

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 12 MAY 2014 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

**Sederunt:** Mesdames L Baillie, B Bald, S Davidson, A Fairley, M Fulton, J Gordon, M Hynd, M Marshall, S Riddoch, S Taylor and S Ward

Messrs C Campbell and Rev M Frew

**Apologies:** Mesdames D Brown, L Campbell, J Fox and R Welsh.  
Mr I Welsh

At the start of the meeting the minister welcomed Suzie Stark from Presbytery and Tom Kisitu. The minister then opened the meeting with a reading from 1 Peter 1 vv13:21 and a prayer.

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of meeting Monday 3 March, previously circulated, were approved.

**2. Presbytery Plan**

The minister introduced Suzie Stark from Presbytery who is visiting the local Churches in regard to the vacancy at Stenhouse St Aidan's Parish Church. Suzie outlined what Stenhouse would like to happen in the future and asked Slateford Longstone for their views on this.

Stenhouse preferred option would be to unite with a neighbouring congregation or congregations. They would want to keep their building as a meeting place for the community. They may have to separate the Hall and the Sanctuary and the Sanctuary could be rented out. They are committed to outreach at Saughton Skate Park and funding for this has just been renewed for 3 years. The congregation of around 40 would like to still be able to meet together for worship. Slateford Longstone asked if the expectation would be that part time resource would come from the local Churches? – It is thought not as it may be that an additional part time worker would be employed to look after Sunday worship and Pastoral Care for those still worshipping at Stenhouse.

The question was asked if Slateford Longstone would be willing to take part of the Parish if Stenhouse were to be split amongst local congregations? Slateford Longstone asked if Elders would be available to move with the members to cover Pastoral Care. – It may be that a member of staff would be brought in to cover Pastoral Care.

Slateford Longstone, St David's Broomhouse, Craiglockhart and Carrick Knowe Parish Churches are all being approached as part of the consultation and it could be the Parish boundaries may be re-drawn to broaden each of our areas of responsibility.

Slateford Longstone were asked to consider their approach to this information. Suzie advised that she will be reporting back on her initial discussions with each of the Kirk Sessions. The minister thanked Suzie for taking the time to discuss these matters with Session and she then left the meeting.

**3. Communion Roll:** Session noted

- a) Deaths: Charlie Duncan of Struan Lodge
- b) Additions: Nil
- c) Removals: Nil
- d) Change of Address: Nil

**3. Minister's Report**

**Prospective New Member by Profession:** Ms Samantha Stapleton. Samantha comes from a Roman Catholic background and has been attending church regularly, also the Start! And Moving On courses. She now wishes to have her two boys baptised and make her profession of faith. The minister recommended that the Session admit her on Sunday 8 June, when the boys would also be baptised. Session agreed to this.

**Holy Week Services:** These had gone well, with five local churches hosting them. The one disappointment is that so few of our own members attend services in other buildings. The minister sought ideas on how we could create greater interest. Reasons people may not attend were thought to be lack of transport and the type of service. It was agreed we will try to have a more formal transport arrangement for next year.

**Study Leave:** The minister reminded Kirk Session that he is taking two weeks study leave beginning 19 May. The focus will be on Messy Church and he had already been to two events in other congregations. The formula is simple – with crafts, worship and a meal, but it is clear that the concept attracts families who have little or no other church connection. One rule is that children must attend with at least one adult and vice versa. The minister was inclined to think that Messy Church could work well as an outreach at Slateford Longstone, the main challenge probably being to get a team together to run it as a monthly event. He sought the approval in principle to go ahead from early autumn, depending on the conclusions of his study leave research. The likely date of the next ordinary Session meeting would be too late to launch Messy Church as a Holiday Club follow up. Help from congregational funds would be needed at least in the initial stages, though other projects have received some grants from other sources. Session approved in principle to start something before Session meets again, trial for the autumn months.

**Holiday Club 4-8 August:** A number of key leaders are not taking part this year or have moved away. An initial meeting of interested people took place on 7 May and it seems that there are enough to make the holiday club viable. This year's Scripture Union material is produced in Scotland and has a Commonwealth Games related theme. We have had 3 offers of help from other congregations – 2 Elders from Craiglockhart and the minister of St David's Broomhouse. We will apply to Presbytery for a grant to help with funding.

#### **4. Local Churches Review**

**Food Bank:** The first day of our Food Bank will be Monday 26 May. We have 11 volunteers to run the weekly opening plus Tom as support. The Salvation Army will give us crates of food for the various types of voucher. People will be invited to stay for a cup of tea and a chat if they wish. We can do our own referrals if someone turns up without a voucher and there will be bus tickets available if it is thought someone may not be able to get home. Food collections will be made for Trussell Trust at Tesco and Asda in June.

**Fresh Start:** 1 trip has already been made with donations to the Fresh Start warehouse with more ready to go.

**Mens' Meeting:** The minister and Tom are thinking of organising meeting for the autumn.

#### **5. Pastoral Care**

Nothing to report.

#### **6. Worship Committee**

**Memorial Service:** The service was well received at Easter. Chris Campbell said he felt the Christmas service is the better time. Elders were asked if they had any feedback or thoughts on this. After some discussion it was agreed we would revert back to Christmas as usual for any future services.

#### **7. Board Report**

**Elders:** 2 Elders are still required to fill positions on the Board. Any elders willing to fill these positions should let the clerk know. Jean Gordon has just stood down after many years service to enable her to focus on the Food Bank and Fresh Start. Jean was thanked for all her years of service.

#### **8. Presbytery Report**

**Presbytery Elder:** Rita Welsh has agreed to continue in this role and Session approved this continuation. Session recorded their thanks to Rita for the work she does with Presbytery.

**World Mission Committee:** An ePostcard is to be sent out to interested parties and the first one is currently being drawn up.

**Mission Station:** Presbytery is having a debate with a view to passing legislation that will enable congregations to start some outreach work. It is to be called "The Andrew Initiative". Presbytery is looking at what is the living church, it is not necessarily a standard church building.

#### **9. Correspondence**

**Betty Bald:** The clerk reported that she has received a letter from Betty stating that she no longer feels able to attend evening meetings of Kirk Session or Pastoral Care Group meetings. Betty indicated that she is happy to continue with other duties if this is acceptable. Session noted Betty's wishes regarding attending meetings and agreed they are happy for Betty to continue with her other duties as long as she feels able and wishes to do so. Session recorded their thanks to Betty for her contributions to meetings over the many years she has served as an Elder.

**Orange Lodge:** A request has been made to hold an Orange Order Service in our church. Session declined this request.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

Nothing to report.

#### **Dates of Next Meetings**

These were fixed for Mondays 1 September and 3 November 2014 and 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 8.40pm with each blessing the others.

**SUZANNE E RIDDOCH**  
Session Clerk

**REV. MICHAEL W FREW**  
Moderator

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**KIRK SESSION AGENDA FOR MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2014 at 7.00pm IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. Opening devotions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Communion Roll
4. Minister's Report
5. Local Churches Review Update on Actions
6. Pastoral Care
7. Worship Committee
8. 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
9. Presbytery Report
10. Correspondence
11. Any Other Business
12. Date of next meetings