

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2015 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Sederunt: Mesdames L Baillie, D Brown, L Campbell, S Davidson, J Gordon, M Hynd, M Marshall, S Riddoch, S Taylor and S Ward

Messrs C Campbell, Rev M Frew and I Welsh

Apologies: Mesdames A Fairley, J Fox and R Welsh

The minister opened the meeting with a reading from Luke 4: vv38-44 and a prayer.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of meeting Monday 10 December 2014, previously circulated, were approved.
2. **Communion Roll:** Session noted
 - a) Deaths: Jack Docherty, Erskine Care Home, Gilmerton Road (19/11/14)
Christine Young, 10 Redhall Gardens (07/01/15)
Chris Kerr, 5/2 Dumbryden Gardens (08/01/15)
Andrew Raeburn, 79 Longstone Street (11/01/15)
 - b) Additions: Nil
 - c) Removals: Nil
 - d) Change of Address: Isla Fairley of 33 Kinmundy Gardens, Westhill to 1 Braecroft Crescent, Westhill, AB32 6RJ

4. Minister's Report

Music Leader:

- a) The minister informed Session that Marion Henderson has been signed off for eight weeks from early January as a result of her injured wrist. Her contract states that full salary should be paid for the first six weeks, then half salary for a further six weeks. However, with the agreement of the Treasurer and the Session Clerk, it was suggested that she should be paid her current salary in full during her absence, since at present she draws a little less than half the salary she is entitled to. Session unanimously agreed to continue on full pay up to 12 weeks and we would review at that time if necessary.
- b) Marion's ability to continue in post can be reviewed with her if necessary at the end of the twelve week period once she knows the ongoing medical position.
- c) The minister asked for comments on the use of recorded music at the Sunday services. Feedback was positive it is just a case of getting used to slightly different timing from what we have been used to. Some comments on the level of sound some finding it a bit quiet and others finding it quite loud.

Tom Kisitu: The minister informed Session that Tom is nominee for the vacancy at St Nicholas' Sighthill; congratulations were expressed. Tom's last Sunday with us will be 1 February when we will present him and his family with a gift and there will be a short reception after the service. Sandra Davidson offered to make a tray bake. Other catering arrangements are as follows: Mary Hynd and Dennise Brown will organise teas and coffees and we will put out some tables in the Activities Hall for a small reception after the service to present Tom with his leaving gift.

Messy Church: It was reported that the first Messy Church event had gone very well, with some 50 participants and an adequate number of team members, though more would be welcome. Many of the participants were complete newcomers. In the longer term, depending on whether Messy Church continues after the trial period, the minister asked Session if it would be worth exploring the appointment of a Messy Church worker, paid from the Presbytery Staffing Fund, which was set up to encourage fresh initiatives in mission. At present it is envisaged that one day a week would be sufficient. Sheila Ward commented that the teenagers who came along to help with the crafts were keen and enthusiastic. Attendees seemed to enjoy the evening and were asking when the next one would be held.

Whilst we are not going to progress with a paid worker at the moment Session gave their approval to proceeding with this at some point in the future if it looked like Messy Church would continue.

Safe Families for Children: Alan Gray, volunteer co-ordinator for this new charity, had spoken during the service on Sunday 11 January. The minister apologised for not mentioning SFC at the time of the last Session meeting and hoped the congregation had found his contribution interesting. Those in attendance at the Service agreed it had been interesting.

Lent Study: The minister asked if Session thought there would be interest in holding another study course during the forthcoming period of Lent. It was agreed to proceed with this and the minister will look for suitable material. It is thought these meetings will take place on a Wednesday evening.

Tent of Nations: The minister had heard from Daoud Nasser, one of the two brothers who own the farm near Bethlehem, that money raised for the re-planting of trees destroyed by settlers could be channelled through the World Mission Council. The WMC confirmed that we should send cheques to "Church of Scotland", FAO World Mission Finance, with a covering letter asking that any money be sent on to the Tent of Nations.

Alasdair MacMillan: Alasdair will be ordained and inducted to Cathcart Trinity Church on Thursday 15 January. The minister will pass on our congratulations to Alasdair.

5. Local Churches Review

Food Bank: Jean Gordon reported we are only getting 1 person per week. The Shower Doctor gave a very generous donation to the Food Bank in December. Jean reported the food items were split amongst ourselves and The Salvation Army. Some household products were passed on to Fresh Start for their starter packs.. Jean also reported that South West Outreach Project offer free & confidential advice on problems with housing benefit, crisis grants, budgets etc. They have a drop in centre at Clovenstone Community Centre on Monday mornings and she contacted Kathy at the Salvation Army to tell her about this and ask if they could be a referral point for our food bank.

Notice Board: Session recorded their thanks to Ian Welsh for making and fitting the notice board in the window panel beside the front door. The minister asked for approval to purchase an A2 sized laminated poster to put on the notice board at a cost of around £12. Session approved this.

6. Pastoral Care

Nothing to report.

7. Worship Committee

Bereavement Service: The service went well with around 30 attendees.

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. The clerk reminded Elders that we will have to advise our new representatives in March and asked those already serving to advise if they are willing to stay on for another year and for those not to consider serving for next year.

Unitary Constitution: The minister mentioned he has noted that a number of congregations are adopting a Unitary Constitution which means the congregation is governed by a single court - the Kirk Session. In most cases there will in addition be committees or workgroups who are made up of elders and non-elders. This is something we may want to consider for the future.

National Stewardship: The topic for February 2015 is the stewardship of money. The Board has also agreed to hold a Gift Day and Coffee Morning on Saturday 14 March. The minister, Dennise Brown and Yvonne Paterson are meeting next week to discuss details

9. Presbytery Report

Basis of Reviewable Charge: A congregational meeting was held on Sunday 30 November 2014 to consider the proposal regarding the Basis of Reviewable Charge as noted in December 2014 Minutes. The proposal was carried by a majority of those present. An extract minute has been received from Edinburgh Presbytery confirming their approval of the Basis of Reviewable Charge. Sandra and Harry Davidson and Angie Simpson were thanked for attending the Presbytery meeting on 9th December 2014 on our behalf.

General Assembly Commissioner: Our Kirk Session has been invited to nominate an Elder to attend the General Assembly 2015. The General Assembly will open on the morning of Saturday 16 May and conclude on the afternoon of Friday 22 May. It was agreed we ask Rita Welsh if she would like to attend as she is currently our Presbytery Elder.

Funeral & Bereavement Care Seminar: The minister gave details of this upcoming event for anyone who may be interested in attending.

10. Correspondence

PVG Scheme Membership: The minister reported that he is now a member of the PVG Scheme for working with Children and Vulnerable Adults.

11. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

Dates of Next Meetings

These were fixed for Mondays 2 March, joint meeting at 7.00pm with the Congregational Board to adopt the Annual Report and Accounts, followed by Session Meeting and on 11 May 2015 at 7.00pm in the Session Room unless otherwise advised nearer date of the meeting. The Stated Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday 22 March 2015 after morning worship.

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 2 MARCH 2015 at 7.30pm 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
 - Annual Statistics:** Annual Statistics were submitted to Presbytery in January 2015
 - Communion Roll as at 1.1.14 225
 - Additions
 - Profession of Faith 1 **226**
 - Removals
 - Death 6
 - Communion Roll as at 31.12.14 **220 + 2 adherents**
 - Roll changes to be homologated by Session
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