

TRIBUTES

Presbytery heard Tributes to two former ministers, the Rev David Graham, who was minister at Rutherford Church in Aberdeen from 1983 and the Rev Margaret Garden, who was minister at Cushnie & Tough Church and then joined Aberdeen Presbytery.

The Moderator remembered Mr Graham and Mrs Garden in prayer and prayed for their family. Presbytery agreed that copies of the Tributes should be passed on to the families.

FAREWELL TO THE REV SARAH NICOL

Presbytery noted that the Presbytery of Ardrossan had sustained A Call to the Rev Sarah Nicol to Saltcoats St Cuthberts. Mrs Nicol, minister at Midstocket Church, had accepted the Call and Presbytery thanked her for her services as minister to the congregation. On behalf of the Congregation, Mrs Alison McLeod, Session Clerk, thanked Mrs Nicol for her services to Midstocket. Mrs Nicol responded with thanks to Mrs McLeod and the members and Elders who had welcomed her in to the "warm and active" life of Midstocket Church. The Moderator prayed for Mrs Nicol and for the church family during this time of vacancy.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY BUSINESS REVIEW GROUP

Presbytery approved the recommendations contained in the Review Group's Final Report, which introduced a number of changes to how Presbytery undertakes its business. Presbytery thanked the members of the Review Group and discharged them.

TALKS WITH SHETLAND PRESBYTERY

The meeting was informed that the Convener of the Business and Finance Committee, the Presbytery Clerk, the Depute Presbytery Clerk and the Rev Dr Nigel Parker visited Shetland on 5th and 6th June, where they attended meetings at the Presbytery of Shetland. The talks, which are at an early stage, are exploring whether a union of the two Presbyteries might be brought about.

REV HUGH WALLACE

Rev Hugh Wallace has ended his term as convener of the Church and Society Committee. He was warmly thanked him for his services to Presbytery, in particular his work in support of the resettlement of Syrian refugees in Aberdeen and his part in setting up the monthly ecumenical City-wide Prayer Gatherings and the network of Living Well Cafes. Presbytery appointed the Rev Shuna Dicks as Convener of the Church and Society Committee with immediate effect.

MRS JUDITH NORTON AND REV DR FLORA MUNRO

Presbytery noted that Mrs Judith Norton, Balancing Elder (St Machar's Cathedral) had tendered her resignation from Presbytery and warmly thanked her for her service to Presbytery over the past 20 years. Presbytery also noted that the Rev Dr Flora Munro has resigned from Presbytery and warmly thanked her for her services.

CONGRATULATIONS

Presbytery warmly congratulated Mrs June Morrison on her award of an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and also the Rev David Hutchison on his election as Chair of the Conference of European University Chaplains.

PRESBYTERY PLAN

A revised Presbytery Plan was approved. The main change is that all congregations which become vacant will now require to be visited by the Planning and Deployment Committee before a decision is made about calling a minister.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

The Congregational Support Committee had been instructed 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. Due to the limited time frame to gather information, the committee identified ten churches in Aberdeen that are perceived to be growing congregations and effective in reaching those outside the faith. These congregations were *City Church, Kings Community Church, Hebron Evangelical Church, Gerrard Street Baptist Church, Sheddocksley Baptist Church, St Mary's Cathedral, Caf4e, The Father House, The Fountain of Love, and Lighthouse Chapel*. And eleventh church was later added to the list, *St Peter's Free Church* (though based in Dundee, it was felt important to consider a church in the Presbyterian tradition).

As a result of the consultation, plans were agreed to set up a Mission Conversation Forum with other church leaders in Aberdeen to share stories of growth between congregations, with this conversation to be facilitated by an experienced facilitator from out with Aberdeen. Presbytery also agreed to explore in greater detail the proposal for a post-graduate study on how churches grow in Aberdeen, with a view to producing material for congregational discussion.

RECOMMENDED COURSES AND EVENTS

The LEARN Pastoral Care Conference 2018 will take place on Saturday 10 November from 9.30am until 4pm at the Vine Conference Centre, 131 Garvock Hill, Dunfermline KY11 4JU. The theme of this event will be 'Nurturing Pastoral Care Together'. Ticket price is £20 which will include lunch and a free copy of an associated publication. Booking closes on 25 October 2018 please access: <https://pastoralcareconference2018.eventbrite.co.uk> for tickets, alternatively, please contact the LEARN team via the Church of Scotland office in Edinburgh.

