



On the twenty seventh day of April 2021 the Presbytery of Edinburgh was invited to attend an on-line meeting for ordinary business which was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator, Rev Marjory McPherson, Clerk, and others, Ministers, Deacons and Elders as in the Register of Attendance.

CELEBRATION

Congratulations

The Moderator on behalf of Presbytery congratulated Rev Calum MacLeod on reaching the twenty fifth anniversary of his ordination and to Rev Dr Anne Logan for reaching the fortieth anniversary of her ordination.

Tribute

The Moderator intimated that the Rev John Cook had died on 11th April 2021.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 9th February 2021 and 25th March 2021 were submitted and approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Order of Business, as circulated, was submitted and approved with the inclusion of the Order of the Day at 7.30pm for Congregational Business.

Resourcing Mission

The Convener, Rev Michael Mair, gave in the report. (Appendix 1)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

1. Internship Scheme

- a. approve the Presbytery internship scheme for 2021.
- b. encourage congregations and clusters to think creatively about how an intern might help to facilitate missional projects through the summer of 2021.
- c. note the application form and deadline for applications to be made to the convener, Rev. Michael Mair (MMair@churchofscotland.org.uk) by 31st May 2021.

Ministries

The Convener, Rev Iain May, gave in the report.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

1. nominate Jo Black and Sue MacGregor as Candidates for Ordained National Ministry and elect them as Corresponding Members.
2. nominate Douglas Robertson as a Candidate for Ordained National Ministry.

Finance Committee

The Convener, Rev Dr Karen Campbell, gave in the report. (Appendix 2)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

1. approve the Audited Accounts.
2. reappoint the Auditor: Jeffrey Crawford & Co, Castle Terrace.
3. thank the Treasurer, Jim Byers, for his work and commitment to the many tasks he undertakes in such an exemplary fashion.
4. remind Kirk Sessions who haven't claimed the Covid-19 Grant from 2020 to apply for extraordinary expenditure related to Covid.
5. invite Kirk Sessions to apply for the Covid-19 Grant for 2021 up to £500, which can be made over several claims if necessary.
6. invite Kirk Sessions to consider the possible use of a Contactless Terminal, once the Trial completes.

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS

Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from the Rev Peter Barber asking to demit from his charge of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse as of 31st May 2021.

Presbytery agreed to:

1. release Mr Barber from his charge of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse with effect from 31st May 2021.
2. declare that the charge of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse will become vacant on 1st June 2021.
3. agree the Rev Gordon Kennedy will continue as Interim Moderator.
4. remit the vacancy of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse to the Deployment of Resources, Finance, & Property Committees for consideration.
5. instruct the Clerk to intimate these decisions to the congregation.
6. note that Mr Barber retains his seat in Presbytery electing to change to category R in the Register of Ministry.

Leave Taking

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Presbytery to the Rev Peter Barber, minister of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse, and thanked him for his ministry in the city and assured him of the good wishes of Presbytery.

Deployment of Resources Committee

The Convener, Rev Norman Smith, gave in the report.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

Greenside

1. approve the continuation of the current Basis of Guardianship for Greenside Parish Church until the 31st December 2021.

The Guardianship for Greenside Parish Church was due to end on 30th June 2021, however in the light of Covid restrictions and the ongoing discussions towards a new Presbytery Plan, the Deployment of Resources Committee recommends extending the current Basis of Guardianship until the end of 2021, thus allowing for a fuller exploration of future possibilities for the congregation.

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

The Convener, Rev Andrea Price, gave in the report. (Appendix 3)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

1. receive the Local Church Review report for St Andrew's and St George's West.
2. thank the visiting team for their input to the Local Church Review process and their visits.
3. note the LCR refresher training for the visiting teams.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Business Committee

The Convener, Rev David Cameron, gave in the report. (Appendix 4)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

1. note that the "Holiday Committee" acting under powers agreed to:
Willowbrae
 - a. grant permission to Willowbrae Parish Church to undertake emergency repairs to external fabric of the building at a cost of £58k inc. VAT, and to draw down sufficient funds held on the congregation's behalf in the Consolidated Fabric Fund to pay for the work.
 - b. instruct the congregation to use only the Upper Hall facilities for worship until contractors have adequately mitigated the danger to the public; that a statement from

the contractors to that effect should be exhibited to the Property Committee and the Covid Group prior to reopening the rest of the building under the Covid guidance of the time.

