

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Present: Mesdames L Baillie, L Campbell, J Gordon, M Hynd, M Marshall and S Riddoch
Messrs Rev M Frew and I Welsh

Apologies: Mesdames D Brown, S Davidson, A Fairley, J Fox, M Fulton, S Ward and R Welsh.
Messrs C Campbell

The Rev Michael Frew opened the meeting with a reading from Romans chapter 13 and a prayer.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of meeting Monday 7 March, previously circulated, were approved
2. **Communion Roll:** Session noted
 - a) Deaths: Joyce Wright of 64 Longstone Crescent
 - b) Addition by Profession of Faith on 17.4.16: Miss Amanda Coles of 5/4 Kingsknowe Place, EH14 2EQ
 - c) Removals: Nil
 - d) Change of Address: Catherine Harris to Marian House, 7 Oswald Road, EH9 2HE
Nora Robertson to 27/1 Stenhouse Avenue West, EH11 3EY

3. Minister's Report

Kirk News Editor: The minister reported that a Kirk News editor has still not been found. He asked Session for its view on whether and how to continue Kirk News. After some discussion Marion Marshall offered to take on the role of editor for now. Session thanked Marion for her offer and accepted.

Census of Church Attendance: Our chosen Sunday to undertake this census was to be 1 May, but several members had indicated they would not be present. The minister asked Session whether it would be better to postpone until 15 May. Session agreed to postpone until 15 May.

Charity Law and the Church: The minister had attended a day seminar with the Church's Law Department on this developing subject. Key points for Session to consider were these:

Charity Law:

- a) HMRC will continue to handle Gift Aid according to the UK tax rate (i.e. not according to whatever tax rate is set by the Scottish Government).
- b) Thank you gifts should not come from congregational funds. If they do, the maximum amount should be £25.
- c) Congregational constitutions should be stored in the property register or Kirk Session minute books. It was decided we will store with Kirk Session minutes.
- d) In relation to trusteeship it is recommended that elders who are no longer active should not be members of Session. In the minister's view one possibility would be to create a category of "elder emeritus" for our non-active elders. It was decided we should create the new category which will still acknowledge these people as having been active elders but will carry no Trustee requirements. The minister will speak to the individuals concerned to explain the situation to them.

Data Protection:

- a) Electronically stored church rolls should be encrypted. In the minister's view this is draconian and password protection of files should be sufficient. It was decided those who hold electronic copies of the file will password protect them.
- b) Printed versions of church rolls should be held securely. In our case there is an issue with the copy kept in the kitchen for distribution of flowers. It was decided this copy will now be kept in the locked Beadle's cupboard and be made available to the flower distributors as required.
- c) Consent should be obtained from church members for the holding of personal details, even their addresses. In the minister's view it should be sufficient to do this for all new members, not existing ones for whom we can presume consent. There is however an issue regarding posting Kirk Session minutes on the church website as they often contain personal information (such as addresses). It was decided in relation to consent to adopt the minister's suggestion of presumed consent for current members and permission will be sought from new members. In relation to the website it was agreed all addresses will be removed but names will remain.
- d) It is recommended that Sessions appoint a data protection compliance person. It was decided we will not adopt this role at this time.

Employment Law:

It is recommended that Sessions appoint a manager for all employees for tax and pension purposes. It was decided we will continue to have the treasurer handle these matters.

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council: The minister had also attended a "thinkspace" event with EVOC who are moving to a localities strategy. This means dividing Edinburgh into four localities and trying to get organisations within these to work more closely together. It was reported that Police Scotland and the Fire and Rescue Service have already adopted this approach. It seems that a multi-agency approach could be useful but that it will be difficult to get to know and trust other voluntary organisations and their representatives in such large areas

4. Local Churches Review

Nothing to report

5. Pastoral Care

Pastoral Visits: The minister asked visiting elders to let him know if they thought anyone on their lists would benefit from a visit from the minister as he is willing to carry out these visits. His main concern is regarding those members who may be becoming elderly and frail

6. Worship Committee

Nothing to report

7. Board Report

Unitary Constitution: The Stated Annual Meeting (SAM) attendees approved unanimously to adopt the Unitary Constitution. An extract from the SAM minute will be sent to Presbytery to advise them of this outcome. It is thought the date for implementing the change will be around autumn. It was agreed we hold a day conference with Office Bearers sometime towards the end of August to discuss how we can move forward. The minister will check if Saturday 20 August is available at Heriot Watt and it was agreed to make this a morning only event from 10am – 1pm.

Income to date: Income to date is around £600 below what we had budgeted for this point in the year.

Donations: 2 personal donations, one for £600 for general use and running costs and another for £1,000 to be used for decoration of the Activities Hall.

Gift Day: Gift day to be held over 2 dedicated Sundays, 18 and 25 September, rather than a Saturday. We will allocate the monies to cover the costs of refurbishing the floor in the Activities Hall.

Coffee Morning: Coffee morning to be held some time in June.

LM Legacy: Session were appraised of our change in plan re purchasing a new projector.

8. Presbytery Report

Sheila Ward reported on the March meeting as follows.

Local church reviews: Reports from Ratho Church, Broughton St Mary's and Granton Parish Church.

Carried on from last month's decision to unite London Road Church and Holyrood Abbey Church, and to unite New Restalrig and Craigentenny St Christopher's, a representative from London Road Church stated they were going to appeal against this decision.

St Cuthbert's shall continue on a Basis of Revewable Charge.

Mission: There was a live Skype link between the Moderator and the Church of Scotland Mission partners in Nepal, Malcolm and Cati Ramsay, which everyone watched. They talked about their work there and discussed the Let us Build a House Project, which is helping to rebuild after the recent earthquake.

There was a speaker from the Mercy Corps who talked about the Syrian Crisis, and their work there.

Ordained Local Ministry: It was announced that Broughton St Mary's, Inverleith St Serfs and Tron Kirk (Gilmerton and Moredun) have been chosen as suitable parishes for OLM support. Slateford Longstone was not successful at this time.

Volunteering for Refugee Resettlement in Edinburgh was discussed and encouraged.

There has been a 50% increase in ministry candidates which is encouraging.

General Assembly 2016 – the Commissioners were listed.

Presbytery Elder: The clerk indicated we will likely be asked to provide details of our Presbytery Elder over the summer break. It was agreed we would approach Sheila Ward in the first instance to see if she would be willing to stand again and if so the meeting approved this nomination.

9. Correspondence

Christian Aid: Sheila Ward is willing to organise again but will be away until the beginning of Christian Aid Week so has asked if anyone is willing to help in any way with collections to let her know.

10. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

11. Date of Next Meeting: This was fixed for Monday 5 September 2016 at 7.00pm in the Session Room unless advised otherwise.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.25pm with each blessing the others.

**SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH AGENDA
SESSION MEETING MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2016 at 7.00PM**

1. Any business to be added
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Communion Roll
5. Minister's Report
6. Unitary Constitution
7. Local Church Review
8. Finance Report
9. Property Report
10. Pastoral Care Report
11. Worship Committee Report
12. Board Report
13. Presbytery Report
14. Correspondence
15. Any other Business added at 1
16. Dates of next meetings