

**EARLSTON 4 SEPTEMBER 2018.** At Earlston Parish Church on Tuesday the fourth day of September 2018, the Presbytery met at 7pm for the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and thereafter was constituted by the Moderator, Rev Julie Rennick.

**SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES:** There were present 15 ministers and 32 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:** On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator welcomed Rev Stewart McPherson, Mr Peter Sandison and Mrs Margo Harper to Presbytery.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the meetings of 26 June 2018 and 17 July 2018 were submitted and approved.

**CONGREGATIONAL SHOWCASE – EARLSTON PARISH CHURCH:** Rev Julie Rennick and Mr Tom Burnham made a photographic presentation of some recent events in Earlston Church. These focussed on the twinning of Earlston Church with Tripoli Church in Lebanon, as well as on the Presbytery youth visit from Malawi and Lebanon. Members of Presbytery were asked to consider with their congregations whether they might be interested in developing a link with another church in Lebanon and noted that there was a planned visit to Lebanon in April 2019.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The order of business was approved as circulated.

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE:** Rev Calum Macdougall, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery Assembly Remits 2018:

- (a) Overture under the Barrier Act – Discipline Overture (pp3-30 of the Remits Booklet). Presbytery appointed the required ballot to take place during the November meeting of Presbytery (a return of the votes has to be submitted to the Principal Clerk not later than 31 December 2018). Only Presbyters present at that meeting will be entitled to vote in the ballot. Presbytery asked the Clerk to produce a guidance note on the Overture for the October meeting.
- (b) Presbytery remitted to its Presbytery Planning Task Group the instruction to Presbyteries 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” (item 6 on page 31 of the Remits Booklet, Council of Assembly), the Presbytery Planning Task Group to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
- (c) Presbytery remitted to its Presbytery Planning Task Group the instruction to Kirk Sessions 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” (item 7 on page 31 of the Remits Booklet, Council of Assembly), the Presbytery Planning Task Group to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
- (d) Presbytery remitted to the Clerk the instruction to Presbyteries to “ensure that Congregational Office Bearers access and make use of the range of resources prepared by the Law Department to enable compliance with the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation from 25 May 2018” (item 12 on page 31 of the Remits Booklet, Council of Assembly), the Clerk to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
- (e) Presbytery remitted to the new Pastoral Care of Ministers Committee the instruction to Presbyteries to “act in a pastoral manner to both minister and congregation when considering the implications of sections 5-9 of the Long Term Illness of Ministers Act 2002” (item 15 on page 33 of the Remits Booklet, Ministries Council), the Pastoral Care of Ministers Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
- (f) Presbytery remitted to the Governance Committee the instruction to Presbyteries to “obtain fresh concurrence with their current plan from the Presbytery Planning Task Group by 31 December 2018 and note that failure to do so may result in the sisting of vacancies” (item 29 on page 34 of the Remits Booklet, Ministries Council), the Governance Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
- (g) Presbytery remitted to the Governance Committee the instruction to Presbyteries to “engage with the Presbytery Planning Task Group when negotiating a Basis of Adjustment” (item 31 on page 34 of the Remits Booklet, Ministries Council), the Governance Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
- (h) Presbytery remitted to the Mission and Service Committee the instruction to Presbyteries to “actively encourage people of vision and leadership quality to be nominated to the Councils and Committees of the Church to bring direction in the light of the mission challenges the Church faces today” (items 6 on page 36 of the Remits Booklet, Nomination Committee), the Mission and Service Committee to report to Presbytery by the November meeting.
- (i) Presbytery remitted to the Mission and Service Committee the instruction to Kirk Sessions to “explore how the fresh vision for eldership outlined in section 2 of the Report applies to their particular local context” (item 3 on page 36 of the Remits Booklet, Mission and Discipleship Council), the Mission and Service Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
- (j) Presbytery remitted to the Mission and Service Committee the instruction to Kirk Sessions to “consider how the aspirations outlined in the Report shape their ongoing ministry and engagement with children and young people in the parish” (item 4, page 36 of the Remits Booklet, Mission and Discipleship Council), the Mission and Service Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.

- (k) Presbytery remitted to the Mission and Service Committee the instruction to Kirk Sessions to “explore what opportunities exist for a fresh expression of church in their parish” (item 18 on page 36 of the Remits Booklet, Mission and Discipleship Council), the Mission and Service Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
  - (l) Presbytery instructed all Committees to study other remits and bring relevant matters to Presbytery.
  - (m) Presbytery instructed all ministers and elders to bring other relevant matters to the notice of their Kirk Sessions (see pages 31-36 of the Remits Booklet).
2. Presbytery approved the membership of its Committees for 2018/19 as set out in the Presbytery Year Book.
  3. Presbytery homologated the decision of the Moderator’s Committee to appoint Rev Sheila Moir as interim moderator at Channelkirk and Lauder Church during the absence on sick leave of Rev Rae Clark.

**PRESBYTERY PLANNING TASK GROUP:** Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented a report of the Presbytery Planning Task Group, which summarised areas of broad agreement from the Presbytery Planning Conference on 1 September 2018. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted the membership of its Presbytery Planning Task Group as follows: Rev Rosie Frew (Convener), Col Andrew Campbell, Rev Malcolm Jefferson, Mr Graeme Donald, Mrs Isobel Hunter and Mr Keith Simpson.

**MISSION AND SERVICE:** Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee, with Dr Fiona Burnett, World Mission Group co-ordinator, presenting that part of the report relating to the recent youth visit from Lebanon and Malawi. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to pray for Rev Barry Hughes and Mrs Pamela Kennedy as they progress in their calling to ministry. Presbytery approved that an application be made to the Ministries and Mission Fund for £1,200 in support of the 2018 Presbytery “Seminars and Courses” expenditure and noted that in due course Presbytery may decide to make a similar application for 2019 events. Presbytery urged its members to intimate to congregations and Kirk Sessions the date of the Autumn conference on the Middle East, as Wednesday 24 October 2018 in Innerleithen Church, from 2.30pm-7.30pm. Presbytery noted that applications to attend the conference will be invited by the end of September. Presbytery noted that a reflective report on the Malawi/Lebanon youth visit will be presented to the Committee at the October meeting, and then to Presbytery in November 2018. Presbytery approved a payment of £250 from its funds held for the Zomba Partnership, in order to engage the services of Levi Chalfumira as a journalist link between Melrose and Peebles Presbytery and Zomba Presbytery. Presbytery approved in principle financial support for midwife Geoffrey and student midwife Limbikani and agreed that further details should be presented for approval to Presbytery in October. Presbytery expressed its sincere appreciation to the World Mission Group, individuals and local groups who contributed significantly to the success of the Malawi/Lebanon visit and in particular to the co-ordinator, Dr Burnett. Presbytery thanked its Treasurer, Mr Fraser Simm, for his support on the visit and for ensuring that the Presbytery budget was not exceeded.

**PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP:** Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the letting of the Manse for Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul’s linked with Galashiels: St John’s during their vacancy. Presbytery approved the letting of the Manse for Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn during their vacancy. Presbytery approved the necessary expenditure for work on the Bell Tower at Maxton Kirk. Presbytery approved the necessary expenditure for the demolition of unsafe outbuildings at Earlston Manse. Presbytery approved an M&M reduction in 2018 of £5,000 for Peebles Old Parish Church to help with temporary financial problems, conditional upon the undertaking of a financial review. Presbytery approved a reduction of £2,000 in the M&M payment split in the same proportions as is normal for expenses between Broughton, Skirling, Stobo and Drumelzier and Tweedsmuir to assist with an extra day of the Locum’s time for pastoral care and mission. Presbytery approved the written guidelines and Application form for use when applying for an M&M Rebate. Presbytery agreed to the Committee making arrangements for a Treasurers conference, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring Presbyteries, before the end of the year.

#### INTIMATIONS:

1. The General Assembly 2018 Remits Booklet was enclosed with the Presbytery papers; printed copies were also available at the Presbytery meeting (or can be obtained from the Clerk).
2. The Presbytery Year Book 2018/19 has been sent out by email, with printed copies available at the Presbytery meeting.
3. The Autumn Prayer diary has been sent out by email, with printed copies available at the Presbytery meeting.
4. The proposed training session for new Presbytery members, which was scheduled to take place before the October meeting, will only be held if there is an interest in having this training session. If any member of Presbytery would find the training session useful, please could they let the Clerk know by 18 September 2018.
5. Presbytery noted that a training day for those interested in becoming a Mentor or Presbytery Assessor for applicants in Discernment, as well as refresher training for current Mentors and Presbytery Assessors, will be held on Wednesday 26 September 2018 at the Conforti Institute, Coatbridge. Please could anyone interested in attending this contact the Clerk by 8 September 2018.
6. Presbytery noted that an information morning for those interested in the role of National Assessor for the Discernment process will be held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 in Edinburgh. Please could anyone interested in being appointed by Presbytery to this role contact the Clerk by 18 September 2018.
7. A Missionary Dinner will be held on Saturday 29 September 2018 at Old Parish and St Paul’s Church, Galashiels, at 6.00 for 6.30 pm. A meal will be served and Rolf Buwert will speak about the work of Tear Fund in this their 50th Anniversary year. Tickets priced £8.00 for adults and £4.00 for students are available from Milton Cashman and also at the door on the night. All proceeds to Tear Fund.

8. Presbytery noted that hosts were sought for a PAS (Planning Aid for Scotland) Youth Camp being held from 9-14 September 2018 in Galashiels in conjunction with a partnership with Galashiels Academy.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. From Churches of Upper Tweeddale – Presbytery noted that the usual service of worship in Broughton Church was not held on Sunday 26 August 2018, in order to hold a joint service in Skirling Church at 11.30am to welcome Geoffrey Matias to Upper Tweeddale. The usual Sunday services in Tweedsmuir and Stobo Churches took place.
2. From Churches of Upper Tweeddale – Presbytery noted that the usual service of worship was not held at Tweedsmuir Church on Sunday 2 September 2018 because of access problems resulting from the Tour o’ the Borders cycle event; the usual Sunday services were held elsewhere in the linking.
3. From Churches of Upper Tweeddale – Presbytery granted permission not to hold the usual services of worship at Broughton, Stobo and Tweedsmuir Churches on Sunday 21 October 2018, in order to hold a United Service at Skirling Church to mark the retirement from active eldership of the Misses Eastland.
4. From SRT Project: As part of the annual “Good Money Week”, the Church of Scotland and partners are hosting an event entitled “A future worth saving for...?”. To be held on Wednesday 3 October 2018 9.30am–1pm at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Edinburgh EH8 9BX. An opportunity to consider how your faith, values and finances interact. Learn how the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relate to positive decisions about our money and how we can help ensure a sustainable world now and in the future. Guest Speakers: Wendy Young, Christian Aid Scotland and Christopher Stockwell, Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR). After hearing from our speakers, delegates will have the opportunity to take part in two of the three workshops hosted by Triodos Bank, Scotwest Credit Union and Prosper Social Finance. Lunch will be provided after the event. Places are free but limited. Book online at [www.afwsf18.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.afwsf18.eventbrite.co.uk), or email [khunter@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:khunter@churchofscotland.org.uk) for more information.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 2 October 2018 at 7pm in Innerleithen Church, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk