

PRESBYTERY OF MELROSE AND PEBBLES

The Presbytery will meet **BY ZOOM** on Tuesday 23 June 2020 at 7pm for fellowship, and at 7.30pm for ordinary business.

Victoria Linford, Clerk

How to join the meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93196338011?pwd=aWpHdnIxS0R3ZmIFcTJZnW1VbHJPdz09>

Or go to **<https://zoom.us/join>** and enter the following meeting ID and password:

Meeting ID: 931 9633 8011

Password: 686508

Or dial in by calling this number with your landline or mobile phone; you will be asked to input the meeting ID and password:

0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 931 9633 8011

Password: 686508

BUSINESS

1. Constitute
2. Sederunt and Apologies
3. Minutes of meeting on 3 March 2020 (pp110-111) [The meeting planned for 5 May 2020 was cancelled due to the coronavirus lockdown].
4. Appointment of Presbytery Moderator (*As an election cannot be held in the Zoom meeting format, if anyone has an objection to the Business Committee's nomination of Rev Malcolm Jefferson to be the Moderator of Presbytery for 2020-21, they should notify the Clerk by 7pm on Tuesday 23 June 2020; otherwise the election will be deemed to have been made unanimously*)
5. Tribute to Rev Bob Devenny (p2)
6. Order of Business
7. Business Committee
8. Re-opening of church buildings (discussion topic)
9. Authorisation of Presbytery Worship Leaders: David Bethune (Selkirk); Fiona Corbett (Selkirk); Elissa Jones (Selkirk); Eve Hartswood (Stow and Heriot); Paul Goode (Earlston); Anne Grieve (Caddonfoot); Colin Herd (West Linton: St Andrew's); David Leckey (Galashiels: Old and St Paul's); Eleanor Simpson (Galashiels: Old and St Paul')
10. Statistical Return (p3)
11. Accounts Inspection Committee (*to follow*)
12. Vacancy Procedure Committee (p4)
13. Property and Stewardship (p5)
14. Intimations
15. Appreciation of Retiring Members
16. Adjournment

Business Committee

1. Presbytery appoints the following Conveners to the Presbytery's Standing Committees for 2020-21:
Governance Committee: David Brackenridge
Mission and Service: Fiona Burnett
Property and Stewardship: Isobel Hunter

2. Presbytery approves the following dates for its meetings in 2020-21 (venues to be confirmed later):
 - Tuesday 1 September 2020
 - Tuesday 6 October 2020
 - Tuesday 3 November 2020
 - Tuesday 1 December 2020
 - Tuesday 2 February 2021
 - Tuesday 2 March 2021
 - Tuesday 4 May 2021
 - Tuesday 22 June 2021
3. Presbytery notes that, for 2020-21, Business Committee will meet on the morning of the second Thursday before each Presbytery meeting (i.e. 11 days before the Presbytery meeting).
4. The laptop and printer purchased by Presbytery in 2013 having broken down, Presbytery notes that the Business Committee has authorised the purchase of a new laptop and printer; the laptop purchase is being arranged through the Church of Scotland IT Department and the revised budget will take account of this expenditure.
5. Presbytery notes that a Complaints Committee was formed to consider a complaint made against a member of a congregation within the Presbytery bounds; the Complaints Committee has issued its report and no further action is required by Presbytery.

Intimations

1. The Presbytery Prayer diary for June/July/August 2020 is now available; it is being circulated electronically with the Presbytery papers and has also been provided to congregational prayer promoters.
2. Thank you to all Kirk Sessions who have submitted details of their congregational elder for 2021-21; please could all remaining commissions for Presbytery elders be sent to the Clerk as soon as possible.
3. Congregations are encouraged to send details of online worship to John Henderson for inclusion on the Presbytery website.
4. If you have any ideas or resources you would like to share with other congregations, do send them to the Clerk who will circulate them.
5. 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.

Tribute to Rev Bob Devenny, member of Presbytery who died in May 2020.

