

PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

The Presbytery will meet at **Broughton Church** on Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 7pm for ordinary business.

Victoria Linford, Clerk

Business

1. Constitute
2. Sederunt and Apologies
3. Minutes (pp73-74)
4. Nomination of Moderator
5. Congregational Showcase – Broughton Church
6. Order of Business
7. Farewell to Rev Janice Faris
8. Demission of Rev Dr Leon Keller:
 - (a) Approval of Demission
 - (b) Farewell to Dr Keller
9. General Assembly Diligence
10. Business Committee
11. Statistical Return (p4)
12. Accounts Inspection Committee (p5)
13. [Vacancy Procedure Committee – Galashiels: Old and St Paul’s l/w Galashiels: St John’s]
14. Standing Committee Reports:
 - (a) Mission and Service (*see timetable enclosed as PDF document*)
 - (b) Property and Stewardship (p6)
 - (c) Governance [IN PRIVATE]
 - a. Appointment of Special Committee (p7)
 - b. Presbytery Planning (pp8-9)
 - c. Local Church Review (pp10-11)
15. Intimations
16. Correspondence
17. [Appreciation of Retiring Members]
18. Adjournment

[TEA/COFFEE WILL BE SERVED BEFORE THE MEETING, FROM 6.30PM]

Business Committee

1. Presbytery notes the Business Committee’s review of the two-year pilot structure for Presbytery and Committee meetings (summary on p3) and agrees to implement the Business Committee’s recommendations for 2018-19.
2. Presbytery approves the following calendar of meetings for 2018-19:
 - Tuesday 4 September 2018 – 7pm Earlston: Business Meeting (after Holy Communion); Showcase
 - Tuesday 2 October 2018 – 7pm Innerleithen: Committee Evening; including Assembly Remits; with training for new members of Presbytery and Committee conveners (6pm)
 - Wednesday 24 October 2018 – afternoon/evening: World Mission prayer event for Israel/Palestine
 - Tuesday 6 November 2018 – 7pm Innerleithen: Business Meeting; Committee reports
 - Tuesday 4 December 2018 – 7pm Innerleithen: Assembly Remits; Speaker evening
 - Tuesday 5 February 2019 – 7pm Innerleithen: Committee Evening

Tuesday 5 March 2019 – 7pm Innerleithen: Business Meeting; Committee reports

Tuesday 7 May 2019 – 7pm Innerleithen: General Assembly topics (with speaker if appropriate)

Saturday 1 June 2019: Away Day (half day) Topic tbc; Invitation to Duns and Jedburgh Presbyteries.

Tuesday 25 June 2019 – Venue tbc: Business Meeting; Showcase

3. Presbytery agrees to set up a new Presbytery Planning Task Group, with the Governance Committee Convener as the Task Group Convener, plus one other member from the Governance Committee, and two members from each of the Mission and Service and Property and Stewardship Committees.

2.

4. Presbytery appoints Mrs Christine Brotherston, Mr John Henderson, Rev Malcolm Jefferson, Rev Miller Milloy, Mr Robert Turnbull and Mrs Susan White as additional members of the Presbytery Complaints Panel and notes that the Clerk will provide a training session on the Presbytery Complaints Procedure for new members of the Panel.
5. Presbytery extends the appointment of Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald as interim moderator at Carlops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrew's until 16 July 2018.
6. Presbytery notes with approval the appointment of Rev Stewart McPherson as Interim Minister for Carlops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrew's, with effect from 16 July 2018. Presbytery appoints a Service of Introduction to take place on Tuesday 17 July 2018 in West Linton: St Andrew's Church at 7pm, with Presbytery meeting at 6.45pm on that day.

Intimations

1. Kirk Sessions who have not yet provided the Clerk with details of their Presbytery elder for 2018-19 are asked to do so as soon as possible.
2. From World Mission: You are reminded about the Presbytery World Mission get-together on Thursday 28 June 2018 at 6pm in Innerleithen Church. At the meeting, we hope to bring you up to date with the plans for the forthcoming visit of our Lebanese and Malawian guests in August, show you a little of the area where they are coming from and also let you know what other exciting things are going on in the area of World Mission. There will also be an opportunity to hear your news and concerns about matters World Mission. Do come and bring a friend if you can. We are providing a sandwich supper and the meeting will end no later than 8pm. Please could you let Fiona Burnett have numbers for catering purposes.
3. Braw Lads Day Coffee Morning: The Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 30 June 2018, 10:00 to 12:00, at Old Parish and St. Paul's Church in Galashiels; entry will be payment at the door, adults @£2.00 each with accompanied children going free. There will be tea, coffee, other refreshments and home baking.
4. The Presbytery Prayer Diary for Summer 2018 is now available. This is enclosed with the Presbytery papers sent out by email, and some printed copies will be available to collect at Presbytery.

Correspondence

1. From Mission and Discipleship Council: There will be an "Equip for Sports" event, looking at connecting with communities through sports, taking place on Saturday 8 September 2018 at Bankfoot Church Centre, Perth. Flyers will be available at Presbytery.

Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles

Summary of Business Committee review of Presbytery pilot structure – June 2018

The Business Committee met on Friday 8 June 2018 to consider the questionnaire responses on the two-year Presbytery pilot structure and to decide on the structure of meetings for 2018-19. It was noted that there had been a good number of responses to the questionnaire, many of which were complimentary of the new structure. No one suggested a return to the old model but there were several helpful comments on improving the new structure.

MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE.

This was seen to have too broad a remit. It was agreed to remove the *Pastoral Care* sub group from its remit. It was suggested that a Pastoral Chaplain could be appointed who would a) contact and meet where possible each person engaged in full time ministry annually, b) would be a contact person when pastoral care was required, c) would provide information regarding the services offered by Ministries Council and be a contact person as required. It was agreed that expenses should be paid. The chaplain would be able to co-opt other members as required.

The Training and Supervision sub group would be convened by Margaret Steele with Julie Rennick and one other to be approached. The group would report to the convener on all matters.

The World Mission sub group would continue with Dr Fiona Burnett as convener.

The Local Mission sub group requires a new convener.

GOVERNANCE

At present the *Superintendence sub group* also includes responsibility for Local Church Review process. This could be reviewed to see whether Local Church Review should be separated from Superintendence.

It is recognised that the *Presbytery Planning task group* requires to be cross-committee, as the “blue sky” thinking takes place. It was thought that two members from each of Governance, Mission and Service, and Property and Stewardship should be on the group, with Rosie Frew (Governance Convener) acting as Convener of the task group.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP

This committee works well as is at present. It was noted that Stewardship having not been addressed in 2017-18 would be addressed in the coming year.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

It should recommend 2 projects annually to be addressed by Presbytery. One for this coming year would be Presbytery Planning.

GENERAL COMMENTS

It was agreed that Presbytery would provide new elder training at the October meeting where procedure would be addressed and where each convener would give an explanation of the work of their committee. It would start at 6 pm.

On Committee evenings, it was agreed to give 45 mins for committee work followed by coffee/tea.

Each Presbytery meeting (if possible, depending on venue) should be set out in café style.

A Presbytery Pulpit Swap was suggested.

It was agreed to continue to invite members of Duns and Jedburgh Presbyteries to our away days.

**Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles
Statistics for year ended 31 December 2017**

Number of Communicants: 5556 (2016: 5815)

Removals:

By Death	199
By Certificate	38
Otherwise	86

Admissions:

By Profession	5
By Certificate	29
By Restoration	30

Supplementary Roll: 682

Children under 17: 284

Over 18 involved in life
of congregation: 292

Elders: 397

Baptisms: 43 (including 3 adult baptisms)

Blessings: 3

Weddings: 42

Funerals: 284

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the report.

Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles

Accounts Inspection Committee report (June 2018)

Presbytery's Accounts Inspection Committee meets once a year to inspect and report on the accounts of all 28 congregations within the bounds of presbytery.

The work undertaken by the committee is rigorous, aimed at helping congregational treasurers and ensuring that their accounts met the requirements of the Church of Scotland and the charities regulator.

As this process – with the added complexity of “charity accounts” – has been underway for several years it might be thought that congregational treasurers would by now be fully conversant with the accounts requirements, but this is far from the case. It is clear that most treasurers have done their very best and there are some excellent examples of work – going as far as 18 pages. At the other end of the scale are submissions of four or even two pages, which will doubtless be “sent back” by OSCR. These latter examples are much the same as previous years' submissions, which have been commented on by the Accounts Inspection Committee; offers of help have been made in the past and it may be necessary to consider other measures to assist these treasurers.

Following the committee's review, a letter is sent to each treasurer advising on the committee's comments, which it is hoped will assist them in submitting their accounts to OSCR. Thanks are extended to Michael Knott and Isobel Hunter for their work in helping in reviewing the accounts. In preparing the individual letters to congregational treasurers, I refer to their notes which highlight the thoroughness of the committee's work.

A report is required to be submitted to the Stewardship & Finance Department of the Church of Scotland by 30th June, and this is expected to be ready for signature after the meeting.

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery approves the report.
2. Presbytery notes that the accounts from all congregations have been inspected, and commends the Accounts Inspection Committee for their work in this regard.
3. Presbytery approves the Accounts Inspection Committee liaising with the Property and Stewardship Committee on ways to assist congregational treasurers. *

Fraser Simm (Convener)

20th June 2018

**Note the Property and Stewardship Convener is abroad at the moment and it has not been possible to consult with her on this deliverance*

Melrose and Peebles Presbytery
Report from Property and Stewardship Committee – June 2018

Selkirk Parish Church Congregational Board, at their meeting on 20th June 2018, minuted their wish to sell the former St. Mary's West Manse at 10 The Glebe Selkirk.

The manse belonged to St. Mary's Selkirk prior to their union in 1985, and the minister the Rev William Laing and his wife were given life rent and occupancy of the manse.

The Rev Laing died in 2015 and his wife sadly passed away earlier this year.

The sale has been discussed with the General Trustees, and the Board of Selkirk Parish Church are seeking Presbytery approval so that the General Trustees can consider the sale at their meeting in September.

Deliverances:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery approves the decision of Selkirk Parish Church Congregational Board to sell St. Mary's Manse.

PRESBYTERY OF MELROSE AND PEEBLES

NOTE OF DECISION OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TO APPOINT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE UNDER ACT I, 2010

On 20 June 2018, the Governance Committee of the Presbytery, acting through the following sub-Committee: Rev Rosie Frew (Convener), Rev Margaret Steele, Rev Calum Macdougall and Rev Victoria Linford, decided as follows:

It was reported to the Committee that the Presbytery Clerk had received notice of circumstances indicating that a disciplinary offence might have been committed by an elder within the Presbytery. As required in terms of the Discipline of Elders, Readers and Office Bearers Act (Act I, 2010), the Governance Committee, whose remit includes Superintendence, (acting through the following sub-Committee: Rev Rosie Frew, Rev Margaret Steele, Rev Calum Macdougall and Rev Victoria Linford) agreed to appoint from the Judicial Proceedings Panel a Special Committee of Presbytery in terms of section 8 of the Act, comprising Rev Jane Howitt, Mrs Myrtle Gillies and Rev Fraser Penny, to consider the circumstances and if appropriate to investigate and prosecute a case.

This decision is now put to Presbytery for homologation. Presbytery is also asked to give delegated powers to the above sub-committee to deal with all matters relating to the alleged disciplinary offence.

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery homologates the decision of the sub-committee of the Governance Committee, comprising Rev Rosie Frew, Rev Margaret Steele, Rev Calum Macdougall and Rev Victoria Linford, to appoint a Special Committee under Act I, 2010 in respect of an elder within the Presbytery.
3. Presbytery grants to that sub-committee all powers necessary to deal with the matters referred to the Special Committee whilst they are ongoing and in relation to its final disposal, all subject to and in terms of Act I, 2010.

MELROSE AND PEEBLES PRESBYTERY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Report on Presbytery Planning – June 2018

About 80 people attended the Presbytery Planning Conference on Saturday 2 June 2018 in Galashiels Trinity. The take home message was 'The status quo is not an option'.

Why?

From the Ministries Council Report to the General Assembly 2018

3.5.2.4 ...'The best estimate is that in 2023 the number of ministers available to serve as parish ministers will be in the region of 20% lower than is currently the case.

(A 20% reduction in the Melrose and Peebles Presbytery Plan would take us to 11 full time equivalent ministries. We currently have 13.7.)

From the Council of Assembly Strategic Plan 2018

The Council goal is

Well-supported ministry teams

Well-equipped spaces in the right places

Sustainable finances

Effective Local, Regional and National structures

From the Council of Assembly deliverance 2018

Instruct Presbyteries meantime to challenge themselves in their Presbytery Plans to be robust, imaginative and courageous in reducing the number of charges, creating ministry hubs, and enabling new pioneer and new church planting opportunities, supported by a Ministries Council that enables new reformed pathways into ministry.

Instruct Kirk Sessions meantime to meet in conference, to reflect on the state of decline of the national Church and in particular how that affects the Church locally and determine what their vision and mission is for the next three years in collaboration with Presbytery Planning teams.

The challenge to the Presbytery and Congregations of Melrose and Peebles Presbytery

Be imaginative and courageous!

How do we deploy 11 ministries?

Where are the right places?

What is sustainable?

What is your congregation's vision & mission?

At a Ministries Council conference in March we were repeatedly told 'The answers are going to come from the local'.

Where we are at the moment

Vacancies – permission to call

Broughton, Glenholm & Kilbucho I/w Skirling I/w Stobo
& Drumelzier I/w Tweedsmuir

Vacancies – Interim Minister
Carlops I/w Kirkurd & Newlands I/w West Linton

Vacancies – Presbytery Plan suspended
Innerleithen, Traquair & Walkerburn
Ettrick and Yarrow
Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's I/w Galashiels St John's

9.

Reviewable tenure
Caddonfoot I/w Trinity
Channelkirk & Lauder
Earlston
Stow & Heriot

The way ahead...

