

## Campsie Parish Church

### Kirk Session

#### Minutes of the meeting held at Campsie Parish Church on 7th November 2017

**Constitution** The meeting was constituted with prayer

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

**Apologies** Marjory Adam, Sheila Jones, Andy Waugh.

#### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd October were approved (proposed Joan Thomson, seconded Christine Boyle).

#### Matters arising

##### *New elders*

The meetings with the two prospective new elders had been postponed because of illness. A new meeting will be arranged before the next Session meeting by which time it is hoped that decisions will have been made. The issue of further new elders will have to be addressed early in 2018. In discussion, some reasons for reluctance to become elders were identified, names, the perceived time commitment, a lack of self-confidence in individuals, and a concern about district visiting.

##### *Rainbow Café*

The success of the new format for the Rainbow Café was noted. The date for the next café was tentatively set for 10th February. It was agreed that collecting for a specific charity at each event was profitable.

##### *Burns Supper*

This will take place on 3rd February. Arnie Faichney has agreed to take part.

##### *Stewardship*

Jane is meeting Rev. Ian Taylor (Bishopbriggs Springfield Cambridge) at the end of November to talk about the material used there and their experience of using it. She commented that any such scheme would be time-consuming and require commitment for those volunteering to take part.

##### *Alpha*

This is now likely to begin after Easter. David Denniston hopes to be involved.

##### *Acts of Random Kindness and Christmas events*

St Andrew's Day and the Christmas lights events are in hand. They will be publicised to the congregation during November.

"Twelve Days of Christmas": permission to advertise this (and the Advent Calendar) in the schools has been received, and a number of local shops and organisations have agreed to take part.

Advent Calendar: the use of the Hub proved to be impractical, and it will be mounted outside the church again.

#### Committee Structure

It was agreed that the most immediate need was to find a way of regularly organising social events. After discussion it was agreed not to try to resurrect the old Events Committee but for Session to identify each year a number of possible events and then to find an individual willing to take responsibility for ensuring that it took place. Some concern was expressed that it would be better that Session were not so deeply involved, and that a longer-term solution would be to find a group of people willing to take over responsibility. For the present,

however, Session would continue to be involved. Jean Mackie will be asked to oversee the Christmas Celebration on 15th December (with help from George Kelly).

### **Pastoral care**

It was agreed that more information was needed to find out how members liked to be contacted by the church. Jane suggested that a short telephone survey would elicit information more successfully than an actual visit, and it was agreed that this should be planned for the New Year (with some concern about a) the availability of telephone numbers for all members and b) the increasing tendency of people not to answer calls from unknown numbers. It was also agreed to compile a directory of email addresses and mobile numbers for members who used email and texts. This will also be undertaken in the New Year. Once information is available the question of communication with members (including the continuance of district visiting) will be considered.

The names of those for whom concern is felt were brought to the Session

We have been invited to conduct a regular act of worship for residents at the Clachan of Campsie Residential Care Home. This will take place on the third Friday of each month, organised by Jane and Margaret, with other volunteers also taking part. It was suggested that next year, the World Day of Prayer event should be moved there from Whitefield Lodge. It is also possible that the Praise Band can perform a concert there.

### **Website and IT**

Jane had been contacted by a company called Churchdesk about enhancing the church's website. After discussion it was agreed that the cost (£89 pm) could not be justified. It was agreed to consider local improvements to the website with Robert Neilson.

It was felt that it would be sensible to appoint and train more people who could take over the sound and IT systems on Sunday morning in the absence of the regular operators, rather than rely on finding someone in an emergency.

### **Property and Finance**

There was no further update to the financial situation. Work on the church roof and the front steps was still under negotiation by Joe Collins.

The generosity of the congregation in donating more than £3,200 for the Gift Day was noted. With Gift Aid the final sum was expected to be about £4,000.

### *Request for planning permission*

Information about a proposed extension to 20 Redhills View has been received. Session agreed that this should not be opposed subject to a more detailed examination of the proposal. Andrew Wale will discuss this with Joe Collins.

### **Duty teams**

It was thought desirable that new people should be invited to join the duty teams (and possible that some existing people might wish to stand down). Suggestions for new names should be given to Jane.

Andrew Wale said that he was standing down as a team leader at the end of the session. Suggestions for a replacement should also be given to Jane.

A hope was expressed that there should be as little disruption to existing teams as possible.

### **Presbytery Report**

The report was noted. It was agreed to have a collection for Church House as suggested by Presbytery, and also to support the Year of Young People in 2018. The presence of the Moderator of the General Assembly at the October meeting of Presbytery was also noted.

**Remembrance**

Councillor Paul Ferretti will attend in place of John Dempsey. George and Ian will investigate the best way of organising this year’s service at the Memorial Gates in view of the construction work going on.

**Help for the hearing- and sight-impaired**

It was agreed to purchase magnifying glasses for use by those with sight impairment and to provide them with CMP hymn books (supplemented where necessary with copies of other hymns). Session was reminded that there was a working loop system for the hearing-impaired, which normally worked automatically with deaf-aids.

More generally it was felt that those reading or speaking from the lectern should receive basic instruction in the use of the various microphones. George will do this.

**Prayer events**

The Prayer Workship will take place on 18th November at 10.30 am. Graham Fender-Anderson will address the Prayer Breakfast on 25th November to mark the National Day of Prayer.

**Operation Christmas Child**

So far 72 shoeboxes have been received, with other material for about 30 more boxes.

**Volunteer development**

It was agreed to ask the Presbytery Volunteer Development Worker, Dawn Barrett, to talk to Session at a future date.

**JAM Club**

An update of the work of the JAM Club will be brought to a future meeting of Session.

**Minister’s matters**

Jane will be away between Tuesday 14th-Thursday 16th November to conduct Supervisor Training.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on 30th January 2018 at 7.30 pm. In the absence of the Clerk, Margaret Tindall will act as Clerk *pro tem*.

After a brief discussion it was agreed to leave the starting time of Session at 7.30 pm, rather than begin at 7.00 pm or meet during the day.

**Close**

The meeting closed with the Grace.

**Moderator.....Session Clerk.....**

