

MEETING OF KIRK SESSION OF ABBEY CHURCH
Monday 1 April 2019

Present: Revd. Dr David Graham (Moderator), Sally Penman, Ronald Ironside, David McAdam, Sadie Young, Elma Danks, Sheila Burgon, Margaret Burgon, Bob Kane, Yolanda Strachan, Bill McClure, Gregor Penman, Mary Graham, xxxxxxx, Willie Leslie, Andrew Cobb, Janice Cobb, Sarah Kerr, Linda Scott, xxxxxxx.

In Attendance:

1. Prayer and Constitution

The Moderator began by reading from Mark, Chapter 14. The meeting was then constituted by prayer.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Minister welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies from Richard Bell, Liz Harrison, Caitriana and Phil Spencer, Ray Lesso, Sheena and Stuart Cowan, Rose Leslie, Dorothy Kirkpatrick, Robert Burgon.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Kirk Session meetings on 4th and 10th February were approved.

It was agreed that in future, Minutes of Kirk Session meetings would be publicised on the website, as long as there was no personal information included.

4. Our Vision for the 2020s

A small group of the Committee Conveners, the Session Clerk and the Minister had met to consider how to take forward the results of the Elders' Conference last November identifying how we scored as a "Healthy Church". A paper was presented proposing that:

"As a body of Christ's believers, we have a vision of

- *Growing in faith, in our prayer life and in our confidence in sharing the good news of the Gospel*
- *Growing in number in every aspect of our ministry*

Every aspect of our church life should recognize this. We know that in our local area there are many opportunities for people of different ages to meet, in community, age and interest-based groups. But we want to offer them the chance to experience the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in what they do through Abbey Church."

There was discussion about the aims for the next five years and specific ideas/objectives for the next year (our target activities). The paper did not attempt to include all the aspects of our ministry but outlined some new ideas to take forward. The aims were based on areas where we had identified we were weaker.

Some points from the discussion about our target activities:

- It was acknowledged that although we have set some targets as measures of success, there would be other softer measures, such as people feeling more confident, people feeling more nurtured, etc.
- Although there was some debate about why there was a focus on a women's Bible-based group, it was agreed that there was already a Men's Breakfast organised by the Christian Fellowship and some women would feel more comfortable having a group of their own where they could open up about things personal to them. Sheila Burgon will follow up on organizing this new group. With permission from the Christian Fellowship, the dates of the Men's Breakfast will be advertised in our intimations.
- Further investigation would be needed to set up the Pram Service, using experience from other churches.
- The plans for Alpha are all in place, although more help is needed with setting up. Every Elder is encouraged to attend, as it is relevant no matter where you are in your faith journey.
- Dates have been set for the Summer Holiday Club (22-26 July). All the local churches are involved, with oversight by Scripture Union, and each church is being asked to contribute

funds. Hazel had suggested £50 start-up, but the Kirk Session agreed to put more funds in as required.

- The Kirk Session also agreed that as the Gospel Choir has been a much bigger activity than originally thought, it would be a good idea to have a “support group” to help administer the choir and provide advice and ideas. This will be discussed with Julie Loporto through the Nurture Committee.

The Kirk Session agreed to adopt the Vision paper with some slight changes. (Small changes of wording have been included in the revised draft which is sent with these minutes.)

5. Presbytery Report

Penicuik North will have a minister before long. The Minister also reported that there is a proposal to rationalise the number of presbyteries to around 12.

6. Kirk Session Committee Reports

World Church

The Mediterranean Meal was a great success and plans have been put in place for the forthcoming visit from friends in Kalimpong. (The visit has subsequently been cancelled because of visa problems). For Christian Aid week, Abbey is responsible for the Hope Rooms Coffee Morning on 25 May. The plan for envelopes is that if we have enough helpers they will be distributed. There are no street collections this year.

7. Safeguarding Report

No report

8. Guild Report

The Guild still needs a Secretary.

9. Summer Teas

Dorothy has offered to organise Teas again this year with St Baldred's, but some efficiencies have been identified to make things easier. The Kirk Session were happy to agree.

10. Dates for the Diary

Kirk Session meetings: 3 June, 19 August, 7 October, 2 December

Communion Sundays: 9 June, 8 September, 8 December

CLOSE

The meeting was closed by saying the Grace.

Moderator.....

Session Clerk.....