

Meeting of Selkirk Parish Church Kirk Session
held by Zoom video conference on Tuesday 8th September, 2020, at 7pm

1 Constitution

The moderator, Rev. Margaret Steele, read from Psalm 143 v 10, “guide me on a safe path”, then constituted the meeting with prayer.

2 Elders present

Anne Bethune, David Bethune (minutes), Fiona Corbett, Mark Corbett, Pauline Davidson, Elma Hendrie, Gordon Junor, Jacqui Lee, Margaret Milne, Lynda McCraw, Louise Raffier, Myra Ward and Glynis Wilkie.

Apologies were received from Fiona Holmes, Colin Macintosh, Marion Macintosh, Jim Noble, Katrina Smith, Jim Smith and Linda White.

3 Approval of minutes

The minute of the Kirk Session meeting of 11th August was accepted as a true record, proposed by F. Corbett and seconded by E. Hendrie.

4 Matters Arising

(a) COVID working group update and worship times

Thanks were expressed to Colin Macintosh, Andrew Laing, Jack Peers and Jacqui Lee for their ongoing work on the COVID sub-group. Presbytery has granted permission to re-open the church building for worship. Cleaner Carole Nielson has been un-furloughed, and she and Maisie McKenzie have begun cleaning in the church, with pew cushions and all books removed. Church Administrator Wilma Groenewald, with Anne Bethune, will print and laminate all the required notices. The recommended pattern is to allow 72 hours after the church has been used before cleaning in preparation for the next use.

After some discussion, the following was agreed for worship events in the church building (assuming no further changes to the regulations):

- using the recorded service at 10.15am on alternate Sunday from 27th September
- offering live “reflective worship” at 10.15am on alternate Sundays from 4th October

A booking system will be set up, with bookings by phone to the church office, with Wilma Groenewald in the office to monitor these every Friday from 10-12. Initially, we will need to take the initiative to invite those we think might benefit, but taking into account the implications of the self-assessment toolkit for our more senior members. Stewards will be required, and the proposal is to use “team leaders” for the first few weeks while the system is trialled. There will be no heating, and doors will be open, so warm clothing is advised. A guidance leaflet will be produced and delivered to all members.

It was agreed not to allow funerals or any hall lets for the time being.

(b) Listening to under-50s

L. Raffier outlined some of the ways under-50s are involved in church life, including some Zoom events involving both committed members and others. Gary Hamilton is facilitating these groups, which are conversational with opportunities for questions and discussion. It was suggested that some of those involved might be invited to attend Kirk Session meetings, perhaps for discussion in breakout groups, and/or that some members of the Session could be invited to the under-50s group meetings. L. Raffier will feed these ideas back to the under-50s group.

5 AOB

Two items to be added to the agenda: Remembrance Service and M. Steele’s holidays.

/continued

6 **Roll**

Kirk Session noted the loss of Ella Clarkson through death, and Beth Bell's change of address to 18 Elm Park.

7 **Cluster matters, including Ashkirk situation**

The Cluster working group met on Sunday 16th August to discuss progress.

Ashkirk Kirk Session has welcomed the suggestion of a seconded elder from Selkirk. G. Junor has agreed to accept this role as an "assessor elder" for a year. A request for this arrangement to be approved will be sent to Presbytery.

The draft basis of linking has been updated and returned to the Presbytery group, thence to 121 George Street, for comment. If accepted, it will be returned to all 3 Kirk Sessions for approval, and, if approved by the Kirk Sessions, then put to the congregations for approval. Note: this is only possible if the Special General Assembly agrees to virtual congregational meetings.

The working group encourages the congregation(s) to explore developing the skills (and obtaining suitable equipment) that will be required for filming and streaming services.

8 **Evangelism and Discipleship Focus**

Reachout are creating short videos with personal reflections about "how I meet with God" and sharing these by email. The group is also considering using "Cloth for the Cradle" as they move towards Christmas.

M. Steele recommended 10 studies on 1 Corinthians (Scottish Bible Society) for small household **Bible Study** groups.

The **New Testament study course** may be postponed due to Jane Peers' accident. (update: the course will go ahead as planned, with others leading)

9 **Community Focus**

- (a) **Open Door:** M. Ward reported that meals had been cooked and distributed over the summer using stored food. The management group is exploring how Open Door might re-start in a different way – possibly with reduced numbers at a weekly café, plus delivering ready meals to those who would benefit. This requires carrying out risk assessments, liaison with the local authority and exploring funding.
- (b) **JAM** is currently not operating.
The **Foodbank** remains active.
FreshStart Borders, Fairtrade, Chamber of Trade: nothing to report

10 **Safeguarding** nothing to report

11 **Sunday Gang & Hot Chocolate Club** The team ask for prayers for the way ahead for these groups.

12 **Children and Families worker** The Kirk Session welcomed J. Moley's report which described a planning meeting, attendance at Church of Scotland "zoominar" for youth workers, a Hot Chocolate outdoor event, cooperation with Open Door, and meetings with Rowland's and the High School SU Big Questions group.

13 **Eco-congregation** A. Bethune reported on the eco-group's involvement in the morning service for 20th September, and ongoing cooperation with the Sustainable Selkirk project.

/continued

14 Correspondence

- (a) Ecumenical Drive-in Service: an invitation was received to a Borders-wide drive-in service to be held in St. Boswells at 3pm on 27th September.
- (b) A letter was received from C. Macintosh, tendering his resignation as Session Clerk. It was agreed that D. Bethune should write to him on behalf of all members of the Kirk Session, expressing our concern and encouraging him to reconsider.

15 AOB

Remembrance Service, 8th November There is currently no national guidance available, but it is likely that there will be an act of remembrance at the War Memorial at 11am, and an online service.

M. Steele will be taking annual leave from 19th October for 2 weeks; pulpit supply will be David Dalglish on 25th October and (to be confirmed) Pamela Kennedy on 1st November.

16 Dates of next meetings: next meeting 13th October

Following Kirk Session meetings: 10th Nov, 8th Dec, 12th Jan 2021, 9th Feb, 9th Mar, 13th Apr, 11th May, 8th Jun.

17 Close of meeting The meeting closed with the saying of “the grace” to each other.

_____Moderator

_____Session Clerk