

INNERLEITHEN 6 NOVEMBER 2018. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the sixth day of November 2018, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted by the Moderator, Rev Julie Rennick.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 12 ministers and 30 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 2 October 2018 was submitted and approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as circulated, with one additional report (Presbytery Website Update).

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

1. The Business Committee thanked Rev Rosemary Frew for attending the Conference for Presbytery Representatives on Wednesday 31 October – Thursday 1 November 2018. Mrs Frew gave a short summary of the conference, at which was considered the instruction from the General Assembly for a Radical Action Plan to be brought to the General Assembly of 2019.
2. Presbytery noted with approval that at a Congregational Meeting held in Eddleston on 29 April 2018, the congregation of Eddleston Parish Church resolved to move from a Model Deed to the Unitary Constitution. Presbytery instructed the Clerk to send to the Delegation of Assembly an extract minute of the decision made by the congregation and of the Presbytery approval.

PRESENTATION OF READER AND CANDIDATES: Rev M Steele, Training and Supervision Co-ordinator, presented Mrs Frances Selkirk, Reader, and Mrs Pamela Kennedy and Rev Barry Hughes, Candidates for the national ordained Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The Moderator, in the name of Presbytery, thanked Mrs Selkirk for her invaluable service as a Reader, and wished Mrs Kennedy well in her ministry training. Presbytery noted with approval that Mr Hughes' ministry training has been completed, that he is now minister-elect of St Mark's Church, Stirling, and that he will transfer his Presbytery membership to the Presbytery of Stirling. The Moderator, on behalf of Presbytery, thanked Mr Hughes for all his service to Presbytery, including as an Ordained Local Minister, and wished him well in his new charge.

PRESBYTERY WEBSITE UPDATE: Mr John Henderson gave an update on the Presbytery website since its launch in September 2017. There was a generally upwards trend in the website's use, with the highest number being around 500 visits per month, or 250 visitors. The most accessed website pages have been the home page, followed by the page with details of the congregations within Presbytery.

ORDER OF THE DAY – DISCIPLINE OVERTURE: The Clerk made a presentation on the Overture and explained the procedure to be followed for the ballot on the Overture. After comments and questions, Members of Presbytery voted, and refreshments were then served. The result of the ballot on the Overture was then announced by the Clerk. Presbytery approved the Overture, voting 41 For and 1 Against. Presbytery agreed to make the following comment on the return: "We suggest that the legally qualified Adviser under the proposed new Discipline Act should have experience in Church Law".

PRESBYTERY PLANNING TASK GROUP: Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Task Group. Presbytery received the report. Mrs Frew confirmed that the Presbytery Planning Task Group would meet soon, and would be asking for feedback from Kirk Sessions in due course. In the meantime, Mrs Frew had prepared a note on Presbytery Planning for one congregation's newsletter, and this was available to other congregations if requested.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery invited the Business Committee to consider additional time during the February and October 2019 agendas for discussion within committees.
2. Presbytery supported raising awareness of the national church structure across Kirk Sessions during 2019 with a view to including support for nomination to national councils and committees as part of an on-going education and training programme.
3. Presbytery invited the Mission and Service Committee to design a three year education and training programme (2020-2023) for consideration by Presbytery in November 2019, the draft programme to include 'Developing Eldership' and 'LEARN' programmes; planned in tandem with the Presbytery Planning Task Group where appropriate.
4. Presbytery agreed to the theme of 'Fresh Expressions' in its widest sense for the June 2019 'Away Day' and that the programme be designed by the Mission and Service Committee in partnership with the Presbytery Planning Task Group.
5. Presbytery agreed to formally recognise Authorised Worship Leaders in accordance with the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles Scheme for the Selection, Training and Authorisation of Worship Leaders, by presenting those who completed the 2018 course successfully with a certificate at the December meeting of Presbytery and, at that time, to record appreciation of the work of the assessors.

6. Presbytery encouraged the Mission and Service Committee to seek £3,125 from the Mission and Ministry Fund in support of a Worship Leaders Course 2019, the two annual conferences, Elder/Kirk Session communication and the planning of a three year programme of Elder/Member Training Opportunities.
7. Presbytery accepted the content of the Outreach/Local Mission section of the report and agreed that this theme within the remit of the Mission and Service Committee should form part of the proposed three year training programme rather than a dedicated piece of work at this time.
8. Presbytery supported the promotion of parish twinning.
9. Presbytery offered prayerful support for the work of Scottish Borders Council Work Place Chaplain Joanna Smith and invited the Presbytery Prayer Co-ordinator to ensure that prayers are included in Presbytery and Churches prayer diaries.
10. Presbytery agreed to invite the Scottish Borders Council Work Place Chaplain to address Presbytery with a view to promoting and seeking local involvement in the Faith Emergency Response Plan.
11. Presbytery agreed to invite a twinning specialist from the Church Offices to speak on the opportunities and resources for twinning and visits.
12. Presbytery sought to continue its Partnership with Zomba and instructed the Committee to bring a draft revised Memorandum of Understanding to the March 2019 meeting of Presbytery which recommends also how the revised Memorandum might be formally signed either through a Presbytery visit to Zomba or a Zomba visit to Presbytery.
13. Presbytery agreed to support Levi's Work Schedule, Limbikani towards his degree in midwifery, Nellie's Project Proposal, the funding of Geoffrey while he awaits employment by the Malawian Government and local church led funding for Phalyce and Chipiriro towards completion of their current education.
14. Presbytery agreed that application be made to the Mission and Ministry Fund for £2,100 in support of the remaining commitments of the present Memorandum of Understanding.
15. Presbytery endorsed the planned visit organised by Earlston to Lebanon and invited interest from across Presbytery to join the visit.
16. Presbytery agreed to consider in due course a visit to Lebanon.
17. Presbytery encouraged the Mission and Service Committee to consider how churches within the bounds might further their interest in the Middle East, particularly but not exclusively Israel and Palestine.
18. Presbytery encouraged the sharing of information by the World Mission Group through use of the local church newsletters for the entire local community.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: In the absence of the Convener, Mr Fraser Simm presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved a M&M rebate of £5,000 to St Andrew's Leckie Peebles. Presbytery approved a M&M rebate of £5,255 in total to the Presbytery Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery approved a M&M rebate of £6,000 to Channelkirk and Lauder. Presbytery approved a M&M rebate of £5,000 for 2019, 2020 and 2021 to Selkirk subject to annual update and no significant change to the Presbytery rebate. Presbytery approved a M&M rebate of £5,500 to Maxton and Mertoun, Newtown and St Boswells, payable to Maxton and Mertoun. Presbytery encouraged Treasurers and other interested parties to attend a Treasurer's Conference on 6 December 2018 at 2pm in Penicuik North Church.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Stuart Townend and Band: The Courage Tour 2018 – concert in Galashiels: St John's Church on 28 November 2018, doors open 7pm. Tickets from stuarttownend.co.uk.
2. Armistice Bells: congregations within Presbytery were reminded about the message previously sent from the Lord Lieutenant of Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale, regarding the Government's appeal for bells to ring out across the country at 12.30pm on 11 November 2018 to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice which signalled the end of the First World War.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From CrossReach: The Information Sheet for November 2018 was sent out with the Presbytery papers.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 4 December 2018 at 7pm in Innerleithen Church, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk