

MAXWELL MEARNS CASTLE PARISH CHURCH
STATED ANNUAL MEETING 19th May 2019

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Sanctuary on Sunday 19th May 2019. It was chaired by Rev Dr Scott Kirkland who opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them to the meeting. Scott noted that three documents were handed out, including extracts from the 2018 accounts and the 2019 budget.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Charles Amery Behr, Sue Amery Behr, Sandy Leonard, Kaye Lipsett, Graeme Lipsett, Elizabeth Smith

3. MINUTES OF MEETING 25th March 2018

Scott reminded the meeting that the draft minutes had been made available for correction shortly after the 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved and accepted as a true record: Proposer – Robin Russell; Seconder – Sue Anderson.

4. FINANCE REPORT FOR 2018 presented by Ian Forgie (Treasurer)

Scott welcomed Ian Forgie as the new Treasurer. The full Accounts for 2018 were emailed to the Congregation and are also available on the website. Ian thanked David McTear for his thirteen years' service as Treasurer and also Stuart Bruce and Christina Brown for their hard work on finance over the past fifteen months.

Ian noted that God has richly blessed us as a Congregation, both financially and in terms of the talents available for use within the Congregation.

Ian highlighted that total income received for the year was approx. £207,000 and total expenditure was approx. £289,000. As a result, expenditure was approx. £82,000 in excess of income, which was made possible due to the legacies received in previous years. Cash at bank at 31 December 2018 was approx. £150,000 and total closing funds were approx. £305,000. Ian highlighted the funds and their purpose as follows:

- General Fund for the running of the Church;
- Missionary Fund supports contributions to mission activity;
- Local Outreach Fund which funds local outreach initiatives;
- Maxwell Christian Support Fund supports local people in need;
- Playgroup Fund supports the running of the Playgroup for local families; and
- Bequests Fund holds special gifts received from time to time – amounts received over the last three years were approx. £280,000, from which approx. £156,000 has been spent, leaving the balance of approx. £124,000.

The larger items of expenditure incurred in 2018 included the Ministries and Mission Allocation and Presbytery Dues of approx. £100,000, Employment costs of approx. £45,000, Fabric costs of just over £65,000, Local outreach costs of nearly £14,000 and Distributions to Missions of approx. £19,000. The balance of approx. £46,000 relates to the local running costs of the Church.

Ian invited questions on the accounts, but none were received. Ian concluded by saying that the accounts will be sent to OSCR (charity regulator) in due course.

5. BUDGET FOR 2019 presented by Ian Forgie (Treasurer)

The total budgeted income is £180,500, just slightly less than the 2018 actual figure. Expenditure is budgeted to increase slightly on 2018 to a total of £184,160. The increase is largely due to the employment costs for our Youth Worker, 50% of which is taken from the General Fund and 50% from the Bequests Fund. In total, there is a budgeted deficit of £3,379 for the year and Ian noted that we cannot continue to run at a deficit. As a result, a review of Giving and the larger overhead costs such as Heat and Light will be undertaken. In addition, there are plans to replace the accounting software, review the accounting practices and governance processes and set up a Finance Committee, comprising Scott Kirkland, Stuart Bruce, Jack Geddes, Ian Forgie and Murray McNicol. The Finance Committee have met once already and their remit includes preparing the budget, considering capital expenditure requests, looking to the future, advising the Board and presenting quarterly accounts to the Board.

Ian invited questions in respect of the Budget, but no questions were asked.

The 2019 Budget was approved: Proposer – Iain Pirie; Seconder – Jack Geddes.

Scott thanked Ian for all his work in respect of the Accounts and Budget.

6. RETIRALS & ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Scott reported that of the seven Board members due to retire after three years, two are retiring and five have agreed to be re-appointed. Scott thanked Margaret Dale and Ken Steven for their service to the Board over a number of years.

Proposers and seconders were obtained for the continuing members.

Stephen Pryce, Scott Urquhart and Brian Waugh have expressed willingness to join the Congregational Board with appropriate nomination and seconding. There were no further nominations. Scott welcomed the new

members to the Board and commented on how the Board is an excellent team and the meetings are conducted with a lovely spirit.

The following, therefore, is a record of the revision of Board members:

NAME	NEW/CONTINUE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Margaret Dale	Retiring	N/A	N/A
Ken Steven	Retiring	N/A	N/A
Priscilla Fisher	Continuing	Myra Scott	Ann Best
Bruce Adkins	Continuing	David Merriman	Russell MacMillan
Brian Bell	Continuing	Jack Geddes	Stuart Bruce
Kate Campbell	Continuing	Chris Bell	Margaret Cooper
Ken Taggart	Continuing	Sue Anderson	Russell MacMillan
Stephen Pryce	New	Andrew Little	David Merriman
Scott Urquhart	New	Margaret Dale	Chris Bell
Brian Waugh	New	Wanda Bell	Andrew Little

7. PROPERTY REPORT (including Manse) presented by Brian Bell (Fabric Convener)

There has been a programme of property upgrades over the past few years, with the aim of making the halls and Sanctuary more comfortable and a warmer place to be. The past year was no exception and Brian highlighted the major work carried out and some work which will soon be happening:

- A fire escape door was created in the garage so as to have safe exit from that whole area and especially during the time when the Blythwood boxes are in process. An external plinth is still required at this door. The fire alarm was also extended into this area. New lighting in the area where the boxes are sorted will soon be fitted and a door bell will also be fitted to the fire exit to facilitate deliveries;
- New burners and controls were fitted to the cast iron sectional boilers;
- A programme of replacing windows in the halls building took place with new fire escape doors being fitted in the Playgroup Room and the Dorothy Lloyd Room. A new door entry and screen above will soon be fitted to the halls building. There is a fire escape door at the rear of the Main Hall, and it will also soon be replaced. This will mean that the halls building, with the exception of remedial plastering and decoration, is almost finished;
- The Board has agreed, to a request by the Youth Worker that the Basement area be overhauled, which hopefully, with the help of some able-bodied volunteers will take place over the summer months;
- New tiles were fitted in the Tom Hamilton Room;
- The Church Officer's flat had new radiators fitted and a new floor, bought by the Church, but fitted by Stewart.
- The main Kitchen in the Halls has had new lighting installed, a new water urn and an extractor fitted;
- Extractors have been fitted in the Toilets;
- Work in connection with Safeguarding is ongoing;
- The main door to the Sanctuary and the fire escape will also be replaced; and
- Work on the manse included the replacement of the lounge window, back door, some electrical work, and more recently, some redecoration and the fitting of an internal stop cock.

Brian noted that the cost to complete the ongoing work will be in the region of £13,000. No questions were raised in respect of the property report. Scott thanked Brian and his team for the great job that they do in respect of the property, particularly as we have just had our first full winter in a warmer Sanctuary thanks to the new heating system.

8. GROUNDS REPORT presented by Bruce Adkins (Grounds Convener)

Bruce highlighted the following in his report:

- The grass cutting and weed control of the grounds are being carried out by Warnock Ground Maintenance, as it was last year and the year before. Although their prices have remained unchanged, I asked for other companies to quote to get an idea if we were getting value for money. Warnock is still the best option, and they have been awarded the contract for 2019;
- The Board would like to thank Robert McLachlan and others who have been instrumental in keeping the hedges trimmed along the drive and elsewhere over the summer. Also, a mention to Graeme and Niall Hilditch for their work on the flower beds last summer;
- We hired the services of a Tree Surgeon to provide us with a full risk assessment of the trees on the property. A comprehensive report was received and mostly all of the trees have been given a clean bill of health apart from a couple near the Broomburn steps which will need cutting back. These will be attended to after the birds have flown their nests later in the year;

- The Board has received a number of quotes to complete rework of the tarmac on the car park over three large areas covering 500 square metres where the damage to the tar is at its worst. The work is expected to be done in July, over the summer holidays; and
- Stewart Martin and his team do a great job in maintaining the pathway to the Broomburn steps. However, there is a dire need for additional helpers and any additional help would be most appreciated.

In response to a question regarding the work on the car park, Bruce confirmed that the large pothole in the driveway down to the car park will also be filled in as it has gotten much bigger recently.

Scott noted the large amount of work that is undertaken on the grounds behind the scenes and thanked Bruce and all involved.

9. SANCTUARY REFURBISHMENT PROPOSAL presented by Jack Geddes

Jack began by stating that the Sanctuary is now fifty years old and there are plans to modernise it, which commenced with the removal of the heating pipes and some of the pews. The view of some that the pews are hard and uncomfortable is not the main driver for the change but the inflexibility of the space. A small Refurbishment Committee was set up to draw up a plan and it includes:

- Replacement of the current flooring with rectangular flooring tiles, a sample of which was on display;
- Re-wiring to bring the electrics up to standard and have two mains loops;
- Replacement of the pews with chairs and a sample chair was on display. Some of the chairs will have arms and some will not. The chairs have a Bible holder. There will be three different colours of chairs (sample colours on display) to help with any visual impairment problems. Jack noted that Dumfries Baptist Church have the same chairs; and
- A handrail for the steps at the front of the Sanctuary.

A video of the space at Dumfries Baptist Church was shown to demonstrate the flexibility of the space and how it can be used in different formats. The main intention is to be able to utilise the Sanctuary more often and in better ways. For example, tea/coffee may be able to be served after events in the Sanctuary.

The total cost is approx. £42,500 which is made up of £20,000 for the flooring, re-wiring and handrail and £22,500 for 250 chairs (£90 per chair). A small Fundraising Committee has been set up to research ideas to raise the funds for the refurbishment. These may include the option to "Buy a Chair" and Jack has received a pledge to buy three chairs already. The work will be done in God's time, possibly starting in autumn this year.

Jack invited everyone to look at the chair and samples of flooring and materials and also invited questions on the plan.

In response to a reminder that the Bible says we should follow Jesus by denying ourselves, Jack stated that the Sanctuary is now over fifty years old and this work would complete our schedule of property improvements, many of which were essential. The overall aim is to encourage greater use of the space to further God's Kingdom. Jack also responded to a question about the cost of removing the pews and what will happen to them. The removal of the pews will be done by volunteers so there will be no cost. Jack has been in contact with a Christian organisation that uses wood for prisoners to make items for sale. It is hoped that a representative from the organisation will visit in the next few months to confirm that they will be able to take some of the pews. Scott noted that some of the pews could be available to the Congregation, if desired. Finally, Jack confirmed that the changes should not change the capacity of the space. The 250 new chairs can be supplemented by chairs from other areas and the use of the balcony to accommodate larger events. The Sanctuary is full once a year for the School Leavers' Ceremony and recently for the last Prodigal event, which was attended by approx. 300 people. Scott noted that counts of the attendance on Sundays were undertaken for a period and the average was 185.

Scott thanked Jack for his presentation and for the Refurbishment Committee for all their hard work, particularly Craig Govan for his input into the plans.

10. MINISTER'S REPORT presented by Rev Dr Scott Kirkland

The 2018 Accounts contain the Trustees' Annual Report which was written by Scott and provides a full explanation of the life of our Church last year. Scott noted the paragraph on the aim of our Church on page 1. In summary, the core objectives of our Church are to glorify God and advance His Kingdom.

The following highlights from the Report were also noted:

- The work of the Pastoral Care Team and Tom's Club which meets monthly on a Friday night and are a blessing to us;
- The tremendous work of our new Youth Worker (Daniel) in working with our youth and also young adults at university;
- The early work already undertaken by our new Family and Children's Worker (Pauline) with young families at Toddlers, Playgroup, SU activities and for her agreement to take over as Chaplain at Mearns Primary after the summer;
- The friendship, fellowship and Christian message provided at the Castle Coffee Club;
- However, we were deeply saddened by the death of some long-standing members and friends;
- The hard work and dedication of the many people who lead us in worship from the praise band, singers and the AV team. Scott encouraged us all to encourage them in serving the Lord in what they do;

- The Playgroup (which is bubbling with activity at the moment) is expecting a slightly quieter coming year and therefore your prayers are appreciated;
- The holiday club which took place in summer 2018 and went extremely well. The weeklong activities included the toddlers' holiday club and the primary age club running at Maxwell with the input of a large team, including teenage helpers. However, there was also a small team which ran a holiday club at the Church in Toryglen which included 40 kids from the area, which was leafleted the week before the club started. Scott thanked Debbie McDougall for her organisation of the clubs in both locations and her faith in and commitment to the Toryglen holiday club. Scott noted that the assistance provided by our team to Toryglen was noted at a recent Presbytery meeting; and
- The manner in which the leadership team - the Session led by Andrew Little as Session Clerk and the Congregational Board led by Jack Geddes as Chairman – operate to make it enjoyable for all involved.

Scott invited questions but none were received.

11. VOTE OF THANKS

Concentrating on more specific Board and related activities, on behalf of the Congregation, Scott thanked:

- Board members for their participation at Board plus Door & Offering duties;
- New members of the Board – Stephen Pryce, Scott Urquhart and Brian Waugh;
- Members who have agreed to stay on for another three years – Bruce Adkins, Brian Bell, Kate Campbell, Priscilla Fisher and Ken Taggart;
- Members retiring after sterling work – Margaret Dale and Ken Steven;
- Stuart Bruce, Finance Convener for the outstanding work he's done in keeping the Board updated and working with Ian Forgie;
- Ian Forgie, for taking on the Treasurer's role and especially for his tireless work with the 2018 accounts;
- Christina Brown for her excellent work as our bookkeeper;
- Ann Best (Freewill Offering) & Elizabeth Smith (Gift Aid);
- Murray McNicol for his desire to join our enhanced Finance Committee;
- Lorna Hamilton for her excellent and faithful service as Board Secretary;
- Brian Bell and his extended team (Property);
- Bruce Adkins for his work as our Grounds Convener and for Robert McLaughlin and the Hilditch family in helping maintain these grounds;
- Stewart Martin and helpers (Broomburn steps);
- For our AV team and especially Stuart Clark and Robert Campbell for their important work;
- Sheila Reid, Seona Edgar and Sue Anderson who do a superb job as the Safeguarding team;
- Sue Amery-Behr, our Church Secretary and Halls Convener;
- Stewart Falconer for his continuing good work as Church Officer;
- Graeme Lipsett as Eco coordinator;
- Sheila McLellan, Margo McNicol and Russell MacMillan for their work in the Maxwell Mearns Christian Support Fund;
- Hizkidz & Primetime and youth leaders for their work with our young people;
- Margo McNicol as Daniel's line manager in assisting Daniel with his incredible workload since joining us last August and to the Congregation for providing Daniel with the gift of attending Cornhill for two days per week to further his ability to share the Bible;
- Sandra McNicol as Pauline's line manager in assisting with the management of Pauline's workload over her ten hours per week;
- Finally, thanks to everyone who takes part in all our activities and our prayer is for continued cheerful giving from everyone in the years to come.

12. CLOSING BENEDICTION

The meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Chairman.....

Clerk.....