

Presbytery Meeting Tuesday 27th June 2017 Summary

Presbytery again met at Holburn West Parish Church and the business included the following:

In the absence of the Presbytery Clerk, the Rev Dr John Ferguson, the Rev George Cowie, who several years previously had been joint Presbytery Clerk, was installed as Presbytery Clerk pro tem.

Ministry Changes

Cults

Approval had been given at the May meeting for the Rev Ewen Gilchrist to demit his charge from June 25th 2017 and Presbytery took the opportunity at this meeting to warmly thank him for his ministry at Cults Parish Church.

South Holburn

Presbytery approved the Rev George Cowie's request to demit his charge at South Holburn Parish Church and warmly thanked him for his ministry. He is to become the new Presbytery Clerk of Glasgow Presbytery from 1st September 2017.

Mastrick in deferred union with Summerhill

The Rev Susan J Sutherland was inducted to the above charge on 15th June 2017 after her demission from Barnhill St Margaret's, Dundee.

10 Must Know Bible Stories Project

This 2 year project at St Columba's Parish Church has completed its 1st year. Its purpose is to transform how children hear, learn and explore Bible stories in primary school. The work, with eight schools, has developed resources for nine out of the ten stories thus far and has helped school staff to use the information across the curriculum. A copy of the report on year one of the project can be found on the Presbytery website.

Presbytery commended the project and encouraged other congregations to look at the material that has been produced to facilitate other schools in exploring these stories. Presbytery also awarded £500 to St Columba's to support year 2 of the project.

More information is available at <https://tenbiblestories.org/videos/>.

The Manor Project

For nearly thirty years the Manor Project has supported people with learning difficulties to progress to more independent living. Initiated by the Presbytery Social Responsibility Committee as a limited company in 1989, it provides residential accommodation for nine people in Middlefield and supports a further three through outreach.

Presbytery noted that responsibility for the Manor Project was transferred to the Aberdeen based social care charity Inspire on 1st April 2017 and warmly thanked Mrs Eleanore Olley and all others who had served on the Project Board as Presbytery representatives.

Malawi Partnership and World Mission and Partnerships Committee

At the March meeting, Presbytery supported a shift in focus of the work in Malawi from the Presbytery level to the congregational level and agreed the natural expiration of the formal partnership between Aberdeen City Presbytery and Blantyre City Presbytery. Presbytery also noted the decision of the Malawi Partnership Committee to dissolve and pass matters relating to congregational partnerships with Malawi congregations to the new World Mission and Partnerships Committee.

Consequently the final meeting of the Malawi Partnership Committee took place on Sunday 18th June 2017 and Presbytery thanked all those who supported the Committee over the years and, in particular, warmly thanked Mrs Fiona Benzie for the outstanding work she had undertaken for the Committee since it was established in 2004.

Presbytery noted the new World Mission Committee will begin its work from September. It will take over the role of overseeing congregational partnerships which includes approving the sending of donations from Aberdeen congregations to Blantyre City congregations. The new committee is to be made up of members of Presbytery, but also, ex officio, one member of each partnered congregation should attend. While the committee will have Malawi as part of its remit, Presbytery had previously agreed that the committee will include the wider work of World Mission so representatives should also include those from other churches which have partnerships with other congregations in other parts of the world.

Current Malawi Congregational Partnerships:

Cults	Mlombwa
Ferryhill	Chigodi
Midstocket	Nkolokoti
Peterculter	St Paul's
Rubislaw	Limbe
St Mark's	Mpachika
St Mary's	Mpemba
St Stephen's	Mount Olive
South Holburn	Kachere

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.

There are three Living Well Cafes in Aberdeen, at Newhills, Oldmachar and Ferryhill. Presbytery welcomed the anticipated fourth Living Well Café to open at High Hilton Church on 31st August, and encouraged neighbouring congregations and Kirk Sessions to recognise the pastoral and missional opportunities the Cafes bring.

Business Connection

'Business Connection' was set up in Aberdeen by a local Christian businessman, Jim Grimmer, to equip, encourage and empower Christians in the workplace. An event at Palm Court on 17th May in partnership with Mission Scotland and Redeeming our Communities based in Manchester, brought together church leaders to hear about opportunities to support church members in their daily work and to learn about the role of 'Business Connection' in their engagement with business management.

The website – www.thebusinessconnection.org provides more information.

Learning Disability Working Group

Presbytery encouraged congregations to forward the contact details of someone who could act as a contact point for the Working Group and that congregation. More information can be found including an email address for forwarding information at:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/learning_disabilities

Resources from Mission and Discipleship Council

Presbytery was informed that along with existing Learn materials that the Council have been producing over the last few years, the Council have expanded what is available online to cover other work such as the Rural Working Group and have a new page dedicated to resources for Office Bearers found at:

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/officebearers>

A page dedicated to resources for Children and Youth has also been added with sections for leaders, churches, community, young adults and events. This can be found online at:

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/childrenandyouth>

Local Principles for Presbytery Planning

Recent reports from the Ministries Council (2016 & 2017), approved by the General Assembly, advocate a more collaborative approach to mission and ministry by congregations. This is in response to demographic changes in all congregations and a future deficit of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The Presbytery Planning and Deployment Committee (PDC) expressed a desire to formulate a Presbytery Plan based on the Ministries Council reports.

Presbytery approved and adopted principles proposed by the PDC for local planning enabling Presbytery to:

- Move towards a shared future in mission across the Presbytery
- Adopt collaborative working and planning across Kirk Sessions and Congregations
- Resource ministry in parishes through increased partnership working.

Quinquennial Property Reports

Presbytery noted the changes to the process of undertaking, and recording, the five yearly inspections of properties (Quinquennial Surveys) as required by the General Trustees and further noted that details of the changes as they affect individual churches will be provided by October 2017.

Presbytery Also:

- Received a report from the Visitation and Oversight Committee on the Local Church Review of Bucksburn Stoneywood and Newhills.
- Warmly congratulated the Rev James Wood on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his Ordination.
- Commended the city-wide Prayer Gatherings giving thanks for their impact across the churches and across the city and encouraged congregations not only to host the Gatherings in 2018, but to travel to other churches to pray.
- Reminded congregations to submit their Annual Accounts to OSCR by 30th September 2017, once they have been checked by the Congregational Stewardship Committee.
- Noted a report from Matthew Philip, Presbytery Youth Representative to the General Assembly 2017 where he contributed to a debate and spoke about a National Youth Assembly discussion on Mental Health.

Intimations included:

- The Rev Duncan Eddie reminded Presbyters of the Centre for Ministry Studies Summer School titled 'Called to Community: Living together faithfully in an age of division and despair' which will be held from Monday 21st until Friday 25th August 2017 at the Sir Duncan Rice Library, Old Aberdeen. Further information available by accessing

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/summer-school-2017-877.php> alternatively, please contact Mrs Clare Davidson at the Centre via email to clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk or telephone 01224 272138

- The Church of Scotland have issued reminders following data protection breaches with a reminder being passed to congregations to review policies and procedures for handling information relating to living individuals who can be identified by that information both in electronic and paper format. All those who have a responsibility for handling personal data should ensure that they are familiar with the data protection guidance available from the Law Department and should review the data protection webinar. Guidance and the webinar can found at the following link:
http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/law_circulars#data_protection.
- The Mission and Discipleship Council have created online resources which may be of interest. Firstly there is an Office Bearers Online Resources page which covers three main sections ('Formation of the Kirk', 'Governance of the Kirk' and 'Practice in the Kirk') and twenty two sub-sections, providing theoretical, historical and practical information. Secondly there is a Children and Youth Online Resources page which offers information and ideas for shaping church ministry with children and youth. Finally there has been content added to the Learn Online section, this being information on Learning Disabilities along with resources for churches in rural areas. For further information access the following links:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/officebearers
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/childrenandyouth
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/learn
- Scripture Union Scotland and Christian Values in Education are to host a training day for Christian parents, teachers and chaplains at St Ninian's and Forglan Church, Turriff on Saturday 2nd September from 9.30am - Noon. The organisers hope that this morning training will provide ways that Christian parents, teachers and chaplains can serve and impact their local school equipping attendees with new ideas, inspiration and resources. For further information and booking please contact cheri.young@suscotland.org.uk alternatively telephone 01224 486749
- A new resource is available on the Church of Scotland website titled "A guide to supporting people with dementia in the local church". This resource offers practical advice on supporting others through the illness. Please access http://churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/dementia_expert_unveils_new_guide_for_local_churches where a link to the document may be found.