

BRIGHTONS PARISH CHURCH MINUTES



Type of Meeting:	Kirk Session
Date and Time:	Tuesday 30 th January 2024 at 7.45pm
Location:	Brightons Parish Church
Sederunt:	Rev S Burton, Moderator and Elders: J Dick, J Falconer, A Gillespie, J Glass, G Mann, C McEwan, H McManus, J Meek, J Norton (Session Clerk), B Rankine, G Scott, M Scott, W Tomlinson, K Wansbrough, J Wallace
Apologies:	J Callahan, R Callahan, A McDonald, T Nimmo, P Paterson
Absent:	I Baillie (sabbatical), J Clarke.

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1. Constitution	1.1 The meeting was opened with a reading from Acts 12:1-14 then constituted with prayer. The moderator encouraged all Elders to consider when the pressure is on, what do we model in prayer?	
2. Sederunt	2.1 The sederunt, as above, were noted.	
3. Conflict of Interest (new)	3.1 No new conflicts of interest were declared.	
4. Minutes	4.1 The minute from 30 th January 2024 was approved (pp379-382).	
5. Matters Arising	<p>5.1 Kirk Session Away Day - the Moderator noted the other Upper Braes churches may not join us, so this will become more of a Brightons Kirk Session Away Day, though all Elders from the Upper Braes churches will be invited. Session agreed this would be at Camphill on 8th June, timings to be agreed. The Moderator thanked Jason for the use of Camphill.</p> <p>5.2 Presbytery Elder – Session unanimously approved Jason Glass as Presbytery Elder with immediate effect. The Moderator thanked Jason for offering to take on this role.</p> Moderator
6. Presbytery	<p>6.1 Update from Presbytery – no meetings have been held since the last Session meeting in January. The Moderator noted a variety of changes to Presbytery are proposed in the papers for the next meeting on 2nd March, which will hopefully better support churches.</p> <p>Draft Mission Plan due at the end of March or early April; meeting 27th April to discuss/debate the draft plan. Potential vote in autumn; meaning start of the Union could still be October 2024 or January 2025.</p> <p>Potential change also being put forward for local worship leader policy which would aid our preaching team.</p>	

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7. Team Updates	<p>7.1 Discipleship Team – report accepted as tabled. It was noted the Safar social would be after church on 19th May.</p> <p>7.2 Pastoral Care Team - report accepted as tabled.</p> <p>7.3 Worship Team – report tabled as accepted. Session unanimously approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill Dickson's name to go to Presbytery for Local Worship Leader training. • Running a summer Sunday School from 30th June to 11th August, with 18th August being back to normal for Sunday School groups (as requested by Sunday School). <p>It was noted the Moderator is proposing to take two weeks of study leave following his three weeks leave, subject to approval by 121.</p>	
8. Discussion Groups	<p>8.1 Session split into four groups to discuss the items outlined in the meeting agenda. Key points fed back from each of the groups were:</p> <p>Group 1: Socials</p> <p>Some of the previous events held were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's breakfast • Lunches on a Sunday • Games night/ quiz night <p>Some of the events already planned are Big Sing - Brightons in June and Belong BBQ in May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It might be good to start small - then grow gradually • Could we have another larger event in Autumn/ invite other congregations? • It would be good to gather for food but need to consider Health and Safety requirements in church • The chilli night to raise funds for Israel/ Palestine strip was very successful- so could do something similar again. • Could any of the Belong events be adapted? It was felt that it would be too much to add to this event. • Ceilidh's might be a way to bring all ages together. • Singing shows/ dramas? • Smaller events based around hobbies and interests might be more accessible for non-church goers eg cycling, walking, Community events like litter picking are also good social activities that we can invite others to. These are also easier to organise. <p>There was previously a social committee under Deacons' Court and it was felt that it would be necessary to have another set up, especially if we want to do this more often. Could be anyone from congregation. At the same time we need to caution starting another new thing / new committee to organise more events, when many are already stretched. Can we explore how we can make space for this rather than add in another thing?</p>	

