

Which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly constituted with prayer.

- Sederunt** Ena Hudson with I Anderson, M Baxendine, J Browning, G Bruce, I Clark, A Duncan, B Farrell, J Farrell, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, R Henderson, G Houston, M Hope, R Kirkhope, J McLeod, M Michael, R Michael, A Moyes, D Murray, W Page, J Paton, M Petrie, J Scott, M Scriven, E Smith, A Steward.
- Apologies** P Bell, S Docherty, E Fraser, J Napier, D Smith, K Wilkie, R Wright.
- Agenda** The published agenda was approved with the addition of the Presbytery update.
- Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the last meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September were approved.
- Matters Arising** *Sound Desk.* Estimates of £8,000 and £10,000 to improve the sound system had been received, however, speakers had been moved and the sound output level adjusted resolving most of the problems. It was reported that the hearing aid loop was working well. Occasional sound “drop offs” were still being investigated. A request was made to ensure that microphone positions were carefully adjusted and speakers discouraged from raising and lowering their voice too much. It was agreed that the system was now adequate. Bruce Farrell was thanked for his efforts in achieving the improvements.
- Shoe Box Appeal.* This had been well supported yielding as many boxes as last year. Bill Page thanked all who had contributed.
- Communion.* Fewer Elders had been serving than in the past and this had worked well. The Session Clerk thanked all who had participated but requested that more help be forthcoming at the set up.
- Friendship Group** This had met on the same day and had planned a programme of activities up to next June.
- Safeguarding** The Part 1 Refresher Course will take place in the Church Hall, 9.15 am for 9.30 am on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Nine of the Pastoral Care team and two of the Young Church leaders will be participating as well as some people from other churches.
- Glenn Bruce had asked to join the Pastoral Care group and was prepared to take the safeguarding training. The Kirk Session unanimously approved Glen’s appointment to the Pastoral Care Group once Part 1 Safeguarding Training was completed and PVG documents were completed and received from Disclosure Scotland.
- Elders were advised that they were due to attend a refresher course next year. C of S has advised that there is to be a review of Safeguarding Procedures and Training

The Interim Moderator thanked Mike Baxendine for his diligence with all of this.

### **Pastoral Care**

This was the time of year for Christmas cards to be sent to the entire congregation. Elders were reminded to make known any members needing a visit. Anne commended Marc for his willingness to work with the group particularly with the sick and very ill.

### **Presbytery Report**

Presbytery met on 7<sup>th</sup> November for a service of Holy Communion followed by a business meeting.

**Presbytery Planning:** It was agreed to establish a Presbytery planning committee which will work closely with the committees responsible for Ministries, buildings and Local Church Review to allow a more strategic approach to Presbytery planning.

**Church and Society:** Congregations are encouraged to support:-

- Christian Aid Side-by-side campaign on gender justice
- Sleep in the Park on 9th December
- Souper Sunday and Sundaes Sunday resources from the Church of Scotland HIV Programme

**Safeguarding:** Congregations were reminded of the importance of updating their training every 5 years.

**Dial & Ride bus service:** Concern was expressed that the Dial & Ride bus service is to be withdrawn temporarily at weekends. Fife Council was being asked to reconsider as the service enables some members to attend church.

The Presbytery has a new administration assistant, Lauren, who will be expediting document processing.

The next Presbytery meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### **The Vacancy**

The Nominating Committee had been working hard. Elders were alerted to the possibility that a potential Minister might visit one Sunday by joining the congregation. On Remembrance Sunday a visitor had arrived in the west gallery without service sheet or hymn book and had clearly been ignored by the duty Elders at the door on entering the church. Clearly this sends out the wrong signals to visitors and does not reflect the friendly caring nature of the congregation.

Jim Browning suggested that an informative article about the vacancy should be published in the February newsletter as members of the congregation had been seeking news. It was agreed that the Clerk to the Nominating Committee would arrange this.

The Interim Moderator explained that Church of Scotland procedure would have her move after one year of the vacancy. As she was very comfortable in this role at Abbotshall and as it had taken some time to

become familiar with the various activities she would like to stay. She also pointed out that the vacancy had only been formally advertised since the end of June.

**Gift Day** Morag Michael reminded Elders that this would be Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Gifts would be sent to Fife Women's Aid, should be for teenagers or ladies or children's toys and not be wrapped. She had full details of the requirements for those interested.

**Correspondence** The following intimations had been received.

Next year is the Year of Young People.

*Journey of Discipleship* 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April in Tulliallen Police College, highly recommended, details to follow.

Fife Society of the Blind had written seeking financial support and it was agreed that the collection from the Watch Night service would be sent.

**Diary Dates** *Christingle Service*---Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm  
*Young Church Service*--- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11 am  
*Watchnight Service* ----- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15 pm  
*Christmas Day Service*---Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30 at Linktown  
*Last Sunday of 2017*-----Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 11 am at Abbotshall in conjunction with the town centre churches.

**Next Meeting** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at 7.30 pm.

**Close** The meeting was closed with all saying the Grace.

**Action Items** It was agreed that the Clerk to the Nominating Committee would arrange for an informative article about the vacancy to be published in the February newsletter. Jim Browning

Minute Clerk

Interim Moderator