

Freeland United Free Church

National Records of Scotland CH3/458/8 and CH3/458/9

Extracts from Deacon's Court Minutes 1914-1920

11th Feb 1914. Congregational social. Income £3-4-10. Expenditure £3-3-2. Balance 1/8. This was considered very satisfactory. Mr Hogg on behalf of Sabbath School asked for a collection to defray the cost of prizes etc. special retiring collection to be taken on 21st inst. For 1913. Income £445-10-1. Expenditure £442. Very satisfactory.

10th March 1914. Letter requesting permission to use choir recess at sale of produce to serve out afternoon tea, as the hall will all be required for the goods on sale, noted that they would take every precaution that no harm would be done in any way and that everything will be left in perfect order. Duly granted.

Approved estimate from Mr Crawford, plumber for new gas lamp at church gate. 37/6 copper preferred over 33/- for strong zinc. Permission granted to Ancient Order of Foresters for use of piano at their social and concert at a fee of 2/6.

7th April 1914. Dealing with resignation of organist. Vacancy advertised at £30 per annum. Mr Riddle drew attention about a draught in church and after much discussion the matter was left with property committee to arrange about getting heat on earlier.

12th May 1914. Letter of thanks authorised to women of the congregation for handsome gift of the wardrobe placed in the vestry for the minister's use.

9th June 1914. Mr Wm Nicolson appointed organist. Extra expense incurred on manse garden by Rev Mr Macleod. £10 to be granted towards this expense. Account passed for payment to Mr John McKenzie gardener.

11th July 1914. Mr Hogg drew attention to the south end wall of church being in need of paint. Foreign missions treasurer Mr Hogg reported amount collected to date £6-12-6 an increase of £2-5 over the corresponding period last year.

8th September 1914. Satisfactory report of property committee from Messrs Anderson and Cummings re painting of south end wall of church and raising of communion table. Letter from Mrs Moffat, St George's Terrace on behalf of the Active Service League desiring use of hall 2 or 3 days per week.

13th October 1914. Active Service League not quite settled yet as to which time and days they required same. Request made for use of hall Tuesdays afternoon for mothers meeting granted with pleasure. Application had been made for hall Monday nights 7 o'clock to 9 o'clock in connection with the Red Cross society for the soldiers and sailors from the women members of the congregation. Request was granted.

10th November 1914. Amount collected on behalf of women's foreign mission £20-17-7 the largest

contribution in Paisley Presbytery. (8th December minutes)

8th December 1914. Stove in hall smoking at some ladies meetings. Door of church lined with felt seemed to improve draught slightly.

22nd December 1914. Income and expenditure report from Mr Robert Holmes, treasurer. Substantial balance of £123. A supplement to be granted to Mr Macleod of £20, £10 to foreign missions, £10 to central fund. £5 to Schemes of Church. Rev Ogilvie engaged to fill pulpit during Rev Macleod's serious illness. "Under present circumstances there be no congregational social this session".

9th Feb 1915. Rev Ogilvy chaired. Treasurer authorised to pay Mrs Houston, Damhead, for use of rooms to rev Alex Ogilvy. Re stove in Hall, same was giving satisfaction now.

9th March 1915. St Mungo grate in ladies room had been set in and working alright. Stove in hall still smoking. Ladies of the congregation had raised the sum of £82-13- on behalf of the minister Rev A M Macleod. Mr Anderson drew attention to window in hall that during meetings of any kind children were making a practice of going through the gate and looking in. Property committee was instructed to get windows painted.

13th April 1915. Property committee. Estimates for taking away smoke in hall was not to hand yet but would be in by next meeting. Mr Riddle handed over to Deacons Court the sum of £122-4-9 in name of the ladies of the congregation on behalf of our minister Rev. A.M Macleod.

8th June 1915. A letter from Mr Nicolson organist for assistance with the choir trip which takes place on July 3rd. Agreed to give a donation of £3-3 towards this purpose.

13th July 1915. Mr Lang agreed to be new treasurer taking over from Mr Holmes.

14th Sep 1915. Rev A. M. Macleod presiding (and does so till end of period covered). Treasurer reports decrease of £9-0-4 for six months. To be intimated from pulpit with view to having made up before end of year.

12th Oct 1915. Property committee managed to put a door on Mr Craig's pew. Manse required overhaul to window sashes and that damp was experienced in certain places.

9th November 1915. Mr Woodrow contractor and builder to be asked to give a detail estimate of Mr Powrie's statement after visit to manse. 10th November -1915 special meeting to approve items 3 to 8 of estimate at cost of £30-2-6 and in addition to asphalt over whole area under the ground floor.

1st December 1915. Minister wished Deacons Court to reconsider and suggested that a smaller house would suit him better and manse could be let out.

14th December 1915. Funds showed a decrease of £14 as against same period last year. Moderator had not yet fixed with a house. Presented to Mr R Holmes an oak writing desk for long and faithful

service as treasurer.

29th December 1915. Balance of £126-18-1. Supplement of £30 to Rev Macleod, £10 to central fund, £10 to foreign mission, £5 to women's foreign mission, £10 to general schemes of Church.

8th Feb 1916. Clerk thought that church officer's salary was enough for the attention which was given.

14th March 1916. Mr Anderson reported on insurance of heating against explosion etc. it was agreed not to insure meantime as the annual premium was rather heavy. Church officer's salary increased to £25 per annum.

9th May 1916. Moderator reported that he had now removed from manse to Hillside, Ranfurly at a yearly rental of £55. Letting of manse was put in the hands of Mr Porteous of the Clydesdale bank and is now let at a rental of £65 per annum. Mr Porteous approved as factor.

13th June 1916. Decrease of £7-4-1 for central fund collections. Quite a number of new members were not contributing. Agreed that a list would be drawn up and handed to deacons or elders prior to collector calling.

8th July 1916. Approved scale of factoring charges for Mr Porteous.

12th Sept 1916. Mr Brannigan reported that presbytery meeting last Tuesday had intimated that we as a church were £20 behind relative to central fund at time of payment of minister's quarterly stipend.

10th October 1916. Reported that presbytery were unfair to draw attention to shortfall as long as Freeland square matters at year end - viz £160 including Freeland endowment. Agreed that we make an effort to send £40 quarterly.

14th November 1916. Women's missionary magazine to be given to members of the congregation in same way as the Record is given.

12th December 1916. Decrease of £14-3-9 in central fund, requiring £34 to equal last year. Sum to be intimated from pulpit for special collection on 24th inst. moderator intimated that the police constable gave orders that the ringing of the bell on Sunday evenings be discontinued under the "Defence of the Realm Act". Mr Macleod asked at the same time that the lighting of the lamp at the church gate should be permitted. Permission was given.

26th December 1916. Total amount for year of. Central fund £183 as against £192-9-7 last year. Supplement for £50, removal expenses to Hillside £5-13, Schemes of Assembly £15, central fund £15, foreign missions £15, women's foreign missions £10, Scottish Huts £5. In all £110., balance of £61 carried forward. At this stage Mr Macleod appeared at meeting and read a letter he had received from Mr Marr convenor of the enlistment committee of presbytery and at their request. At a meeting held last week it was decided to ask a number of the younger men in presbytery whether

they would be willing to undertake work in the Huts at the front in France for four months. In reference to the appeal for ministers to take up that work, Mr Macleod expressed his willingness to serve providing the doctor would allow him. After consideration it was agreed to let the matter lie over in abeyance meantime.

13th February 1917. Rev A M MacLeod presiding. Accounts approved. John Woodrow shading lamp at gate entrance to church and a few repairs at manse 10/8.

13th March 1917. The clerk drew attention to the small attendance at each meeting of Deacons Court it being pointed out that a few of them had to attend drill on Tuesday nights in volunteers force at Freeland Hall. In view of this Deacons Court meetings to be held on Wednesday.

11th April 1917. Foreign missions fund report. 1st quarter 1917. £8-7. 1916 £7-4. 1915 £6-16. Considering that there are 138 families in the congregation and 45 subscribed there was plenty of room for extending an effort.

9th May 1917. Manse tenant asked if Deacons Court would grant a lease for 5 years and if reduction of rent would be made. Also asking for some painting and papering of bedroom. Decided that no lease be granted and no indoor decoration. Mr Michie convenor of seat letting committee had at short notice left for Bristol in connection with his employment and was likely to set up residence there. Mr Miller accepted the vacant position.

13th June 1917. Agreed that handles of outside doors be freshened up. An appeal was read from commandant of Red Cross society for funds to the amount of £100,000 Scotland's Red Cross week will commence on Monday 2nd July when the national Red Cross flag day will be held. On Sunday 8th July a church parade of 16-000 of the voluntary aid detachment in Scotland will take place and a collection will be made in the churches on behalf of the fund. After discussion it was agreed that a special effort be made and also that the ordinary church collection on that day be handed over towards this scheme.

11th Sept 1917. Moderator read a letter from secretary of Young Men's Christian Association Johnstone that their national council are arranging to hold a flag day throughout Scotland in September for the purpose of raising funds to provide huts for soldiers and sailors at home and abroad. After discussion it was pointed out that a donation of £5 was sent last year to the Scottish Huts in connection with our church and the matter was allowed to drop.

