

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm. The Moderator, the Rev Mark Malcolm led the meeting in prayer and read from Psalm 79.

**Sederunt:** Sederunt and apologies as per the Sederunt Book.

The minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were approved.

Apologies: Donald Montgomery, Malcolm McNaught and Margaret Rodger.

**Correspondence:** Nil

**Safeguarding:** The written report from the Safeguarding Coordinator was discussed. The following volunteers have been added to the PVG Register: David Ferries (Children and Protected Adults 10/02/25); and Sarah Carson (Children and Protected Adults 10/02/25). It was noted that the following Trustees had completed Trustees' Training: Brian Elder; David Ferries; Roger Fleming; Alistair Hunt; Gary Macfarlane; George McArthur; Andrew McKellan; David McLaren; Malcolm McNaught; Alan Meikle; Donald Mitchell; Donald Montgomery; Leslie Moore; Margaret Rodger; Harry Stewart; and George Tinning. It was agreed that those still to be trained should register for a training event as soon as possible. It was noted that the relevant forms had been prepared for the Presbytery Inspection of Records. It was also noted that the Church of Scotland is reviewing its policies on how the Church welcomes those who have been charged with sexual offences while at the same time protects our young people and vulnerable adults. A final report on a Covenant of Responsibilities will be presented to the upcoming General Assembly and the Kirk Session will be updated on its obligations when these are available. It was confirmed that, until the Safeguarding Service and the Boys' Brigade agree a new process for PVG applications, the current system remains in place. It was noted that only those children and young people for whom consent forms had been received could appear in photographs and that the children's and young people's wishes should be respected even if a consent form had been received. It was also noted that safeguarding covers children and young people and protected adults only; permission for photos of people in other age categories is covered by GDPR regulations. Elders were advised that information had been received about a change in the insurance policy wording that could have potentially significant impacts on the documentation required to be held by the Safeguarding Coordinator.

**Insurance:** The written report from the Insurance Administrator was discussed. It was agreed that elders on Working Groups should look out for potential "unusual" activities and raise these as early as possible to allow consideration by the insurer. Marketing of activities should not take place until insurance cover is confirmed as being in place. It was noted that the minimum level of public/products liability cover was in place for all third-party users of the premises with the exception of the Scottish Country Dance Group, which is still under consideration. It was also noted that the insurer has introduced new policy wording from the next insurance renewal date in August 2025. This is being reviewed and further updates will be provided to future meetings of the Kirk Session. One major area is the Abuse Condition, which will impact on safeguarding. Elders were reminded of the Duty of Fair Presentation that requires full disclosure of known facts to the insurer. The contents of the Health & Safety report were noted, providing updated details of health & safety-related work underway and planned. It was agreed that, notwithstanding the current budget restraints, essential health and safety work should be progressed.

**Finance:** The written report from the Church Treasurer was discussed. It was noted that the deficit at the end of January was £3,149 but that it was too early to draw any conclusions on the financial position at this stage. Energy costs, however, are likely to be a significant cost in 2025. It was noted that the independent examination process was concluded, that the Independent Examiner's Report had been signed and that the accounts were ready for attestation by Presbytery.

It was noted that changes to charity regulation and reporting will be implemented during 2025. This will be further reported once OSCR provides more information and guidance.

**Working Groups**

**Communication:** The report from the Communication Group, highlighting the launch of the new website, was noted.

**Young People and Families:** The report from the YPF Group was noted.

**Presbytery:** The report on Presbytery was considered. The continued vacancy of the post of Presbytery Elder was noted. It indicated that Presbytery will meet in March to take steps towards the finalisation of the Presbytery Plan, noting that the plan for Chryston and our cluster remains the same with the position unchanged unless a minister within the cluster leaves.

**Communion :** To be held on Sunday 23 March.

**Forward Planning:** Discussion was on had in how best to make Kirk Session meetings effective with a good balance between good governance and the mission of the church. The Kirk Session looked at memorable events that gave us encouragement, our mission statement present usefulness and the location of the church building regarding the advantages and disadvantages for outreach. The Kirk Session also considered the how the increase in charity law was affecting the role of the elder that may leave meetings business heavy and mission light. It was agreed that for the next meeting a years programme of Kirk Session meetings would be agreed including space for working groups to come to Kirk Session meeting and share something of their work. It was also agreed to engage with the congregation using the five themes of 1) Gathering 2) Belonging 3) Outward 4) Leadership 5) Support from the mapping your church planning tools.

**The meeting closed with shared prayer.**