

The Church of Scotland**The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy****Kirkcaldy****24 June 2014**

The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy met and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Mrs Myra Deas, for the transaction of ordinary business.

Sederunt

23 Ministers, 1 Deacon, 25 Elders and 8 Corresponding Members as per the attendance sheet.

The Moderator welcomed John Hutchison, the recently appointed MDS at Rothes Trinity, as a Corresponding Member of Presbytery. The Moderator also welcomed representatives from the congregations of Glenrothes: St Margaret's and Auchterderran Kinglassie who had been cited to appear for their interest.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from 7 Ministers, and 13 other Presbyters as recorded and intimated.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 1 April 2014 (pages 2549-2554) and 5 June (page 2555) were approved and signed.

Approval of the Agenda

The Business Committee Vice-Convener, the Rev Richard Baxter, moved adoption of the Agenda as printed. This was agreed.

Retiral of Rev Ben Pieterse

The demission of the Rev. Ben Pieterse on 31 July 2014, having been agreed by Presbytery, the Moderator welcomed representatives from the congregation of Auchterderran Kinglassie who had been cited to appear for their interest.

The Moderator invited Mr Gordon Mitchell, Depute Session Clerk, who represented the congregation, to address Presbytery. Mr Mitchell paid tribute to their minister and his wife, Magda, and expressed grateful appreciation on behalf of the congregation for devoted service during his tenure as minister.

The Moderator, on behalf of Presbytery, thanked Mr Pieterse for his contribution to the work of Presbytery and wished him well in his retirement. The Clerk will send Mr Pieterse his Practising Certificate.

The Rev. Ben Pieterse responded appropriately.

Vacancy Procedure Committee

The Convener, Mrs Jacqueline Thomson presented the first section of the deliverance of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Auchterderran Kinglassie

- a) Presbytery appoints Mrs Myra Deas to serve as Interim Moderator at Auchterderran Kinglassie Parish Church as from 1st August 2014.
- b) Presbytery appoints Rev Jim Reid and Mrs Linda Gartshore to serve as members of an Advisory Committee at Auchterderran Kinglassie Parish Church as from 1st August 2014.

Retiral of Marjorie Cowie, Parish Assistant

The retirement of Miss Marjorie Cowie in August having been intimated to Presbytery, the Moderator welcomed representatives from the congregation of Glenrothes: St Margaret's who had been cited to appear for their interest.

The Moderator invited Mrs Mary Cook, Session Clerk, who represented the congregation, to address Presbytery. Mrs Cook spoke warmly of Miss Cowie's 12 years of committed service as Parish Assistant and of the good working relationship she had enjoyed with Rev John McLean for 11 years, and with Rev Christine Houghton for the past year.

The Moderator, on behalf of Presbytery, thanked Miss Cowie for her involvement in the life and work of Presbytery and wished her well in her retirement.

Miss Cowie responded appropriately.

Report from the General Assembly

The Rev Alan Kimmitt reported diligence on behalf of Commissioners to the 2014 General Assembly.

Ministry to the Travelling Community

Rev Tilly Wilson gave an insightful address to Presbytery on the, at times, difficult relationship between the church and gypsy travellers and the discrimination faced by the travelling community. She spoke of the recent commitment to a new relationship and outlined what church people could do to enable this.

Report of the Business Committee

The Moderator called for the report of the Business Committee which was given by the Vice Convener, Rev. Richard Baxter.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Appointment of Moderator of Presbytery

Presbytery appoints the Rev Robin McAlpine Moderator of Presbytery for the year 2014/15.

2. Committee Conveners

Presbytery appoints the Rev Alan Kimmit to serve as Convener of the Church and Society Committee, and the Rev. Gillian Paterson as Convener of the Mission and Discipleship Committee.

3. Practising Certificates

Presbytery approves the issue of Practising Certificates to the following ministers: Rev. David Adams, Rev. Alex Forsyth, Rev. Dr. Douglas Galbraith, Rev. Jack Gisbey, Rev. Christine Houghton, Rev. John McLean, Rev. George Nicol, Rev. Maureen Paterson, Rev. James Templeton and Rev. Tilly Wilson.

4. Presbytery Retreat

Presbytery agrees to hold a Retreat, organised by the Ministries Committee for those invited by them to attend, on a date to be announced.

5. Presbytery Meetings 2014/15

Presbytery resolves to amend Standing Order 9, and for the forthcoming year to hold ordinary meetings of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy on the first Tuesday of September and December of 2014, the first Tuesday of March 2015 and the last Tuesday of June 2015. In addition the Presbytery Communion service, together with a conference session will be held on the first Tuesday of November 2014. Other meetings may be called where and when appropriate.

6. Service of Introduction

Presbytery resolves to hold a service of introduction for the new M.D.S. appointments, and remits to the Business Convener, along with the Moderator and the Clerks, to make the appropriate arrangements.

7. Commission of Assembly

Presbytery appoints the Rev. Andrew Donald along with Mrs. Morag Michael to serve on the Commission of Assembly for 2014/15.

8. Summer Services

Presbytery grants permission for joint services to be held in Glenrothes as follows: July 6th at St. Columba's, July 13th at St. Margaret's, July 20th at Leslie Trinity and July 27th at Christ's Kirk; and for joint services in Kirkcaldy as follows: July 6th at St. Bryce, July 13th at Bennoch, July 20th at Linktown, and July 27th at Abbotshall.

Intimations

Relevant intimations were made to Presbytery.

Report of the Fabric and Finance Committee

The Moderator called for the report of the Fabric and Finance Committee which was given by the Convener, Mr Brian Lumsden.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Fabric Matters

Presbytery notes that the Fabric and Finance Committee have approved under delegated authority the following items-

(i) Bennoch

Fabric and Finance Committee approves the release of £19,372-00 from the monies held by the General Trustees in the capital account of the Consolidated Fabric Fund to meet the estimated cost of various repairs/improvements proposed to the church buildings

(ii) Glenrothes:St. Margaret's

Fabric and Finance Committee supports a grant application to the General Trustees in the sum of £4,000 towards the cost of £22,411-00 to upgrade the Manse during the current vacancy.

Mr Lumsden updated Presbytery on the financial position and sustainability of KART and GROW. He encouraged congregations to review their support and gave assurance that Presbytery would do the same.

Report of the Ministries Committee

The Moderator called for the report of the Ministries Committee which was given by the Convener, Rev Andrew Donald.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Study Leave Applications

(a) Subject to concurrence from Ministries Council, Presbytery approves the Study Leave application of the Rev Rosie Frew to undertake a period of study and reflection on the work of Prof. Michael Sandel based on his online Harvard Lecture Series on the subject of Justice. The request covers the period from 29th September to 12th October 2014 and will be undertaken at home.

(b) Subject to concurrence from Ministries Council, Presbytery approves the Study leave application of the Rev Robin McAlpine to attend a conference entitled, "Inhabit: Practice, Presence, Place" from 3rd to 4th October 2014 with additional days of reflective study. The request covers the period from 29th September to 13th October and will be undertaken at Springdale College, Birmingham.

2. Presbytery Transfer

Presbytery approves a request from Trainee Minister, Susan Cord, to transfer her candidature to Dunfermline Presbytery. Susan will commence her probationary placement under the supervision of Rev Christine Sime of Dalgety Parish Church within the bounds of Dunfermline Presbytery.

3. Regional Vocations Champion

Presbytery supports the application of the Rev Alan Kimmit to be a Regional Vocations Champion.

4. Mentors and Presbytery Assessors

Presbytery notes the autumn 2014 training days for new Mentors and Presbytery Assessors for the Discernment process – previously known as the Enquiry and Assessment process.

The Convener intimated that the Presbytery Study Day would be held on Thursday 25 September, 10.00am - 4.00pm in Dunnikier House Hotel. Professor Jolyon Mitchell and Dr Geoff Stevenson from Edinburgh University would be the speakers.

Rev Jim Reid updated Presbytery on the work on the Presbytery Chaplains (Rev Jim Reid, Rev Ken Froude and Rev Wilma Cairns) and the privilege they enjoy of building up relationships and journeying with those in ministry in the Presbytery. Following discussion about chaplaincy to retired ministers, the Convener agreed that the nature of chaplaincy was ever changing and the dialogue would be continued.

Report of the Mission and Discipleship Committee

The Moderator called for the report of the Mission & Discipleship Committee which was given by the Convener, Rev. Robin McAlpine.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The ensuing section was taken in private.

1. Superintendence

A. Local Church Review, Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk

- a. Presbytery receives the Local Church Review Report for Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk
- b. Presbytery thanks the Minister, Interim moderator(s), Kirk Session, Office-bearers and Congregation for their acceptance of the visit.
- c. Presbytery thanks the Dedicated Team members, Andrew Donald (team leader), Jacqueline Thomson, Linda Young and Nancy Gilmartin
- d. Presbytery notes the agreed 3 year Plan
- e. Presbytery notes that Jacqueline Thomson will support and encourage the congregation for the next three years
- f. Presbytery finds Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk in a satisfactory state

B. Local Church Review, St Kenneth's

- a. Presbytery receives the Local Church Review Report for St Kenneth's
- b. Presbytery thanks the Minister, Parish Assistant, Kirk Session, Office-bearers and Congregation for their acceptance of the visit.
- c. Presbytery thanks the Dedicated Team members, Alistair McLeod (team leader), Dorothy Murray, Margaret Cunningham and Carol Gibson
- d. Presbytery notes that Margaret Cunningham will support and encourage the congregation for the next three years
- e. Presbytery finds St Kenneth's in a satisfactory state

C. Local Church Review: Leslie Trinity

- a. Presbytery receives the Local Church Review Report for Leslie Trinity
- b. Presbytery thanks the Interim moderator(s), Kirk Session, Office-bearers and Congregation for their acceptance of the visit
- c. Presbytery thanks the Dedicated Team members, Elisabeth Cranfield (team leader)

Christine Whitelaw, Jean Webster and George Grant

- d. Presbytery notes the agreed 3 year Plan
- e. Presbytery notes that Jean Webster will support and encourage the congregation for the next three years
- f. Presbytery finds Leslie Trinity in a satisfactory state.

Presbytery continued in open court.

2. Safeguarding

Presbytery instructs all congregational Panel members to complete the safeguarding course for co-ordinators.

3. Presbytery Adult Trainer

Presbytery thanks Mrs Beryl Luke for her years of service as Presbytery Elder Trainer and then Presbytery Adult Trainer.

Report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee

The Moderator called for the remainder of the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee which was given by the Convener, Mrs. Jacqueline Thomson.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

2. Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk

Presbytery thanks Rev Marc Prowe and Rev Catriona Morrison for their assistance at Christ's Kirk, Glenrothes during the period of Rev Alexandra Rosener's Maternity leave.

3. Thornton

Presbytery thanks Rev Tilly Wilson for her assistance while serving as Interim Moderator at Thornton Parish Church.

Report of the Church and Society Committee

The Moderator called for the report of the Church and Society Committee which was given by the Convener, Rev Marc Prowe.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Gypsy Travellers and the Church

- (a) Presbytery respects Gypsy Traveller culture.
- (b) Presbytery encourages responsible media reporting on issues relating to Gypsy Travellers.
- (c) Presbytery encourages congregations to campaign for Traveller friendly sites, culturally sensitive healthcare, flexible and appropriate policing.
- (d) Presbytery encourages everyone to talk sensitively and listen sensitively to the travelling community.

2. Combating poverty – social care and welfare reform

- (a) Presbytery welcomes resources on prevention of poverty & homelessness, on foodbanks and directories of help.
- (b) Presbytery embraces the work of Prevention First based at Home4Good, partnered with Trust in Fife, Frontline Fife and others.
- (c) Presbytery is aware of changes in the welfare system and encourages all to be informed about these.
- (d) Presbytery thanks session clerks, ministers, MDS staff, members and all people for their engagement to date and encourages them to continue combating poverty and following Christ's call to serve the poor.

Presbytery was informed that Methil: Wellesley has recently been designated a UPA charge and Presbyters were encouraged to be receptive to what can be learned from UPA charges. The work of the Poverty Truth Commission was commended.

Correspondence**Forwarded**

- 1 Apr Go For It April news
- 1 Apr Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland Spring Newsletter
- 1 Apr Letter from Rev Ken Jeffrey for Session Clerks (re training needs)
- 3 Apr Info re Equip, Saturday 14 June
- 3 Apr E-mail from Panel on Review and Reform re Vision Consultations
- 7 Apr Further request for Church Rep on Fife Local Authority
- 9 Apr Intimation re Presbyterial Council Spring Rally
- 22 Apr Info re Meikle Paton Trust
- 22 Apr Church and Society Council e-news
- 22 Apr Leaflets from Lesley Childs, Fife Carers Centre
- 24 Apr Consultation on draft Religious Observance Policy for Fife
- 7 May Mission and Discipleship Council e-news
- 8 May Go For It fundraising workshops
- 8 May SU Training Tour
- 12 May Info re Summer Evening Songs of Praise at Methil: Wellesley
- 15 May Study Leave opportunity
- 19 May E-mail from Law Department re Real Time Information – HMRC Guidance
- 26 May Survey from Scottish Rural Parliament
- 27 May Info re Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme
- 27 May Church and Society Council e-news
- 28 May Info re Dementia Friendly Churches 2014
- 1 Jun Churches at the Royal Highland Show
- 2 Jun Go For It June news
- 5 Jun Info from EMMS re Bike and Hike Coastal Challenge
- 6 Jun Info from the Ministries Council re Volunteering Vocations
- 10 Jun Mission and Discipleship Council E-news
- 10 Jun Further request for new rep on Fife Council
- 10 Jun Info re Mission Shaped Church courses
- 16 Jun More than Gold – Ryder Cup etc
- 16 Jun Info re KART booksales

Clerk / Business Committee

- 22 Apr E-mail from Law Dept confirming new legal name of Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland
- 22 Apr Letter from Martin Scott re PVG Scheme Membership and Checks
- 22 Apr Info re cover arrangements for Principal Clerk to 30 June 2015
- 6 May Financial statistics for PIMS
- 13 May E-mail from Alan Kimmitt re United Services in Glenrothes in July
- 16 May Sick note from Richard Baxter
- 29 May Minutes of the General Assembly
- 5 Jun Final collated deliverance from the General Assembly

Fabric and Finance

- 14 Apr E-mail from General Trustees re new General Application Form
- 22 May Info for Accounts Attestation Committee from Archie McDowall
- 30 May Info re Applications to Heritage Lottery Fund for ‘urgent’ work

Ministries

- 4 Apr Broken Rites Annual report (for Presbytery Chaplains)
- 23 Apr Study Leave application from Robin McAlpine
- 2 May Letter from Martin Johnstone advising that Methil: Wellesley is on new Priority Areas list

- 6 May Study Leave Application Form from Rosemary Frew
- 9 May Probationers and Supervisors 2014
- 9 May PPTG draft minute from 22 April 2014
- 27 May E-mail from Anne Law re Recruitment of Mentors and Presbytery Assessors
- 9 Jun Request from Susan Cord to transfer to Dunfermline Presbytery for final placement

Mission and Discipleship

- 3 Apr Prayer Co-ordinator newsletter
- 13 May Info re Learn consultation

Additional items of correspondence

- Info from Janette Wilson re cyber threats to computers
- Presbytery Ministries and Mission contributions to date
- Study Leave opportunity – MSc in Values-based Practice at Glasgow University
- Information on courses run by the Fife Carers Centre

Prior to intimating the adjournment, the Moderator thanked those who were retiring from Presbytery at the conclusion of the current session for their service and wished them well in the future. Particular mention was made of Mr Bob Brown and Mr George Grant who had both served Presbytery faithfully and well over many years. Retiring Conveners, Rev Robin McAlpine and Rev Marc Prowe, were also thanked.

Adjournment

Presbytery adjourned to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2 September 2014 in St. Bryce Kirk Centre for the transaction of ordinary business.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

_____Moderator

_____Clerk