

PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

The Presbytery will meet at **Innerleithen Church** on Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 7pm for ordinary business.

Victoria Linford, Clerk

Business

1. Constitute
2. Sederunt and Apologies
3. Minutes (pp91-92)
4. Commissioning of Commissioners to the General Assembly 2019
5. Order of Business
6. Speaker – Joanna Smith, Scottish Borders Emergency Faith Response Plan
7. Business Committee
8. Forum Discussion – General Assembly reports:
 - (a) Radical Action Plan (*enclosed*)
 - (b) Special Commission on Structural Change (available at **www.churchofscotland.org.uk/ga** – click on publications and open the link to the Order of Proceedings – the Special Commission report is at pp40-80)
9. Standing Committee Reports:
 - (c) Governance (*to follow*)
 - (d) Mission and Service (p3)
 - (e) Property and Stewardship (*to follow*)
10. Intimations
11. Correspondence
12. Adjournment

[REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED DURING THE MEETING, AFTER THE REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE]

Business Committee

1. Presbytery nominates [] and [] for the Commission of Assembly for 2019-2020.
2. Presbytery invites Mary Hall, General Assembly Youth Representative, to address the June meeting of Presbytery.
3. Presbytery notes that Elders' Commissions for 2019-2020 should be returned to the Clerk by 1 June 2019 (p2).
4. Presbytery notes the Business Committee's nomination of Dr Fiona Burnett as the next Moderator of Presbytery.
5. Presbytery approves the continuation of the appointment of Timothy Linford as locum at Channelkirk and Lauder for a further period of three months (until 31 August 2019) or, if sooner, until Rev Rae Clark returns from sick leave.
6. Presbytery notes that the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale have appointed Rev John Smith as locum minister, with effect from 1 April 2019.
7. Presbytery agrees that its June meeting should be held in [] Church.

Intimations

1. Re-Generate – Rural Ministries Day Conference: Berwick Baptist Church, Berwick on Tweed, 8 June 2019. Tickets £20. Details and tickets available on the website: www.ruralministries.org.uk/regionalconferences2019

Correspondence

1. From Borders Street Pastors – April 2019 and May 2019 newsletters are enclosed with Presbytery papers.
2. From Christian Aid – the annual Book Sale will be held at St Andrew's and St George's West Church, Edinburgh, from Saturday 11-Friday 17 May 2019. Flyers will be available at the Presbytery meeting with times and further information.

PRESBYTERY OF MELROSE AND PEEBLES

ELDERS' COMMISSIONS 2019-2020

Each Kirk Session within the Presbytery bounds is required to appoint one elder to be its Presbytery elder for the year 2019-2020.

Ministers and Elders will normally be asked to serve on one Presbytery Committee as well as attending Presbytery meetings.

Elders' Commissions (i.e. notification of Presbytery elders) should be returned to the Presbytery Clerk by **1 June 2019**. 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.

ELDER'S COMMISSION TO PRESBYTERY
(to be returned to the Presbytery Clerk by 1 June 2019)

At _____, the _____ day of _____ 2019, 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 2020.

Extracted from the Records of the Kirk Session by _____

Session Clerk

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

MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR MAY 2019 MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report seeks approval for Study Leave; a further request for course tutors and a reminder of our June 'Away Day' conference.

2. STUDY LEAVE

2.1 An application for Study Leave from 22 August to 4th September 2019 has been received from the Rev Margaret Steele and considered by the Mission and Service Training Group. The application is to attend Scripture Union 'Bible Alive', a course which trains people to effectively deliver an exciting schools' programme engaging P5-7's in the whole story of the Bible through a series of interactive multi-media presentations. The programme supports all four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence and covers many aspects of the RME curriculum. The course lasts one week; the application includes time for preparation (Rhyme and Sign requires to be learnt prior to the course) and time to absorb the material after the course.

2.2 Pastoral work and conducting worship has been arranged. The cost of attending the course and pulpit supply is £335.50 which is available from the fund for Study Leave.

3. COURSE TUTORS

3.1 Following well attended and very helpful meetings with ministers in charges, course members and assessors, work in developing a three year training programme, covering a wide range of service from eldership to is now well in hand. A detailed report will be presented to the June meeting of Presbytery with a view to beginning the programme later this year.

3.2 The Council of Assembly Report to the General Assembly on the Radical Action Plan proposes a 'flexible education, training and support programme for every person in the church including material on leadership'. New approaches to education and training, on the basis of lifelong, continuous learning, are fundamental in bringing about effective cultural change within the church. "A co-ordinated and flexible education programme would give members, elders, and those in recognised ministries the skills needed to respond to the changed Scotland of today. With creativity and skill it would root the church in the priesthood of all believers and create a culture of discipleship" (C of A report).

3.3 While access to courses and course tutors from outwith Melrose and Peebles Presbytery may be possible indications of interest in tutoring from church members would be very much welcomed, as soon as possible. We therefore repeat our plea for presbyters to approach those in their congregations with an interest, knowledge and experience in any aspect of ministry, with a view to inviting them to lead local courses. Further information is available from the convener.

4. 'AWAY DAY' CONFERENCE

4.1 Please intimate on the attendance/ numbers sheet the number of persons likely to attend from your church(s). This information is required for catering purposes and for setting out the room. If not known on the date of the Presbytery meeting please inform the convener of numbers by Monday 19th May. Thank you.

4.2 The convener requested a name from each of the various groupings of churches currently meeting to discuss change. This request was with a view to offering a short introduction at the conference on 'where collective thoughts are taking you', under the conference item 'Where are we up to'. Some have very helpfully done so. We would be very grateful if you could arrange for a person to speak of your deliberations on 1st June.

4.3 Names of volunteers to speak of progress across local conversations on radical change would be welcomed by the Convener before 19th May – please.

5. DELIVERANCE

5.1 Presbytery receives the report.

5.2 Presbytery approves the application for Study Leave (22 August – 4th September 2019) from the Rev Margaret Steele, at a cost of £335.50 from the Presbytery Study Leave fund.

5.3 Presbytery urges presbyters to identify persons willing to tutor courses and to pass names to the convener as soon as possible.

5.4 Presbytery urges presbyters to ensure that numbers likely to attend the June 'Away Day' conference are sent to the convener by 19th May 2019.

5.5 Presbytery requests names of contributors to the Away Day conference to be confirmed to the convener by 19th May 2019.

