

Minutes of the 84th Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation held at 7.30 pm on Monday 21st March 2022 in the church hall.

Chairman: Rev Ben Thorp

Clerk: Mr Harry Laird

1 Praise, prayer and Scripture reading:

The meeting was opened by singing 'In Christ alone', a reading from Matthew chapter 9, some comments and prayer.

2 Present:

Rev Ben Thorp (Chairman), Mr Harry Laird (Clerk), Mr Gordon Penman (Acting Treasurer), Professor Noel Peacock (Session Clerk) and some 30 members and friends of the congregation.

3 Apologies: Professor Patrick Smith, Mrs Pamela Smith, Mrs Sheena Gray, Mrs Fiona Rickards, Mrs Dorothy Parker, Mr James Miller, Mrs Laura Miller, Mrs Florence Grant, Mr Michael Grant, Ms Kerri Bates, Mrs Julie Kennedy, Mr Robert Trelogan, Ms Sarah Melbourne, Miss Elisabeth Gemmell and Dr Jackie Inglis.

4 Minutes of the 83rd Stated Annual Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2021 had been on display in the church for two Sundays and before the meeting. They were taken as read and adopted on the motion of Dr Marian Morrison, seconded by Miss Mo Gairns.

5 Acting Treasurer's report:

The Acting Treasurer, Mr Gordon Penman, spoke of his privilege in presenting a summary of the independently examined accounts for the year ended December 31, 2021. An extract of the most pertinent figures had been distributed before the start of the meeting. The full accounts are available to view on the church's website, but a limited number of paper copies are available for study. He emphasised the following points:

- * the accounts had been approved by the Congregational Board on 14th March
- * the end of year value of the General Fund had fallen from £96k to £69k. We should not be overly alarmed, but still be aware that this cannot continue for more than a couple of years. Whilst we need to be sensitive to the pressures on some due to inflation and rising energy costs, each member should consider if he or she could increase their giving
- * the Missionary Fund is not being well supported. A significant transfer was required from the General Fund to maintain support levels for missionaries as per 2020
- * the Student Worker Fund is healthy
- * the Christmas offering was very encouraging

Turning to the budget for 2022, Mr Penman mentioned that:

- * the church budget is not like a domestic budget and contains many unknowns, particularly with regard to income. It always has a pessimistic basis, although the

outturn is usually much more satisfactory. There is no way of predicting one-off donations, but they always appear.

- * The predicted costs total £216k, with an estimated regular income of £154k. It is hoped that we do not have to curtail outreach activities but we may have to return to review things in due course, depending on how income progresses

The Chairman invited questions about the accounts but none were forthcoming.

Mr Peter Billington was invited to propose a vote of thanks to the Acting Treasurer and this was endorsed by a hearty round of applause.

6 Congregational Board Members:

The Clerk intimated that the following Congregational Board are due to retire after three years' service:

Miss Fran Downs and Miss Elisabeth Gemmell.

Miss Gemmell wishes to retire from the Board, but Miss Downs is willing to continue serving. She was re-elected on the motion of Mrs Mary Bonham, seconded by Mrs Christine Crow. The Clerk will write to Miss Gemmell expressing our gratitude for her contributions over many years.

The Clerk apologised for his error, whereby Miss Laura Buist was not re-elected at the Stated Annual Meeting in December 2021. She was elected on the motion of Mrs Anne Billington, seconded by Dr Ellen Penman

Mrs Jan Trelogan had been proposed by the Congregational Board and was elected on the motion of Miss Mary Forbes, seconded by Dr Garry Osbourne

7 Session Clerk's report:

Professor Noel Peacock, Session Clerk, said that just as history is divided into BC and AD, determined by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2021 could be divided into BB and AB, defined by the arrival of Rev Ben Thorp on 13th May. It is hoped that a welcome social is held before too long in which Ben could share his vision for the future and we could thank Rev Richard Buckley properly for his help as Interim Moderator.

BB:

- * the number of members dropped sharply in 2017 when the previous minister left, but God revives, with 63 new members joining in the vacancy
- * worship and prayer services continued as usual despite COVID-19 restrictions
- * we had the privilege of a BBC televised service, stemming from our attempts to keep things going commensurate with restrictions

AB:

- * the COP26 conference had been a major event with opportunities through Youth With A Mission and Christian Aid using the building as a base. YWAM may help in future student work
- * the Audio Visual facilities have been significantly upgraded. Thanks are due to the Minister and Gordon Penman for their technical acumen and hard work.
- * we had 2 fellowship weddings: James and Akousua Innes and Andrew and Yalin Gow
- * Christmas had brought great opportunities with carol singing in the parish and a great attendance at the Watchnight Service
- * there had been a rise in membership from 158 to 168, with 18 joining in December
- * we had, however, lost several members and friends in the last year or so: Andie Binnie, Robert Grant, Iain Inglis, David Blenkinson, Alan Stark, Cassandra Debydeen and Isobel Kempzell
- * we have some new Sunday School helpers to replace the retiring Fran Downs and Mo Gairns
- * Pamela Smith has retired as Flower Convener, replaced by Avril Laird
- * there are several gaps which need to be filled by the next generation
- * some are in poor health and we should be grateful to Garry Osbourne and Mary Bonham who co-ordinate pastoral care

Prayer continues to be the mainstay of our activities. Around 50 attend the congregational Prayer Meeting. Parish prayer walks continue to seek to take the work forward. As always, we are grateful for prayer supporters worldwide.

8 Glasgow Presbytery Mission Plan:

The Chairman outlined progress on the Glasgow Presbytery Mission Plan which will affect every congregation in some way or other. He advocated viewing the process as an opportunity to further God's work rather than an exercise in survival. The following points should be noted:

- * across the Church of Scotland, presbyteries will be reduced from 40 to 12
- * changes will be implemented by 2027
- * in Glasgow Presbytery, 123 ministerial posts will drop to 65, although ministers currently in full tenure will still have a job
- * Sandyford is in Zone 1 (approximately the north west) of the Plan area which will see 29 posts shrink to 17
- * timescales for local negotiations to form alliances are very tight
- * he is meeting several evangelical colleagues to discuss possibilities

- * the process could lead to several possible arrangements in sharing ministers, property etc.

Several members expressed gratitude for the Chairman's update. Dr Garry Osbourne, our Presbytery elder, expressed some optimism about a significant continuing role for Sandyford in the final scheme of things.

9 Closure of meeting:

The meeting was closed by singing 'There is a Redeemer', a prayer and saying the Grace together.

Chairman

Clerk

DRAFT