



## **REPORTS AND DELIVERANCES FOR 14 SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS**

#### **Vacancy Procedure Committee - Inverleith St Serf's**

The Clerk reported that she has received a letter from the Rev Joanne Foster asking to demit from her charge of Inverleith St Serf's as of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021, so that she can take up the post of Chaplain at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. In terms of Act VIII 2003 anent Vacancy Procedure, the Business Committee, sitting as the Vacancy Procedure Committee for Inverleith St Serf's, has agreed to:

1. release Mrs Foster from her charge of Inverleith St Serf's with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
2. declare that the charge of Inverleith St Serf's will become vacant on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
3. appoint the Rev Ian Alexander as Interim Moderator.
4. instruct the Clerk to intimate these decisions to the congregation.
5. note that Mrs Foster retains her seat in Presbytery and continues as a category O in the Register of Ministry for three years.

#### **Stockbridge – Demission of Rev Dr John Cowie**

The Clerk will report that she has received a letter from the Rev Dr John Cowie asking to demit from his charge of Stockbridge as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

It will be moved that Presbytery agree to:-

1. release Dr Cowie from his charge of Stockbridge with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
2. declare that the charge of Stockbridge will become vacant on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
3. instruct the Clerk to bring forward the name of an Interim Moderator.
4. instruct the Clerk to intimate these decisions to the congregation.
5. note that Dr Cowie retains his seat in Presbytery and continues as a category O in the Register of Ministry for three years.

## LOCAL MISSION IN CONTEXT

### Ministries Committee

#### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

1. agree that the nomination of Tim Linford, candidate for Ordained National Ministry, be transferred to the Presbytery of Edinburgh and appoint him as a Corresponding Member.

## WORLD MISSION

#### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

1. commend the congregation of Murrayfield Parish Church for their 24-year commitment to partnership with Kwamebikrom in Western Ghana, a partnership which benefitted both communities.
2. invite congregations and members to hold Climate Sunday services, to pray for those involved in COP26 and to work together for the future of our planet.
3. note the continued work of the Scotland-Malawi Partnership and the involvement of EMMS International, and commend their continued work in Malawi and Nepal to prayerful support in congregations.
4. invite congregations and members to call on the UK and Scottish governments to do all in their power to alleviate the suffering of the people of Afghanistan, especially the poor, the marginalised, and the oppressed, many of whom have been forced from their homeland.

## Report

### 1 Murrayfield-Kwamebikrom

- a. The congregation at Murrayfield Parish Church has been linked to the rural community of Kwamebikrom in Ghana for 25 years. What began as a millennium project became a partnership with many two-way visits between Murrayfield in Edinburgh and a small community in Western Ghana involving health care, income generation projects, and video links. We offer their video and the written report from Dr John Crispin as a celebration of a sustained and fruitful partnership which brought blessings to both communities.

## **2 COP26**

- a. Many churches are celebrating September 2021 as Creation time and holding Climate Sunday services. We are coming closer to the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12. Many Churches including our own are actively calling on our government to be more ambitious in seeking faster and deeper global emission cuts and the delivery of long-promised finance to help poorer countries adapt to the climate disruption. Continued Covid restrictions mean that it is unlikely many will travel from Edinburgh Presbytery to be involved, however congregations are encouraged to draw attention to this conference. It is vital to the health of many nations and to bringing political leaders together to unite the world in tackling climate change.

## **3 Scotland-Malawi Partnership & EMMS International**

- a. The Scotland Malawi Partnership drew attention to the work of EMMS International at a recent livestreamed event (Malawi Frontline Voices on September 2) which brought together people in Scotland with health workers in Malawi.
- b. Two of the major contributors were Dr Arie Glas and his wife Dr Lisanne Glas who work at Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi. Mulanje Hospital was founded by the Church of Scotland and, though we no longer send staff there, continues to be supported by a number of congregations in our Presbytery. Some of that support flows through EMMS which is the world's oldest Christian Medical Mission (founded 1841) and which helped to finance and train 400 missionary doctors. EMMS no longer recruits staff for work abroad but it does still work in some of the world's poorest areas (Malawi, Nepal & India), holding together the offer of medical help and spiritual healing in a world where secular pressures often try to separate them.

## **4 Afghanistan**

- a. The situation in present day Afghanistan is well publicised, both the plight of those who have fled the country and those who remain in it. The Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees and Faith in Community Scotland have been awarded a £69,000 grant for the Faithful Welcome project. The aim is to ensure that faith groups are properly equipped to play a part in a two-way integration process between refugees, asylum seekers, and the settled community. Details are on the [Church of Scotland website](#). We invite Presbyters, congregations and members, to call on political leaders to do all in their power to alleviate the suffering of the poor, the marginalised and the oppressed, and those who have been forced from off their homeland.

## BUSINESS

### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

##### 1. **Holiday Committee**

note that the Holiday Committee of the Presbytery of Edinburgh acting under powers agreed to:

- 1.1 grant approval to St John's Colinton Mains to draw down £50k from funds held on its behalf in the Consolidated Fabric Fund to cover the cost of professional work bringing its project to the point of being ready to submit a planning application.
- 1.2 grant permission to the congregation of Cramond Kirk to let their manse during this period of vacancy.
- 1.3 appoint Rev Neil Gardner as Interim Moderator of St Andrew's and St George's West for the duration of the minister's absence due to ill-health.
- 1.4 amend the Presbytery's decision of 22 June 2021 to allow St David's Broomhouse to draw down £2,435.20 from the Consolidated Fabric Fund in order to fund repairs to the heating system and not the roof.
- 1.5 appoint Rev Dr John Young as Interim Moderator of Juniper Green during the period of the minister's absence from work.
- 1.6 grant permission to the congregation of St Stephen's Comely Bank to continue with certain aspects of Phase two of their building works necessary to obtain the completion certificate.

##### 2. **Presbytery Reform**

- 2.1 receive the report.
- 2.2 agree to terminate our rental agreement for the offices at 10 Palmerston Place with due notice for a termination date of 31 October 2021.
- 2.3 elect the Rev Julia Wiley, Minister of Armadale, as the first Moderator of the new Presbytery for the year 2022/23.
- 2.4 agree the proposed meeting dates for 2022.  
Meetings for ordinary business of Presbytery to be held on Zoom on 1 February, 21 June, 13 September, 15 November 2022;  
conferences to be held in person on 30 April and 8 October 2022.
- 2.5 appoint the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning as the Business Committee Convener for the new Presbytery from 1 January 2022.

##### 3. **Safeguarding Officer Post**

note that Elizabeth White has resigned from the post of Safeguarding Officer as of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021, and thank her for the considerable and significant work she has undertaken in her time as our Safeguarding Officer.

##### 4. **Moderator's Visit to Edinburgh Presbytery 9 - 18 October 2021**

- 4.1 note the details of the very full and varied programme that has been pulled together for the forthcoming visit to the Presbytery of the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, The Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness (Jim Wallace) from the 9<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
- 4.2 note the invitation to the service at St. Giles' on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm followed by a reception in Parliament Hall.
- 4.3 agree a budget of £8-9k for costs associated with this forthcoming visit to cover the receptions, travel, and any other ancillary costs.

## Report

### **Presbytery Reform: Union of Edinburgh and West Lothian**

The Business Committee, at its recent meeting received an update on the extensive work being undertaken by the Steering Group appointed at our February meeting, and we commend the members of the Group for the significant amount of work undertaken over recent months addressing a wide range of matters before them. They are a considerable way down the road in achieving the goals set by the two Presbyteries in their remit and we bring before the Presbytery for agreement some aspects of this that will allow progress to continue to be made in shaping the new united Presbytery.

(a) In June, Presbytery received an interim report from the Steering Group outlining a number of the values and principles which will underpin the operation of the new Presbytery.

(b) Allied to this the Steering Group have brought staffing proposals to the two Business Committees which will be reported to Presbytery in due course.

(c) The Group is to determine office arrangements for Presbytery staff. This is currently under discussion with the staff who have a contractual provision for office space. With the experiences afforded by home working, it has become clear at this stage that maintaining an office on the current scale at Palmerston Place Church will no longer be necessary. It is proposed therefore, following consultation with the staff and the Finance Committee, that we terminate our rental agreement for the offices at Palmerston Place, with due notice for such termination being given to vacate the agreement by 31 October 2021.

Research is ongoing into the alternative provision of appropriate space for the holding of Presbytery records and for appropriate staffing space.

(d) The Steering Group nominates Rev Julia Wiley, Minister of Armadale, as the first Moderator of the new Presbytery.

(e) The Group has discussed possible meeting dates and venues and proposes subsequent to the first meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February on Zoom: meetings for ordinary business to be held on Zoom on 21 June, 13 September, 15 November, and in person conferences on 30 April and 8 October 2022.

(f) Work on recommendations on the number, composition and remit of Committees is ongoing. However, in order to help facilitate a smooth transition it is proposed by the Steering Group that the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning be appointed as the Business Committee Convener for the new Presbytery from 1 January 2021, thereby enabling an early involvement with the Steering Group during this season of transition.

