

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 28th January at 7.00pm. The Moderator, the Rev Mark Malcolm led the meeting in prayer and read from Isaiah 45:22.

Sederunt: Sederunt and apologies as per the Sederunt Book.

The minutes of 5th November 2024 were approved.

Safeguarding: The written report from the Safeguarding Coordinator was discussed. The following volunteers have been added to the PVG Register: Donald Mitchell (Protected Adults 21/11/24); Brian Elder (Protected Adults 27/11/24); Susan Jeffrey (Protected Adults 17/12/24); Elizabeth Firrell (Children and Protected Adults 18/12/24); Agnes Jackson (Protected Adults 7/1/25); Janette Kean (Children and Protected Adults 8/1/25); David McLaren (Protected Adults 23/1/25); and Carol Findlay (transfer from former church 15/11/24). It was noted that 47 volunteers have now attended introductory safeguarding training and that 15 Elders have now attended a trustees' safeguarding course. It was agreed that those new volunteers who have not yet attended an introductory safeguarding course and Elders who have not yet attended a trustees' safeguarding course should do so as soon as possible. Regarding the introduction of new safeguarding procedures by the Boys' Brigade, it was noted that the Safeguarding Service had confirmed that the Church's safeguarding procedures must continue to be followed until the Safeguarding Service had clarified the position. The Chryston BB company has had no communication from BB Headquarters.

Church Treasurer's Report: The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 were approved and Mark Malcolm (on behalf of Ian Brown) and Les Moore were authorised to sign the reports for passing to the Independent Examiner. The Reserves Policy, as set out in the TAR, was approved. The General Fund Budget for 2025 was approved. It was agreed that major essential repair be funded from the Building Fund up to a maximum of £20,000 and that it be delegated to the Fabric & Property Team to draw up a list of prioritised repairs to be met from the building Fund. It was noted that the Treasurer would provide a report on the financial position to each meeting of Trustees.

Session Treasurer: The Kirk Session accounts were approved. It was noted that income from the Café Hub would be used to subsidise Hub Kids as a means of supporting the Young People & Families Work in the community. It was also noted that a grant had been offered for the operation of a free Warm Space for a period of 10 weeks.

AGM: It was agreed that the AGM of the congregation would be held on 5th March 2025 at 7:30pm.

Boys' Brigade: It was noted that a meeting between Session representatives and the Boys' Brigade trustees would take place soon.

Church Insurance: The written report submitted by Dave McLaren was noted. It was agreed to defer consideration of the let by the Scottish Country Dancing group until the next meeting to allow for further clarification of insurance matters. It was noted that trustees have a duty to ensure that external users of the buildings are adequately insured and that failure to do so may result in personal liability for trustees. It was noted that locking the upstairs hall cupboard was feasible and it was agreed that this should be further investigated and actioned.

Health & Safety: The written report, outlining progress on work being undertaken and under consideration, was noted. Regarding the use of the lift and its age, it was noted that Dave McLaren had arranged for service visits to be carried out at three-monthly intervals.

Working Teams:

Mission Abroad: Ali Hunt reported that the team had met in mid-December. The team's desire is to get information out to the congregation with updates from partners. It is considering ways to improve communication (Connect, pre-service notices) to encourage increased prayer and financial support. It is also looking at how to support partners better. It was noted that Lorna Ferguson is coming to the church on 30 March.

Pastoral Care: The Pastoral Care team had met on 17th January. Brian Elder described the work undertaken by the team in recent months, including issuing Christmas cards to 32 members who are housebound or in care homes. 17 people have volunteered to help in the work and an evening is planned on 6 March to discuss with volunteers how best to use their talents. ID cards would be provided for security. The congregation would be invited to suggest persons who might benefit from contact although it was noted that there is a significant workload already.

Worship: The Worship Team had met at the start of January. It had reviewed the Christmas services, including the relocation of services to the upstairs hall and the involvement of young people in worship. The team also discussed potential dates for congregational lunches, a "name badge" Sunday, regularity in worship, plans for Holy Week and Easter, and the sermon series to follow on from John.

Communications: It was noted that Christmas outreach materials and signage within the church were designed to be consistent. The website is in the process of being renewed, having been designed to describe the church as a community of believers.

Young People and Families: The YPFW Leadership Team met on 21st January where Scott highlighted the main activities undertaken in 2024 and plans for early-2025, including Easter Code in the Primary School for P7 and consideration of activities for the spring holiday and in-service days. It was noted that Kirk Session funds may be available for assistance to attend SU weekend/holidays.

Food Safety & Hygiene: It was noted that the team was scheduled to meet on 29 January.

Presbytery & Presbytery Plan: It was noted that the role of Presbytery Elder was still vacant, and a volunteer is required. Little progress is being made on Presbytery planning, although it is expected that the cluster will meet with the Presbytery committee soon.

Communion: It was agreed that Mark would liaise with Ian about a suitable date.

Looking Back & Looking Forward: Mark introduced this item as a precursor to a discussion that will be held at the next meeting. He looked back to the introduction of the unitary constitution and the creation of the teams, which, although it had taken longer than expected to get them started, have proved to be a success with more people involved in active work in the church. The requirements of new constitution had meant that more time was spent on governance at Session meetings. He asked if there might be a better way of ensuring that trustees' duties and responsibilities could be discharged. Looking forward, he asked where the Session will be, as individuals and as a church, in 10 years' time, depending on the sovereign care of God.

Date of Next Meeting: 4th March 2025 at 7pm

Prayer: The meeting closed with a time of open prayer and the benediction.