

Minutes of Meeting of Churches Together in Glenrothes and District

November 9th 2022, 7.30 p.m., St. Ninian's Church, Tanshall

Sederunt:

Richard Gilmour (Chair), John Baker (Treasurer), Bill Devlin, (Secretary),
Alan McDonagh, Betty Menzies – St Margaret's
Rev David Smith, Mary Patey -St Ninian's
Stephen Saunders – Salvation Army,
Wilma Page – Christ's Kirk,
Fiona Lawrenson – St Luke's,
George Carratt – King's Covenant Fellowship,
Fr. Phillip Kerr, Sally McElroy = St. Mary Magdalene Parish,
Lorna Baker, Rev Alan Kimmitt, Adriaan van Tonder - St Columba's

Apologies:

Davina Saunders, Ryan Robertson, Gerry Dillon, Robert Paton, Arlene Russell, Ruth Anderson, Miriam Smith, Irene Ure

Opening worship: David Smith led us into the meeting with a reading, a short prayer and a brief talk based on the Reading, Micah 4: 2-5. The talk focusing on Remembrance, is reproduced in attached file.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Alan McDonagh, seconded Stephen Saunders.

Matters arising from previous meeting: it was noted that Christian Aid are looking for new members for their committee.

Chair's Report: Richard Gilmour spoke briefly to confirm that there was nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report: John Baker advised that there had been no expenditure since the last meeting and that the balance remained at £9969.60

Secretary correspondence:

Bill Devlin advised he had been in correspondence with David Carson and Michelle with regard to the approaching Carol Singing Event on 17th December. David had advised nativity figures for the crib scene would go into place close to Rothes Halls on the weekend of 12th November. The Town Centre are pleased to support the event and happy that Christmas celebrations are returning to normal. *(Post meeting note – The figures will now be displayed within the old British Heart Foundation unit due to previous issues with vandalism, this unit has illumination right at the window via 3 spotlights and the window space is really open and visible)*

Secretary also in receipt of email from Stuart Weir notifying of attendance at this evening's meeting to present a talk on 'Assisted Suicide'.

Email also received from Gerry Dillon with a breakdown of the drop-in service provision at St. Luke's and support for Steve Saunders's initiative to assist with expenses for this and similar social provisions.

Stuart Weir Director of CARE, Talk on Assisted Suicide

Stuart talked on the matter of Assisted Suicide presenting facts and figures from countries as diverse as Canada and the Netherlands pointing out the pitfalls and problems of implementing such a policy in advance of the current bill being tabled by Liam McArthur. This gave rise to a number of questions from members of the group and led to productive discussion. A link from Stuart with further information and details of CARE was provided by Stuart and will be attached to minutes. Stuart has also indicated his availability for future talks.

The question of **Community Hardship Support Activities** was discussed. The heading 'Warm Space' was allocated to each individual venue for the provision of food, and a place to share and shelter on different days of the week in the different churches. 'The Haven Café' is the umbrella title which unifies all of these initiatives. A breakdown of the facilities provided by St Luke's Church was also read out and mention made of a similar venture planned at Holy Cross church in Leslie. It was agreed that the sum of £100.00 would be allocated from group bank account to each venue currently hosting a drop-in provision. Applications through the Secretary. It was also suggested that we approach Fife Council to seek funding for these social initiatives and a letter is to be sent off to Altany Craik, councillor, to pursue this. Bill Devlin (secretary) will write this letter.

Christmas Carol Singing at the Town Centre 2022

Discussion regarding ongoing preparation and organisation for our Carol Singing event on 17th December was ongoing. It was suggested that any funds raised from donations on the day be directed towards Glenrothes YMCA. Musical accompaniment is to be provided by George Carratt on keyboards and Steve Saunders on guitar for the event which will span approximately an hour from 12.00 am – 1.00 pm on the day. Sally McElroy advised that St. Mary Magdalene Parish can supply a laminator to facilitate poster advertising and a perhaps assist with a backdrop for the event. Each church will organise their own participation at what will be a shared Church Carol Singing Concert.

Friendship Meal

This is to be organised 21st January 2023 at 7.00 pm in St. Columba's Church, Glenrothes. There will be ten tickets allocated to each church group. John Baker will take the lead in organising the event. John advised that the plan was to provide home-made soup followed by a finger buffet from Morrison's. There will also be tea & coffee and entertainment. The cost of catering is estimated at £150 with the monies coming from our funds. Volunteers include Lorna Baker, Ricard Gilmour and Robert Paton. Wilma Page also offered to help if needed. John will also drum up support from St Columba's. Any further volunteers and any budding artists to draft a poster to advertise the event should contact John direct or via the Secretary.

AOB

Diary

Details for events will be added to the Churches Together web page.

<http://gkc82.atwebpages.com/gct.html>

Email event details to George at gkcarratt@blueyonder.co.uk with pdf or jpg poster/flyer attachments.

St. Paul's Events

Fr. Willie Slavin will give a talk on St. Andrew's Day at 7.30 pm in St. Paul's Church Hall on his memoir, 'Life is Not a Slow Flowing River'. Copies of the book will be on sale.

Pauline Reading will be speaking at a spiritual Advent Retreat at St. Paul's which will now take place on 4th December between 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm.

Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023. Sunday 22nd Jan 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Concert by Bruce Davies

The concert will take place 4th December 2.30 pm at St. Ninian's Parish Church. Posters were available for distribution.

Christian Aid Quiz Night 25th November 2022 at St. Luke's Glenrothes Tickets £5.00 include refreshments

Funeral of Joy Allen, took place on Friday 12.15 at St. Margaret's Church. Joy was a long-standing office-bearer and founding member of Churches Together Group and will be sadly missed.

Steve Saunders - carried on from last meeting on 14th September

'A wee while ago I suggested that members of Churches Together might like to get together for times of prayer. There was little feedback but perhaps COVID was still on peoples' minds. Those keen to pray do not necessarily have to be ministers but those individuals who have a passion for prayer. Heavens knows that there are plenty of reasons to come before the Lord. Can you please, therefore, add an item in the agenda for the next meeting to raise this suggestion again. I was thinking that the prayer times could be rotated around the houses of individual members rather than holding in church buildings. This prompted a general discussion. The consensus at the meeting was that the prayer meeting should not be held in a month which hosted either an AGM or normal Churches Together Meeting. Steve Saunders asked if Bill could forward contact details of members and he would try and organise the first meeting in October'. This prompted further discussion which generally supported this initiative. The matter was left with Steve, who is going on holiday 24th September, and will pursue the matter on his return on the 29th October.

Due to time constraints this item will be carried to our next meeting.

Dates and venues for meetings after the summer:

- January 21st, St Columba's Church for the FRIENDSHIP MEAL- 6.30pm
- March 8th, 2023, 7.30pm, Trinity Church, Leslie
- May 10th, 2023, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church, Warout, 2023
- AGM, 14th June.7.30pm at the Church of Christ, Glamis Centre, Glenrothes

The meeting closed with the sharing of the Grace together at 8.30 p.m.