

Minutes of Elders Meeting held on the 21st May 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom

Elders : Matt Alexander, Allan Dunbar, Duncan Dundas, David Goudie, Angus Jamieson, Kenny Mackenzie and Alasdair MacLeod.

Apologies : Norman Cordiner

Secretary : George Mackenzie

1. Opening Devotion

Alasdair read from one Corinthians 15 verse 10

“By the grace of God I am what I am”

- Grace has made us what we are.
- By grace we are producing fruitful service in our lives.
- By grace he sustains us in our struggles and weaknesses.

Alasdair and Allan both prayed

2. Membership Update

Morrison and Aga Hamilton are delaying church membership until the church reopens.

3. Financial Update

Duncan advised that the current monthly church income has changed very little from January at approx. £15,000 per month. CCC is receiving more direct credits, more cheques and more gift aid. People have been generous.

Colin and Morag Maclean have been handing out gift parcels and Janet Logue has been very involved with “Listening Ear”. This is a great witness in the community. The church has received a gift from Lochardil and Drummond community council recognising the involvement in the community.

There is £625 in the fellowship fund to support people in financial difficulty.

Furlough money has been received. This helps cover the costs associated with the loss of income from the coffee shop, rental income and church administration.

£9200 has been given by church members and people associated with the CCC towards the need in Sliven. From the initial donation given in faith by CCC of £2500 in April to feed families in Sliven, the response of £9200 has been inspirational.

The elders had a time of Thanksgiving prayer.

4. Communication with Oskar Forbes

Oskar will start work at CCC later this year. He would like to connect with CCC meantime. Alison Shanks is having a zoom meeting with Oskar on the 21st May.

Oskar has advised CCC that he is concerned with the start date of August. His current employers, "The Grow Trust", have agreed to rescind his termination allowing him to join CCC at a later date. Very gracious outcome. Oscar has been furloughed by the Grow Trust.

Duncan is to phone the Grow Trust and discuss arrangements.

It was acknowledged that we should start praying for Oskar to raise his profile at CCC.

David prayed for Oskar.

5. Discipleship

With Matt moving to Wick this will leave his home group without a leader. The proposal is that William McGilvery will be approached to replace Matt as a group leader.

Alasdair is involved in two discipleship groups with seekers on a Wednesday and Tuesday by Zoom.

- The Tuesday group comprises of nine people, is an Alpha follow-on and the subject is God's Big Picture.
- 6 to 8 ladies attend the Wednesday group which is led by Alisdair studying different passages. Doreen and Janet are involved in pastoral follow-up.

A bible group is starting on Sunday by Zoom and 30 people are signed up (which is probably the maximum number). Angus and Jeff are leaders along with Alasdair.

6. On-line services

Over the last eight weeks viewing figures have held up with approximately 140 families connecting on live feed each Sunday morning. 79 families connected with the communion service.

This is a new means of communication for the church, pushed into at short notice and in general a new area of service for those involved - most of which haven't had training .

It is challenging for presenters speaking to a Camera.
Different people have different expectations and requirements.
It was agreed that it was a challenging opportunity.

The Elders considered where improvements may be made but some principles cannot be compromised. Churches which have radically changed their style of worship do tend to have a lot of resources behind them. The Elders felt that we need to try and keep all components of our service but to try and deliver this within an hour. The elders wondered about including personal testimony to try and reach non-believers – perhaps early on in the service.

The Elders are conscious in the planning that there is a diverse viewing audience including both Christians and non-Christians

7. Expanding the Leadership Team

The Elders received an email on the deacon appointment process.

The Elders discussed how best to expand the leadership team. This has been an area of discussion since Ian Coffey visited. The traditional structure of elders and deacons has not always sat well with CCC, who have over the years in addition have used a team leader type of structure. It was agreed to hold over discussions on this area of service until a later date.

There is a requirement for additional elders, particularly now that Matt is leaving. This is a priority and an area of service that the church will be praying for.

It was noted that David Gibson is working with William Hamilton to upload the church services on a weekly basis. The elders acknowledged the time and commitment to this project.

Angus prayed

8. Update on Matt Alexander's move

Matt, Ruth and Izzy will be moving to work in early July to allow Matt take up his post as Minister and Wick Baptist Church. The induction will take place online and will be available to watch online at a later date.

The elders meeting closed with open prayer

Next Meetings

Proposed next elders meeting Thursday 18th June