

At Saltcoats and within Saltcoats: New Trinity Parish Church on Tuesday 5th February 2008, which place and date the Presbytery of Ardrossan met and was constituted

SEDERUNT : Revds R J Grahame (Moderator) Dr JR McKay (Clerk) I W Benzie, M S Cameron, N Cruickshank, A Davidge, D J H Harbison, D J Heberton, M L K Howie, W R Johnston, R Leask, R I T McDonald, M H Mackay, A D McCallum, E McKinnon, A F McGurk, J McNay, D R Mitchell, A B Noble, B H Oxburgh, F C Ross, I M Roy, J Selfridge, M Thomson, E R L Watson, Ministers; J Aitken, L Borwick, S Brown, A Buick, A Campbell, J Cameron, G Cunningham, J Forsyth, I Hackney, E Halliwell, A C D Hamilton, R Jarvie, M G Kellock, R Kelso, J Laurie, A Lees, G K McConnell, P McKay, S McLellan, S McMaghon, D McMurray, J McSwan, N Martin, K Milne, T Muston, R A Richardson, G Ross, A K Saunderson, J S Scott, E Sillars, N Smith, E Stevenson, E Taylor, W Thomson, A Tomlinson, A C Watt, C Welch, K S Welch, R F Welch, Elders; E Barclay, M A Broster, A Currie, J C Q Hunter, B H Mackay, R McCool, A Montgomerie, M Nimmo, M M B Ross, Corresponding Members.

APOLOGIES were received from Revds A Adamson, J M M Lafferty, Mgt Thomson, A Taylor, V G C Watson, J Whyte, Ministers; R Lavalette, V Macdonald, S Marr, J Porter, Elders; M Buchanan, Corresponding Member.

MINUTE The minutes of the meeting of 4th December 2007 and 17th January 2008, having been circulated, were approved

ORDER OF BUSINESS The Order of Business was approved as circulated with the addition of a Supplementary Report from the Church and Society Committee regarding the proposed closure of Corrie School, and the agreement of Presbytery to suspend Standing Orders when it discussed the Report of the Property Committee to enable to late application from Dalry: St Margaret's to be submitted; and the inclusion of a report from the Clerk (agreed under Standing Order 28) on possible alterations for arrangements for hospital visits by parish ministers. The Moderator indicated that this item would be taken following the reception of readers and divinity students.

CORRESPONDENCE The clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the Manager of South Beach House thanking Presbytery for its congratulations on the Charter Mark Award; from the Secretary of the Mission and Discipleship Council intimating the award of a grant of £500 towards the expenses of Bibleworld; from Mr Chris McNaught of Geilsland School, accepting the invitation of the Business Committee to address the March meeting of Presbytery; and from the Kirk Session of West Kilbride: Overton, thanking Presbytery for the arrangements made for the recent induction.

ROLL OF PRESBYTERY

- i. The Moderator welcomed the Revd James McNay, recently ordained to West Kilbride: Overton, to his first statutory meeting of Presbytery
- ii. The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Mr Hugh Gibson, intimating his wish to resign from the Presbytery on the grounds of ill health. The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Presbytery to Mr Gibson for his long and distinguished service, particularly in the work of the Property Committee, and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Gibson, conveying the sentiments of the Presbytery and wishing him well.

RECEPTION OF DIVINITY STUDENTS AND READERS Revd Brian Oxburgh, Convener of the Ministries Committee, presented those divinity students and readers attending presbytery. The Moderator addressed them, assuring them of the thanks and good wishes of the Presbytery, and led the Presbytery in prayer. Mr Archie Currie made suitable reply.

HOSPITAL VISITING The Clerk reported a conversation the previous day with Revd Paul Russell who had said that the number of parish ministers responding to the invitation to meet with hospital chaplains was "disappointing"; that the letter of invitation had omitted to say that matters to be discussed would be "crucial" following the drawing up of a "draft concordat" regarding hospital visiting and that those failing to attend would be caused "inconvenience and expense".

It was moved, seconded and agreed that Presbytery instruct the Clerk to write to Revd Judith Hugget requesting urgently a copy for the Presbytery's consideration of any draft concordat which would alter arrangements for access by, or identification of, ministers or those representing congregations.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

- i. West Kilbride: St Andrews
 - a. Note with regret the resignation of the Revd Irene Bristow as locum at West Kilbride: St Andrews, assuring her of the Presbytery's support and prayers, and

- expressing thanks for her service to the Presbytery and West Kilbride: St Andrews
- b. Express thanks and appreciation to the Revd Marjory Mackay for her service as Interim Moderator at West Kilbride: St Andrews and discharge her from her duties
 - c. Homologate the action of the Clerk in requesting the agreement of the General Assembly's Legal Questions Committee, in terms of Act V 2001, to the appointment of the Revd John Harvey as Interim Moderator at West Kilbride: St Andrew's, and agreement having been granted (subject to homologation) make the appointment.
 - ii. Ardrossan: Barony St John's: Note that the Revd Dr Johnston McKay has intimated his wish to resign as Interim Moderator and locum, thank him for his service and appoint Revd Fiona Ross as Interim Moderator as from a date to be decided.
 - iii. Note the Report from the Solicitor of the Church (Reports Page 1) and commend the study of it to officebearers in congregations.
 - iv. Notice of Motion: that at the March meeting of Presbytery the committee will propose the names of eight ministers and eight elders to be commissioners to the forthcoming General Assembly.

Mission and Discipleship

For the Committee the Clerk moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Note with appreciation the report on Safeguarding Issues (Reports Page 2--5)

Stewardship and Finance

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Approve the appointment of Mr Angus Dodds CA as Independent Examiner of the Presbytery's accounts for 2007:

As agreed, Presbytery resolved that Standing Orders be suspended

Property

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Dalry: St Margaret's: Approve repairs to the roof as a result of storm damage, at a cost of £14,325 + VAT, the subject of insurance payment

Church and Society

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

- i. Note the report of the Presbytery's Representative on North Ayrshire Council Education Executive (Reports pages 6-7) and invite parish ministers who are interested in attending a training day for chaplains conducting school assemblies to indicate so to Mr John Scott by February 29th.
- ii. Deeply regrets the proposal to close Corrie Primary School, supports the local community in the attempt to keep the school open, and instructs the Clerk to write to North Ayrshire Council, expressing the hope that the Council will continue to maintain primary education in Corrie.

Presbyterial Superintendence

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Note that in terms of Act III 2000, the Presbytery Minute Book has been examined and found to be in order.

Ministries

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Note and welcome the satisfactory annual report on Mrs Jean Hunter's work as Parish Assistant in the linked parishes of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza and Pirrmill and Shiskine.

Presbytery to meet on Tuesday 4th March at 7.30pm within Saltcoats: New Trinity for the conduct of ordinary business, the Business Committee to meet on Wednesday February 20th at 4.30pm

CLOSED WITH PRAYER

Moderator

Clerk