

## Campsie Parish Church

### Kirk Session

#### Minutes of the meeting held at Campsie Parish Church on 26th August 2017

**Constitution** The meeting was constituted with a celebration of Holy Communion

**Present** Rev. Jane Denniston (Moderator); Andrew Wale (Session Clerk); Christine Boyle, Ian Cairns, Sheila Jones, George Kelly, Jim Thomson, Joan Thomson, Margaret Tindall, Andy Waugh, Alice Wilson, Elspeth Wright.

**Apologies** Alister Boyle

#### Matters arising

##### *Communications*

Muriel Connell has taken over responsibility for communicating with the Kirkintilloch Herald. She will also produce a bi-monthly Newsletter, beginning in September.

##### *New Elders*

It is hoped to ordain new elders in October.

#### Health and Safety Administrator

All congregations are now required to appoint a Health and Safety Administrator. A member has been approached, and is considering whether he would be willing to take on the role.

#### Use of alcohol on church premises

After discussion it was agreed to rescind the long-standing ban on alcohol on church premises, subject to continuing oversight of its use by the Session, and to ensure that external users of the premises abide by any restrictions imposed. It was also agreed that bottles of alcohol could be provided for tombolas and bottle stalls at fairs and markets used for raising church funds.

#### Hallowe'en parties

It was agreed that youth organisations could, if they wished, hold Hallowe'en parties.

#### New crosses and notice board

Andy Waugh has costed the construction and installation of a cross for the roof of the church at c.£600. It was agreed that he should continue to investigate this and come to a future meeting with more detailed information.

It was agreed that the wooden cross in the church grounds should be replaced with a new cross, to be located in the central bed immediately in front of the church. Jardine Smith will look into this.

The "wayside pulpit" notices in the notice board will be changed regularly.

#### Worship

##### *Future Services*

17th September	Harvest Festival
8th October	Communion
15th October	Pulpit Swap with David Denniston
29th October	Youth Dedication Service
12th November	Remembrance Sunday
17th December	Nativity/Carol Service
Christmas Eve	Morning Worship (11.00 am); Watch Night Service (11.30 pm)
Christmas Day	Christmas Worship (10.30 am)
29th March	Maundy Thursday (7.00 pm)

20th March Good Friday Communion (7.00 pm)

1st April Easter Day Family Communion

### *Evening Services*

Evening services will re-commence on 10th September and continue on a monthly basis. The form of worship will vary month by month.

### **Session meetings for 2017-18**

The dates for Session meetings will be:

3rd October 20th March

7th November 24th April

30th January 29th May

27th February 26th June

### **Minister's matters**

Jane will be on holiday between 18th and 25th September. Margaret Tindall will lead worship on Sunday 24th September. She will also be away between 5th and 9th December.

David Denniston will host a "Pilgrim's Way" event, based on the life of St. Machan in the church on 16th September.

Jane has been appointed Convener of the Presbytery's Staffing Committee.

### **Conference session on Mission and Outreach**

#### **Acts of Random Kindness (ARK)**

The initial experience of ARK had been very positive, both for those taking part and from members of the public with whom they interacted. It was felt that although these were a series of individual activities, cumulatively there was a "drip" effect which helped to raise the profile of the church in the village.

ARK will be continued and developed for the coming year and the programme will consist of:

*St Andrew's Day* – distribution of shortbread parcels (suitably decorated with tartan)

*Christmas lights switch-on* – distribution of tea lights

*Valentine's Day* – distribution of chocolate hearts

*Easter* – Easter Egg hunt

#### *Advent*

This will be expanded; the advent calendar outside the church will continue, but we will hope to create a kiosk which can be erected in the centre of the village (it is hoped outside the Hub) from which individual advent calendars for children can be handed out. Permission will be sought from the Council for this.

#### *Christmas Stars*

It is hoped that we can agree with local shop-keepers and other public places in the village to cooperate in a Christmas Star event, which will tell the Christmas story in the form of a treasure hunt.

Other suggestions for development included:

An event linked with Harvest (for 2018)

A coffee morning for the mothers of children starting Primary 1 (for 2018)

A Burns Night supper

Advertisement of some of these events (particularly the Christmas and Easter ones) was important and would need to be undertaken in good time, particularly in order to get information into the school.

More thought needs to be given to further ARK to fill the period between Easter and Advent, where there are fewer obvious festivals or events with which to associate them.

### **Community involvement**

Several members of the congregation had responded to the request for help from the Memorial Hall trust, and this was much appreciated.

It was agreed to look into conducting a Community Audit, to give us more information about the community and its needs; Jane will find out about suitable tools.

### **Ecumenical cooperation**

Greater cooperation between the congregation and the two other churches in the village should be a priority, though it was accepted that this would need to be bi-lateral arrangements with the Roman Catholic church and the Free Church respectively. Jane will talk to Fr. John Deighan and Alex Stewart to see how this might be developed. A joint Easter event in the village might be a possibility also a new invitation to each to take part in the Sunrise Service on Easter Day. The prayer breakfasts should be encouraged, though attendance has not been good. It would also be helpful if there could be contacts with other members of each church beyond Fr. Deighan and Mr. Stewart so that arrangements for joint events and general cooperation can be made efficiently.

The question was raised about inviting participation in worship with each of the other churches. It was felt that there might be considerable difficulty (particularly with the Roman Catholic church) in getting permission for this to happen, but it might be something to work towards in the future.

### **Messy Church**

It is hoped to begin a monthly Messy Church service, starting in November; there has been some enthusiasm shown by the younger families for this kind of service, and it is seen as a way of encouraging other young families into association with the church. Associated with this it was suggested that some regular Sunday services should be developed to be particularly child-friendly (not necessarily simply all-age services); suggestions included the introduction of puppets and other kinds of entertainment, or possibly a service of blessing for pets.

### **Change to format of Sunday worship**

Associated with the previous topic, it was suggested that a more radical look at the structure and timing of worship might be advantageous. There was no actual decision taken on this, but the idea was not rejected and should be considered in the future.

### **Communication**

The Session needed to find better ways of communicating with the members of the congregation, to let them know both about decisions taken and about strategic developments and major changes to church life. Possible ways forward included greater use of the Website and the Facebook page, including the posting of Session minutes on the former, and the use of the new Newsletter to pass on information and ideas. It was also suggested that there might be occasional services where the sermon was replaced or supplemented by a discussion during which people would be able to comment on the life and development of the church. This could become a two-way dialogue between the office bearers and the other members.

### **Greater congregational involvement**

More thought should be given to ways in which more members were involved in the work of the church. In particular the idea of "bite-sized opportunities for service" should be encouraged as a way of using the talents of individuals without requiring them to commit to more time and work than they felt able to offer. This might need the development of a concept of co-ordinators (with responsibility to the Session) to whom individuals asked to take on specific responsibilities might report, rather than the setting up of a full-blown committee structure.

### **Alpha**

It was agreed that it was not possible to hold Alpha before the beginning of 2018, but George and Jane will look into running a course between the New Year and Easter, possibly moving to Saturday morning rather than using a weekday evening. Elders were encouraged to become more involved in the Alpha courses.

**War Memorial**

It is expected that the re-sited plaque will be re-dedicated during 2018 as part of events to commemorate the end of World War 1.

**Close**

The meeting closed with the Grace.