9th October 1917. Clerk read an appeal from assembly for an annual collection in December that it is the desire of the assembly's committee to raise the minimum of ministers' stipends to £200. Church officers salary to be increased to £30. Mr Cook complained of a draught in the gallery of church. After discussion it was agreed that the office bearers endeavoured as far as possible to keep the door closed during the time the congregation is assembling.

13th November 1917. With reference to draught complaint at last meeting it was agreed to put spring hinges on the 3 doors viz gallery, vestry and main entrance. Agreed insurance policies be increased on church and hall to £4000 and manse to £1500. Mr Quigg resigned his post. Mr McBrair

agreed to act until a successor be appointed.

12th December 1917. Mr Miller appointed clerk of Deacons Court. Mr Brannigan reported that the church doors had been repaired as per instructions. It was the opinion of the meeting that swing hinges should be tried on the doors at inside entrance to the church. In addition to insurances above mentioned it was decided that the books in the church should be insured for £100 and the effects of the minister in vestry to £100.

26th December 1917. Election of office bearers. Annual accounts. Supplement to Rev Macleod £75. Grant to central fund £25. Schemes of Assembly £15. Foreign missions £20. Women's foreign missions £15. YMCA huts £5, church £5. Leaving £50 to carry forward. Several of the choir chairs needed to be repaired.

9th January 1918. Discussed whether to apply for the Ferguson Bequest. Meeting with a trustee had advised no, but meeting decided to continue to apply. Mr Macleod's total stipend for 1917 was central fund £153, widows fund £7, Ferguson Bequest £25, church supplement £75. But meeting had been under impression that central fund contribution had been £194. Mr McBair would move at next meeting for a further supplement of stipend.

15th January 1918. Agreed further supplement of £45.

13th Feb 1918. Rent of Hillside owned by Mr Mann increased by £7-10 to £62-10. Mr MacLeod offered to pay part of increase himself. Deacons Court agreed to pay full amount. Debated whether to increase rental of Freeland house by same amount but decided not to. Remained at £65.

13th March 1918. Comment on number of choir chairs needing repair. It was mentioned that they were being used at times for functions in the church hall. The court decided that as the chairs were specially designed for choir purposes, they should not be taken from their present positions in the choir for other uses.

9th April 1918. Court agreed that a hook catch should be fitted on to the swing door at inside entrance to the church so that if need be the door could be kept open without attention.

15th May 1918. Sundry repairs to church property had not been carried out due to the local tradesman, Mr Woodrow, still very busy on more urgent work. The moderator, Mr Macleod, having made fitting reference to the loss the court and the church had sustained by the death of Mr David Cummings, the following minute was resolved on, the clerk being instructed to send an excerpt to Mrs Cummings. "With sincere regret the court records the death of an esteemed member of the congregation - David Cummings. The deceased had been connected with Freeland church for a long period, and in the latter years had given earnest and faithful service in the office of the deacon."

12th June 1918. Finances and accounts only.

11th September 1918. Use of church hall for meetings of Young Women's Christian Association approved. Mr Barr, coal merchant, to send as much anthracite as would last the winter. Mr

Crawford, plumber, to give the usual annual overhaul to the lighting arrangements and to complete the repair of the sink in the ladies room.

9th October 1918. Special envelope collection approved, anxious that minimum stipend of £210 should at least be maintained. Clerk asked for a ruling on whether piano should be granted to outside bodies. Looking to the fact that the piano is clearly showing signs of the frequent handling it has been receiving, court decided it should not be given out and that it was only to be used at functions within the church.

11th December 1918. Mr Miller asked to be relieved of his duties as clerk to the court. Very regretfully court accepted his final decision. In order to meet the difficulty for the time being Mr McBair agreed to carry on a short time until a permanent clerk be appointed. Moderator reported that there had been a breakdown in the heating apparatus and Mr Lang was instructed to make the necessary arrangements for its repair.

29th December 1918. Surplus allocated. Grant to central fund £20. Supplement to Mr Macleod £100. Balance carried forward £20. Complaints were still being made regarding the draught from the door leading into the vestry from the choir. Mr Lang agreed to get this looked into again.

8th January 1919. It was decided that this year the annual meeting of the congregation should as our pre-war occasions, be of a social character and that tea be served in the church hall followed by the usual business and other reports in the church also that Mr Nicolson should be asked to get up a musical programme.

7th October 1919. Memorial plate to Rev Thomas Carruthers approved.

11th November 1919. Mr Reston asked what steps were being taken to have a war memorial erected in the church. Mr Macleod assured the court he would deal with it at an early date.

16th November 1920. It was resolved to make an envelope collection to defray the cost of the war memorial on 12th December that being the day on which said war memorial will be unveiled.