

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

The Kirk Session met in the church hall on the evening of 28 March 2018. The Rev. Hilda Smith opened the meeting with a short reading from Mark Chapter 14: verses 3-11, before formally constituting the meeting with prayer.

Sederunt

Rev. Hilda Smith (Moderator), Elma Munro, Fiona Cameron, Ian Davidson, Jessie Cranston, Margaret Davidson, Margaret Jacobsen, Mary MacDonald, May Taylor and Sandy Taylor.

Apologies for Absence:

Edna Armstrong, Frances Fleming and Malcolm MacFadyen

1. Minutes

The minute of the meeting of the Kirk Session held on 11 January 2108 were agreed; proposed by Elma Munro, seconded by Margaret Davidson.

The minute of the meeting of the Kirk Session held on 25 February 2108 were agreed; proposed by May Taylor, seconded by Margaret Jacobsen.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Correspondence

Sandy reported that he had received

a. Notice of a meeting to be held in Falkirk on 5 May, in respect of conference on the Path of Renewal; presented by *Tod Bolsinger*, who is to speak on Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory. Price £15. Hilda encouraged Elders to attend as we set out on our journey on the Path of Renewal. Hilda confirmed her attendance.

b. Confirmation that we are scheduled for a Local Church Review, with the first visit from the 'review' team on 10 May. Hilda advised that we should meet as a Kirk Session on that evening.

c. Confirmation that the Attestation of Records would take place on 24th April, at Ardrishaig North Hall.

Decision: The Kirk Session noted these dates

3. Reports

i. Presbytery

The Presbytery

i. Ministry Committee

- is anxious to find more pastoral carers around the Presbytery who will commit to pastoral care for a small number of people. Getting in touch with them 2/3 times annually and seeing them face to face at least once a year. (Further details from Margaret Jacobsen)
- seeks to identifying Readers and Elders across the Presbytery who can be trained and supported to take funerals.

ii. Property Committee - is considering the possibility of retaining a building consultant who could support local committees in looking at their buildings.

iii. Mission Committee – is interested in identifying those projects involving service to the community (in which churches and church members are engaged) and for people with knowledge of farming who might offer support to farmers.

Members noted that

- there are currently 12 vacant charges
- the local congregational review – pilot scheme - is progressing well, with a further 8 charges to be reviewed in the Summer

ii. **Treasurer's Report**

General	£5,031.61	Youth Fellowship	£306.24
Project	£35,137.27	Social (Hall & Café)	£5,602.35
Fabric	£2,266.54	Benevolent Fund	£46.03

There is little change in Free Will offerings this year so far (£4,369.50) with Open Plate fluctuating but again much the same for the 3 months to date (£869.94). Regular planned expenditure for D/Ds & S/Os is around £2750 monthly, therefore we can still expect a shortfall of approx. £1000 per month without fundraising or extraordinary income (an extra sum of £671.42 was paid out in January for one off annual payments, but a donation of £600 was also received which largely offset this).

As advised at the meeting for the approval of accounts, if this continues, then the balance of the General Fund will be more or less depleted by the end of 2018.

January – March 2018

Income £7,348.74, compared to Expenditure £9,047.53 = shortfall of £1,698.79

Mary highlighted the receipt of an invoice of £750 for Path of Renewal, which was more than the suggested 'cost' reported to the Kirk Session and that which might have been expected.

Decision: Mary undertook to seek a deferred payment schedule.

2018 Budget

The Kirk Session approved a Financial Budget Forecast for 2018, which indicated an estimated Income of £34,732, and expenditure of £39,560.

Decision: Kirk Session Noted and agreed the proposed Budget, notwithstanding the suggested annual deficit.

iii. **Safeguarding**

No report. Cathleen to report to next Kirk Session.

iv. **Fabric**

v. **Outreach**

No report

vi. **Fabric**

Repairs to Church Building

As reported at the January Session meeting, we received approval from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland to go ahead with the essential repairs required to the Church building. The Trustees also confirmed that they were prepared to offer £10000 as a grant towards the cost of the works. The works are required to make the building wind and watertight and will include repairs to the roof, replacement of lead flashings, repointing of the masonry walls and repairs to the rainwater goods.

The Property Committee has since met with John Gleeson, Conservation Architect, when it was agreed that he would prepare tender documents for pricing by at least 5 contractors, with a view to starting the works in late May, early June. To some extent, the date for a start on site will be determined by the funds available and, in the meantime, I am progressing with applications to other grant funding bodies, in the

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hope that works can proceed with minimal effect on the funds set aside for the Renewal Project.

The Health & Safety Policy folder is now available and is located on the windowsill in the kitchen.

A survey of the gravestones in the churchyard has identified 12 stones, which are in an unstable condition. I will obtain quotations and arrange for them to be made safe. In the meantime, these will be identified with warning tape and notices.

The Hall rear door to the parking area was caught by a gust of wind and has been damaged and will need to be replaced. I have asked M&K Macleod and Duncan Hunter for a quotation for the replacement door.

Decisions:

The Kirk Session noted the report

vii. ***Congregational Roll***

No report

viii. ***Social Committee Report***

- Briefly, Roberta is to organise Saturday's Coffee Morning and May, Wednesday's Beetle Drive.
- Pentecostal Lunch will be on 20 May; Margaret is considering whether we might have a 'picnic lunch' in the church grounds.
- Margaret asked members if they could participate in the "open Gardens Scheme"

ix. ***Malawi Twinning Group***

No report

x. ***Moving On – Mid Argyll (MO-MA)***

No report.

4. Path of Renewal

Hilda opened our discussion with a commentary on the parlous state of church, here in Argyll and in Scotland, where there are real problems with a reducing number of ordained Ministers. Hilda spoke of the need for a new ministry, and leadership in the church. Need for a new Christian Leadership which will see our church develop in new ways, developing new connections with our community.

Hilda asked members to consider where *our church has come from, is and will be in the future?* Members used tabled materials to set out their responses in 'three circles'. Members participated freely and entered into discussion as they shared their views. Generally, members spoke of *dutiful worship/the place of the church in local society/attendance levels* and today, as a *welcoming church, serving its community* and in the future, more *informal, lively/joyful, all encompassing community church, more outgoing and engaging church – which leads a community of faith with a focus on relationship-building, and which is founded on shared faith* (... some of the captured views ... not a record of a settled position).

Hilda undertook to develop this discussion in future meetings of this sort, with elders and the wider congregation.

5. Worship

Hilda reported the following key dates:

8 April

John L. Morrison

