ann Mulligan and Ross Wilkinson  
Tom Kisitu opened the meeting with a reading from John 15: vv9 - 17 and a prayer.

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of meeting Monday 1 September 2014, previously circulated, were approved.

**2. Basis of Reviewable Charge**

Firstly the minister updated on Stenhouse St Aidan's stating that Stenhouse St Aidan's and Gorgie Dalry will be pursuing union with each other, so we will no longer be involved in any developments.

The minister then handed over to Ann Mulligan who spoke re the paper that had been sent from Presbytery regarding the Basis of Reviewable Charge.

**BASIS OF REVIEWABLE CHARGE EDINBURGH: SLATEFORD LONGSTONE**

By decision of the Presbytery of Edinburgh the congregation of Slateford Longstone Parish Church of Scotland, Edinburgh (SC030896) shall continue on a Basis of Reviewable Charge, and that on the following conditions:

- 1) Rev Mike Frew will remain as minister of the charge;
- 2) The Presbytery shall review the position in September 2018, i.e. five years from the date of the last Local Church Review;
- 3) At the review the Presbytery shall consider with the Kirk Session:
  - a) whether the life of the congregation exhibits the five purposes of the church, i.e. worship, service, discipleship, fellowship and evangelism and whether these are in a healthy balance;
  - b) the extent to which Slateford Longstone has been able to develop greater variety in worship, especially music, and fuller use of members in leading worship (prayers/children's talk);
  - c) the success or otherwise of inviting young families from better resourced congregations to develop family involvement in life and worship of the congregation;
  - d) based on a community survey, determine how the needs of the parish can be met from an evangelism and pastoral care perspective developing and implementing appropriate programmes; and,
  - e) such other matters as may be relevant by that time.
- 4) Following such review, the Presbytery shall take a further decision on the future arrangements for ministry to the congregation and parish of Slateford Longstone recognising that one of the options available to it is the termination of the tenure of the minister on giving him or her six months' notice in writing.

It was clarified that there would be no other review before 2018 unless the minister were to leave when we would go into the usual vacancy process.

The minister advised that 3c has already been addresses by the congregation and we have had no success to date. It was agreed that this would remain and we would consider any further actions we may wish to take in the future.

Session agreed unanimously to accept the report. Ann passed on greetings from Norma Ronald and Gordon Palmer whom she had recently seen.

The minister thanked Ann and Ross for attending the meeting and they left.

**3. Communion Roll:** Session noted

- a) Deaths: Sheila Tully of 64/2 Longstone Street
- b) Additions: Nil
- c) Removals: Nil
- d) Change of Address: Audrey McIntyre of 10 Tryst Park to 148 Tryst Park, EH10 7HE

**4. Minister's Report**

**Israel and Palestine:** On behalf of the group who had recently returned from a pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine, approval was sought for three initiatives

- a) Fundraising to help the Tent of Nations farm near Bethlehem replace olive and fruit trees which had been destroyed by settlers trying to take over their land. Each tree costs £10, Session approved this initiative
- b) Establish a mission partnership with Rev Páraic Réamonn, the new minister at St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem. Sheila Ward agreed to take on the role as correspondent on our behalf.

- c) Maggie Frew is willing to collect old hearing aids for sending to Gaza. This had been mentioned as a great need by Kristen Brown, the Methodist Liaison Officer, who works with St Andrew's Church. It was agreed to publicise this in Kirk News.

**Christmas Arrangements:** The manager at the local Sainsbury's store has asked for a choir to sing carols in the store once again. Marion Henderson and the minister have agreed to do so on two Sunday afternoons. To avoid over-commitment this will mean we are not available (if invited) to sing at the Corn Exchange. The minister asked if Session would approve collecting for the Bethany Trust night shelter at these events and also at the Watchnight Service

He also asked if Session wished to have a congregational social after the service on Sunday 21 December. Session agreed to all of the above.

**Tom Kisitu:** Tom is due to have completed his final review shortly and is now able to apply for a charge of his own.

**Fair Trade:** The minister asked for comments on progress towards fulfilling the criteria to become recognised as a Fair Trade congregation. It was reported this is in progress but not all organisations have fully changed over yet as they are using old supplies.

**Messy Church:** The minister reported good progress towards the first Messy Church event, on Friday 12 December 5.00pm-7.00pm. Thereafter there will be events on the last Friday of each month until Easter, followed by a review of progress. An adequate team has been recruited, but more help would be welcome, particularly for the crafts. Publicity is still to be handed out.

**Esther & Chris Shreeve:** Esther and Chris were at Church for a funeral recently and asked if the banner donated by them many years ago could be removed now as it is past its best.

**Interim Moderator:** The minister advised he has been appointed Interim Moderator at Davidson's Mains during their vacancy.

## 5. Local Churches Review

**Food Bank:** It was reported that after a slow start this is now being used.

**Fresh Start:** There has been a good response from the congregation.

## 6. Pastoral Care

**Children's Elder:** Sharon Taylor has agreed to take on this role.

## 7. Worship Committee

**Resignation:** It was reported that Lily Campbell has resigned from the committee. Lily was thanked for her contribution over the years.

**Bereavement Service:** Arrangements are in hand and tasks have been allocated.

## 8. Board Report

**Elders for Board:** Session was reminded that we still have 2 vacancies for Elders on the Board. No one is willing to take this on at this time.

**Clerk to the Board:** Lin Baillie has indicated she is standing down as Clerk with effect from the Stated Annual Meeting in March.

**Front Door & Window replacement:** We have secured a reduction of £3000 in our Ministries and Mission costs for 2015. This reduction is to cover the costs of replacing our front door and 3 windows.

## 9. Presbytery Report

**Same Sex Relationships and the Ministry:** It was reported that Edinburgh Presbytery had voted by a substantial majority in favour of the Overture from the General Assembly, which would allow Kirk Sessions to opt out of the Church's traditional understanding of sexual relationships and call a minister in a same-sex partnership

**Prayer Vigil for Peace in Israel and Palestine:** A prayer vigil will be held in Polwarth Church on 24 January 2015 from 10am – 12 noon

## 10. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

## 11. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

## Dates of Next Meetings

These were fixed for Mondays 12 January, 2 March and 11 May 2015 all at 7.00pm in the Session Room unless otherwise advised nearer date of the meeting.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.05pm with each blessing the others.

SUZANNE E RIDDOCH  
Session Clerk

REV. MICHAEL W FREW  
Moderator

**KIRK SESSION AGENDA FOR MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2015 at 7.00pm IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. Opening devotions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Any Other Business to be added
4. Approval of previous minutes
5. Communion Roll
6. Minister's Report
7. Local Churches Review Update on Actions
8. Pastoral Care
9. Worship Committee
10. Board Report – Elders to serve on Board (so far Suzanne Riddoch, Lin Baillie, Mary Hynd, Alison Fairley, Dennise Brown and Ian Welsh) there are 2 vacancies
11. Presbytery Report
12. Correspondence
13. Any Other Business
14. Date of next meetings