

## **Presbytery Meeting Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 Summary**

Holburn West Parish Church again hosted the Presbytery meeting and the business included the following:

### **Installation of Moderator for 2016/17**

The Rev Keith Blackwood of Mannofield Parish Church was installed as Moderator of Aberdeen Presbytery for 2017/18 in succession to the The Rev Ian M Aitken of Stockethill Parish Church. As is traditional, a version of the Bible of his choosing was presented to the new Moderator by Audrey Skinner on behalf of the Scottish Bible Society Aberdeen Branch.

### **Tribute**

The Rev David Hutchison led tribute to the Rev Michael S M Crawford who died on Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2017. He was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1937 and raised in Wiltshire, Warwickshire and Fife where he attended St Andrew's University. For 35 years he was minister at St Mary's Church during which time he had broadcasting involvement with Grampian Television. A service to celebrate Mike's life was held at St Mary's on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mastrick in deferred Union with Summerhill**

Presbytery sustained the Call from Mastrick in deferred union with Summerhill to the Rev Susan J Sutherland, Minister of Barnhill St Margaret's, Dundee and agreed to meet at Mastrick Parish Church on Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> for a service at 7 pm for her induction.

### **Cults Parish Church**

Presbytery noted that a letter had been received from the Rev Ewen Gilchrist seeking permission to demit from Cults Parish Church on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017. His request was approved and it was also noted that an opportunity to thank him for his ministry would be offered at the June meeting of Presbytery.

### **Guild Presbyterian Council**

Mrs Jane Dargie, Convenor of the Church of Scotland Guild Aberdeen Presbyterian Council, reported on the work and special events of the Guild during the previous year. The Guild is supporting six projects in a three year themed cycle of work which had completed its second year.

The six projects running from 2015-2018 are:

- Street Pastors
- Care for the Family
- Christian Aid
- Feed the Minds
- Mission International
- Prospects

To support the projects, Guild members had raised the remarkable sum of £425,000 with a year still to run. Jane described her time with the Guild as inspiring, innovative, challenging and fun. She looked forward to another exciting and rewarding year ahead.

### **Annual Congregational Statistics**

The statistics for 2016 showed an annual reduction in membership of the Church of Scotland in Aberdeen of 413. The Presbytery Clerk pointed out that compared with 2015 the fall was less.

The Rev Hugh Wallace of Newhills Parish Church wondered why some churches in Aberdeen, outwith the Church of Scotland, were increasing in numbers.

Presbytery instructed the Congregational Support Committee to explore what churches outside the Church of Scotland are doing to reach out to the unchurched and bring them to new faith in Jesus Christ and report their findings to Presbytery by March 2018.

### **Queen Street and St Mark's**

The Kirk Sessions of Queen Street and St Mark's agreed at a joint meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> to begin the process of Union. A working group of four elders from each Kirk Session had been appointed to create a Draft Basis of Union. It was anticipated that this would be presented to Presbytery at the June meeting for approval.

### **Newhills Parish Church**

Presbytery approved the intention of Newhills Parish Church to appoint a locally funded Additional Ministry Post of Children and Family worker. As this post is locally funded it would not be appointed under the terms of the Presbytery Plan.

### **Living Well Cafes**

The Living Well Cafes offer a safe and friendly space to support people with memory loss or dementia and their carers and families. They work in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian and Alzheimer Scotland.

With two Living Well Cafes already in operation at Newhills and Oldmachar, Presbytery welcomed the opening of a third at Ferryhill Church on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, when a team of volunteers from local churches greeted those dealing with dementia and their carers. A friendly atmosphere with refreshments, music, painting and reminiscence awaited the first visitors to what is to become a fortnightly occasion.

### **Church Recycling Policy**

Presbytery commended the Church Recycling Policy from High Church Hilton as a template for all churches to follow.

### **HIGH CHURCH HILTON RECYCLING POLICY**

It is the opinion of the Kirk Session that recycling is of paramount importance in caring for the environment. It is also a requirement of Aberdeen City Council that the following items must be recycled:-

#### **BROWN BIN**

All food waste, cooked or uncooked.

Tea bags.

Flowers, plants, weeds and leaves.

Grass cuttings and hedge trimmings.

#### **BLACK MIXED RECYCLING BIN**

Glass bottles and jars, including lids and tops.

Plastic bottles, pots, trays and tubs, including lids and tops.

Food and drink cartons, including lids and tops.

Paper, card and cardboard.

Tins, cans, aerosols and foil.

It is essential that all items are cleaned before placing in the black mixed recycling bin. Items should also be flattened as much as possible to allow space.

All other waste items, if not included in the above lists, should be placed in the smaller black waste bin.

Should the above requirements not be strictly adhered to, the Council will refuse to empty the Church bins and may issue a fine.

The Kirk Session will monitor whether the above requirements are being adhered to. If it is found that any organisation is failing to comply, they will be asked to explain their failure to do so to the Kirk Session.

#### **Presbytery Also:**

- Warmly congratulated the Rev George Cowie on his appointment as a Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland.
- Warmly congratulated the Rev Benjamin Byun on the attainment of the semi-Jubilee of his ordination in May 1992.
- Welcomed Deacon Dot Getliffe following her induction as Parish Assistant at Mannofield Parish Church.
- Noted that powers were used to grant permission for the Malawi Partnership Committee to send money directly to congregations rather than via Blantyre City Presbytery.
- Noted that powers were used to grant permission to Cults, Peterculter, Mannofield, Craigiebuckler, Holburn West and Kingswells Churches to meet together for worship in Hazlehead Park at 12 noon on Pentecost Sunday rather than in their own buildings.
- Noted that an Extract Minute had been received from Queen's Cross Parish Church approving the change of use of the Melville Carden Place Fund from being used for 'church extension' purposes to 'supporting the development of new congregations and Ministries' and concurred with this decision.
- Welcomed forthcoming discussions concerning the possibility of Aberdeen becoming recognised as a City of Sanctuary.
- Received a report from the Visitation and Oversight Committee on the Local Church Review of Woodside Parish Church.
- Received the Annual Report from the Treasurer and approved the Accounts for 2016.

#### **Intimations included:**

#### **Charity Awards**

Burnett and Reid Solicitors oversee awards on behalf of the Trustees of the Aberdeen Female Society, a charity which provides one off lump sum payments to females living in Aberdeen who are over the age of 60 years and in receipt of benefits from the Department of Work and Pensions. Applications are invited to be made direct to Burnett and Reid.

#### **Luther for the Church – 500 Years On**

The Centre for Ministry Studies will host a conference titled 'Luther for the Church – 500 years on'. This day conference will take place at the Sir Duncan Rice Library within the University of

Aberdeen on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Booking is available by contacting the Centre on 01224 272138 alternatively, please access the website at [www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/centreministriystudies](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/centreministriystudies)