



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to November 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Mission and Service Committee met in full session during the October meeting of Presbytery. Following an introductory plenary session, which focussed on plans for World Mission, committee members split into four groups to address Remits and Work Priorities; Education and Training; Local Mission/Outreach and World Mission. Some remits were considered by more than one group. The bold font indicates the tasks in group discussion
- 1.2 The full committee meeting in October allows members time to consider current work and to determine priorities for 2019. The full committee meeting in February 2019 allows members opportunity to review the work of the previous year.
- 1.3 On this occasion members commented on the shortage of time to fully address the issues remitted and to plan work for the coming year. Most suggested that additional time should be allocated to committee discussion sessions in October and in February – perhaps one and a half hours.

2. REMITS and PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The work remitted to Mission and Service by Presbytery/General Assembly together with related committee findings is as follows:

(a) **Actively encourage people of vision and leadership quality to be nominated to the Councils and Committees of the Church to bring direction in the light of the mission challenges the Church faces today.**

Work on pursuing this remit needs to be phased over a number of years by way of Presbytery support in raising awareness across Kirk Sessions of the national church structure, using available resources which describe what councils and committees exist and a description of commitment; this is perhaps a piece of work that could be pursued by the Mission and Service Committee during 2019.

(b) **Explore how the fresh vision for eldership outlined in section 2 of the Mission and Discipleship Council Report to the General Assembly applies to their particular local context.**

The 'Developing Eldership' 2018 update (Appendix 1 of Mission and Discipleship report) needs to be sent out to every Kirk Session. The Report references many resources available to Kirk Sessions. This should be linked to training opportunities for Elders and a more direct link between Presbytery and Kirk Sessions.

(c) **Consider how the aspirations outlined in the Mission and Discipleship Council Report shape their ongoing ministry and engagement with children and young people in the parish.**

The Report encourages churches to "find a way for the faith, curiosity and enthusiasm of children and young people to speak and disturb the rest of the church". There was uncertainty on how to give any practical guidance to facilitate this other than to intimate the instruction given the absence of young people in many of our churches.



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to November 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

(d) **Explore what opportunities exist for a fresh expression of church in their parish.**

Perhaps this topic could be a theme for our June 2019 Conference? There is some confusion given the widening range of initiatives – Review and Reform: Pioneer Ministry: Transition Ministry; Fresh Expressions: Path of Renewal: Chance to Thrive: Non- Stipendiary Ministry: OLMs: Fresh Vision for Eldership: Release and Trust Leaders: Hubs and Ecumenical Groupings.

2.2 *There are good central resources e.g. eldership national conference last year was on the theme of discipleship. Intimating the link to the Church of Scotland website on examples of fresh expressions and developing a section of our own website to help create an understanding of Fresh Expressions could promote such understanding - planned in tandem with the Presbytery Planning Task Group.*

3. EDUCATION and TRAINING:

3.1 What might offer opportunity for Education and Training arising from 2 above? This element of Mission and Service work needs to anticipate radical change in how we work together yet reflect current training needs.

3.2 How do we - **“actively encourage people of vision and leadership quality to be nominated to the Councils and Committees of the Church to bring direction in the light of the mission challenges the Church faces today”**

There is a recognition that older members have worked so hard for the church in the past there is no energy left for them to be doing new things.

Bring together presbyters and others who have been part of national committees and councils to enthuse about the work and the worth of being part of a Council followed by a series of visits by some to all Kirk Sessions over 2019/20/21 to promote nominations.

Change the timings of meetings – few working full time can take part at present.

3.3 **Develop the ‘Road to Ministry’ chart as prepared for the Worship Leaders Course.**

Promotion of the LEARN materials might help but there may be need for tutor support. We anticipate a need for Elder Training in discipleship: bereavement care: conduct of funerals: leading worship: managing mission and the temporal duties of a Kirk Session/Congregational Board including moderation of Kirk Session meetings.

3.4 **Explore with Kirk Sessions how the fresh vision for eldership outlined in section 2 of the Mission and Discipleship Report applies to their particular local context.**

Perhaps Elders should play a major part in promoting church in the community - not just looking after a district. There appears to be a need for each elder to use the gifts and talents they have rather than a one size fits all elder model. Re-focusing on the activities of eldership might need a blurring of existing models in order to provide for fresh vision.