- c. instruct the congregation to seek to recoup the VAT through the Places of Worship scheme.

Leith North

- d. grant approval to the congregation of Leith North to invest the proceeds (£798,314.64) from the sale of the manse at 6 Craighall Gardens, into the Consolidated Fabric Fund – Growth and Income Unit Trust Funds.

2. Presbytery Reform

- a. note that the Presbyteries of West Lothian and Edinburgh have sent a joint Overture to the General Assembly to unite from 1 January 2022.
- b. agree to participate in discussions with the Presbyteries of West Lothian, Lothian, Duns, Melrose & Peebles, and Jedburgh regarding the formation of a Presbytery of the South East and agree that 3 members of the current Steering Group working with West Lothian be invited to act as their representatives.

3. Moderator's Visit

note the dates of the visit by the Moderator of the General Assembly.

4. Covid Group and Reopening Churches and Halls.

thank members of the Covid Group who assess applications to reopen church buildings and provide the necessary help and advice to congregations.

Planning Strategy Team

The Convener, Rev Jack Holt, gave in the report. (Appendix 5)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

1. receive the report.
2. urge members of Presbytery to ensure the report's contents are widely shared with local leadership and congregations.
3. commit to pray for all those engaged in formulating a new Plan for Presbytery.

Property Committee

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hay, gave in the report. (Appendix 6)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

1. **The Old Kirk and Muirhouse** – grant permission to The Old Kirk and Muirhouse to undertake a feasibility study at a cost of £5k, and to draw down sufficient funds held on the congregation's behalf in the Consolidated Fabric Fund to pay for the work; instruct the congregation to submit the brief for the work to the Property Committee for approval before the study is commissioned.
2. **St David's Broomhouse** - grant permission to St David's Broomhouse to undertake the replacement of obsolete lighting in the sanctuary and manse repairs at a cost of £13k

and to draw down sufficient funds from the Consolidated Fabric Fund to cover the costs.

3. **General Trustees' Toolkit** – instruct every congregation within the bounds to complete and return the General Trustees' Toolkit and accompanying summary sheet by **Monday 10th May 2021**.

Nomination Committee

The Convener, Rev James Dewar, gave in the report.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Presbytery

1. nominate the Rev Dr John Cowie as Convener of the World Mission Committee.
2. thank the Rev George Vidits who has stepped down as Convener of the World Mission Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery adjourned to meet:

- for ordinary business until 22nd June 2021 at 7pm on-line.

Closed with prayer

Moderator

Clerk

Appendix 1- Resourcing Mission

In 2018, the Resourcing Mission committee provided funding for five congregations to hire an intern over the summer months. The response from congregations was so encouraging that funding was provided to 10 congregations to hire an intern. As churches return to in-person services and gatherings, it seems that this would be a useful time to restart this project and help congregations to add to their capability through the hiring of an intern.

Grants of up to £1,000 will be awarded to enable congregations to recruit an intern to work alongside a congregation over the months of July and August. Congregations will be responsible for the hiring and payment of their intern. While the Committee appreciates that the deadlines on this project are tight, it is hoped that this will be a useful project for congregations to participate in. Presbytery is asked to note the application form and the accompanying project outline.

Appendix 2 -Finance

The Committee would like to thank all congregations for their payment of their Presbytery Dues.

The Presbytery is very fortunate to have financial resources to support and encourage congregations in their Ministry and Mission. As we move into a period of significant transition, both internally and in the unions which will necessarily happen with West Lothian and with other Presbyteries to the East and South, it would be fair to say that they do not have the infrastructure which Edinburgh has.

This means that in terms of financial support the Presbytery of Edinburgh's resources will be called on in many ways in the years to come. The vast majority of our reserves are for the purposes of Mission and as the Marks of Mission are at the heart of future changes, this is to the benefit of everyone in this or future Presbyteries.

However, the work of the Committee continues. The Accounts are on the website for your perusal. They have been audited by Jeffrey Crawford and we would ask that they are reappointed to conduct the Audit of the Accounts next year.

The Treasurer and Administrator both support the work of the Committee and we would want to thank them for all the support which they give.

