

## Netherlee and Stamperland Church

Kirk Session met at 7.30pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### 1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe with Prayer.

### 2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

There were 38 Elders present with apologies from 10 Elders as per the Sederunt sheet.

### 3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was agreed with 5 items under AOCB from the Kirk Session, with 7 additional items from the Session Clerk.

### 4 DISCUSSION TOPIC(S) – *there being no major single topic we will begin with items of Any Other Competent Business*

#### 1) Communion

Scott Blythe reminded us of the changes to our procedures we were forced to make due to the coronavirus pandemic. He has received positive comments about how we now serve communion. People like the movement in the sanctuary, being with other members as they communicate, and no longer have a fear of dropping the wine trays as they pass them along the pew. Others said they liked seeing the minister moving out to serve those who cannot or chose not to make the walk to the front. He intimated others have asked the question are we going to return to how we served communion before Covid. As such Scott felt the timing was right to ask Session for their views and invited comments and questions.

Willi Povey stated she liked the new way and was not keen to return to the old ways which were more complicated. With there being no further comments or questions Scott asked Session if they were happy to stay as we are. The majority of those present agreed. Scott asked elders to let any folk who asked them know the subject has been aired and this was our decision.

#### 2) Christmas services

John Montgomery having watched all the services online felt each brought something different to our worship, and therefore he was not keen to see us cut back the diet of worship we offer as had been mooted at the previous Kirk Session. In particular he felt the Watchnight was very innovative and personal.

Niall Illingworth concurred, but did mention the lack of a Duty Team at some services, which the Session Clerk apologised for, stating this was an administrative error. Scott said this was pleasing feedback and intimated that this feedback would be taken on board by the Worship & Adult Education group.

#### 3) Organist

Steven Crawford has been our organist for 25years, and Scott felt we should do something to mark this service, citing Easter as perhaps a good time for such a celebration.

After a short discussion it was agreed that a small group would be formed – John Montgomery, May McFadyean, Sheona Moore and Doris Duncan (post-meeting) volunteered – to decide how best to proceed and to keep Session informed.

#### 4) Use of Halls

Dagmar Kerr spoke to a decision at a previous Kirk Session where we declined a request for a fund raising concert in our sanctuary, and questioned that with hindsight we might see this differently if trying to be a friendly church open to our community. Scott reminded us that the reason for the refusal was the money raised would have benefitted an individual - a Scout travelling to a Jamboree - whereas the concerts we have allowed raise money for charitable organisations and causes, recent examples being Lodging House Mission and Ukraine.

Following a robust discussion with several different views it was concluded that as a Kirk

Session we should retain an oversight of this matter rather than allow anyone to use our premises to raise funds. Common sense suggests most cases can be dealt with by the Minister and Session Clerk, however, if in any doubt it should be referred to the Session for a decision, by email if required. When asked the majority of those present agreed with this approach.

#### 5) Cleanliness of fridge, freezer and dishwashers

Iain Alexander (Health & Safety) informed Session that with multiple users of our premises issues have arisen with the cleanliness of our fridge, freezer and dishwashers. To rectify this is not within the scope of our cleaner.

The hope is that volunteers will help and form a rota to help maintain these 3 items by cleaning them say once a month. Scott asked if Session thought this was the way forward, the majority if those present agreed. Volunteers please speak to Iain Alexander and/or Malcolm MacVey.

#### 6) Rollkeeper

Stuart Buchanan (Session Clerk) informed Session that sadly for health reasons Mabel Bell is standing down as our Rollkeeper after 20 years dedicated and diligent service. He has written to her thanking her on behalf of the congregation and the Session. With help from Elspeth who transferred our Membership into an electronic format, which is what he inherited from Bill Paterson, we now have a Netherlee and Stamperland Communion Roll in Excel format which is user friendly. This exercise highlighted that our elders were counted twice in our Membership, once for the district they are in and once for the district they look after, and rectifying this lowered our Roll by 75. Stuart reported on the changes in the Communion Roll for November and December 2022 and January 2023. The recently completed Congregational Statistical return for Presbytery showed that following 1 admission by Certificate, 9 removals by Death and 45 removals by Certificate, our Roll at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 stood at 651.

As this Roll has just been created it is not appropriate to attest it tonight. A copy will be left in the Lesser Sanctuary until early March, available for all members to check and notify us of any amendments they think necessary. The Roll can be attested at the Session on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

#### 7) Duty Teams

Stuart updated Session on the 3 volunteers (plus 3 on a reserve list – happy days!) from the congregation now enabling the Duty Teams to fully operate again.

#### 8) Whistleblowing policy

Previously issued. Scott asked for questions, there were none so he moved to ask Session were they happy to adopt this policy. The majority of those present agreed.