Edited versions of keynote talks from the elders' conference held earlier this year are now available online.

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/learn/events/content/elders_conference_2018

or

<https://tinyurl.com/yd9y7h5v>

Kirk Sessions were urged to encourage all those involved in children and young people's work to consider taking part in the online conferences "Belonging" and "Relational Ministry Re-imagined". http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/children_and_youth/events/cos_events/relational_ministry_re-imagined or

<https://tinyurl.com/ya24fq4m>

Presbytery commended the conference "Faith Formation in a Secular Age" to ministers and other church leaders. [tps://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-formation-in-a-secular-age-a-conference-for-church-leaders-tickets-40573860509](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-formation-in-a-secular-age-a-conference-for-church-leaders-tickets-40573860509)

or

<https://tinyurl.com/yxcb764r>

Presbytery commended "Equip for Sports" to Kirk Sessions and invited them to consider sending a representative. Keynote speaker: Mark Fleming, Sports Chaplaincy UK. A conference looking at how to use sports as a means of connecting with people in the community.

<https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/sports-equip#>

or

<https://tinyurl.com/yb6t9rlc>

The Cross Presbyteries (Aberdeen, Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine and Deeside, Moray) Conference titled "What kind of church? Life Together" will be held at the Acorn Centre, West Parish Church of Scotland, Inverurie, on Saturday 8th September 2018 from 10am – 4pm. This conference will examine the question 'What kind of church?' It will explore the theological issues that surround the challenges

Presbytery of Aberdeen
Summary of Presbytery Meeting, June 2018

and opportunities which present themselves to churches as they seek to bear a faithful witness to the Gospel in the world today. For further information you can email Mrs Clare Davidson at the Centre for Ministry Studies by email to clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk alternatively, please telephone 01224 272138.

STAMP APPEAL

The Rev Susan Sutherland, Convener of the World Mission and Partnership Committee, intimated that there would be a collection box for postal stamps at future meetings of Presbytery for Malawi. This year, the World Mission Stamp Appeal is raising money for The Hungarian Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, which gives valuable support to children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. They help to run a number of day care centres which provide educational, emotional and physical support for children and young people. Supporting this project is easy. All congregations have to do is simply collect as many stamps as they can, leaving a small amount of envelope around each one. Then either post the stamps to the World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML20YB or bring them along to the Presbytery meetings and we will have a box on the table with the papers to gather them.

SENDING DONATIONS TO MALAWI

Following several enquiries about sending funds to Malawi, the World Mission and Partnerships Committee have been advised by the World Mission Council that if congregations want to send money directly to their partner church rather than send it to "121" then that is their choice. If congregations do send money directly and it goes missing in transit or is misused, then they cannot help and neither can the Synod. They further recommend that money is put into a congregational account and not into an individual one.

OTHER INTIMATIONS

The Rev Hugh Wallace would be keen to hear from anybody wishing to take over the co-ordinating of the City Wide Prayer Gatherings for 2019 as this position will become vacant following his retirement in September 2018.

A reminder was given that in the February Report of the Congregational Support Committee, Presbytery invited congregations and individuals to submit the names of recommended retreat centres which could be used for congregational retreats, Alpha weekends, leadership training events etc.

The updated Acts and Regulations of the 2018 General Assembly are available to download and view in the Church Law Section of the Church of Scotland website, please follow the weblink - http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/church_law

Aberdeen University Christian Union are keen to hear from any congregation who would be willing to hold students in prayer during the University Freshers Week (3rd – 7th September 2018). Interested parties may be willing to sign up for a daily prayer email during Fresher's week which will let them know events taking place and what they can be praying for the upcoming day. For further information and to sign up to email, please contact aucusecretary@gmail.com

SUMMARIES OF MEETINGS

The Presbytery thanked Mr Richard Little for compiling summaries of meetings and a replacement is being sought. Please contact the Presbytery Office if you are interested.