

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

**Minutes of the Annual Stated Meeting
Held in Meldrum Parish Church on Sunday 19 March 2017**

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 20 March 2016 were read by the Session Clerk; minutes were then approved by Dorothy Davidson and seconded by Anne Gartly.

2 Presentation of Annual Accounts:

Copies of the 2016 accounts were distributed to all in attendance.

The treasurer Willie Paterson, presented an overview of the 2016 annual accounts. All sections of the accounts were covered giving explanations where necessary to the satisfaction of all in attendance. The treasurer also gave a detailed report of our investment funds explaining the type and the aim of each of the funds stating there was no change from the aims stated last year.

The Treasurer highlighted a rise in donations and a slight fall in offerings. Stated that the Stewardship campaign in 2015 achieved a rise of 6% in offerings which should show in this year's income. We now have 274 members giving by Gift Aid and 209 members giving by standing order. A new independent examiner has been employed to review the 2016 accounts, this has substantially reduced the cost.

The treasurer also went to say that it is a requirement to record all monies donated by the Trustees, the Trustees are the active Elders on the Kirk Session; the treasurer was surprised by the amount given and thanked all for their support.

The Treasurer acknowledged that a lot of the work that the Church accomplishes would not be possible without the help of all those who volunteered their services freely and thanked all for their efforts.

The Budget for 2017 was presented to the congregation explaining this was prepared by taking account the comparison of the predicted income and expenditure against what was realised in 2016.

The Moderator thanked Willie for all the demanding work that goes into keeping the accounts in order throughout the year and the preparation of the Annual Accounts. The congregation applauded

3 Moderator's Comments:

The Moderator informed the congregation of the current situation with the sale of the Glebe and the new church centre project. The Moderator was saddened to inform the congregation that the sale of the Glebe to CALA will not now go ahead as they have reduced their purchase offer by more than half, their reasoning for this reduced offer was attributed to restrictions put in place by the planning department reducing the overall revenue expected and the unexpected competition of a 40-unit residential development near the Glebe site. The Kirk Session has met twice over the last few days to discuss this and consider the options now open to us, a group has been formed to work on this and would welcome any ideas from the congregation. We have decided to refuse CALA's offer and put the Glebe back on the market. We also decided to retain the 1.9acre site that had been set aside for possible development in the future.

"God spoke today. I was in the shower wondering how to tell the congregation that the new church dream was dead due to the developer offering less than half of their original offer for the Glebe. No one else will offer as much but other developers will put in offers. This morning's readings, the Israelites at Meribah and Massah, the water from the rock...the rock and the hard place and the spring of living water...the woman at the well at Sychar....how could I not see it before? This is the testing place of faith. Not faith in the set project but in God, the God who leads us through the desert and in whom we put our trust. He will provide, not what we thought we wanted, but what we need. We don't know the form of such providence yet but it will be what we need for this part of the journey. This is the time to trust. We may not want to raise £700,000 for the plan that was but now is the time to raise what we can. We keep the faith, we trust in God, we do what we can and we reach for God's dream for us, not our dream for God. Starting now we need to begin thinking and talking and sharing ideas for what we have and what it could do and we need to start saving for the future and enabling the present. It's a hard place we're in but there is water in the rock, thanks be to God."

The Moderator went on to thank all who has helped throughout the year acknowledging that it has been a busy year and hard to keep up with all that is on. The Moderator thanked the Kirk Session for their continued support and although the Moderator avoided mentioning names in case she missed anyone she thanked all the groups, teams and individuals involved with the running and organising of all the Church activities.

The Moderator went on to say that she is happy to be our Minister and hope to continue as our Minister for as long as we need.

4 Session Clerk's Comments:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alison on behalf of our congregation and the Kirk Session for all the hard work and support she has given to us all over the year. I will try and not embarrass her again, but I am sure this last year has been one of her most challenging yet, as we look back at the decline of the oil industry and the impact this has had not only on national terms but also local households including Alison's. No one, with all the facts, could argue with Alison's dedication to her roll of Parish Minister in Meldrum & Bourtie.

I would also like to thank Alison personally for her support given to me in my role as Session Clerk, I would put myself down as one of Alison's challenges.

It is now coming up for 7 years that Alison has been with us and I think I can now safely recommend that we can add Alison's name to our roll of Ministers that hangs at the front door of the Church.

The Kirk Session continues to work hard along with Alison for you and the Church and although we have seen some of our plans fall we will continue in faith and together with Alison's support we will be ready to embrace whatever changes the future may put in front of us.

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