

MINUTES of the Glenrothes and District Churches Together meeting
12 th November 2025 in St Luke's church

Sederunt:

John Baker (Treasurer and Vice-Chair), Alan Kimmitt, Wilma Page - Heart of Fife parish
Fiona Lawrenson - St Luke's church
George Carratt (i/c Web Page) - King's Covenant Fellowship
Annie Tanner (GROW) - Leslie Baptist Church
Fr Philip, Barbara Usher (Secretary) - St Mary Magdalene parish

Apologies: Ruth Anderson (Chair), Sally McElroy, Mary Patey, Roz Paton, Steve Saunders

Fiona Lawrenson opened the meeting in prayer, and with a reading from Philipians

The minutes of last meeting were adjusted, to read that:

'GROW contacted Churches Together requesting an amendment to the section wherein it was suggested that GROW is supported by Scripture Union. In reality GROW pay a fee to Scripture Union Scotland to provide Line Management and HR.'

The minutes were then proposed passed by Wilma and seconded by Fiona.

Matters Arising

Both the Peace Walk and the Remembrance Day service went very well, even if it was a little damp on both occasions. Thanks were offered to Fiona who represented Churches Together in laying the wreath on Remembrance Day.

Preparations are in hand for carol-singing on 13th November 12-1pm on the steps of the Rothes Halls. We will have the usual chairs and microphones. George will liaise with Sally prior to the event. George said that this will be the last carol-singing for which he will be able to play, requesting that another musician take over. Alan will help look at the possibilities (which may include instruments other than the keyboard) when the time comes.

We will be raising money for Cheshire Homes Fife. Fr Philip to liaise with parishioner who works for this charity, to see if any publicity or collecting tins could be provided on the day.

It was suggested that the carol-singing/fund-raising be advertised in the intimations of member churches, in advance of the event. The Fellowship Meal is in hand, celebrating the week of Christian Unity 18-25 January 2026. Sally has booked St Paul's hall for Saturday 17th January at 7pm. If churches could advertise the event now, so that people can save the date that would be appreciated. Also, if we could appeal for offers of pots of soup (lentil or vegetable) that would be appreciated - no more than two pots per parish would be needed. John will order the buffet. It was suggested that Linda Ballingal be approached to supply the entertainment; this has subsequently been confirmed by Wilma.

When advertising this event, could parishes please also say that monies raised from the Fellowship Meal will be donated to GROW for their work with young people in local schools.

There will be an evening service to conclude the week of Christian Unity at St Columba's, Heart of Fife on 25th January.

The nativity figures on loan from St Mary Magdalene parish will be on display in the Rothes Halls from 1st - 23rd December.

John asked that new members be encouraged to join us - could parishes include in the intimations that Glenrothes Churches Together are looking for some happy volunteers.

We will discuss the World Day of Prayer 6th March at the next meeting in February. In the meantime, Barbara will liaise with Jan Donaldson, Salvation Army to order the materials.

Treasurer's report. There has been no expenditure since the previous closing balance.

Therefore the balance remains the same:

£8403.09

Bank signatories This remains an ongoing saga. John will hopefully be able to conclude this week, as it is imperative that Mary and Allan be replaced as signatories to maintain legality as they have both requested that they are removed. If necessary, John will ask Allan to write a cheque for the full bank balance so that John can open a new bank account. Virgin Money levy no charges, and make it easy to set up a new account. The traditional banks usually charge and can be trickier to deal with.

AOB

Fiona asked if the £10 levy from each church was still in operation. John replied that as there are ample funds, it was agreed at a previous meeting that the contributions from members would be suspended for the time being.

Speaker: Annie Tanner representing GROW and Fiona Tucker

Annie introduced herself as having an education background of some 40 years, her last work in Nepal was on mission. She is now a member of Leslie Baptist Church. Fiona Tucker has been with GROW since 2023, but is now leaving to return to work in a school. She has had a great connection especially with the primary schools, and has met to reassure them that the work will be ongoing. Now to build on this work, GROW would like to work with ministry teams of congregations to keep school links alive.

For example, Christian journeys – 3 are planned for early December - a very positive example of schools, churches and Scripture Union working together.

Annie's role within GROW is to support the securing of new funding. She asks for prayers for this process, and for schools GROW works with in the town.

What has been happening GROW is now in its 21st year of sharing the Bible and talking about God in schools, amps, local churches, Walk through the Bible; holiday clubs; building relationships in local schools.

GROW works with 10 out of 21 schools in this area in some capacity or other. They deliver religious observance assemblies from P1 to S6, in so doing reaching 17,000 young people annually. There are two SU groups in secondary schools, Glenwood and Auchmuty, and one in Caskieberran Primary.

1. Delivering and creative ways of showing the Bible through costume and drama.
2. Christmas Journey – also costume and drama, reflective activities and craft.
3. It's your move – supporting young people in the transition from primary to secondary, through booklets, activities, and the knowledge that there is someone to talk to.
4. Regular visits to schools, building relationships and trust. This is one of Fiona's strengths. These schools include Coaltown of Balgonie, Rimpleton, South Parks, Southwood, and Caskieberran Primary Schools.
5. Delivering the Christian strand of the RME curriculum. These opportunities are invaluable, and we need to thank God for all of them.

John thanked Annie, emphasising how heartening it is to hear of the work. Annie emphasised that Fiona's work has been very important, and assured us that she will be replaced. The Committee has developed a new website, and videos. There is about to be a new leaflet. Alan has witnessed some of the Walk through the Bible, and the work in schools, and endorsed all that Annie has said. Fiona Tucker will be much missed.

Annie made an appeal for volunteers through the churches. If these connections are not to be lost (schools putting in requests for assemblies for example), then we need volunteers from the churches. Without a full-time worker it will not be possible to do all these things. It is possible that a part-time worker may be appointed.

John asked if there could be a prospective partnership with the YMCA to make the role sustainable.

Alan may be able to talk to the Church of Scotland workers Sandra (Children and Youth Worker for Heart of Fife) and John Hutchinson about their workload to see if they can offer more support". It should be noted that a lot of the work also needs two people. Chris Beatty from Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust (KART) may be able to help.

Alan gave a tribute to Fiona from a different context, as he sometimes has gone in with Fiona to schools, and witnessed her work. In the interim, if there is a requirement from particular schools, Alan said that we can try to work with them.

Wilma wondered if GCT could give GROW a donation from our funds. There was some discussion about this including consideration of any restrictions on the legacy that makes up most current funds. The outcome of the discussion at the meeting was that suggestions for spending the funds should be collated and considered at the AGM which is typically attended by more members.

In the meantime, a lot of information can be collected before the AGM, and donations from the Fellowship meal will be given to GROW.

Annie said that *GROW* are at a critical point in terms of staff and finance and that she has been progressing funding applications. At one time a significant amount came to them through the Church of Scotland churches. Now however the criteria has now changed and there is a need to apply with a project proposal.

When asked by John, Annie confirmed the current funding deficit is around £20K pa with current donations covering around 30% of costs. Thanks and good wishes were sent to Fiona.

The meeting closed with the *Grace*.

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