

PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

The Presbytery will meet at **Innerleithen Church** on Tuesday 3 December 2019, at 7pm for refreshments and thereafter at 7.30pm for ordinary business.

Victoria Linford, Clerk

Business

1. Constitute
2. Sederunt and Apologies
3. Minutes (pp104-105)
4. Tribute to Rev Milton Cashman
5. Order of Business
6. Report on Visit to Zomba Presbytery
7. Business Committee
8. Presbytery Planning Task Group (pp2-3; revised Presbytery Plan attached) [ORDER OF THE DAY 8.15PM]
9. Intimations
10. Correspondence
11. Adjournment

**[REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT 7PM FOR ALL MEMBERS,
WITH THE BUSINESS MEETING BEGINNING AT 7.30PM]**

Business Committee

1. Presbytery approves the membership of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee as follows: David Brackenridge (Convener); [*others to follow*].
2. Presbytery appoints as Commissioners to the General Assembly (16-22 May 2020): Rev Rosie Frew and Mr John Pollitt (Bowden and Melrose); [Rev Stewart McPherson] and Dr Margaret Habeshaw (Kirkurd and Newlands); [] and [] Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity; Rev Sheila Moir and [] (Maxton and Mertoun l/w Newtown l/w St Boswells); Very Rev David Arnott and []; Very Rev Finlay Macdonald and [].
3. Presbytery encourages 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.
4. Presbytery approves the sale of Broughton Manse for Broughton l/w Skirling l/w Stobo and Drumelzier l/w Tweedsmuir, this sale having been approved by the Kirk Sessions of those churches and by the General Trustees.

Intimations

1. Nominations are currently being sought from people from congregations of the Church of Scotland to engage in service through involvement on the Standing Committees of the Church. Details of the nomination process (the deadline is 9 December 2019) and a copy of the nomination form can be found online at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/nomination_committee.

Correspondence

1. From the Kirk Sessions of Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul's, Galashiels: St John's and Galashiels: Trinity - seeking permission not to have morning worship on certain Sundays in 2020, in order to hold joint services:
 - a. 5 January at 11 am in Galashiels: St John's;
 - b. 12 January at 11.15 am in Galashiels: Trinity, with a light lunch and presentation;

- c. 19 January at 11.30 am in Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul's;
 - d. 2 February at 11.15 am in Galashiels: Trinity, with Communion;
 - e. 1 March at 11 am in Galashiels: St John's;
 - f. 5 April (Palm Sunday) at 11.30 am in Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul's;
 - g. Thereafter, a joint service on the first Sunday of each month.
2. From the Kirk Sessions of Ettrick and Yarrow, Ashkirk and Selkirk – seeking permission from Presbytery not to hold morning worship in Ettrick and Yarrow or Ashkirk on Sunday 2 February 2020, in order to hold a joint service at Selkirk at 11am, and asking Presbytery to note changes of service times as follows:
- a. Ettrick and Yarrow: 9.30 am (from 10 am);
 - b. Selkirk: 11 am (from 10.15am); and
 - c. Ashkirk: 12.30pm (from midday).

2.

Melrose and Peebles Presbytery Plan December 2019

A bit of background...

A Presbytery Plan is a basic structure that details how and where the available ministry resource is utilised within a Presbytery. It is a structure on which we build to further the mission of God in our part of the Church of Scotland.

In Presbytery Planning we can't start with a blank sheet of paper. We have to begin where we are at the present and plan for what is achievable. We are very grateful to all the congregations who have engaged with us over the last 18 months.

We began the Presbytery Planning process knowing that there had been a 20% reduction in available ministers since our Presbytery Plan was originally drawn up. That original Plan allowed for 13.7 ministries for Melrose and Peebles Presbytery. (All these posts were allocated to Ministers. There were no Ministry Development Staff (MDS) in that Plan.) A 20% reduction takes us to 11 ministries.

However, in the Ministries Council report to the 2018 General Assembly Presbyteries were advised of the number of ministers it estimated there would be by 2023. The advisory number for our Presbytery is 9.5 ministers.

The adjustments we can make now will reduce our numbers to 10 ministers and 1 MDS – 11 ministries.

The adjustment that we are envisaging in the future (realistically the next 7- 10 years) will probably take us to 8.5 ministers and 1 MDS. However, the future will be a very different place as we will be part of a far larger Presbytery so nothing is cast in stone. Our Plan is open to revision as changes happen within our charges and our Presbytery.

The Plan also records that we currently deploy 1 Reader and 1 Ordained Local Minister in the Presbytery.

Where we are now...

In June 2019 Presbytery approved clusters of congregations based on High School catchment areas as the 'direction of travel' for Presbytery Planning. The new Presbytery Plan reflects this. Working together within clusters helps even out some of the perceived imbalances that different size and geography present.

The updated December 2019 version of the Plan reflects comments made by congregations following circulation of the draft Plan. The changes made are:

- A full time MDS for the Galashiels Cluster.
- 7 year Reviewable Tenures for Eddleston linked with Peebles Old and Innerleithern, Traquair and Walkerburn
- Other charges are all Unrestricted Tenure

3.

- We had not made any comment about buildings, apart from encouraging congregations to think realistically about the General Trustees' plea for 'right spaces in the right places'. However, as we have not affirmed the necessity of any building we have changed all the building designations to (d): '*Presbytery unable to make a determination at this time*'.

There were a number of requests for additional staffing. The Presbytery Plan details the posts that are paid for centrally out of the National Stipend Fund. There are a variety of different ways that additional staffing can be funded:

- Applying for a reduction in M and M payments through use of the Presbytery 5%
- Using local funds / local fundraising
- Applying to the new Growth Fund (from 1 January 2019)
- Applying to other grant providers

Increasingly we must enable and encourage the best resource that we all have – our congregations. We can do this by taking advantage of training opportunities locally and nationally –and by working collaboratively within clusters to support one another.

What happens next...

The Implementation Group will begin working with the congregations who are moving towards linkage or union. They anticipate that their work will be completed by June 2020.

Working collaboratively in clusters is an important part of the way ahead. To ensure this is taken seriously we would ask for an annual report on progress made at the end of each session (starting with a report in June 2020).

The Presbytery Planning Task Group December 2019

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery approves the Presbytery Plan dated December 2019.
2. Presbytery remits assistance in the drawing up of the necessary Bases of Adjustment to the Implementation Group.
3. Presbytery urges ministers and congregations to work together within their cluster.
4. Presbytery encourages ministers and congregations to train and utilise their lay talent in leading worship.
5. Presbytery requests that an annual report be submitted by each cluster to the Governance Committee in June of each year.
6. Presbytery encourages congregations to apply for a reduction in M and M contributions for additional ministerial support.
7. Presbytery thanks and discharges the Presbytery Planning Task Group.