

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

The Kirk Session met in the church hall on the evening of 6 June 2019. The Rev. Hilda Smith opened the meeting with a short reading from Matthew Chapter 4: 18-22, and spoke of Jesus calling His first disciples, before formally constituting the meeting with prayer.

Sederunt

Rev. Hilda Smith (Moderator), Edna Armstrong, Elma Munro, Frances Fleming, Ian Davidson, Jessie Cranston Jim Morrison, Malcolm MacFadyen, Margaret Davidson, Mary MacDonald, May Taylor, and Sandy Taylor.

Apologies for Absence:

Margaret Jacobsen

1. Minutes

The Session agreed the minutes of the meeting of the Kirk Session meetings held on 6 November 2018 and 3 March 2019, subject to an amendment of the latter. These were approved.

6 November – proposed by May Taylor, seconded by Ian Davidson.

3 March - proposed by Mary MacDonald, seconded by Margaret Davidson.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Correspondence

i. The **Kirk Session decided** to appoint, once again, Margaret Jacobsen as our Presbytery Elder representative.

ii. Sandy reported receipt of several items of correspondence. Ian and Sandy indicated their willingness to participate in a fundraising event – ‘Zip Slide the Clyde’ – on behalf of EMMS.

3. Reports

i. *Presbytery*

Presbytery met in The United Church of Bute on Tuesday of this week, when Mr Douglas Allan a Reader and Elder was inducted as **Moderator of Argyll Presbytery**.

Rev Dr Ken Ross is now a Mission Partner and will be stationed in **Malawi** for the next 4 years. Argyll Presbytery was one of only three Scottish Presbyteries to raise money to support the training of Ministers in Malawi (£2,365.28).

Jim Malcolm will be set apart as a reader at a special service at GKF Church at Kilmartin on 3d July at 7.00pm.

Local Congregational Review - The minutes of the Superintendence committee state: Lochgilphead, visitation on process, draft report completed, action plan required. This report to be sent to the September Presbytery. To this end, an invitation will be sent to the Minister and the Kirk Session to attend the meeting of the Superintendence committee on 30th July at 1.45 in Culloden Parish Church.

The **Churches of Central and South East Cowal** have agreed to a union between The High Kirk Dunoon, St John's, Innellan Kirk and Sandbank and Toward, as have Culloden, Lochfyneside & Lochgair, Glenary and Inveraray.

Margaret Jacobsen has been appointed as Interim Moderator for Inveraray Parish Church.

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ii. **Finance** (*balances as at 29th May 2019*)

General Fund

The income and expenditure figures are as below for the period January – May 2019 showing the overall deficit between them.

Fundraising income this year to date of £1,242 and 2 Donations totalling £1,600 are included in these figures. A transfer of £2,000 was made from Project Fund on 13th May to enable regular DDs to be paid that month. The General Fund must always remain in credit.

January – May 2019

| | | |
|-------------|----------|--|
| Income | £ 11,760 | (does not include £2,000 transfer which is not income) |
| Expenditure | £ 15,846 | = Deficit of £4,086 |

FWO averaged £1,443 monthly for this period and OP averaged £204 monthly. As you can see, expenditure continues to exceed income and cash flow is now a big problem. Gift Aid Tax of approx. £2,700 will be received in June and this will temporarily ease the situation for June.

We have been reliant on the fundraising from Coffee Mornings etc., which has been less this year so far. We should also be receiving some extra income in July from some of the fundraising currently on-going such as Sponsored Slim, Pennies in bags, old mobile phones etc. However, we cannot rely on this as regular steady income. We can only hope that this extra income will ease the situation each month and cover any unexpected expenditure required from time to time.

We need to have an on-going credit balance to work with and unfortunately the only way at present to achieve this is to make a substantial transfer from the Project Fund, which will keep us going for 2019.

My estimate for this figure is £5,000.

Fabric Fund

Quarterly Retiring Offerings for Fabric will continue, next one being at the end of August 2019.

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|
| General | £3,292.50 | Youth Fellowship | £977.82 |
| Project | £40,183.44 | Social (Hall & Café) | £2,439.17 |
| Fabric | £3,671.76 | | |
| Benevolent Fund | £46.03 | | |

Speaking to her report Mary advised that the biggest out-going was to Ministry & Mission. She spoke to the transfer from the Project Fund which had created a Reserve of £5,000 as at 1 Jan 2019, but which had dropped to £450 by May, requiring another £2000 transfer on 13 May.

The Session discussed how we might address this. The Session, unanimously agreed that were we to invite every member of the congregation to increase their giving by £1 per week, this would realise £5,000 per annum.

Decision: The Session determined that Mary should write to all members of the Congregation inviting them to increase their giving by 1 per week, and that she bring back a report to our next meeting on other measures including the engagement of the wider community in the support of their Parish Church

Non-Participating Elders

The Session Clerk related the advice given to him by '121', regarding the removal of non-participating elders from the Kirk Session, and importantly their role and responsibilities as charitable Trustees.

The Clerk advised that he had distinguished between those trustees who no longer attend

church, and those incapable of attending, or fulfilling the full range of duties and responsibilities of an elder, and Trustee.

ADVICE where an elder has absented himself or herself , there is a provision in section 36(a) of the Church Courts Act (Act III 2000) as follows:

36. (a) If an elder has absented himself or herself from the meetings of the Kirk Session for more than a year without due cause deemed satisfactory by the Kirk Session, the Kirk Session may find, after giving due notice for his or her interest, that he or she has ceased to hold office in that congregation.

ADVICE ... where his is just about people becoming less active and less able

If this is just about people becoming less active and less able to carry out their duties then the Session can agree to allow elders to retire from the Session.

Such people will still be elders, given that they were ordained for life, and can still undertake some pastoral duties, but they would not be charity trustees involved in Session business.

Decision: The Session decided that the Clerk write to former Elders no attending church or the Session, advising them of their intention to remove them from their role as a Trustee, inviting them to say why this should not happen.

iii. **Safeguarding**

No report

iv. **Outreach**

Hilda spoke to recent contact with the PWAM group and a proposal that the Challenger bus return to Lochgilphead in the week 26-30 August.

Decision: The Session agreed to support this and to look to members of the congregation to provide home hosting for the team and other support.

v. **Fabric**

Decisions: Having heard from Ian, the Session agreed:

1. To replace the electrical supply distribution board at a cost of £1850, and
2. To secure the professional services of John Peace, Architect, to advise on and progress, as required, any retrospective planning application for the replacement of the cupola and associated lead work, at a cost of £1200

to be funded from the Project account.

Ian advised that he continued to make applications to various grant-funding bodies for support of the improvement of the church.

vi. **Social**

Margaret confirmed the arrangements for the Church picnic and June Coffee Morning.

vii. **Congregational Roll**

May confirmed the roll numbers as follows, which the Session noted.

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| Communicants | 123 |
| Adherents | 26 |
| Others | 14 |

vii. **Local Church Review**

See attached report from the visiting group, which advised that the report would be presented to the Superintendents' Committee meeting in July, and that Hilda would be invited to attend.

Decision: Sandy undertook to prepare a draft LPC Action Plan in advance of that meeting, in order that we could demonstrate our commitment to address the report and to move matters on. Ian and Margaret Jacobsen to make themselves available to attend the meeting, in Furnace, if necessary.

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viii. **Mid Argyll Mission Plan**

See attached briefing note.

Decision: The Session agreed to approach the congregation through two questions

Q. 1 what changes they would want to see? and

Q. 2 what members do, in service of the community, through voluntary or other work?

Our contribution to the Mission Plan, how and by who to be agreed at the next meeting having first considered the congregation and community feedback.

ix. **Malawi Twinning**

No report, Group still working to bring representatives to Mid Argyll.

x. **Moving On – Mid Argyll (MO-MA)**

No report

4. **Path of Renewal**

Hilda encouraged members to give thought moving forward, as a missional church. Hilda asked that members make read the 'Canoeing Up The Mountains' by Tod Bolsinger before the next meeting of the Session. Hilda intimated a planned visit by the Rev. Alan Hamilton on 11 September, to review our progress and commtment.

5. **Worship & Pulpit Supply Arrangements & Important Dates**

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|-----------|----|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| June | 23 | Jim's assessment | LPC |
| | 30 | Jim Malcolm to take the service | LPC |
| July | 3 | Jim's 'setting apart' | Kilmartin Church |
| July | 28 | Jim Malcolm | 22/07 – 15/08 |
| August | 4 | JoLoMo | Hilda on Holiday |
| | 11 | JoLoMo | |
| September | 29 | Worship Group | Hilda @ PoR Conf. |
| October | 6 | JoLoMo | |

Local Church Review

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|---------|--|
| 30 June | Complete first draft of LPC Action Plan |
| 30 July | Presbytery Superintendence Committee – Report on LPC LCR |
| Sept | Submission of Church Action Plan 2019-24 |

Kirk Session

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| August | 20 | Report - Sustainable Finances |
| September | 11 | Visiting Minister – Alan Hamilton re- Path of Renewal |

Challenger Bus

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| August | 26-30 | Working with schools in the area |
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6. **Date of Next Meeting**

20 August 2019 at 7.00pm – **Kirk Session** (Business Meeting)

7. **Close of the Meeting and BENEDICTION**

Hilda closed the meeting with the Benediction.

Moderator

Session Clerk

Date