

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