



# The Church of Scotland

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## Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet in Libberton & Quothquan Parish Church (*Biggar Rd, Libberton, ML11 8LT*) on Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 7pm for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and thereafter the following and other competent business.**

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

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### **Order of Business – 3 September 2019**

1. Constitution
2. Welcome to Visitors
3. Approval of the Order of Business
4. Minutes
5. Decisions under Summer Powers
6. Decisions under Delegated Powers
7. Roll of Presbytery
8. Correspondence
9. Good News Stories
10. Report of the Presbytery Support Committee
11. Report of the Worship and Discipleship Committee
12. Report of the Relationships and Context Committee
13. Report on Special Committee appointed 4 December 2018 (in private)
14. Intimations
15. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 1 October 2019 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

## Decisions under summer powers

The Clerk has been informed that the following decisions have been made under Delegated Powers.

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Agreed in respect of Lanark: Greyfriars to the undertaking of urgent roof repairs to the building at a cost of approximately £10,200 +VAT and support the Kirk Session in making application for grant assistance to the General Trustees.
2. Agreed in respect of Kirkmuirhill to the undertaking of necessary work to the leaded windows and stonework in the tower at a cost of approximately £15,000+VAT and remind the congregation of the need to inform Presbytery with adequate notice of proposed works.
3. Agreed to appoint Rev Bryan Kerr as Presbytery Representative to the annual review meeting of candidates in training in September 2019 in terms of Act 10, 2004 (as amended)
4. Agreed in respect of Committee Membership to approve membership of Presbytery Committees for the session 2019/2020 as follows:
  - a. Relationships and Context Committee: Rev Michael Fucella (Convener), Mr John Austin, Mr Sandy Boag, Rev Bill Buchan, Rev David Carmichael, Mrs Anne Cochrane, Mr William Coulter, Rev Harry Findlay, Mr Ross Hyslop, Rev Helen Jamieson, Rev Dr Nikki Macdonald, Mr Willie MacSween, Mr Alex McPhee, Mr Robert Mitchell, Rev Dr Elijah Obinna, Mrs Christine O'Neill, Rev Andrew Rooney and Mr Hugh Stewart; plus one member co-opted from Guild Presbyterial Council
  - b. Worship & Discipleship Committee: Rev Louise Mackay (Convener), Mrs Elizabeth Bradley, Mr Robert Carson, Mrs Helen Chekansky, Rev Elizabeth Clelland, Mrs Margaret Harley, Rev Iain Cunningham, Rev James Cutler, Mr Alan Grant, Rev Paul Grant, Mr William Love, Rev Elspeth MacLean, Mrs Janette Mason, Mrs Mabel Morris, Mrs Anne Reid, Rev Steven Reid, Mr Sandy Russell, Mr Jim Sinclair, Mr David Waters, Mr Kenneth Watson, Mr James Watt and Rev David Young; plus one member co-opted from Guild Presbyterial Council
  - c. Presbytery Support Committee: Mr Scott Paget (Convener), Rev Bryan Kerr (Presbytery Clerk), Rev George Shand (Depute Presbytery Clerk & Moderator Designate), Mr Jim Watt (Moderator – member to 3/9/19), Acting Depute Clerk (to 23/9/2020), Mrs Anne Cochrane (1 year), Mr Robert Mitchell (1 year), Mrs Mabel Morris (1 year), Mrs Christine O'Neill (1 year), Rev Andrew Rooney (1 year) with Advisors Caroline Deerin, Ewan Easton, John Lumsden and Mary McGillivray.

## Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Appoint the Reverend Paul Grant as Acting Depute Presbytery Clerk until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020
3. In respect of the reform of Presbyteries as instructed by the General Assembly
4. Appoint the Convener of Presbytery Support Committee, the Moderator, the Presbytery Clerk and the Depute Presbytery Clerk as representatives in this process.
5. Agree to work with Hamilton Presbytery on possible models for creating a Lanarkshire Presbytery.

6. Agree to suspend the internal review of Presbytery structures whilst the review of Presbyteries is ongoing.
7. Agree that the November and March meetings of Presbytery be plenary/ discussion meetings led by the Relationship and Context and Worship and Discipleship committees respectively
8. Note that feedback from the June discussion meeting of Presbytery will be issued to Kirk Sessions for their interest and discussion.
9. Remind Kirk Sessions of the General Assembly instruction “to conduct Basic Disclosure Checks on all individuals (regardless of their employment status) in their congregation in leadership roles and/or positions of trust, including but not limited to organists, church officers/ caretakers and café workers, where their duties may involve contact with vulnerable groups as referred to in The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.”
10. Note that it has not been possible to commence a mediation process in Carluke: St. Andrew’s in deferred union with Carluke: St. John’s.
11. In respect of the Ministry and Mission Discretionary Allowance
  - a. Approve an award of £120 to Symington for covering pulpit supply in 2019 when the minister is leading services in the other two Tinto Parish congregations.
  - b. Approve an award of £840 to Libberton & Quothquan for covering pulpit supply in 2019 when the minister is leading services in the other two Tinto Parish congregations.
  - c. Approve an award of £1,030 to Cairngryffe, on behalf of the Tinto Parishes, for the HARfEST project in line with aims and objectives submitted with the grant application.
  - d. Approve an award of £4,000 to Law for the Community engagement survey in line with aims and objectives submitted with the grant application.
  - e. Approve an award of £4,000 to Lanark: St. Nicholas for the Hear for You project in line with aims and objectives submitted with the grant application.
  - f. Approve an award of £150 to Carluke: Kirkton for the Messy Vintage project in line with aims and objectives submitted with the grant application.
  - g. Approve an award of £2,400 to Lanark: Greyfriars for the Online & Streaming worship project in line with aims and objectives submitted with the grant application.
12. Note that any appeals to the proposed ministry and mission allocations for 2020 must be presented to the committee no later than 18 October 2019 and that appeals can only be made on the incorrect calculation of an income base figure.
13. Approve the timetable for the Moderator’s Visit to Presbytery.

## Report

### Acting Depute Presbytery Clerk

It is proposed that during the Reverend George Shand’s term of office as Moderator of Presbytery the Reverend Paul Grant be appointed as Depute Presbytery Clerk. Mr Shand will still be co-ordinating the work of the Local Church Review Process.

### General Assembly Reform of Presbyteries

Presbytery will be aware of the instruction of General Assembly to move to 12 new regional structures over the next few years. Members of the committee are in discussion with Hamilton Presbytery about the possible creation of a Lanarkshire Presbytery. The Principal Clerk has also requested to meet with representatives of the Presbytery. To that end the Presbytery are invited

to appoint the Convener of the Presbytery Support Committee, the Moderator, the Presbytery Clerk and the Acting Depute Presbytery Clerk as the initial representatives to discuss possible options, with regular reports being made to Presbytery on progress made. Given the size of the task, and the possible speed of change within the Presbytery structure, the committee recommend to Presbytery to pause the proposed review of the structure of Lanark Presbytery to allow the wider discussion to take place.

### **Presbytery Meetings**

Following a valuable discussion with committee conveners, the committee recommend that the November and March meetings of Presbytery be plenary/ discussion meetings led by the Relationship and Context and Worship and Discipleship committees respectively.

### **June Discussion Meeting**

Each committee has been issued with the responses gathered during the June table discussions. It is proposed that feedback be issued to each Kirk Session to aid them in their planning and relationship with Presbytery

### **Safeguarding**

The General Assembly instructed “Kirk Sessions to conduct Basic Disclosure Checks on all individuals (regardless of their employment status) in their congregation in leadership roles and/or positions of trust, including but not limited to organists, church officers/ caretakers and café workers, where their duties may involve contact with vulnerable groups as referred to in The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.” This means that all organists should apply for, and display to the Kirk Session such a disclosure check even if they do not directly work with vulnerable groups. It is recognised that organists are in a position of trust within a congregation. As with any group within society, the overwhelming majority will be completely trustworthy however, It would not be pastorally correct for a victim of abuse to enter a church for worship, or a funeral, and be faced with someone who was involved in their abuse. Basic Disclosures are paid for by the individual but the Kirk Session can agree to reimburse the cost. There will be, as part of general superintendence, a check performed on Kirk Sessions to ensure this section of deliverance of the General Assembly has been acted upon.

### **Carlisle St. Andrews in deferred union with Carlisle: St. John's**

The committee have been informed by Place for Hope that it has not been possible to proceed with mediation in this matter. The committee plan to visit each Kirk Session to discuss possible ways forward. Presbytery are simply asked to note this development.

### **Ministry and Mission Discretionary Allowance**

The committee recommend the following awards be agreed in line with the sum of £14,000 set aside for this application period in May 2019.

Tinto Parishes Third Sunday Service Cover: A number of years ago Presbytery agreed to consider applications from the Tinto Parishes to help fund pulpit supply when the minister was not present due to being in the other churches, with the expectation that the amount given would decrease over the years, as the number of services undertaken by local worship leaders increased. The committee is pleased that Cairngryffe have a very strong worship group able to lead the vast majority of services when required, with Symington and Libberton & Quothquan making positive moves towards a sustainable model of worship. Having considered the number of Sundays actually required to be paid for, and the funds in hand from 2018 underspend by the congregations concerned, the committee recommend sums of £120 to Symington and £840 to Libberton & Quothquan.

**HARVEST:** The Kirk Session of Cairngryffe, on behalf of Tinto Parishes, are seeking funding of £1,296 to establish a new event within the community to celebrate the church at Harvest time. This will be held in Thankerton and will bring the communities from across the Tinto Parishes together to celebrate, have fun, and re-engage with the Church. The committee recommend an award of £1,030.

**Law Community Survey:** The Kirk Session of Law seek funding of £6,000 to engage the services of Catch the Light to develop a community survey to understand the needs of the community to aid with both outreach and building development. The committee recommend an award of £4,000.

**Hear for You:** The Kirk Session of Lanark: St. Nicholas seek funding of £6,000 to help with the continuation of the Hear for You project. The Project has applied to Go For It for continuation funding to ensure that the support service to those contemplating suicide or have been affected by suicide can continue. The initial application was unsuccessful but the Kirk Session have reapplied. This funding would cover the costs of the project in the interim. The committee recommend and aware of £4,000.

**Messy Vintage:** The Kirk Session of Carluke: Kirkton seek funding of £200 to aid the establishment of Messy Vintage in the congregation and community. This money will help to purchase resources and establish the event with older people over the coming months. The committee recommend an award of £150.

**Online Worship:** The Kirk Session of Lanark: Greyfriars seek funding of £2,992 to upgrade and develop their online worship community. This money will go upgrade cameras to HD cameras, allowing people to worship whilst watching on a smart TV rather than simply a small tablet. The Kirk Session are also working to develop resources, in conjunction with other ministers across presbytery, that will allow congregations without a minister, to show the sermon on the screen, but deliver the prayers with people in the congregation and for the organist to play the hymns 'live' in the respective church. The Kirk Session hope that in a rapidly changing ministerial situation, this will allow congregations new patterns of leading worship in their communities. The committee recommend an award of £2,400.

### **Ministry and Mission Payments 2020**

The committee has received the calculations for Ministry and Mission payments for 2020 and will be sending them directly to clerks of financial courts. Any appeals which financial courts feel necessary to make should be in the hands of the committee no later than 18 October 2019. Congregations are reminded that appeals can only be made on the grounds of an incorrect calculation of the Income Base as laid out in Regulation 1, 2012 (as amended)

### **Moderators Visit**

The committee thank the Clerk for the work undertaken in preparing the timetable for the Moderators Visit and present the (almost) final programme for approval.

## **Report of the Worship & Discipleship Committee**

### **Deliverance**

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note the success of the prayer in worship evening and the plans for a future follow up workshop.
3. Note the proposal of a Music event in the next calendar year.

## Report

### Leading prayer in worship event

The committee held an evening back in May in Kirkton church looking at prayer as part of worship. 14 people attended the workshop which looked at 3 key areas within prayer in worship.

1. What prayer actually is?
2. Creative prayer
3. Delivery of prayer

The feedback from the event was positive with those attending looking for a similar evening but more in depth. The committee have therefore planned another event later this year around the theme of advent. Where those attending will be able to gain tools to creatively write prayer.

### Music event

A discussion was had about the possibility of holding a music evening, in the form of a gig/concert next year. Approaches will be made to Rend collective, the Heart and Soul swing band as well as other alternatives if these groups are unavailable.

### Discussion about future

The committee are aware of the decisions taken at GA 2019 to reduce the number of presbyteries and discussions arose about what that would mean for Lanark Presbytery. The committee concluded that they are committed to enhancing the worship and discipleship of our presbytery as these changes are put into place

## Report of the Relationships & Context Committee

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

4. Receive the report.
5. Note that a Presbytery walk to support "All Tied Up" has been postponed and will now take place in early spring.
6. Appoint Mr. Stephen Hefford as the Veterans' Champion for Lanark Presbytery.
7. Note that the committee will look at gathering a group to support Stephen in this important ministry.
8. Approve the themes of Outreach and service to the elderly and effective evangelism in our present context in Scotland for the November discussion meeting.
9. Encourage congregations as well as Presbyters to attend the November discussion meeting.

## Report

### All Tied Up – Walk and Talk:

It was agreed to defer this due to the proposed date coinciding with the visit of The Moderator. It was agreed that the new date should be in early spring and the routes may be able to be based around New Lanark

### Veterans Champion:

The committee was encouraged that there have been two expressions of interest in the role. The committee decided that Stephen Hefford of Lesmahagow Old would be the best candidate for the

role. The Committee also discussed developing a support group made up of other interested parties to help where there is a need.

**Speakers for November's meeting:**

There was some discussion about a number of issues facing our churches today in terms of our outreach to the wider community. The committee eventually decide that we would like to guide the Presbytery to look at two issues:

1. Outreach and service to the elderly
2. Effective evangelism in our present context in Scotland

It was suggested that we approach the following organisations to provide speakers for the event:

- BRF to speak on the 'Anna Chaplaincy' movement in general and their 'Messy Vintage' programme specifically.
- HOPEtogether to speak on their research and suggested programme in the Talking Jesus initiative.
- Try Praying to speak about their project to help congregations to engage individuals in their communities to begin to connect with God through prayer.

# Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to Lanark Presbytery (October 2019)

Time	Saturday 26th	Sunday 27th	Monday 28th	Tuesday 29th	Wednesday 30th	Thursday 31st	Friday 1st	Saturday 2nd	Sunday 3rd	Monday 4th
8:30 AM										
9:00 AM				Clydesdale Community Initiatives	Healthy Valleys					
9:30 AM		Communion Service at Lanark: Greyfriars								
10:00 AM			Visit to Lanark Market			Education Forum	R & W Scott Jam Factory	March Stone Horse Hack in Lanark	Worship in Symington	Border Biscuit Tour & Business Discussion
10:30 AM		Café Church at Lanark: Greyfriars	Lunch at Lanark Market with Farming Support Discussion	Civic Reception	Visit to State Hospital	Travel (including tour of Rural Area)	Food Bank in Carluke			
11:00 AM	Arrival at New Lanark									
11:30 AM										
12:00 PM										
12:30 PM										
1:00 PM	Lunch & Welcome Briefing					Wanlockhead Visit				
1:30 PM										Lunch & Concluding Meeting
2:00 PM			Covenanters & Cameronian Tour in Douglas and Lesmahagow	Mainly Music Group						
2:30 PM			Second Chance Shop at Kirkmuirhill	The Haven in Forth				Clyde Valley Orchard Regeneration	Service of Rededication of Carstairs Parish Church	
3:00 PM	VIP Tour of New Lanark & meet Board									
3:30 PM						Biggar Gin Distillery	Victoria Cross Memorial Act of Remembrance	Castlebank Park Regeneration		
4:00 PM						Visit to Gillespie Centre in Biggar & Discussion on Mission in Scattered communities	Reception			
4:30 PM										
5:00 PM										
5:30 PM			Ministers Gathering in Braelhead House							
6:00 PM				Hear4You Project in Lanark: St. Nicholas						
6:30 PM							Street Level in Carluke			
7:00 PM	Concert and Meal Hosted by New Lanark World Heritage Site	Intergenerational Praise Service at Carluke: St. John's (with presentation of long service certificates)								
7:30 PM										
8:00 PM					Evening Gala Dinner with After Dinner Talk from Moderator in New Lanark	Carluke Girls Brigade in Carluke: Kirkton	Youth Group in Crossford	Meal with members of parliaments	Evening Worship at Kirkmuirhill	
8:30 PM										
9:00 PM										
9:30 PM										
10:00 PM										
10:30 PM										
11:00 PM										Rev 7 20190822



# The Church of Scotland

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## Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark on Tuesday 1 October 2019 at 7pm for the following and other competent business.**

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

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### **Order of Business – 1 October 2019**

1. Constitution
2. Welcome to Visitors
3. Approval of the Order of Business
4. Minutes
5. Decisions under Delegated Powers
6. Roll of Presbytery
7. Correspondence
8. Good News Stories
9. Presentation of Candidates in Training
10. Lanark Guild's Together
11. Report of the Presbytery Support Committee
12. Report of the Relationships and Context Committee
13. Intimations
14. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business and Conference on Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

## Decisions under delegated powers

The Clerk has been informed that the following decisions have been made under Delegated Powers.

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

- I. Agreed in respect of Carstairs to the removal of the unsafe pulpit and grant permission to not replace the pulpit during the refurbishment project and instruct the clerk to send an extract to the congregation and CARTA, via the General Trustees.

## Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

- I. Receive the report.
2. In respect of Douglas Valley Church
  - a. Note that concurrence has been received from PPTG for the change to the Presbytery Plan agreed in June 2019
  - b. Agree the Draft Basis of Guardianship (Appendix 1) and note that this has been voted on and approved by the Kirk Session and Congregation
  - c. Set the date of Guardianship as 1 November 2019
  - d. Invite the Moderator of the General Assembly to lead a service recognising this change of status on Sunday 3 November 2019 at 2pm
  - e. Grant permission to the Kirk Session to cancel the regular morning Sunday Services on 2 November 2019.
3. In respect of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen
  - a. Note that the Clerk has received correspondence from the Kirk Session dated 5 September 2019 signed by all members (with three signing *Per Procuracionem*), including the Minister, stating that they intend to resign their membership of the Church of Scotland. (Appendix 2)
  - b. Note that Kirk Session called a meeting of the congregation on 5 September 2019 with an indication given by members in regards to resigning their membership of the Church of Scotland were as follows: 64 present on the evening and 34 via proxy being aware of the meeting, there were also 33 adherents who gave support.
  - c. Homologate the actions of the Clerk and Presbytery Support Convener in meeting with congregational representatives on 6 September 2019 to discuss the situation. (Appendix 3)
  - d. Appoint a Special Committee comprising the Clerk, Depute Clerk, Presbytery Support Committee Convener, Rev Helen Jamieson and Mr Jim Watt to deal with any issues which arise regarding the stated intention of the minister, Kirk Session and members of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen Parish Church to resign their membership of The Church of Scotland.
  - e. Instruct the Special Committee to liaise with representatives of the congregations, to seek further advice where necessary and to represent the interests of the Church of Scotland.
  - f. Grant to the Special Committee powers of Presbytery in respect of
    - i. Instructing minister, elders and other office-bearers to meet with the Special Committee, with its representatives, or with representatives of other Standing Committees.
    - ii. Referring matters to Standing Committees for consideration and comment.
    - iii. Calling and arranging Congregational Meetings in accordance with Act XVIII (1932).

- iv. Instructing the submission of extract minutes and sederunt lists.
  - v. Instructing the submission of congregational records; these records being defined as those that are included in the annual inspection of congregational records which is undertaken by Presbytery.
  - vi. Instructing the submission of any records, papers or other documents which, in the opinion of the Special Committee may be necessary to effect a smooth transition in advance of minister demitting and office-bearers resigning.
  - vii. Arranging informal consultation meetings with individual members and with groups of members
  - viii. Ensuring that appropriate steps are taken to manage the situation in the event of minister demitting, office-bearers resigning and members leaving.
  - ix. Approving the terms of any proposed disposal of congregational assets.
- g. Instruct the Special Committee to report to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery if and when it has acted with powers.
- h. Appoint Bill Love (Lanark: St. Nicholas), John Lumsden (Lanark: Greyfriars), Paul McGuigan (Kirkmuirhill), Libby Muir (Carluke: St. Andrew's), Stewart Toy (Lanark: St. Nicholas) and David Waters (Kirkmuirhill) as assessor elders with full voting rights and as charity trustees of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland), SC006516 and who have become members of both the Kirk Session and Congregational Board from 1 October 2019.
- i. Appoint Mr Jim Watt as Presbytery Assessor to Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen
- j. Note that whilst the title deeds for the property are locally vested the Kirk Session have intimated their understanding that the buildings, as well as financial and other assets, will remain the property of The Church of Scotland.
- k. Note that the intention of the Kirk Session is to negotiate the purchase of the land, buildings, and contents from the congregation and agree in principle to this course of action
- l. Encourage the congregation, at a duly convened meeting, to appoint the assessor elders appointed by Presbytery as the property-holding trustees in terms of the Feu Disposition, to allow the intention of the Kirk Session to negotiate the purchase of assets to take effect from the point of resignation to proceed without any potential conflict of interest.
- m. Instruct the Special Committee to work towards a date of 31 December 2019 for members to resign their membership of the Church of Scotland and the Rev David S. Carmichael to demit the charge of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen and also his status as a Minister of Word and Sacrament within the Church of Scotland.
- n. Meantime, remind the Kirk Session of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland), SC006516 of their obligations in terms of their vows of ordination and of church and charity law and instruct them to co-operate fully with its Special Committee.
4. In respect of Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old
- a. In light of the failure to nominate a minister in terms of section 28(1) of Act 8, 2003 as amended agree to sist permission to call a minister.
5. In respect of the Presbytery Plan
- a. Agree to sist the Presbytery Plan in respect of Coalburn, Lesmahagow and Kirkmuirhill.
  - b. In light of the stated intention of the minister and members of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen to resign their membership of The Church of Scotland, agree to change the Presbytery Plan to allow for one charge to cover the villages and environs of Coalburn and Lesmahagow by uniting Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old and Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen, with the provision of 1 FT minister of word and sacrament and 1 FT MDS to work within and across the Coalburn, Lesmahagow and Kirkmuirhill area, subject to a suitable role and job description being devised in conjunction with the congregations and Ministries Council.
  - c. Agree to the reclassification of the buildings pertaining to Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen as category C.

- d. Agree, subject to permission to alter the Presbytery plan in terms of (b) and (c) above, approve a draft basis of union (Appendix 4) between Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old and Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen to take effect on the next day following the demission of the minister of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen
6. Instruct the Clerk to issue extracts of this decision to relevant parties
7. Express thanks to the Clerk and Convener of Presbytery Support Committee for their time and commitment in ensuring this matter has received the urgent attention of Presbytery.

## Report

### **Douglas Valley Church**

Following the approval of the change to the Presbytery Plan to allow Douglas Valley Church to move into Guardianship, it is recommended to approve the draft Basis of Guardianship voted on by the congregation and Kirk Session. The committee recommend the date of 1 November 2019 for this to take effect. It is further recommended that the Moderator of the General Assembly lead a service recognising this change of status at 2pm on Sunday 3 November 2019 and that permission is granted for the Kirk Session to cancel the regular morning services on that day.

### **Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen**

The members of the Kirk Session of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen have indicated their intention to resign membership of The Church of Scotland in the months to come. The minister, Rev David Carmichael has also indicated that he will demit his charge.

The Kirk Session called a meeting of the congregation on 5 September 2019 with an indication given by members in regard to resigning their membership of the Church of Scotland were as follows: 64 present on the evening and 34 via proxy being aware of the meeting out of a communion roll of 100.

It is clear that when membership is resigned there will be very few, if any members remaining.

Whilst it is never good when brothers and sisters in Christ separate from one another, the committee is in no doubt that this decision has been a painful one for the minister and members of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen made after a long period of prayer and discernment. Whilst as a Presbytery there will be sadness at their leaving, a way must be found that allows the congregation to leave well, and positively.

The Kirk Session recognise that the buildings and other assets, including financial assets belong to the Church of Scotland and will remain with the continuing congregation (Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland) SC006516), or its successor, after they leave. However, the Kirk Session have indicated their intention to negotiate with the Church of Scotland to purchase the buildings for their use in order that they can remain as a congregation outwith the Church of Scotland.

**Therefore, it is recommended that Presbytery support the desire of the Kirk Session to negotiate the purchase of the buildings from the Church of Scotland.**

It is further recommended that an alteration be made to the Presbytery Plan in the area to allow for one charge in Coalburn and Lesmahagow. This would ideally be staffed by a full time Minister of Word and Sacrament with another full time equivalent MDS post, the remit for which would be decided by Presbytery and the Ministries Council with input from the congregation. In order to work through the readjustment process it is recommended that as the congregation of Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old have failed to nominate a minister within the two year time limit for permission to call, that permission to call be sisted until such time as readjustment takes place with Abbeygreen or dates of demission and resignation are clearer. Section 4 of the proposed deliverance invites Presbytery so to do.

**Therefore, it is recommended that an alteration be made to the Presbytery Plan in the area to allow for one charge in Coalburn and Lesmahagow.**

**Therefore, it is recommended that the permission to call currently enjoyed by Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old be sisted until such time as readjustment takes place with Abbeygreen or dates of demission and resignation are clearer.**

As readjustment will take place during two vacancies it is recommended that Presbytery invoke the right to effect readjustment without resorting to a vote of the congregations as allowed in section 13(2) of Act 7, 2003 (as amended). There is very little change that will be noticed by the congregation of Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old other than having a larger parish area (although it is not anticipated that the pastoral workload will increase dramatically as in 2018 Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old conducted 40 funerals whereas Abbeygreen conducted 3, and over the last five years 2014-2018 there were 189 funerals, 4 weddings and 4 baptisms conducted in Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old with Abbeygreen conducting 22 funerals, 4 weddings and 17 baptisms) with assets (including, but not limited to financial assets as listed in annual accounts; any investments or holdings with the Church of Scotland or other investment companies; physical assets as listed in the asset register of the congregation (car, office equipment etc); all property as detailed in the property register and schedule of insurances; contents, fixtures and fittings (church furniture, communion silver etc) as detailed in an inventory; any funds from the sale of property, fixtures and fittings negotiated between the General Trustees and the new congregation) of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland) SC006516 would be transferred to the new united charge. The process of changing the presbytery plan and effecting the union is outlined in section 5 of the proposed deliverance.

**Therefore, it is recommended that Presbytery invoke the right to effect readjustment without resorting to a vote of the congregations as allowed in section 13(2) of Act 7, 2003 (as amended).**

It is recommended that a special committee be appointed with powers to deal with matters relating to the situation in between presbytery meetings. The membership, remit and delegated powers of the committee are outlined in the deliverance, sections 3(d)-(g).

**Therefore, it is recommended that a special committee be appointed with powers to deal with matters relating to the situation in between presbytery meetings.**

With the local trustees stating their intent to leave the Church of Scotland it is necessary to appoint assessor elders to ensure that the rights of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland) SC006516 and The Church of Scotland SC011353 are upheld. This does not question the integrity of the minister or elders of the congregation, but does reflect a very real concern that a potential conflict of interest may arise where Presbytery still need to ensure that there is a properly constituted Kirk Session. The assessor elders will also act in a support capacity to effect a smooth handover during the resignation of membership and the transfer of assets in the union. The names of the assessor elders and Presbytery assessor are detailed in sections 3(h)-(i) of the proposed deliverance.

**Therefore, it is recommended that assessor elders are appointed to ensure that the rights of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland) SC006516 and The Church of Scotland SC011353 are upheld.**

There are no timescales within the deliverance at present, however it would be the legal opinion of the Church Solicitor that as the trustees have declared their intention to leave the Church of Scotland they must do so within a reasonable timescale. It would not, for example, be reasonable for the process to take ten months, rather a date of 31 December 2019 would be a suitable date to allow all processes to move forward and reach a conclusion. The Minister has indicated his agreement to demitting on 31 December 2019 should discussions over the sale of the buildings be at a suitable stage.

**Therefore, it is recommended that the special committee be instructed to work towards a date of the 31 December 2019 when members who wish to resign their membership do so, and the minister demits his charge and status.**

The committee is grateful for the positive engagement that has taken place between the Kirk Session of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen and the Presbytery. It is the fervent hope and prayer of the committee that this will continue throughout the process. Finally, it is vital that the minister and elders of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland), SC006516 are reminded of their obligations in terms of their vows of ordination and of church and charity law and presbytery is invited to instruct them to co-operate fully with its Special Committee in section 3(l) of the proposed deliverance.

## **Report of the Relationships & Context Committee**

### **Deliverance**

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note that the one theme of 'Effective Evangelism in our Communities' will be covered in November's Presbytery Conference session due to the unavailability of a speaker to cover the other theme of 'Outreach and Service to the Elderly'.
3. Encourage congregations as well as Presbyters to attend the November Conference session.

### **Report**

#### **Speakers for November's Conference Session meeting of Presbytery**

Tasked with organising this event has been difficult due to time constraints. We had hoped as per the deliverance at the last Presbytery meeting to cover two topics i.e. 'Effective Evangelism in our Communities' and 'Outreach and Service to the Elderly'. The Committee has been able to secure a facilitator from Try Praying Scotland to lead our thoughts and discussion on the first topic. But regrettable, our preferred organisation to facilitate our discussion concerning the second topic will not be available until the Spring. We will discuss with the W and D Committee whether or not they would be willing to host BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship – creators of Anna Chaplaincies and Messy Vintage) to speak at the Spring Conference Session that they will be organising. The Committee will proceed to arrange for publicity and facilities for 5 November event with Try Praying.

**Basis of Guardianship  
for  
Douglas Valley Church**

The Congregation of The Douglas Valley Church (Church of Scotland) (SC001718) shall be constituted on a Basis of Guardianship as from a date to be determined by the Presbytery of Lanark, and that on the following Terms and Conditions

1. **Name:** the name of the congregation shall be 'The Douglas Valley Church (Church of Scotland)' and will retain Scottish Charity Number SC001718.
2. **Transference of Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of the congregation shall continue to belong or held on behalf of the congregation.
3. **Places of Worship:** Worship for the congregation will continue to be held in both St. Bride's Church, Douglas and Rigside Community Centre, with the times of worship as agreed by the Kirk Session subject to the agreement of Presbytery.
4. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the charge shall continue to be the bounds presently held by the charge.
5. **Kirk Session:** The elders of the congregation shall form, with the Interim Moderator, the Kirk Session of the congregation.
6. **Congregational Management:** The congregation shall continue to be administered under the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form).
7. **Minister:** The charge will not be free to call a minister during the period of Guardianship. The Interim Moderator will be appointed by the Presbytery.
8. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation will be retained and may be let, sold or otherwise disposed of, during the course of Guardianship, subject to the agreement of the Presbytery and the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.
9. **Ministerial Support:** A Guardianship Allowance shall be applied to this charge.
10. **Worship and pastoral Care:** A Locum shall be appointed by the Kirk Sessions, for two days a week plus Sunday (using Guardianship Allowance), this appointment being subject to the approval of Presbytery.
11. **Review:** The Basis of Guardianship shall be subject to interim review during the month two years following the date of constitution, and to a comprehensive review during the month five years following the date of constitution, the latter review to be brought to Presbytery prior to approving the continuance of Guardianship or adjusting arrangements as the need may arise.
12. **Power to readjust:** While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Guardianship for the congregation, the congregation shall be free to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.

**Text of letter sent to Presbytery Clerk signed by all elders of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen**

Rev Bryan Kerr BA, BD  
Greyfriars Manse,  
3 Bellefield Way,  
Lanark, ML11 7NW

5 September 2019

Dear Bryan,

We, the Kirk Session of Abbeygreen, write to you in order to formally declare that it is the intention of the congregation of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen to withdraw from the Church of Scotland. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly or with any degree of undue haste. On the contrary it is one that has been in the making for a considerable period of time and arrived at after much careful, solemn and prayerful consideration. We are sure that you would expect no less from us as a known evangelical and reformed congregation.

Throughout our entire process of seeking and struggling to come to terms with changes made in the past, changes planned for the future and the new trajectories established within our denomination, which we find no biblical warrant for, it has been our chief desire to seek the mind and will of God for the future of Abbeygreen. From the outset, we have deliberated with a keen and humble determination to be ready to give obedience to his rule and our continued faithful service to the cause of his kingdom here in the village of Lesmahagow.

The outcome has been that we now find ourselves at a place and a point in time where sadly and regrettably we are fully convinced before the Lord that the right, spiritual and honourable thing for us to do as a congregation is to withdraw from our mother denomination. We no longer feel at one, spiritually, theologically or biblically with our denomination and finding no resonance with its vision of a reconstructed church fit for the future we are persuaded that now is the appropriate time for our departure.

We do realise that there are protocols and procedures in place to deal with churches wishing to withdraw from our denomination. It is our hope that you will, as Presbytery Clerk, graciously help us in our understanding of the former and in the shaping of our best compliance in relation to the latter. With your help and understanding, and that of the Presbytery, we are sure that our hope of a smooth and quiet withdrawal will not be a forlorn one.

We have no desire to provoke bad feeling between ourselves and Presbytery or indeed anyone. Nor have we any interest in promoting controversy in the public square or in the press. Doing such would be to dishonour our Lord. That is the last thing we would want and we do believe that you will be of a similar mind. When Christians equally committed to serving the Lord choose different paths to walk, convinced that they have biblical authority for doing so, all must be done in ways that will truly please God, honour Christ and serve the cause of his church. Thus ensuring that all concerned can continue to give the best of themselves while enjoying the "well done" that God sounds over his faithful servants. While Christians might differ in their understanding of the word of God and how best to preach it or live it out in the eyes of the world we must never forget that we are all one in Christ Jesus.

We know that while we have stated above that the congregation wishes to withdraw from the Church of Scotland that in actual fact people need to do this on an individual basis. Our people are ready to do so and this with the commitment and hope of continuing to serve our Lord here in Abbeygreen. We look forward in due course, and with your guidance, to discussing the mechanics of this matter with the relevant authorities.

We await your response and can assure you that we are ready to follow your directions. There is much keenness on our part to bring this matter to a speedy and mutually satisfactory conclusion and all to the honouring of our Lord.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Alex McPhee  
Dr Robert Nicol  
Mr Alasdair Hynd  
Mrs Heather Court  
Mrs Nancy Lang  
Mr Malcolm Kelly

Mr Alan Martin  
Dr Richard Martin  
Mr Campbell Cowie  
Mr Richard Graham  
Mr Kenneth Shaw  
Rev David Carmichael

pp Mr Robert McMoran  
pp Mr Bill Neville  
pp Mr Allan MacPherson

**Record Note**

**Meeting between  
Representatives of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen  
and  
Representative of The Presbytery of Lanark**

**Friday 6 September 2019, 7pm, Lanark: Greyfriars Manse**

Representing Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen: Alex McPhee, Session Clerk; Dr Richard Martin, Elder;  
Richard Graham, Elder  
Representing Presbytery of Lanark: Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk; Scott Paget, Presbytery Support  
Convener

The meeting was requested by the Kirk Session of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen in the morning of 6 September.

**1. Context**

- 1.1. The representatives of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen explained that due to the current trajectory of the Church of Scotland in matter relating to theology, the 'Radical Plan' approved by the General Assembly of 2019, and the impending retirement of their minister, Rev David Carmichael, the Kirk Session have met and after prayerful consideration have decided that, as individuals they unanimously wish to leave the membership of the Church of Scotland.
- 1.2. The Kirk Session called a meeting of the congregation on 5 September 2019 with an indication given by members in regards to resigning their membership of the Church of Scotland were as follows: 64 present on the evening and 34 via proxy being aware of the meeting, there were also 33 adherents who gave support.
- 1.3. The representatives of the congregation stated their intention to remain together as a worshipping congregation, although there have been no discussions with any denomination at present.
- 1.4. The representatives explained that the congregation have no animosity towards the Church of Scotland and expressed a desire to work with the Presbytery and other Church authorities to effect their intention.

