

RUTHERGLEN LMMR 9TH OF OCTOBER 2012.

Pastorate Partner: Morag Donaldson

Pastorate Visitors: Maureen Stewart, Rev. Gordon Smith.

Appraisal Partner: Rev. Fran Ruthven (in attendance only)

8 members of Rutherglen were present including the joint secretaries Anne and John Collings.

Morag Donaldson outlined the purpose of the meeting, the duration, the confidentiality and what would happen at the end of the meeting. Reports would be prepared and after consultation with the visitors if all in order passed to the Church Representatives for comment or amendment. If all people were happy then a final draft would be sent to Rev. Jan Adamson and the Church would then be able to proceed to work on delivering any recommendations.

The following comments were gathered from all 3 people present and are placed under the headings in the Guidance booklet. Worship, Pastoral and Community Care, Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults, A place of Welcome, Going for Growth, Being the Church together with others, Belonging to the World Church and Stewardship of Resources..

WORSHIP

The members were open to new ideas in worship and were happy to participate. They had undertaken to have children receive Communion and whilst this had been of concern to some, the Children were taught the significance of the Service. Two Communion services are now held, the first being a less formal service at 10.15am with a more traditional communion after morning worship. Neither is for specific age group. This communion was now attracting more of the congregation to join them despite their initial concerns regarding the solemnity of the occasion, which had now been overcome. Children will continue to be encouraged by learning about the Sacrament along with their parents.

Other Services had the children return to share what they had been doing in their time together.

The removal of the pews had allowed for more informal gatherings and worship styles.

There are no "greeters" but Deacons are on door duty and there is some consideration being given to bringing the children in this area of work.

PASTORAL AND COMMUNITY CARE.

The housebound were visited regularly and twice a year given a gift/card. They are also offered home Communion.

Elderly people were collected by car to allow them to continue to worship.

The "holiday at home" run in the summer, was a joint effort with the Baptist Church.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND VULNERABLE ADULTS.

The shining light of the Church described one of the groups who met with the LMMR team was the Criss Cross Club which meets on a Sunday Evening. It caters for P6 children to year 2 Secondary and has been running for about a year. The programme is varied including craft work, physical exercise and visits to places of interest. The youngsters express concern that it would not be held if the Minister was absent. The group also expressed concern about the Ministers involvement but only in relation to Ministry overload. In light of this concern, a further three people had become involved with this group. In addition, they have the J-Team and Crèche who meet on a Sunday morning. There is a strong leadership team in place to look after all aspects of the work amongst Children and Young People.

A PLACE OF WELCOME.

The members felt they were a welcoming Church and evidenced this with the number of people who were adherents who were now involved in the work of running the church and supporting its many activities. It is fair to say membership is falling but as the Minister has a relaxed attitude to membership there are a fairly large number of adherents who are obviously welcomed. The joint Secretaries also testified to the warm welcome they received when they started attending the Church some 9 years ago. Developments locally with the Church of Scotland may result in more people joining them. The premises themselves are substantial and have been kept up to date.

GOING FOR GROWTH.

The "Hub" which is a fairly new management tool has been running for 1 year approximately. All church related matters go through the hub, who decides who should be responsible for each item. The Church Meeting takes the final decisions on all matters. The representatives felt that it was working well and had replaced Deacons and Managers who had merged 15 years ago. The advent of the Hub had freed up the Deacons and Managers to undertake more pastoral care and oversight of worship. The hub also set out the priorities for vision for the future and presented them to Church Meetings which are held after worship on at least 3 occasions a year. The group felt the term Reach Out was more meaningful for them than Outreach.

BEING THE CHURCH TOGETHER WITH OTHERS.

There are relationships with other Churches but they were not as pro active as Rutherglen URC would perhaps hope for. The local situation seems fraught with mergers some forced and a series of Locum Ministers which is not helping with continuity of open communication channels. The one positive action was the Holiday at Home Club run jointly by the Baptist and URC.

BELONGING TO THE WORLD CHURCH.

The members have "link People" who are responsible for informing and encouraging support for Fair Trade, Christian Aid, Starter Pack for the homeless, Street Pastors, Eco- congregations, Rutherglen Benevolence Fund, Rutherglen Community Council, Reachout Trust (Youth & Children's organisation) CAPIR Local Churches working together.

STEWARDSHIP AND RESOURCES.

The building interior has been redesigned, refurbished and extended to accommodate a good number of community groups and this is seen as a major factor in the churches care for the community. The only problem with the building is dampness which has been identified and will be dealt with next year.

The manse and caretakers flat are rented out and need to be maintained. The members recognise that the manse, if required by a new minister in due course, may need to be sold and a new larger house bought.

Finally the group advised they had a list of Intentions for the future and this should be the basis on taking the Church Forward in 2012 to 2013. Copied from the Rutherglen URC Profile dated 5.11.2012. Each group sets out their intentions and these are presented to the Church Meeting for approval.

FINANCE GROUP

Intentions for 2012-13

- *to ensure the financial stability of the church so ensuring the church can continue to be involved in the life of its attendants, the local community, and the Church community wherever it exists.*
- *To continue the Wednesday Workers meeting every two weeks.*
- *To re-varnish all the exterior doors to Church and halls.*
- *To move all spare chairs into the old flower room, this will involve removing the units, wc etc.*
- *To make the old vestry into a room that can be used by parents and toddlers during the service, it will include a speaker so they can hear the service and glass in the doors so they can see what is happening.*
- *To repair several windows in the toilets and hall to allow them to be opened for ventilation.*
- *To give consideration to the recommendations of the building survey once costings have been received.*

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Intentions for 2012-13

- *To evaluate the “Holiday@Home” held in 2012 and consider whether to repeat that in 2013 and if so in what format*
- *To evaluate the “Fun on Wednesdays” held during 2012 and consider whether to repeat that in 2013 and if so in what format*
- *To organize the Carol & Cake evening in December*
- *To explore various ideas that have been suggested (Church Weekend Away/All age Day Trip /concert) with a view to organizing one or more of these.*

Administration Group

Intentions for 2012-13

- *To update the Constitution & Rules so that they relate to the current structure.*
- *To further explore the use of e mail and/or website for distribution of Intimation sheets and/or Church Magazines.*

DEACONS

Intentions for 2012-13

- *To evaluate the “everybody Welcome” programme which concluded in September 2012*
- *To review Deacons’ districts with a view to amending these.*
- *To hold a Deacons’ Away day (possibly in conjunction with East Kilbride URC’s) in 2013*

- *To set up an appropriate support mechanisms for the Minister (possibly one group comprising members and another small group made up of people out with the Church)*

THE MINISTER

Intentions for 2012-13

- *To produce the first draft of the Church profile for the Church Meeting and then finalise the document thereafter*
- *As requested by the Synod Pastoral Committee, to explore joint initiatives with the congregations of East Mains URC and Righead URC (suggestions to include joint Bible Study Group and joint Book Club)*
- *To consolidate Criss Cross*
- *To explore models of time management in order to ensure that a reasonable level of pastoral visiting is maintained.*
 - *ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS*
 - *Developing ideas with regard to children/young people being involved at Church. (e.g. Door duty etc.,)*
 - *Encourage development of additional leaders for Criss Cross Club*
 - *Full Profile be completed with intentions and recommendations included*
 - *Identify priorities for Ministry, Mission and Outreach.*
 - *Draw up a Ministers Role Description*
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Morag Donaldson
 Pastoral Partner
 15 January 2013