

**INNERLEITHEN 3 DECEMBER 2019.** At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the third day of December 2019, 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 14 ministers and 28 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book. The Moderator welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

**MINUTES:** The minute of the meeting of 5 November 2019 was submitted and approved.

**TRIBUTE TO REV MILTON CASHMAN:** Rev David Donaldson, with the court standing, paid tribute to Rev Milton Cashman who died on 29 October 2019. The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer, and the Presbytery passed on its good wishes and appreciation to Mrs Margaret Cashman and the whole family.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The order of business was approved as printed, with the addition of items under Intimations and Correspondence.

**REPORT ON VISIT TO ZOMBA PRESBYTERY:** The Moderator introduced Mrs Eve Hartwood, a member of Stow and Heriot Church and one of the group who had visited Zomba Presbytery in October 2019 on behalf of the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles. Mrs Hartwood gave a presentation on the visit. The group had included Rev Pamela Strachan, members of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn Church and of Stow and Heriot Church, as well as representatives from Biggar High School. While in Zomba, the visitors had taken part in worship in churches and local communities and had visited prisons and schools. The visitors enjoyed warm hospitality in Zomba and believed that the visit would strengthen existing links and encourage others in Presbytery to develop links with Zomba. The Moderator thanked Mrs Hartwood for her presentation and all those who had participated in the visit to Zomba. The Moderator also confirmed that the new Memorandum of Understanding had been signed on behalf of both Presbyteries during the visit.

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE:** In the absence of the Convener, the Clerk presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery approved the membership of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Task Group as follows: David Brackenridge (Convener), the Clerk (*ex officio*), Susan McDonald, Robert Turnbull, Catriona Bird, Fan Heafield and Isobel Hunter, with powers granted to the Business Committee to appoint additional members as required.
2. Presbytery appointed 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); the minister and an elder from Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity (to be confirmed); Rev Sheila Moir and an elder (Maxton and Mertoun l/w Newtown l/w St Boswells); Very Rev David Arnott and an elder; Very Rev Finlay Macdonald and an elder; names of elders who wish to attend as commissioners should be submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible.
3. 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.
4. Presbytery approved the sale of the 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.

[ORDER OF THE DAY 8.15PM]

**PRESBYTERY PLANNING TASK GROUP:** Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Task Group. The following amendment to the draft Presbytery Plan circulated on 28 November 2019 was tabled and seconded: Amend Section 1 of the Deliverance to add: "with the amendment that all future appointments to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament be on 7 year reviewable tenure". The amendment was approved by a vote of 30:4. Presbytery approved the Presbytery Plan dated December 2019 (as amended) by a written vote of 39:1. Presbytery remitted assistance in the drawing up of the necessary Bases of Adjustment to the Implementation Group. Presbytery urged ministers and congregations to work together within their cluster. Presbytery encouraged ministers and congregations to train and utilise their lay talent in leading worship. Presbytery requested that an annual report be submitted by each cluster to the Governance Committee in June of each year. Presbytery encouraged congregations to apply for a reduction in M and M contributions for additional ministerial support. Presbytery thanked and discharged the Presbytery Planning Task Group.

**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](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/nomination_committee).
2. From Graeme Donald, Convener of the Mission and Service Committee: Copies of the Learning Guide and the Mission and Service leaflet were available at Presbytery, for distribution within congregations.
3. The Presbytery Prayer Diary for December 2019, January and February 2020 has been prepared; some copies were available at Presbytery and the Prayer Diary will also be circulated by email.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From the Kirk Sessions of Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul's, Galashiels: St John's and Galashiels: Trinity: Presbytery granted 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: Presbytery granted permission 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 noted 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).
3. From the Kirk Sessions of the Churches of Upper Tweeddale: Presbytery granted permission not to hold morning worship in every part of the linking on Sunday 26 January 2020, in order to hold a joint service at Broughton Church.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 4 February 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