



## **REPORTS AND DELIVERANCES FOR 8 SEPTEMBER 2020**

### **CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS**

#### **Cramond – Demission of Very Rev Dr Russell Barr**

The Clerk will report that she has received a letter from the Very Rev Dr Russell Barr asking to demit from his charge of Cramond as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Presbytery agree to:-

1. release Dr Barr from his charge of Cramond with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.
2. declare that the charge of Cramond will become vacant on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.
3. instruct the Clerk to bring forward the name of an Interim Moderator.
4. remit the vacancy of Cramond to the Deployment of Resources, Finance & Property Committees for consideration.
5. instruct the Clerk to intimate these decisions to the congregation.
6. note that Dr Barr retains his seat in Presbytery electing to change to category R in the Register of Ministry

### **LOCAL MISSION IN CONTEXT**

### **SUPERINTENDENCE AND LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW**

#### **Deliverance**

#### **Presbytery:-**

1. receive the Local Church Review report for Carrick Knowe.
2. thank the visiting team for their input to the Local Church Review process and their visits.
3. agree that Local Church Review visits be suspended until such times as face-to-face meetings are possible.

### **Report**

#### **Carrick Knowe Parish Church**

Carrick Knowe Parish Church (CKPC) identifies as *“the friendly church in the heart of the community.”* The LCR team were grateful for the warm welcome, enthusiastic participation and honest sharing. Rev Fiona Mathieson and the Kirk Session were mutually appreciative of

each other and the faith journey they have been on together. Lively, cooperative, reflective and pragmatic leadership with some humour has long been established.

CKPC are grateful for their community and congregation. They appreciate and value highly friendship, commitment, support and hard work. Refurbishing their buildings “to be a blessing to local community” is testimony to this.

CKPC continue to value kindness and support a number of charities and organisations both ‘home and away’ such as Fresh Start, Prisoners’ Children, Ronald MacDonald House and Christian Aid.

CKPC are a creative Church. One stand-out example of this is the poppies project for Remembrance Day which seems to have struck a chord with many in the church and the community. They are a church who are “*not scared of trying new things.*”

CKPC is a church that realises that serving the local community needs to be more than aspirational. Their belief that love needs to be worked out is evidenced through the close relationships with Dementia Projects and Richmond Hope. They are a church that values practical help.

CKPC is a busy church with a well-used building but, “*We are much more than a building or a community hall. Everything we do is done in the name of Jesus.*”

CKPC are clear on what they are about and what they are not. “*Bible study is not our thing. We’re about seeing Jesus in action.*”

CKPC are also honest about the challenges facing the institutional church in Scotland and their particular challenges of: missing generations, fewer young people and hard-working members and elders being more and more stretched. “*Our Sunday Club [with] 10-12 children registered...has been difficult to sustain.*”

It was pointed out to the LCR team that many living within Carrick Knowe often identify with Carrick Knowe rather than Corstorphine. The LCR team encourage more ‘hearts and minds’ meetings of the Corstorphine Churches. CKPC were also honest about feeling underestimated, undervalued and let down by Presbytery. CKPC are keen to play their part and expect Presbytery to be clear on criteria when it comes to the outworking of Presbytery Plans.

In response to all the opportunities and challenges, as well as continuing a number of groups for seniors, CKPC creatively and courageously have pioneered a Children and Family Project. “*In the last 12 months our Children’s and family project delivered 45 events, with 1064 people attending and over 60 families regularly attending.*” New relationships and community are being built and strengthened. Funding is an ongoing challenge. CKPC are asking Edinburgh Presbytery for help.

Two ticks:

1. CKPC’s hard work refurbishing the buildings “*to be a blessing to the local community.*”

2. CKPC's pioneering Children and Family project which *"builds relationships and offers support."*

Wish: Continued funding in order to develop the Children and Family project and develop the new relationships.

### Local Church Review Visits

Following discussion with Local Church Review team leaders, the Superintendence Committee agreed that for a visiting team to have a fruitful and helpful discussion with members of local congregations it would be preferable to meet together in person. It is hoped that later in Phase 4 of the route map out of the Covid-19 crisis larger meetings will again be possible and at that stage Local Church Reviews could recommence.

## Ministries Committee

### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

1. nominate Fabiano Soares, as a Candidate for Ordained National Ministry and elect as a Corresponding Member.

## BUSINESS

### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

##### Defibrillator Project

1. note that £40,632.60 has been spent in relation to the Edinburgh Presbytery Public Access Defibrillator Project. This has enabled the purchase of 23 defibrillators and 26 external cabinets.
2. note that 7 external defibrillators are now installed at: Balerno Parish Church, Carrick Knowe Parish Church, Meadowbank Parish Church, South Leith Church halls, Queensferry Parish Church, St. Martin's Parish Church, and Willowbrae Parish Church.
3. encourage congregations who have not yet submitted paperwork indicating whether or not they would like to engage in this project, to do so as soon as possible.
4. approve approaching suitable locations in areas without access to external defibrillators with a view to donating life-saving equipment within the city bounds.

##### Presbytery Meetings

5. note the dates of the Presbytery Meetings for 2021  
9<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> December

## Report

### Defibrillator Project

At our meeting in September 2019, the Presbytery approved allocating £83,000 from the 5% fund to fund the provision of external defibrillators across the bounds of Presbytery. Kirk Sessions were instructed to discuss whether their building would be suitable to host this life-saving equipment and to complete and return documentation which specified where a defibrillator could be hosted, or if the Kirk Session had decided not to engage in this project. The Presbytery would fund the defibrillator and external cabinet, and congregations would be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the equipment.

16 congregations have decided not to engage for a variety of reasons. The vast majority of these congregations have not done so as they have discovered other external defibrillators in the local area. Two congregations did not engage as they felt the internal defibrillator held within their building was sufficient for their needs. Two congregations did not engage due to fears around vandalism of any equipment provided. One congregation did not engage because of the cost of installing the equipment on their building.

Approximately 11 congregations have not responded as yet.

As positive responses have been received, they have been split into two main groups - those proposing placing a defibrillator on a non-listed building, and those proposing placing a defibrillator on a listed building. In every situation, consent was sought from the General Trustees which was given on a project wide basis as defibrillators are classed as “temporary structures”. For listed buildings, additional consent was sought from Edinburgh Council’s planning team. At this meeting, individual locations were discussed, and it was agreed to proceed without needing to apply for listed building consent.

With these permissions in place, defibrillators and cabinets were ordered and available to congregations to collect. Once installed, congregations are required to inspect the equipment monthly.

The next phase of the project is to enquire after the congregations who have not submitted paperwork, and if necessary, seek consent from Edinburgh Council in these instances. We are also processing 7 applications which have been received, but whose equipment has not been ordered.

It is likely that there will be an underspend in the budget allocated to this project. It would be possible to find alternate hosts throughout the city and donate a defibrillator and cabinet to them. The Presbytery could make use of the links established through Interfaith Edinburgh, or could approach local libraries or schools in areas without access to an external defib to ensure as many communities have access to this life-saving resource as possible.

All congregations who have received a defibrillator will have the opportunity to take up training in CPR and use of defibrillators run by St. John Scotland when social distancing measures have relaxed and more individuals are able to gather together.

## **Presbytery Meeting Dates**

The Business Committee had previously postponed discussion on the number and format of Presbytery meetings. With continuing uncertainty over the progress of emerging from lockdown, the Committee agreed to plan for 2021 meetings according to a similar pattern to 2020. Proposals for change will be brought again at a future date.

The proposed dates are spaced out over the year as evenly as possible, while avoiding Holy Week and Easter and ensuring we meet key dates.

## **REPORT OF THE CLERK**

### **Deliverance**

#### **Presbytery:-**

1. note that the Covid-19 Group has made available to all congregations materials to assist in the reopening of Church buildings, such as hand sanitiser and signage, and thank members of the Group who gave their time to order and distribute the starter packs.
2. thank members of the Covid-19 Group for their work in assessing risk assessments and checklists prior to the safe reopening of buildings.
3. note the changes in church insurance from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

## **Report**

### **Starter Packs**

As we continue to move through the Government's Framework for Decision Making (Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis), slowly but surely congregations are reopening buildings for prayer, worship, foodbanks, registered child care, and the running of cafés. The bulk ordering and supply of starter packs to ensure safe opening has assisted congregations in this process and we are indebted to members of the Covid-19 Group who worked hard to bring the supplies together for distribution on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July and to Marchmont St Giles for hosting that activity.

### **Applications to Reopen Buildings**

The Covid-19 Group that began with some Committee Conveners has twice added to its number in order to respond to the volume of applications to reopen. The Group has been keeping up to speed with the frequent changes in Government and church guidance in order to keep everyone on track (at the time of writing we are working with version 5 of the guidance with version 6 soon expected). Webinars have been offered by the Ministers' Online Forum and the Group has also had its own Zoom meetings with Brian Auld of the General Trustees, who has been very generous with his time and expertise. At present congregations are advised of a two week turn around period for applications so please take that into account in your forward planning.

## Church Insurance

All ministers and treasurers were contacted about church insurance. Until 5<sup>th</sup> August congregations enjoyed full cover despite not being opened. From that date until 23<sup>rd</sup> September any buildings which have not been opened receive full cover subject to agreeing a management condition whereby checks are regularly carried out on buildings. After 23<sup>rd</sup> September it will be 6 months since the start of lockdown and at that point buildings that are still unopened will have reduced cover and potentially much higher premiums. The Church of Scotland Insurance Scheme providers encourage all congregations to open buildings in at least a limited way by 23<sup>rd</sup> September in order to maintain their level of cover and to avoid higher premiums.

## PRESBYTERY PLANNING STRATEGY TEAM

### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

1. receive the report.

## Report

Following on from the cancellation of the March conference due to Covid-19, on 26<sup>th</sup> August a rescheduled Zoom meeting took place with the Church of Scotland Chief Officer, Dave Kendall, presenting a talk on Opportunities for Transformation. Representatives of all the congregations were invited. This was followed by breakout group discussion and Q&A with Dave Kendall. The Team expresses its thanks to Mr Kendall for his willingness to share his thoughts on the national picture of current challenges and opportunities before the Kirk. Following on from this meeting a recording of Mr Kendall's talk along with a recording of a video by Rev Sarah Ross, former Convener of Partnership Development, Ministries Council, called Presbytery Planning 101, that sets out ways of being church and offering ministry, was sent out. These recordings are to be shared and discussed within Kirk Sessions before a Q&A Zoom meeting with Rev Sarah Ross on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Thereafter will come opportunity to meet in clusters and begin to shape the future.

## PROPERTY

### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

1. grant permission to Palmerston Place Parish Church to renew and extend the Fire Alarm system at a cost of £17,034, to be met from locally raised funds in hand.
2. grant permission to Bristo Memorial Craigmillar Parish Church to sell the manse, the proceeds of which to be held on their behalf by the General Trustees in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

## Report

### Palmerston Place

Palmerston Place Parish Church is needing to replace and extend the Fire Alarm system. The reason this requires permission is because of expenditure on projects in recent years, but since it is a health and safety issue the work should be undertaken as soon as practicable.

### Bristo Memorial Craigmillar

Bristo Memorial Craigmillar Parish Church has requested permission to sell the manse for the charge. It does not meet regulation size, would take a considerable amount of work to make it suitable for renting and is becoming a burden of upkeep on the congregation. While a scoping exercise for future ministry in the area is taking place at the present, the present manse is unlikely to have a place in that future and the recommendation is to give permission to sell.

## FINANCE

### Deliverance

#### Presbytery:-

1. thank all the congregations in the Presbytery who submitted their accounts to Presbytery timeously.
2. note that members of the Finance Committee, along with a number of congregational treasurers, are exploring the possibility of funding the introduction of contactless terminals into churches in the Presbytery.
3. encourage congregations who have not yet submitted an application to the Covid-19 Fund to make application to the Conveners of Finance and Resourcing Mission Committees.

## Report

### Congregational Accounts

The Committee is grateful for the diligence shown in sending in congregational accounts to Presbytery.

### Contactless Terminals

A group comprising three members of the Finance Committee and three congregational treasurers has been exploring the potential benefits of having contactless terminals in churches. The group is due to meet with and interview three suppliers and then to pilot the terminals in 7 or 8 sanctuaries across the Presbytery. This would enable Presbytery to make a decision on whether to extend the provision of contactless terminals. At a time when cash is seldom used due to Covid-19, the introduction of contactless donations may prove very helpful.

## **Covid-19 Fund**

At the start of lockdown the Covid-19 Fund was introduced to assist congregations with expenditure directly related to activity arising out of the pandemic. Many have used this to provide for online services and meetings. £500 per congregation was set aside and the Fund is multi-hit. If your congregation has not used any or all of its allocation and would benefit from the Fund to support the life of the congregation as we ease out of lockdown, then please apply to the Conveners of the Finance Committee and the Resourcing Mission Committee.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

### **Deliverance**

#### **Presbytery:-**

1. sustain the following Elders' Commissions  
Alice Bertram, Tron Kirk (Gilmerton & Moredun), John Murchison, Craiglockhart, Duncan Douglas, Dalmeny and Marie Sneddon, Liberton Northfield.
2. agree to list the vacant charge of Kirkliston Parish Church for the purposes of section 27 of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act 8, 2003).
3. note the resignation of Mrs Janet Allan as Safeguarding Trainer thanking her for her many years of training.

## **Report**

### **Kirkliston**

The vacant charge of Kirkliston Parish Church, having been first advertised in January 2020, and having no applications under consideration from applicants from within the EEA and Switzerland, seeks permission to be listed for the purposes of section 27 of the Vacancy Procedure Act. Such listing will allow the Nominating Committee to consider applications from out with the EEA and Switzerland. Consultation with staff of the Faith Nurture Forum has taken place and no objections have been raised.