

**2 MARCH 2021.** On Tuesday the second day of March 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 16 ministers and 30 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 our guest speaker from Christian Aid Scotland, and also members of the congregations whose union or linking would be considered in the meeting.

**WELCOME TO REV FRASER EDWARDS:** The Moderator welcomed Mr Edwards to his first meeting of Presbytery following his ordination and induction to the charge of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn.

**TRIBUTE TO MR JOHN HENDERSON:** Rev Calum Macdougall paid tribute to Mr John Henderson, a member of Presbytery for 14 years, who died on 15 February 2021. The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer, and the Presbytery passed on its condolences to Mrs Kathleen Henderson and all the family.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the meetings of 2 and 17 February 2021 were submitted and approved as circulated.

**CHRISTIAN AID SPEAKER – LAUREN MCFARLAND:** The Moderator introduced Ms Lauren McFarland, the Community and Events Fundraising Officer for Christian Aid Scotland. Ms McFarland gave a presentation, explaining that the particular focus for Christian Aid Week this year (10-16 May 2021) is the climate crisis in Kenya. She also outlined some fundraising ideas which could be used even during this time of Covid restrictions, including virtual coffee mornings, e-envelopes and JustGiving pages. For help or more information, the Christian Aid Edinburgh office can be contacted (0131 220 1254). The Moderator thanked Ms McFarland on behalf of Presbytery for her presentation.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The order of business was approved as circulated with the addition of an additional section of deliverance under the Business Committee report, item 4.

**PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE AND BASES OF ADJUSTMENT:** Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery intimated concurrence from the Presbytery Planning Task Group on the Basis of Linking between Eddleston, Peebles: Old and Stobo and Drumelzier and set the date for the linking to be 2 March 2021. Presbytery received the report on the congregational voting on the Basis of Union at Maxton and Mertoun, Newtown and St Boswells. Presbytery received the report on the congregational voting on the Basis of Linking at Upper Tweeddale Parishes and Carlops, Kirkurd and Newlands and West Linton: St Andrew's. Presbytery approved the Basis of Union at Maxton and Mertoun, Newtown and St Boswells. Presbytery approved the basis of linking at Upper Tweeddale Parishes and Carlops, Kirkurd and Newlands and West Linton: St Andrew's. Presbytery agreed to meet on Tuesday 23 March 2021 for the purpose of Presbytery Plan implementation only.

**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) and Mr Robert Turnbull (Earlston); Rev 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. Presbytery appointed Rev Sheila Moir and Mr Robert Turnbull to serve on the Commission of Assembly as required. Presbytery invited applications for a Presbytery youth representative at the General Assembly of 2021. Presbytery noted 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. Presbytery agreed to participate in discussions with the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, West Lothian, Lothian, Duns and Jedburgh regarding the formation of a Presbytery of the South East and that the Business Committee should appoint three Presbytery members as its representatives.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer, Mr Fraser Simm, presented the financial report for 2020. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the Report and Accounts to 31 December 2020. Presbytery thanked Mr Tom Fairbairn for examining the accounts for 2020. Presbytery approved the proposed congregational assessments for 2021: congregations up to 170 members - £280; congregations with between 171 and 380 members - £410; congregations with over 380 members - £600. Presbytery approved the charges for Study Leave for 2020: charges with up to 350 members - £95; charges with between 351 and 650 members - £125; charges with over 650 members - £155.

**VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE:** Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee 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 noted that the finances are in good order and the Manse is in a satisfactory state. Presbytery thanked Rev Calum Macdougall for all his work as Interim Moderator of Stobo and Drumelzier as part of the Upper Tweeddale Parishes, and discharged him from this duty. Presbytery welcomed Rev Pamela Strachan as Interim Moderator of the new linking of Eddleston, Peebles: Old and Stobo and Drumelzier.

GOVERNANCE: Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, presented the report of the Governance Committee. Mr Brackenridge confirmed that, due to the Covid restrictions, the Inspection of Records will not take place as normal in March; however, the recommendation instead is that congregations are asked to self-certify where possible. A set of guidelines will be made available regarding how best to do this. Presbytery received the report.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to homologate the action of the Good Ideas Admin Group in awarding funds amounting to £1,310 to the charges as detailed in the report and verbally. Presbytery noted that a review of Presbytery funding schemes may be required. Presbytery agreed to receive a report in June on benefits brought through the introduction of the 'Good Ideas' fund. Presbytery agreed to review the 'Good Ideas' fund in December 2021. Presbytery noted that charges may apply for funding on more than one occasion.

INTIMATIONS:

1. A new Presbytery Prayer Diary is being finalised and will be circulated to Presbytery members.
2. The Presbytery Year Book is regularly updated by the Assistant Clerk and can be found on the "Members Page – Private" area of the Presbytery.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for Presbytery Plan implementation matters on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 7pm and for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 7pm (both meetings to take place by ZOOM), of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk