

The Session met in the Session House on Monday 12 October 2015 at 6.45pm

**ACTION**

**WELCOME:** The Moderator constituted the Meeting with prayer.

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

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Congregational meeting minute corrections. Delete 'on Monday' from heading. Correct against from 3 to 4. Proposed: Alan Irving and seconded: Anne Legge

Session minute proposed: Rita Inglis and seconded: Neil Jordan

**MATTERS ARISING:**

Minister has spoken to Rena re the retiring collection for the Bible Bus visit and she will prepare something for the upcoming edition of Kirk News.

Re Harvest Service. Thanks to Beth, Rena, Rita, Brian and Allison for preparing the church and to Rita for talking about the Christian Aid project during the service. The amount raised has not yet been counted while Rita waits for more envelopes coming back on the following Sunday.

Remembrance Sunday: Main service will be at 9.45 in the Parish Church on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November (there will be a practice at 10.00 on the Saturday). Alan Irving attended the planning meeting. We have been allocated 12 seats but further free seating will be available. For the evening service at SAWG, Dale Hall will fulfil the beadle duties. Anne Legge will cover for Joan Jones.

Minister has met with the 'Go For It' fund team at 121 George Street. Our application will probably initially be for a research grant but this is very much still work-in-progress.

During the minister's absence (11 – 17 Nov), pulpit supply will be provided by Rev Dane Sherrard and pastoral cover by Rev Norman Whyte.

Doreen Fairfield has decided that she will not be able to coordinate funeral duties so a volunteer to undertake this is still needed (see AOB)

Re the Stewardship e-card which featured our flower festival, there may be further interest in pursuing the story of our 'Moments in Time'

**ROLL:** *Removed from noticeboard and website copy*

**PRESBYTERY REPORT (6 October 2015):**

**Intimations**

Rev David Taverner reminded congregational treasurers that they will now have received the proposed Ministries and Mission contribution for next year. Any challenges to the amounts levied should be mounted before the middle of November.

Rev Bruce Neill reminded everybody that Jedburgh Presbytery was holding a training course on Safeguarding on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October at Yetholm Parish Church to which the Duns Presbytery is invited. Duns Presbytery's own training course has still to be arranged.

Christian Aid is holding a service in St Giles Cathedral on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm to celebrate its 70 years.

**Business Committee**

Following the agreement of the congregations of Duns and District Parishes and Langton and Lammernmuir it was agreed that they will unite on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

It was agreed to an alteration of the Presbytery Plan to enable the linked charges of Ayton & Burnmouth, Foulden & Mordington and Grantshouse, Houndwood & Reston to become one united charge of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

Bea asked how this might affect St Andrews Wallace Green in the future – we were assured that no question had been raised by the Ministries Council when agreeing to the

union and that it was believed that Duns presbytery would continue to hold its allocation of 7 Ministers so that there should be no change to the present situation.

A draft basis for linking for the parishes of Chirnside, Hutton, Fishwick and Paxton has been prepared and will now go to the two kirk sessions.

### **World Mission**

All congregations are encouraged to support the HIV programme though Souper Sunday or Sundaie Sunday and through the Stamp project

The presbytery have been asked to help rebuild Nepal through an exciting project from the World Mission Council – “Let us Build a House” this is a 3 year challenge in which each Presbytery collects money to build at least one £500 earthquake resistant house. It is hoped that all congregations will catch the vision and hold coffee mornings, lunches etc to raise the funds. There will be a Presbytery wide event in March.

Hopefully we at SAWG will adopt this challenge and be able to raise enough for at least one house in our own right.

### **Responses**

There was interest in supporting the “Build a House” appeal. Bea will try to get hold of more leaflets and posters.

Rita recommended that we make a point of looking at specific projects over the three years to keep momentum and interest going and approach other church groups to assist with fund-raising efforts.

Neil asked for clarification re the Chirnside linkage and whether it would impact the current weekly services in the Chirnside church. Minister explained that this was a linkage rather than a union (as with Duns & Ayton) and services should stay as they currently are. He also noted that efforts were being made to increase activity in the Chirnside church.

### **MINISTER’S ITEMS:**

The whereabouts of the 2015 Armed Forces Day retiral offering is still unresolved.

Re the proposed constitutional change, we need to think over the next few meetings about what committees and groups might be needed and their terms of reference.

Doreen Fairfield has undertaken dealing with used stamps which are currently donated to World Mission. So far in 2015 this has raised approximately £2500 and is going to a number of HIV projects.

Minister reminded and recommended to everyone the John Knox talk on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October in the Town Hall.

Further to the recent visit of Alan Wright to our church, when he preached during the service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, minister has asked for any comments before 21<sup>st</sup> October when his period of discernment will be coming to a close and his performance to date will be assessed further to proceeding to the next stage.

Reminded folk that the next meeting of the Stewardship Group is on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.15. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend.

The Kirk News final submission date to Andrew Dewar is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### **SESSION CLERK ITEMS:**

#### **Piggy Banks**

Shena Burgon wishes to let everyone know that, so far, she has banked £404.37 as proceeds from returned piggy banks.

#### **Church of Scotland nominations**

The Church of Scotland needs around 90 new volunteers to help run its Councils and

Committees. As always, it is the task of the Nomination Committee to find people with the right mix of skills, experience and abilities and the convenor of the nomination committee, Rev Kenny Stott, has written seeking our urgent and active help in this process. They are very keen indeed to ensure a broad representation on the Councils and Committees but depend on people in congregations and presbyteries to help to identify who might be suitable. They also want to assure people that the work of the Standing Councils and Committees is fascinating and the experience of such service enjoyable. "It is both an excellent way to get to know the Church better and a real opportunity for Christian service and witness." And, of course, all expenses are paid.

## **DATA PROTECTION**

On behalf of Session Bea attended the data protection seminar in Duns a couple of weeks ago. A handbook has been produced and copies are available for everyone. Elders are asked take a little time out to consider the contents and if there are any queries, to raise them either at the next meeting or some other appropriate time.

### **Data protection forms and questionnaires**

We have had over 200 data protection forms returned out of just over 340 needed. A little short of 60% so far which is actually quite good.

A few have asked to be removed from the roll but most wish to stay, even if they don't currently attend church. Bea has checked back with those who have asked to be removed to ensure that we have correctly understood their wishes. Some didn't cross through either yes or no and both Adam and Bea agreed that we would take it as a yes because they had signed the form. All at Session meeting concurred.

We do still have around 140 outstanding and we are sure that some wish to stay. A list has been produced for each elder which shows who has and hasn't responded. Please look at your list and let us know what you think the reasons might be. One elder has managed to secure all but one response, some are missing just a couple but others quite a few. It would be good if we could get some form of resolution on the remainder before the end of the year.

On the other side of the sheet are the answers we have received from the questionnaire. Some 129 had come back by the end of last week. It is a pleasing response rate. A few have asked for help in getting to the church, please see if there is anything that can be done to assist. If you can't think of an option, we can consider at the next meeting?

Some people have said they aren't looking for an elder visit – it may make district elders life a little easier if it is people who are never around anyway. Be aware, some have said no but there might be clarification in the comments.

33 have shown an interest in the proposed e-news – some still choosing to receive the hard copy magazine as well. Bea will be contacting them around the year-end to see what form they would like this to take.

The lists are in sealed envelopes because we should all take data protection seriously and district elders should only have a list of their own folk and a district they look after in the usual elder's absence. If anyone needs to have the full listing, let Adam or Bea know.

A query was raised about what happens if forms are not returned. If the elder believes that there is a problem (e.g. housebound, difficulty in completing forms etc.), to let Bea know and their wishes will be included. Anyone who appears to have no interest in the church will be moved to the Supplementary Roll at the end of 2015 and a further form sent out in 2016. If there is still no response or other indication that they wish to remain on the roll, Session will decide at the end of the year whether they should be removed by resolution or kept on the Supplementary Roll for a further year.

In the meantime, it is up to the individual elder's discretion whether there is value in delivering an invitation to communion etc. We are not looking to lose people but wish to encourage them to stay involved in whatever way they can.

**ALL**

Rather than make a special visit, elders might like to approach members who haven't signed when they deliver the November communion cards and Christmas Kirk news. If anyone needs extra forms and envelopes, please see Bea (there is a box in the vestry)

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Elsie advised that our dividend from sales of Life & Work was reducing from 19% to 9% from 2016. There are currently 13 subscriptions. She will prepare something for the intimations.

**EG**

Beth asked what is involved with funeral coordination. Minister explained that he would normally contact Neil or Gordon for beadle duties, Rena for the organ and the coordinator to ensure there were sufficient people for the door and counting. Beth volunteered to take this on. Bea will provide contact details for the additional people who have volunteered.

**BW/BN**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 following the Board meeting at 6.45pm

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

..... Moderator

..... Session Clerk