Last year each congregation was in a position to apply to the Mission and Finance Committee Conveners for up to £500 to mitigate costs specifically related to Covid Mission expenses. Not all congregations have taken advantage of this and the Committee would encourage those congregations who have not yet done so, to take advantage of this. Equally the Committee has made the decision to release another £500 to each congregation this year for the same purposes. Please submit any claims to the Conveners of Finance and

Mission, with any receipts for this purpose. Please remember that it is not for normal ongoing expenses, but for Covid Mission expenses.

The Contactless Trial which began for a few weeks in the autumn of last year is recommencing as the churches reopen. This will continue until at least June, but with the possibility of an extension until August. We fully expect that this will prove to be a success and will then be rolled out to those congregations who wish to take up the use of a Contactless Terminal. There are costs attached, but the more who take part, the cheaper it will be.

Appendix 3 – Local Church Review Report

1. We ask Presbytery to receive the report from John Cowie and his LCR team on their visits to St Andrew's and St George's West.
We thank him and all the team for their work and the congregation for their welcome and cooperation just before lockdown.

St Andrew's and St George's West.

Team: John Cowie, Linda Farrer, Martin Pearce and Rita Welsh

St Andrew's and St George's West is a city centre congregation, the result of a union of St Andrew's and St George's with the congregation of St George's West in 2010, and joined more recently by Albany Deaf Church. Involvement with the Albany Deaf Church, and the addition of BSL translation during worship and meetings, brings another dimension to worship and the need to develop a keen awareness of the needs of the others, as we saw when we met with the Kirk Session,

They are a gathered congregation, many with historical links to their composite congregations who faithfully support the ministry and mission of the congregation with their time, money and creativity.

The Kirk Session is actively seeking a new vision for its mission to move the congregation into the next generation. There was a keen awareness of both the strengths and the weaknesses of the current situation. More of that later.

The congregation is supportive and active, interested in the community and wider world about them and the continuing mission of the church in the heart of the New Town of Edinburgh.

They have a wonderful building, which thanks to care and attention to detail, and adequate funds, is in very good condition and offers a wide range of facilities for worship, concerts, seminars and the other activities which take place in the church. They generously turn over

the church to Christian Aid for some weeks for the annual and hugely successful Christian Aid book sale.

They offer a variety of worship opportunities, with three services every Sunday, and sometimes four, of different kinds and a weekday *worship@1* for city centre worshippers. They have also explored weekday evening Taizé services, and as with most congregations hold a number of special services during the year. They have employed the written and spoken word, BSL, music and visual material in worship. To support their worship they involve a wide group of volunteers. They have developed an enviable musical tradition, which they continue to invest in, and which provides an important contribution to their worship and to the life of the congregation.

An important part of their work and identity has been the developing cooperation with other city centre congregations, St John's Episcopal Church and St Cuthbert's Parish Church, within the ECCCT, Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together.

This involves not only worship but also support for the Chaplain to the Arts, Workplace Chaplaincy, involvement in the work of Christian Aid, and in a homelessness group. The ECCCT also supports Messy Church and a Pilgrimage App guiding visitors to the Christian sites in the city centre.

An examination of their recent financial statistics finds generous Christian stewardship and careful planning, with income and reserves at levels others would envy, if envy were permitted, as is their utilisation of the building to raise funds. Their investments, for example in their professional kitchen facilities investment and in staff training provides a solid base for the café, which runs in the basement during the week. The kitchen also supports their monthly Fellowship Lunches, at which they also raise substantial funds for different charities, and other meals throughout the year.

Location is not only a factor in setting up their successful projects, they have also been important in providing a basis for the congregation's involvement in mission. Outreach to the commercial, business and arts communities in Edinburgh is one of the core focuses of a dedicated ECCCT Trust. It creates opportunities for dialogue about faith and finance, creativity and personality, commerce and profit, as well as drawing businesses into the church for the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

Pastoral care for their scattered congregation is organised in five area teams by elders and pastoral visitors. Transport is offered to bring people to church and social events organised. We discovered also a range of opportunities for groups to meet for discussion, music and walking.

Communication is an important focus within the widespread congregation, with printed material in different languages on display, use of the website and social media, all employed to hold people together and allow them to feel part of the wider church.

When we met with the congregation, they were in the early stages of involvement with HeartEdge as part of a new vision for the congregation. Launched by St Martin-in-the-fields in London in 2017, HeartEdge models a community of hope, reimagining church and society through compassion, commerce, culture and congregational life for people at the heart and on the edge. We heard about how the HeartEdge model is built on the conviction that a well-balanced interplay of at least two of their Cs, compassion, commerce, culture, and congregational life. This is in its early stages but we hear of their excitement at reimagining church life and continuing forward as a community of hope. We heard about worship and nurture, transformational citizenship, and they are looking forward to working with other congregations in the HeartEdge movement.