(g) As stated, the Group recommends that meetings of Presbytery for ordinary business are held online and conference sessions in person.

(h) Other items of the remit continue as work in progress including budgeting, Mission Districts and Standing Orders.

## **Safeguarding Officer Post**

We have recently received notice of the resignation of Elizabeth White, our Safeguarding Officer, who will finish in post on the 16 September 2021. As a Presbytery we are grateful to Elizabeth for the significant contribution she has made to the safeguarding provision within the Presbytery, particularly in the areas of training and in the administration of what is increasingly a complex field. Given that there is still much work to be done, both in the short term and on an ongoing basis, it is hoped that an appropriate reappointment can be made as soon as possible.

## **Moderator's Visit to Edinburgh Presbytery 9 - 18 October 2021**

Presbyters are asked to note the details of the full and varied programme (Page 12 & 13) that has been compiled for the forthcoming visit to the Presbytery of the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, The Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness (Jim Wallace) from the 9<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The budget associated with this forthcoming visit will be in the order of £8,000 - £9,000 and will cover the costs of the receptions, travel, and food for the Moderator's party and for a gift from the Presbytery marking the visit.

## **DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES**

### **Deliverance**

#### **Presbytery:-**

1. appoint Nikki Kirkland as an Ordained Local Minister in the parish of St Nicholas Sighthill for one year in the first instance, and instruct the Clerk to make arrangements for her ordination.
2. appoint Kay Haggerty as an Ordained Local Minister in the parish of Liberton linked with Gracemount for one year in the first instance, and instruct the Clerk to make arrangements for her ordination.

## **Report**

### **Ordained Local Ministry Appointments**

Nikki Kirkland and Kay Haggerty, candidates for the Ordained Local Ministry, having successfully completed the required academic studies and placements, are ready to be ordained and appointed to serve within the Presbytery. Following discussions, it was agreed that the appointments be made for one year in the first instance while the Presbytery Plan is being developed. The ministers of Gracemount linked with Liberton and St Nicholas had requested support and having met with the candidates agreed a suitable pattern of work and ministry. This will be reviewed towards the end of the year's appointment.

## PRESBYTERY PLANNING STRATEGY TEAM

### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

1. receive the report.

## Report

### Report of the Presbytery Planning Strategy Team (PPST)

The previous report to Presbytery in June was written before the Guidelines accompanying the new Presbytery Mission Plan Act had been issued, and so there was no opportunity to present the contents to members of Presbytery at that time. The Guidelines were issued to all Ministers and Session Clerks at the end of July. In a covering letter Kirk Sessions were encouraged to familiarise themselves with the contents in order to better understand both the process being followed and the anticipated outcomes from developing a Presbytery Mission Plan.

In addition, the covering letter offered to Kirk Sessions a variety of resources relating to managing change, to support local leadership in enabling congregations to work with the decisions outlined by the Mission Plan.

At the time of writing this report the PPST is arranging its course of meetings during September to finalise the shape of the Mission Plan, which has been written over the summer months. Once the document is complete, there is a further stage before it is presented to Presbytery. The Act requires that the Presbytery, the Faith Nurture Forum, and the General Trustees work together to prepare and approve a Presbytery Mission Plan.

As the Guidelines state: Section 2.1.1 of the Act also sets out the four principal requirements which must be met to achieve the purpose of Presbytery Mission Planning. Broadly, these relate to local mission, territorial ministry, use of ministry posts and new ways of being church. When the Presbytery seeks approval for the Mission Plan, it must be able to demonstrate that it has met these requirements.

Due to the extensive nature of Edinburgh Presbytery's draft Mission Plan, such consultation may include other parties within the central offices of the Church, and only when all are in agreement that the draft Plan satisfies the requirements of the Act can it then be presented to Presbytery for approval.

At this time, it is not possible to give a precise date on which this will happen, however, the PPST has approached the Business Committee with a request that a special meeting of Presbytery be convened when necessary for the sole purpose of approving the Presbytery Mission Plan. This request has been granted.

## PROPERTY

### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

1. **Corstorphine Old**  
approve the application from the congregation to draw down funds held on its behalf in the Consolidated Fabric Fund and elsewhere to pay for 50% of the necessary repair project in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland.
2. **Stockbridge**  
grant permission to Stockbridge Parish Church for an AV project at a cost of £36k, to be funded locally, with implementation deferred until there is greater clarity on the future of the building in the next Presbytery Plan.

