KIRK SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

16 September 2025

The meeting had only just started when the fire alarm sounded and the building was evacuated. Phill Ratcliffe reminded everyone about the need to be aware of safety procedures and to share them with all users of our buildings.

Session was told about professional investigations into the state of the buildings at Avonbridge and Torphichen – there will need to be much thought given to what should be done and how the money can be raised.

The Property Team reported on the sale of the former manse of St Ninian's Craigmailen, the preparations for the stonework survey in St Michael's and the refurbishment of the Torphichen manse in anticipation of the call of a second Minister of Word and Sacrament. Like other groups, the Property Team would welcome additional volunteers.

Furter details of that process were also shared with Session, including an additional meeting which was held on 24 September. The Parish Profile which will help to explain more about the work and witness of Linlithgow and Avon Valley was also discussed and is being prepared for sending out to applicants.

Work on Strategic Planning is well under way and Ken Thomson explained more about the way this will develop in the coming months.

A lunch will be held in St Michael's Kirk Hall on 2 November to welcome new members and new attenders from any part of the parish.

The Rev Thom Riddell closed the meeting with encouraging news about growth in the number of those attending worship at Springfield, an increase in the number of children at Sunday Club and people coming forward for membership.

24 September

This meeting was led by Grant Gordon, our Interim Moderator who is an elder at Currie, assisted by representatives of the Presbytery's Vacancy Advisory Group.

It was agreed that a joint service for the whole parish will be held on Sunday 19 October at St Ninian's Craigmailen at 11am which will be followed by a meeting to elect the Nominating Committee. All members and adherents are encouraged to attend.