

**Church of Scotland
Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church**

**Minutes of the Annual Stated Meeting
Held in Meldrum Parish Church on Sunday 14 May 2023**

The meeting was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, Reverend Alisa McDonald.

1 Minutes of previous Annual Stated Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2023, previously posted on the Church website, and distributed to all in attendance. The Session Clerk read out in full the minutes.

The Moderator asked there were any questions – no questions raised. The Moderator then asked for the minutes to be approved - they were approved by Willie Paterson and seconded by Jean Mitchell.

2 Presentation of Annual Accounts:

The treasurer, Willie Paterson, presented an overview of the 2022 annual accounts to the congregation copies of the accounts were made available to all in attendance, Willie highlighted a slight error in the printing which duplicated the first few sheets.

Willie's main thrust of his presentation was to highlight that on the current trend our income falls short of our expenditure resulting in needing to transfer £23,000.00 from reserves. If this trend continues, which is likely, as our membership base has been continually decreasing over the last 20 years, it is not sustainable.

Willie asked all to review their giving's, many of which that are paid by S/O have not been changed from the time they were set up. The Kirk Session is looking at diverse ways on how we can look to increase regular income as well as fundraising. We are also hoping to run a Stewardship campaign in the near future.

Willie went to give an overview of each section of the accounts, again highlighting the increase in our running costs especially our energy costs and increase in Presbytery dues. Willie confirmed that the accounts had been audited and approved by the Kirk Session and submitted to Presbytery and OSCR.

The treasurer then thanked; the Kirk Session for their support, Elaine Buck who does a power of work recording income and preparing the gift aid claims, and the volunteers who are the lifeblood of the church and without them it would not be possible to continue.

The Moderator asked the congregation if they had any questions for Willie – no questions raised.

The Moderator thanked Willie for the work he does in keeping the accounts in order and throughout the year and preparing them for inspection by presbytery and submission to OSCR. The congregation endorsed the Moderators comments with a round of applause.

3 Moderator's Comments:

The Moderator highlighted all of our new initiatives started over the last year or so. Initiatives such as our 'Different Kind of Worship' service, Story and Play group, our Youth Club all designed to extend our mission work to parts of the community we had/

/ the community we had

seemed to have lost touch with. The Moderator urged all to help support these initiatives. Other new services such as the 'Wee Christmas and Wee Easter' services attracting young families into the church proved to be highly popular. We had a Prayer Space for a full week in the primary school, which was remarkably successful with kids and teachers, and our Easter Story walk and Easter gifts, hot cross bun and card handed out to the public.

Other events and initiatives were a mix of Outreach and Fundraising. These included our Warm Hub and events such as our Open Day & BBQ, Quiz night, Meldrum Sports Tent, Charity shop and Autumn fair, Christmas Tree Festival & Concert (2nd year), the Men's Breakfast and the Community Connect Café. Other major event this year was the issue of our new Church & Community Magazine 'Meldrum Connect'.

The Moderator also confirmed that the sale of Meldrum Glebe was now complete, but we should not expect to receive any monies until early 2023, she and the Kirk Session have started exploring ideas for our way forward and will keep all updated as and when we have something to tell.

The Moderator then thanked everyone who have helped with all of the events and new initiatives and for the support she has continued to receive since coming to Meldrum & Bourtie.

4 Session Clerk's Comments:

From the outset Alisa's aim was to include all 'and all means all' in our Parish whenever possible, and we are now gradually seeing the benefits of this work with a much greater presence and connection among the young families in the town – something we have not had for many years - thank you for this Alisa.

Alisa has also given us many different challenges - some with the music selections - but mostly with the 'the message' she delivers each week encouraging us to look at what the Bible is saying to us from a unique perspective stirring thought and conversation.

As I have said in the past, it is not easy balancing the demands of being a parish minister, a wife, and a mother – and it is certainly not getting any easier for Alisa or for any of us.

The Kirk Session will continue to support Alisa in her work here in Meldrum & Bourtie and I would also ask you for your continued support for Alisa too.

Alisa – please know - that all that you do, much of which is unseen, is very much appreciated by me and I am sure all in the congregation. Thank you.

The business being concluded the meeting closed with all present saying the Grace.

Signed _____ Moderator _____ Session Clerk

Rev Alisa McDonald

William Dalzell