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	<p>Group 2 – Information Sharing</p> <p>Spoken Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a "Meet the Team", either during a service or use fellowship time after Sunday service? • Team given time to provide overview/ key elements of work. • Use the Annual Business Meeting to promote the teams. <p>Written word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a summary sheet with key points from a Session/Court mtg insert in newssheet a couple of Sundays after a mtg. • Minutes shared/made available. • Update style of notice in local press. • Better use of "Connect" although only issued 2 times a year. <p>Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote info on social media.....is it only Facebook we use/can use? <p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullet point sheet from each Team reports shared, but would require Teams to maintain the accuracy of info. <p>Group 3 – People and Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current who's who board is a good starting point • Good to have a point-of-contact for each team • Team Structure does need broken down and detailed as proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some Teams have distinct sub- teams/groups/ activities ○ Some Teams are very big and wide ranging ○ Some Teams have their own 'mission statement' – display this? • Change current display board to show Team Conveners + photo + contact details (if anonymous @brightonschurch e-mail) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be big so probably need to mock-up with paper first? ○ Colour-code each team/area (as per example chart Judith had) ○ Considered sub-team contact people but would be way too complex for a display board – possible with some of the tech-based solutions below • What's the purpose of the display? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Points of contact ○ Visible range and scale of activities ○ Encouraging interest and perhaps involvement ○ Eye catching (that's perhaps where an electronic display can help) • Technology-based options (in addition to display board): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website – click to open 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Display screen in Foyer – video display of convener + Team groups/activities ○ Touchscreen display in Foyer – based on website click to open • Whatever we have needs to look 'professional' and be easily updatable – as soon a Convener changes we should be updating as immediately as possible • Team articles in Connect magazine – James Falconer planning a series to cover all Comms areas in a bit more detail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognise that not everybody comes through to the halls; not everybody goes online • Do we need to have details of Elders/Deacons? • Where to place Beadle & Deputy? (part of worship team?) – Presbytery Elder? • Should we also display Safeguarding Coordinator and GBV contact for completeness/consistency? • Each Team Convener to develop own team breakdown and identify sub-team/group/activity leads (that's what goes onto website?) <p>Group 4 – Kirk Session Away Day Space for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer • Looking at Priorities for us, what is important? • Preparation: e.g. there will be loss for many to be considered as we move into new united congregation • Grow model- What have done so far? What do we want to gain? How can we ensure this new congregation keeps growing and therefore surviving into the future? • Reflective time: Options; Reality; way forward? • Create relaxed space for creativity to blossom! 	
9. Correspondence	9.1 None	
10. Roll Keeping	10.1 Session agreed admission of transfer of George and Helen Chalmers, and Moira Campbell.	
11. AOCB	<p>11.1 Up and Coming (U&C) Team Convenor - the Moderator noted Jackie Sihota has had to step back due to family dynamics and asked Session to keep Jackie in prayer.</p> <p>A replacement Team Convenor is needed. The Moderator noted the role entails supporting 5-6 leaders of children's/youth work. It will require a passion and interest for our children and young people; the ability to lead a team well and take forward the work in a strategic way.</p> <p>There is not a requirement to go to all the meetings within the 7 areas overseen by U&C.</p> <p>Names to be put forward urgently to the Moderator.</p>	Elders

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12. Services	<p>12.1 The following services were planned:</p> <p>29th February - half-hour service with Communion (Rev Sandra Mathers)</p> <p>1st March - World Day of Prayer service at Polmont Old</p> <p>3rd March - Communion (all age)</p> <p>24th March - Uniformed Organisations' Closing Service (all age)</p> <p>25th-30th March - Holy Week with joint services across the Braes (Brightons 26th)</p> <p>28th March - half-hour service (Ian Baillie)</p> <p>31st March - Easter Sunday all age service</p> <p>31st March - evening service (with Communion)</p> <p>7th April - Brent Haywood preaching</p> <p>14th April - Judith Norton preaching</p> <p>25th April - half-hour service (TBC)</p> <p>28th April - evening service (with Communion) (Jill Dickson preaching)</p> <p>5th May - joint service of Upper Braes Churches at Muiravonside</p> <p>26th May - Donald Meek preaching (Scott at General Assembly)</p> <p>26th May - evening service (with Communion) (Linzi Matheson preaching)</p> <p>30th May - half-hour service with Communion (Scott)</p> <p>2nd June - Communion (not all age)</p>	
13. Dates	<p>13.1 Dates of future meetings/holidays were noted as:</p> <p>19th March – Deacons' Court (attestation of accounts)</p> <p>28th May – Deacons' Court and Kirk Session</p> <p>25th June – Deacons' Court and Kirk Session</p> <p>The Moderator noted his grateful thanks to the Elders.</p>	
14. Close	<p>14.1 The meeting was closed by saying the Grace together.</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Session Clerk</p>