

1 SEPTEMBER 2020. On Tuesday the first day of September 2020, the Presbytery met at 7pm for an online service of worship led by the Moderator, Rev Malcolm Jefferson. Thereafter the Presbytery met by Zoom at 7.30pm for Ordinary Business, and the Moderator constituted the meeting in prayer.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 13 ministers and 20 elders whose names were recorded by the Clerk in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 23 June 2020 was submitted and approved.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER: The Moderator welcomed Mrs Dianne Wilson, Presbytery elder for Stow and Heriot, to her first meeting of Presbytery.

FAREWELL TO REV STEWART MCPHERSON: Presbytery noted that Rev Stewart Macpherson was moving to a new interim ministry post in Jedburgh with effect from 1 October 2020. The Moderator thanked Mr McPherson for his service to Presbytery, and Mr McPherson made suitable reply.

TRIBUTE TO REV ANDREW RAE: Rev Sheila Moir paid tribute to Rev Andrew Rae, who had died in July 2020 at the age of 97.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed.

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

1. Presbytery noted that, due to the coronavirus situation, the sacrament of Holy Communion was not celebrated at the service of worship before the September 2020 meeting (notwithstanding Presbytery Standing Order 1.1).
2. Presbytery appointed Rev Margaret Steele and Rev Rosie Frew to be additional members of the Business Committee for 2020/21.
3. Presbytery noted that the Church of Scotland will meet online in General Assembly on 2-3 October 2020. A summary of the proposed reports was included with Presbytery papers. The Presbytery appointed the following Commissioners to the October General Assembly: Very Rev David Arnott, Dr Fiona Burnett, Rev Marion Dodd, Mrs Isobel Hunter, Rev Rosemary Frew, Mr John Henderson, Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald, Ms Susan McDonald, Rev Sheila Moir and Mrs Mary McElroy.
4. Presbytery appointed Rev Margaret Steele as the alternative contact person under the Presbytery complaints procedure.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – INNERLEITHEN, TRAQUAIR AND WALKERURN; CARLOPS L/W KIRKURD AND NEWLANDS L/W WEST LINTON: ST ANDREWS: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee that the number of people to be on the Nominating Committee for Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn would be 9. Presbytery noted the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee appointing Rev Malcolm Jefferson as the Interim Moderator of Carllops linked with Kirkurd and Newlands linked with West Linton: St Andrews, with effect from Monday 7 September 2020, remaining as Interim Moderator until the linking process is complete.

COMMITTEE ON THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS: Mr Keith Simpson, Convener, presented the report of the Committee on the Re-opening of Church Buildings. Presbytery noted that the other two members of the Committee are Mrs Fan Heafield and Rev Calum Macdougall. Mr Simpson explained that, to date, 10 congregations have been given permission to open buildings for worship services or private prayer. Presbytery received the report.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION GROUP: In the absence of the Convener, the Clerk presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Group. The report confirmed that four out of the seven working groups have now prepared draft bases of adjustment. Presbytery received the report.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Dr Fiona Burnett, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. The report included video links from Lebanon and Zomba Presbytery. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery encouraged its members, and members of congregations, to serve on Mission and Service sub-Committees. Presbytery congratulated Rev Picklen Chalfumera on his four-year appointment as Moderator of Zomba Presbytery. Presbytery encouraged congregations to support our links with friends in Zomba and Lebanon through prayer and action. Presbytery noted that donations to the Beirut Disaster Appeal can be made through Christian Aid.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved a rebate from Ministry and Mission contributions of £3,500 for Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn. Presbytery approved a rebate from Ministry and Mission contributions of £2,400 for Galashiels: St John's for the 1st Galashiels Girls Brigade.

INTIMATIONS:

1. The Presbytery Prayer diary for Autumn 2020 is now available.
2. The Presbytery Year Book 2020-21 will be circulated soon.
3. The Church of Scotland website (www.churchofscotland.org.uk) has on its homepage (see “COVID-19 (Coronavirus) advice”) regularly updated information for congregations during the ongoing coronavirus situation.
4. Presbytery thanked all those congregations who have sent details about the re-opening of their church building(s) for buildings insurance purposes (see Church of Scotland Insurance Company email of 12 August 2020). Please could all congregations that have not been in touch with the Clerk do so as soon as possible.
5. There will be a Joint Churches Drive-in Service, to be held on Sunday 27 September 2020 at 3pm, at Mainhill Farm, near St Boswells. For further information or to pre-register, go to www.bordersdrivein.co.uk.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 7pm by Zoom (to be confirmed), of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk