

**KIRK SESSION AGENDA**  
**18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Constitute	
Apologies	
Minutes of last meeting	
Matters Arising:	Harvest Service – Tearfund – 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept – retiral collection Church 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Services Update + children on door duty Proposals from Conference review
Correspondence	see attached
Primer Fund Bids	
Worship incl services to December, Harvest, Souper Sunday, GB Carol Service	
National Assessors	
Church Library Books	
Sign Up Sheets	
Presbytery Report	see below
Congregational Board Reports	see below
Stewardship	see below
Safeguarding	see below + further update from Anne
Committee Reports	see attached/below
Organisation Visits	see below
Communion Dates	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October at 11am: Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October at 2 pm
Communion Duties	see attached (Lists to: Church in Community, Other Churches)
AOCB	sorry no more to be added this time unless urgent.
Next Meeting	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b>

St Kentigern's Parish Church of Scotland Kilmarnock, 15 May 2018 at which place and date the Kirk Session met and after a reading from Psalm 24, was constituted by prayer.

**SEDERUNT**

Rev A McAllister, Mesdames J Burnett, A Brown, N Chisholm, M Craig, L Gale, S Hamilton, T Hamilton, M Murray, G Rooney, I Rennie, J Simm and S Wilson and Messrs S Brown, W Craig, J Herd, J McHardy, A Roney, W Kerr, J Tomlinson and W Wilson and Rev Tom Logan.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mesdames T Grant and N Gray and Mr I Rennie.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of Meeting dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were approved and signed following a discussion on amendments. The Clerk confirmed the Minutes were correct.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Treasurer/Stewardship Co-ordinator

No further update. Mrs J Hall was asked, it was suggested splitting up the jobs but Mrs Wilson wasn't sure if that would work. It was suggested we ask Tax Assist but again, that would be too expensive to let them do it.

Historic Buildings Fund – Update on building work

The Clerk gave an update that the Board have approved the proposal that the church should tell the architect to produce plans now for the kitchen, whether we get the grant or not and the Board want the Kirk Sessions approval for this to happen. A summary of costing was provided - £1950+vat for architect plans, £29760 + vat for total cost of kitchen update. W Wilson asked what we are specifically going to use the kitchen for in terms of outwith the church; he advised that we need to state specifically how the community will benefit. We can't apply for a grant without the plans prepared in advance. W Craig stated that the architect is ready to produce plans immediately. Presbytery doesn't meet till the end of June thus we won't have time to apply for the grant before the end of June. M Craig and J McHardy commented that having events in the church is acting on behalf of the community. Rev McAllister

explained that it was not viable to deal with all three options: pews, kitchen and wall painting. Session was asked if they approved the Board to go ahead with plans for the kitchen and the majority agreed.

## **Steering Groups Update**

### **Youth Steering Group proposals**

1. Dedicated Youth elder appointed: the requirements of this elder were detailed in their proposal.

#### *Reaction of Kirk Session:*

Each organisation already has 2 elders assigned who can be approached at any time.

A dedicated Youth elder seemed a good idea

A youth worker might answer the perceived need, but this would be expensive.

It is too big a remit unless an elder can be relieved of all other duties.

New, younger elders are needed.

#### *Decisions*

An elder would be temporarily added to the Youth Committee. No decision on the person was made but this would be considered.

Elders already attached to organisations would attend meetings if informed.

Steering group members are invited to attend Kirk Session meetings with permission to speak but not vote on relevant topics.

Electing new elders would be considered in September.

2. More youth involvement in services and responsibilities was requested

#### *Reaction of Kirk Session*

There was positive reaction to this proposal

#### *Decisions*

Rev McAllister agreed to involve Youth where possible, but frequent involvement might not be possible as this depended on the topic and the preacher knowing several weeks in advance what the topic would be, in order to give the young people time to create and prepare a suitable activity.

Youth Church members would be invited to bring in the Bible under supervision.

A member of Junior Church and Youth Church would be added to the door rota. Initially the adults on duty would train the young people. If this is successful, removing one of the adults on the door would be considered.

3. Youth to organise Thanksgiving service and have a Fellowship lunch after it

#### *Reaction of Kirk Session*

Rev McAllister informed Kirk Session that plans were already underway for this service.

It was felt that this was too big an undertaking anyway for the young people and there would not be enough time to plan and organise now.

We are having a lunch on 20th May and 24th June. To ask for more catering was not fair on the catering group.

#### *Decision*

The Young People would not plan the service, but would be heavily involved in it, including Souled Out playing a selection of choruses.

People would be invited to bring their own lunch with tea etc provided and to invite others to join them.

### **Fellowship Steering Group Proposals**

1. Use long tables after the service for tea

#### *Kirk Session reaction*

The tables are heavy - more people needed to help put them up and down.

People would have difficulty hearing conversations sitting at long tables.

#### *Decision*

A mixture of round and rectangular tables would be used and the popularity monitored.

2. We join the Community Litter Pick

#### *Kirk Session Reaction*

Favourable, no objections

#### *Decision*

This could be intimidating

3. Two movie nights would be held, the second during Lent

#### *Reaction of Kirk Session*

Favourable, no objections

The ideas were very similar to what Our Church do already.

### *Decision*

The movie nights could be held.

### Youth Band

Rev McAlister reported that some of the new equipment was delivered on Sunday to the church. More equipment is coming. They are playing on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. Rev McAllister asked for a video of the performance to be taken. Mrs Hogg's daughter has volunteered to video the band on Friday night.

### Summer Lunches

Mr Rennie received an update from EAC who informed him that they are providing lunches to children over the summer holidays from William McIlvanney cluster. The meals are being produced in the School but we don't know how they are being distributed. It was said at last week's meeting they had identified at least 20 families but this would probably increase.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Go For It Roadshow, Tuesday 5 June 2018, Queen's Hotel, Dundee. Clerk has further details.
2. Presbytery met pro re nata on 1st May at 6.45pm to consider the report of the Appraisal Convener proposing the linking of IRVINE: St. Andrew's and IRVINE: Girdle Toll.
3. Heart & Soul - I would like to invite you and your youth group to a brand new, free event in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh next month. As part of the Year of Young People, Heart and Soul will be hosting an evening event especially for young people. The event takes place on Saturday 19 May from 7 – 9pm. The evening will be led by our friends from Powerpoint Scotland and we are delighted to be welcoming the Christian EDM group, LZ7 to perform some of their worldwide chart-topping tracks. We are certain that young people will be able not only to share the evening with existing friends, but make many new friends as they mingle in the open air of Princes Street Gardens and experience energetic and powerful worship. You can find out more about LZ7 and hear some of their music at [www.lz7.co.uk](http://www.lz7.co.uk).
4. Letter received from Gavin Hurford re Pathfinders – he's stepping down as the leader. Further discussion required re the future of the organisation. See Below
5. Report on Prospects Workshop by Rev McAllister – please find attached.
6. A letter was received from Presbytery re appointing a Presbytery Elder to serve from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019. The Clerk completed and returned it in accordance with our decision at the previous meeting.
7. An email received from Michaela Foster Marsh from **StarChild** Charity with a view to visiting our church and doing a presentation on the charity and its work. They have built a first of its kind School for Creative arts, we also have a women's project there for vulnerable women and their children and a number of other projects to help the most vulnerable. They have spoken at a number of churches in Glasgow but would very much value the opportunity to speak in Kilmarnock as that is where my parents first met and fell in love with Frankie Marsh – who lived at Tankerha Children's Home. It is now flats on the corner of London Road. I feel sure that some members of your congregation would remember the children's home well.
8. 2018 Learning Disability Conference - Being Communities of Belonging takes place on Saturday the 16th of June in St Matthews Church, Perth. The day will cost £15 per person, lunch included.
9. Event which is happening later this year. Equip for Sports will held on Saturday 8th September 2018 from 10am - 3pm in Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot, Perth.
10. Diana Cameron from Tearfund wrote asking if we wished her to come along and speak at a service this year during their 50th Anniversary. Rev McAllister suggested she speak on Harvest Sunday and this was agreed.
11. National Prayer Breakfast for Scotland – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, John Knox Church 7-9am, Theme of Transforming Scotland.

### **YOUTH CHURCH DOOR DUTY**

The Clerk has received a list of names of teenagers wishing to help with Welcoming Duty. As agreed above, this will be put in place.

### **NOM COM MEMBERS**

Rev McAllister reported that come September G Rooney will need to resign from the Nominating Committee due to her training. If we don't have a minister by then we will need a new member. We can either take one of those nominated but not elected or pick new people. J Burnett, W Craig and L McDonald were the three others nominated. It was suggested we reduce the committee to eleven but we were unsure if Presbytery would accept this so Rev McAlister agreed to approach them first.

## **SOUPER SUNDAY**

Rev McAllister asked if we still want to hold it (October and November) – Preference was October.

## **MEMBER'S LINES**

Callum MacNee has asked to have his lines transferred to our church by resolution of the Kirk Session. There were no objections. Mr A McDonald asked to lift his lines verbally but Session agreed we need it in writing first.

## **PATHFINDERS**

The Clerk received a letter from Gavin Hurford, leader of Pathfinders, explaining that he is stepping down as of now as leader in charge. I Rennie and the Clerk spoke with Callum MacNee and he has agreed to take on the leadership role but will need support from us to ensure the continued success of the group. The Clerk will send a letter to Mr Hurford thanking him for his service.

## **STUDENTS**

L Gale will sit her assessment in July even though she is ready to sit it now. G Rooney leaves us in September and will be on placement after that but will remain an elder until she finishes her training. D Hume returns to us in June till his placement in November.

## **ROMANIAN VISITORS**

S Brown asked if we would like to give the Pastors a gift to take back to Romania to commemorate their visit. The committee suggested that we have a short Session meeting after the lunch in the lounge. Session agreed and suggested a curling stone as a gift.

## **NATIONAL WEEKEND OF INVITATION 15-17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

All churches are asked to send out invitations to people in the community to invite folk in to the church. We have 3 events in June and we agreed to make it the 10<sup>th</sup> on Thanksgiving but have a “bring your own lunch.”

## **BOARD ELDERS**

Mr I Rennie has come off the Board and as such we are entitled to add another elder. The Clerk intimated that she would take his place and no-one disagreed.

## **MINISTER'S HOLIDAYS**

Rev McAllister informed us she would be away the middle of June and sometime in August and 15<sup>th</sup> September for a week. She will confirm the other dates.

## **CHURCH PLANTING STUDY DAY**

G Rooney reported that this day encouraged Fresh Expressions – how we should think about changing how we do church; to encourage disciples. She suggested we maybe have them come to a conference in our church to help give ideas and suggestions on how to go about these changes and improve on the ones we do.

## **CHURCH 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

We need a committee to put ideas forward. This will be put forward till September.

## **SUMMER SERVICES/PREACHERS ETC.**

It was agreed to make up about eight bags of activities and a rota of 2 adults per week to have children out in the hall each week.

## **CHRISTMAS NATIVITY**

On 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm Audrey will have a Nativity performed by the youth and anyone else willing to take part.

## **PRESBYTERY REPORT**

Presbytery Mission Night 1.5.18

Prior to the mission night, 15 mins of the evening was given to consider the proposed linking of IRVINE: Girdle Toll and IRVINE: St Andrew's. Both were in agreement prior to some small details to be completed.

Once the other Irvine Churches agree their linkages they can move on to consider Pioneer Ministries.

The Mission evening on Pioneer Ministries was facilitated by Rev Alan Mc William who worked as a Church Planter in Whiteinch, now Ruchazie, Glasgow. Through his work with Forge Scotland over 125 people have been trained who

have gone on to create over 75 new church plants and mission projects throughout Scotland. The question we thought about during this Presbytery Mission evening was, "How can we create patterns of mission and ministry that reach out?" Pioneer Ministry comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes. What are others doing in other places? What is possible for us in our area? We were to begin to imagine how pioneering ministry could see the Church grow in our Presbytery. He showed us an overhead of new mission projects – Fresh Expressions of 11/12 years ago!

We sat in groups and wrote of ideas we might think would work with some members of our churches being willing to go out to another building and start something new – serving a need of the community and not coming to church. Church was to be generous in supporting this initiative. The various ideas were left on the tables to be picked up by someone from Presbytery and I believe they would be used as a basis for pioneer ministry for some churches to consider.

Joyce Simm

### **CONGREGATIONAL BOARD REPORT**

The Board met and agreed that we should go ahead and get the plans drawn up from the architect for the kitchen extension. Plans will cost £2000 with approximate total costing of £30,000. Kirk Session's approval was received. A report for April 2018 was issued detailing financial updates re electric and organists. It detailed various repair work in the big hall that has been completed and the bell tower fixed; that a sign in book will have to be organised for those entering the church; that the big clean will start on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and each organisation was asked to contribute £50 towards a new TV. A letter was received from Historic Buildings Scotland with regard to taking out the pews, replacing them with good chairs and putting down a new carpet on the sanctuary floor and possibly extending the kitchen. The closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Sadie Speirs, Karlyn Hume, Anne McCabe and Tracey Hamilton will investigate this and try to draft a letter to this organisation explaining what the congregation intend to do with regard to using this money for the benefit of the local community.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

A report was issued after the meeting and will be included in September Minutes.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

No update was provided.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Clerk reiterated again that all committees should meet at the same time each alternative month so that we can come together to inform each other of dates of events. Our Church reported that there has been progress with Fellowship and Youth group committees and that they are planning to help with the Big Clean. Church in the Community reported that a foodbank collection was taking place and they may hold a litter pick up later in the year. Other Churches reported that they are looking into a Costa Coffee event and are looking at the idea of an Elder dedicated to the youth organisations. Church in the Wider World reported the plans for the visit from Pastor Sandor and his family.

**ORGANISATION VISITS**        None

**COMMUNION DATES**        SUNDAY 3RD JUNE AT 11AM: TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 2 PM

**COMMUNION DUTIES** These were issued, with Our Church and Church in the Wider World making telephone calls.

**AOCB**                    None

The next meeting of Kirk Session will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 7.15pm.

This being all the business the meeting closed with the Grace.

St Kentigern's Parish Church of Scotland Kilmarnock, 2 June 2018 at which place and date the Kirk Session met and was constituted by prayer.

### **SEDERUNT**

Rev A McAllister, Mesdames J Burnett, A Brown, N Chisholm, M Craig, T Grant, L Gale, T Hamilton, M Murray, I Rennie, J Simm and Messrs S Brown, W Craig, J McHardy, A Roney, W Kerr, I Rennie and J Tomlinson and Rev Tom Logan.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mesdames S Hamilton, N Gray, G Rooney and S Wilson and Messrs J Herd and W Wilson.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Rev McAllister reported that as from September Mrs G Rooney will be stepping down from the committee due to her training commitments and that Presbytery has given the committee permission to work with only 11. As such Mr W Wilson has also indicated his intention to step down. The Kirk Session agreed that the committee would be able to work with 11 members only.

### **MEMBERS LINES**

The Clerk reported that she'd received a letter from Mr A McDonald requesting the lifting of his lines. The Kirk Session gave permission for his lines to be lifted and moved.

This being all the business the meeting closed with the Benediction at the close of morning worship.

St Kentigern's Parish Church of Scotland Kilmarnock, 5 August 2018 at which place and date the Kirk Session met and was constituted by prayer following a Bible reading by Rev McAllister.

### **SEDERUNT**

Rev A McAllister, Mesdames J Burnett, A Brown, N Chisholm, M Craig, T Grant L Gale, S Hamilton, T Hamilton, M Murray, I Rennie, G Rooney, J Simm and S Wilson and Messrs S Brown, W Craig, J McHardy, A Roney, W Kerr, I Rennie and W Wilson and Rev Tom Logan.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mesdame N Gray and Messrs J Herd and J Tomlinson.

### **THE MANSE**

Rev McAllister led the meeting, with the joint trustees of both Session and Board, to make a decision on whether to concur with the Board on a need to change the manse if necessary. She informed members that most candidates looking for a permanent position, either have a family or may want to start one and that the issue has already been raised with the Nominating Committee. The procedure for selling and buying a manse was issued to all members. Rev McAllister reiterated that giving permission to sell the manse didn't mean trustees had to sell it but if permission was given then the Board would set up a committee of 3-5 people who would deal with the property changes. Rev McAllister asked members to consider if they would agree in principle for the Nominating Committee to have permission to tell candidates that we would sell the manse if necessary.

Rev McAllister asked if Session were prepared to take a chance and trust that the Lord will give them the means to get what they need. Session were asked if they agreed to the need to change the manse if necessary to ensure acquisition of a recommended candidate for a sole nominee. There were no objections by any member present and so Session concurred with the Board's decision on changing the manse should this be required. Mrs Rooney did suggest that the wording "if necessary" be removed from the phrasing but this was not agreed.

This being all the business the meeting closed with a prayer.

## REPORTS

### **PRESBYTERY**

Local Church Review – attached

#### Presbytery Report 26.6.18

Welcome was given to Rev Ada MacLeod, recently inducted minister for Hurlford also her husband, Rev Calum MacLeod (retired)

The new Moderator, Steuart Day was welcomed into position as Rev George Lind stood down.

Various reports were heard and agreed.

Mission and primer fund has £5K Rev Gavin Niven advised there maybe £10K - applications by 7th September 2018. Forms are now on the web site.

Talk of training for fabric committees.

Rev Gavin Niven will be on study leave in Cyprus 17-23rd September 2018

Congregational facilitator, Steven Owen, has now been accepted as a candidate in training for ministry.

Service of Linking of Irvine Girdle Toll and Irvine St Andrew's on 27th June 2018. Minister for the linked is Rev Ian Benzie

That's the best I can remember.

The above was prepared after the meeting in June

#### Presbytery Report 4th September 2018

We met for Communion in St Andrews and St Marnock's then continued in the same venue with the business meeting. Steven Owen Congregational facilitator will have his contracted extended till September 2019 but will be part-time after that date

Local Church Review (LCR) groups, with 6 members in each group, will replace support groups and the quinquennial visit will be no more. Please read attached overview.

The LCR groups will receive training. Coordination support will come from the Congregational facilitator who will also be available to provide support to congregation who need guidance in relation to agreeing an action plan as part of the process.

Kirk sessions are instructed to ensure the action plan is implemented, and the facilitator will give guidance and during the transition period all congregations will continue to be supported by the LCR team.

This new process to commence January 2019.

Miss Barbara Graham is to be Presbytery's Ecumenical Representative

Presbytery granted consent to allow St Kentigern's to sell their existing manse at 1 Thirpart Place, Kilmarnock, should this be necessary, subject to the approval of the General Trustees.

We were asked to note that the General Trustees are hosting Property Seminars with our local one being Irvine; Fullerton on Tuesday 13th November 10am-4pm. If you wish to attend you must complete and return a registration form by email from [edeeks@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:edeeks@churchofscotland.org.uk) or contact [sammcwie@btinternet.com](mailto:sammcwie@btinternet.com) These seminars are concentrating on Equipping for the future. The seminars are aimed at anybody and everybody who has responsibility of looking after church buildings. Church Property Convenors may wish to attend. Along with other headings there is Finance for Buildings-The Trustees would like to make parties aware of the different types of funding available within the Church and externally.

Joyce Simm Presbytery Elder

### **CONGREGATIONAL BOARD REPORT**

BOARD MEETING August 2018

There was no declaration of interest stated.

Matters Arising: - None

Treasurer's Report: There is £75,083.61 in the bank at present. For expenditure some big bills have to be taken off e.g. Heating and Lighting of £3781.42. Tax Assist will not be approached for auditing the books nor for checking the OSCAR form. Sadie Speirs's niece will be approached for this. Any expenses need to be brought before the board first apart from emergencies and the standard cleaning expenses. The N.H.S. have accounts outstanding which will have to be pursued.

Fabric: - There are 2 windows to be fitted in the small hall.

A.O.C.B:

Manse:- A valuation will need to be done and the figures sent to David Robertson at the General Trustees. This will be done on Friday of this week for free. The present manse may be deemed to be unsuitable, but Presbytery sanctioned it suitable in the past when the various alterations were done to it and this should be on record.

Kitchen:- This will need to be put on hold. There is a 3 year time scale to do this once the plans are forthcoming.

WiFi:- Wireless access points are needed. There is a trial going on just now which should enable 33 people to use devices at once. Two of these devices are being bought for £120.00. Two password names will be given for this and the two units will operate on 5G. A new notice board will be obtained for the churches outside wall. The price for hall lets for East Ayrshire will have to be increased. A new booking form will have to be produced. The problems with the church screen will have to be sorted. Jim McHardy and Sandy Brown will have to look into this. Three cupboards have been stripped of paint tins and are available for use but the walls will need scrubbing. The churches back door needs to be painted and a discussion on buying church note books was put back to the next meeting

Date of next meeting 16th October 2018

## **STEWARDSHIP**

After prayer and discussion, it was decided not to pursue a traditional stewardship campaign (letters being sent out to the congregation and a meal). This has been tried several times over recent years and has had limited impact.

Our main focus has been on improving the giving of our time and talents. This was decided upon as we are very aware that during the time of vacancy in the church we need to keep on going and in fact improve on what we are doing as a Church, in the community and in the world. We have had some regular, generous givers leave us either through death or moving away and this has had an impact on our income. At the moment we have steady income and continue to keep a careful watch over our finances. In 2017 our income was £58576 compared to £61728 in 2016. Most of our income is derived from standing orders and gift aid. Our support to third parties was £2947 an increase of £950 from the previous year.

