

PRESBYTERY OF MELROSE AND PEEBLES

The Presbytery will meet **BY ZOOM** on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 7pm for Ordinary Business.

Victoria Linford, Clerk

BUSINESS

1. Constitute
2. Sederunt and Apologies
3. Welcome to Rev Fraser Edwards
4. Tribute to Mr John Henderson
5. Minutes of meetings on 2 February and 17 February 2021 (pp120-121)
6. Christian Aid speaker - Lauren McFarland
7. Order of Business
8. Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee (p2)
9. Bases of Adjustment (*reports to follow*)
10. Business Committee
11. Treasurer's Report: Financial Statements for 2020 (*see separate document*)
12. Vacancy Procedure Committee (p3)
13. Standing Committee reports:
 - (a) Governance (p3)
 - (b) Property and Stewardship (p4)
14. Intimations
15. Adjournment

Business Committee

1. Presbytery appoints the following commissioners to the General Assembly of 2021 (to be held online from Saturday 22 May to Thursday 27 May 2021): Rev Margaret Steele and Mrs Fan Heafield (Ashkirk and Selkirk); Rev Sheila Moir (Channelkirk and Lauder) and Mr Robert Turnbull (Earlston); Mr Fraser Edwards and Mr Bob Scott (Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn); Rev Rosie Frew and Mr Peter Sandison; Very Rev David Arnott and Mrs Isobel Hunter; Very Rev Finlay Macdonald and Mrs Patsy Campbell.
2. Presbytery appoints Rev Sheila Moir and Mr Robert Turnbull to serve on the Commission of Assembly as required.
3. Presbytery invites applications for a Presbytery youth representative at the General Assembly of 2021.
4. Presbytery notes that a meeting was held on 26 February 2021 regarding Presbytery reform, involving the Principal Clerk and representatives from all of the Borders, Lothians and Edinburgh Presbyteries.

Intimations

1. A new Presbytery Prayer Diary is being finalised and will be circulated to Presbytery members.
2. The Presbytery Yearbook is regularly updated by the Assistant Clerk and can be found on the "[Members Page](#) – [Private](#)" of the Presbytery website: access to this page requires a password available to Presbytery members.

Melrose and Peebles Presbytery Report from the Presbytery Plan Implementation Committee (2 March 2021)

This month I am pleased to bring to Presbytery three bases of adjustment, two for approval and one regarding the intimation of concurrence by 121. The two bases seeking approval are:

- The basis of union for Maxton & Mertoun and Newtown and St Boswells;
- The basis of linking for Upper Tweeddale Parishes and Carlops, Newlands & Kirkurd and West Linton.

With both bases, the Presbytery papers include the reports on the congregational vote. If Presbytery approves these bases then we can look to the Presbytery Planning Task Group (PPTG) at 121 to concur with the approval and hopefully be in a position to intimate this concurrence at the next Presbytery meeting.

We have received word from the PPTG that they concur with the approval by Presbytery of the basis of linking between Eddleston and Peebles: Old and Stobo & Drumelzier. The Presbytery is now in a position to set a date for this linking. The setting of the date for the linking is a Presbytery decision and this may be followed later by a service of linking which is not a Presbytery service but one organised by the congregations in which the Presbytery will take part. The proposal is that with all bases, the date of adjustment is set to be the date when concurrence is intimated, in this case today's date, and the arrangements for a service of linking is left to the congregations involved.

To facilitate the completion of the bases of adjustment required to implement the Presbytery Plan, it is proposed that we introduce extra Presbytery meetings to support the work. The next proposed Presbytery meeting whose sole focus will be moving the various bases of adjustment forward is scheduled for Tuesday, 23rd March 2021, and this will cover the intimation of concurrence, if the above two bases are approved, plus the seeking of approval for the basis of linking for Ashkirk and Selkirk and Ettrick & Yarrow. The timescales for the other bases of adjustment will be addressed in the next PPIC report.

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the report from the PPIC.
2. Presbytery intimates concurrence on the basis of linking between Eddleston and Peebles: Old and Stobo & Drumelzier and sets the date for the linking to be 2nd March 2021.
3. Presbytery receives the report on the congregational voting on the basis of union at Maxton & Mertoun and Newtown and St Boswells.
4. Presbytery receives the report on the congregational voting on the basis of linking at Upper Tweeddale Parishes and Carlops, Newlands & Kirkurd and West Linton.
5. Presbytery approves the basis of union at Maxton & Mertoun and Newtown and St Boswells.
6. Presbytery approves the basis of linking at Upper Tweeddale Parishes and Carlops, Newlands & Kirkurd and West Linton.
7. Presbytery agrees to meet on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 for the purpose of Presbytery Plan implementation only.

David Brackenridge, Convener, Presbytery Plan Implementation Committee

Report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee - March 2021

The Committee, excluding Mr Tom Fairbairn as an interested party, agreed to grant permission to Eddleston, Peebles Old, and Stobo and Drumelzier to call a minister to its vacant charge effective from the date of linking. The Committee notes that the finances are in good order and the Manse is in a satisfactory state.

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery notes the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee to grant permission to Eddleston, Peebles Old, Stobo and Drumelzier to call a minister to its vacant charge effective from the date of linking. The Committee notes that the finances are in good order and the Manse is in a satisfactory state.

Report from the Governance Committee – March 2021

The main activity of the Governance Committee is around the implementation of the Presbytery Plan. Many thanks are due to those on the implementation committee for all the hard work they are undertaking.

The activity which would normally take place about now is the Inspection of Records and this year the recommendation is that we self-certify where possible. To help with this, a set of guidelines will be made available regarding how best to do this.

David Brackenridge

Convener

2 March 2021

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – MARCH 2021

Since November 2020, when Presbytery approved the introduction of the ‘Good Ideas’ fund and offered contributions to four charges, a further three requests have been received and approved with another redirected to a more appropriate funding source.

The table below details awards made to date. Presbytery is invited to homologate awards to Stow and Heriot; Ashkirk and Maxton and Mertoun linked with Newtown linked with St Boswells.

Before Presbytery meets in June it is the intention of the Property and Stewardship Committee to report on benefits brought to mission and service through contributions received from the ‘Good Ideas’ fund.

There may be some merit in reviewing current funding schemes in terms of eligibility and criteria, in due course. Meantime, it is proposed that access to the current ‘Good Ideas’ fund continues in its present format until the end of 2021. Charges are reminded that requests for funds in support of good ideas may be made for more than one purpose during the year.

Good Ideas Fund			
Peebles St Andrews Leckie	500.00	To support their youth worker bringing young people together	
Upper Tweeddale	250.00	To support their drive-in Christmas concerts	
St John's Galashiels	450.00	Home delivery of afternoon tea & a devotional book to isolated parishioners	
Selkirk	500.00	Open door project - reopening café (Foundation Scotland also applied to for £3,000)	
Ashkirk	500.00	Laptop computer to assist services and play recorded services	
Stow & Heriot	220.00	Interactive technology for the display of music and visuals for Sunday services	
Maxton and Mertoun linked with Newtown linked with St Boswells	350.00	Camera and recording equipment for streamlining of services.	
	<u>2770.00</u>	Total	
St Andrews Leckie	Redirected	To support their counselling service	

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery is asked to homologate the action of the Good Ideas Admin Group in awarding funds amounting to £1,070 to the three charges as detailed in the report.
2. Presbytery notes that a review of Presbytery funding schemes may be required.
3. Presbytery agrees to receive a report in June on benefits brought through the introduction of the ‘Good Ideas’ fund.
4. Presbytery agrees to review the ‘Good Ideas’ fund in December 2021.
5. Presbytery notes that charges may apply for funding on more than one occasion.

2 FEBRUARY 2021. On Tuesday the second day of February 2021, the Presbytery met by ZOOM at 7pm for Ordinary Business, and the Moderator, Rev M Jefferson, constituted the meeting in prayer.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 15 ministers and 29 elders whose names were recorded by the Clerk in the attendance book. The names of corresponding members in attendance were also noted, as were apologies. The Moderator welcomed members of the congregations of Eddleston, Peebles: Old and Stobo and Drumelzier to the meeting, and also Fraser Edwards to his first meeting of Presbytery.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meetings of 1 December 2020 and 5 January 2021 were submitted and approved as circulated.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE AND BASIS OF LINKING - EDDLESTON, PEEBLES: OLD AND STOBO AND DRUMELZIER: Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery also received the Committee's report on the congregational vote on the Basis of Linking between Eddleston and Peebles: Old Parish and Stobo and Drumelzier. Presbytery approved the Basis of Linking between Eddleston and Peebles: Old Parish and Stobo and Drumelzier.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Prof Murray Campbell, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery appointed the following commissioners to the General Assembly of 2021 (to be held online from Saturday 22 May to Thursday 27 May 2021): Rev Margaret Steele and Mrs Fan Heafield (Ashkirk and Selkirk); Rev Sheila Moir (Channelkirk and Lauder interim moderator) and Mr Robert Turnbull (Earlston); Mr Fraser Edwards (Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn); Very Rev David Arnott; and Very Rev Finlay Macdonald. The remaining commissioners will be identified as soon as possible. Presbytery thanked the Committee on the Re-opening of Church Buildings (Mr Keith Simpson, Convener, Rev Calum Macdougall and Mrs Fan Heafield), which was appointed in June 2020 for a period of six months, for their advice and support to congregations in the continuing Covid-19 situation. Presbytery agreed that the Committee will remain in existence until the end of 2021 and thanked the members of the Committee for being willing to continue. Presbytery noted that, sadly due to ill health, Mr John Henderson is no longer able to administer the Presbytery website. Presbytery extended its warm appreciation to Mr Henderson for all his work on the website over a number of years and noted that the Assistant Clerk, Mr Peter Sandison, is currently administering the website.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted that a Service of Welcome to mark the appointment of Mr Fraser Edwards as minister of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn was held on 28 January 2021, and that a Service of Ordination and Induction is now permitted and will take place on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 7pm, with the Presbytery meeting beforehand at 6.45pm. This will take place in accordance with current Covid restrictions, with only a limited number of people present in person at Innerleithen Church and others able to join online. Presbytery noted the appointment of Rev Miller Milloy, Prof Murray Campbell and Mrs Julia Stoddart as the Advisory Committee for Eddleston, Peebles: Old, and Stobo and Drumelzier, to come into effect when the linking process is complete.

COMMITTEE ON THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS: Mr Keith Simpson, Convener, presented the report of the Committee on the Re-opening of Church Buildings. Mr Simpson reported that, shortly before the current lockdown, Peebles: Old was given permission to re-open its building for worship. Mr Simpson confirmed that when buildings are permitted to re-open again, further permission does not need to be given by the Committee; however, risk assessments must be kept up to date by Kirk Sessions and the Committee is available to help with any queries.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved a rebate of £8,100 in total to the proposed linking of Ashkirk, Ettrick & Yarrow and Selkirk Churches to fund a part-time pastoral worker for the initial period of one year, the rebate to be apportioned as follows: Ashkirk £745.20, Ettrick & Yarrow £3045.60 and Selkirk £4,309.20.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Congregational Statistics forms have now been sent out to Session Clerks and should be returned to the Assistant Clerk as soon as reasonably possible.
2. Presbytery noted that the Principal Clerk is hosting a meeting on Presbytery reform to take place on 26 February 2021, involving representatives from the three Borders Presbyteries, Edinburgh Presbytery and Lothian Presbytery.
3. Lothian Presbytery has kindly shared with us their notes and video from a webinar held recently on Lent and Easter ideas and resources. The Clerk has circulated this to members of Presbytery.
4. Covid-19 Guidance for churches continues to be updated and placed on the homepage of the Church of Scotland website: www.churchofscotland.org.uk.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for the Service of Ordination and Induction of Mr Fraser Edwards on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 6.45pm (the online link to be circulated by the Clerk) and for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 7pm (by Zoom), of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk

INNERLEITHEN 17 FEBRUARY 2021. At Innerleithen Church and by ZOOM on Wednesday the seventeenth day of February 2021, the Presbytery met *in hunc effectum* at 6.45pm and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Rev M Jefferson.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 11 ministers and 17 elders whose names were recorded by the Clerk in the attendance book. The names of corresponding members in attendance were also noted, as were apologies. The Moderator welcomed visitors to the meeting of Presbytery.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INDUCTION: The Clerk reported that, by decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee and confirmed by Presbytery at its meeting on 5 January 2021, the call of Mr Fraser Edwards to the vacant charge of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn had been sustained. Ordinations not being permitted at the time due to Covid-19 restrictions, a Service of Welcome for Mr Edwards was held on 28 January 2021 to allow him to begin his ministry in that charge. Ordinations subsequently being permitted subject to certain Covid-19 protocols, at its meeting on 2 February 2021 Presbytery had appointed Mr Edwards' ordination and induction to Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn to take place on Wednesday 17 February 2021, the Presbytery to meet for that purpose at 6.45pm on that day, with the Moderator, Clerk, Interim Moderator and Mr Edwards present in Innerleithen Church and all others attending by ZOOM.

On behalf of the congregation, the Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Miller Milloy, presented the Call to Mr Edwards. The Clerk confirmed that the prescribed Edict had been duly served. No one having appeared to object to the life or doctrine of Mr Edwards, Presbytery proceeded to the service of ordination and induction. The Moderator conducted worship and referred to the Service of Welcome which had been held previously. A brief narrative of the proceedings in the vacancy was read by the Clerk. The Moderator put to Mr Edwards the prescribed questions, which he satisfactorily answered, and he signed the Formula. The Moderator, by prayer and the laying on of hands of the Presbytery, ordained Mr Edwards to the office of the Holy Ministry and inducted him to the pastoral charge of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn. The Moderator addressed suitable charges to the congregation and to their new minister.

Presbytery, continuing its meeting, thanked and discharged the Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Miller Milloy. The Moderator thanked all who had taken part in the service of ordination and induction, and the Clerk gave thanks to the Moderator for conducting the service. Presbytery resolved to add the name of Rev Fraser Edwards to the roll of Presbytery as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament. The Clerk was instructed to intimate the ordination and induction to the Faith Nurture Forum. The meeting was closed with the saying of the Grace.

Moderator

Clerk