

# Logie Kirk News

Special Edition February 2019



## Looking Forward

Logie Kirk Stirling  
Church of Scotland  
Charity No. SC001298

Dear friends,

As I have come to know the people of Logie Kirk, there is no doubt in my mind that Logie is a special place, beloved of God. It is, therefore, my privilege to welcome you to this special edition of Logie Kirk News. This is your invitation to **Holy Communion at 11am on Sunday 10 February**. Please do come along.

The special edition also brings good news about Logie Kirk's **Looking Forward** project **2019-2022**. Within these pages you will find information about the why the Kirk Session is launching the **Looking Forward** project and what some members' hopes for it are. You will also find an invitation to take part in a consultation event in the Spring at our halls. This will be your opportunity to prayerfully discern God's purposes for the church, contribute your thoughts, and have a voice in shaping the project.

The aim of **Looking Forward** is the refocussing of our mission through renewed engagement with the local community and modernisation of our perception and properties (Kirk, Session House, and Halls). Over coming years the elders and all in the congregation are asked to continue to spread the Good News, by engaging with people of all ages in our community and being open to both old and new ways in which the church may offer the love of Christ to all.

Contrary to some rumours circulating, **there has been no decision taken to remove all the pews in the church.**

We are blessed to have an historic, precious, and much-loved kirk building and it will be important to us all to ensure that it is cherished. Yet, we know that we have a challenge ahead to keep the Kirk wind and water tight and ensure it remains fit for its purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This will necessarily involve essential repairs works to roof, stonework and floors, electrical re-wiring and the provision of new toilet and baby changing facilities of modern-day standards.

At the same time as this maintenance work is being done it is appropriate also to consider any improvements which may be undertaken and this is one of the areas which the Kirk Session is seeking your views on.

These are both challenging and exciting times for us locally and also for the Church of Scotland nationally. Within that whole, Logie Kirk has something unique and special to offer and is blessed with a talented and enthusiastic congregation. My hope and prayer is that each one of you in the congregation will play an active part in the **Looking Forward** project. Let us all work together in the service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to nurture and grow the church and in doing so, may we find life in all its fulness.

With love and a prayer,

*Rev Ruth Halley*

Rev Ruth Halley 01786 463060

[rhalley@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:rhalley@churchofscotland.org.uk)

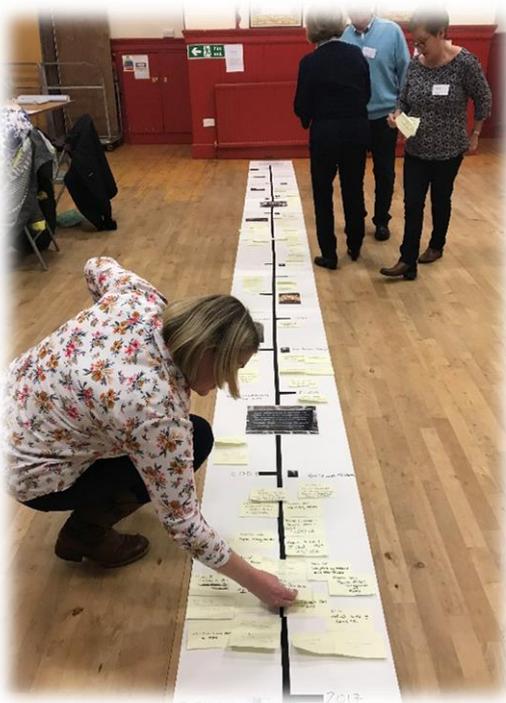


## Session Conference “Thinking Back: Looking Forward”

Logie Kirk Halls 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

After welcoming the Session and opening with prayers the Moderator the scene for the Conference programme reflecting on the national drop in church membership and attendance allied with the predicted fall in the number of Ministers and the implications for parishes of Stirling Presbytery’s targeted reduction.

The first part of the Conference saw small groups of Elders asked to discuss questions relating to the past, present and future for Logie Kirk. Session Clerk Brenda Smith had produced a timeline of the Kirk going back to the early part of the last millennium. This was laid out on the floor of the main hall and elders were invited to add their own events, memories, and celebrations.



Elders worked together forming the Logie Kirk timeline

For the present, elders were asked to consider worship, inspiring faith, connecting people/activities, and reflect on what are Logie's strengths, where could we improve, what can we learn, what opportunities and threats do we face, and perhaps more radically what should we stop doing?



Following from this the next part of the Conference led looked at what was our vision for Logie Kirk, more specifically what do we want to be doing and where, what are the barriers, what are the consequences of not getting there, how do we do it, how long will it take and crucially what resources do we require to get there?

## **The Vision**

The vision of Session was that Logie should continue to be a regular place of worship and not become a “festival church”. To achieve this, it would be necessary to engage with members and the wider community to ensure a well-supported and vibrant church. It was recognised this would require Buy-in from the elders and the congregation otherwise Logie could disappear or become part of a union or linkage with another parish.



## Development options

Development options for both the Kirk and the Halls were looked at with the aid of Architect's drawings that had been commissioned to see what was possible for greater use of the buildings. As part of the vision, better toilets, kitchen and social facilities at the Kirk were identified as essential in moving forward along with improvements to the Halls to increase greater usage particularly within the community

The outcomes of the discussions and dialogue at the Conference were put together and considered by the Session at its November meeting resulting in the fourteen recommendations that set out the **Looking Forward Project**.

... because it gives us the opportunity to secure the future of Logie for years to come." Gordon Smith

**"I am enthusiastic about Looking Forward**

...we have a chance to make Logie Kirk more user friendly in this time of huge change in the Church of Scotland, where even now in Stirling Presbytery some congregations are now facing Unions, Linkages or are in Guardianship".

Hazel Turnbull

... because it really is about 'being the church' – as described so eloquently in one of my favourite hymns – CH4 Hymn 542".

Alasdair Smith

## I am enthusiastic about Looking Forward .....

... because **J Club** would be able to use and enjoy a new, convenient, inviting, comfortable space within the Kirk, instead of travelling down to the Hall, making us feel more included in the Logie Family. I feel we would have more flexibility and options to be involved in worship. It would also give the J Club leaders and Parents, (who wish to remain for the service or sermon), the peace of mind that we are close to hand! We would also be able to offer a Creche, which is safe, clean and inviting for babies, toddlers and their parents to enjoy. This would also be beneficial when Baptisms take place!

And new toilets and changing facilities for us ALL.....hurrah!

I particularly feel so embarrassed about our 'facilities', for visitors, when they are in the Kirk for a Baptism, Wedding or Funeral.” Alison Gow

... because, while Logie is a truly beautiful place in which to worship, it does lack a social space for all ages to share. Wouldn't it be wonderful to offer a safe, modern area for the Crèche and J Club to gather, still inside the Kirk? No longer would there be the need for parents to leave the service and traipse down to the Car Park and from there to the Hall. It would also provide the option for our young folk and J Club leaders to come back into the service and worship God together.

At the end of the morning service or indeed after evening services and events, there would be a comfortable and hygienic area to gather for a chat and a cup...no more washing dishes in the Gents' Toilet.” Brenda Smith

## “My hope for Looking Forward .....

... is the process is taken sensitively. This is a huge change for our Logie Family. I deeply hope that everyone has the opportunity to think, reflect and share any ideas, discussions or worries. Everyone's voice, feelings and emotions are important and so personal and must be given time, compassion and respect, always!” Alison Gow

.... is that it generates sufficient excitement, enthusiasm and commitment from the whole congregation such that we can refurbish and improve our buildings, to provide modern appealing facilities for the congregation and community ".  
Gordon Smith

... is that this new social space will allow us to have a church at Logie into the next century and beyond.” Hazel Turnbull

