

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Sederunt: Mesdames L Baillie, D Brown, L Campbell, A Fairley, M Fulton, M Hynd, M Marshall, S Riddoch, S Taylor and S Ward
Messrs C Campbell and Rev M Frew

Apologies: Mesdames S Davidson, J Fox, J Gordon and R Welsh
Messrs I Welsh

The Rev Michael Frew opened the meeting with a reading from Ruth 1 vv1-7 and 16-21 and a prayer.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of meeting Monday 11 May, previously circulated, were approved
2. **Communion Roll:** Session noted
 - a) Deaths: Lottie Morrice of 13 Peatville Terrace
 - b) Additions by Certificate: Helen Chambers of 48 Allan Park Drive, EH14 1LP from St Michael's Parish Church
 - c) Removals: Nil
 - d) Change of Address: Nil

3. Minister's Report

Holiday Club: The Polar Explorers holiday club had gone well, not least because several members of other churches (including three from Davidson's Mains) joined the team. It has not made any difference to Sunday attendance of children, but a lot of interest in Messy Church was generated at the club.

Donation from Lottie Morrice's Family: Lottie's family have expressed a wish to give something to the church in memory of their mother. Possibilities discussed have included Bibles, garden bench, and digital projector. No sum specified at present. Session did not come up with anything specific but agreed something to assist Sunday Worship would seem fitting. The minister agreed to have further discussions with the family to see if we could get an idea of the amount they were thinking of gifting as this would assist in determining what to purchase.

Transforming Scotland: The minister gave a summary of some of the main points from this conference that he had attended recently, where the results of a survey of attitudes to Christianity and the church were presented.

Refugee Crisis: The minister invited discussion on what if anything the congregation could do to support needy people in the current refugee crisis, with thousands seeking a new life in Europe. One possibility would be to invite people to donate goods to Calaid, a volunteer charity set up to help people in the camp near Calais. This was agreed.

Petition: The minister had received a petition from the Barnabas Fund which urges the UK government to give greater priority to Christian believers who are among the refugees seeking shelter within the EU. He asked whether Session wished this petition to be presented to the congregation for signing. Session agreed it could be put out for signing but that it was up to each individual to decide whether they wished to sign it or not.

Learn: "Learn" is a new publication from the Mission and Discipleship Council which had training material for elders. We agreed to use it from time to time at Session meetings

4. Office Bearers Conference

There was a general discussion around our progress with actions arising from the Local Church Review and the following came up as part of these considerations.

Survey re New Worship: It was agreed that a survey would be issued asking people if they would be interested in attending an additional service of some sort at another point in the week. The survey will be available at Messy Church on 11 September and will be handed out to members on Sunday mornings.

Prayers: The minister has been involving others in prayers on a Sunday morning and asked if any elders would be interested in participating in this, if so please let him know.

Variety in approach to sermons: The minister has tried out linking his sermons to current news and ran a short series over a few weeks. Members of Session had also appreciated the occasional splitting of the sermon into two parts.

Holiday Club Leadership: The minister reported that the experience had been quite stressful this year as we had not been sure who would be available to participate as team members and in the end a number of those who had previously been involved could not attend. In the end although we had a large number of helpers they were not all experienced and we relied on members from other congregations to be our Team Leaders.

Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Suzanne Riddoch has indicated she would like to give up the role as Safeguarding Co-ordinator and will draft an article for the Sunday Notices.

Food & Faith / Cluster Group: Whilst it had been suggested we try to revive Food & Faith or try to set up a new cluster group the minister reported that there are a number of new people around the congregation at the moment and it seems more urgent to work on a Start Course as we have limited resources to work on these initiatives. Session agreed to a Start Course.

Unitary Constitution: For benefit of those who had been unable to attend the conference the minister went over the outcomes of a discussion we had around moving to the Unitary Constitution Model. In principle it was thought this could work for us but we would like some more information from those who have already moved to this model to assist in our decision making. The minister agreed to ask representatives from St David's Broomhouse and another local congregation to come along to our next meeting to talk to the Session and Congregational Board.

5. Pastoral Care

The group will be meeting on Monday 5 October

6. Worship Committee

Bereavement Service: Date set for Sunday 13 December and arrangements will commence.

Christmas Services: it was agreed to hold a Watchnight Service on Thursday 24 December and a Christmas Day Service on Friday 25 December

Harvest Service: There will be a Harvest Service on Sunday 11 October with donations being passed on to the Trussel Trust Food Bank co-ordinated by The Salvation Army and supported by ourselves.

Grace: Having trialled the new style of Grace at the end of the service where we ask everyone to keep their eyes open and look around it was felt that more people had participated in this at the second attempt. It was agreed to continue with this at Communion Services for now and we will review in a few months time. The sung Amen will remain.

7. Board Report

Nothing to report.

8. Presbytery Report

Presbytery Elder: Sheila Ward has agreed to take on this role on our behalf. The appointment was approved by Session.

Davidson's Mains Vacancy: The minister, who is acting as Interim Moderator during the vacancy, reported that they are making reasonable progress in finding a new minister with some interviews taking place in September.

9. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

10. Any Other Business

Kirk News: Sharon Taylor apologised for a few errors or omissions from the most recent edition of the Kirk News as she had a few technical issues with her pc.

11. Date of Next Meetings: These were fixed for Mondays 2 November 2015, 11 January, 7 March and 9 May 2016 all at 7.00pm in the Session Room unless advised otherwise.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.30pm with each blessing the others.

SUZANNE E RIDDOCH
Session Clerk

REV. MICHAEL W FREW
Moderator