The Remit to Presbytery

Instruct Presbyteries meantime to challenge themselves in their Presbytery Plans to be robust, imaginative and courageous in reducing the number of charges, creating ministry hubs, and enabling new pioneer and new church planting opportunities, supported by a Ministries Council that enables new reformed pathways into ministry.

The Remit to Kirk Sessions

Instruct Kirk Sessions meantime to meet in conference, to reflect on the state of decline of the national Church and in particular how that affects the Church locally and determine what their vision and mission is for the next three years in collaboration with Presbytery Planning teams.

Presbytery has formed a Presbytery Planning Task Group comprising Rosie Frew (Convener), Andrew Campbell, Malcolm Jefferson, one other from Mission and Service, 2 from Property and Stewardship.

Future dates

Saturday 1 September, 10.00am – Presentation from Jayne Scott and Kenneth Fleming of the Ministries Council including the latest on Hub Ministry in Innerleithen Church. (This is an open meeting. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.)

Spring 2019 – Next Presbytery Planning Conference

In the meantime the Presbytery Planning Task Group will be available to meet with congregations.

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery asks congregations to note the remit from the General Assembly - Instruct Kirk Sessions meantime to meet in conference, to reflect on the state of decline of the national Church and in particular how that affects the Church locally and determine what their vision and mission is for the next three years in collaboration with Presbytery Planning teams.
2. Presbytery only grants permission to call to vacant congregations when the new shape of the Presbytery Plan is clear and a way ahead agreed.
3. Presbytery extends Reviewable Tenures to 2021.
4. Presbytery encourages Ministers in charges to be supportive of vacant congregations.
5. Presbytery thanks those serving as Interim Moderators and Locums at this time.

**MELROSE AND PEEBLES PRESBYTERY
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – LOCAL AND INTERIM REVIEWS – JUNE 2018**

Local Review visits took place at Earlston, Galashiels: Old and St Paul's I/w Galashiels: St John's, and Eddleston I/w Peebles:Old. Interim Review visits took place at Upper Tweeddale and Caddonfoot I/w Galashiels: Trinity.

The Local Review reports for Earlston and Galashiels: Old and St Paul's I/w Galashiels: St John's, and the Interim Reports for Upper Tweeddale and Caddonfoot I/w Galashiels: Trinity are enclosed as separate documents. The deliverance is set out below.

The report for Eddleston I/w Peebles: Old will be presented to Presbytery at the September meeting.

DELIVERANCE:

LOCAL REVIEW - EARLSTON:

1. Presbytery commends the work of the minister, office bearers and members of Earlston Parish Church.
2. Presbytery commends the office bearers on their desire to embrace change and to engage fully with Presbytery Planning.
3. Presbytery encourages the twinning with Tripoli and the benefits for church and community.
4. Presbytery commends the office bearers on their desire to learn to become more comfortable sharing their faith.
5. Presbytery instructs the minister and Kirk Session to work together to establish a protocol for pastoral care.
6. Presbytery instructs the Kirk Session to make contact with the Presbytery Safeguarding Team to update them on current requirements.

LOCAL REVIEW – GALASHIELS: OLD AND ST PAUL'S L/W GALASHIELS: ST JOHN'S:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery commends the commitment of the Minister, elders, board members and congregational members in both churches whose love of the Lord Jesus underpins their worship and work.
3. Presbytery commends the ongoing work within Old and St Paul's congregation, e.g. Bible Study, Prayer, Lunch Club, Guild, pastoral care.
4. Presbytery commends the ongoing work within St John's congregation, e.g. Bible Study, Prayer, Girls' Brigade, pastoral care.
5. Presbytery resolves to address the lack of promised additional support for the linkage.

6. Presbytery notes and commends the desire of the congregations to re-engage with the parish and the young folk.
7. Presbytery notes and commends the desire to think creatively about their buildings and offers to provide support in future discussions with the General Trustees.
8. Presbytery agrees to investigate the possibility of providing financial support to Leon on his relocation to South Africa.

11.

9. Presbytery instructs the Presbytery Clerk to make representation to the Ministries Council of the need for transition training for ministers coming from another culture in order to orientate them into the ethos of Parish Ministry within the Church of Scotland.

INTERIM REVIEW - UPPER TWEEDDALE:

1. Presbytery accepts the report.
2. Presbytery commends the word of the Interim Moderator and the Locum Minister in the work they are doing in the Charge.
3. Presbytery commends the office bearers for their commitment and work in the Charge.
4. Presbytery commends the use of the worship workshop in leading services in the Charge and their commitment to leading worship over the year especially in the vacancy.
5. Presbytery encourages its members to pray for this charge as they seek a new minister and as they seek to further the mission of the Church in this Rural Charge.

INTERIM REVIEW - CADDONFOOT L/W GALASHIELS: TRINITY

[Deliverance to follow].