

Meeting of Selkirk Parish Church Kirk Session
held by Zoom video conference on Tuesday 13th October, 2020, at 7pm

1 Constitution

The moderator, Rev. Margaret Steele, read from Hebrews 12 v 2, then constituted the meeting with prayer.

2 Elders present

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

Apologies were received from Colin Macintosh, Marion Macintosh, Margaret Milne, Jim Noble and Jim Smith.

3 Approval of minutes

The minute of the Kirk Session meeting of 8th September was accepted as a true record, proposed by E. Hendrie and seconded by G. Wilkie.

4 Matters Arising

(a) Listening to under-50s

L. Raffier reported that she is taking the proposals forward with the under-50s group.

(b) Resignation of Session Clerk

A formal letter of resignation was received from C. Macintosh. The Kirk Session accepted this with regret, and will write expressing this and our hope that we will continue to benefit from his valued contribution in other roles.

M. Steele asked all members to pray for guidance on who to invite to be the new Session Clerk, and to reply to her within 2 weeks with their thoughts.

5 AOB

One item to be added to the agenda: The Hird.

6 Roll

Kirk Session noted the loss of Dorothy Gray (8 Back Feus) through death.

7 Worship matters

(a) Review of opening for services

Small numbers have attended so far. It was agreed to continue with the current pattern, but not require bookings from 25th October unless numbers require it. This will be intimated through Facebook and the church website. J. Lee will ask the COVID sub-group to clarify whether all doors need to be kept open. It was agreed in principle, to continue with the current pattern of openings even if the restrictions are tightened, unless required to stop by government.

(b) Remembrance Sunday (8th November)

There will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial at 11am, but no official "remembrance service" in the church building. However, we will be holding a pre-recorded service in the church building at 10.15am, which will involve uniformed organisations, community leaders, Colin Kemp as bugler, the silence and showing images of all the war memorials in the 3 parishes. A member of the congregation will be asked to lay a wreath during the service.

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(c) **Communion**

The service on the 1st Sunday of Advent will be led by a worship group and will include a virtual communion.

(d) **Christmas**

Session was encouraged to start thinking about services and events around Advent and Christmas, including discussing plans for events for children with J. Moley and the team.

8 Cluster matters

The Presbytery has approved the appointment of G. Junor as “assessor elder” for Ashkirk.

Presbytery and “121” have commented favourably on the draft basis of linkage.. M. Steele explained the procedure that will now be followed, with each Kirk Session being consulted, followed by congregational meetings (under the new protocol). The process is likely to take until February to be completed at the earliest. The Cluster sub-group will address the previously expressed need for part-time pastoral support, so that this can again be raised with Presbytery. Elders are invited to forward any questions they have about the process or basis of linking to D. Bethune, to assist the sub-group in compiling a “frequently asked questions” document which will be sent to all members with voting papers in due course.

9 Evangelism and Discipleship Focus

Reachout no report

The **Discipleship course** has started well, and J. Peers hopes to be able to get back involved soon.

10 Community Focus

(a) **Open Door:** M. Ward drew attention to the document which had been circulated, outlining the proposals for a new start for Open Door in the changed circumstances resulting from the pandemic. Most volunteers have responded positively, allowing a proposed weekly café with reduced numbers, alongside delivered meals building on the outreach experience over the last 2 summers. Kirk Session approved the proposal, so that the Open Door management group can go ahead and look for sources of funding. Thanks were expressed to the management group, and especially to M. Ward, J. Moley and J. Stevenson for their work in developing the proposal.

(b) **Foodbank** continues – no report.

FreshStart Borders continues and is busy.

Fairtrade M. Ward encouraged folk to buy Fair Trade goods, especially from Traidcraft, outlining the advantages to produced groups of doing so, in comparison with other “brands” such as the Rain Forest Alliance.

Chamber of Trade nothing to report

11 Safeguarding no new information on training or other issues

12 Children and Families work Sunday Gang has been limited to some outdoor activities, and the team are currently considering what to do while restrictions continue. Hot Chocolate Club has continued to meet regularly by Zoom.

13 Eco-congregation

Eco-policy Review The policy (previously circulated) was approved, with the suggestion that community engagement be added. The Policy will be reviewed again in 2023.

COP26 Pledge This pledge, promoted by Eco-congregation Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Churches, can be supported by national denominations, local congregations or individuals. It will be circulated with the minute for discussion at the next meeting.

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Harvest offering It was agreed to encourage members to support Selkirk Foodbank instead of having a “harvest” offering this year, and that an “offering prayer” will be included as part of all our virtual services.

A letter of thanks has been received from **Recycling for Good Causes** for the £42.20 raised for Traidcraft from the recent uplift.

Another **church eco-conference** is being considered for 2021.

14 Presbytery

L. White will write a paragraph on what we have been doing during the COVID restrictions, for the Presbytery’s Mission and Service Committee.

15 Correspondence

An email was received from the Church Administrator at Christ Church, Waterfall, South Africa, where members read our online Hird, listen to our services and pray for us.

16 AOB

It was agreed to produce a November / December edition of **The Hird**.

17 Dates of next meetings: next meeting 10th November

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

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

_____Moderator

_____Session Clerk