#### 9) Count and Bank the Offering

Dennis Burt continues to do a marvellous job, but as his recent short absence showed, we need to make sure we have a Plan B ready. Action – John, Stuart and Ronnie on the case to make sure we help and support the Duty Teams.

#### 10) Boys' Brigade

Stuart read some key points from email correspondence between a concerned member of Session (Marilyn Love) and the 278 BB Captain (Alistair Haw). Essentially they are suffering from the same seismic societal changes that are impacting greatly on our church. Former traditional activities such as Coffee Mornings and Christmas Card delivery are no longer viable as staff have work and family commitments Also when there was an attempt to re-start the Parents Committee, nobody turned up!

The 231 and 278 Anchor Boys and Junior Sections still meet separately and feed boys into the 231/278 Company section which operates a single unit. This model is being promoted by BB HQ and our two Captains have been asked to present on their experience at the next Glasgow Battalion meeting.

Sadly the above scenario is well known to us all and it is unlikely we have any easy, quick solutions that we could implement. Helen Illingworth commented that perhaps others could pick

up an activity like the Coffee Morning and run it to raise funds for the BB. Scott commended Session to think about this, and anything else we could do to support the BB.

### **11) Home baking**

Request for home baking to serve at the “do” after the filming involving Michaela after the service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February. This request will be repeated on the next two Sundays. Donations to be brought to the kitchen prior to worship on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

### **12) Safeguarding**

Delighted to report that Jane Curror has successfully completed her training as a Safeguarding Coordinator. Session Clerk asked for formal approval of this appointment and all those present agreed.

#### **Safeguarding – insertion for the Inspection of Records**

It is certified that Safeguarding recruitment procedures are being adhered to, an accurate record is being held of all persons doing regulated Work with Children and Protected Adults in organisations under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session and that the Congregation’s Safeguarding Coordinators are appropriately trained to allow these persons to be accredited as authorised signatories for PVG record checks.

Our Safeguarding panel was formed in 2020. The Minister cannot be a member as following any situation there is likely to be a pastoral role. Current members are Bruce Young, Glenda Cook and Stuart Buchanan.

## **5 WRITTEN REPORTS**

Scott asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose or highlights to mention:

**Finance** – John Montgomery (Finance Convener) commented that we had a surplus of 1,260 in the January figures but cautioned reading too much into one month’s figures. He echoed the need to prepare support for the Duty Teams regarding Dennis Burt. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Fabric** – nothing not already in the report. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Worship & Adult Education** – nothing to report. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Children & Youth Ministry** – Helen Illingworth (Convener) highlighted two recent events. Christmas Tree Festival – quite successful and next time they are considering expanding to get more community involvement. Fun Games Night – could have had more attendees, however, was a well worth running for Gordon McNally and others from Daniel House. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Mission** – inclement weather so no meeting – nothing to report. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Planning & Communication** – nothing to report. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Health & Safety** – nothing to report. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Food Hygiene** – nothing to report. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Insurance** – nothing to report. Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

**Presbytery** – Alistair Gow (additional elder) commented that for several months the focus has been on our new Mission Plan. The plan Presbytery approved at the end of 2022 was rejected by the General Trustees (GT) because in places it was too vague. January saw meetings within our cluster and the major step change has been Busby agreeing to a Link leading to Union with Greenbank, rather than the previous position of a deferment. In addition we now have more specific objectives with regard to improving our work in the areas of pastoral care and families. It is hoped the revised plan will be approved by Presbytery at their March meeting.

Scott intimated that future discussions and decisions concerning the revamping of the Greenbank site will take place at joint meetings of the Kirk Sessions of Busby and Greenbank.

Scott provided feedback on two further items –

- Pastoral Care – we are still trying to plan an event for all elders in our cluster – Busby, Greenbank and Netherlee and Stamperland – to discuss how we move forward providing this beyond the “broken district system” that everyone is experiencing. It is hoped to have someone from Presbytery to help facilitate this event in February / March.
- Pioneer Minister Coordinator – this post has existed in the Church of England for the last 10-15 years, and is now being piloted in the Church of Scotland. They look at new ways of doing things. We feel this may help us working with families. Scott, Jerry Eve (Busby) and Helen Illingworth will work with this over the next few months.

Scott asked the Trustees if they had any questions. There were none.

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. The majority of those present agreed.

## **6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

Kirk Session minute of 07/11//2022 was approved.

## **7 FUTURE MEETINGS and our next COMMUNION**

- Kirk Session at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (accounts)
- Kirk Session at 7:30pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023
  
- Stated Annual Meeting at 11:45am on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023
  
- Group and Committee meetings as per schedules issued
  
- Communion at 10:30am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023
  - Meeting at 9:00am to help David Beckett (Communion Elder) are Elaine Balfour and Niall Illingworth

## **8 CLOSE**

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

### **ANNEX WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING**

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Scott Blythe  
**Minister**

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Stuart Buchanan  
**Session Clerk**