**2. Membership of the Church of Scotland**

- 2.1. It was stated by Presbytery and agreed by the congregational representatives that a congregation of the Church of Scotland is an unincorporated association and as such the congregation has no legal personality, meaning the members must individually resign their membership of the Church of Scotland and the congregation cannot 'vote to leave' the denomination.
- 2.2. It was stated by Presbytery and agreed by the congregational representatives that Presbytery would conduct meetings of the congregation to outline the process, as well as ensure all information given to the congregation has been accurate from a legal perspective.

**3. Charity Trusteeship**

- 3.1. The Presbytery reminded the congregational representatives of the first duty of charity trusteeship to act in the best interest of the present charity, Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland) SC006516 and that of its parent charity, The Church of Scotland,

SC011353. The congregational representatives recognised this duty and stated that it would not be an issue for any of the trustees.

- 3.2. It was agreed that this included not only the processes and procedures of the Church of Scotland but also a duty of care in regard to the financial and other assets of the charity, including the buildings.
- 3.3. It was stated by Presbytery that Assessor Elders may be appointed to the Kirk Session to ensure that in the period of transition the rights of the Church of Scotland continued to be upheld. Whilst expressing surprise at this, the congregational representatives understood the reasons.

#### **4. Financial Assets**

- 4.1. It was stated by Presbytery and agreed by the congregational representatives that the financial assets and reserves of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland) SC006516 would remain the financial assets of the remaining congregation, or its successor should Presbytery decide to effect readjustment.

#### **5. Buildings**

- 5.1. It was stated by Presbytery and agreed by the congregational representatives that the buildings of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland) SC006516 held in trust for the congregation by the Minister, Session Clerk and Clerk to the Congregational Board *ex officio* remain the assets of the Church of Scotland.
- 5.2. The congregational representatives agreed to provide copies of all the title deeds including the Feu Disposition and attached plans.
- 5.3. The congregational representatives undertook to locate and provide copies of two further dispositions relating to the titles (possibly held in Stoddarts Solicitors, 95 Alameda Street, Hamilton) granted by the Trustees of Abbeygreen Church of Scotland congregation in favour of themselves recorded on 3 November 1932 and 6 September 1933.
- 5.4. The congregational representatives expressed their desire to enter into discussion and negotiation with the Church of Scotland to purchase the buildings, fixtures and fittings for their ongoing use.
- 5.5. It was agreed by all that the Kirk Session would begin a thorough photographic inventory of all contents, fixtures and fittings of the buildings and that when completed the Presbytery would undertake a site visit to help understand the inventory.
- 5.6. The Presbytery stated that any negotiated removal of fixtures and fittings from a Church of Scotland building would always be subject to the control of the General Trustees through CARTA.
- 5.7. The Presbytery assured the congregational representatives that it would not be the desire of the Presbytery to remove the manse family from the property immediately following the date of demission and that an interim period of occupancy would likely be negotiated should the new congregation not be in a position to purchase the property.

#### **6. Congregational Records**

- 6.1. The Presbytery representatives stated that it would be necessary at points in the process for the Kirk Session and Congregational Board to submit their record books to the Presbytery for inspection. This was agreed by the congregational representatives.
- 6.2. The Presbytery representatives requested an up to date copy of the Communion Roll, a list of adherents and any supplementary roll be provided electronically as soon as possible to keep on record and to aid the forthcoming process. This was agreed by the congregational representatives.

6.3. The Presbytery representatives requested that current office bearers, such as the congregational treasurer, would work to aid a smooth transition of any assets. This was agreed by the congregational representatives.

## **7. Future Plans**

7.1. The congregational representatives expressed a view that with the entire membership of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen likely to resign their membership that dissolution of the congregation might be a way forward.

7.2. The Presbytery representatives stated that a process of discussion would need to take place before any decision could be made on the future shape of the Church of Scotland in the area.

## **8. Timescale**

8.1. The congregational representatives stated that they would like this process to be completed by the end of June 2020.

8.2. It was stated by Presbytery and agreed by the congregational representatives that for a number of reasons, including potential conflicts of interests in trusteeship, an earlier date might be more advantageous for all concerned in order to move to a settled position within the churches and community.

8.3. The Presbytery representatives reminded the congregational representatives that, in the interests of safeguarding, an earlier date would be preferential to ensure time for members of a new congregation to go through the disclosure process in time for any summer outreach activities.

## **9. Other matters**

9.1. The Presbytery representatives thanked the congregational representatives for their honesty and willingness to engage with Presbytery to effect a managed process.

9.2. Similarly, the congregational representatives offered thanks to the Presbytery representatives for their understanding, welcome and openness.

9.3. It was stated by Presbytery and agreed by the congregational representatives that from this point in the process it was vital that an open line of communication was established and maintained to enable the process to move forward.

9.4. The Presbytery Representatives expressed their thanks Mr McPhee, who is the longest serving Presbytery Elder within the Presbytery of Lanark having served for a period of 28 years for his engagement with Presbytery and his personal efforts to ensure that the congregation of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen worked with Presbytery over these years.

9.5. The Presbytery Representatives assured the congregation of their prayers as they sought to continue to serve God faithfully as a worshipping community.

9.6. The congregational representatives presented the Presbytery representatives with a prepared letter signed by all members of the Kirk Session (with three signing *Per Procuracionem*) outlining the reasons for the decision that has been reached.

