

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

The Kirk Session met in the church hall on the evening of 31 October 2017. The Rev. Hilda Smith opened the meeting with a short reading from Luke Chapter 18 (from vs. 19) before formally constituting the meeting with prayer.

Sederunt

Rev. Hilda Smith (Moderator), Elma Munro, Fiona Cameron, Frances Fleming, Ian Davidson, Jessie Cranston, Malcolm MacFadyen, Margaret Davidson, Mary MacDonald, May Taylor and Sandy Taylor.

Apologies for Absence:

Edna Armstrong, Jim Kirk and Margaret Jacobsen

Hilda opened our meeting welcoming our guest, the **Reverend Alan Hamilton** of Killermont Parish Church, Bearsden, who is a pathfinder and advocate of the Church of Scotland's Path of Renewal initiative, in which we had expressed an interest.

Alan opened his address with a series of challenges and short discussion on the future of the Church in Scotland, and the role and potential for a new 'church', for new ways of worship, community leadership and service.

Speaking of the Church in today's world, Alan said ...

- The Church of Scotland as we knew it, in the past, is dead. The world in which we live today would have been alien to Martin Luther, to John Knox ...
- The church is no longer at the centre of the community

Today ...

- We need the right tools for the time
- Change will take time. The church needs to understand the world ... by asking questions of the Lord
- We live in and relate not to one community, but a series of (changing) communities

Speaking of the Path of Renewal initiative, Alan said ...

- It's a movement, not a programme
- The Church is about what congregations are doing
- The only people who can help the Church and our church are 'us' and the Lord
- Different communities ... different congregations ... different things
- We need to respond to this changing world ... shaped by gospel, by friendship, by locality, by the gifts of God's people ... the Path of Renewal make it a reality

Across Scotland there are 40 congregations currently embracing the Path of Renewal approach, and we are currently working to support the next 40 congregations joining us on that path. A path of discipleship, of learning and re-shaping as we go.

The Path of Renewal affords congregations an opportunity to re-focus, away from the 'what we've always done, to what we should do today.

Just as with every renewal process, this one is a 'hearts and minds' thing.

Joining the Pilot

The Minister will undertake preparatory training ...

Coaching and mentoring

(Contd.)

Working with groups in the congregation and
Attend regional conferences.

To become a 'missional church', you will need to focus on ...

Engagement in the community

Authentic Christian community and worship, and

Developing your role as disciples, nurturing spiritual growth

Church Leaders will be trained in

Missional theology and context

Adaptive leadership (how to enjoy change)

Discipleship

Missional initiatives and the shaping of church life

We are all disciples. We are all missionaries.

"Knowing your community is not enough ... you need to be submerged in it".

At the conclusion of his presentation and time with us, Alan called on us, the Kirk Session to give him feedback on what we wanted to do. Did we want to follow this path?

The Kirk Session offered their collective, unanimous commitment to pursue the Path of Renewal.

As he left Alan undertook to feed back to the Church of Scotland our wish to participate in the Pilot, and extended an invitation to Hilda to join him in early training for Ministers early in the New Year.

The Kirk Session reverted to its planned business, on this most notable of days, the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Kirk Session held on 5 September 2107 were agreed; proposed by Ian Davidson, seconded by Elma Munro.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising, which would not fall to be dealt with in the subsequent business.

2. Correspondence

i. Letter from '121' about the letting of the Manse in light of changes in legislation, which means that the duration of a tenancy cannot be restricted or terminated, other than in specified circumstances or with the tenants agreement.

AST – to pass copy of letter to Fabric Convenor.

ii. Letter of thanks to the congregation from Bert & Ann Alexander for their welcome and enjoyable day at Hilda's anniversary celebration.

3. Reports

i. Presbytery

No report

ii. **Finance** (balances as at 30 October 2017)

General	£4,377.42	Youth Fellowship	£542.24
Project	£36,921.93	Social	£220.00
Fabric	£1,576.54	Hall	£302.00
Benevolent Fund	£46.03	Café	£3,562.00

(Contd.)

Note: The Holiday Club expenses cheque of £350 remains outstanding. This will impact on Youth Fellowship account.

Decision: The Treasurer's report, which had been circulated, was approved.

iii. **Youth**

No report

iv. **Outreach**

No report

v. **Fabric**

Grant Application

I reported at the last Kirk Session meeting that we had received the approval of Presbytery for the proposed fabric repairs to the Church, and that Presbytery had passed our application to the General Trustees. I had been advised that the Trustees would be considering our application on the day of our meeting and I was expecting confirmation of their approval and possible funding assistance within a few days. Unfortunately, that was not the case and the matter was referred on to the Fabric Convenor who, following a visit, agreed that the matter be put before the next meeting of the Trustees fabric committee is on 7th November.

Ian expressed his hope that our application will be approved at that meeting, enabling him to proceed to obtain tenders and make application to other grant funders.

Sanctuary

It proved difficult to arrange convenient dates for a visit to the two churches mentioned in my last report. Ian will try once again to arrange this.

Fabric Committee Meeting

At our last committee meeting, the following matters were raised:

Nesting material in bell tower. Ian and Niall Cameron have removed the bird nesting material and will close off the birds' access.

Vestibule. An estimate for the required repairs indicates a cost of £595 (Duncan Hunter) for the repair and re-plastering the walls etc.

Entry to Rear Car Park. The tarmac at the entrance to the car parking area at the rear of the hall is in need of repair. An estimate for this work, at an indicated cost of £560 (Duncan Hunter) had been obtained.

Decision: The Session agreed that this work was needed and asked Ian to progress as indicated in his report.

vi. **Safeguarding**

No report

vii. **Congregational Roll**

No report

viii. **Social Committee Report**

Arrangements are in hand for a 'Christmassy Coffee Morning' on 25 November.

Xmas Lunch on 10 December

ix. **Malawi Twinning Group**

No report

x. **Moving On – Mid Argyll (MO-MA)**

Sandy gave short report-updating members on the increasing demand for food parcels and our potential move to add the provision of school uniforms to the support offered by Mo-Ma to those less fortunate.

4. **Worship**

Hilda to be on annual leave from 13-24th November.

