

**INNERLEITHEN 1 OCTOBER 2019.** At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the first day of October 2019, the Presbytery met at 7pm for refreshments and Committee meetings, and at 7.30pm for Ordinary Business, and the meeting was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Dr Fiona Burnett.

**SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES:** There were present 10 ministers and 30 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

**MINUTES:** The minute of the meeting of 3 September 2019 was submitted and approved.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The order of business was approved as printed, save that there would be an additional report from the Mission and Service Committee.

**FAREWELL TO REV JULIE RENNICK:** The Moderator welcomed representatives from Earlston Parish Church. Mr Robert Turnbull, Session Clerk, spoke and paid tribute to the ministry of Rev Julie Rennick. Mrs Rennick spoke in her own interest. The Moderator paid tribute to Mrs Rennick, both as parish minister and Assistant Clerk to the Presbytery, and on behalf of Presbytery wished her well in her next parish.

**SPEAKER – CROSSREACH:** Mrs Isobel Hunter welcomed Mr Crispin Longden to Presbytery. Mr Longden made a presentation to Presbytery about the work of CrossReach. The Church of Scotland has been providing social care for the past 150 years, since the setting up in 1869 of the Committee on Christian Life and Work, under the convenership of Archibald Charteris. Today, CrossReach is the social care arm of the Church of Scotland, although most of its funding comes from other sources. There are still today a great number of social care needs across every age range. Mr Longden highlighted three services currently provided by CrossReach: Daisy Chain in Govanhill (for play and integration of families in a socially diverse area), Threshold in Edinburgh (to support adults with learning difficulties) and Whinnieknowe in Nairn (a residential care home which has a project for primary children to visit the care home). Mr Longden confirmed that there is one CrossReach project in the Scottish Borders, Heart For Art based in Galashiels: Trinity Church, and that many other CrossReach projects are used by people across Scotland including from the Borders. The presentation was followed by a group discussion and feedback. On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator thanked Mr Longden for his presentation.

**VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE:** Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted with approval the continuation of Rev Calum Macdougall as Interim Moderator for Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho *linked with* Skirling *linked with* Stobo and Drumelzier *linked with* Tweedsmuir. Presbytery noted with approval the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee to appoint Rev Marion Dodd as Interim Moderator for Earlston from 17 October 2019.

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE:** Prof Murray Campbell, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery noted that a new Presbytery Safeguarding Contact is needed. This is an essential role, and a description was enclosed with Presbytery papers. Presbytery urged all members to consider whether they or someone in their congregation could undertake this role. Applications or enquiries should be made to the Clerk.
2. Presbytery noted that, further to the September 2019 report of the Mission and Service Committee regarding the appointment of a Learning and Development Officer, the Business Committee recommends that the immediate focus should be on appointing a volunteer to this role; that does not exclude the possibility of appointing a paid officer but given the uncertainty about Presbytery reorganisation and funding, it may be easier to take this forward with a volunteer in the short term. Presbytery remitted this issue back to the Mission and Service Committee.
3. Presbytery thanked all those serving as interim moderators and encouraged elders within the bounds of Presbytery to consider being trained as interim moderators; given the increasing number of vacancies within the Presbytery, more interim moderators are likely to be needed in future. Anyone interested in interim moderator training should contact the Clerk.
4. Presbytery agreed to appoint Mr Peter Sandison as Assistant Clerk, with a review to take place in June 2020. This role will mainly involve the operation of the Presbytery Information Management System (PIMS), online monthly returns and similar online processes; the Clerk will remain the main point of contact for all Presbytery business.

**PRESBYTERY PLANNING TASK GROUP:** Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, provided a brief update on the many and encouraging meetings that had taken place over the summer between the Presbytery Planning Task Group and the new church clusters. The draft new Presbytery Plan will be circulated in November, and brought to Presbytery for approval at the December meeting; all congregations will be cited to attend that meeting.

**MISSION AND SERVICE:** With Prof Murray Campbell taking the moderatorial chair, Dr Fiona Burnett, World Mission Group Co-ordinator, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee.

1. Presbytery received the report.
2. Presbytery noted that the following people will be visiting Zomba Presbytery in October: Denis Robson (Presbytery and group leader), Pamela Strachan (Presbytery), Peter Coom (Presbytery), Eve Hartswood (Stow and Heriot), David Coom (Stow and Heriot), David Kerr (ITW), Joanne Gordon (ITW), Monica McGee (Biggar), Catriona Campbell (Biggar).

3. Presbytery noted that Faithshare grants have been provided by the Church of Scotland for seven of the nine travellers which will cover their cost of international travel plus insurance; the two from Biggar High School have their own funding.
4. Presbytery agreed that the remaining costs for local travel and accommodation can be settled by the Presbytery Treasurer and recharged to each traveller. This is expected to come to no more than £4,500 (i.e. £500 per head) and will be charged to each traveller in advance but with settlement extended to the end of the year, so that any balance remaining into 2020 will be very small.
5. Noting that the Treasurer has been advised of a family that is having difficulty in paying for injections and malaria tablets for the trip to Zomba, Presbytery approved payment of the sum of £100 for that purpose from the funds held by Presbytery for Zomba activities (outwith the midwife project).
6. Presbytery thanked Denis Robson and the Zomba Presbytery for all their hard work in organising this visit and undertook to support the group through prayer.
7. Presbytery agreed the Memorandum of Understanding.
8. Presbytery noted with pleasure the resumption of the Zomba Nursing School and of its classes and that Limbikani is now in his third and final year of study.
9. Presbytery noted the ongoing discussions with Mulanje Mission Hospital regarding funding of a Midwife post at the hospital and instructed the Mission and Service Committee to bring a report to the February meeting.

#### PRESBYTERY MET IN PRIVATE:

GOVERNANCE: Rev Marion Dodd, Superintendence Vice-Convenor, presented the report of the Governance Committee in relation to the local review of Etrick and Yarrow:

1. Presbytery received the report.
2. Presbytery commended the Kirk Session for its positive forward-thinking, readiness to move forward and embrace new ideas in this time of vacancy and also the spiritual awareness of all the elders.
3. Presbytery commended the congregation for the way the two valleys work so well together, and for the rapport that has built up between the church and the community, and encouraged elders, and indeed members of the congregation, to find effective ways of communicating the faith outside the church.
4. Presbytery encouraged the Kirk Session to explore how to involve the valley children in larger scale events for young people, for example Power Point, and to encourage families to find ways of overcoming the difficulties of ferrying children into the town, for example for Messy Church.
5. Presbytery commended the Kirk Session on the splendid website, and encourages them to explore putting Wifi into the church buildings, and utilising the internet for up-to-date communication of the Gospel.
6. Presbytery encouraged the congregation to continue to work with the Selkirk and Ashkirk churches in order to discover new and innovative ways of bringing God's word to the valley in the new age.
7. Presbytery noted with gratitude the warm support of the interim moderator, Rev Elspeth Harley, and the enthusiastic involvement of the locum, Rev Jim Wallace.
8. Presbytery commended the Kirk Session and congregation of Etrick and Yarrow to the care of Almighty God during this time of vacancy and beyond.

#### PRESBYTERY RESUMED IN OPEN COURT:

##### INTIMATIONS:

1. The revised (final) Presbytery Year Book 2019/20 has been emailed to members of Presbytery, with some printed copies also available at the Presbytery meeting.
2. Annual Mission Dinner – Saturday 5 October 2019 at 6 for 6.30pm in Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul's; the guest speaker is from Open Doors. Tickets £8, students £4.
3. Reminder: please submit names of those attending the Presbytery Conference on Wednesday 23 October 2019 (3-6pm at Innerleithen Church) to the Mission and Service Convenor by 1 October 2019.
4. Copies of "A Short Guide to Presbytery" were available at the meeting for new members of Presbytery.
5. Presbytery noted that nominations are now being sought for the two new agencies created by the General Assembly 2019, to replace the existing Church and Society, Ministries, Mission and Discipleship and World Mission Councils. The two new agencies are currently being called 'Faith Nurture' and 'Faith Impact'. All nominations for the new agencies must be submitted by Friday 18 October 2019. Details of the nomination process and a copy of the nomination form can be found online at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/nomination\\_committee](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/nomination_committee). Further details relating to nomination to the other agencies of the Church will be provided online at the end of October.
6. There is a final chance to hear from the General Trustees in a live Webinar on Monday 7 October 2019 from 7pm to 9pm. You can register on the Church of Scotland Website ([www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)).
7. There is also a survey on the Church of Scotland website being run for the General Trustees as they seek to help the church manage its land and buildings. It takes about 25 to 30 minutes to complete and the General Trustees are keen that session clerks, property convenors and as many people as possible who are involved with buildings should complete the survey.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. From Lawyers' Christian Fellowship, Christian Medical Fellowship and Christian Dental Fellowship: "Christianity in the Public Square? Three Great Debates" – Friday 25 October 2019: a flyer was enclosed with Presbytery papers.
2. From the Churches of Upper Tweeddale: Presbytery authorised the conduct of a service of baptism by Rev Barrie Cash, retired Methodist minister, in Skirling Church on Sunday 27 October 2019, in the absence of the interim moderator and locum.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 5 November 2019 in Innerleithen Church for refreshments at 7pm, followed by Ordinary Business at 7.30pm, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk