

# **St Anne's Parish Church, Corstorphine**

## **Minutes of Kirk Session Meeting on 25 November 2014**

### **1. Constitution**

The meeting was constituted with a reading, reflection and a prayer by the Moderator. There were 31 members present.

### **2. Approval of the subsequent order of business**

One extra item was intimated regarding the presentation to retiring Session Clerks.

### **3. Apologies**

Apologies were received from 13 members.

### **4. Minutes**

The Minutes of Kirk Session Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September were approved.

### **5. Matters arising. None.**

### **6. Congregational Business**

#### **a) Stewardship Campaign**

The film showings on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November had kicked off the campaign in a happy and positive way and had been deemed a great success.

The final event is the Wine, Cheese and Popcorn evening on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be films for the children and a short presentation by the stewardship team. Everyone was encouraged to support this.

#### **b) Belgrave Road latest**

Number 23 was now let. The buyers of the Belgrave Halls site have until March to obtain planning permission for their proposed development. They had been consulting tree root specialists regarding the possibility of retaining the trees on the site.

#### **c) Building Development Group**

Members of the Development Group had conducted a site visit with LDN and associates. They would report back on our remit with options for development, looking mainly at the sanctuary and the area between the sanctuary and the hall, considering the use of space, heating, lighting and storage.

#### **d) Christmas Cards**

The Parish Christmas Card was now printed and would be available for deliverers to collect on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December and should be delivered as soon as possible after that.

#### **e) Christmas Services/Duty Elders/Collections**

There is a list prepared for elders to sign up for duty at the Christmas services.

#### **f) Souper Sunday**

Souper Sunday is on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Four leaders/speakers are required for this service. Margaret Grant had offered to do the all-age address. Ann Scott had also offered to take part. Two or three more elders were required and Anne Ritchie, Derek Whigham and Malcolm Shanks have volunteered.

#### **g) Annual Report**

Group leaders would soon be asked to complete their yearly report for inclusion in the Annual Report. These should be emailed or handed to Noel Proven, John Lyall or to the office by 18<sup>th</sup> January

or earlier if possible. There was some discussion as to who should be responsible for co-ordinating the annual report. Noel and John had done it in the past as a matter of course but no team has actually been given the responsibility for this. It needs to be put on an official footing. It was suggested that the Parish Mission Team should have responsibility for this. To be discussed when we look again at Team remits.

## **7. Reports**

### **a) Presbytery Elder**

Mr Dawson reported the induction of a new minister at Craigsbank. Also the induction of the new minister at St Giles had been a grand affair. It was always interesting to hear what is happening in other congregations.

At the meeting, Presbytery discussed and voted on the Overture sent down under the Barrier Act (anent Ministers & Deacons in Civil Partnerships), which suggests that the Church, while maintaining a traditional stance on relationships, would allow for individual congregations to 'step aside' in order to call a Minister in a Civil Partnership. Edinburgh Presbytery has voted to support the Overture. The issue will return to the next GA for further discussion.

### **b) Finance Team**

Mrs Janet Hicks went over the figures as presented in the spreadsheet and also highlighted a few points in her report.

The Session:

- i. Received the report.
- ii. Agreed to the salary increases of 2%.
- iii. Agreed with the budget for 2015.
- iv. Noted the Finance Team's position which will be taken into consideration at a later date. A counter proposal was put forward that this deliverance was premature due to the recent site visit by LDN and their pending report. A development plan would be forthcoming after this report and the relevant options had been studied and duly considered. It was proposed that we should await the production of this plan before making any decisions on financing the project. This amended proposal was accepted.
- v. Agreed the need for a business plan for the refurbishment of premises and proposed upgrades before proceeding with any work.

### **c) Fabric Team**

The Session received the report.

### **d) Fellowship Team**

The Session received the report.

### **e) World Issues Team**

The Session:

- i. Received the report.
- ii. Agreed that the links between the two congregations be maintained and further developed by regular correspondence between the church groups.
- iii. Agreed to the congregation being asked to assist with the Fair-Trade stall.
- iv. Agreed to enquiries being made about transportation of books to Lusaka.
- v. Agreed to the recommendation concerning the Missionary Partner Plan.
- vi. Agreed to the proposal to arrange a further exchange visit from two members of St Andrew's dependent upon the outcome of the grant application and continuing discussion with St Andrew's. It was intimated the grant from Faithshare had been approved and a visit is being organised for May 2015.

## **8. Moderator's Items**

### **a) Beadle/Sunday Duty Team Responsibilities**

Neil Proven has offered to do beadle duties. He will arrange for a substitute when he is not available. This was greatly welcomed by Session. It was agreed that the Bible should be carried out down the centre aisle.

The list of duties for Duty Teams will be issued to all team members, perhaps in booklet form. It was noted that in the past there were two elders on duty at the side door, one to hand out orders of service and one to open and close the door. The Duty Team membership make-up needs to be reviewed and lists re-issued.

#### **b) Local Church Review 2015 and Five Year Plan**

In 2015 St Anne's will be visited for the Local Church Review. It is important that we inspire people to come into our buildings. The three papers for the Local Church Review are to be discussed using a SWOT analysis by each of the Teams and their contribution put forward. The questions asked in the papers will bring out the different aspects of our vision for a SMART Target outlook. This work will form the basis of the 5-Year Plan. If we get ahead with this now it will help us with the LCR. Each team should feel confident about talking on this. The papers with contributions should be in by 31<sup>st</sup> December so that we can draw all aspects together. This exercise should be seen as something positive.

#### **c) New Elders**

To date Mrs Maxine Grant, Mrs Deborah Zuckert and Mr Iain Murray have accepted the invitation to become elders. These nominations were approved by Session.

**Note:** Subsequent to the meeting Mrs Ruth Maclean accepted nomination to eldership. This has also been approved by Session.

#### **d) Long Service Awards**

Six elders, three of whom were ordained prior to joining St Anne's, are to be presented with long service certificates on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. They are:

Jim Gay – Ordained 1959 in Bathgate  
Derek Doyle –1963 in South Africa  
Derek Whigham –1964 in New Zealand  
Bill Coats – 1963 in St Anne's  
George Goff – 1963 in St Anne's  
Stuart Dawson – 1964 in St Anne's

#### **e) Elders' Discussion Day**

An Elder's discussion Day is planned for the afternoon of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January. The main focus of the discussion will be the papers for the forthcoming Local Church Review. New elders will be invited to attend.

#### **f) Fire Drill Training**

There will be fire drill training for elders at the start of the discussion day proceedings.

### **9. Admin Matters**

#### **a) Minister's Leave Dates**

The minister will be on leave from 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **b) Dates of next meetings of Kirk Session**

The Wednesday meetings would start at 7.45 rather than 7.30 as the hall is in use until 7.30.

The dates agreed for 2015 are:

- a) Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January
- b) Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March (to approve the Accounts)
- c) Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March
- d) Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June
- e) Stated Annual Meeting – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

#### **c) Extra Item**

Mrs Noel Proven asked if at the Corstorphine Remembrance Day Memorial Service next year, St Anne's could place a wreath at the War Memorial. There are always representatives from St Anne's at the service. This was agreed by Session.

### **10. Adjournment**

The Kirk Session meets again on 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The meeting closed at 9.00pm with the Grace.