

**Edinburgh, Corstorphine**  
**St.Ninian's Parish Church**

A joint meeting on Zoom of the Kirk Session and the Deacons' Court was held on 23 September 2020 and duly constituted with prayer by Rev. James Aitken as Moderator.

**Present:** Rev. James Aitken, Moderator, A.Gibb, Session Clerk, J.Reynolds, Treasurer, A.Bryce, Clerk to the Deacons' Court;

**Elders and Deacons:** 44.

**Apologies** were received from 5 Deacons.

**Minutes:** The Minute of the meeting on 16 August 2020 was **approved**.

**Order of Business:** No additional items to the Agenda.

**Intimations:** None.

**Tribute to Rona Stevenson:** The Moderator gave a moving tribute to Rona who was a much loved elder and friend to everyone at St.Ninian's. She was always well organised, caring, in charge of the Church transport service, editor of the Quarterly magazine, and enthusiastic about everything she did. She will be fondly remembered in our prayers as will her husband Alec.

**Covid-19 Update:** The Moderator announced that Edinburgh Presbytery had finally agreed St.Ninian's Risk Assessment for opening the Sanctuary for up to 50 people. The opening date was confirmed as Sunday 4th October 2020. Twenty stewards have now agreed to work on a four week rota of five stewards. Training will be available on 24th September and 1st October. A dedicated phone line will be available for booking places. The service in the Sanctuary will be a 30 minute truncated version of the main on-line service.

St.Ninian's and 8 other churches have been asked to trial contactless giving. The system will be tested for 3 months starting in five weeks' time. The trial will be free of charge during this period. The machine, which will be located near the manse pew, will be preset at levels of £3, £5, and £10 donations. The machine can be tapped up to 3 times making a maximum donation of £30.

Various questions were raised by members including confirmation that anti bacterial wipes would be available beside the contactless machine for hand cleaning purposes. The donations will be anonymous during the trial. Contactless giving is intended to replace open plate offerings but not Freewill envelopes or standing orders.

Following the 6 month closure of the church, the deficit on the General Fund as at 31st August 2020 was £5325. After receiving a legacy of £10,000, the balance became a surplus of £4675 (2019-£11586) a remarkable result in the circumstances. Compared to 2019, there was a decrease in income of £20,062 mainly due to a decrease in offerings including Gift Aid, and hall rental income.

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Similarly, there was a decrease in costs of £8152 mainly due to the Government furlough scheme covering salaries. In addition, the value of investments reduced by £15968.

It was reported that Andrew Broom is to transfer six Treasurer's cash books to the National Records of Scotland so that the National Archives will hold the Treasurer's cash books from 1871 to 1999.

The court **approved** the interim Accounts to 31st August 2020.

#### **Fabric Report:**

#### Work Completed

- The roof leak in the Gallery has been treated with spray for woodworm and the plasterwork repaired.
- The boiler and flue has been unblocked, cleaned and reset.
- The Crush hall roof light has been replaced.
- A new defibrillator has been installed at the front of the church. It has been tested and is ready for use.

#### Work in Progress

- The mounting board has been fitted in the Crush hall for the new electronic information screen.

#### **Community Council**

##### **Report : Traffic**

- Planning permission is being sought for 24 Apartments in the former Tesco car park.
- Planning permission has been granted for 76 residential apartments, including 44 new builds, at the former Corstorphine Hospital Site.

**Insurance aspect of letting out Church halls:** Recently, the Church of Scotland (C of S) issued a style of letting contract which requires all non congregational, regular and commercial hall users to obtain Public Liability insurance cover of £5 million. As a result, St.Ninian's (the Church) will ask for a copy of the insurance certificate from any relevant hall user to check that it is current, in advance of renting the church halls. The only exceptions will be in the case of childrens' parties and some occasional non commercial users. Until now, the Church has not insisted that insurance be in place for childrens' parties and it would appear that the C of S realise the impracticality of requiring insurance in such a situation and will accept any claims that may arise.

To mitigate the chance of claims arising from the letting of halls, it is intended that designated representatives of St.Ninian's will meet with prospective hall users to go over a formal checklist prepared by the Church. This will include *inter alia* Fire Regulations, Health and Safety issues, Covid-19 policies, and insurance certificate which will be copied for the Church's records.

/The Kirk Session

The Kirk Session and the Deacons' Court agreed that they had now been made aware of the insurance implications of the above and were satisfied with the actions being taken by the Church.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the Deacons' Court will be held on 25th November 2020.

There being no further business, the Moderator thanked members for their attendance and the meeting closed with the Grace.