

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Present: Mesdames L Baillie, D Brown, M Hynd, M Marshall, S Riddoch and S Ward
Messrs C Campbell, Rev M Frew and I Welsh

Apologies: Mesdames A Fairley, J Fox and J Gordon

The Rev Michael Frew opened the meeting with a reading from 2 Timothy and a prayer followed by some words of remembrance for Sandra Davidson.

As the Session Clerk was going to be late in attending it was agreed that Lin Baillie would take minutes at the start of the meeting.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of meetings Monday 1 February, Monday 7 March and Monday 25 April, all previously circulated, were approved.
2. **Communion Roll:** Session noted
 - a) Deaths: Dorothy Wright of 2 Longstone Park
Archibald Mears of Erskine Home, Gilmerton Road
Elizabeth Solley of 45 Parkhead Loan
Queenie Currie of Clovenstone House EH14 5EX
Sandra Davidson of 22 Kingsknowe Road South
Edward Prosser of 134 Kingsknowe Road North
 - b) Additions: Nil
 - c) Removals: Nil
 - d) Change of Address: Miss Amanda Coles from 5/4 Kingsknowe Place to 12 Chucker Row, Wallyford, EH21 8JP

3. Minister's Report

Prospective new member: The minister asked for approval for the admission of Miss Carolynne Mitchell. This was agreed and the service of admission will take place on Sunday 30 October.

Holiday Club: This year's summer holiday club was successful once again with an attendance most days of exactly 50. A good number of team members came from within the congregation together with extra help from members of other churches.

Messy Church: The new season of Messy Church events got off to a good start on Friday 30 September, with an attendance of 19 adults and 34 children, a record number and involving 53 people who don't come to church on a Sunday. Meetings are usually lively but run well. Consideration needs to be given to what will happen to Messy Church after next summer when the minister has retired. Will someone take over the organisation as there is a good nucleus of people on the team including a number of young teenagers who previously came to Sunday School a number of years ago and are now helping?. It was agreed to give this more consideration in the new year.

Archive: The minister had been given church archive material from the home of the late Stuart Harris.

- Drawings, etc. for the organ – to be retained in the locked filing cabinet in the office
- A book on the Parish –to go into the Church library
- Call to Bill Brown in 1963 - The minister will ask Bill Brown if he wants this
- Old photographs – Marion Marshall agreed to take these and sort them out then they will be retained in the locked filing cabinet in the office.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Cath Harris' daughter for passing these items on to us.

4. Unitary Constitution

It was reported that there had been a good discussion at the Office Bearers Away Day and it was agreed to begin operating as if we had already moved to the Unitary Constitution with effect from September 2016. This being the case there will be Agenda items on the Kirk Session Agenda to allow time for reports from the various committees at staggered points throughout the year. The minister distributed copies of the proposed Guidelines for Operating the Unitary Constitution and asked Elders to read and a discussion will follow at the next Session meeting.

The clerk reported that she had only recently sent the Extract Minute from the Stated Annual Meeting to Presbytery for their consideration.

It was agreed to mark the start of the Unitary Constitution with coffee and cake on a Sunday to be agreed after we have confirmation we have been permitted to make the change.

The method of appointing elders was discussed as there are a number of options. It was agreed to retain the current method, i.e. nomination by Kirk Session

The pattern for meeting was agreed as follows:

Kirk session – October, December, February, March, April and June

Teams – September, November, January, March and May

Kirk Session needs to meet in December to approve the following year's budget and in March to approve the annual report and accounts.

5. Local Church Review

Hazel Hastie, Deputy Presbytery Clerk, is meeting with the minister and clerk this Thursday to discuss progress on our previously agreed actions.

6. Finance

Ministry and Missions Contribution: Session had been provided with a copy of an appeal requesting a reduction to our Ministry and Missions Contribution which has to be submitted to Presbytery by 14 October. The appeal was a recommendation from the Finance team as our current financial situation is still quite poor and income opportunities continue to decrease. The minister agreed to populate the missing information from the table in the document and draft a communication to be sent in by the treasurer. Session approved this action.

7. Property

Activities Hall Floor: It was reported that we intend to seek grant assistance to meet the shortfall in the costs of repairing and sanding the activities hall floor and if we are unsuccessful with this application funds will be taken from the reserve funds to meet the costs.

Paper supplies: Paper supplies were previously monitored and new supplies ordered by Sandra Davidson and we now require someone to take on this task, Ian Welsh agreed to take this on.

Cleaner: Angie Simpson has agreed to take on liaison with the cleaner which was also previously undertaken by Sandra Davidson.

Break in: The minister reported there had been a break in at the church on Thursday 29 September but nothing appears to have been taken. The matter of installing CCTV was discussed and it was agreed not to proceed with this.

8. Pastoral Care

A meeting is to be held week beginning 10 October.

9. Worship Committee

Bereavement Service: The date for the bereavement service has been agreed as Sunday 11 December at 3pm.

Christmas Day Service: The service is to be held at the usual time of 10.30am.

Watchnight Service: It was agreed to hold a watchnight service on 24 December at 11.30pm with the retiring offering being donated to Bethany Christian Trust for their winter night shelter

All Age Service: An all age service will be held on Sunday 18 December.

10. Presbytery Report

Sheila Ward reported as follows:

- Local church reviews of Pilrig St Pauls and Polworth.
- It was agreed that a Campus Minister is to be appointed for the University of Edinburgh to cater for the spiritual needs of students and staff, and to raise the profile of the Church of Scotland within the life of the University.
- Ministries and Mission allocations for 2017 were presented, which we have just discussed.
- An Ordained Local Minister was appointed to the parish of Tron Kirk.
- A twinning agreement between Edinburgh Presbytery and the Presbytery of eGoli is being explored, through exchange visits in 2017.
- The Presbytery Clerk reported that he had met with Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Funeral Directors Association to discuss the increasing number of requests for "humanist" services, and how this involved the parish minister.
- There was a World Mission Report about the crisis in Syria, the crisis in Malawi, and about the deputation visit of Paraic Reamonn to Edinburgh. He had a prayer vigil at St Michaels on 24th September, and spoke at our New Month New Worship meeting on 2nd October, amongst other meetings.
- Mission grants were discussed, which included the allocation of £400 to Slateford Longstone for our Summer Holiday Club.
- There was an appeal for clothing, toiletries and basic medication for the Syrian Refugees in Lebanon by Edinburgh Direct Aid. Sheila could give anyone more details if you feel you can help.

11. Correspondence

Council of Assembly: The minister reported he had received correspondence following the murder of the Priest in France advising Police Scotland are not aware of any specific threats against the Christian community but congregations should be aware and alert.

Easter Play: A letter had been received requesting assistance with funding for the 2017 Easter Play. It was agreed to hold a retiring offering on Sunday 5 February 2017 for this cause.

Edinburgh Council: A request had been received from the Council to advise we still qualify for exemption of Non Domestic Rates

12. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

13. Dates of Next Meetings

Dates for the next meetings were set as 5 December 2016, 6 February, 6 March, 3 April and 5 June 2017 at 7.00pm in the Session Room unless advised otherwise.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.20pm with each blessing the others.

SUZANNE E RIDDOCH
Session Clerk

REV. MICHAEL W FREW
Moderator

SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH AGENDA SESSION MEETING MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 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 – 2017 Budget
9. Property – if required
10. Pastoral Care – if required
11. Worship Committee – if required
12. Presbytery Report – Sheila Ward
13. Correspondence
14. Any other Business added at 1
15. Dates of next meetings – Mondays 6 February, 6 March, 3 April and 5 June all at 7.00pm in Session room unless advised otherwise.