

Parish of Ceres, Kemback, and Springfield. Minutes of the Annual Stated Meeting held on Sunday 17th March 2024 at Springfield Community Church, commencing at 1230 pm.

The meeting was constituted with a prayer by the Rev. Jane Barron

1. Sederunt and apologies for absence

Present: The Rev. Jane Barron and 30 members of the congregation. Apologies had been received from Peter Milne, Sarah Wood, Berta Robertson, Jim Kay, Colin Johnson.

2. Minutes of the ASM held on Sunday 2nd April 2023 had been posted on the website. They were approved by the meeting.

3. Minister's remarks

Rev. Jane Barron read out her conclusion to the 2023 annual report, as follows: Thanks to the work of a small number of people who are helping us punch above our weight, it is clear that since last year's Annual Report, important things have moved on. I am happily aware that the numbers attending worship, while the smallest I have known in 25 years' ministry, are nevertheless the kernel of our outreach, which is bigger than we are: Mustard Seed service is challenging in worldly terms but surely significant spiritually? Our mission and service is Christ-like if it's making a difference - not as the world calculates but as God calls. God's call is for us to engage in and with the world, to ensure catholic parity, compassion and sufficiency with no-one left behind. This is Kingdom work, which isn't (being) achieved by political means, but with the veil lifted and heaven's way invoked. As I make the final edit on this Annual Report I'm fresh from leading worship (11th Feb, '24) in which a Colombian missionary medic, Dr Jaime Pineda (Jacob, Jamie), encouraged our Church in his own (Spanish) language. Church liturgy and language is nonsensical in our C21st Scottish (non Christian) society because most people don't attend church. Our 'Kirky Talk', however translates for all to hear when we move into the space which is people's lives. This engagement, I believe triggers the power and Kingdom of God which blesses such compassionate work. Surely this is why crowds followed Jesus, because he understood cruelty, injustice and pronounced them anathemas, contrary to God's will? In an election year, we will be on our watchtowers, seeking, engaging with the Kingdom of God, working to install God's manifesto, with God's help.

4. Session Clerk's remarks

Ceres, Kemback and Springfield Kirk Session met on six occasions in 2023. These were all face to face meetings, with regular communication by email in addition. Session was comprised of sixteen Elders at the beginning of 2023. One Elder, very sadly, died during the year. Two more have resigned in early 2024, both having given long and diligent service to CKS. This leaves us with 13 elders. Session's work has again been very busy during the year: Major matters for consideration have been the sale of Kemback Church building; the proposed Pilgrim Church project for Ceres Church; leasing Ceres glebe to the local community trust; creation of a Peace Garden on Ceres Glebe. These quite complicated issues have been managed, in addition to the important regular subjects of Finance; Safeguarding; the Cupar Cluster; and our several Working Groups, all as well as routine business. CKS now employs four part time workers: Springfield Manager; Youth Worker; Church Secretary; Website Assistant, all of which posts require the oversight of Session.

The meetings continue to be well moderated by our Minister, and Elders are fully aware of their responsibilities as trustees. It is to the credit of Elders, in addition to others, that such a small group of people in the Parish are achieving so much in the local communities of Ceres, Kemback, and Springfield.

5. Annual Trustees' Report and Finance Report

The draft report and accounts had been prepared and circulated to Session. A briefing note, prepared by the Treasurer, was read out to the meeting, as follows:

The accounts are for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023. Henderson Black & Co are the Independent Examiner of the Accounts and their certificate is detailed on Page 10 of the Accounts and there is no matter that has come to their attention that requires them to report on.

MINISTER'S REPORT

The Minister has covered activities that have taken place in the church, the context in which the church is operating in and a look at what the future might hold. These are challenging times for any church and for our Minister. Pages 1 to 5 of the Trustees Report give full details of the Minister's report. The congregation will require to be engaged in supporting the Minister and Kirk Session as the church moves forward in its implementation of the Fife Presbytery Mission Plan as it impacts on the Parish of Ceres Kemback and Springfield.

SESSION CLERK AND FINANCE REPORTS

The Session Clerk report on Page 5 focusses on the activities of the Kirk Session who have had an extremely busy year. There is further work for the Kirk Session as it assists the Minister in moving through the implementation of the Mission Plan which will require lots of reflecting upon to find the right way forward for the Parish. There will be difficult and painful decisions ahead for the Kirk Session in the next few years. Already the closure and sale of our beloved Kemback Church has taken place.

