Netherlee and Stamperland Church

Kirk Session met at 7:30pm on Monday 4TH September 2023

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted with prayer by the Moderator Rev. Scott Blythe

1. SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

There were 34 Elders plus the Moderator present and apologies from 12 Elders as per sederunt sheet

1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft agenda was agreed with 6 additional items under AOCB

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Kirk Session minute of 5th June was approved, with the undernoted matters arising:

* Forms for the congregation to submit their favourite hymns to be sung during Advent are now available in the Lesser Sanctuary. The Minister will publicise this at worship.
* The Kirk Session collection for Tear Fund was reinstated at this meeting with a cash collection being uplifted. Use of the card reader for donations will be explored with Neil Planner
* It was noted that David Beckett had agreed to join the rota of drivers who collect Gordon MacInally from Daniel House and bring him to church. There are currently 4 drivers offering this service on a rota basis

Kirk Session minute of 6th August was approved

1. DISCUSSION TOPIC

A Powerpoint presentation regarding changes to how we organise Elders’ contact with our membership was made by the moderator and Elders were subsequently asked to work in small groups to consider:

* what the visiting needs might be for the members of their districts
* a draft letter which would be sent to all members outlining the need for change in how Elders carry out pastoral visiting
* a proposed timetable for implementing changes
* the need for a revised pastoral visiting group for those members who are house-bound or in Care Homes

Following discussion in small groups, the general consensus was that

* The proposed timetable was appropriate
* The draft letter was somewhat over detailed and repetitious and would benefit from being more focussed and concise. It was agreed that a revised version would be produced.
* Concern was expressed that members would feel that by asking for a visit they were being a burden.
* Elders would wish to hand-deliver the letters where possible, and that this would allow for face-to-face discussion of needs
* It was felt that the setting up of a pastoral visiting group should be a priority, but that its remit would not be clear until the information from Elders and letters was collated
* A main driver of this piece of work should be to ensure that contact is made asap with people in districts which currently have no Elder
* Elders recognised and accepted that they would need to be flexible in visiting extra homes
* It was suggested that perhaps visiting fewer that 4 times per year (around Communion Services) would allow greater flexibility to visit more households.

The following people volunteered to join a working group with the Minister, Session Clerk and Pastoral Care Worker to go through the lists of people in districts with no Elder:

Nancy Fisher, Jan Barr, Anne Mann, Niall Illingworth

Volunteers to deliver letters to houses in districts with no current Elder should please email the Session Clerk

1. WRITTEN REPORTS

6.1 Communion Roll Currently stands at 634 (at 31/07/23) from 651 (at 31/12/22)

6.2 Finance Report As circulated

6.3 Fabric Report As circulated In addition, Tony Ireland gave in update on the Roof Project – summary to be attached to minute

6.4 Sub Committees

a) Worship - nothing to report

b) Children and Youth Ministry as circulated

c) Mission - as circulated

d) Planning and Communication - as circulated

e) Pastoral Care nothing to report

6.5 Correspondence none

6.6 Health and Safety nothing to report

6.7 Food Hygiene nothing to report

6.8 Safeguarding nothing to report

6.9 Insurance nothing to report

6.10 Presbytery Report none

7 AOCB

7.1 The Session Clerk formally welcomed David Thomson to the Kirk Session and thanked him for taking on his roll with the finance committee.

The Session Clerk also wished to record the gratitude of the Kirk Session – and indeed the congregation – to her predecessor Stuart Buchanan for his dedicated service as Session Clerk.

7.2 A document prepared by John Montgomery outlining discussions which have been had by the Trustees of 278 BB Company regarding the future of their minibus was read to the session (in John’s absence). At this stage the document was for the Session’s information and there is no immediate time pressure for any change to be made. It was suggested that this would perhaps be a discussion topic for our next meeting.

Points raised from the floor for consideration were:

* Use of a legacy from Jess Thompson as a fund to maintain the minibus
* That the minibus is essential for transport to church services and to the Monday Lunch Club
* The insurance implications for the Church if they own the minibus
* The need to widen use of the bus to increase revenue
* Ensuring fitting recompense to the BB for what is currently their asset

7.3 Several members had raised the issue of installing handrails to improve the accessibility of the Chancel area for those with decreased mobility. Iain Alexander is pursuing the purchase of a set of removable steps which will have handrails on both sides and can be placed over the existing steps. Quotes for carrying out the work are awaited.

7.4 Anyone wishing to attend Greenbank Church on 1st October for Rev. Jeanne Roddick’s final service prior to retirement should contact Elinor Mair

7.5 Marjorie Lang requested help to sort out archive material so that appropriate items can be sent to 121 George Street for storage. Gordon Lang, Bruce Young, Alan McDonald and Barbara Cochrane kindly offered to help. It was suggested that the BB minibus could be used to transport the material.

7.6 Additional meeting dates:

Christmas Tree Festival planning - Tuesday 12th September - Vestry

Rearranged Worship Committee - Wednesday 13th September - Vestry

Cluster Group Meeting - Thursday 7th September at Greenbank Church

8. FUTURE MEETINGS

Kirk Session at 7:30pm on Monday 6th November

Committee and Group Meetings – as per schedules issued

9. The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace