

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

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

Messrs C Campbell, T Kisitu, Rev M Frew and I Welsh

Apologies: Mesdames B Bald, J Fox, M Hynd and R Welsh

The minister opened the meeting with a reading from Hosea 6: 1-4 and a prayer.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of meeting Monday 12 May 2014, previously circulated, were approved.

2. Communion Roll: Session noted

a) Deaths: Mrs Alice Miller of Fords Road Home

b) Additions: Samantha Stapleton, by Profession

c) Removals: Nil

d) Change of Address: Sheila Melville of 4 Howden Hall Gardens to 27/323 West Saville Terrace EH9 3DT
Audrey McIntyre of 4 Colliery View, Newtongrange to 10 Tryst Park EH10 7HE

3. Minister's Report

Ordained Local Minister: Rita Welsh has been accepted for training for the Ordained Local Minister programme. This means Rita will not be around for the next few months. Sessions recorded their congratulations to Rita and wish her well going forward with this.

Holiday Club: The Fit For a King holiday club had gone well, with an average daily attendance of 51. Some children had started attending on Sunday mornings. Marion Fulton, who had been helping at the club, said she thought all of the children had really enjoyed their time at the club and enjoyed taking part in all of the activities.

Tom Kisitu: An Interim Review was held recently with representatives from Presbytery and the Ministries Council. It had gone well, though there were a few things of which Tom could gain more experience. One was chairing meetings, and it was planned that Tom would chair the next Congregational Board meeting. It was also planned that Tom would share his testimony at a special men's meeting on 25 September.

Fair Trade: In response to the teaching of Amos on social justice, which we had looked at on a recent Sunday morning, the minister recommended that we move towards becoming a Fair Trade congregation. To gain Fair Trade status we need to serve fairly traded tea and coffee at church events and congregational organisations; move towards using other fairly traded products; and promote fair trade during Fair Trade Fortnight. The clerk reminded Session that we had discussed this last year and agreed the Church will buy Fairtrade tea and coffee and provide to the Guild and Over 50s groups to try. We will get feedback from their members and if this is positive we can consider moving towards becoming a Fair Trade Congregation. It was agreed again at this meeting and this time we will ensure this is followed through.

Messy Church: A meeting is to be held on Wednesday 3rd September for people interested in starting this initiative. It is hoped to begin with a Messy Christmas event - at the latest.

Christmas Services: It was suggested holding a Memorial Carol Service on Sunday 7 December (Second Sunday in Advent) and also Christmas Eve Watchnight and Christmas Day services, as in the past. This was agreed by Session.

4. Local Churches Review

Secondment of Young Families and Fabric Convener: Presbytery Resources Committee has circulated details of both of these opportunities but so far we have had no response to either.

Bible Reading Notes: The minister will speak to Betty Bald about this with a view to promoting their use through a report by someone who already uses them and added publicity in the Kirk News and weekly notices.

Food Bank: Jean Gordon reported that we have 11 volunteers working on a rota basis with each volunteer on duty every five weeks. So far the Food Bank has been open for approximately 20 weeks and we have only had 5 people coming for assistance which is disappointing when we had hoped to be able to support more people. Jean has contacted all of the local referral agencies to let them know we are here and available. She has also asked for feedback as to any other days or times that may be more useful for people. Based on any feedback received Jean and her team will consider if they could be available for any other time slots. It was agreed our Harvest Service collection will be donated to Trussell Trust.

Fresh Start: Jean Gordon reported that she has had a good response from the congregation with a large number of donations (a lot of brand new goods). She also advised that Fresh Start hold a coffee morning on the first Saturday of every month at Harrison Place.

5. Pastoral Care

Visitor's Co-ordinator: As Betty Bald has given up her role as co-ordinator for the Church Visitor's we need someone to take on this role. Dennise Brown has agreed to take on this work.

Visitor's Meeting: A meeting for all pastoral visitors is to be held on 29 September.

6. Worship Committee

Nothing to report.

7. Board Report

Messy Church: The Board has agreed to support Messy Church start up costs with £250 from the Coffee Morning proceeds, and to include costs in future budgets. A further £200 has been received from Presbytery.

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.

8. Presbytery Report

Stenhouse St Aidan's: Suzie Stark has updated the minister to let him know that conversations are still ongoing with neighbouring congregations with 2 more to be approached this month. There should be a report to Presbytery in October and we should know by the end of September of any proposed outcomes that may affect us.

Resourcing Mission Committee: Funding is available to support any new Mission initiatives in congregations.

Presbytery Elder: Rita Welsh has indicated that she intends to stand down as Presbytery Elder in 2015.

9. Correspondence

International Grace Ministries: Correspondence has been received from International Grace Ministries advising they are starting up meetings on Sundays and Wednesdays in Longstone Centre on Inglis Green Road.

10. Any Other Business

Hutton Trust: The Annual Report of the Trustees was presented to the meeting for their information.

Dates of Next Meetings

These were fixed for Mondays 10 November 2014 (note date change) 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 8.00pm with each blessing the others.

SUZANNE E RIDDOCH
Session Clerk

REV. MICHAEL W FREW
Moderator

KIRK SESSION AGENDA FOR MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2014 at 7.00pm IN THE SESSION ROOM

1. Opening devotions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Any Other Business
4. Approval of previous minutes
5. **Review of the charge (with Presbytery visitors)**
6. Communion Roll
7. Minister's Report
8. Local Churches Review Update on Actions
9. Pastoral Care
10. Worship Committee
11. 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
12. Presbytery Report
13. Correspondence
14. Any Other Business
15. Date of next meetings