Along with this they were also examining the diverse range of worship currently on offer, and how it would continue in the face of changes in the congregation of resources of people and materials. This was even before the startling changes that would soon take place (our meeting with the Kirk Session took place on March 11 a week before the Covid-19 lockdown).

Our visits revealed a generous and active congregation responding superbly with their minister to the challenges which face them, offering worship in different forms for different groups, caring for their building and offering it for use to the wider community in a host of ways, using their imagination and resources to support a wide range of worship and mission opportunities. The minister is clearly held in high regard and members of the Kirk Session are keenly aware of the support required, and ensure that her days off are undisturbed.

While the financial statistics were very impressive, our committee was more concerned about the people statistics, which revealed a falling membership in recent years (albeit with the addition of members of Albany Deaf Church). This is perhaps no different from many other congregations, and we noted that while there had been 58 funerals in the period from 2014 to 2018, 27 new members and several additional adherents were reported, though only 3 confirmations during this period. The sustained and imaginative evangelism of the congregation does not appear to be resulting in new professions of faith, which is an area of challenge for the congregation and most congregations in the Church of Scotland.

The wide range of activities of this congregation, and their dominating presence on George Street in the heart of the New Town of Edinburgh, has an impact on very many people. They provide a community of love, which is a blessing to the city centre.

The Kirk Session organises vibrant and varied worship and a range of outreach initiatives, which are supported by the local community, as well as members. Unfortunately, as noted above, this has led to only 3 new professions of faith in 5 years. The Kirk Session is well aware of this concern and hope that the Heart Edge initiatives may be a vehicle for attracting new members.

We worried about the pressures on their present willing and active volunteers, and where the successors to these would come from. We were heartened to hear that seven new elders had been chosen and they were looking into succession planning.

Finally, had our report been compiled immediately after our visits that would have been enough. However, the elephant in the room for every congregation, and for the church as a whole, is what kind of church will emerge from the period of lockdown. The high average age of the worshippers puts in jeopardy their ability to meet for worship in reasonable numbers, and in some cases the ability of some to access their online offerings.

- 1 We commend the Minister and elders for their active, imaginative and inspiring leadership. This is a congregation fulfilling an important mission in the centre of our capital city through its wide range of worship and mission activities.
- 2 Their active support for the arts, the business world and homeless in conjunction with the other congregations of ECCT is a good example of cooperation and mutual support.
- 3 The LCR team recommend that the encouragement of new members should be a matter of priority, even if it means dropping some of the regular activities.
- 4 The LCR Team also recommend that succession planning of the current leadership team should also be a priority to ensure this church community continues to serve at the heart of the new town in response to the radical plan of the Church of Scotland.

2. **LCR Refresher Training:** Local Church Reviews are sisted until live meetings are possible again. In the meantime, all LCR team members and leaders will be offered refresher training on Zoom. The dates are Thursdays 13th and 27th May 2021 from 7pm – 8.30pm.

The training sessions will be facilitated by Rev Eleanor McMahon and two other members of the Interim Ministry Team, Rev Lynn Brady and Rev Dr Andrew Gardner.

We hope it will be useful for us all to share our experiences and learn from each other. There will be time to discuss the process and gather questions as well as time to learn about techniques to deliver Local Church Reviews in the best possible way for teams and congregations alike.

We urge all team members to take part if at all possible. Please contact Andrea Price for a Zoom link should you need it.

Appendix 4- Business Committee

Presbytery Reform

At the meeting of Presbytery on 9th February 2021 the Presbytery agreed to overture the General Assembly to unite with the Presbytery of West Lothian from 1st January 2022. The Presbytery of West Lothian also met on 9th February and similarly agreed to a union with

Edinburgh. The wording of a joint Overture has now been submitted on time for this year's General Assembly.

This union while bringing together our two neighbouring Presbyteries still leaves open the question of further reform and change in the larger area of the South East of Scotland. At the end of February the Clerks and two representatives of the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, West Lothian, Lothian, Melrose and Peebles, Duns, and Jedburgh met at the invitation of the Principal Clerk and agreed that further meetings would take place in order to discuss the possible future shape of this larger geographical area. The information that follows sets out some detail of Presbytery Reform taking place around the country and the context in which Edinburgh might engage in future conversations. This report written by the Principal Clerk is also being taken to the Presbyteries mentioned above.

