

**Meeting of Selkirk Parish Church Kirk Session**  
**held by Zoom video conference on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, at 8pm**

**1 Constitution**

Louise Raffier read from John 1 vv 35-39, where Jesus asks, "What do you want?" then the disciples "spent the day with him". She then led us in a short prayer. The moderator, Rev. Margaret Steele, constituted the meeting with a further prayer.

**2 Elders present**

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

**Apologies** were received from Gordon Junor, Jim Noble, Jim Smith and Myra Ward.

**3 Approval of minutes**

The minute of the Kirk Session meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November was accepted as a true record, proposed by L. Raffier and seconded by M. Corbett.

**4 Matters Arising none**

**5 AOB none**

**6 Roll**

M. Steele, E. Hendrie and P. Davidson have checked and updated the roll. Two members were transferred to the supplementary roll as there was no information known about them.

The death of David Lothian was noted, and Nancy Connor's move to Riverside.

There is no current list of adherents, so an edict will be read on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December to invite any regular attenders, not members of other congregations in Scotland, to become adherents by completing and returning the appropriate form by 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. These names, along with all those on the roll, will be combined to form an electoral register, defining those who will be eligible to vote on the proposed linking. Individuals may also become members of the congregation by providing a certificate of transfer from another congregation, or by order of the Kirk Session where appropriate. The completed electoral register will be confirmed at the January meeting of the Kirk Session.

**7 Children and Families work**

With no report received from J. Moley, E. Hendrie reported on their latest meeting. J. Moley has been working in partnership with Rowland's, has prepared and delivered 30 Advent bags including Christingle kits for the Christmas Eve service, has been involved in preparation for the Living Nativity, has prepared an Activities Handbook and has contributed to the Open Door risk assessment. It was suggested that a report proforma might be useful to help him keep track of his work. He will now be on annual leave, followed by 2 weeks paternity leave. It was noted that everyone should be kept informed of any leave dates.

Hot Chocolate club has had two successful bonfire nights recently. Sunday gang is not currently active.

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## 8 Worship matters

### (a) **Communion**

There was a mixed response to the online communion – some enjoying being able to take part at home as a couple, other feeling loneliness and a lack of the fellowship of a live communion.

### (b) **Service of Remembering**

Letters have been sent out to all those who may have wanted to attend this year's service; there have been some positive comments, and some are disappointed that there will be no live service.

### (c) **Christmas arrangements**

- **Christmas Eve:** There will be an Ashkirk, Ettrick & Yarrow and Selkirk Christingle Service available on the cluster Youtube channel.
- **Christmas Day:** Our short online service will be available online from 7am, with a zoom coffee and chat from 10.30-11.30am.
- **Gifts for the BGH** can be handed in at Scott's Selkirk shop; P. Davidson will advertise this through Facebook.
- There has been a very positive response to the distribution of Churches Together **Christmas Angels**.
- A **zoom carol singing** event will be arranged (note: date now confirmed as Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, at 6.30pm on zoom).

(d) It was decided **to review** the online and live services pattern at the February meeting.

## 9 Cluster matters

**L. Raffier** has joined the **Cluster Implementation Group**, replacing C. Macintosh.

D. Bethune outlined the steps agreed to move towards the proposed linking, including the following projected key dates:

13 and 20 Dec: edict re adherents and electoral roll read out at services

3 Jan: deadline for applications to be added to electoral register

12 Jan: Kirk Session approves electoral register

18 Jan: draft basis of linking and information sent out to all on register

2 Feb: deadline for questions to be returned to Session Clerk

15 Feb: voting papers and Q&A sheet sent out to all on electoral register

2 March: deadline for return of voting slips to Presbytery representative in SAE's provided

6 March: outcome of vote notified to Cluster Working Group and Presbytery

14 March: result of vote announced to congregation

Assuming a vote in favour, this will then be approved by Presbytery and 121 during May and June, with a likely date for the linking in July or August.

## 10 Community Focus

(a) **Open Door:** The trial run went smoothly on 30<sup>th</sup> November, with a good atmosphere and participants feeling safe. A £500 grant has been approved from the presbytery Good Idea Fund, and other grants are being sought.

(b) **Christmas Day Meal:** As a sit-down meal is not possible this year, F. Corbett reported that a delivery of a turkey dinner and assorted, donated goodies will go to 30 people who might otherwise have attended. This is possible through partnership with the Selkirk Response Team and generous local traders.

11 **Safeguarding** – a report from S. Christer-Porteous was received and noted.

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18 **Dates of next meetings:** next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Following Kirk Session meetings: 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 9<sup>th</sup> Mar, 13<sup>th</sup> Apr, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> Jun.

Notes of other meetings:

- joint meeting with Congregational Board to approve accounts on 16<sup>th</sup> February
- provisional date for Stated Annual Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> March

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

\_\_\_\_\_Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_Session Clerk