

Minutes of Elders Meeting held on the 23rd April 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom

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

Secretary : George Mackenzie

David opened the elders meeting in prayer

1. Opening Devotion

Alasdair led the devotions reading from 1 Corinthians 3 v 10

Don't let uncertainty rob us of the things that are certain. God is certain and he will use this time to build his church.

Kenny prayed

2. Membership Update

Morrison and Amy Hamilton have applied for membership.

Matthew and Amy Nicol have resigned their membership

Allan prayed

3. COVID - 19

God speaks to people and nations in hard times. Reminds us of the important issues in life. People are missing the one-to-one contact, but people are contacting each other in other ways. There are spiritual opportunities. More people are using zoom and attendance at home groups is higher. It is clear that we are valuing contact and friendship more.

As part of the churches online presence consideration to be made of recording testimonies and have one available on a weekly basis. The testimony would be available online mid week, say Tuesday for example. How would we record this? Suggested that elders would handpick the first five testimonies. Request for names. Each testimony should last approximately three minutes.

Church gatherings are likely to be many weeks and perhaps months away. It could be that the first meetings will be smaller groups of say 50 up to perhaps 100 people spaced out appropriately in the church and possibly foyer. This may allow services to be recorded live and streamed over the Internet.

Suggested that the Baptist Union should be lobbying government on how churches can meet.

Alan and Helen are still planning to go ahead with their wedding on 10th of July at CCC.

Broadband is not very strong at the church and has a slow upload speed.

Matt prayed

4. Applying 2020 Bible Verse

How do we apply this year's bible verse in the current environment. "Be strong in the Lord and then as mighty power". Ephesians 6 verse 10.

- Growing in the Word

Consider running courses online to help people to grow in the Word. There is a course written, which Alistair is planning using, from the Bible Society. Alistair would lead an eight session course with discussion on Zoom. It's a skills equipping course rather than a devotional so it will be run as a lockdown course rather than a Sunday morning service. Would not be run in competition with home groups which are operating well with high attendance. This course would be able to have up to 20 participants per group.

- Growing in Prayer

Encouraging prayer triplets. Information to be circulated by email.

Prayer meetings. At the moment home groups are meeting for discussion each fortnight with prayer meetings on alternative weeks

Possibility of having regular zoom meetings with say 50 participants. Could also have a large prayer meeting on zoom and then break into smaller groups for prayer. Then come back together to sum up.

It was felt that there were more people praying through home groups and we should stick with that during the current lockdown.

Consideration to be given to a monthly corporate prayer meeting for 30 minutes. This might include a 10 minute devotional Led by an elder.

Saturday morning prayer meeting continues on zoom

Allan prayed.

5. Church Picnic

Sunday school picnic at Farr Hall on the 28th June is cancelled

6. Leadership

The elders spent some time discussing the leadership team and how it might be expanded.
George to report back on the deacon appointment process.

7. Pastoral Care

Proposed changes to the pastoral link by members were circulated to the elders. There were a few members where it was felt that there may be a more appropriate link elder due to the various circumstances. An amended list has been created for the others to review

Alistair and Angus to speak with Oscar to help integrate him into his new position at Culduthel.

Listening year has been promoted through the COVID-19 crisis for a telephone listening ear service

8. Sliven

The proposed visit to the church of a delegation from Sliven has been cancelled. However the elders were made aware of a food crisis in the area it was agreed to immediately send a donation of £2500 to Sliven. This situation is to be highlighted to the church members to allow them contribute towards this need. This will be done through the church newsletter and through the church services.

9. Finance

Duncan had updated the elders with various documents prior to the meeting advising of the current financial position, the anticipated impact of COVI – 19 and of staff on furlough.

Angus closed the meeting in prayer

Next Meetings

Proposed next elders meeting Thursday 21st May