OVERVIEW

The General Assembly of 2019 instructed a process of Presbytery Reform which would see Presbyteries adopt a pivotal role in reshaping and resourcing the local church. To facilitate this change the Assembly also set a target of reducing the number of Presbyteries from 43 to around 12 by May 2024.

In the intervening period work has been on-going to achieve these aims. The following gives some indication of how we are making progress in forming the "new" Presbyteries.

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTH EAST AND THE NORTHERN ISLES

Aberdeen and Shetland formed on 1st June. Now there is work going on to bring in the North East Presbyteries – Moray (part of), Gordon, Buchan, Kincardine & Deeside. Orkney have representation on the Steering Group and they now have a part-time appointment (shared with a parish) which will work on the reorganisation of the parish structures in Orkney which is key to them being able to join a bigger Presbytery.

The Steering Group has a schedule which brings them to the GA of 2022 with a start date of 1st January 2023

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND WESTERN ISLES

The Presbyteries of Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, Moray (part of), Abernethy, Lochaber, Lochcarron Skye, Uist, Lewis – there is a Steering Group working and they expect that they will be coming to the GA of 2022 with a start date of 1st January 2023.

THE PRESBYTERY OF PERTH

The Presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Perth, Dunkeld & Meigle, and Stirling.

Their steering group intend bringing an Overture to the GA of this year with a start date of 1st January 2022.

THE PRESBYTERY OF FIFE

The former Presbyteries of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, and St Andrews were united as the Presbytery of Fife on 1st January 2021.

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTH EAST

Edinburgh and West Lothian will come to the GA and ask that they will be united from 1st January 2022.

Representatives of Edinburgh, West Lothian, Lothian, Duns, Melrose & Peebles, and Jedburgh met with the Principal Clerk on 26th February which resulted in this report.

A possible scenario would be an Overture to the GA of 2022 with a start date of 1st January 2023.

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTH WEST

The Presbyteries of Ardrossan, Irvine & Kilmarnock, Ayr, Wigtown & Stranraer, Annandale & Eskdale, Dumfries & Kirkcudbright have now prepared a Basis and Plan of Union to be submitted to the 2021 General Assembly with a start date in September 2022.

THE PRESBYTERY OF LANARKSHIRE

The Presbyteries of Hamilton and Lanark have now decided to unite and form the Presbytery of Lanarkshire. They are intending to bring an Overture to the GA of 2021 with a start date of 1st January 2022.

They would still have a goal of including those parts of Lanarkshire which are currently in other Presbyteries.

THE PRESBYTERY OF CLYDE

The Presbyteries of Greenock & Paisley and Dumbarton united on 1st September 2020. I am seeking to facilitate a meeting with representatives of the Presbytery of Argyll.

THE PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW

This may be a case of “as-is” (with Cumbernauld added) but they too would like to be considered a new Presbytery adopting innovative ways of working across their large population base and the five local authority areas.

Falkirk

The Cumbernauld churches have been transferred to the Presbytery of Glasgow.

The Presbytery have decided to enter into conversations with Glasgow with the understanding that several of its parishes e.g. Bo'ness may end up "going" east towards the Presbytery centred on Edinburgh.

Argyll

They understand that they need to be part of something bigger and there will be an initial meeting with representatives of the Presbytery of Clyde as that is where all their contacts with the mainland – major hospital, road, ferry, rail and airport are in that Presbytery.

This may be a place where the Mission District/Deanery model comes into its own allowing Argyll the space and permission to continue their imaginative approach to ministry and mission in a distinctive setting while also giving them access to the resources of a bigger Presbytery.

Visit by the Moderator of the General Assembly - October 2021

During the year of office the Moderator of the Church of Scotland General Assembly visits four Presbyteries and Edinburgh Presbytery is due to be visited this year by the incoming Moderator, The Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC (Jim Wallace). The dates of the visit are 9-18th October 2021 and work is underway to plan the events for that visit. We are grateful to Rev Michael Mair who has taken on the leadership of the planning with the help of our own Moderator the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning. The support and engagement of Presbyters in the lead up to and during the visit will be invaluable.

Covid Group

When it became legal to reopen church buildings for worship and as further restrictions are gradually eased it remains the case that congregations require permission to reopen and various documents are requested by the Presbytery Covid Group in order to help ensure the safety of all who gather in our premises. It is a significant task for those who assess applications to reopen, and the Business Committee and all of Presbytery are indebted to those who freely give of their time and expertise to assess applications for reopening and turn these around with such speed and efficiency. From time to time emails are sent to Ministers and Session Clerks in particular to keep them abreast of developments and requirements and your attention is drawn to these emails whether coming from the Presbytery office or the national Covid Group.

Appendix 5 – Planning Strategy Team

Report

A. The Conversations

At the time of writing (14/4/21), most, but not all, of the submissions from the Cluster Groups have been received. The PPST having read them would make the following comments:

1. The PPST would wish to thank the ministers and representatives of the congregations who participated in the season of conversations, and those who acted in some cases as facilitators, and its own members who accompanied the groups through at times challenging discussions. Conducting all of this on Zoom would certainly not have been anyone's first choice so we are grateful to everyone for their perseverance.
2. The approach by the different clusters varied, some seeking to tackle the impending shortages of ministry posts, albeit without clarity of numbers, some considering new ways of creatively working together to carry out mission, but with many not addressing the impending reduction in ministry posts there is much work remaining to be done in this area which will fall to the Strategy Team.
3. The priorities emerging from the cluster reports are mission (particularly around new housing developments), lay training, and a priority to the poor.
4. While a number of clusters fed back to the Team after discussing the report with their local Kirk Sessions a number are yet to do this and yet to raise awareness within congregations of impending changes that will be wrought by a reduction in ministry posts and the changes in the national Church's financial situation which have been accelerated by Covid. In these coming months the Team strongly encourages the cluster representatives to communicate with Kirk Sessions and congregations the forthcoming changes, not least in terms of the reduction in ministry posts that will be brought to this year's General Assembly.

B. The Goalposts Have Been Moved

The process of Presbytery Planning has been conducted throughout a period of time when progress was delayed while waiting for change, for example with a year's delay in General Assembly agreeing the Radical Action Plan, and then an unexpected year of lockdown. In the last few weeks the Strategy Team was made aware of a further new development which will significantly change both the timeline and content of the proposed Plan.

The General Assembly in May will be asked to approve a new Act called the Presbytery Mission Plan Act 2021. If agreed by the Assembly the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act 3, 2007) which has governed planning will be repealed. Some features of the New Act are as follows:

- Presbytery Mission Plans should be guided by the Five Marks of Mission.
- There will be close consultation with the Faith Nurture Forum and General Trustees in creating a Plan.
- There will no longer be 10 year plans but 5 year rolling Mission plans, to be reviewed annually; all Plans to be approved by the end of 2022.

- The Act refers to the fixed number of ministry posts which will be allocated to each Presbytery, the initial numbers to be presented in the Supplementary Report to the General Assembly 2021.
- The reduction in numbers will be more severe than previously anticipated.
- The previous 4 categories for buildings will be placed by two: to retain or dispose.
- The process of appeal will be replaced by a process of review.
- Implementation of the approved Plan is urgent to achieve the reduction to 600 posts (ministers, deacons and MDS) by 2025.

C. Formulating the Plan

Anticipating the new Act being agreed by this General Assembly in view of the very real crisis now affecting the Church of Scotland, the Strategy Team is looking to formulate a Plan on the basis of its tenets, including that the Mission Plan will describe how the Presbytery will use resources to:

- i) be shaped around Mission taking cognisance of what is agreed in Local Church Review reports;
- ii) sustain the commitment to a territorial ministry;
- iii) conform to the numbers of posts and timescales set by the General Assembly;
- iv) ensure that new ways of being Church are reflected in the Mission Plan, beyond ministers of Word and Sacrament and Development Staff appointments.

In doing so the Presbytery will categorise each ecclesiastical building as either:

- (a) to be retained beyond the five years from the point at which the Mission Plan is approved or annually reviewed, or
- (b) to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of by a specified date which is within the five years from the point at which the Mission Plan is first approved.

It is clear that we are in a time of rapid change and seeking in local cluster areas or within the Strategy Team to imagine ways of being church that take into account some of the losses and reductions that are coming, it is important not to lose sight of new possibilities that may also emerge. Many have expressed the need for training whether in leadership, worship leading, pioneering, discipleship, and change can be an impetus to growth. While the pattern of one minister, one congregation, one set of buildings may no longer be the norm, there are surely many gifts within congregations to be developed and put to service in mission. Although the clusters have reported back to the Strategy Team it is our hope that in the light of new information you continue to build on your relationships and to feed in your ideas of new ways of shaping church life locally and considering ways in which the Presbytery as a whole can make use of its resources through its physical and online presence.

The process of writing a Plan has now begun and the Convener of the Team expresses gratitude to those involved in the writing process and to all who engage in the process of honing what will be drafted.

D. Possible delay in presenting the Draft Plan to Presbytery

As the Assembly approaches and has to consider a new Planning Act and numbers of ministry posts; also as the Presbytery navigates its relationship to neighbouring Presbyteries, moving towards a union with West Lothian and into conversation with Lothian and three Borders Presbyteries with the potential for doing some work on planning together; as new information may impact on what the clusters wish to say to the Team about their local area; as the General Trustees' Toolkit is now sent out to congregations to begin the process of assessing buildings; the level of uncertainty and potential for change may well mean movement in the dates of finalising a draft Plan. We trust you will bear with us through this and continue to collaborate with us. If all of this necessitates more work that impinges on bringing a draft in June the Presbytery has been forewarned of the reasons why.

E. Preparing the way

At the beginning of February Presbyters were all sent a letter from the Chief Officer outlining budgetary concerns, the impending reduction in ministry numbers, along with other changes facing the Church. That letter and some of the content of this report if shared with Kirk Sessions and congregations will help alert our members to the very real and immediate crisis facing the Church nationally and the need for all of us to play a part in reshaping how we are Church and how we do mission in the future. Sharing such information is vital to enabling congregations to understand the form and content of a new Presbytery Plan which will impact their congregational life.

Appendix 6 - Property

When The Old Kirk and Muirhouse was formed, it was decided to use the Muirhouse St Andrew's building and to explore how it could be developed for greater use within the new Parish. Much work has been done on this by the Project Worker appointed to do that task, but some specific professional input is now required to test the feasibility of certain options. The congregation is looking for permission to undertake this study and to draw down £5k from funds held on its behalf in the Consolidated Fabric Fund to pay for it. No development work would be undertaken until there is clarity about the place of the building in a new Presbytery Plan, but this study would allow them to develop more fully ideas that would serve the needs of the community.

St David's Broomhouse

The congregation of St David's Broomhouse is seeking permission for the removal and replacement of the obsolete lighting and wiring and to replace the lighting with LEDs. The replacement of this obsolete equipment removes a regular need for high work to replace bulbs, has a lower running cost and is more eco-friendly. They are also looking to undertake some maintenance work on the manse. The total cost is just under £13k (inc VAT) and the congregation is seeking permission to draw down funds held on its behalf by the General Trustees in the Consolidated Fabric Fund to pay for the work.

General Trustees' Toolkit and the Presbytery Summary Sheet

The General Trustees have produced a 'Toolkit' to help facilitate the assessment of buildings within Presbyteries as part of the preparation for new Presbytery Plans. A copy of the Toolkit, together with a covering letter and summary form, has been issued to every congregation within Edinburgh Presbytery. **Please read the guidance on the summary form carefully before completing the forms.** Every congregation is now being instructed to use the Toolkit to assess their buildings, record their findings in the expandable boxes at the end of each main section and to complete the summary form, returning **both documents** electronically to **the Presbytery office and the Property Convener (jaredhay3110@gmail.com) by Monday 10th May 2021.** The forms will be used by the Strategy Team as part of its preparation of the Presbytery Plan.

The overall aim is to achieve buildings which effectively serve the Mission of the Church to the wider community by providing 'well equipped spaces in the right places.' The Toolkit provides a consistent and practical approach for reviewing our land and buildings, helping us to examine the range of issues involved. The Strategy Team will appreciate cooperation in this enterprise as we work towards agreeing a pathway for the years ahead.

Next Property Committee meeting

The next meeting of the Property Committee will take place on:

1st June – applications for approval to be submitted by **25th May**.

Presbytery Property grants

The deadline for applications to the Property Committee for financial assistance towards projects is **Monday 31st May**. Application forms can be downloaded from the Resources page on the Presbytery website and should be submitted to the Presbytery Office email and copied to the Property Convener at jaredhay3110@gmail.com . As always, the amount of money available for disbursement is very modest.