

Minutes for Glenrothes and District Churches Together Meeting
Wednesday 10th May 2023 – St. Luke's Church, Glenrothes 7.30 pm

Sederunt

Richard Gilmour (Chair), John Baker (Treasurer),
Lorna Baker – St. Columba's
Gerry Dillon – St. Luke's
Alan Kimmitt – St. Columba's
Fiona Lawrenson – St. Luke's
Allan McDonagh – St. Margaret's
Sally McElroy – St. Mary Magdalene's
Nancy Munro – Markinch and Thornton
Wilma Page – Christ's Kirk
Mary Patey – St. Ninian's
Ryan Robertson – Holy Cross
John Simpson – Christ's Kirk
Irene Ure - St. Margaret's
Adriaan Von Tonder - St. Columba's

Apologies

Ruth Anderson, George Carratt, Bill Devlin, Conor Fegan, Philip Kerr, Robert Paton, Steve Saunders & Davina Saunders.

Welcome, Introduction & Opening worship

Richard welcomed everyone to St. Luke's, he also explained that, in Bill Devlin's absence, John Baker would take the minutes. Richard then invited Gerry Dillon to open the meeting with a short prayer.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Wilma Page and seconded by Sally McElroy.

Matters Arising

Ryan asked about progress on contacting other Christian communities around Glenrothes who are not currently represented at Churches Together. In Bill's absence, there was no substantive update, although it was mentioned that at least 14 churches were represented at the Walk for Witness on Good Friday. It was agreed that Bill would be asked to write to relevant organisations to invite them to be members of the group.

All other matters arising were covered under substantive agenda items.

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

Treasurer's Report: Balance at last meeting - £9792.06
Income – None
Expenditure – Walk of Witness Buffet - £227.29.
Balance at 10th May - £9564.77

Secretary correspondence

In Bill's absence there was no Secretary's report.

Outreach & Planning

Richard reported that he has yet to hold his planned meeting with George Carratt, Allan Phillips, Allan McDonagh and any other interested members to discuss 'forward planning' including encouraging active participation, new members, and growth of Glenrothes Churches Together.

John reported that Bill had received a response to his letter written to Altany Craik to enquire about the possibility of securing funding from Fife Council to support the invaluable community support being provided by our Warm Spaces initiatives. However, as the winter had passed, it was decided not to progress this at present with a view to reviewing the situation in the autumn as winter approaches.

As there has been limited success arranging shared prayer groups as suggested by Steve Saunders, Ryan suggested that shared prayer could be incorporated into existing prayer groups held by churches on a rota basis e.g. St. Columba's in January, St. Luke's in February etc. The idea was positively received by the group. Sally offered to 'champion' driving shared prayer meetings forward and will therefore pick it up with Steve and Ryan.

Irene gave an update on the Church of Scotland Covenanted Partnership. Irene explained it involved the joining together of 6 local Church of Scotland churches. The partnership is in its early days, a 'work in progress'. Current activities include shared elder's meetings, shared services, pilgrimage walks, shared prayer groups and shared holiday clubs.

Adriaan gave an update on GROW saying that the recruitment of a GROW worker was ongoing with applications to be in by 28th May. The next GROW meeting was confirmed as 25th May, 7pm at St. Margaret's.

Irene gave an update on 'Thy Kingdom Come' - the nine days of prayer before Pentecost. Having held activities via Zoom over recent years, the plan is to hold in-person activities this year, the arrangements to date are:

- Thursday 18th – Ascension - St Margaret's 7.30pm
- Friday 19th - God who is - 1 John 1:1-12 - St. Mary Magdalene's 7.30pm
- [Saturday 20th - God who loves - 1 John 4:7-8 - \(no activities planned yet\)](#)
- Sunday 21st - God who shares - 1 John 4:9 - St Luke's 5.00pm
- Monday 22nd - God who saves - 1 John 4:9-11 - Holy Cross 6pm
- Tuesday 23rd - God who gives - 1 John 3:1 - Leslie Trinity 1pm
- Wednesday 24th - God who understands - 1 John 4:11-12 - St Columba's 2pm
- Thursday 25th - God who forgives - 1 John 1:8-9 - Markinch 11.30am
- [Friday 26th - God who challenges - 1 John 2:6 - \(no activities planned yet\)](#)
- Saturday 27th - God who empowers - 1 John 4:13 - St Ninian's 10am – 12 noon
- Sunday 28th - Pentecost evening service - Acts 2:1-4 - St. Mary Magdalene's 6.30pm

It was agreed that 100 'Try Praying' booklets would be purchased by John using Churches Together funds. These booklets will be made available at the 'The Kingdom Come' events.

John mentioned the Bill Devlin is collating feedback on the Walk of Witness, some highlights noted so far include:

- People from at least 14 churches took part in the Walk of Witness (*Christ's Kirk, Church of Christ, Glenrothes Baptist, Holy Cross, King's Covenant Fellowship, Leslie Baptist, Salvation Army, St Columba's, St Luke's, St Margaret's, St Mary's, St Ninian's, St Paul's & Leslie Trinity*);

- 15 people left from St. Ninian's. They were joined by half a dozen folk at the Salvation Army.
- The singing was a highlight and some people noted being moved by it;
- This was a truly ecumenical service on this most important day in the lives of Christians everywhere, even a dog attended;
- Approximately 100 people attended the buffet after the walk & service, they munched through 320 sandwiches, circa 100 bags of crisps, circa 100 chocolate biscuits;
- We look forward to more examples of our ecumenical journey as a town and were blessed by being a part of this momentous day.

It was confirmed that the three wooden crosses used for the walk are at St. Columba's.

It was agreed that St. Margaret's would bring the Churches Together banner to the AGM so it could be passed on to another church.

A.O.B.

Alan Kimmitt gave an update on Fife Street Pastors and asked the group if they would be supportive of trialling early-evening patrols in Glenrothes where youths congregate (e.g., the bus station). The patrols could be attended by church observers as required. The patrols would typically involve listening, talking and offering practical help to the people the pastors encounter. It was agreed that the group are supportive, Alan was asked to look into making the trial happen and then report back. It was also agreed that the Street Pastors should be invited to speak at the next meeting before the AGM business is carried out

Wilma tendered her apologies for the AGM.

Date and venue for next meeting

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.