

Allan Park South Church of Scotland, Stirling
Registered Charity No. SC001414
Minute of a meeting of Allan Park South Church Session
Held in the Church Office on Tuesday 13th January 2016 at 7pm

Constitute

The meeting was constituted with a reading from Psalm 139, followed with a prayer by the Rev. Alistair Cowper and a hymn.

Sederunt

The Rev. Alistair Cowper and a number of Trustees as recorded in attendance book. Apologies for absence were received.

Minutes

The minutes of a meeting of the Kirk Session held on Tuesday 10th November were approved with the addition of Boys Brigade on P382 in the Minister's report.

Matters Arising

Ian McCallum advised that he had two people interested in helping with the Boy's Brigade Company Section. He also advised that Guy McDougall has been helping with the Junior Section.

The Minister advised that Amy Leitch has been appointed as Choir leader for the Wellbeing Choir. The Ceilidh for the Chinese Community was well attended and was a great success. Despite the dreadful weather again this year, the Carol Singing in King Street went well. Ed, Carl and the Minister met to discuss the Church Website and all the relevant information has now been carried over to the new website. The bushes have been trimmed back.

Finance

The treasurer Edward Morton advised that the current bank account balance as at 12th January 2016 is £84,079.12.

Income Comparison January to 10th November 2015

Range 13th January – 12th November 2016

INCOME TYPE	2014	2015	VALUE +/-	% +/-
Gift Aid	£25,561.20	£34,330.80	£8,769.60	34.31%
Freewill Offerings	£841.00	£1,001.00	£160.00	19.02%
Open Plate	£4,281.95	£4,007.19	-£274.76	-6.42%
Mission and Renewal	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
Hire of Premises	£10,261.00	£11,466.00	£1,205.00	11.74%
Sundry Income	£1,326.97	£1,782.07	£455.10	34.30%
TOTALS	£42,272.12	£52,587.06	£10,314.94	24.40%

Ed Morton advised that we have had £8,377 credit from Scottish Power. He is in talks with them to establish the correct figure. The accounts include an amount of £6,342 go for it grant.

There are still 29 outstanding gift aid forms to be submitted to Ed.

The end of year accounts are with the auditors.

Administration

Ed Morton attended a Stirling Presbytery Data Protection seminar on 21 November at Alloa Ludgate. All congregations have to ensure that their handling of personal data (such as name, address, phone number) conforms with the Data Protection Act. The Act's requirements include that personal data is accurate, held with consent and held securely. It was agreed that: Session appoints a Data Protection sub-committee of the Minister, Ed Morton and Hugh Buchanan to consider these issues; those responsible for holding personal data must do so securely, including encrypting electronic copies of data; we shall write to all members of the congregation asking for their explicit consent to hold their personal data.

Property

Ed Morton, on behalf of David Boyd, reported that the bushes outside the main hall have been cut back. He thanked all those involved in the work during December to improve the Pillar Hall and other facilities including painting, carpeting and installation of a flat screen. It was agreed that a notice board should be put up for BB use. It was agreed that the storage areas off the Pillar Hall and under the Main Hall need tidying: Ed Morton and Ian McCallum agreed to scope what was required, and to make proposals.

Safeguarding

Lorna Shaw advised that the update to the PVG system had to be completed by October 2015. This has been done for all existing volunteers.

Presbytery

Arthur McDonald reported that Bridge of Allan have appointed a Minister.

Roll Keeper

Hug Buchanan advised that there are 172 names on the roll, including 2 adherents. This reflects the following changes to the Congregational Roll since the last meeting on 10 November: 2 removals following death:

William Ruthven, Causewayhead

Mrs Rosa Hope Young, Torbrex

At the end of 2015, the Roll contained 172 names (including 2 adherents), a decrease from 179 (including 1 adherent) at the start of 2015. At the year end, the eldership comprised 27: 15 women and 12 men.

Removals from the Roll during the year comprised 13: 9 following death, and 4 transfers to other congregations. Additions to the Roll during the year comprised 6: 4 transfers from other congregations, 1 by resolution of the Session, and 1 by profession of faith.

/faith

CYF Worker

Sally advised that we had been successful in obtaining a grant of £1,000 from Stirling Council for the Lunch Club.

Minister's Report

The Minister reported that he had conducted 2 funerals and around a dozen pastoral visits. The Christingle Service on Christmas Eve had been well-attended.

At the service on 17 January, there will be 2 baptisms, and an admission by Profession of Faith. At the service on 7 February, there will be an adult baptism and admission by Profession of Faith. Kristen Johnstone agreed to arrange welcome gifts.

The Alpha Course, led by Jane Harris and Sally Forshaw, had had an Away Day on 9 January. The course is very successful with 6 participants, taking part in 11 weekly sessions.

AOB

The Minister drew the Session's attention to the copies of the learning resources entitled *Exploring Faith* and *How Will our Children Have Faith* available for Elders to take and read. He would like to lead a discussion on these materials at the next Session meeting.

We have purchased a set of materials relating to "The God Question". Christine Purser has agreed to look at these materials and report back to the next Session meeting. Arthur McDonald reported that Life and Work had recently carried an article about the Allan Park South church building. Ed Morton indicated that he has arranged for it to be reproduced in the church newsletter. The deadline for material for the next newsletter is 31 January 2016.

MODERATOR

CLERK