At the start of our thinking about Stewardship we had a focussed service during which we reminded the congregation on the various ways to give and encouraged people to sign up for gift aid and also to consider prayerfully their monetary giving, challenging everyone to increase their giving by, at least, one pound per week. This challenge was taken up by a good portion of the congregation. There have also been reminders of this challenge to consider and review our financial giving at the beginning of the year and we plan to repeat these challenges again. At our annual thanksgiving service on the 10th June we will be once more be focussing on the gifts that God has given to us and ways that we can serve. We have also focussed on raising awareness in the congregation regarding various ways that they could become more to involved. To this end the different committees had an opportunity throughout the year to speak during worship about the different activities that they are involved in and to share with the congregation what the options for service are and where the needs for giving lie.

As a congregation without a fulltime Minister we are keen to continue developing during this time of vacancy and are acutely aware of the need to have people volunteer and to feel part of the initiatives that we feel led to embark on. To this end we held a recent congregational conference where we discussed our vision for our church and came up with new ways for people to feel empowered and to be part of the church, growing and developing in faith. From the conference we have two small steering groups which are focussing on youth and on fellowship. These two small groups are responsible for taking forward the ideas discussed at the conference.

As we continue to search for the Minister we believe that God has for us, we are stepping up to fulfil new roles and to support each other, providing cover for the nominating committee to be available to go out and listen to different Ministers. This has meant an expansion to the pool of talent and gifts that we already have. We look forward to the changes and challenges that lie ahead with the help of God.

Gillian Rooney Stewardship Convenor

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Safeguarding Report September 2018

Emily Fraser and Katie Murdoch have now been cleared through the PVG system. Emily to help in the Junior Church and Katie in the Girls Brigade. Trisha is currently in the process to allow her to assist in Junior Church and Calum currently has two forms for helpers in the Pathfinders.

I also had communication from Fiona Corrigan asking for a transfer form to be completed for Gavin Raleigh. I sent this to Gavin. I've received a list of training dates which I will pass on to those still requiring to complete their training. I would appreciate it if you know of anyone who no longer helps in any of the areas that require PVG cover you could give me their names as they must be removed from the register and 121 George Street informed.



## **KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES**

### **Our Church** *(see attached)*

12.6.18 Report detailed a plan to have a litter pick in August/September with Youth Church/GB helping.

### **Church in the Community** *(see attached)*

### **Other Churches** *(see attached)* [Calendar of Events – see below]

Youth Work - Get Inspired - see below for report

### **Church in the Wider World** *(see attached)*

#### Romania

Our friends from Romania, visited us from 20th to 25th June. They would like to thank everyone they met for their hospitality and friendship. They appreciated it very much and felt very welcome.

Having met them at Edinburgh Airport on the Wednesday, Sandy took them over to see our church on the Thursday, before having a look around Kilmarnock. In the evening the committee and our visitors, had an evening meal with the Rev Anne and Tracey Hamilton.

They enjoyed a trip to the Ayrshire coast and Culzean Castle with Jon on the Friday and on the Saturday, it was off to Stirling, Loch Lomond and the north Ayrshire coast with Sandy. On Sunday 24th Pastors Sandor, Erzsebet and their eldest son Daniel, joined us for the morning service. Both the Rev Anne and Pastor Sandor took the service, with the Pastor delivering the sermon. Afterwards we all enjoyed our Congregational Lunch together, with many members of the congregation staying on. After lunch we had a meeting of the Kirk Session, where there was an opportunity for all to ask and answer questions. Everyone we have spoken to has commented on how well Pastor Sandor spoke.

Our Twinning Agreement continues with the churches in Amati and Hirip until 2021, so we will be keeping the congregation abreast of any developments. It is hoped that Jon, Sandy, Sharon and Tracey will visit our friends again next year to explore any further ways of assisting with our project.

Blythswood Care - One such development that has emerged is that our good friends in Blythswood Care have agreed to take 40 - 50 shoe boxes to Satu Mare, this year to be distributed to the elderly in both villages. We are hoping that everyone in the congregation will join in and collect items for these boxes. This should not take away from our usual collection in November. We have ensured that we had information in the recent Outreach magazine asking for members of the congregation to help by filling a box for an elderly person.

Persecuted Church - We aim is to continue to keep this to the fore with the congregation by having articles in our Outreach magazine, intimation sheet, website, etc.

Convener - As we are finding it easier to each take a turn in reporting back to Session and not have a named convener, that's what we intend to continue to do.

### **Ideas for consideration**

#### **Reachout**

Reachout are venturing into new ground at the end of the month when we will be recording a five track CD of songs that the band cover from time to time. This is being recorded at a studio in Bishopbriggs and we would like to have it ready for the beginning of December but this will depend on the studio. The cost of this project is £650, which includes a 50 CD package. We hope to sell these for £5 each. We have applied to the Presbytery Fund to cover the costs of the project. We would also like to try another new project in the new year (see below).

#### **Café Church**

The band would like to try out Café Church starting in January 2019. This would entail meeting once per month in the small hall with an informal light meal from 5.30 till 6.15, followed by a time of worship and perhaps a time for discussion around biblical themes or current issues, before closing at 7.15. This would obviously involve others such as the Social Committee to provide the meal. Unfortunately due to other commitments a time of worship at Costa hasn't been progressed but it is hopeful that we may be able to progress this before the end of the year.

#### **Walking Football**

Ian Rennie and I have been having a blether about the possibility of introducing a walking football club to the church one day per week, during the day, in the large hall. This would of course have to take place in the large hall, but the only snags to that would be, we would have to remove the chairs from the hall and ask the Pathfinders if we could use their goals until such times as we could afford to buy our own. This is an event that is growing in popularity and is for people over the age of 55. It is a way of keeping fit, socialising and could be seen as an outreach into the community.

## **ORGANISATION VISITS**

### Messy Church

Marion and I visited Messy Church and spent a very enjoyable afternoon. It was lovely seeing the children so happy and excited. There were plenty of activities and also a quiet time where we had a Bible story, some choruses and a prayer time. The afternoon closed with a party spirit with ice-cream and presents. God's blessing goes with Irene and the leaders for all their work with parents and children of Messy Church.

Margaret Murray

### Youth Church

Nancy and I went along to Youth Church the last Sunday in May where we were made very welcome by leaders and young people. On our visit Murrion was giving a slide show and talk regards her visit to Arua. Murrion was very good and the knowledge of her trip was great. The slides and talk also showed everyone what goes on in other countries and how the continued support from everyone helps. Nancy and I look forward to our next visit to Youth Church.

Tracey Grant

### Junior Church

Bill and I visited Junior Church before the end of the Session. There were 5 children in the younger section. The children shared their news before Anne reinforced the story of Pentecost and had a birthday cake to celebrate the beginning of the church. Each child was given a candle to put onto the cake, candles lit and time given to look at flame before being blown out.

Thereafter all the children in Junior Church went outside to see a large candle placed on grass lit to which there were loud shouts and claps. Anne again raised concern regarding lack of time with the children with the length of the service each Sunday. Some weeks the person leading worship finishes early.

Irene Rennie

## CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Trustees of CoS are hosting seven seminars across Scotland during which you will have plenty opportunity to engage with practical, day-to-day property-related issues. However, as raised at this year's General Assembly, the Trustees also want to look to the future and some questions may include– what sort of buildings do we need?, can the buildings we have be adapted to suit, do we have the resources required? There will be 2 breakout sessions in the afternoon, please pick 2 topics from the list below: The 4 topics for this year are :

Safe Buildings – We would like to develop a Safe Building Culture that will ensure that how we will build, renovate, develop and occupy our buildings will be done so safely.

Finance for Buildings - We would like to make you all aware of the different types of funding available, within the Church and externally.

Projects - A church building is a tool and it should support congregational mission and we would like highlight some of the important things to consider in taking on a project.

Maintenance – All buildings decay and we would like to make you aware of the assistance available maintenance to help plan and manage a repair and maintenance programme.

If you would like to come along to any of the events, please complete the attached registration form and return by either email to [sdeeks@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sdeeks@churchofscotland.org.uk) or by post to Sara Deeks, General Trustees, Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YR Venues & Locations: -- Glasgow : Monday 3rd September 2018 : Gorbals; Perth Monday 22nd October 2018 : St Andrew & St George's West; Irvine Tuesday 13th November 2018 Fullarton

2. Robin Richards of [www.huntermrichards.co.uk](http://www.huntermrichards.co.uk) Richards Security emailed offering services in security Consultancy (Free initial advice and guidance), Loss Prevention, Crime Prevention, Marketing assistance, Security Officers, CCTV and alarm systems, Emergency Response. 07470 229592 [info@huntermrichards.co.uk](mailto:info@huntermrichards.co.uk)

3. Rt Revd Susan M Brown, Moderator General Assembly is taking part in Big Sleep Out and asking others to do the same or pray for her. Date: Saturday 8 December 2018, Where: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen Why: to end homelessness, Details: [www.sleepinthepark.co.uk](http://www.sleepinthepark.co.uk) Who: all ages through the Big and Wee Sleep Outs

4. An extract was received from Presbytery on 28<sup>th</sup> June in which Inter Alia The Report of the Mission and Discipleship Committee was presented by the Convener, The Revd Edward Marshall, who moved and Presbytery approved, the Deliverance:

*Presbytery encourages congregations within the bounds, if they have not already done so, to appoint a "Learning Disabilities Contact" person and register them with the Church of Scotland's Learning Disabilities Working Group.*

Further extracts were received from the 6<sup>th</sup> September Presbytery meeting:

Mr Sam McVie presented a Convener's Report of the Property and Glebes Committee, moving and the Clerk seconding the Deliverance.

1. Presbyters are asked to note that the General Trustees are hosting Property Seminars concentrating on the topic Equipping for the Future and are requested to share this information with their Church's Property Convenors who may wish to attend the seminar taking place at Irvine: Fullarton.
2. Presbytery grants consent to allow Kilmarnock: St Kentigern's to sell their existing manse at 1 Thirdpart Place, Kilmarnock, should this be necessary, subject to the approval of the General Trustees.
3. SEE BELOW FOR EXTRACT REGARDING LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW PROCESS

5. Making Churches Accessible to All – see attached report on ways suggested to make this happen.

6. An email was received from Chloe Clemmons, Scottish Churches Parliamentary Officer

As we have been part of the Meet Your MSP Project she thought we may be interested in hosting a Democracy

### Matters Community Consultation Event.

The Church of Scotland is looking for twenty churches across Scotland to host a conversation in their community about the future of local democracy. Events will take place from September – December 2018. Conversations in churches will form part of a national Scottish Government consultation called Democracy Matters. The consultation asks people about their experiences of local decision making processes now and whether they would like to see changes to the way in which decisions are made locally in the future. The consultation reflects a growing realisation that many decisions are best taken by the people who will be directly affected. Hosting a Democracy Matters Community Consultation is a great way to enable your community to be part of this important national discussion.

