

The Session met in the Session House on Monday 9 November 2015 continuing from the Board Meeting at 6.45pm

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

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

No corrections noted. Approved by Rita Inglis and Seconded by Allan Rodger

MATTERS ARISING:

The Christian Aid collection on Harvest Sunday has been confirmed as £424.80 which with the addition of Gift Aid achieved £453.05. This exceeded expectations.

There is nothing further to report on the 'Go For It' fund at this time.

Doreen Fairfield has taken over responsibility for used stamps and has already received over 2.5kg – keep saving!

Stewardship. More people are always welcome to come along to the meetings and contribute to the planning for 2016 where the focus will be 'talents', allowing folk to become aware of how they can contribute to the church and community. Although this is a year-long initiative, the emphasis will be in spring when a talent or promise auction will be held on a Sunday following the service and a shared lunch. Any proceeds will be split between the church and the Build a House project (see previous minutes under Presbytery report). There will be a concert by Brightons Parish Church Praise Group, a Lent Course, possibly a covenant service and a drama workshop. Planning is already starting to have an afternoon soirée (after church service and a shared lunch), very much a family event with the morning service along the lines of 'Back to Church'.

Kirk News: Minister conveyed all our thanks to Andrew for all his work over the years. For now the minister will edit its replacement but will be drawing on other people to assist.

ROLL: *Removed from noticeboard and website copy*

PRESBYTERY REPORT (3 November 2015):

A very short meeting was held to agree a few items:

Following the agreement of the Congregations, Ayton & Burnmouth, Foulden and Mordington, and Grantshouse, Houndwood and Reston are to be united from the 1st January 2016.

Following the agreement of the congregations, Chirnside with Hutton, Fishwick and Paxton will link from 1st December 2015

Presbytery concurs with the decision made by the congregational meeting at St Andrews Wallace Green and Lowick to move to a Unitary Constitution and instructs the Clerk to forward this decision to the Principal Clerk.

Following the above we had a Conference Session led by the Very Reverend Albert Bogle on the theme 'A Theological Reading of our present Wilderness Experience/Is this a time for Despair or are we being Prepared for something better.' Despite the title it was a very interesting and at times humorous talk.

A summary of Rev Bogle's talk is available from the Session Clerk on request

Please be aware that there will be an advertisement in the local press for a new Clerk for Duns Presbytery.

MINISTER'S ITEMS:

Minister is planning an Advent event 'Preparing for Christmas' on Wednesday 9th December from 1.30 – 3.30pm.

With reference to the Rotary Christmas decoration refurbishment appeal, it was agreed that £250 would be donated from the Benevolent Fund.

At 6pm on Sunday 29th November, the first Sunday in Advent, we will be hosting a St

Andrew's Service organised and run by the St Andrew's Club.

The Sunday club are planning a Ten Pin Bowling outing to Eyemouth at 4pm on Saturday 21st November.

The Big Christmas Sing is to be attended by both secondary schools this year. Funds will be raised for Christian Aid. It is hoped that there will be sufficient knitted angels to enable every child to take one. The minister explained a little of the background to this which has been adopted by Churches Together in Berwick.

There will be a Christmas 'Messy Church' on Saturday 5th December from 2.00 – 4.30pm

The Youth Club hasn't restarted this term but it is hoped that an event can be organised over the Christmas break.

Lowick congregation is usually 4 – 5 attending. Continuance of weekly services is probably unsustainable. Minister is discussing with local members and considering a change in pattern, possibly just the second Sunday in a month and a sing-along one afternoon a month. If they are in agreement, the Anglican church will be encouraged to support and the entire village will be leafleted. If this doesn't work, nothing is lost but it is hoped that this will be as successful as the Berwick Sing-along. Minister hopes that Berwick members will support this in the early stages. All agreed.

SESSION CLERK ITEMS:

DATA PROTECTION

Bea advised that there were spare copies of both the data protection form and questionnaire available with the FWO envelope boxes in the counting room.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Berwick Male Voice Choir have been given permission to use the church for upcoming concerts on 9th December 2015 and 9th April 2016. They would also like to use the church for a recording in the afternoon/evening of 10th April 2016 (still tentative)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 7th December 2015 at 6.45pm then 8th February 2016 after Board at 6.45pm

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

..... Moderator

..... Session Clerk