... quite simply that it will be successful, without knowing at this stage what ‘success’ may look like. I see a parallel here with believing in heaven, without knowing what heaven is like.”  
Alasdair Smith

.... is that the Logie Family comes together to talk, to ask questions, to plan, to work, to support and finally enjoy what we have achieved, just as we did when we redid the Car Park, refurbished the organ or remodelled the Chancel. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic minister to help drive this exciting and, yes, daunting project forward.  
But Logie has never just been about the Minister or the Elders or the Congregation, it is about the involvement of all of us and our shared Faith in God.”  
Brenda Smith

At its meeting on 13 November the Kirk Session noted the success of the Thinking Back: **Looking Forward** conference and agreed:

1. To set up a 3 year development project (2019-2021) known as **Looking Forward**. The aim of the project will be the refocussing of Logie Kirk's mission through renewed engagement with the local community and modernisation of our perception and properties (Kirk, Session House and Halls).
2. To seek the active participation of the congregation in all aspects of the project through its own infectious enthusiasm about the project and dedication to Jesus Christ. Commitment and communication will be key. The Kirk Session is of the view that without this **Looking Forward** cannot go ahead and the continuance of Logie Kirk as it has been is at considerable risk.
3. That every elder on Session will take an active role on at least one of the three **Looking Forward** teams outlined below. Members of Logie Kirk should also be co-opted to each team.
4. To set up a **Development Team** under the leadership of the Minister and Session Clerks. This team will include all of the elders who served on the conference planning group. Other elders may opt to join also.
5. To partner with The Trustees of the Friends of Logie Kirk in a research project and associated Go For It funding bid. The research will be a community audit designed to inform **Looking Forward** and the work of The Friends and a freelance researcher may be appointed to carry this out. The research will engage with the Kirk Session and congregation, young people from our community, users of our halls, etc. The Go For it application will be for funding of £1,500 which may be matched by The Friends.
6. To authorise the Session Clerks' Team to complete the application for a research grant re "Go For It" funding and to submit it to the Ministries Council at the Church of Scotland.

7. That the Development Team will draft a 3 year **Looking Forward** Mission Improvement Plan setting out priorities for consideration, approval and implementation by the Kirk Session.
8. To set up a **Property Team** under the leadership of the Property Convenor.
9. To seek 3 quotes for a major refurbishment of the Kirk, Session House and Halls to include:
  - Completion of all essential buildings works identified by Presbytery at Kirk and Halls
  - Creation of a new multipurpose/social space with kitchen under the gallery at the Kirk
  - Creation of well-appointed toilets, possibly in part of the Session House, with the existing toilet in the Kirk converted to have disabled and baby changing facilities.
10. To consider the impact of further modernisation at the Kirk:
  - Installation of AV technology in the sanctuary
  - Removal of all pews and laying of new carpets or other flooring, and purchase of chairs.
11. To set up a **Fundraising Team** under the leadership of the Treasurers.
12. That the Fundraising team will engage with the congregation in a fresh approach to include
  - regular giving to **Looking Forward**
  - a new programme of fundraising events
  - promotion of legacy donations
  - applications to funding organisations.
13. That a special edition of Logie Kirk News to launch **Looking Forward** be delivered by elders along with invitations to the February 2019 service of Holy Communion.
14. That the Development Team will organise a Looking Forward conference/event for the whole congregation in the Spring of 2019.



**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**  
**LOOKING FORWARD**  
**HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LOGIE KIRK AND HALLS**

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**10AM – 2PM**

**MONDAY 22 APRIL TO SATURDAY 27 APRIL**

**LOGIE KIRK HALLS    ALLOA RD    CAUSEWAYHEAD**

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Logie Kirk is a local parish church for the whole community.

What would you like to see in its future?

The kirk buildings are to be renovated. What facilities would you like to see there?

Likewise the Logie Kirk Halls offer space and welcome to the whole community.

What improvements or new facilities would you like to see at the halls?

*FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: REV RUTH HALLEY TEL: 01786 463060*