FINANCE REPORTS

The financial issues are on Pages 5 to 8 and cover a summary of the Overall Financial Results, Springfield Bequest, Investment Policy, Risk Management and Reserves Policy. The financial reports are detailed in Pages 11 to 18 with a summary attached of monies held by the Church of Scotland General Trustees on behalf of the congregation. The total held by the General Trustees on behalf of the Congregation is £1,088,967 plus £223,000 in the Stipend Fund. The figures for 2022 was £789,515 the major change was in the receipt of the sale money for Kemback Church in 2023.

Main Financial Figures

Income for 2023 was £110,456 with no legacy being received in that year. (2022 - £124,803 which included a legacy of £20,000)

Expenditure for 2023 was £117,016 (2022 - £121,141)

Net Surplus for 2023 was £1,261 but it should be noted that the operating deficit was £6,560 and this was reduced as a consequence of the net gains of £7,821 made on investments in

year. The net surplus figure for 2022 was minus £12,122 and was due to the losses made in investments in year.

The Congregation despite all the challenges has continued to support the parish generously in it giving and support of events throughout the year. In summary the congregation is capital rich and revenue poor with less than half of our income coming from donations and charitable activities. Without the support of the Springfield Bequest the parish could not afford to support the paid part time employees who are all much valued and add to the life of the congregation and the parish as a whole.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

This section of the Trustees Report on Pages 8 and 9 sets out how the Parish is managed and who its office bearers are and the membership of the Kirk Session and states the name of the bankers and independent examiner that the Parish has.

Page 9 sets out the Trustees Responsibilities with regards to the Financial Statements and it is the Kirk Session who are the Trustees of the Parish.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

Page 10 details the finding of the Independent Examiners review of the Accounts and this year as in all previous year the Independent Examiner has found no matters that require to be raised and that the accounts comply with the relevant regulations governing charities.

DETAILED QUERIES ON THE ACCOUNTS

If any member of the congregation has detailed questions on the accounts please contact Sarah Wood, Treasurer. Phone number 07758 604769 or by email – sarah@silverandgray.com

NEXT STEPS

Once the Trustee Report and Accounts are approved by the Annual Stated Meeting the Treasurer will inform Henderson Black that approval to the Accounts has been given they will then prepare sets of accounts for signature. It is proposed as neither the Treasurer or the Session Clerk are trustees that the Minister and Mr Peter Milne sign the accounts on behalf of the Trustees.

The following reports had been prepared by those individuals involved in each activity:

6. Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group at this moment is a small group that meets regularly via Zoom. Throughout the year the group keeps in touch, through various means, with our church members in the parish who are housebound, not as mobile as they used to be, finding times hard or unwell.

Last year, like the year before, around ninety Easter Cards and ninety Christmas Cards were delivered to our members and also local businesses and schools in our community.

In March 2023 a Daffodil Coffee morning was organised and held in Springfield Community Church. Transport was arranged for some of our member to enable them to accept the invitation to enjoy refreshments, company and be entertained by the U3A Ukelele Band. On a one-to-one bases the group has sent cards, flowers, made home and hospital visits. Jane has also, on many occasions, administered home communion.

Every month a few of us go with Jane on her visits to the local Care/Nursing Homes and Shelter Housing for a church service.

The residents of Lunardi Court, Rosturk, Drysdale Gardens and North Eden make us very welcome and enjoy the services and a time of conversation. On some visits we will take items to show to the residents that fit in with the theme of the service which they really appreciate as well as the singing of hymns. The monthly services are held on a rotation bases.

In December a Remembering Service was held in Ceres where the Group was involved in readings and prayers.

This year - Easter Cards are already out for delivery and we are underway with plans for an April afternoon coffee gathering.

The Pastoral Care Group would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all who help us with events and the preparation and delivering of cards and invitations.

Finally, if what you have heard about the worthwhile activities of the Pastoral Care Group, and you would like to be part of this ministry, we would really like to hear from you.

7. Prayer Group

During the past year, looking back over our prayer requests, we have stood alongside a great number of people, both from our congregation, our communities and further afield, who were going through very difficult times and commended them to God's care and mercy.

We gave thanks too for the many answers to prayer which we witnessed over the year.

It is our privilege to support the work of the church and we are delighted to be joined by some members from Cupar Old and to be involved in the Cluster prayer group where relationships are being built and we are slowly working towards becoming one church, seeking God's will for our area.

