

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

At Lochgilphead and within the Church Hall the Kirk Session met on the 13th May 2009. Following a short reading from Psalm 23 by the Minister, the meeting was constituted with a prayer.

Sederunt

Rev. Hilda C Smith (Moderator), Bill Kennedy, Chris Stevenson, Edna Armstrong, Frances Fleming, Frank Killeen, Ian Davidson, Jessie Cranston, Jim Morrison, Malcolm MacFadyen, Margaret Davidson, May Taylor, Roddy Morrison, Tom Stevenson and Sandy Taylor (Session Clerk)

Apologies

Apologies for absence were presented in respect of Alex Emslie and Mary MacDonald

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Kirk Session, held on the 13th May, 2009 were approved.

Matters Arising

i. **Review of the Presbytery Structure**

The Session considered again the Church of Scotland's consultation on the Review of the Presbytery Structure, which is to be reported on at the 2010 Assembly. The Session considered how best to ensure that the congregation were involved in the provision of a response from Lochgilphead Parish Church.

The Session agreed to prepare a response to the Church of Scotland's Consultation on an Alternative Presbytery Structure, by:

- a. Synthesising the views and comments submitted by elders to the Session Clerk, which would be used to prepare a draft Lochgilphead Parish Church response
- b. Further consideration of the draft response, which would be the subject of discussion and fall to be agreed at the next meeting of the Kirk Session, on 2nd September, and
- c. Representation of the agreed response to the congregation, when it is hoped the congregation, might be able to endorse a Lochgilphead Parish Church response.

ii. **Elder Training**

Although nothing had as yet been firmed up, the Session agreed that the training should be structured around the identified needs of elders; including dedicated sessions on bereavement, prayer, and managing home visits. The ***Session agreed that these sessions, which would be of the order of 2-3 hours in duration, would be added to our Kirk Session Work Plans 2009 and 2010, with one or more delivered before the end of 2009.***

iii. **Bible Study**

In response to a question as to the lack of any bible study sessions of late, Hilda spoke of the factors which had precluded the organisation of a study session of late. Hilda returned to an earlier representation to the Session, to the effect that she need not necessarily lead these sessions, and that she would be confident in the abilities of any elder to assume this responsibility. Hilda reflected on the fact that Roddy Morrison had lead the last class and that both Mary MacDonald and Margaret Jacobsen had agreed to do so.

(Contd. Matters arising iii Bible Study)

Hilda asked if Tom Stevenson, who had raised the question, might not himself take the lead at one or more future sessions, using currently available tutorial/support materials. Tom undertook to do so.

iv. **Session Clerk's Conference**

The Session Clerk reported that his application for a place on the Annual Session Clerks' Conference has been unsuccessful, due to over-subscription to the event.

2. Correspondence

The Session Clerk reported receipt of the following correspondence.

- i. An invitation to attend a Volunteer Sector Networking meeting to be held in Lochgilphead Community Centre on the afternoon of 8th July. ***The Session agreed this should be intimated to the congregation***
- ii. The ***Session agreed to send for an additional 20 copies of the Church of Scotland Annual Review 2009, to be made available to the congregation.***
- iii. ***The Session agreed to make the Saint Andrew Press Catalogue 2009-10 available for perusal by the congregation.***

3. Substantive Business

i. Homelessness

The Kirk Session welcomed Myra MacDonald's earlier presentation which gave them an enhanced understanding of the problem of homelessness in Mid Argyll (and in Scotland as a whole). The Session welcomed the work of the Scottish Churches Housing Action, which working together with the main churches in Scotland was working to rid Scotland of homelessness. The Lochgilphead Parish Church Kirk Session agreed that the Church had the potential to play a positive part in supporting those in need, perhaps through the provision of Home Starter and Personal Well-being packs which some churches in the area were already committed to. ***The Kirk Session decided that they should settle on the way forward, having first attended the proposed Scottish Churches Housing Action meeting planned for Lochgilphead in the ensuing week.*** Members of the Session were encouraged to confirm their interest to Ian Davidson who would, in turn forward names and contact details to Myra. It is hoped that Margaret Jacobsen might be able to attend and report back to

ii. Child Protection

Jim Morrison, the Church's Child Protection Co-ordinator made a presentation to the Session about the stringent controls required and processes to be adhered to in order to satisfy the regulatory expectations of the Church of Scotland in relation to Child Protection and the appointment of Children's Workers, in particular.

Developing the Session's understanding and appreciation, Jim emphasised the gravity of the responsibility held by the Kirk Session for the appointment of Children's Workers. "Working" his way through these procedures Jim asked Members to agree the recruitment and appointment of Margaret Hall Jacobsen based on his assessment of her suitability, which included in addition to his interview with her:

- a. Margaret's application form
- b. Two references
- c. A caring for Children Declaration, and
- d. A disclosure check at Enhanced level

(Contd. Item 3. ii. Child Protection)

The Kirk Session noted the Job Description for a Childrens' Worker, working in the LPC Toucan Club, as prepared by Jim Morrison and his Child Protection team.

