

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 Wednesday 19th April 2017 at 7pm

Constitute

The meeting was constituted by a reading from Acts Chapter 2 followed by a prayer by the Rev. Alistair Cowper.

Sederunt

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

Minutes

The minutes of meetings of the Kirk Session held on Wednesday 2nd March 2017 were approved.

Matters Arising

The re-wire of the Pillar Hall has been completed.

The new boiler been fitted but is still dripping.

The tower clock has been repaired with a new motor being fitted.

We now have a working answering machine.

The walk of witness has taken place and was successful with more people attending than previous years.

We are selling Christian Aid quiz sheets for £1.

Finance

The treasurer Edward Morton advised that the current bank account balance as at 19th April 2017 is £74,611.67.

Income Comparison

Date Range 20th April 2016– 19th April 2017

INCOME TYPE	2015/2016	2016/2017	VALUE +/-	% +/-
Gift Aid	£35,782.30	£28,430.00	-£7,352.30	-20.55%
Freewill Offerings	£1,363.00	£1,864.90	£501.90	36.82%
Open Plate	£3,981.83	£4,290.68	£308.85	7.76%
Mission and Renewal	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
Hire of Premises	£11,986.00	£11,065.00	-£921.00	-7.68%
Sundry Income	£1,832.59	£1,515.09	-£317.50	-17.33%
TOTALS	£54,945.72	£47,165.67	-£7,780.05	-14.16%

Property

David Boyd advised that our electricity supply contract is due for renewal at the end of May . David has negotiated a reduced rate with Scottish Power at just under £300 less than the renewal quotation, at an estimated cost of £1062.88 pa. This has been accepted and runs for 2 years to end of May 2019.

David extended thanks to Ed Morton for arranging replacement parts and fixing the church clock.

David extended thanks to Jim Steel for arranging painting of the main church door. David has attempted to contact offender rehabilitation services with regard to the indicated offer to paint the large hall but have not yet managed to make arrangements. This is still pending.

Brodies the plumbers have been contacted regarding obtaining a quotation to install a new shower and extractor fan in the Manse bathroom and undertake other repairs/refurbishment including the top of stairs area. I await their response.

Alistair is arranging for planting some trees in the church grounds and Ed Morton is looking into some flower planting.

Safeguarding

Lorna Shaw advised that there has been no changes since the last meeting.

/meeting

Presbytery

Arthur McDonald agreed to represent us as Presbytery elder for another year.

Roll Keeper

Hugh Buchanan submitted his report in his absence.

There have been the following changes to the Communion Roll since the last report made at the meeting on 2 March 2017.

Additions

By resolution of the Kirk Session

None

By Certificate of Transfer

none

Removals

By death

Mr Ian Farrell, Stirling (6 March 2017)

By Certificate of Transfer

Carl and Christine Purser, Stirling (9 March 2017)

After these changes, there are 163 names on the roll, including 2 adherents.

Minister's Report

We have had one funeral since the last meeting and the minister has carried out 16 pastoral visits, one school assembly and two school services, a first school chaplaincy team meeting and three sessions helping with the prayer space, in Stirling High School.

The minister has met with the newly appointed pioneer minister at Stirling University and there are opportunities there to work together.

Bairns' Rock continues to flourish. Thanks to our volunteers who help so much – Sarah, Claire, Maureen and Michelle.

The joint church Easter services and Walk of Witness went well with a good representation from APS. Thanks to Jim Steel and Paula and Sue for help with the Walk of Witness.

/Witness

The church has increased its social media presence which is encouraging. Thanks are due to Jane Steel for managing the website. We hope to be able to record or live stream services and make these available online.

Attendance at worship services is good and we are seeing new people regularly.

The minister is happy to report that his presbytery commitments with the local church review visits and reports are now almost complete. Thanks too to Arthur who supported as our elder representative. The minister continues to be interim moderator at Bannockburn Allan linked with Cowie and Plean. Until Easter Sunday a locum was in place there and the hope is that his departure will not mean too much additional work.

The Community Bible Experience (New Testament) is going very well and is due to finish this month. About 20 people have taken part, including non-members. The format appears to be working well and the four groups may decide to continue meeting and purchasing the Old Testament material for use.

YWAM are having a team outreach in Stirling 25-28 April and the team of 6 will be staying in the manse (subject to session approval). Contact Tricia Ward if anyone can think of things for them to do!

The orchard is growing! Thanks to Nicola Hodge for a donation towards the cost in memory of Kenneth Hodge and to Phil Harris and Raymond and Gordon for helping plant the two plum trees as well as a further three cherry trees which were donated by one of the Bairns' Rock families.

The minister will be on holiday 24 April to 7 May. Gordon Mathew will lead worship on 30 April and Alan McKenzie on 7 May.

21 May - Stirling Marathon. Due to road closures it has been suggested that we hold our Sunday service at 6.30pm that day and encourage community engagement during the event. Jane Steel agreed to coordinate a team to offer refreshments and more. Alistair, Sally and Ed will all be at the General Assembly 20-26 May but Alistair will be at APS on Sunday 21 May.

27 May - Sharing Jesus. Morning seminar/training focussing on mission. Minister is keen to have as many of the congregation as possible attend and to engage in other prayer in that week leading up to Pentecost.

The minister would like the session to put together a team to look into mission and evangelism within our parish. There are so many people we are not yet engaging with.

/with

Go for It Manager's Report

Bairns' Rock

Sally Forshaw advised that we continue to attract 30+ children in the morning and an average of 12 in the afternoon. We have fantastic volunteers involved but could do with a couple more especially to cover holidays. We are hoping to run a beach trip this summer after the successful outing last year to Aberdour.

Choir

Amy is away on a well earned break to China whilst the choir is on Easter holidays. Paula has settled in well as Choir mummy and I'm sure everyone enjoyed their performance at the recent concert.

Jubilee Lunch Club

We continue to attract a steady number of people each week but the last two weeks we have had to set up an extra table. It was lovely to see the mixture of young and old making Easter bonnets and the children from the Allan's school singing at the lunch club.

Jane's Craft Evening

Thursday craft evenings are having a break after the wonderful Easter boards and to allow people to attend the Community Bible Experience.

Karen's Groups

Monday morning sewing and knitting group continues to be well attended.
Wednesday therapeutic arts group continues with a regular core group.
Friday Wellbeing group continues with a small regular group.

Prayer Space

Friday prayer space continues to attract small numbers with 5 regularly meeting to pray for and with others.

Boys Brigade

Boys Brigade are on Easter break after an eventful few months looking at the story of Joseph. We said goodbye to Lauren from the Anchors last week and she will be missed. Juniors enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and Easter crafts last week.

/week

Funding

Julie Christie and Sally Forshaw are looking at funding opportunities to continue with our projects and looking at new opportunities. We have an opportunity to apply for an additional Go for It continuation grant for two years. The next deadline dates are:

Friday 22 September 2017 (for 16 November 2017 Go For It Committee Grants Meeting)

Friday 23 February 2018 (for 19 April 2018 Go For It Committee Grants Meeting)

Congregational Day

After a successful get together the sub group have been meeting to look at the way forward and will present a draft paper at the session meeting.

Easter Code

The minister and Sally helped with delivering the Easter Code to Allan's Primary School p4/5 with St Columba's Church.

Outreach at Allan Park House

We continue to have good numbers and had a lovely musical memories afternoon last week. Julie and I attended the annual Help the Aged Conference in Perth where we spent an inspirational day hearing about some great projects supporting the elderly.

Sub Group

David Boyd led discussions on our proposed response to Presbytery. A very lengthy discussion followed. It was requested that anyone who wishes to contribute to the document in any way should do so by the end of the week. It was agreed that the group would aim to have a completed paper ready by the end of May to submit to Presbytery. Thanks to David for all his hard work.

A O B

The minister asked if the elders could lead the service on Sunday 2nd April as he is preaching elsewhere.

Correspondence

None

The next meeting will take place on Monday 5th June at 7pm.

MODERATOR

CLERK

