

PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

The Presbytery will meet at **Galashiels: Trinity Church** on Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 7pm for ordinary business.

Victoria Linford, Clerk

Business

1. Constitute
2. Sederunt and Apologies
3. Minutes (pp93-94)
4. Nomination of Moderator
5. Tribute to the late Rev Charles Duncan
6. Congregational Showcase – Galashiels: Trinity Church
7. Order of Business
8. General Assembly Diligence
9. Business Committee
10. Statistical Return (p5)
11. Accounts Inspection Committee (p6)
12. Vacancy Procedure Committee – Eddleston l/w Peebles: Old (p7)
13. Report of the Presbytery Planning Task Group (documents attached – (a) talk from Presbytery Away Day, and (b) draft Presbytery Plan update)
14. Standing Committee Reports:
 - (a) Governance (*to follow*)
 - (b) Mission and Service (report attached)
 - (c) Property and Stewardship (p8)
15. Intimations
16. Correspondence
17. Appreciation of Retiring Members
18. Adjournment

[REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE MEETING]

Business Committee

1. Presbytery approves the Business Committee's recommended changes to the structure of Presbytery and Committee meetings for 2019-2020 (pp3-4).
2. Presbytery approves the following calendar of meetings for 2019-20:
 - 3 September 2019 - Broughton Church at 7pm (tea/coffee served from 6.30pm); service of Holy Communion followed by Presbytery Business Meeting;
 - 1 October 2019 - 7pm tea/coffee and Committee meetings, plus induction for new members; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Speaker from CrossReach; also Remits from General Assembly 2019);
 - 5 November 2019 - 7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including report from each Committee);
 - 3 December 2019 - 7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including report on October visit to Zomba, Malawi; also appointment of General Assembly Commissioners 2020);
 - 4 February 2020 - 7pm tea/coffee and Committee meetings; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting.
 - 3 March 2020 - 7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including report from each Committee);
 - 5 May 2020 - 7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Speaker from the SRT Project; also discussion on General Assembly reports 2020).

23 June 2020 - Venue tbc; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Congregational Showcase).

3. Presbytery appoints the following Conveners to the Presbytery's Standing Committees for 2019/20:
Business Committee - Prof Murray Campbell (Rev Calum Macdougall until 30 September 2019);
Governance Committee [*To be confirmed*];
Mission and Service Committee - Mr Graeme Donald (till end December 2019);
Property and Stewardship Committee - Mrs Isobel Hunter.
4. Presbytery notes that Mary Hall (Presbytery Youth Rep) was able to attend only part of the General Assembly 2019 due to illness in the family; Presbytery thanks her for her willingness to represent Presbytery and hopes she will be able to attend another time.

2.

Intimations

1. Flyers will be available at Presbytery with details of two conferences run by Place for Hope – a Gathering in Glasgow on Conflict and Faith, from 31 October 2019 – 2 November 2019; and Advanced Training for faith leaders: 'Faith in Change and Conflict' – a 6 day course running in Perth on 14-16 January 2020 and 18-20 February 2020.

Correspondence

1. Permission is sought for joint Sunday services to be held in Galashiels in August 2019, to assist with the congregations' getting to know each other as part of Presbytery Planning, as follows:
 - a. 4 August 2019 at 11.15am - Joint Service in Galashiels: Trinity. No morning service at Galashiels: Old and St Paul's;
 - b. 11 August 2019 at 11.30am - Joint Service in Galashiels: Old and St. Paul's. No service at Galashiels: Trinity
 - c. 18 August 2019 at 9.45am - Joint Service in Galashiels: St. John's. No morning service at Galashiels: Old and St Paul's or Galashiels: Trinity.

MELROSE AND PEBBLES PRESBYTERY

BUSINESS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF PRESBYTERY MEETINGS – JUNE 2019

The Business Committee discussed the pattern of Presbytery meetings throughout the year and agreed that in general terms the existing structure (introduced in 2016) was working well. It was good having tea/coffee at each meeting to increase fellowship as well as conduct business. The “café-style” meetings where tables were set out worked particularly well.

However, it was thought that more flexibility was needed in terms of Committee membership and meetings. The requirement for every Presbytery member to be appointed to a Committee resulted in large Committees with some people being more involved than others, and this was tying up some people’s time more than necessary. This coming year, members of Presbytery should be asked to sign up to Committees, to ensure that only those needed and interested would be involved. As a consequence, Committees would meet before Presbytery rather than during the Presbytery meeting, but on the same evenings to avoid people having to come out on more than one evening. Apart from the September meeting, Presbytery would start at 7.30pm, and Committees would meet at 7pm if needed (definitely in October and February), with tea/coffee available for everyone at 7pm.

Accordingly, for the 2019/20 session of Presbytery, it is proposed:

- Café-style meetings with tables for every meeting, where possible (we will ask for a small team of volunteers to set up before each meeting).
- Presbytery meeting times – 7pm in September, then 7 for 7.30pm for other meetings – tea/coffee at 7pm for everyone; and Committees to meet at 7pm in October and February and other times as needed.
- The Committees (Governance, Mission and Service, and Property and Stewardship) and remits will stay the same, with a sign-up sheet for each Committee in June, for people to put their names down if they wish to serve on a Committee.
- The standing orders are to be changed from September to say that Presbytery meetings will end by 9.30pm.
- When we have a Speaker, their presentation is to be followed by a time of discussion; the Speaker can be asked to bring discussion questions.
- Rota for tea/coffee washing up to be prepared for 2019/20; please could those from the congregation(s) on the rota wash up at the end of the meeting.

The meeting plan would therefore be as follows for the coming year (Meetings at Innerleithen Church unless otherwise specified):

3 September 2019	Broughton Church at 7pm; service of Holy Communion followed by Presbytery Business Meeting.
1 October 2019	7pm tea/coffee and Committee meetings, plus induction for new members; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Speaker from CrossReach; also Remits from General Assembly 2019).
5 November 2019	7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including report from each Committee).
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3 December 2019	7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including report on October visit to Zomba, Malawi; also appointment of General Assembly Commissioners 2020).
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5 May 2020	7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Speaker from the SRT Project; also discussion on General Assembly reports 2020).
23 June 2020	Venue tbc; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Congregational Showcase).

Tea/coffee washing up rota for meetings at Innerleithen Church:

October 2019	Earlston
November 2019	Eddleston I/w Peebles: Old
December 2019	Ettrick and Yarrow
February 2020	Galashiels: Old and St Paul's I/w Galashiels: St John's
March 2020	Innerleithen Traquair and Walkerburn
May 2020	Lyne and Manor I/w Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie

Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles Statistics for year ended 31 December 2018

Number of Communicants: 5353 (2016: 5592)

Removals:

By Death	177
By Certificate	23
Otherwise	98

Admissions:

By Profession	9
By Certificate	25
By Restoration	25

Supplementary Roll: 601

Children under 17: 288

Over 18 involved in life
of congregation: 321

Elders: 413

Baptisms: 43 (including 2 adult baptisms)

Blessings: 7

Weddings: 36

Funerals: 248

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the report.

Report of the Accounts Inspection Committee – June 2019

Presbytery's Accounts Inspection Committee is a sub-group of the Property and Stewardship Committee; it consists of Fraser Simm (convener), Isobel Hunter and Michael Knott and was augmented this year by Alastair Rennick, prospective Treasurer. The Committee only meets once a year – with the purpose of examining the accounts of each congregation – advising their congregation and authorising them – or not – to submit a copy of their accounts to OSCR.

The committee received accounts for 2018 for all congregations – save one – and the work of assessing them was divided up between the committee who then met to discuss their findings. The process of splitting up the work does not only serve to share the workload; it also enables the committee to highlight and discuss any issues which may arise of a general nature.

The convener will now write to each congregational treasurer to inform them of the outcome of the inspection, which will, in turn, enable the treasurers to submit their accounts to OSCR well before the end of September deadline.

The variety – or quality – of accounts is very marked; from a minimal two pages to 18. Most sets of accounts either comply with OSCR requirements, or will comply with minor amendments. It is disappointing that the few cases where a set is far from complying arise from year to year; the committee does offer help to the one or two treasurers who are struggling with preparing accounts on the required lines, and will again do so this year. From this – and other issues – it seems clear that the Independent Examiners, while trying their best, do not always have the full requirements of what they are required to do at their fingertips.

I must acknowledge the work of the sub-committee; each year I note the rigour of their work (this year, a few points were rightly raised with my own congregation's accounts!) and presbytery should be content that the necessary work of this committee is being undertaken with care and attention.

As an additional item the committee also approved a simple schedule showing the respective finances of each charge. This has been prepared with two things in mind: Local Reviews and Presbytery Planning. It is the committee's view that while finance does and should not override the work of these committees, it is relevant for them to have some understanding of the background finances of the charges/congregations they are reviewing. I propose to hand this financial analysis to the Convener of the Governance Committee in the hope that this will be a helpful document in any future discussions by her group.

Deliverances:

1. Presbytery approves the report.
2. Presbytery thanks the Accounts Inspection Committee for its work in examining the 2018 accounts for all congregations.
3. Presbytery approves the financial analysis of congregations' finances being noted by the Presbytery Planning group and in future Local Reviews.

Report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee June 2019

The Committee notes the decision of the Rev Calum Macdougall, minister of Eddleston l/w Peebles Old, to retire on 30th September 2019. The Committee has decided to appoint the Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald as Interim Moderator, with effect from a date to be agreed.

Deliverances:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Following intimation of the Rev. Calum Macdougall to retire from the charge of Eddleston l/w Peebles Old on 30th September 2019, Presbytery notes with approval the appointment of the Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald as Interim Moderator of that charge, with effect from [*date to be agreed*].

Property and Stewardship Committee Report for Presbytery 25th June 2019

The Committee recommends to Presbytery a rebate of Ministries and Mission payments of a total of £2,100 to the three Galashiels churches to cover the cost of their Christianity Explored Course in Border College. This course has offered an opportunity for people from the three congregations to meet together at a time when the churches are considering the way ahead for the Church of Scotland in Galashiels. The refund to be split equally between the three churches.

The committee further recommends a rebate of £3,000 to Stow and Heriot and £3,000 to Peebles Old to bolster their financial position, while noting that other churches in a similar position have not hesitated to rely on their own reserves.

From September there will be a further tranche of funding available from the 5% of the Presbytery Ministries and Mission payments that can be rebated locally. Applications for refunds should be with the Presbytery Clerk by Friday 13th September 2019 on the appropriate form in order that there is time for them to be circulated to the Property and Stewardship Committee members ahead of discussion when they meet at Presbytery on the 1st October 2019. Funding for mission will be prioritised over property costs, and the level of reserves held, and signs of good stewardship, will be taken into consideration. Of the roughly £35,000 that will be available, £10,500 in total is already committed towards a reader in St Boswells and a youth worker in Selkirk.

18th June 2019

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the Report
2. Presbytery agrees to M&M rebates of £700 to St John's Galashiels, £700 to Galashiels Trinity, and £700 to Old and St Paul's Galashiels.
3. Presbytery agrees to an M&M rebate of £3,000 to Stow and Heriot.
4. Presbytery agrees to an M&M rebate of £3,000 to Peebles: Old.
5. Presbytery urges congregations considering applications for a rebate of Ministries and Mission payments to submit application forms by 13th September 2019.

