



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to March 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

A. Worship Leaders Course.

Twelve have enrolled for the three session course (17/3; 21/4; 12/5). Names of possible candidate assessors are now sought from Presbyters or others known to Presbyters. Please inform the Clerk or Convener of any interest.

B. Developing a Planning Framework with a Locally Focussed Missional Approach.

Discussion during the February meeting focussed on hub ministries in different forms. For example, one minister plus one or two other paid workers - pastoral/youth workers - and lay members of the team; or 2/3 ministers serving a group of churches.

We were reminded that this could be a return to Reformation days when normally the minister took communion and baptisms and readers led worship.

The issue of our widespread geography would make more linkages harder to serve.

Training in worship and pastoral work for lay people is essential.

A missional approach requires more consideration. Services, where led by lay people, might bring in people who knew them but 'go out to meet' before 'come in and greet' would be an important approach based on 'A Church without Walls'.

The committee noted that managing decline puts stress on our ever-decreasing number of ministers. Far fewer OLMs have been ordained than hoped for. The Worship Workshops are seen as far more appropriate but even these are onerous.

It was thought there would be an appetite to hear more about locally focussed missional approach and that a meeting for session clerks plus one elder from each church could be held for them to then take back ideas to their sessions. Such a follow up from the 2017 June 'Away Day' theme 'Co – Mission' should be further considered.

C. Progress on 2018 Year of Young People Programme

Churches have held special services on the theme of young people. The Church of Scotland Toolkit is highly recommended.

1. Chaplain's Conference: w/c 14 May (tbc): Tweed Horizons (tbc)

In partnership with Scottish Borders Council; Ecumenical Invitations plus School Staff.

Provisional Programme

0930 – 1000 Arrival and Coffee

1000 – 1015 Setting the Scene. Ian Topping. Church of Scotland Representative on SBC Executive.

1015 – 1045 Presentation plus Questions on the Church of Scotland Chaplains' Handbook

1045 – 1130 Discussion Topics – Priorities within the wider role of the school chaplain.

1130 – 1200 A Word from the Young

1200 – 1240 Lunch

1245 - 1330 'Religious Observance and Spiritual Development within Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence' ; findings from the doctoral research by the Rev Dr Steve Younger.

1330 – 1415 Breakout Session

1415 - Closing Remarks and Comments – Ian Topping



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2. **Melrose and Peebles Annual 'Away Day'**; June 2nd Trinity Church Galashiels.
In Partnership with Scripture Union Scotland; Ecumenical Invitation?
Provisional Programme
0930 - 1000 Arrival and bacon rolls: Fellowship and Opening Devotions
1015 – 1045 'Growing Young' – A presentation on the six features of a church as identified in the Fuller Youth Institute research: www.churchesgrowingyoung.com
1050 – 1145 Two workshops: (a) Training and Equipping Young People to Live for God Outside the Church and b. Providing a Nurturing Environment for Young People to Belong Inside the church.
1150 – 1210 Plenary Session
1210 – 1230 A Word from the Young
1230 – 1245 Closing Remarks – The Grace
3. **The God Question**: September 2018. An opportunity to explore part of the DVD series on Science and Religion. Venue (tbc). In partnership with Borders Schools
4. **Any Questions**: November 2018: A Panel of Young People chaired by a Young Person based on the BBC 'Question Time' format. Audience to be formed mainly of invited adults from a range of agencies. Earlston HS (tbc)
In partnership with Scottish Borders Council – Youth Borders; Borders College and Heriot Watt University.
5. **A Celebration of Young People**: Small group/local discussions – school and church groups; uniformed organisations - to be held across the Borders during 2018 to determine the nature of 'celebration' that would be of interest to young people and encourage their attendance. Encourage churches within the Bounds to make suggestions/nominations. The celebration to be held in spring 2019 perhaps in partnership with 'Soulspan'
6. **Hosting visitors from Malawi and Lebanon**: 10 – 27 August 2018
The Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles has had a successful link with Zomba Presbytery for more than 10 years. The link has been strengthened with various visitors between the two Presbyteries, not least the visit from our Presbytery of 4 young people and 3 adults in 2016. The time now seems right to invite young adults from Malawi to visit Scotland, particularly with 2018 being designated the year of Young People. The World Mission Committee is also mindful of links that some congregations have within our Presbytery that are not with Malawi and these are to be encouraged and strengthened. To that end, we are proposing to invite 2 young adults from the Presbytery of Northern Lebanon to join us at the same time. By hosting groups from two different parts of the world, we hope to all learn from each other and build relationships across national divides.



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Who we're inviting?

We are proposing to invite four young Malawians (aged 20 -25), one each from Luwatala, Naisi and Thondwe, the fourth to still be decided. We are also proposing to invite two young Lebanese from the Presbytery of Northern Lebanon, National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, our Partner church in that area. We hope to have an equal gender balance from both churches. In addition we wish to invite two adults from Malawi to accompany the young people. If possible one of these adults should be Geoffrey Matias our Midwifery student who should have graduated by the time of the visit. The other adult should be a lady.

Main Purpose for Visit.