The Kirk Session agreed the recruitment and appointment of Miss Margaret Hall Jacobsen as Childrens' Worker.

The Session Clerk was asked to send the form SG5, as completed by the LPC Child Protection Co-ordinator, Jim Morrison to the Church of Scotland.

Hilda suggested to the Kirk Session that the Session consider the criteria for the formal appointment of the LPC Safeguarding (Child Protection) Committee.

iii. Malawi Twinning

Hilda reported on the meetings to date and provided some detail of the one Malawi church congregation which seeks a mission partnership.

Kasamba CCAP Congregation is a newly established church, and is located in the Central Region of Malawi, to the East of the Capital City of Malawi - Lilongwe. The Congregation has one thousand six hundred and sixty three (1,663) Christians and five hundred and seventy six (576) Sunday school children.

The Kasamba Congregation wants to develop a twinning in order to:

- Widen Christian networking across frontiers.
- Have a cross-cultural learning on Christian life and faith.
- Maintain a missionary bond.
- Share experience.
- Enhance our historic relation.
- Network with Scottish church members

The Kasamba Congregation anticipate that in doing so, they will benefit through ...

- Cross-cultural Christian experiences (sharing and learning)
- Knowledge and experience in Urban Ministry
- Knowledge and experience in inter-faith dialogue and ecumenical affairs
- Expertise in Ministry and HIV/AIDS within Church circles.
- Church and society experiences
- Leadership training

The Kirk Session agreed that Lochgilphead Parish Church should commit to a mission partnership with the Kasamba CCAP congregation.

Hilda reported that up to two people from the twinned churches will have the opportunity to travel to Malawi to realise the benefits of twinning.

iv. Review of Kirk Session Work Plan 2009

On reviewing the Kirk Session Work Plan 2009, the ***Kirk Session determined that the Plan would better relate to the Lochgilphead Parish Church year if it ran from September to August, each year.***

The ***Session agreed the value of the Plan in ensuring that it maintained its focus and noted the success of the Session in delivering the Work Plan to date.*** The Session Clerk agreed to produce a report on the Eco-congregation for the next meeting. The ***Session agreed that five members should work (through e-mail) in the interim to produce a draft Work Plan for 2009-10***, comprising Hilda Smith, Malcolm MacFadyen, Ian Davidson and Roddy Morrison, in addition to the Session Clerk.

v. Review of LPC Congregation New Year Resolutions

Hilda reported that she would review the New Year resolutions made by the congregation in January of the year, as part of the Family Service on Sunday 28th June.

vi. **Session Clerk: Holiday Relief**

The Session considered the arrangements which need be put in place to provide cover for the duties undertaken by the Session Clerk, when on holiday during July and early August 2009. The Session agreed that Hilda should ask visiting Ministers to read the Intimations and the organist to put the Hymn numbers up, etc. and asked the Session Clerk to prepare a list of prospective intimations, to be which members of the Session, the Guild etc. will add things to be noted on the day.

vii. **Service Pamphlet**

Sandy asked for feedback on the recently introduced Service Pamphlet which provides a mix of information about the Service, intimations etc. and those at work on the day. The Session expressed the view that this welcome development should continue.

4. Church Calendar

i. **Worship**

28th June 2009 – Family Service (The Service will feature a presentation to those children who regularly attended the Toucan Club).

ii. **Moderator's Annual Leave Arrangements**

The Moderator advised that she would be on annual leave from 14th July to 11th August, returning to work in time for the Flower Festival. Hilda confirmed the arrangements made for pulpit supply during this period; when the Reverends Stanley Hood (20th July and 9th August) and Douglas Bell (27th July and 2nd August), would lead the Services.

iii. **Admission of Elder: Margaret Jacobson**

Hilda reported that it would not now be possible to admit Margaret to eldership until after the holiday break. Hilda advised that she had hoped to conduct the ceremony of admission to the eldership at the same time as that for new communicants, however, the prospective candidates had not proceeded as expected as this may not be possible. In response to a query regarding the delay which Margaret has and would continue to experience pending her admission, perhaps in September, Hilda advised that she had maintained good contact with Margaret and that she was already working with Margaret on a number of things, who was not unhappy with the prospective timeframe.

5. Additional Business

The Moderator accepted, for consideration, a request from Bill Kennedy that a number of song books and hymnaries are provided at the end of each pew. On hearing that Bill and others had difficulty seeing the words on the screen when the projector is used, the ***Session agreed to try to make the screen more visible to those seated in the pews to entrance side of the Church.***

6. Forthcoming Meeting(s) of the Kirk Session

The planned dates of the next meetings of the Kirk Session were confirmed as 2nd September and 4th November 2009.

The meeting closed with the Benediction

Moderator

Clerk

Date: