

The Session met in the Session House on Monday 12 September 2016 at 7.00pm

**ACTION**

**APOLOGIES:** All apologies and attendances are recorded on the Meeting Sheet.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

No corrections noted. Main minutes (13 June 2016) approved by Shena Burgon and seconded by Elsie Greenaway

**MATTERS ARISING:**

Following discussion at last meeting the offer to the Methodist church was still on the table but at present they were using the William Elder Building.

**ROLL:** *(Will be removed from noticeboard and website copies)*

**PRESBYTERY REPORT**

Presbytery met in Ladykirk Kirk for a very meaningful communion service conducted by Rev Alan Cartwright on his retirement. A short Presbytery meeting then followed, opening the new Presbytery year, introducing the new moderator, Rev Bruce Neill, thanking the retiring moderator, Rev Cartwright, affirming the new Roll of Presbytery, confirming the future method of working and confirming the appointment of Heather Major to the research and development worker position in Swinton and in Chirnside Parish Churches.

The following dates were intimated. All elders are welcome to attend any of the meetings but in particular the Presbytery Development Meetings highlighted.

Sunday 18th. September, 2016 at 2.30 p.m. in Swinton Parish Church. Service of Union to create Coldstream and District Parishes.

Tuesday 20th. September, 2016 at 6.30 p.m. in Duns Church Hall. Presbytery Development Meeting led by a group from the Parish Development Unit of the Church of Scotland. The theme is 'The Eldership – why we visit, in what capacity we visit and some thoughts on helpful pastoral visitation.'

Tuesday 4th. October, 2016 at 7 p.m. in Duns Church and Halls. Presbytery Committee Evening – we meet together in the large hall for opening worship and for words of explanation. There will be a place for everyone in one of the Presbytery discussions on this evening.

Tuesday 18th. October, 2016 at 6.30 p.m. in Duns Hall. Presbytery Development Meeting with Dr Alison Jack, Assistant Principal of New College, on the theme of "Developing Prayers in Sunday worship using silence, responses, music and the resources of CH4."

Thursday 20th. October, 2016 in Duns Church and Halls. 'On The Road --- Listening, sharing, planning'. Our presbytery will host the Church of Scotland Roadshow and welcome members of congregations from throughout the Borders.

Tuesday 1st. November, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Borders General Hospital Chaplaincy Centre. A Joint Meeting with the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles during which some of the issues regarding the spiritual care of folk within the hospital will be discussed.

Tuesday 6th. December, 2016 at 6.30 p.m. in Duns Church Halls. A two-part presbytery meeting during which the first hour will be devoted to 'The Pastoral Care of those with Dementia', led by

Bea Nicholson and the following time will be devoted to dealing with remits sent down to us by the General Assembly.

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

There had been a discussion on Bible World coming to Berwick on 21 -25 November. Sufficient funds had been raised and volunteers are sought for during the day. It would be open in the evenings for congregations to visit.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Donations are up on this time last year but contributions from other Organisations are down. Scottish Power had last year insisted no bill was due but had now billed us and it would appear that the bill was for last year as well as this so expenditure was now much higher than expected. The Vat from the steeple repair had been reclaimed and would return to the fabric fund.

It was hoped that the coffee mornings and the Christmas Fayre would help towards funds. Thanks to all those who had helped during the last coffee mornings.

Our investors have asked for extract minutes from the Session minutes detailing Allan's retirement and Sarah's appointment as his replacement.

Extract minute to read:

Following Allan Rodger's retirement as Elder and Investment convenor, Sarah Weatherburn was appointed at the Finance Meeting on 12th May at 2016 and confirmed at the Session meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Sarah Weatherburn is instructed to act on behalf of the Session in regard to our Investments.

## **FABRIC**

Chris was continuing to chase up Ian Grieve re the hallway painting.

He is due to meet up with Marcus Payne from Hutton Stone to check and advise on the stonework in the hallway and the vestry to check if other works may have to be carried out before the painting is done.

Still chasing Dick Eden to arrange works on the gutters and to replace tiles. Michael Richardson would also be approached if Dick Eden continued to be elusive.

Neil and Chris will look at insulation in the Session Room before the winter

## **PASTORAL COMMITTEE**

The pastoral committee met on August 1<sup>st</sup> with the primary aim of considering the current districts with the recent loss of five district elders. A number of communicants had indicated that they didn't need a visit from an elder – should we increase the number of postal members? Rita indicated that she can reduce the cost a little bit by putting any mailings through her. All elders will be asked to review their districts to see whether any of their members can be best served by post or whether there were other issues to consider. Elders were also asked to give their opinion on members benefiting from more regular visits, which might be covered by the Pastoral Care group, if more volunteers can be found. Through

intimations and the Kirk News, volunteers will be sought and an informal get-together is being arranged for people who might be interested on Thursday 6th October at 19:15 in the Session Room. Terri Bearhope, who currently works for Seton Care and coordinates volunteer befrienders across the Borders will be attending to provide an insight into the pros (and cons). Finally, there will be another Tuesday soup and social on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016** followed by a short communion service, particularly for those who cannot manage the full hour. Folk will be encouraged to come along for one or other of the events or both.

At present there were 6 in the Pastoral care team visiting 9 members. Elsie asked if it was more important to visit regulars or those who never come?. It was agreed it was important to visit anyone who would appreciate a visit whether or not they attended the Church. It was hoped all elders would return the forms highlighting the wishes of their groups so that pastoral visiting could be directed to those who would most appreciate it.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Dale is working to convene a meeting of the Safeguarding Panel in the near future. Although there has been no need for the panel to act, and it is hoped there never will be, we need to meet to generally talk through processes in the event that there is a requirement.

Elizabeth Bruin has been cleared by DBS and Session now formally appoints her as a Sunday Club helper.

## **MINISTER'S ITEMS:**

### **Forthcoming events and services**

- 23-29 Sept: In Adam's absence Ken & Veronica Walker would conduct the Sunday service and Norman Whyte would cover pastoral duties.
- 7 October: Youth Club will start up again 7-9pm and continue monthly
- 9 October: Harvest Thanksgiving – All age service – At last years' service we had had a retiral collection and it was agreed that this year we would support the Tear Fund project "toilet twinning" It is hoped to fund a school toilet block at £240.
- 5 November: Wedding 2pm
- 13 November: Remembrance day Civic Service at 9.45 at SAWG – extra 2 people needed to do door duties.
- 20 November: Communion 11am & 6pm both in Berwick
- 29 November: Soup lunch followed by informal Communion
- 30 November: Big Christmas Sing 6.30pm – most schools in the area had already signed up.

## **Youth Worker**

Presbytery had appointed Heather Major as a Development Officer in Greenlaw and Swinton for a period of 3 years. Adam and Rita had met with her and proposed that we employ her for 8 hours per week for a trial period of 6 months. She would help organise

Sunday Club, messy church activities, visit and maintain contact with our young families and support the youth club. The finance committee had discussed this at their last meeting and agreed it could be financed. The Session agreed to the appointment and felt it was affordable and it was important that we looked to the future.

### **Lowick**

Since the last meeting Jean gales had died and Lilian was now housebound so the congregation is down to 3 members. They have discussed with Adam and feel it is no longer feasible to continue, instead there will be periodic services, the next one being Christmas Eve. The Singalong will continue at present but only Berwick people are attending. It is hoped that if Heather can get involved in Lowick School that things may improve.

### **Communion retiring Collections**

November collection: Sick Children's Trust

### **Other**

Thanks to everyone who staffed the Church during the Open days and the Heritage Open Day.

Thanks to Neil & Rita for repair and re-hanging of the banner which is now at the front left hand of the Church. Special thanks to Longbones for their experienced staff who had make such a good job of re-backing the banner.

Thanks to everyone involved in the Build a House project and to everyone for supporting this project.

It was agreed to leave the Royal British legion standard that had been laid up as a flag but to position it near the framed flag.

The Scouts had asked to use the Church for a Colliery Band Concert – it was agreed with a suggested donation of £100.

The Male Voice Choir had requested the use of the Church on 14 December 2016 at 7.30pm and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm

The Berwick Arts Choir had requested the use of the Church on 29 April 2017. They would need access from the afternoon onwards to set up. They had also asked if they could use both side galleries, as this was only for a few people it was thought that this would not be a problem.

### **SESSION CLERK ITEMS:**

None.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

Session Meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the Session was discharged with a shared grace.

..... Moderator

..... Session Clerk