

Kirk Session Report – January 2023

Statistics

At the first meeting of the year, the Kirk Session always “attests the Communion Roll”. This is an opportunity for the elders to make sure that the membership and other lists are up to date and to take a snapshot of the church membership. There are currently 119 adults and 7 children involved in the life of the congregation. Of the adults, 80 are Members and 39 are Associates. Since the Covid lockdown, the number of people attending worship remains significantly less than before in both the Community Centre and Woodhill Court congregations. The Stocket Grange congregation has remained fairly steady. During the course of the year we saw 8 new people become involved in the life of the Church. Sadly, five people died and another two moved on from the church.

Pastoral Volunteer

Whilst the Kirk Session heard that the numbers attending Woodhill Court were significantly lower than in the past, they were pleased to learn how well Helen Dray has been getting on. Helen has taken on the roll of a Pastoral Volunteer (like Vanda, Angie and Gail before her) with a particular emphasis on caring for the congregation based in Woodhill Court – as well as others. Helen has been visiting people across the church and is hoping to expand her ministry by developing some opportunities to bring together those who find it harder to get out and about.

New Congregation

During advent a group from the church ran a series of three evenings aimed at young families in the parish. Those attending ate a meal together, did a craft, heard the Christmas story and worshipped and prayed together. The evenings were so successful that they are to continue on a monthly basis, meeting on the last Monday in the month. This is an opportunity for young families, who may find coming to church on a Sunday morning difficult, to become part of the church and worship together. Last year the Kirk Session applied for and received some funding from the Church of Scotland to help get this idea underway. It may be that this gathering will grow into another congregation to sit alongside our Stocket Grange, Woodhill Court and Community Centre congregations.

Presbytery

The Kirk Session heard that the first meeting of the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles took place in January following the merger of 5 Presbyteries across the North East, Orkney and Shetland. The Presbytery consist of all the Church of Scotland congregations within its bounds working together to support, oversee and plan with each other. This includes implementing the Presbytery Plan which aims for a closer relationship between ourselves, St Columba's, Dyce and Brimmond (formerly Newhills) churches

New Elders

The Kirk Session are continuing the process of seeking new elders within the church. Whilst a number of names have been suggested by congregation members, the Session are still seeking more recommendations and will discuss those proposed at our next meeting.

Lunches & Meetings

In an effort to build friendships within the church and to have as many people involved in the decision making process as possible, the Kirk Session are organising both Bring and Share Lunches and occasional Church Meetings after the service in the Community Centre. These will happen on roughly a monthly basis.

Finance

The Kirk Session agreed to hold “Giving Sundays” on behalf of The Samuel Trust and CFine.

Policies

Finally, the Kirk Session spent some time discussing our current finance policy and will return to that next month. They also spent time discussing issues around how our Community Centre Congregation operates in such a way as to make it a safe and welcoming place for all. Again, this is an ongoing conversation to which they will return.