The Presbytery Partnership Agreement with Zomba Presbytery signed in 2012 had as one of its aims to have youth visiting each country. We sent young people to Malawi in 2016 and now is the time to return the invitation. In recognition of other partnerships flourishing within the Presbytery, we are also planning to include two Lebanese from the Presbytery linked with Earlston church. The inclusion of Geoffrey Matias in the group gives him the opportunity to meet with all those who have supported his training and raise the profile among congregations of the midwifery training sponsorship which continues with Limbikani Powlokera. Whilst in Scotland, we are planning a programme which enables our visitors to experience Scottish culture, both inside and outside the church. We are trying to plan a variety of opportunities for young and old to meet with the group and build better friendship and relationships between the 3 countries. The timing of the visit has been planned so that the young people can attend and participate in the National Youth Assembly.

Timing of Visit.

The national Youth Assembly meets 17-20th August. We intend to invite our guest to come from around 10th August to 27th August. This allows one week before the Assembly when the Border Schools are on holiday (some churches have holiday clubs running at this time) and one week after the Assembly when schools are in session. This hopefully gives us a wider range of opportunities in which our visitors can interact with the young people in our Presbytery. The actual dates will be confirmed at a later date when plans are finalised.

Accommodation.

We would like our visitors to stay with families within the Presbytery and therefore ask for people to contact the committee if they are willing to host one or more visitors. Depending on how many requests we receive, it would be advantageous to allow our guests to stay in one place for at least 4 nights so that they can feel settled and get to know their hosts. Prior to the visit, we will arrange a meeting for all hosting volunteers to answer questions and give guidance as to what is expected.

Welfare.

To reduce any potential burden on host families, we are planning to make sure that all visitors are suitably equipped with appropriate clothing and footwear for our Scottish weather when they arrive. We also plan to issue pocket money at intervals during the visit to cover incidentals and also basic mobile phones with a prepaid sim card limited to UK calls to



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enable them to contact each other and the committee. A contact sheet will be distributed to hosts and visitors and the committee will act as backup hosts and transport when required.

Transport.

Within Presbytery we hope to rely on volunteers to take and collect our guests to the various meetings and activities. Again, anyone who would like to assist in this way should contact the committee. For longer trips, we propose hiring a minibus so that all can travel together.

Presbytery and Church Activities.

The type of activity and meetings will very much depend on input from our visitors and will be confirmed nearer the time. Suggested activities are 1) Welcome gathering when they arrive 2) Participation in Sunday services 3) Participation in Holiday Clubs 4) Visit to Secondary schools to meet with senior pupils 4) Activities within each 'host church' (we suggest that groups of neighbouring churches work together to plan a day where they can entertain a few of our guests within their parishes.) 5) Farewell party.

Other Activities.

Again these will depend on the interests of our guests. Suggested activities include 1) Participation in National Youth Assembly 2) Visit to St Giles and Urban priority church 3) Visit to Scottish Parliament and Borders Region Council 4) Visit to David Livingston Centre, Blantyre 5) An overnight trip to Lindisfarne, possibly together with some of the youth from the presbytery.

Draft Budget

4 Young adults from Malawi inc flights, visas and insurance 4 x £1,500	£6,000 (1)
2 Adults from Malawi inc flights, visas and insurance 2 x £1,500	£3,000
2 Young adults from Lebanon inc flights, visas and insurance 2 x £1,500	£3,000 (2)
6 Attendees at National Youth Assembly 6x £50	£ 300
Trip to Lindisfarne 2 nights at Marygate House @£600/night	£1,200 (3)
Hire of Minibus (85p/ mile) assuming 10 days @ 100 miles /day	£ 850
Pocket money for visitors 8 visitors @ £100/ person	£ 800
Provision of mobile phones.8 phones with sim and £10 balance; £25/unit	£ 200
Allowance for Hospitality, lunches etc	£ 1,000
Total £16,250	Additional Sum Required: £ 7,250(4)

Notes

- (1) We have already secured a grant from World Mission Council's Faithshare Programme to pay for the 4 young adult's flights etc
- (2) We are hopeful of securing a grant from World Mission Council's Faithshare Programme to pay for the 2 young adult's flights etc
- (3) Marygate house on Lindisfarne is a retreat house providing accommodation and meals for up to 15 people. If not available, other suitable accommodation will be searched for.
- (4) Assuming successful provision of grant for Lebanese visitors.



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7. World Mission

On the 24th of every month, under the aegis of World Mission Council, a parish mounts a service dedicated to peace in the Middle East, and in particular to Israel/Occupied Palestine. World Mission Council will supply a speaker. It has been pointed out that no parish in our Presbytery has ever conducted such a service. Perhaps we could make this a Presbytery event?

8. Deliverance.

1. Presbytery receive the report.
2. Presbytery note the need for Worship Leader Assessors and intimate interest to the Presbytery Clerk.
3. Presbytery note the need for further thinking on a locally focussed missionary approach and welcome a coordinated radical approach to reviewing and planning any adjustment of congregations within the bounds through Parish Appraisal and the Presbytery Plan.
4. Presbytery approves progress in the implementation of the Year of Young People Programme.
5. Presbytery welcomes plans for hosting visitors from Malawi and from Lebanon and urges churches to offer practical support to the organising group, as required.
6. Presbytery invites the Property and Stewardship Committee to secure the necessary funding required to make the visit a success.
7. Presbytery invites the Business Committee to consider a Middle East event within Presbytery.