This is an excerpt from the funeral service led by Rev Rosie Frew:

The Rev Robert Devenny, Bob, was ordained into hospital chaplaincy in July 2002. He worked for many years as Head of Spiritual Care for the NHS in Lanarkshire where he was very well respected and a mentor to many colleagues. He was then Lead Chaplain at Borders General Hospital for two years, before retiring in 2017. Bob was passionate about the importance of spiritual care and health, and keen to share his experience. Members of Presbytery may recall a memorable meeting of Presbytery held in the Chaplaincy Centre at BGH at which Bob shared that passion.

Bob was born in Ontario, Canada in 1949, the youngest of 4 children. The family moved to Ottawa the following year. Bob was very much a country boy at heart. He loved the outdoors and nature, it was where he felt most at home. His dream was to be a farmer and have his own place. After graduating with a degree in Comparative Religion he went on to study agriculture and in 1974 bought a small 100 acre farm in the Ottawa Valley.

He had a year in Scotland 1978/79 during which time he married Catherine, returning to his farm in May 1979 where they raised their three sons Andrew, John and Malcolm. There was another brief spell in Scotland 1985/86 when Bob worked as a shepherd on hill farms at Teviot Head and at Bowshank Farm near Stow.

Back in Canada he was unsettled. There was always a pull for a more spiritual life and supporting people in times of crisis. So he returned to University full time, studying at Queens University, Kingston, Ontario where he completed a Masters of Divinity. He then trained as a Hospital Chaplain at Civic Hospital in Ottawa and was Lead Chaplain at Riverside Hospital Ottawa until 1995.

It was in 1995 that the family made the decision to relocate to Scotland. Bob was accepted for ministry in the Church of Scotland and attended Edinburgh University whilst living and working on a farm at Housebyres, near Melrose. During this time Bob did placements at Galashiels: St Ninians, Caddonfoot and Melrose Churches.

Bob was a very practical man. He built his own house at Wester Housebyres. Music was also a big part of his life. It was family that meant everything to Bob – his wife Catherine, his sons Andrew, John and Malcolm, and his four grandchildren Zak, Nathan, Reuben and Robyn. They are in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles Statistics for year ended 31 December 2019

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of Communicants: | 5208 | 5353 |
| Removals: | | |
| By Death | 138 | 177 |
| By Certificate | 22 | 23 |
| Otherwise | 21 | 98 |
| Admissions: | | |
| By Profession | 11 | 9 |
| By Certificate | 21 | 25 |
| By Restoration | 4 | 25 |
| Supplementary Roll: | 532 | 601 |
| Children under 17: | 251 | 288 |
| Over 18 involved in life of congregation: | 268 | 321 |
| Elders: | 392 | 413 |
| Baptisms: | 32 (inc. 3 adult) | 43 (inc. 2 adult) |
| Blessings: | 4 | 7 |
| Weddings: | 27 | 36 |
| Funerals: | 180 | 248 |

Report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee June 2020

The Committee, excluding the Rev Miller Milloy as an interested party, decided to grant permission to Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn to call a minister to its vacant charge. The Committee notes that the finances are in good order and that the work which requires to be done on the Manse in regards to a new kitchen and bathroom is known by the congregations and will be done with the input of the minister elect. Presbytery is to be notified when the work commences.

Deliverances:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery notes the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee that Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn be granted permission to call a minister to its vacant charge. Presbytery notes the Committee's findings that the finances are in good order, that the work which requires to be done on the Manse in regards to a new kitchen and bathroom is known by the congregations and will be done with the input of the minister elect, and that Presbytery is to be notified when the work commences.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - JUNE 2020

Revised Budget (2020)

In March, presbytery approved the budget for 2020; this included setting the levels for presbytery dues for the year. The next step would be for me to send out the invoices to church treasurers for their congregation's presbytery dues.

Shortly after the presbytery meeting the lockdown was upon us all and it was clear to me that we were entering a completely new way of doing things, including the closure of church buildings, the banning of meetings and the stopping of weekly services and other activities in church.

With this in mind, I proposed and the Business Committee approved, holding back the sending of fee notes for presbytery dues; partly since most churches will see their income fall drastically and also as a gesture of support.

Now we are in June – and with the next presbytery meeting not being until September, it is appropriate to consider a revised budget for the present year.

The two main points to note are that it is necessary to levy some dues – to keep the normal business of presbytery going – but some items in the original budget will, owing to circumstances, not be required. The main item of expenditure that will not apply this year is fabric surveys. I have spoken to Keith Simpson who confirms that access to buildings will be problematic and he does not foresee that they will proceed at all in 2020.

With that in mind, I have reduced the budgeted expenditure of £10,794 by £4,000 (of which £3,700 is surveys and the remainder small items of travel and hall hire). An issue has also arisen with the presbytery laptop and printer; replacement will cost ca £850 - £1,000, I have allowed £675 in the budget – thereby increasing the dues – and proposed to take any difference from the budgeted surplus (note: the last two years have been deficits, which this surplus was due to offset).

To balance that, income can come down by an equivalent amount (£3,125).

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Congregations up to 170: <i>(was £350)</i> | £275 |
| Congregations from 171 to 380: <i>(was £550)</i> | £410 |
| Congregations over 380: <i>(was £850)</i> | £600 |

(Study Leave was cut by £10 across the board – this will remain)

It is hoped that this will, in a small way, assist congregational finances and also enable presbytery to carry on its normal duties.

Deliverances:

1. Presbytery receives the report
2. Presbytery approves the revised budget – with allowances for laptop/printer
3. Presbytery approves the revised dues for 2020:
 - Congregations up to 170: £275
 - Congregations from 171 to 380: £410
 - Congregations over 380: £600

Fraser Simm 17th June 2020

INNERLEITHEN 3 MARCH 2020. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the third day of March 2020, the Presbytery met at 7pm for refreshments 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 12 ministers and 28 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 4 February 2020 was submitted and approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed, with the addition of an extra item of business from the Vacancy Procedure Committee.

FAREWELL TO REV RAE CLARK: The Moderator welcomed Mr Billy Anderson, Session Clerk of Channelkirk and Lauder, to the meeting. Mr Anderson spoke and paid tribute to the ministry of Rev Rae Clark. The Moderator thanked Mr Anderson and asked the Clerk, on behalf of Presbytery, to pass on Presbytery's good wishes to Mrs Clark in her new charge.

FAREWELL TO REV ELSPETH HARLEY: The Moderator welcomed representatives from the congregations of Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity to the meeting. Mr Ed Martin, Session Clerk of Galashiels: Trinity, and Mrs Anne Grieve, Session Clerk of Caddonfoot, spoke and paid tribute to the ministry of Mrs Harley. Mrs Harley spoke in her own interest. The Moderator paid tribute to Mrs Harley and on behalf of Presbytery wished her well in her retirement.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – CADDONFOOT L/W GALASHIELS: TRINITY; ETTRICK AND YARROW: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Miss Steele having declared an interest, Presbytery noted with approval the arrangements for the retirement of Rev Elspeth Harley, minister of Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity and the appointment of Rev David Donaldson as Interim Moderator, and the appointment of Rev Margaret Steele as Interim Moderator of Ettrick and Yarrow, both from 23 April 2020. Miss Steele undertook not to take part in any decisions of the Vacancy Procedure Committee relating to Ettrick and Yarrow.