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to November 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

Plan for the provision of a good support network within the Session so that no elder feels out of their depth and provides support to new elders.

- 3.5 Supervision; acknowledging/recognising the work of those in training; appointment and training of assessors; providing placements for students enquirers and overseeing study leave will continue to form an important part of the Mission and Service remit.

Worship Leaders' Course – 2018.

- 3.6 Ten participants completed the attendance and assignment elements and by the date of the December Presbytery all will have been assessed leading worship in their own church. By all accounts this course was challenging yet valued such that indications of interest to attend a similar course in 2019 have been received already. Five members of Presbytery and one from a neighbouring Presbytery offered their services as Assessors and gave willingly of their time and talents to all course participants. It is recommended that Presbytery formally recognise those participants who successfully Complete Word and Worship Modules 1 - 8 of the authorised Worship Leaders Presbytery Scheme (which permits them to conduct worship in this Presbytery) by awarding each a certificate and record the appreciation of Presbytery for the work and guidance from the assessors.
- 3.7 While recognising that such tutored and formally recognised courses are costly the Committee appreciates the value such opportunities offer across Presbytery. It would be the intention of the Mission and Service Committee to seek funds from the Mission and Ministry Fund in support of, not only a Worship Leaders Course – 2019 but the two annual conferences and the planning of a programme of Elder Training Opportunities as referred to in 3.3 and 3.4 above, anticipating radical change in how we work together yet reflecting current training needs. Such an integrated training programme would need to sit comfortably with current presbytery planning and the Local Review Reports. The Committee recommend that 2019 is used to plan such an integrated education and training strategy resulting in a three year training programme 2020 – 2023. The anticipated cost in 2019, for all of the foregoing, is £3155.

Autumn 'Away Day' Conference

- 3.8 Sincere appreciation is expressed to members of Presbytery who promoted the October conference which resulted in an encouraging attendance, many of whom commented favourably on the content and presentation of the programme. The World Mission Group will now consider how Presbytery might further their interest in the Middle East, particularly but not exclusively Israel and Palestine.



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to November 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

3 OUTREACH/LOCAL MISSION

4.1 How might local mission link with the present Presbytery Plan Review? How can we encourage church members to think 'beyond the walls'?

(Examples of mission are varied: Food Banks; Mary's Meals - Backpack Project; SHARE - worship for those with learning disabilities; Breakfast/cafe Church. (Cafe style worship conducted by congregation, with different speakers on range of topics); Parish Twinning within Scotland; School Chaplaincy (ecumenical); work with young families; helping new parents (and young people generally) with guidance on a range of issues from debt management, budgeting, anger management/mental health issues, parenting guidance, helping young people get back into further education, developing life skills).

4.2 *How do we "explore with Kirk Sessions how the fresh vision for eldership outlined in section 2 of the M and D Report applies to their particular local context" How do we "consider how the aspirations outlined in the M and D Report shape their ongoing ministry and engagement with children and young people in the parish" and "explore what opportunities exist for a fresh expression of church in their parish"* Use the wealth of experience and wisdom of older people which they could share if they were happy to volunteer and/or give a presentation.

4.3 *The Group in discussion differentiated 'Mission' – which they see as the entire calling of the Church i.e. Worship, Fellowship, Nurture, Witness, Service and Evangelism, - and 'Outreach' which they see as primarily 'Evangelism' or sharing the Good News of Jesus with those outside the Church.*

4.4 *Before addressing the set questions they then determined that 'those outside the Church' were, in a former time, primarily identified as the folks who lived within the Parish in which a Church or Congregation was set. We no longer 'live' in Parishes. We sleep in a Parish, work in a different Parish, find our recreation and hobbies in yet another Parish. If a Congregation is going to share their faith, the Good News of Jesus, they must recognise their individual 'networks' – family, sports clubs -golf, bowling, flower, bridge, choirs etc.*

4.5 *The Group recognised that in most cases non-church folks are not going to 'come in' through the 'front door' of the Church. We must find 'side door' opportunities, - and some of these 'right off' the premises of the Church. Invited dinner parties; cheese and wine get together; bar-be-ques, etc. There must be a realisation that we as Christians must be prepared to 'walk the walk' before sharing the 'talk'. In other words, get to know folks, accompany them in their life, share fellowship and friendship. We must be prepared to invest time in building relationships with folks outside the Church, let them see our lives, let them 'enquire' about our faith, gently introduce what motivates and drives us as Christians.*



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to November 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

4.6 *All of these reflections are set against the realisation that as a Nation, Scotland no longer knows the Gospel message. RME/RO in our schools has, over the past few decades, been watered down to the point where examination of Christianity is but a small part of a child's overall RME Curriculum. Three generations have walked past the Church door which means children, parents and grand-parents are unaware of the basic Bible stories former generations knew whether or not they were 'Church folks'. Our focus need not only be on reaching the missing children, but should also include reaching the missing parents and grand-parents.*

4.7 *Our people need to be helped with sharing their faith in such a Post Christian, Post Modern, Multi-faith and Secular Society. One story shared was of a Minister who deliberately visited a different barber each month. He would sit in the chair and immediately share that he was a Church of Scotland Minister hoping to elicit the response, 'I don't believe in God'. Whereupon the Minister would ask, 'tell me about the God you don't believe in?' After listening to the Barber's response, the Minister would reply, 'I don't believe in that God either!' He would then share something about Jesus on the basis of 'he who has seen me, has seen the Father.' (John 14:8).*

Work Place Chaplain

4.8 Joanna Smith (Selkirk) was appointed Work Place Chaplain for Scottish Borders Council recently. An early task of this chaplaincy is to reinstate the Faith Emergency Response Plan for the Borders; responding to an emergency incident in an efficient manner providing accommodation, snow clearance from homes as well as pastoral and spiritual care, working alongside Social Work and local Resilience Plans. The Work Place Chaplain is the 'first port of call' for such emergency support leading to contact with members from the local faith community who will be asked to help. Our Work Place Chaplain seeks prayerful support from Presbytery and an opportunity to promote and seek local involvement.

5 WORLD MISSION:

5.1 **This group was asked to comment on current World Mission plans for Melrose and Peebles as outlined at the beginning of the meeting: How to encourage an international dimension to the work of parish churches; Promotion of Parish Twinning and Sharing of information. Most of the limited time was devoted to Parish Twinning with the following findings:**

5.2 *Parish Twinning must not be too dependent on 1 or 2 people; How to engage more people depends on the liveliness of congregation. Where to focus outwith Malawi? – Uganda, Egypt, Lebanon, Hungary, Czech Republic: (Minyara in Lebanon would welcome a new Scottish twinning).*



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to November 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

5.3 *Short-haul has advantage of easier/cheaper face-to-face contact'; Attentive accompaniment' does not require funds – simply prayer, support, hand-holding; Involve outside organisations? (e.g. Rotary, Lions); Involve non-church-goers?*

5.4 *Sharing of information: More information is needed: Not enough: must start within Presbytery: use of the Local church newsletters for entire local community*

5.5 **Planned Actions and Recommendations/World Mission Group - Malawi.**

- a) With 2018 being the last year of the present Memorandum of Understanding with Zomba Presbytery, Melrose and Peebles Presbytery need to decide if they want to continue in Partnership with Zomba and, if so, on what basis i.e. what should a new Memorandum of Understanding look like?
- b) Should a visit to Zomba from Presbytery be scheduled for the coming year(s) or a visit from Zomba to Presbytery.
- c) What is still 'underway' as part of the present partnership strategy?
 - Limbikani's continued support from Presbytery towards his degree in midwifery.
 - Presbytery funding of Geoffrey while he awaits employment by the Malawian Government.
 - Local church funding of Phalyce and Chipiro towards completion of their current education.
 - The World Mission Group plan to contact Congregations to ascertain if they would like a visit by the Group to share the video of the visit as a way of leveraging greater interest in the World Church within the Congregation.
 - Presbytery to consider allocating funds for the remaining commitments of the present Memorandum of Understanding from the Ministry and Mission Fund instead of individual churches (£150 per church = 14 x £150 = £ 2,100)
 - The World Mission Group would supplement overall funding by organising a 'Cake and Coffee' table before Presbytery one night in the course of the Presbytery Year.

5.6 Levi's Work Schedule

It was felt that Levi needed more specific direction. It is proposed that he be asked to make a number of 2 minute video messages/communications as opposed to working on a 'large' all-encompassing video. These could be:-

- Overview of each of the Young Folks' churches.
- A message from their individual Pastor.
- A greeting from the Moderator to our Presbytery.

The aim is to have a number of short videos that could be used by Congregations, Presbytery and church groups., in sharing and spreading what's happening in Zomba as a way of developing further 'ownership' of the Partnership.

5.7 Limbikani Support

Need to ensure appropriate support for Limbikani is in place similar to that which was provided for Geoffrey. He needs to be encouraged to write and forward short update reports on his course/progress.



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to November 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

- 5.8 Nellie's Project Proposal
Speak with Nellie and others behind her project, about the idea of purchasing a piece of land to fund long-term her proposal for providing meals for orphans at a Presbytery level.
- 5.9 Presbytery to endorse the planned visit being organised by Earlston to Lebanon and to invite folk from Presbytery to join the visit; recognising that the 'World Church' is more than Malawi. Presbytery to consider a proposed Lebanon visit.
- 5.10 Presbytery to consider inviting a twinning specialist from 121 to speak on the opportunities and resources.

6 DELIVERANCE:

- Presbytery receives the report.
- Presbytery invites the Business Committee to consider additional time during the February and October 2019 agendas for discussion within committees.
- Presbytery supports raising awareness of the national church structure across Kirk Sessions during 2019 with a view to including support for nomination to national councils and committees as part of an on-going education and training programme. (ref.3.2 above).
- Presbytery invites the Mission and Service Committee to design a three year education and training programme (2020-2023) for consideration by Presbytery in November 2019, the draft programme to include 'Developing Eldership' and 'LEARN' programmes (ref 3.3/3.4 above); planned in tandem with the Presbytery Planning Task Group where appropriate.
- Presbytery agrees to the theme of 'Fresh Expressions' in its widest sense (ref. 2.1d) for the June 2019 'Away Day' and that the programme be designed by the Mission and Service Committee in partnership with the Presbytery Planning Task Group.
- Presbytery agrees to formally recognise Authorised Worship Leaders in accordance with the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles Scheme for the Selection, Training and Authorisation of Worship Leaders, by presenting those who completed the 2018 course successfully with a certificate at the December meeting of Presbytery and, at that time, record appreciation of the work of the assessors.
- Presbytery encourages the Mission and Service Committee to seek £3,125 from the Mission and Ministry Fund in support of a Worship Leaders Course – 2019, the two annual conferences, Elder/Kirk Session communication and the planning of a three year programme of Elder/Member Training Opportunities. (ref.3.7).
- Presbytery accepts the content of the Outreach/Local Mission section of the report (ref. Section 4) and agrees that this theme within the remit of the Mission and Service Committee should form part of the proposed three year training programme rather than a dedicated piece of work at this time.



THE PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

Mission and Service

Report to November 2018 Meeting of Presbytery

- Presbytery supports the promotion of parish twinning.
- Presbytery offers prayerful support for the work of Scottish Borders Council Work Place Chaplain Joanna Smith and invites the Presbytery Prayer Co-ordinator to ensure that prayers are included in Presbytery and Churches prayer diaries.
- Presbytery agrees to invite the Scottish Borders Council Work Place Chaplain to address Presbytery with a view to promoting and seeking local involvement in the Faith Emergency Response Plan.
- Presbytery agrees to invite a twinning specialist from the Church Offices to speak on the opportunities and resources for twinning and visits.
- Presbytery seeks to continue its Partnership with Zomba and instructs the Committee to bring a draft revised Memorandum of Understanding to the March 2019 meeting of Presbytery which recommends also how the revised Memorandum might be formally signed either through a Presbytery visit to Zomba or a Zomba visit to Presbytery.
- Presbytery supports Levi's Work Schedule, Limbikani towards his degree in midwifery, Nellie's Project Proposal, the funding of Geoffrey while he awaits employment by the Malawian Government and local church led funding for Phalyce and Chipiriro towards completion of their current education.
- Presbytery agrees that application be made to the Mission and Ministry Fund for £2100 in support of the remaining commitments of the present Memorandum of Understanding.
- Presbytery endorses the planned visit organised by Earlston to Lebanon and invites interest from across Presbytery to join the visit.
- Presbytery agrees to consider in due course a visit to Lebanon.
- Presbytery encourages the Mission and Service Committee to consider how churches within the bounds might further their interest in the Middle East, particularly but not exclusively Israel and Palestine.
- Presbytery encourages the sharing of information by the World Mission Group through use of the local church newsletters for the entire local community.