

Kiltarlity Church Annual General Meeting – Sunday 21 March 2010

Synopsis of the various reports that were presented at Kiltarlity's Annual General Meeting of the congregation on 21 March 2010, presided over by Rev. Willis Jones.

The Session report revealed a significant increase in church membership. A number of funeral services, weddings and baptisms had been conducted during the year.

With regard to the church's vacancy, the search for a minister was ongoing and a further advert would appear in the April issue of Life and Work magazine. The Interim Moderator Rev. Reg Campbell was updating the Kiltarlity and Kirkhill parish profile.

Tribute was paid to the Interim Moderator for his continued efforts on our church's behalf and for his help so willingly given.

Rev. Willis Jones was appointed part-time locum in February 2008. Willis's enthusiastic commitment and his outstanding ministry amongst the people of Kiltarlity was acknowledged.

Appreciation and thanks were extended to Mrs Pat Jones for her input into different aspects of church life which included producing and directing Easter and Christmas productions.

Presbytery has commended our church for the initiatives undertaken and the progress made in this time of vacancy, especially in the area of mission and outreach. They also commended our congregation for its increase in financial giving.

The churches' joint newsletter and website have expanded and continue to flourish, thanks to our contributors and all involved in the production of *The Parishioner* and the management and maintenance of the website.

The congregation supported various charities through retiring offerings and in the case of Blythswood Highland Food Bank through donations of specified food items. Grateful thanks for your compassion and generosity.

A number of events for social and fellowship gathering were held during 2009 and are all well documented in *The Parishioner* and website. An accolade must go to Mary Robb, who tirelessly coached our Celestial Choir resulting in very credible performances at our Easter and Christmas productions.

The elders, deacons and members of the congregation were thanked for the range of work they carried out on the church's behalf.

Kiltarlity Annual Accounts for year ending 31 December 2009

This is our third year of the new accounting format for charities laid down by OSCR (Scottish Charities Regulator), and I think we are getting used to it, and appreciating its value. Our accounts for year to 31 December 2009 were approved by our Kirk Session on 1 March 2010 and presented to the congregation at our AGM on 21 March 2010. Anyone wishing a copy should contact me on 01463 782 727 and I'll be happy to oblige.

We sometimes forget that our church is one of the biggest charities in Scotland. This status confers certain benefits, most importantly exemption from income tax and local authority rates and in certain circumstances a lower VAT rate on e.g. electricity. Conversely, increasing obligations are being placed on charities to be more and more open and accountable and that is really where OSCR comes into the picture to keep us all right and prevent any abuses of charitable status of which there have been several. OSCR is also concerned that recognised charities stick to their stated objectives and essentially, distribute as much of their income as they possibly can – there have been cases of “hoarding” in the past. Not a problem that we in Kiltarlity have to cope with!

Whilst our position improved from last year we still operated at a deficit of £1,205, ending the year with just £807 in the bank. We are still in the black but only just. Income came to £26,328 against expenditure of £27,533. We have locally held investments (C of S Investors Trust units) worth c£15k but the policy of the Deacons' Court is to keep that as a readily accessible reserve fund to cover emergencies. Of our income, offerings contributed £16,268 which was £2,465 up on the previous year in addition to which we recovered tax of £2,479 under the Gift Aid scheme. Gift Aid is a privilege the government grants to registered charities, enabling them recover standard rate income tax paid by donors on each contribution. Our expenditure included £12,235 paid to 121 for “Ministries and Mission” i.e. to pay ministers and help fund the wider work of the church. The rest comprised running expenses like organ maintenance, vacancy costs, insurance, pulpit supply and so on – all detailed in the accounts themselves. The Stewardship and Finance department at 121 urge us to review our givings each year and perhaps this is an opportune time to consider that particularly when our church nationally is facing so many challenges.

Ian D. Morrison

T.C.C. (Tomnacross Church Club)

The group was formed 14 years ago, to bridge the gap between Sunday School and "adult" church. Initially 6 young people showed interest and retained interest, some of them until leaving school after 6th year. At present the membership still stands at 6. Young people transferring from primary to secondary school are made most welcome.

The group meets each Sunday at 12:00 noon, this frequently augmented by additional meetings outwith church. Such meets are very popular ! Themes for study and discussion are generally sought from the young people themselves, their requests based on "need" and can range from "The Power of Prayer", "Does God really exist ?", "I am a doubter !", "Baptism", "The 10 Commandments", etc. Annually the group travel to Teen Ranch, near Dundee for a weekend (and on one occasion for a whole week) of fellowship and friendship with similar groups from around the country, this is a very popular weekend, shadowing winter sports activity weekends at Nethybridge Christian Outdoor Centre, near Aviemore.

Weekly collections are donated at the end of each session, to a local or needy charity. This session it is hoped that the money shall be donated to Teen Ranch who are in themselves a charity, and yet through themselves are supporting the development of similar centres in Africa. Teen Ranch funding is this session being additionally extended to support Maggie Centres in this country. All members of T.C.C. this session have agreed that "our" money support these causes, this enabling "us" to give back a little of the joy and pleasure experienced by T.C.C. throughout the years. T.C.C. would not exist however without the ongoing and much appreciated support of the Minister, Kirk Session and parents. Thank you, from all the members.

Ellenor Thomas