



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to Presbytery – September 2018

A. Ministry:

1. The Rev. Barry Hughes passed recently his final review and is now able to apply for charges. Pamela Kennedy begins her first placement at Ashkirk and Selkirk Parish Churches on 7th October.

B. Worships Leaders:

1. Ten participants from across Presbytery completed successfully the attendance and assignment requirements of the course of study in eight modules.
 - The Service of the Word – the Fundamentals of Leading Worship:
 - The Word of God - Leading and Reading:
 - The Word in Reflection – Sermon and Drama:
 - The Word in response – Public Prayer:
 - The Word in Pictures – AV Presentation:
 - The Word for All Ages and Stages – Intergenerational Worship:
 - The Word in Song – Music and Hymnody:
 - The Word and the Words – Designing Services of Worship.
2. Observational Assessment of each participant is taking place between August and November following which Presbytery will present a certificate to each successful participant. It is suggested that the December meeting of Presbytery could accommodate such a ceremony.
3. There is already interest in staging a second course – for a maximum of twelve participants. Please bring this possibility to the attention of your congregations. If there is sufficient interest the course will run over three Saturdays March – May 2019. Indications of interest will be required by December. A guide to ministry is attached for information.
4. The cost of the 2018 course exceeded significantly the budget set aside for such courses. Tutor's Fee £612.50 and Travelling Expenses £159.30.
Total Cost = £771.80 or £77.00 per participant. The cost of venue, facilities and tea/coffee was covered by the Presbytery contribution to ITW Church for annual use of facilities. Participants brought their own lunch.
5. Presbytery budgeted £400 for "Seminars and Courses" in 2018. So far this year, from this budget heading, the Treasurer has paid:
Presbytery Clerks Forum £302.00;
Business Committee meeting (Caberston) £ 34.20;
Worship Leader course costs £771.80:
which makes a total of £1108. Overspend £708.00.

There may be a saving from the June "Away Day" - budget £300 – with £105.50 spent to date (a "saving" of £194.50) but the costs of the Presbytery Planning Conference in September and the October "Away Day" might require some or all of that balance.



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6. Given the use of Innerleithen Church for events in addition to monthly and Business Committee meetings it may be prudent to make funds available for specific events outside regular meetings. If so, any costs incurred would be additional to the annual £500 rent that the Treasurer negotiates with ITW.
 7. The present budget of £400 for 2018 "Seminar and Courses" needs to be increased to £1600.00 to cover present spend plus the October "Away Day"; say £300. A similar budget may be required for 2019. The costs of the Presbytery Planning day on 1st September could be covered by the "Away Day": budget of £300.00.
 8. It is suggested that application be made to the Ministry and Mission fund for £1200 in support of 2018 Presbytery "Seminar and Courses". In due course Presbytery may decide to make similar application for 2019 events.
- C. October "Away Day":
1. Presbytery agreed to stage a service dedicated to peace in the Middle East, and in particular to Israel/Occupied Palestine, on the 24th of October 2018 in keeping with the World Mission Council request. Presbytery further agreed that an afternoon conference of the theme of the Middle East be held on the same date with the service following on from a light afternoon tea to be provided by Presbytery, all in Innerleithen Church.
 2. The following programme has been agreed with invited speakers:
 - 1500 – Arrival – cup of tea
 - 1530 – Opening Welcome and Prayer – Moderator Rev Julie Rennick
 - Peace and Justice Issues, the squeeze on the Christian population and the difference between the Jewish community and the Israeli nation.
 - Why the C of S has and is committed to maintaining a presence in Israel/Palestine despite cut backs and other financial pressures.
 - 1545 – Rev. Grant Barclay – Past Convener of Council of Assembly
 - 1615 – Rev. Iain Cunningham – Immediate Past Convener of World Mission.
Both of whom have visited the Middle East
 - 1645 – Panel Discussion:
Rev. Grant Barclay: Rev. Iain Cunningham: Val Brown (C Aid) and Dr.Fiona Burnett
 - To consider also what Presbytery might undertake as a 2019 project on Middle East?
 - 1730 – Refreshments :
 - 1815 – 1900/30: Special Service to be led by Rev Julie Rennick: Rev Grant Blair and Rev Iain Cunningham.
 3. Full programme details will be made available to Kirk Sessions before the October meeting of Presbytery.



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4. Presbytery Elders are urged to bring this event to the attention of congregations within the bounds and to encourage attendance. Applications to attend will be open from mid-September.

D. Malawi/Lebanon Visit:

1. The Co-ordinator of the World Mission Group prepared an interim report on the recent Malawi/Lebanon visit whilst it was fresh in everyone's mind. After the World Mission Group have met, a fuller and more reflective report will be presented to the Mission and Service Committee at the October meeting and then to full Presbytery in November.
2. The Programme went pretty much according to plan as outlined in the March Presbytery report and subsequent updates and timetables. The only major alteration was that at the last minute, one of the Lebanese had to pull out due to illness. This meant Marina did not travel the following day but came a few days later, in time to have one night on Lindisfarne and go to the National Youth Assembly. She left 3 days later than the Malawians on Thursday 30th August.
3. The Highlights are difficult to summarise as there were so many. Dr Burnett's eight favourites were: (others will have different ones)
 - Seeing the congregation at Earlston on the first Sunday evening service dancing in the aisles
 - Making sandcastles on the beach at Lindisfarne and watching our guests paddling in the water
 - The BBQ at Earlston when so many joined in a game of football and tug of war
 - Hearing them tell Carol Finlay in 121 that they realised that there was poverty in Scotland and that Marina was their sister (she even learnt some Chichewa)
 - Ernest being so excited at winning his first every game of 10 pin bowling
 - Making dinner together with everyone at home
 - The final service. Will we ever forget the reaction by Geoffrey to his graduation? - Also the very timely and insightful views by the young people on the state of the Church of Scotland.
 - All the discussions and conversations I was privileged to have whilst ferrying them around
4. According to their answers at the farewell service their highlights included (but not a complete list)
 - Their hosts being so warm, welcoming and incredibly generous
 - Lindisfarne
 - Visit to Scottish Parliament
 - The discussions and the people they met at the NYA. Marina liked Scottish Country Dancing
 - For Geoffrey, going to BGH
 - For Nellie visiting Dumfries Prison
 - The 10 pin bowling evening
 - Visit to Smail's Printworks



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- The school visits (more than one commented they would now like to be a teacher!)
 - The farewell service with the opportunity to tell you all about their visit and being asked their thoughts on our church. And of course the Graduation.
5. There are proposals for support to three individuals associated with the visit and current agreements. To help improve communications the World Mission Group would like to engage the services of a young recently graduated Malawian journalist/ photographer (Levi). He would be tasked with curating narrative and providing video and still images of the link. He has interviewed all the visiting Malawians and would be asked to follow up with the visitors on their return. The cost would be £250 for 5 months. Midwife Geoffrey may require £75 per month and student midwife Limbikani may require £1000 for his third year which will start in January.
6. Thanks: The list is enormous! In no particular order, thanks to
- The hosts, drivers and all who helped with the logistics of the visit
 - The churches and groups that provided hospitality, meals and refreshments along the way
 - All the organisations outwith the church eg SBC, Smails, BGH, Dumfries prison, Fresh Start, Foodbanks, Schools, Netherurd farm, that took time to meet with them
 - The Presbytery for funding the visit and supporting it throughout.
 - Everyone who made time to come to a service or other event or generally engaged with the group. I have tried to count just how many people met our visitors in some way and it is a fair few hundred
 - And of course our visitors for being so enthusiastic to get involved and game for everything that was thrown at them. They were indeed a pleasure to be with
7. Moving Forward – The World Mission Group is going to be busy following on from this visit. They have built up a huge enthusiasm for links with Lebanon and Malawi that they wish to capitalise on. Immediate issues are:
- To keep the communication flowing between the countries and a wish to employ Levi Chalfumira for 6 months in the first instance to help us in Malawi
 - Geoffrey needs support to enable him to volunteer in a Zomba hospital whilst the Government finds him a permanent position
 - We need to make sure that the churches and individuals supporting Ernest and Chippie's continued education are supported
 - The committee plans to arrange visits in the next few months to all interested congregations in the Presbytery to show the video and have discussions about possible plans to further/start their involvement with the World Church
 - We keep chatting with our returned visitors using whatsapp and emails to keep the links going and build on the friendships made.
8. There is much to discuss and plan in the coming months and the World Mission Group invites anyone and everyone with a suggestion to let Dr Burnett know. We are also very happy to have any Presbytery member join our group if they feel so moved.



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9. Budget – the World Mission Group kept to the budget as approved by Presbytery. A detailed spreadsheet is attached to this report showing the costs of the visit came in just over £100 under budget. Presbytery should note with gratitude all the individuals and groups who have generously donated in kind and in time to make this visit the success it has indeed been.
10. Appreciation - Dr Burnett would like to record her sincere thanks to the World Mission Group for all their hard work in planning and implementing the visit. Dr Burnett said “Being the chair means I get all the upfront praise and thanks but I could not have done it without my amazing and incredibly supportive committee. It has been a joy and a privilege to organise this visit and I look forward to working with Presbytery to capitalise on the opportunities and ideas that the visit has thrown up”.

E. Deliverance:

1. Members of Presbytery pray for the Rev Barry Hughes and Pamela Kennedy as they progress in their calling.
2. It Presbytery approves application be made to the Ministry and Mission fund for £1200 in support of 2018 Presbytery “Seminar and Courses” and notes that in due course Presbytery may decide to make similar application for 2019 events.
3. Members of Presbytery intimate to congregations and Kirk Sessions the date of the autumn conference on The Middle East as 22nd October in Innerleithen Church from 1500 – 1930. Presbytery notes that applications to attend the conference will be invited by the end of September.
4. Presbytery notes that a reflective report will be presented to the Mission and Service Committee at the October meeting and then to full Presbytery in November.
5. Presbytery approves payment of £250 from present funds for the twinning in order to engage the services of Levi as a journalist link between Melrose and Peebles and Malawi. Presbytery approves financial support for Geoffrey and Limbikani in principle and requests that payment details be presented to Presbytery in October for approval.
5. Presbytery expresses their sincere appreciation to the World Mission Group, individuals and local groups who contributed significantly to the success of the Malawi/Lebanon visit and in particular to the co-ordinator of the World Mission Group Dr. Fiona Burnett.