



Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 20th February 2024 at 121 George Street

Present	Convener	Andrew McLellan	
	Secretary	Carol Miller	
	Minutes Secretary	Jacky Harkness	
	Faith Action Forum	Rebecca McGonigle	Ian Alexander
	Members	Maureen Jack	Tom Watson
Online	Vice-Convener	Jamie Erskine	
	Member	Carol Morton	
	Ministers	Rev Muriel Pearson	Rev Dr Stewart Gillan

	Item	Comments	Action
1	Opening	Andrew welcomed everyone present and started the meeting with a lesson and a prayer. Stewart gave an update on his son who has been in hospital with bacterial meningitis. He is getting better and Stewart hopes to return to Jerusalem next week.	
2	Apologies	Apologies were received from Kenny Roger, Alison Jack, Calum MacSween, David Coulter, Douglas Simpson and Elaine Macadie.	
3	Minutes	The Minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 10 th October 2023 had been pre-circulated and were agreed by the Committee.	
4	Matters arising from the Minutes	i) Alison's suggested changes to the terms and conditions of the scholarship have been updated on the website by the Secretary. ii) The Christian Aid (B'Tselem) event shared with The Friends went very well with 70 present and approx. 70 online. iii) The editor of the American Presbytery Magazine has acknowledged receipt of Andrew's article and says it will be printed. Now is not the time to push for it to be published. iv) Andrew has yet to follow up a meeting with the Sons and Daughters of the Clergy of the Church of Scotland.	Andrew
5	Committee Membership	Andrew will leave the post of Convener after next year's AGM and there needs to be a way to secure the post of Convener after that. Jamie will stand down as Vice-Convener at this year's AGM, but will remain a member of the Committee.	

		<p>It was proposed that Ian Alexander is appointed Vice-Convener at this year's AGM, with a view of taking over as Convener from Andrew. This was agreed by the committee.</p> <p>It was agreed there is a need to recruit more people with new fresh ideas to the Committee. Andrew would welcome one or two names who may be interested and suitable.</p>	All
6	Convener's Update	<p>i) The Ministers have acknowledged and are appreciative of the support given to them by The Friends. In addition to this, is there a way to support the congregations and what role, if any, should The Friends have?</p> <p>It was agreed that, with the hybrid method of worship likely to continue, there is a need for better technology and this is where The Friends could help. For example, Stewart is in need of a decent, bigger sized screen; the churches' website requires updating; and Muriel doesn't have the technology for online/Zoom hybrid worship.</p> <p>It was suggested there may be additional sources for finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvesen Fund • Pollok Trust • The Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge (SSPCK) <p>Ian is involved with the Pollok Trust and SSPCK. He will check their remit and revert back.</p> <p>Carol Miller suggested that, in the interim initial costings for the technology and mixed media should be made by the Ministers.</p> <p>Marc Falconer is a good local source of knowledge for the building of websites and technological advice.</p> <p>ii) The Friends have helped to keep people informed with the excellent website, newsletters and Facebook page. Andrew thanked Carol Miller, Calum and Maureen for all their hard work.</p> <p>iii) Andrew highlighted the strengthened friendships between The Friends and the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hadeel • 121 staff, in particular Kenny, Ian and Rebecca who are always helpful and at the end of the phone • St Cuthberts • Christian Aid. An important friendship. Maureen has been the representative for online briefings. 	Ian

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Committee of the World Day of Prayer who invited Muriel to speak at their annual gathering in 2023, with this year's material coming from the women of Palestine. • Life and Work, with published articles written by Carol, Muriel, Stewart and Kenny. • Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The cemetery in Gaza has been cared for by the same family for many years. Maureen wrote to them about the Royal Scots and it seems they have lots of information about individuals and the Regiments. She suggested this might be something for the military group of the Committee to follow up. • The Royal Scots Club, which was founded as a memorial to those who died in World War 1 and the Palestine Campaign. Andrew is speaking to the Club in June and will investigate the connection further. <p>iv) Since the initial meeting with the Brigade Commander in 2022, there has not been much progress with the Army. Andrew and Jamie are hoping to meet with the new Brigade Commander, Brigadier Jodie Davis, to explore possibilities.</p> <p>v) It was suggested that events and other opportunities to meet and come together are important at the moment, possibly with Christian Aid. Andrew offered to contact them.</p>	<p>Andrew</p> <p>Andrew Jamie</p> <p>Andrew</p>
7	Ministers' Updates	<p>Andrew thanked the Ministers for their written reports, which were circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion on the importance of being careful of what is written in newsletters, emails and social media. Say and do things wisely. Maureen has had no contacts of concern about anything that has been posted on Facebook.</p> <p>As it is hoped that Munther Isaac (Pastor of the Lutheran Christmas Church) will be attending the General Assembly, it was suggested he is invited to be the guest speaker at the AGM.</p> <p>Ian offered to help Muriel with the museum in The Scots Hotel.</p> <p>The £5,100 held by the Ministers has now been distributed to various organisations. The ministers have been asked for a breakdown as to who were the beneficiaries.</p>	Ian/ Muriel
8	Finance	The finance report was circulated before the meeting.	

		<p>Financial affairs are in order at the moment but the funds will continue to deplete once “normality” returns.</p> <p>Life members are not changing to annual membership. How can the committee encourage people to do this?</p> <p>People like to give to particular things. It was suggested one or two projects are identified for the year and donations sought from members.</p> <p>Another option could be to set up a scholarship fund, and to emphasise the importance of the scholarships. Carol Miller agreed to present material about this at the AGM.</p>	Secretary
9	Membership	<p>The report was pre-circulated.</p> <p>Committee members were asked to continue handing out brochures and newsletters.</p>	All
10	Scholarship	<p>The report was pre-circulated.</p> <p>Alison is requested to chase Clarke Muir for the £357.77 he still owes.</p>	Alison
11	Communication	<p>Andrew again thanked Maureen and Carol Miller for their continued input in keeping the Facebook page and website updated and Rebecca for her very helpful report on the Faith Action Programme Staff.</p>	
12	Newsletter	<p>Calum is still looking for ideas for the newsletters and everyone is asked to think laterally and make suggestions.</p> <p>Jamie offered to write an article on the Commonwealth War Graves for a later newsletter.</p> <p>The deadline for the next newsletter is the end of April.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Jamie</p> <p>All</p>
13	St Andrew's Day Service	<p>A report on the 2023 service was circulated pre-meeting.</p> <p>The 2024 service will be on a Saturday and it is hoped the choir of St Augustine's RC school might be available.</p> <p>Very Rev Sally Foster-Fulton will be the ex-Moderator invited to speak at this year's service. She is head of Christian Aid Scotland, which raises the possibility of engagement with Christian Aid. Andrew offered to speak to Sally about this.</p>	<p>Andrew</p> <p>Andrew</p>
14	Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Monday 8th April at 2pm, 121 George Street</p> <p>AGM: Friday 17th May</p>	All