A number of the group offer prayers in church now on a rota basis, but I would like to point out, we are in no way an elite group. We are ordinary people responding to God's call and would like to see more involvement by the congregation in the prayer life of CKS.

8. Property Report

All statutory checks for Ceres, Kemback and Springfield churches were carried out and full compliance for Insurance purposes was maintained. The Session House in Ceres required a major electrical and Fire Detection system upgrade to bring this building up to standard. A full Property Inspection was carried out for Fife Presbytery and the report submitted to them in January 2023. Ceres Church was broken into in January and a small window was broken and the Church had some minor vandalism which was quickly cleaned up before the Service. The window was repaired and the Police informed, but to date no further progress has been made in apprehending those responsible. Due to the recent storms there are some missing roof slates at Ceres Church and so some leaks have been observed in the ceiling, quotes are being obtained as this will require scaffolding to be erected for safe access to the roof. The felt roof in the Vestry will also need to be renewed in 2024. Ceres Church's porch was painted in December as it was in a poor state and mould had been observed.

There are some minor repairs required at Springfield Church, the main door is sticking, some loose plaster above the Kitchen, a small hole in one of the stained glass windows and some loose flagstones. Quotes are being obtained for these repairs

9. Roll Keepers Report

During the year the number of members on the Roll dropped from 281 to 274. There was one addition to the Roll and two members transferred their membership to other churches. There were six deaths. About thirty children and young people were involved in the church through Ceres Youth Club and, in Springfield, Messy Church and the After School Family Club. Since the end of the year, three members associated with Kemback church have moved to other congregations. Robin Bennett, the Roll Keeper, pointed out that any people who participate in CKS would be most welcome to join the Roll.

10. Stewardship Report

Pilgrim Church.

Work has been ongoing to discern the way forward for Ceres church building. Five trustees have been appointed as part of the formation of a charitable trust which is seen as a way to progress the project. Ben Tindall Architects have been engaged to prepare indicative plans to illustrate how the building could be reconfigured for multi purpose use and for simple accommodation for pilgrims walking the Fife Pilgrim Way.

The next stage is for a local public consultation exercise to be held to find out the views and needs of the local community. The final scheme layout will reflect those views. The consultation will also seek local comments on the peace garden proposal.

Clarification on the legal position with the car park is also being sought.

A final decision on whether to proceed will be taken by the summer.

Ceres Glebe.

An area of land has been set aside to develop a peace garden which could be linked to the Pilgrim Church. The lease of the Glebe to Ceres Community Trust is in the process of being finalised by 121 George Street. Planning permission will be required and will be sought for the formation of the Peace Garden. Development of the garden will hopefully commence by late summer.

Springfield Church.

Activities continue to grow at Springfield and it is encouraging to see the local community starting to make regular use of the building.

This includes the Community Cafe on a Wednesday ; RVS lunches on a Thursday and after school and youth clubs.

Kemback Church.

With the sale of the Church in January our only interest now is with the ongoing lease of Kemback Church Hall to the community trust and the former Beadles cottage.

It is intended to put the cottage on the market by the summer and suitable notice will be given to the tenant.

Ceres Manse.

The Manse continues to be let out and the income derived offsets the cost of Denhead Manse.

Finance.

A separate finance report is included in the main agenda.

The Springfield Bequest allows us to continue to fund the hall manager, youth worker and assistant to the Minister.

There is still however an annual deficit with the annual income diminishing each year as giving decreases.

Fund raising continues with contributions from Springfield Cafe; the sale of books and jigsaws; a craft fayre and Ceres teas.

CERES COFFEE AND CHAT

The Ceres coffee and chat was set up to be a warm friendly environment to allow advice to be accessed in the cafe. Wednesdays from 2pm were to be dedicated to this.

It didn't work

Snow rain wind floods all joined forces to stop some of our advisors.

For clients Different reasons perhaps embarrassment not wanting to be seen in case folk might know and whatever stops someone being comfortable

So...

After Christmas full time cafe open all day we now have our regulars and get compliments!

So what happened to the advice side did we drop it!?

No

Instead with fife council agreement we now have booklets and leaflets which put out every week and use them as an ice breaker to have a word with folk.

It worked! not as we saw initially - and it is your choice to weigh the cost of the commitment against continuing having or not having funding

But...

First day there a young lady came in a personal emotional state. Some time later she left expressing her delight comfort and appreciation of the welcome she had received - she only came to get her car fixed but one thing led to anotherall her problems - childcare domestic situation husband, money, the future it all came out

She didn't come from Ceres but St Andrews but found what she didn't even know she needed!