TREASURER'S REPORT – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2019: The Treasurer, Mr F Simm, presented the financial report for 2019. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the Report and Accounts to 31st December 2019. Presbytery thanked Mr Tom Fairbairn for examining the Accounts for 2019. Presbytery approved the proposed congregational assessments for 2020: congregations up to 170 - £350; congregations between 171 and 380 - £550; congregations over 380 - £850. Presbytery approved the charges for Study Leave for 2020: charges with up to 350 members - £95; charges between 351 and 650 members - £125; charges with over 651 and more members - £155.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE: The Clerk intimated to Presbytery that the Presbytery Planning Task Group of the Faith Nurture Forum had now given its approval to the new Presbytery Plan. Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, then presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee, outlining with the help of flowcharts the process required for implementing the Presbytery Plan.

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

1. Presbytery noted with approval the following commissioners for the General Assembly (16-23 May 2020): Rev Rosie Frew, Rev Stewart McPherson, Rev Sheila Moir, Rev Marion Dodd, Very Rev David Arnott, Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald, Mr John Pollitt, Mrs Mary McElroy, Ms Susan McDonald, Dr Fiona Burnett and Mrs Isobel Hunter.
2. Reminder - Presbytery encouraged applications from young people aged 18-25 to attend the General Assembly 2020 as its Youth Representative; application forms and more details can be obtained from the Clerk.
3. Reminder - The Business Committee noted that after 12 years' service, Fraser Simm is looking to stand down as Treasurer of Presbytery. (It was planned for this to happen last year, but circumstances prevented that being followed through). The position does not have to be filled by a current member of Presbytery; further information can be provided to anyone interested and the plan is for a handover to take place during the summer.
4. Interim moderator training for elders – this has been rearranged and will now take place on Saturday 9 May 2020 from 10am-4pm in St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. If you would like to attend, please contact the Clerk by 10 March 2020.
5. Presbytery noted with approval that Elizabeth Parker (from Peebles: Old Church) has taken over the role of Presbytery Prayer Co-ordinator, and that the next prayer diary will be issued for June/July/August 2020. Presbytery appointed Elizabeth Parker as a Corresponding Member of Presbytery. Presbytery thanked Rev Winnie Munson for her valued contribution to Presbytery as its Prayer Co-ordinator over the past few years.
6. Prof Murray having declared an interest, Presbytery noted that a final report of the Transitional Support Group has been received in respect of the Interim Ministry of Rev Stewart McPherson in the charge of Carlops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrews. The report commends the work of Mr McPherson and the

congregations, and concludes that the objectives of the Interim Ministry have been achieved, although the situation has now altered with the planned linking with the Churches of Upper Tweeddale. Presbytery agreed that Mr McPherson remains in the charge until the end of May 2020, to assist the congregations with the move towards the new linking.

3 March 2020

PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

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Mr McPherson spoke to Presbytery about interim ministry, encouraging all congregations to adopt reconciling ministry as a way of life. On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator thanked Mr McPherson for his presentation and for his work at Carlops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrews.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Rev Margaret Steele, Ministry Co-ordinator, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved Study Leave Funding of £200 for Mrs Isobel Hunter to cover the cost of attending the course “Leading Worship in a Local Context” run at New College, Edinburgh. Presbytery approved Study Leave Funding of £1,000 to enable Rev Sheila Moir to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play in Austria during September 2020.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to the proposal that the Adams Napier Partnership undertake this year’s quinquennial surveys.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – INNERLEITHEN, TRAQUAIR AND WALKERBURN: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented a further report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted with approval the appointment of the Advisory Committee for Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn, namely Rev Pamela Strachan (Convener), Mr Tom Fairbairn and Mr John Henderson, subject to there being no appeal against the Presbytery Plan and to the Vacancy Procedure Committee granting permission to call a minister.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Children and Family Ministry Regional Gathering – Saturday 21 March 2020 at Melrose Parish Church from 10.30am-4.30pm. A day to explore creative ways to develop our vision and practice in nurturing faith with children, young people and families. Flyers available at Presbytery.
2. Kirk Sessions are asked to note the annual inspection of congregational records, which will take place on Friday 20 March 2020 from 10am – 12 noon in Innerleithen Church. The Clerk will issue a letter shortly with details of the records to be submitted.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 5 May 2020 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