

Minutes of Elders Meeting held on the 18th November 2021 at 7.30pm at Culduthel Christian Centre

Elders : Norman Cordiner, Alan Cuthbert, Allan Dunbar, Jonathan Dunbar, Duncan Dundas, David Goudie, William Hamilton, Angus Jamieson, Alasdair MacLeod.

Secretary : George Mackenzie

The elders meeting opened with prayer

Devotion

Alasdair reflected on 2 Corinthians 4.

V7 - "but we have this treasure in jars of clay to show this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us".

2 Corinthians 4 has two bookends.

- V1 - "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart"
- V16 - "...grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow, therefore we do not lose heart."

We do not lose heart because our ministry as a church, flows from the mercy and grace of God. God has chosen to use us, ordinary though we are, to display the treasure of the gospel. Our weakness is not a limitation of the ministry because the extraordinary power of the gospel depends on God and not us. If we are humble and depend on God, preach Christ Jesus as Lord not ourselves then the church can have a powerful witness despite our weakness.

God works powerfully through weakness. That is the message of the incarnation, the cross and the resurrection. The gospel witness can take place when we are weak because of the extraordinary grace and power of God. "His grace is sufficient for us, his power is made perfect in weakness."

Often, we sense that God speaks to us with a verse, and Alasdair spoke on how this verse connected him with CCC back in 2014. Prayerfully, he senses that theme of "treasure in jars of clay" will be an encouragement to the ministry of the church at this time. 2 Corinthians 4:7 is proposed as the CCC verse for 2022.

Duncan prayed

1. Membership & Baptism

Christine Cameron has been welcomed into church membership on 14th November.

The elders had met with:

David and Mairi Gibson
Mike and Mairi Rigby

with a view to church membership. The elders look forward to formally welcoming them in at future services.

Angus prayed.

2. Open Items

- Faskally. A decision on whether to proceed with a church weekend will be carried forward to the next elders meeting due to the current pandemic.
- Family Sundae. Nicky reported back on this successful event and how the event may be tweaked. The next Family Sundae is scheduled for 9th January

3. Teaching Plan

Alasdair presented the teaching plan for December through to February. December will focus on Christmas "God with us" – in the mornings and evenings. January commences a series titled "Treasure in jars of clay" – God's power through our weakness. Our communion service pattern was changed during the pandemic. It was suggested that we should have a morning communion to allow those who aren't at other services to participate.

4. Equipping new Elders

The new elders had met to share ideas on the areas they felt they needed support in their new roles and these were shared at the meeting. They will continue to meet as a group in January to Easter and Alasdair has prioritised this in his diary for early 2022. Throughout 2022, the new elders would benefit from shadowing existing elders to understand how they dealt with situations such as "pastoral visits", "bereavement visits" and "membership interviews". All the elders were presented with a paper on Confidentiality. A meeting will also be arranged to review the technical/trustee duties and responsibilities.

5. Facilities and Coffee Shop

Increased activity in the coffee shop and demand for room rentals has put extreme pressure on the current employees and volunteers. Having reviewed various presentations by Marion and Norman, it was agreed to support the proposal for additional paid hours and to look for additional volunteers. A note to be put in the weekly handout.

Following a discussion on the re-allocation of rooms in the church, to make best use of our facilities, it was agreed that administration should move upstairs to the new rooms.

6. Responsibility matrix

The updated responsibility matrix was emailed to the elders. This matrix (which is still being completed) shows who is responsible for each area of church life and who they report to. It encompasses many areas - for example – production team, catering, facilities management.

The elders reviewed how the role of deacon fitted into this model.

Allan Prayed

7. Christmas

A CCC Christmas card had been prepared with invitation and details of the various Christmas services. This included a QR code/website address to access testimonies by Willie Hogg, Mairi Gillies, Iona MacDougall and Mike Crockett.

8. Finance

For the month of October:

Income £21115
Expenditure £24054

In addition - Harvest Appeal £1879.50 gifted to Blythswood

9. Pastoral

The new matrix reallocating the church members and adherents among all the elders to be distributed

10. Welcoming

The elders discussed how we welcome new people at CCC and make sure they have a positive experience when they visit us. This area to be reviewed and developed. Will be on agenda for next Ministry Team Leaders meeting.

The elders meeting closed in prayer

Next Elders Meeting

Thursday 16th December 2021 7.30pm at Culduthel Christian Centre

Dates for Diary

Week of prayer – Monday 10th – Sunday 16th January 2022
Elders & Ministry team leaders meeting 27th January 2022