## Report

### Property approvals post-General Assembly

In recent conversations with people about property matters, it is evident that there is some confusion about projects that may be allowable just now and others that are not allowable or that the Deployment of Resources Committee thinks should be deferred.

Development projects given approval before the recent GA can still go ahead, but those applied for after the GA will not be considered until the place of the building in the Presbytery Plan is clear. Work that is necessary to preserve the integrity of the building, or for public safety, is eligible for approval, but approval does not guarantee that the building will have a place in the new Presbytery Plan. Rather, approval is intended to protect the asset value of the building, either for future use or for disposal. In their guidance, the General Trustees allow for AV projects, since the equipment installed can be removed should the building be disposed of. However, our own Presbytery guidance has not included AV work. Congregations may still engage with the Property Committee in putting together a coherent project for such work appropriate to the building, but Deployment of Resources have indicated that such work should be deferred until the place of the building in the new Plan is clearer.

It is not the remit of the Property Committee to recommend which buildings should be retained and which disposed of. That is in the remit of the Strategy Team, who will bring the plan to Presbytery in due course. It is also important to reiterate that deferral will not imply that the building has no future; approval of a remedial project does not mean that the future of the building is secure.

**Corstorphine Old** – the congregation has already been given permission for a project to effect repairs necessary for the integrity of the building and made an application to Historic Environment Scotland for a grant. HES have awarded a grant for 50% of the cost (£182,571). The tenders have come in lower than estimate and the congregation is now seeking

permission to draw down the other 50% funding from the Consolidated Fabric Fund and elsewhere in order to pay for it.

**Stockbridge** –sought permission for an audio-visual project a) to improve the quality of streamed and recorded services and b) to improve the lighting in the apse, some of which had a safety element to it. The cost was estimated at £36k, to be locally funded. While the project falls within what is still allowable under the General Trustees’ moratorium guidance, and the PC approved it as a coherent project, it is the view of DRC that this project should only go ahead if the building has a place in the new Presbytery Plan, and the deliverance reflects this deferral.

### **Presbytery Fabric Grants**

The deadline for the next round of applications for small fabric grants is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Applications should be made using the form downloadable from the Presbytery Website at the link below.

[https://4cac2f24-975c-4020-9edb-7692916ca2df.filesusr.com/ugd/030308\\_840b30af69694209b6d85d943d0f2b90.docx?dn=Property%20Application%20for%20Financial%20Support%20July%202017.docx](https://4cac2f24-975c-4020-9edb-7692916ca2df.filesusr.com/ugd/030308_840b30af69694209b6d85d943d0f2b90.docx?dn=Property%20Application%20for%20Financial%20Support%20July%202017.docx)

### **Next Property Committee meeting**

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

**Tuesday 19th October** – applications for approval of work to be submitted by **12<sup>th</sup> October**.

## **FINANCE**

### **Deliverance**

#### **Presbytery:-**

1. agree the consequent increase in budgeted expenses of £9,000 for 2021 if the budget of up to £9,000 is agreed to cover costs of the Moderator’s visit.
2. note that the updated Presbytery accounts are published on the website.  
<https://www.edinburghpresbytery.org.uk/accounts>

## **REPORT OF THE CLERK**

### **Deliverance**

#### **Presbytery:-**

1. note the report.

## Report

As the summer has progressed there is more of a sense of normal life and a greater freedom to travel and meet with people. At the same time the news reminds us of the ongoing impact of Covid19 on people's health, family life, education, and business, not to mention how we worship and meet together in a church context. This summer was again dominated by changes in Covid restrictions and supporting a shift from 2m to 1m distancing in Church. I am as always indebted to the Covid19 Group who have tirelessly received and reviewed congregations' paperwork and offered advice. The majority of our churches are now open for Sunday worship and a range of other activities, while still assessing and working out what the impact of lockdown will be for the longer term. The way we meet in groups and committees has certainly changed with Zoom and Teams here to stay as ways of readily talking and communicating with one another. The Presbytery office staff continue to work from home as they have done throughout the pandemic, with availability to meet and talk usually over the phone or online.

Alongside my usual involvement in Presbytery Committee work with Property, DRC, Business, Strategy, Finance, Ministries, Pastoral, Nomination, and Superintendence Committees, I have also been part of the 121 Intranet Implementation Group that is working to create a new Intranet service to support those in ministry and the Forums and Committees of the Church. This is also my second year on the Legal Questions Committee that has a range of work including supporting the implementation of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act and the creation of a new Church Courts Act.

The ecumenical aspect of work continues as I chair Edinburgh Churches Together and meet with representatives of Christian denominations who serve in the wider Edinburgh area.

With changes being brought by Presbytery Planning and Presbytery Reform this is undoubtedly a time of huge uncertainty for us all which has resulted in many conversations with colleagues over recent months. While we will all over time be reimagining the future of our local congregations, for some that work has already begun and I appreciate the time spent with colleagues in that process.

One of the changes in recent months has been that we have been able to have services of Induction and Introduction in person. While these have worked well over Zoom it has been encouraging to worship and celebrate with congregations as they welcome a new ministry. Leading Sunday worship is a regular feature as I offer some cover in vacancies and during holidays.

We are all aware of the coming reduction in the number of ministry posts and the changes that will make to congregational life, so it is important that training for the whole people of God is on the agenda of the Faith Nurture Forum and for us at a local level, where New College and local ministers offer opportunities for learning in pioneering and worship

leadership. A number of interested parties are working to see how this might develop further to better resource us all.

My thanks to colleagues in the Presbytery office for all their help and support and to Presbytery as a whole as together we navigate strange waters.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

### **Deliverance**

#### **Presbytery:-**

1. sustain the Elder's Commission to Judith Walker, Stockbridge.
2. appoint Peter Nelson as Interim Moderator of Fairmilehead Parish Church during the period of the minister's absence due to ill health.

<b>Timetable of Moderator's visit (confirmed visits in bold)</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Evening</b>
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Brief Moderator on visit to Edinburgh Presbytery. Morningside Manse.</b>  <b>Lunch at Morningside Manse. 1030-1300</b>	<b>Meetings with Pres. Planning/Strategy teams. 1400-1600 Morningside Parish Church halls.</b>	
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Moderator at Stockbridge Parish Church followed by lunch with congregation. 1030 – 1400</b>		<b>Evening Worship at Holy Trinity, Wester Hailes. 1830-2030 w/ Tea and Coffee afterwards.</b> <b>Bible Reading and bring greetings from GA.</b>
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Moderator meets Lord Provost at City Chambers 1000-1100</b>  <b>Lunch and event at New College w/ Candidates' reception.</b> <b>Moderator to lead worship at New College Communion service. 1130-1400</b>	<b>Lunch and event at New College w/ Candidates' reception.</b> <b>Moderator to lead worship at New College Communion service. 1130-1400</b>	<b>Civic Event at City Chambers for Childrens Panel members.</b>
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Visit to Greyfriars Kirk and Grassmarket Community Project 0900-1025</b>  <b>Visit to Edinburgh Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Courts to include: some meetings to brief the Moderator on the Administration of Justice especially during COVID; some specialist aspects of this court together with the more routine but very important criminal court business including dealing with those who have been arrested and are seeking bail /sentencing. We would arrange sitting in on some court hearings either in person or virtually or both. Concluding with lunch with the Sheriff Principal. 1030-1400</b>	<b>Afternoon at HMP Edinburgh</b>  <b>1430-1700</b>	
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Visit to Napier University 0930-1300 (inc. lunch)</b>	<b>Visit to Granton goes Greener project. 1330-1430 (finish by 1430)</b>	<b>Presbytery Service in St. Giles Cathedral 1900 start.</b>  <b>Reception for Presbyters in Parliament Hall (2000 →)</b>
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Visit to Edinburgh Airport with Corstorphine Old Parish Church and Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland. 1000-1300</b>	<b>University of Edinburgh Visit to include visit to Law School, meeting staff and students and coffee with the Principal of the University.</b>	<b>Edinburgh Guilds Together – Moderator to speak on the theme of "Look forward in Faith" for 20-30 minutes. Rev. Gordon Kennedy to conduct communion. Craiglockart Parish Church. 1900-2100</b>
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Visit to the Royal Blind School, 0900-1030. Royal Blind School, Canaan Lane.</b>  <b>Visit to Royal Hospital for Children and Young People 1100-1400</b>	<b>Visit to Royal Hospital for Children and Young People 1100-1400</b>	<b>Reception in Great Hall, Edinburgh Castle. Focus on chaplaincy. 1930 - 2300</b>
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct		<b>Visit Polworth Canal boat project</b>	
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Worship in Tron Kirk, Moredun and Gilmerton.</b>		<b>Supper with Iain May at Leith South Manse</b>

			<b>Evening Worship in South Leith Parish Church with the North East Edinburgh Cluster/Leith Churches Forum. 1900</b>
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Visit to Richmond's Hope. Richmond Craigmillar. 1000-1200.</b>	<b>De-brief Moderator on visit to Edinburgh Presbytery</b>	