

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Present: Mesdames D Brown, L Campbell, A Fairley, J Gordon, M Hynd, M Marshall, S Riddoch and S Ward
Messrs Rev M Frew and I Welsh

Apologies: Mesdames L Baillie, S Davidson, J Fox, M Fulton and R Welsh.
Mr C Campbell

The Rev Michael Frew opened the meeting with a reading from Acts chapter 14 vv21-28 and a prayer.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of meeting Monday 2 November 2015, previously circulated, were approved

2. Communion Roll: Session noted

- a) Deaths: Nelson Baillie,
- b) Additions: Nil
- c) Removals: Nil
- d) Change of Address: Mary Woodman

3. Minister's Report

Holiday Club: The minister raised the question of whether we should aim to hold a holiday club given the difficulties last summer of getting a team together. It was agreed to make enquiries as to who would be available to become Leaders. If not enough numbers of helpers we would have to consider if it could run.

Kirk News Editor: The minister asked if members of Session could think of a suitable person to replace Sharon Taylor as Kirk News editor. It would need to be someone with relevant computer skills. Sharon had offered to help a new editor produce their first edition. It was agreed to ask Ruth Alexander and if she declines we would make a wider appeal.

Start! Course: On completion of the Start! Course one person had indicated a wish to make a profession of faith. The others are considering this step.

Church Census: Another census of church attendance is requested, to be taken on Sunday 8 May. A questionnaire will be sent out in good time. The minister will be on holiday on 8 May and suggested that 1 or 15 May would be a better date. It was agreed we will complete on 1 May.

Music Leader: Marion Henderson has advised that she is due to have surgery in about 12 weeks time and is likely to need at least 6 weeks recovery time. Session agreed that we would wish to pay Marion full pay for at least 12 weeks if required and if longer review at that time.

4. Learn

What is an Elder?: As part of an ongoing education slot the session had a discussion around the subject of What is an Elder? Looking at the origins of the New Testament Greek word for Presbytery, the Reformation period and recent history of the Church of Scotland in relation to the elder. Elders then discussed whether they think ordination should be for life, the similarities and differences between the elder and the minister, what are the key aspects of being an elder and what characteristics in other elders have inspired us.

5. Local Churches Review

Unitary Constitution: The sub committee has met and a few proposals have been drafted. It was agreed to have a joint meeting with the Congregational Board on Monday 1 February to discuss the proposals and the way forward.

6. Pastoral Care

Nothing to report.

7. Worship Committee

Bereavement Service: Those present thought the sound had been a bit low at the service and suggested it may be beneficial to have someone managing the sound at future services. Attendance had been good with around 30+ people there and it seems to be meeting a need. Session recorded their thanks to everyone who was involved in the organisation.

8. Board Report

Nothing to report

9. Presbytery Report

Ordained Local Ministry (OLM): Anyone who has been ordained as an OLM will be permitted to conduct communion, baptisms and weddings. Presbytery is asking congregations if they can see a need for an OLM in their situation. It is proposed that we respond saying that if Slateford Longstone were not to be allowed to call a minister at time of vacancy we could see an OLM being a good way to keep the congregation going.

Emails: Following a communication from the Church of Scotland offices the minister has secured his personal email and people should use either mike@slatefordlongstone.org.uk or mfrew@churchofscotland.org.uk for emails in future. This will mean compliance with the requirements of the Office of the Information Commissioner.

Davidson's Mains: Daniel Robertson has been nominated as their new minister and ordination is expected in March 2016. After ordination the minister will be ending his period as Interim Moderator the Davidson's Mains.

10. Correspondence

Nothing to report

11. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

Date of Next Meetings: These were fixed for Mondays 7 March and 9 May 2016 all at 7.00pm in the Session Room unless advised otherwise. There will also be a joint meeting with the Congregational Board on Monday 1 February at 7.00pm in the Session Room.

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

JOINT SESSION AND BOARD MEETING MONDAY 7 MARCH 2016, 7.00PM IN SESSION ROOM

1. Opening devotions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approve Annual Report and Accounts

SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH AGENDA

SESSION MEETING MONDAY 7 MARCH 2016 7.30PM (or directly after joint meeting) IN SESSION ROOM

1. Any business to be added
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Communion Roll (including Annual Statistics return and Safeguarding Congregational Register

Annual Statistics: Annual Statistics as follows were submitted to Presbytery in January 2015

Communion Roll as at 1.1.15	220	
Additions		
By Certificate	1	
By Restoration	1	222
Removals		
Death	8	
Communion Roll as at 31.12.15		214 + 2 adherents

Roll changes to be homologated by Session

Safeguarding Congregational Register: The Register was presented for review

4. Minister's Report
5. Local Church Review Update on Actions
6. Pastoral Care Report
7. Worship Committee Report
8. Board Report
9. Presbytery Report
10. Correspondence
11. Any other Business added at 1
12. Dates of next meetings