

Meeting of Selkirk Parish Church Kirk Session
held by Zoom video conference on Tuesday 9th Febuary, 2021, at 7pm

1 Constitution

Linda White read from 1 Corinthians 1 v 26 to 2 v 5, where Paul reminds us that we are ordinary people doing extraordinary things through God's Spirit, then led us in a 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, Gordon Junor, Jacqui Lee, Lynda McCraw, Margaret Milne, Louise Raffier, Katrina Smith, Myra Ward, Linda White and Glynis Wilkie.

Apologies were received from Jim Noble and Jim Smith.

3 Approval of minutes

The minute of the Kirk Session meeting of 12th January was accepted as a true record, proposed by F. Corbett and seconded by L. McCraw.

4 Matters Arising

(a) New members / elders

M. Steele has not yet been able to approach the suggested new members and elders. The plan is to run a START course after Easter for the 3 suggested potential new members, and any others who might be interested. Another group to discuss the role of eldership will also be set up after Easter, and all those suggested at the previous meeting will be invited.

(b) Building the Future

D. Bethune referred to the paper entitled "Issues to be considered in any future review of the church buildings" originally circulated in July 2019, and the decision in November 2019 to set up a small group to explore possible options to improve our buildings. Due to the COVID pandemic, this small group was never properly established at the time. D. Bethune now asked members to re-read the document, send him any comments and let him know if they were interested in being part of this small group. The idea initially would be for the group to investigate other congregations who have remodeled their buildings, and consider ideas for developing Selkirk Parish Church as we look ahead to our future life and mission.

5 AOB none

6 Roll

The deaths of Alan Williamson and Margaret Forrest were noted.

Margaret Chisholm has changed address from 24 to 39 Mungo Park Court.

These changes have also been applied to the electoral register for the linking vote.

7 Worship matters

(a) Reflection on Worship Services when the church building was open

It was noted that we had tried various options, including viewing the recorded service or a partly live/partly recorded service when the minister was not present. Ashkirk delivered all services "live", and Ettrick and Yarrow had no services in their church buildings. Being with others in the church building was appreciated, and especially when we started the practice of standing for "singing" and using spoken responses in prayers. However, the view was also expressed that we hadn't fully taken the opportunity to explore alternative formats for the services, and it was suggested we keep an open mind on this for when the current restrictions are lifted.

/continued

- (b) **World Day of Prayer**
Following discussion with representatives of other local churches, it is proposed that we encourage people to join in the national online service at 2pm on Friday 5th March rather than have a local event this year.
- (c) **Evening Communion 21st March**
It was agreed that the communion service on 21st March will be live on zoom at 6.30pm. The service will also be recorded, so that folk can watch it at a later time if they wish. The zoom meeting will be open at 6.15pm for pre-service chat.
- (d) **Easter**
A number of ideas were considered:
- CTSV Holy Week services or daily short meditations
 - an outdoor worship event
 - including Ettrick and Yarrow in whatever pattern we choose
 - a musical event (M. Ward to ask Rod Ward)
- No definite decisions were made, but these ideas will be taken to the CTSV meeting on 21st February.
- (e) **Music Licences**
H. Dooley has compiled a paper on which licences we require for our current and future forms of live and online worship. The implications of this needs to be discussed further by those directly involved, and proposals will be brought to the Congregational Board in due course.

8 Children and Families work

- (a) **John Moley**
E. Hendrie reported on her latest meeting with J. Moley. His report was clear and well-structured using the template provided. It has been agreed that he will be partially furloughed (with working hours reduced to around 6 hours per week) as there is a limit to what is possible for him due to COVID restrictions. These hours will be used to maintain contact with Sunday Gang families, Hot Chocolate group and line manager meetings. L. McCraw confirmed that regular donations are still required to cover the reduced costs. Any useful resources for teenagers should be forwarded to L. Raffier, and for under-12s to J. Moley and E. Hendrie.
- (b) **Sunday Gang**
This group is still not functioning at present. It was suggested we arrange a Taste and See zoom event, and possible a younger version of the Hot Chocolate Club.
- (c) **Hot Chocolate Club**
The last event was on Friday, 5th February, with 8 families involved, including some parents and some younger children. L. Raffier thanked us for our prayers for this group.

9 Furlough of staff

It was agreed a partial furloughing of Wilma Groenewald (Church Office Administrator), probably to around 2 hours per week to cover preparing the weekly notices and responding to emails. Wilma will be asked to track her hours and notify L. McCraw.
A small edition of the Hird will be produced in late March, but this will be online only, so there no additional office work will be required for it.

10 Cluster matters

- (a) **Voting Process** Voting slips and the "Question and Answer document" will be posted out to all on the electoral registers of the 3 parishes on Monday 15th February. The result of the vote should be available by 14th March at the latest.
- (b) **Pastoral Support post** Presbytery has agreed to fund the part-time (10 hrs per week) pastoral support post for 1 year initially, through a rebate. We are awaiting information on how soon the post can be advertised. The draft Job Description will be circulated.

/continued

11 **Discipleship**

Reachout An informal zoom craft event involved 14 people, and a virtual pancake party is planned for Monday 15th February.

The **Disciple group** continues fortnightly on-line and is nearing the end of its programme.

The **Support in Faith group** continues to meet approximately every 3 weeks.

12 **Community Focus**

(a) **Open Door** nothing to report

(b) **Foodbank** Denis Roberts and Lee Brown are now job-sharing the management of donations, supported by other volunteers doing the deliveries.

Fresh Start Borders nothing to report

Fair Trade nothing to report

(c) **Other community links**

- We were asked to pray for the success of the 4 new shops recently opened in Selkirk.
- All were encouraged to continue to collect hard-to-recycle items, with the collection point at Sustainable Selkirk's shop in the Market Place opening again as soon as restrictions allow.

13 **Safeguarding** – nothing to report

14 **Eco-congregation**

A. Bethune reported that:

- 20 people had attended a stimulating presentation and discussion on “Being an environmentally conscious Christian”, led by Rev. David Coleman, on 8th February
- The next event is a presentation on transport issues by Jack Peers on Friday 12th March
- J. Moley is distributing eco activity packs to the Sunday Gang families.

15 **Presbytery** There will be a service of ordination and induction on 17th February for Rev. Fraser Edwards as the new minister for Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair.

16 **Correspondence:**

- An invitation for new members to join the committee for nominating future Moderators of the General Assembly has been received – contact F. Corbett for more information
- A letter received from Jim and Jean Noble intimating that, although they will continue as members of Selkirk Parish Church, they are now attending Holy Trinity, Melrose, to support their family. Jim indicated that he is resigning from the Kirk Session. M. Steele will write to them, thanking them for their input to the congregation, accepting Jim's retirement and wishing them well for the future.
- An email was received from BGH Spiritual Care Coordinator inviting Borders Hospital Radio messages to individuals we know who are in hospital on Sunday 14th February. D. Bethune will request this for Jim Wood and Edwin Robinson.

17 **Dates of next meetings:** next meeting 16th Feb (joint meeting with Congregational Board to approve accounts)

Following Kirk Session meetings: 9th Mar, 13th Apr, 11th May, 8th Jun.

Stated Annual Meeting: 20th March

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

Moderator

Session Clerk