

Stated Annual Meeting

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday 7th July 2024, 12.15PM in St Andrew's Church

1. Opening	1
Rev Gunn welcomed all to the meeting and opened the meeting in prayer.	
2. Sederunt and Agenda	5
Present, in-person: Rev Derek Gunn [Interim Moderator], Neil MacLennan [Session Clerk], Keith Aitken, Keith Palmer, Anne Mahoney, Gillian Blair, Isobel Gibson, Rae Manger, Graham Taylor [all Trustees] and two other members of the congregation.	
Rev Gunn noted apologies from other Elder (Trustees) and members of the congregation who could not attend today.	
3. Minute	10
The minute of the last meeting on 25th February 2024 was proposed as accurate by Isobel Gibson and seconded by Anne Mahoney, then agreed by those present. There were no matters arising.	
4. Session Clerk's Report	15
The clerk, Neil MacLennan, commended the text of the Annual Report available over the last few weeks, in paper on the table, and in PDF online for the interest and encouragement of the congregation. He welcomed new Elders who joined the Kirk Session during 2023: Rae Manger, Kirsty Mahoney, Graham Taylor and Keith Palmer who joined us as Congregational Treasurer, and (by virtue of his role) also now a Trustee. During the year Rev David Wandrum transferred as Interim Moderator for our congregation to be the Interim Moderator at neighbouring Carriden Parish Church. Rev Derek Gunn, our locum minister, was appointed as Interim Moderator to our congregation in his place.	
Neil noted that in describing the everyday life of the congregation it was tempting to use the words, "routine", "everyday" and "ordinary" to refer to our regular activities: Tuesday Club, Holiday Club, Men's Group, Women's Group, Youth Cafe, BB, Guides, prayer meetings, pastoral meetings, coffee afternoons, special lunches, PVG, safeguarding, property matters, finance matters, admin matters, joint services, joint meetings, Kirk Session, Presbytery, General Assembly etc. However, he said, "there is nothing routine or inconsequential about them. These things are the lifeblood of our congregation and we give thanks and celebrate those who participate in them, those who lead them and those who manage them".	
During the year, the Kirk Session had engaged with the five Marks of Mission, starting with: "To teach, baptise and nurture new believers" and continues to work through them.	
In May 2023 the Kirk Session submitted a Petition to the General Assembly seeking to have church law updated to allow those taking part in service remotely (online) the ability to vote in certain types of congregational meeting. At the Assembly the congregation was represented by Neil MacLennan and Andrew Wells. The General Assembly received the Petition, approved of it and later that year, enacted it.	
The congregation celebrated the 180th anniversary of the congregation with a special service, exhibition and social event. A joint pro-forma document was agreed between Bo'ness Old Kirk and St Andrew's on the local area Mission Plan in order to help inform Presbytery about the work going on in this area. Lastly, our neighbours Carriden Parish Church closed at end of year, and our congregation joined with them at their last service there on Dec 31st to give thanks for their years, decades and centuries of ministry in that church and its forebears.	
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Rev Gunn invited questions to the Clerk on the overview of the year. None were asked. 42

5. **Treasurer’s Report** 45

Keith Palmer presented the Report of the Trustees and Congregational Accounts for year ending December 31st 2023. He noted the change of accountants to Cornerstone Accounting in October 2023. Rev Gunn invited questions and none were asked. Keith Aitken moved that the Report and Accounts be received and was seconded by Graham Taylor. Those present at the meeting then approved the receiving of the Report and Accounts.

The Treasurer gave a brief overview (and circulated) draft figures for this year, to-date. 50

6. **Local Area Mission Plan** 55

Our presbytery, Forth Valley and Clydesdale, now has an approved Presbytery Mission Plan. Up until June this year, the proposed Union with Bo’ness Old Kirk has been on hold, pending Presbytery getting its own overall plan approved. Now that this has happened, congregations across the presbytery are gearing up to put the plan in motion, and for us in Bo’ness that means we re-engage our conversations with Bo’ness Old Kirk.

The Bo’ness area is in the second tranche of congregations being supported through this process. At this stage it is likely Dec/Jan for Presbytery to approach us and begin the concluding conversations leading up to a congregational vote. 60

7. **AOCB** 65

Rev Gunn offered a personal vote of thanks, and on behalf of the congregation, to all who support the work and ministry of the church with particular thanks to Keith Palmer and Neil MacLennan. Anne Mahoney in turn offered a vote of thanks to Rev Gunn, and to all the members who help with welcome, hospitality, groups, youth ministry, property and all the volunteers across the church

8. **Close** 70

Rev Gunn closed the meeting in prayer, and with a benediction.

Signed _____ [Moderator]

Signed _____ [Session Clerk]

Date _____ 75