**Drylaw / Blackhall New Parish Steering Group**

**Minute of the Meeting held on Sunday 5th March 2023 in Drylaw Parish Church**

1. **Welcome**: Reverend Iain May welcomed everyone.

**2. Prayer:** Reverend Iain May constituted the meeting with a prayer.

**3. Sederunt:** Amanda Lawson, Elizabeth Martin, Hazel Hastie, Fiona Cooke, Reverend Fergus Cook, Reverend Iain May, Eddie Thorn, Dianne Fulton, Jim Logan, Grant Macrae and Jill McIntosh.

**Apologies:** Myriam Wilkie

**4. Minute of last meeting:** The minute of the meeting held on 29th January 2023 was approved.

**5. Notification of any other business:** None.

**6. Updates from Working Sub Groups:**

**6.1 Worship:** Jill McIntosh circulated the minute from the Worship Group’s meeting on 20th February 2023 to the group.

* Transport for future joint services. Would be useful to have someone overviewing any transport issues between both churches.
* Lenten Studies – Reverend Fergus Cook is doing this at Blackhall and Drylaw can attend – details will be sent to Drylaw.
* Palm Sunday – Pulpit swap. Check with Elisabeth Spence whether or not to have communion that day in Drylaw.
* Maundy Thursday – 7pm at Drylaw with communion – joint service.
* Good Friday – 7pm at Blackhall – joint service.
* Easter Day – 8am at Drylaw, joint services. Bacon / breakfast rolls afterwards. The Old Kirk and Muirhouse to be invited. Blackhall and Drylaw will both provide food (vegie option to be included) and work together to prepare.

**Action: Catering - Jill McIntosh / Elizabeth Martin**

* Handout of Easter Services – Info sheet to be handed out in each congregation and on their websites etc.
* Future events to be discussed at the next meeting – Reverend Elisabeth Spence on annual leave 7th and 14th May, Reverend Fergus Cook may be able to cover with a joint service but may be going away himself.
* Pentecost 28th might be a joint service.
* Date of next Worship meeting Monday 24th April.
* 9th June Blackhall have a pilgrimage to Inchcolm Abbey with communion (this is a biannual event).

Joint services were discussed and the consensus is that any future such services need to involve contributions from both Churches and be planned and delivered by the joint ministry team.

**6.2 Mission:** The Sub Group had met on 21st February 2023 and Reverend Fergus Cook reported the following:

* The group had discussed a Mission Statement and had done some exploration work on that.
* It had been decided that they should focus on the five marks of mission. At their next meeting they will start with the first mark of mission and continue on at following meetings.

**6.3 Communication:** Eddie Thorn let the Steering Group know that an update had been prepared and issued to both congregations on 19th February 2023. The update is also on the website of both Churches.

**7. Forward Plan and Governance:**

* Possible joint service on 30th April – check with Reverend Elisabeth Spence.
* Reverend Iain May raised how many members there should be in the proposed new Parish Kirk Session. This was discussed by the Steering Group and agreed there should be equal numbers from both parishes with the possibility of the maximum of 20 in the new Kirk Session.

**8. Joint Social Events:**

* Suggestion of Congregational lunches.
* Form a Fellowship Committee – 2 people from Drylaw, 2 people from Blackhall.
* Possibility of having a joint social event later in the year.

**9. AOCB:** Nothing.

**10. Date of Next Meeting:** Sunday 30th April 2023 at 12.30pm in Blackhall St Columba’s.

**11.** The meeting was closed by saying of the Grace to each other.

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