

PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Please note that the Presbytery meeting scheduled for Tuesday 5 May 2020 has been cancelled (due to the coronavirus situation). The Business Committee will make a decision about whether/how to hold the June meeting. In the meantime, these papers are for information and noting.

Victoria Linford, Clerk

Business

1. Minutes of March meeting (pp110-111)
2. Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee (p3)
3. Vacancy Procedure Committee (p3)
4. Business Committee
5. Committee Reports
 - (a) Mission and Service (p4)
 - (b) Property and Stewardship (p4)
6. Intimations

Business Committee

1. Presbytery notes that Elders' Commissions for 2020-2021 are due to be returned to the Clerk by 10 June 2020. Kirk Sessions may not be meeting as usual due to the coronavirus situation, but it would be helpful if you could still let the Clerk know who your Presbytery elder will be for the coming year even if it still has to be formally approved. Details can be sent to the Clerk on the form (p2) or by email or phone.
2. Presbytery notes that the General Assembly 2020 has been cancelled. A Commission of Assembly is being held for certain non-contentious business; details about the Commission of Assembly can be found on the Church of Scotland website.
3. Presbytery notes that, following her retirement on 23 April 2020 from the charge of Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity, Rev Elspeth Harley has been appointed as locum minister for that charge and will remain in the manse on a temporary basis until she can move house.
4. Presbytery notes with great sadness that Mrs Lorraine Mulholland from Eddleston Church died suddenly on 26 April; she was an active and valued member of Presbytery for many years and our prayers are with her family, friends and congregation.
5. Presbytery also notes with great sadness the recent death of Rev Glyn Taverner, retired minister and also a long-standing member of Presbytery until he retired from Presbytery a short while ago; our prayers are also with his family, friends and colleagues.

Intimations

1. Please do get in touch (via the Clerk) if you or your congregation are needing help or advice at any time, but especially during the coronavirus situation as we are finding new ways to be church in our communities.
2. Thank you to Elizabeth Parker who is our new Presbytery Prayer Diary Co-ordinator, and who is preparing our next Prayer Diary for June/July/August. If you have prayer requests to be included in the Prayer Diary, or good news stories for which to give thanks to God, do email the Clerk or Elizabeth Parker.
3. Congregations are encouraged to send details of online worship to John Henderson for inclusion on the Presbytery website.
4. If you have any ideas or resources you would like to share with other congregations, do send them to the Clerk who will circulate them. Thank you to John Dimmock from St Andrew's Leckie Church in Peebles who has made a blog entry on technical matters, which may be of interest to other congregations: <https://standrewsleckie.co.uk/2020/04/22/thetechnology-behind-online-church/>
5. The Church of Scotland website (www.churchofscotland.org.uk) has on its homepage (see "COVID-19 (Coronavirus) advice") regularly updated information for congregations, on Safeguarding, looking after church buildings, Zoom meetings, church funding, guidance for churches with employees, funerals, baptisms and weddings, and many other topics.

PRESBYTERY OF MELROSE AND PEEBLES

ELDERS' COMMISSIONS 2020-2021

Each Kirk Session within the Presbytery bounds is required to appoint one elder to be its Presbytery elder for the year 2020-2021.

As well as attending Presbytery meetings and reporting to their Kirk Session (compulsory), Ministers and Elders will be invited to serve on a Presbytery Committee (not compulsory).

Elders' Commissions (i.e. notification of the appointment of Presbytery elders) should be returned to the Presbytery Clerk by **10 June 2020**. Please do this by ensuring that the form below is completed by the Session Clerk. The form can then be sent to the Clerk, or the information requested can be emailed to: melrosepeebles@churchofscotland.org.uk.

NOTE: Please return the name and contact details for your Presbytery elder for the coming year, even if the commission still has to be approved formally by the Kirk Session.

ELDER'S COMMISSION TO PRESBYTERY

(to be returned to the Presbytery Clerk by 10 June 2020)

NOTE: Please return the name and contact details for your Presbytery elder for the coming year, even if it still has to be approved formally by the Kirk Session.

At _____, the _____ day of _____ 2020, the Kirk Session
of _____ met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator,
the Rev _____
Inter alia, the Session appointed
a bona fide acting Elder of the Congregation, to represent it in the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles during
the year ending 30 June 2021.

Extracted from the Records of the Kirk Session by _____

Session Clerk

The elder's address (including postcode), telephone number and e-mail address are:

Presbytery Planning Implementation Group

With the coronavirus situation, congregations should not feel additional pressure to take forward the implementation of the Presbytery Plan for their cluster. However, the Presbytery Plan Implementation Group would encourage Kirk Sessions and congregations, if they wish, to make progress with linking and unions even during lockdown.

The Presbytery Planning Implementation Group (via the Convener, David Brackenridge, or the contact people for your cluster) is available for guidance on implementation of the Presbytery Plan. In addition, the Presbytery Planning Task Group (in the central Church) is still able to operate under powers, and can consider and comment on any draft Basis of Union or Linking.

For Kirk Session approval of a Basis of Union or Linking, Kirk Sessions cannot meet in person at the moment, but they can meet online, or over a period of time via letter, email or phone. It is vital that sufficient opportunity is given for discussion and consideration of proposals, so this may be best for situations where substantial discussion has already taken place.

At the moment, a congregational meeting cannot be held to approve any linking or union, but the wider Church of Scotland is giving consideration to the question of whether/how a congregational meeting could be held during these days of lockdown and social distancing.

Vacancy Procedure Committee

The Vacancy Procedure Committee, excluding Rev Miller Milloy as an interested party, has granted to the vacant charge of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn permission to call a minister. The VPC notes that the finances are in good order and that the work which requires to be done on the Manse in regards to a new kitchen and bathroom is known by the congregation and will be done with the input of the minister-elect. Presbytery is to be notified when the work commences.

Mission and Service Committee

Update from Zomba, Malawi: 60 buckets and soap have been purchased from funds currently held by Presbytery for its Zomba partnership. Churches in Malawi are allowed to conduct services of worship as long as the congregation wash their hands before the services take place, so these buckets will allow hand washing to happen. Our midwife Geoffrey has also had an interview which would allow him to take the place of a midwife who would be reallocated to Critical Care.

Property and Stewardship Committee

Thanks to congregations who have sent their accounts to the Presbytery Treasurer, Fraser Simm. Congregations who have not yet submitted their accounts should please send them to Fraser Simm as soon as possible, even if they have not yet been presented to the congregation at an annual congregational meeting.