

Presbytery of Kirkcaldy - Strategy and Resourcing Committee

Kirkcaldy Area Feedback – 15th May 2019

Introduction

Sept 2018 - “Big Meeting” – Input from all congregations

Nov 2018 – Area meetings – More detailed listening

April/May 2019 – Area feedback

Next steps - Draw up presbytery plan for discussion by Kirk Sessions and approval by Presbytery, then start to implement plan area by area

Primary Planning Principle - Mission –

Participation in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Rooted in and focused on mission.

‘As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ (John 20:21)

Secondary Planning Principles – Communities, Ecumenism, The poor, Whole people of God, Congregations, Mixed economy, Financial responsibility, Buildings

Kirkcaldy Area – Currently

- Abbotshall – One minister
- Bennochty – One minister
- Dysart St Clair – One Interim Minister
- Linktown with Auchertool – One minister (job share)
- Pathhead – One minister
- St Bryce – One minister
- Torbain – One minister and One OLM*
- Templehall – One minister (vacancy)

Nine places of worship with associated halls, eight manses

Viewforth buildings identified as “not required beyond current plan”

Already some sharing between town centre congregations

* - OLM = *Ordained Local Minister*

Options

Following the feedback from the consultations, several options were considered. These included:

Option 1 - No change – Easy to implement, but not consistent with the planning principles or the challenges facing the Church

Option 2 - A single “Kirkcaldy Parish” with several places of worship and a ministry team – The rules about planning do not currently allow this type of arrangement, but they are likely to change.

Proposal

- Covenant or Area Ministries or Hub-style groupings
- Based on individual congregations working ever more closely together in three area groupings (Centre, North West, North & North East).
- Sharing of personnel, initiatives and buildings to great stronger links and closer working, perhaps in 'covenant' as is being done in Leith.
- Possibly some changes to Parish boundaries.
- Loosening the strong ties between One minister, One Congregation, One Building.

Proposal – Town Centre

- Abbotshall, Bennoch, Linktown, St Bryce
- Build on existing shared activities.
- Plan to reduce from 4 Full-time equivalent ministerial posts to 3 Full-time equivalent.
- Plan to reduce from four to three places worship in the town centre.
- Possibly informal links with Congregational Church

Proposal – North West

- Templehall, Torbain (and possibly Bennoch)
- Templehall in a 'dynamic vacancy in guardianship of presbytery
- 50% Community Development worker, engaging with community, especially as Council buildings are redeveloped.
- Torbain – One minister
- OLM working across the area.
- Strong links to NE Pioneer Minister.'
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Proposal – North and North East

- Pathhead and Dysart St Clair
- New pioneering ministry post as a Mission initiative to existing housing areas and new build areas (Kingdom Park and Boreland)
- In addition, 1.5 Full-time equivalent ministry posts between Dysart St Clair and Pathhead

Consider sharing:

Mission and Outreach opportunities, Pastoral care and community engagement, Training, Fellowship, Prayer, Bible Study, Retreats, Chaplaincy, Pastoral and Funeral Cover, Different types and times for worship, Linked youth and children's activities, Worship teams, Music resourcesand in other ways

Governance

Seek ways to improve governance and reduce the effort required by sharing in areas like Safeguarding, GDPR, Health & Safety, OSCR reporting, getting quotes for fabric projects, Websites, Facebook etc.