The Church and Society Council will provide a facilitator to lead each Community Consultation who will also gather the views of participants to include in a response to the Scottish Government. The purpose of the event is to gather the views of participants, there will be a mix of small group discussion and practical activities. The facilitator will explain the context of the consultation and lead the group in their discussions; however, there will not be a speaker. The Community Consultation event will take 2 hours and can be arranged for a date and time that works for you, we will be available for evenings and weekends as well as during the working day.

***Please read and consider = decision taken at the meeting***

7. A Pastoral Care Conference 2018 - 'Nurturing Pastoral Care Together' scheduled on Saturday 10 November 2018 in Dunfermline. This event will accompany with the launch of our new Learn: Pastoral Care publication. We would encourage churches to be paying for their volunteers to attend as part of their ongoing training and development and there is an option as part of the booking for us to invoice church treasurers. More details online.

8. SASRA, a missionary organisation involved in Christian Outreach to the Armed Forces is running an event 100 Days of Prayer, commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 100 days offensive, which led to the end of WW1. Churches are encouraged to sign up for a prayer date, and SASRA will supply a prayer pack including Prayer Points, testimony videos of Christian soldiers and all you need to run the prayer meeting. online sign up or email [100days@sasra.org.uk](mailto:100days@sasra.org.uk)

9. Conferences that are coming up in our area:

- Our Faith Formation in Secular Age Conference, Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, Wellington Church Glasgow, (Ministers, elders, readers etc)
- Relational Ministry Re-imagine Conference, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, Ayr, Teachers, Leaders of Youth organisations
- Community of Faith Conference for Paid Workers, Feb 209 for Children/Youth Workers

More details from Clerk.

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## **PRESBYTERY LETTER AND EXTRACT:**

At KILMARNOCK on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 which day the Presbytery of IRVINE and KILMARNOCK met and was duly constituted.

*Inter Alia*

**The Report of the Business Committee** was presented by the Convener, the Revd John Urquhart, who expressed thanks to the Moderator and to all who had participated in the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Mr Urquhart moved, and Presbytery approved, the Deliverance:

14. Presbytery agrees to the implementation of the Local Church Review process:

- a) Current support groups will be revised to create a balanced grouping and LCR will become the mechanism of the support group.
- b) Support Groups will be renamed Local Church Review Groups (LCR Groups) and membership will include approximately 6 people in each Group.
- c) Appropriate arrangement will be made to ensure all LCR Group members are trained with at least 2 in each group trained to take on the role of team leader.
- d) Paperwork will be the materials that are made available nationally with small revisions to make the process fit the regional context. It will also be flexible enough to incorporate any national strategic objectives, especially in directing the creation of an action plan.
- e) A minimum of two reviews would be completed in each year for each LCR Group, essentially one taking place in Spring and the other in Autumn.
- f) Coordination support will come from the Congregational Facilitator who will also be available to provide support to congregations who need guidance in relation to agreeing an action plan as part of the process.
- g) Kirk Sessions are instructed to ensure the action plan is implemented, guidance on implementing the action plan will also be made available from the Congregational Facilitator.
- h) During the transition period all congregations will continue to be supported by the Local Church Review Team.

15. Presbytery agrees that this new process to commence from January 2019. Extracted by me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018

## OTHER CHURCHES COMMITTEE

Kirk Session 18.9.18

### EVENTS CALENDAR SHARED WORSHIP WITH THE FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES and others

*Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September -St Kentigern's Ladies Day 10-2.30pm*

1. **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm** Power Point, Scripture Union for youth, 42, Inglefield Street, Glasgow
1. **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 7-9 pm** Fragrance, Central Evangelical Church
- 2.
3. **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm Open Invitation Evening Worship Loudoun Church Newmilns:** welcoming 4Visitors from Malawi. Two of the Visitors are Ordained Ministers, one is a Nurse, and one is a Guild representative

#### **Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Year of Young People event**

Celebrate the Year of Young People invites secondary school pupils to bring friends to an afternoon event of fun and food, with an opportunity to meet new friends from other churches. This will be held at Kay Park Parish Church in the afternoon, followed by a 6 p.m. service for people of all ages with a large input from young people, including St Kentigerns Youth Band -'Souled Out', at the Salvation Army.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 1-3pm -North West Area Centre Kilmarnock** - The Morven Centre will be holding it's Arts & Crafts and Information Day

**27th October – Crosshouse Church of Scotland** Presbytery Prayer meetings 9:30 Coffee/Tea then prayer time 10.00 to 10.45

#### **Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> Service-- St John's Church at 7 p.m.**

St John's Church will host an evening service with a focus on the way that churches of all denominations in our town show Christian love in action by supporting the most needy people in our community. The theme of this service will be Christian social responsibility. It will include contributions from organisers of EACHa (East Ayrshire Homelessness Action), Broken Chains and Faith in Throughcare.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm** Power point scripture Union for youth, 42, Inglefield Street, Glasgow

**24<sup>th</sup> November – Girdle Toll Church of Scotland** Presbytery Prayer meetings 9:30 Coffee/Tea then prayer time 10.00 to 10.45

#### **Sunday, December 2nd - Christmas is Coming! An afternoon service at the Howard Centre.**

This will include a Christingle service, adapted to suit people with a wide range of disabilities. A British Sign Language interpreter will be available and other special needs can be accommodated.

#### **Saturday, December 22nd - Carols @ the Cross 11 a.m. For singers of all abilities**

The stance beside the Farmers' Market has been booked for our annual carol singing event with the Salvation Army band providing music. Afterwards, everyone is invited to New Laigh Kirk for mince pies, shortbread and hot drinks. Even if you are unable to stand outside singing, feel free to come along for the friendly gathering of people from all churches (and none) afterwards.

4.

**The next meeting of FKC will be held at St Andrew's and St Marnock's Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October. Any interested in the Fellowship from St Kentigerns is welcome to attend. Come on, let's input ideas.**

## MAKING CHURCHES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

In 2017 the Church of Scotland's Learning Disabilities Working Group distributed a Learning Disabilities Action Pack to churches to help them to be more inviting to people with learning disabilities. Churches were encouraged to nominate a Learning Disabilities Contact for their congregation to communicate with the Working Group and take advantage of further resources and events.

Thus far it appears that few congregations in Ayrshire have acted on this invitation. Some may think that this is not relevant because there is no one with learning disabilities in their church – but if not, why not? Perhaps people are reluctant to volunteer because they don't have relevant experience to offer – but the Working Group stresses that having a desire to make churches more inclusive is all that is required.

To help churches to address this issue, the ecumenical Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches invited Ivy Blair of the Prospects Scotland charity to run a workshop at the Howard Centre on how to adapt services to suit people with learning disabilities or to set up parallel forms of worship and fellowship for this group. The workshop addressed barriers which may have to be overcome, both for people with additional support needs and for congregations who are asked to make adaptations. The following suggestions show how simple, but effective some innovations can be and how they can enrich church life for everyone.

2. Pictures such as a Bible or praying hands can be added to orders of service and shown on screens to indicate what is coming next during a service.
3. Clear signage in pictures and words can indicate what is behind the many doors in a church – especially where to go for toilets and that important cup of tea in the hall where friends meet after the service.
4. In a fully inclusive service – perhaps at meetings especially for people with learning disabilities and their friends – thought should be given to the words of songs. “All hail the Lamb enthroned on high” can conjure up confusion – not to mention the man who went home and called the fire brigade after singing about “fire burning in your heart”!
5. A short drama instead of a long sermon may be more accessible to people with learning disabilities.
6. Illustrated Bible translations in simpler language can be helpful – both in “regular” services and at praise sessions especially for people with additional support needs.
7. Giving people with learning disabilities a role within the church community – for example, in the welcome team or serving in a café – can foster a sense of being a valued member of the church family.

These are a few ideas included in the Learning Disabilities Action Pack, which also includes comments from families with personal experience of good and bad practice in churches.

Some churches already engage with care homes and community groups who support people with learning disabilities. Others have yet to make a start by exploring the Action Pack and nominating a Learning Disabilities Contact. We can all learn from one another by setting up a Presbytery-wide group of Learning Disabilities Contacts. In this way we can grow in confidence and perhaps arrange special worship events where people with learning disabilities are the hosts who invite friends in their church families to come enjoy a different style of worship, full of music, action and joyful participation. If you are interested in developing these ideas, please contact Barbara Graham at [barbara.graham74@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.graham74@btinternet.com) or tel. 01563-522108.

## **YOUTH WORK – GET INSPIRED**

- 140+ at the evening service for youth
- 150 at the youth event every Friday
- 50 youth at bible studies mid-week

A city centre church in London? No, a church in Kirkintilloch, a place with a smaller population than Kilmarnock and a similar main street with charity shops predominating.

Can something similar happen in Kilmarnock? Only God knows, and it is only with His leading and blessing of our efforts that anything lasting and worthwhile can result.

From a human point of view, if one looks at the ingredients for success in Kirkintilloch, these are the ones that stand out:

- Prayer for many years about its youth
- Joint planning with the youth and older people in the church
- A concerted effort by the whole church to cater for its youth, with meant older people being prepared to accept a noisy different church service in return for increased numbers of youth
- Development of a youth band
- Encouragement of youth to speak and play in public
- Specific activities for youth –
  - o Evening service planned and led by the youth and the youth band
  - o Friday Night Live club including leadership training
  - o Mid-week bible studies for each of the secondary school year groups in the homes of members of the congregation
  - o “Equip” bible class on a Sunday morning
  - o High School chaplaincy programme.
- Flexibility in approach with a readiness to tweak plans if they are not working well
- Relationship building with youth regarded as even more important than planning and programmes.

Instead of asking, “Could it work in Kilmarnock?” a better question would be, “Why can this not work here?” as looking at the above list, we already have many in place:

- A prayer meeting
- A youth committee
- A group of interested older people involved with the youth
- A youth band
- Youth with experience of speaking and performing in public
- Good relationships between the youth leaders and the youth.
- People able to apply successfully for grants
- Musical expertise in our congregation.

Possible next steps:

- Pray more about it
- Think big
- See if any people are interested in attending a Kirkintilloch Baptist Church Sunday evening service, the Friday Night youth club, the mid-week bible study in Kirkintilloch, or all three.

If any feel inspired following this, have a meeting together to see what we can try, and make a plan. Alright, we may not reach the numbers listed at the start, but in the past we have had 50 coming to our Church’s youth group on a Sunday evening and 30-40 on at Friday evening to our youth club, so why should this not be possible again. Times have changed as have methods, but if Kirkintilloch can do it in 2018, is it not worth a try?

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29 v. 18)

With God’s inspiration and help, and perseverance and prayer on our part, can we do something similar? Yes, we can!

Jim McHardy  
Other Churches Committee  
31 August 2018