

## **EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

### **THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 8.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

**Present:** Lin Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Dennise Brown, Liz Chalmers, Alison Fairley, Ros Fraser, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Mary Hynd, Jean Gordon, Crofton Palmer, Yvonne Paterson, Suzanne Riddoch, Angie Simpson, Ian Welsh

**Apologies:** Lily Campbell,

The Rev Mike Frew welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a Bible reading and a prayer.

#### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> August were approved.

#### **3 Finance**

Following the appeal to the congregation, our offerings have increased slightly through weekly offerings, the plate and standing orders. Dennise is claiming the Gift Aid money every two months at the moment to help with the bank balance. We have enough money in the bank to pay our current expenses. Ministry and Missions payment of £2,000 paid over and above the monthly contributions are due by the end of the year. Also, the £1200 taken from the legacy fund should be replaced by the end of the year. Xerox, grass cutting and piano tuning are all due soon.

As there are no Scouts and, just recently, no Guides, the only church groups giving donations are the Over 50s and the Guild. So far £9.96 has been raised through [easyfundraising.org.co.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.co.uk).

Mike offered to give the congregation an update on Sunday, Crofton will write a short report. We have had confirmation that Ministry and Mission costs for the coming year will be £31,852. This is up from £29,618. It may be possible to get a slight reduction if we request it from Presbytery, but only if we had serious difficulty in meeting the target.

#### **4 Property**

**Church and Halls** - Fire alarm system and installation of emergency lighting are fully installed and working. The beaules will carry out the weekly checks. A fire drill will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October after the morning service. Mike will speak to Bryan Baillie to ask his advice as there is a sign indicating the vestry area exit is a fire exit but the door is normally kept locked and bolted. The assembly point is the grass outside the front of the church. The **thermostat** has been fitted in the activities hall. **External paint** has been repaired and Niven Baillie will fit a **timer** for the water heater at no charge.

**Loose tiles** were being fixed when the roofer noticed some standing water in the roof above the small halls. This will have to be investigated as it could cause bigger problems later if it is not addressed before winter. Mike will speak to the roofer and if the cost is under £150 he will give the go ahead.

There is **rendering** coming away at the top of the church tower. Two quotes will be obtained and if we can afford it this will be fixed as soon as possible. The **lock** on the back door is broken and Ken Chalmers has offered to replace it.

The **microwave** was removed from the kitchen because it was leaking radiation, but a replacement has appeared. This is not PAT tested so Angie Simpson will try to find out who it belongs to and whether to have it taken away or the person charged for it to be tested.

The Board discussed the **curtains**. The curtains in the kitchen were serving no purpose as they are see-through when the light is on and they just attract the dirt so it was agreed to have them removed on the basis of health and hygiene. The curtains behind the door leading into the church are to be left open to give let people see into the church when the door is locked and to give a welcoming impression.

**Manse** – Minor repairs at the manse have been carried out at no cost but the central heating needs attention. This will be carried out by Peter Bald and Mike has offered to incur the cost if needed.

## **5 National Stewardship Programme**

Dennise, Yvonne and Mike met and discussed the next part of the Stewardship Seasons which is talents. Mike will speak about this during the Sunday services and to the Guild and Over 50s throughout February. A coffee morning will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March with stalls auctioning talents whether it is home baking, knitted items or services such as fixing a roof or painting. Pledge forms will be filled in during February. Another meeting will be held to finalise details.

## **6 Hall Lets**

The Guide company is now not meeting at the church due to lack of leaders but they hope to be running again soon. Angie has had two enquiries for long term lets but nothing concrete yet. The AA have asked if they can again hold their Hogmanay party in the Activities hall. This was agreed at an increased cost of £110. Liz will draft a letter for the Overs 50s as their donation to the church doesn't reflect the big increase they have had in their members. A letter will also be sent to the Guild and Take Away club.

## **7 Report from Session**

Mike has the final copy of the local church review action plan. He highlighted to the Board the importance of finding a property convenor and the feasibility study on the church building

## **8 Correspondence**

None

## **9 Any Other Business**

Mike has received an email asking for trustees' opinions on the Church of Scotland supporting the Credit Union Movement by considering establishing a **Churches Mutual Credit Union**. If anyone would like to fill in the survey log onto the following website:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MF8MLCG>

We have a **vacancy** in both the elected and elder members so we were asked to come up with names of people who may be interested.

## **10 Date of Next Meeting**

The dates of the next meetings are to be changed so they are now as follows:

21<sup>st</sup> October 2013

9<sup>th</sup> December 2013

17<sup>th</sup> February 2014

7<sup>th</sup> April 2014

16<sup>th</sup> June 2014

All on a Monday at 8pm with committees meeting at 7pm

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 9.05pm with each blessing the others.