Others locally have expressed their thanks for what we are doing and donations are always made!

My personal view is that Ceres is very fortunate to have the village cafe a

Focal point bringing all ages and abilities together and if in the future the church has no footprint in the village - Wednesdays will be missed.

Eliz Simmers/ Manager

11. Youth Group

Ceres: We are still going through establishing after the break stage. The number of young people attending dropped. At the moment we are getting between 2 to 5 young people each session. It gave us space and time to chat with them and ask their views on how the club should

look, and what they are seeking in it. The consensus is that they want a space to chill and chat with not too many organized activities, and not for the full session. We are reshaping the session to meet this need. At this age and stage young people most of all need to build trusting relationships and have a safe space to come to, vent, and ask for help if need be. We still have a small activity planned for the session but with no pressure to join. We will of course evaluate as we go.

Due to fewer numbers after talking to volunteers, I decided to drop the number of adults to 2 per session. It will give volunteers longer breaks and with fewer adults around allow children to build stronger relationships with all of us. I think it started happening already. The young people are also encouraged to take ownership of the Club as their space, by helping with snack time and running some sessions. We had a young person run part of the session on Japanese culture, which was a success.

I have contacted Ceres primary school asked them to advertise the club and enquired about arranging the meeting.

I have met with Pauline from the OnFife Library, and we will be test-running the Book Club within the Youth Club. The First Chatterbox with books was already delivered.

Springfield: We interviewed 4 candidates for volunteers in the new year and are now progressing to the references and PVG stage. Two of the volunteers were parents of children attending Springfield Primary School. I have contacted the school regarding further sessions in the Primary School before we transition to the youth club. I am awaiting the response.

Together with Jane we have met with community police and spoke about both youth clubs, their aims, and goals for the future. The officers are keen to support the initiatives and send some young people who could benefit from it our way. They will also come in and run some issue-based sessions such as bullying, when possible. They will advertise the club for us as well. Clare from Community Voice is advertising in her organization.

I am hopeful that with 4 volunteers on board, if all the checks come through, we can start the regular sessions.

Note: During the year, Anja Armstrong our Youth Worker resigned to take up another post. Following a recruitment process, she was replaced by Karolina Roslewska.

12. Activities at Springfield Community Church

(a) After School Family Club.

The Club has been running during term time since January 23 in Springfield Community Church. It was funded by a Church of Scotland Mission Fund Grant until recently and is now funded by the Scottish Children's Lottery. This means we can provide the Club free of charge though some donations are received. The Church provides a safe, warm and welcoming space for all young families with a Springfield connection. Louise Rennie, the headteacher of Springfield Primary is very supportive.

There has been a remarkable increase in the numbers attending the After School Family Club since we changed our day from Tuesdays to Mondays and we are regularly having 35 – 40 people attending. About 25 children and their parents or carers. Craft, table games and jigsaws are provided and the children can also play skipping games and enjoy playing with their friends. We have a nursery mat with lots of fun toys for the wee ones. We often finish the session with parachute games which are very energetic, popular and provide lots of laughs. The mums, dads and grandparents enjoy chatting and having a cuppa with friends.

We are very grateful to our small team of volunteers and also to Anne Hoggan for providing several craft sessions. Joyce Anderson also provided a dance / exercise session in February which was great fun.

We are needing more volunteers. **Perhaps you could help each Monday or provide occasional cover for holidays or illness. Maybe you could provide a craft session, play some games with the children, or maybe help serve the snacks? It's fun!** Please get in touch with Myra for more information. Thank you.

(b) Regular activities at Springfield Church

Mondays- Joyce Anderson Relaxing fitness group 11.15am to 12.15pm

After School Club 3.00pm to

5.00pm

Hutha Yoga Class 6.00pm to

7.00pm

Tuesdays- Community Post Office 9.45am to 12.00pm

Wednesdays- Drop in Café 10.30am to 12.00pm

Lorraine's Pilates Class 1.45pm to 2.45pm

Fife Credit Union 4.30pm to

5.30pm

Thursdays- RVS Lunch 11.30am to

2.30pm

Springfield Makers Club 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Sundays – Sunday Café Church 9.30am to 12.30pm

We have a number of Childrens party's on Saturdays and Sundays. Various groups have meeting including Springfield Community Council, CKS Session, Campion Homes etc. and a few functions including Daffodil tea, and other events organised by CKS.

(c) RVS lunches

The Royal Voluntary Service has been running at Springfield Community Church since 4th May 2023. RVS representatives Alan & Michelle Manzie have been organising the event since it started. It is assisted by a helpful group of volunteers every week who work on a rota basis. Serving food, cleaning dishes, chatting with our guests and taking part in organised activities such as exercise, quiz games, history videos and more. These activities are optional but prove to be popular. Sometimes there are outside entertainers such as Accordionists, singers, and more.

Our guests range from locals from the village, a couple of local nursing homes and a few who travel from surrounding areas. Our lunch day has slowly been growing as more people find out and talk. We are confident it will continue to be more and more popular.

The food comes in insulated containers from St Columba's School in Cupar and is collected by Alan or Michelle. It tends to be a main and a pudding or a Soup and a main. The quality of the food for a time was questionable, however this has been addressed and for a few months now it has been excellent. Water, Squash, fresh fruit, tea, coffee and biscuits are also served. The RVS organization pay for the use of the Church and pay on invoice monthly in arrears.

13. Communications Team including website

We are fortunate to have a total of five people who in one way and another are helping us to communicate events and news both within and beyond the congregation.

Janice Dewar has been producing the Newsletter for some time now which goes out in digital and hard copy formats. Tea/Coffee and Flower rotas, posting posters up in our church noticeboards and local business are also on-going tasks.

Anne Lumsden and Callum Pineda-Murray are responsible for maintaining and improving the website. Callum has recently become a paid member of outreach staff and his IT skills and knowledge will be invaluable.

Caro Pineda-Murray joined us last summer as a paid member of our outreach staff, to boost and grow our social media presence and has produced many posts, films and reels on both our FB and Instagram pages.

John McCurrach has taken care of advertising events particularly in Springfield Church and ran the Springfield Church FB page for a long time. In his capacity as Church Officer across the parish John's help here is invaluable.

Fiona Gray worked with Anne on the CKS website for several years. Following a short but serious illness Fiona has died. We extend our sincere condolences to Geoff and Adam on their sore loss. We are extremely grateful to Dr Gray for her keen attention to keeping the church updated and informed.

We had our first Comms Team meeting on Wednesday this week. We realise we are now many, and will work best when we work together and not in separate silos!

14. Worship Group

The Worship Group was formed two years ago, comprising the minister, some elders and members of the congregation. In the Church of Scotland, worship is the only aspect of church life over which ministers (the teaching elders) have absolute responsibility and decision making. Everything else is the preserve of the ruling elders. However, given that worship is something which is experienced by everyone, and offered as our gift to God through Christ Jesus, our group ensures discussion and decision making reflect many opinions.

For almost a year now we have departed from the *Common Lectionary* with its three year cycle of readings through the Christian year, and have followed a resource called *Spill the Beans*. This is compiled by ministers and members of the Church of Scotland. The first season was themed as 'The Women's Lectionary' and highlighted the stories of women and girls throughout Biblical history, which have usually been overlooked as male characters such as Moses have taken centre stage. Since New Year the theme is Social Justice, and each week highlights world issues and concerns such as International Women's Day, Saints' Days, International Red Nose Day - and as we've celebrated today International Happiness Day. We are worshipping in two very different churches, which allows for flexibility as well as innovative ways of offering our worship which we hope will grow in all the best ways.

Recently we agreed to offer short services of Holy Communion during most months of the year on top of the usual diet of sacramental worship. Our group works closely with the Prayer Group. We are about to offer the congregation a new way of offering prayers on three Sundays throughout Easter using two Prayer Trees, one of which was made by the late Simon Weller.

We are also keeping alert to the growing opportunities for ecumenical worship with brothers and sisters in the Cupar churches, as well as in the presbytery's Cupar Cluster.

I'm very grateful to the members of the Worship Group who have led the congregation on several occasions in my absence. They are preparing to do so again, as I take compassionate leave to take care of my husband following his operation in Boston in April. The church is in good hands.

15. Cupar Cluster Report

The Rev. Jane Barron reported that the Cluster Group had been meeting during the year, although progress had been slow. In the Presbytery Plan, a full union for the Cupar Churches and CKS is scheduled for 2027, so progress needs to be made soon. During Holy Week 2024, a number of ecumenical services have been planned in the area, in conjunction with the Cluster Churches.

16. Any other business

Rev. Jane Barron concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for the work they did in the Church.

The meeting was closed with The Grace