

Netherlee and Stamperland (Church of Scotland)

Kirk Session via Zoom

7.30pm on Wednesday 17th June 2020

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe with Prayer.

2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

There were 44 Elders present with apologies from 7 Elders as per the Sederunt Sheet.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with 2 additional items under AOCB.

4 DISCUSSION TOPIC

In line with regulations and advice from the Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland and our National Church; we propose the following:

- **When we enter Phase 2 we will aim to open for private prayer on a Wednesday morning from 10am until 12 noon. This will alternate weekly between our two sanctuaries.**
- **When we enter Phase 3 we will aim to open for worship in our dual services format, i.e.10am at Netherlee and 11.30am at Stamperland.**

The above proposals also depend on us getting sufficient volunteers to staff these services.

Scott explained the formation of our Beyond Lockdown Team (BLT) and the planned 4 Phases within the route map out of lockdown from the Scottish Government. We also have advice and guidance from our National Church which includes extensive forms regarding our buildings and risk assessment which need to be completed before we are allowed to open any of our buildings.

Some of our members are very keen to return to worship. Others are terrified of leaving their homes for any reason as they are still shielding. Of course we all sit somewhere on this spectrum. Stories in the press of people over 70 etc not being welcomed or allowed into church as just poor journalism. However, everyone has their own personal risk assessment to do, and for some Phase 2 or 3 might be too early. Our task is to make sure that when we open we make our places safe for people to enter, to use and to leave.

As well as following the advice and guidance from the Scottish Government and National Church, we need to make sure we have sufficient volunteers to staff whatever we do. Scott asked everyone to think this through very carefully and decide whether they are prepared to do this or not. If not, Scott asked Elders to contact Stuart and let him know. If people wish to help in other ways as the BLT plan things to get us ready then can you also please email Stuart and let him know.

Following a number of very good questions which all seemed to be satisfactorily answered, Scott asked the Session if it was in favour of our proposals (see above) for moving forward with private prayer (Phase 2) and worship (Phase 3). Those present overwhelmingly agreed.

Scott close by asking Elders to

- (1) Think about their willingness to take part in the Duty Teams and let Stuart know if not.
- (2) Let Stuart know if they are willing to help the BLT with tasks as we ease out of lockdown.
- (3) Spread the word about this to their Districts, the congregation and wider community.

5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (a) Proposal from Finance Committee to distribute a plant to our isolated and vulnerable members, many who are shielding. This was unanimously approved via email returns. Allan Mathieson has negotiated an arrangement with Linda Culshaw (member and local trader) to supply and deliver for £5 per person. Removes all issues of asking Elders to deliver. Unanimous agreement to proceed. Volunteer required to co-ordinate list of nominated members – thank you Helen Illingworth. Elders to email Helen directly with names and addresses. Stuart will do via separate email with deadline. (done)
- (b) Resignations previously intimated by email but which Stuart forgot to raise this evening –

Anne Johnston (8th February 2020)

I wrote to Anne at the time and thanked her for her contribution as an Elder since her Ordination in 2004. Delighted to say that at the time (old normal) Anne intimated she was happy to continue as an Offering Steward. If my memory serves me correctly this was announced at the Elder's Conference at the beginning of March, but what I didn't do was minute this. Nor at the Netherlee Trustees meeting that same month, and now it is June and we have had no Session meetings since the start of the year!

Pamela Hamilton (10th June 2020)

I have written to thank her for her service as an Elder since she was Admitted in 2006, and wish her all the best as it looks like she will be seeking to worship elsewhere in the future.

Ronnie Kirkwood (13th June 2020)

I have written to thank him for his service as an Elder, and wish him all the best as it looks like he will be seeking to worship elsewhere in the future.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

- Kirk Session meetings via Zoom will be held as and when we need to make decisions as we ease out of lockdown.
- Group and Committee meetings as per schedules issued.

7 CLOSE

The meeting was closed by Rev Scott Blythe with Prayer.

Scott Blythe
Minister

Stuart Buchanan
Session Clerk