

**Church of Scotland
Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church**

**Minutes of the Annual Stated Meeting
Held in Meldrum Parish Church on Sunday 18 March 2018**

The meeting was held following morning service and was constituted by prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Alison Jaffrey.

1 Minutes of previous Annual Stated Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2017 were read by the Session Clerk; minutes were then approved by Charles Simpson and seconded by Anne McLean.

2 Presentation of Annual Accounts:

Copies of the 2017 accounts were distributed to all in attendance, (*copies may also be downloaded from our website*). The accounts and report were approved at the Kirk Session meeting on 14 February and signed off by the independent examiner on 9 March.

The treasurer Willie Paterson, presented an overview of the 2017 annual accounts. All sections of the accounts were covered giving explanations where necessary to the satisfaction of all in attendance.

Risk Management: The principal risk to the charity is a demographic one in that the church membership is aging and there are fewer younger members joining to replace the existing membership.

The investment risk exists in that the value of the investments can go down as well as up, the trustees consider that our strategy of limiting our investment risk, as detailed in our Investment policy on page 2, is working and that the level of risk is acceptable.

The treasurer gave thanks to the Kirk Session for their support during the year and in particular to Elaine Buck, who does a power of work recording the income into the donations coordinator programme and in preparing the gift aid claims, which greatly assists me with the preparation of these accounts. My thanks are also due to the Minister and Session Clerk for the information for the report. I would also like to place on record my appreciation to all those who assist on a weekly basis with collection and counting of the offerings and to those who volunteer as finance coordinators. As stated in the report, volunteers are the lifeblood of the church and without them it would not be possible to continue so thank you all.

The Budget for 2018 was also presented to the congregation.

The treasurer concluded his report and stated he was happy to try and answer any questions on the report and the accounts; no questions asked.
(*The treasurers full report is available on our website*).

The Moderator commended Willie for all the demanding work he does in keeping the accounts in order throughout the year, preparing the Accounts for inspection and having/

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them ready for submission to OSCR. The congregation endorsed the Moderators comments with a round of applause.

3 Moderator's Comments:

The Moderator mentioned that there had been many challenging issues over the past year. Stating that she informed the congregation this time last year of the disappointing news of the CALA deal failing. Went on to report that there had been little progress with the sale of the Glebe but hopefully paperwork should be complete within the next few weeks. The Moderator stated that she was aware some of our members felt that they were being kept in the dark, but between local land issues and the complex legal work of such land deals things do take time and many months can pass with no sign of any progress. Informing all that the only thing that has not been disclosed is the identity of the developer because that is still commercially sensitive. There is a lot of worrying and angst that goes on in the background of any development plan, the people who carry that worry are the senior management team of Session Clerk, Treasurer and minister, It is shared with the small New Church team who dream the dreams and have to see them ground down into reality and then with the Kirk Session who will always make the final decisions because it is their purpose and task to do so. All these people are working for God and this congregation and they need and deserve your prayers and your support.

The Moderator went on to inform the congregation that in the work of the Church the Kirk Session has had a difficult year. With four of our elders having retired, resigned or moved away this year leaving us now with 6 districts without an elder. To ensure each member has an Elder we have decided to redistribute these districts amongst the remaining elders as a temporary measure while we look for a new way of organising pastoral care in this congregation. Also commented on the work with our youth over the last year with Sunday School and Messy Church but had concerns that as the same people are running both and no new people have joined the team to relieve the work load it is becoming untenable. The thought is that this year we will have to choose one or the other because we cannot run both much longer without an influx of people willing to help. The Moderator thanked team who are doing this important work with our children.

Continued saying, Sunday by Sunday we come into a clean, comfortably warm church over paths free of snow and ice. I would like to thank Isobel our cleaner and our team of church officers for all the background work that makes this possible, it is greatly appreciated and not just on Sundays. Every funeral and wedding also mean work for them too and their friendly faces and presence make the most difficult occasions easier for me. Our worship has been enhanced by the work of our organists too, Jim, Isla and Margaret have raised our spirits and helped our voices soar into the roof. We are all grateful for that special gift of music that they share with us. The Moderator thanked our Session Clerk, Treasurer and elders for all their hard work in this year past and commend them to you as examples of unstinting service to God and to the people of this congregation./

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4 Session Clerk's Comments:

As Alison has thanked all those who have helped and supported her with their contribution to the life and work of our church I feel it is only proper that she herself be thanked for her contribution.

I would therefore like to once again take this opportunity to thank you, Alison, on behalf of our congregation and the Kirk Session for all the challenging work and support she has given to us all over the year. I would also like to thank you personally for the support given to me in my role as Session Clerk, I know it cannot be easy!
Thank you, Alison.

The business being concluded the meeting closed with all present saying the Grace.

Signed _____ Moderator _____ Session Clerk

Reverend Alison Jaffrey

William Dalzell