## **10. Closure**

10.1. The meeting was closed with the Presbytery Clerk leading those present in a time of prayer.

*Record Note agreed for accuracy by Presbytery Representatives and Congregational Representatives  
9 September 2019*

**Basis of Union  
between  
Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old and Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen**

The Congregation of The Parish of Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old (Church of Scotland) (SC017014) and the Congregation of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen (Church of Scotland) (SC006516) shall be united as from a date to be determined by the Presbytery of Lanark, and that on the following Terms and Conditions

1. **Name of Congregation:** The name of the United Congregation shall be 'Coalburn and Lesmahagow Parish Church (Church of Scotland)'. The Scottish Charity Number SC017014 shall be retained as the Scottish Charity Number of the united congregation.
2. **Transference of Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united congregation and any transference necessary shall be duly effected. All the property currently held by the congregation of Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old shall be retained by the united congregation. The remaining properties held by the congregation of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which they are held, and subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, of the General Trustees and the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall (a) if falling within the scope of Act VII 1995 be credited to the benefit of the united congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the said united congregation.
3. **Places of Worship:** The Churches in Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old shall be the places of worship of United Congregation. Services shall be conducted in Lesmahagow: Old Parish Church and in Coalburn Parish Church each Sunday at times to be decided by the Minister and Kirk Session subject to the approval of Presbytery. Should a decision be taken in the future to close or dispose of one or both of the church buildings in use, the united congregation will ensure that a regular worshipping presence is maintained in both communities, subject to the provisions of section 10 of this Basis of Union.
4. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be those presently designated as the bounds of the The Parish of Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old and Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen, or as the Presbytery shall determine.
5. **Kirk Session:** The elders of the two Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the United Congregation.
6. **Congregational Management:** The financial or temporal affairs of the United Congregation shall be administered as, or in accordance with, the Unitary Constitution, the Delegation of Assembly being authorised to issue the appropriate Deed of Constitution to the said congregation.
7. **Minister:** The united congregation, being vacant, shall proceed to the election and call of a minister under the terms of Act VIII, 2003 and subsequent to the approval of the Presbytery Plan and all necessary permissions being granted.
8. **Manse:** The current manse of Lesmahagow: Old Parish Church shall be the manse of the united congregation.
9. **Ministerial Support:** The stipend of the Charge shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the National Stipend Scheme.
10. **Power to re-adjust:** While these articles and terms shall form a Basis of Union for the two Congregations now uniting, the united Congregation shall be free, like other Congregations, to adjust arrangements under authority of the Presbytery and with the approval of the Presbytery Planning Task Group of the Ministries Council as need may arise.



# The Church of Scotland

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## Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark on Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 7pm for the following and other competent business.**

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

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### **Order of Business – 5 November 2019**

1. Constitution
2. Welcome to Visitors
3. Approval of the Order of Business
4. Minutes
5. Decisions under Delegated Powers
6. Roll of Presbytery
7. Correspondence
8. Good News Stories
9. Presentation of Readers
10. Report of the Presbytery Support Committee
11. Report of the Special Committee for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen
12. Report on the Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
13. Presbytery Conference – Try Praying
14. Intimations
15. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

## Decisions under delegated powers

The Clerk has not been informed of any decisions have been made under Delegated Powers.

## Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. In respect of Salaries and Honoraria
  - a. The Clerks Salary for 2020 continue to be 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the maximum stipend.
  - b. The Depute Clerk receive an honorarium of £1,000 for the duties undertaken during 2019, split £750 to Rev George Shand and £250 to Rev Paul Grant
  - c. The Presbytery AV Technician receive an honorarium of £240 for the duties undertaken during 2018
  - d. Kaye Gardiner & George Sneddon (Candidates for Full time Ministry of Word and Sacrament) receive a bursary of £250 each for the current year of study.
3. In respect of Presbytery Finance
  - a. Approve the Presbytery Budget for 2020 (appendix 1)
  - b. Set congregational dues at a levy of £3.50 per member and instruct congregational treasurers to remit payment to the Presbytery no later than Friday 6 December 2019
  - c. Encourage congregational treasurers to budget for a levy of £3.75 for payment in December 2020.
4. In respect of Ministry and Mission Allocations:
  - a. Approve the Ministry and Mission Allocations for 2020 (Appendix 2)
  - b. Reject the appeal from the Kirk Session of the Douglas Valley in relation to the allocation for 2020 and encourage the Kirk Session to work with the Presbytery to identify missional projects that may be able to attract money from the Discretionary Allowance, and to make full use of income generated within the Consolidated Fabric Fund to pay for local fabric costs
5. Note that the Kirk Session, Congregational Board and Congregation of Carluke: St. John's have resolved to move to the Unitary Constitution; agree to the request from Carluke: St. John's to move to the Unitary Constitution; and instruct the clerk to send an extract minute to the Delegation of Assembly to confer the new constitution
6. In respect of the General Assembly of 2020
  - a. Agree to suspend Standing Order 9(e) and 9(g) in order to bring forward the timeframe for appointing commissioners.
  - b. Note that the charges of Douglas Valley, Lanark: Greyfriars, Kirkmuirhill and Carluke: Kirkton are invited to an elder to the General Assembly of 2020 and instruct each Kirk Session to forward the name of the individual to the Presbytery Clerk no later than 15 December 2019.
  - c. Note that Rev Bryan Kerr, Rev Andrew Rooney and Rev Iain Cunningham will receive a commission to the General Assembly of 2020
  - d. Invite ministers to apply for a spare place no later than 19 November 2019

### Report

#### Presbytery Budget

The budget for 2020 is contained in Appendix 2. The committee present a budget which still represents a slight deficit however the committee are seeking to mitigate against a much larger loss borne out by the reduction of members who are leaving the Church of Scotland as part of the Lesmahagow Abbeygreen

situation. This means that the committee recommend setting the dues for this year at the slightly higher than anticipated rate of £3.50 per member. The congregational dues require to be paid to Presbytery no later than Friday 6 December 2019. Presbytery should note that it is likely that a figure of £3.75 will be requested at this time in 2020 and congregational treasurers should budget for this figure.

### **Salaries & Honoraria**

The committee recommend the following:

- The Clerks Salary for 2020 continue to be 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the maximum stipend in line with the contract of employment.
- The Depute Clerk receive an honorarium of £1,000 for the duties undertaken during 2019, split £750 to Rev George Shand and £250 to Rev Paul Grant.
- The Presbytery AV Technician receive an honorarium of £240 for the duties undertaken during 2019
- Kaye Gardiner & George Sneddon (Candidates for Full time Ministry of Word and Sacrament) receive a bursary of £250 each for the current year of study.

### **Ministry and Mission Allocations 2020**

The committee present the allocations in Appendix 2. One appeal against the allocation was lodged by the Kirk Session at Douglas Valley Church. Within the appeal the Kirk Session state that they do not cast doubt on the correctness of the calculation, rather a concern regarding the calculation method resulting in a high percentage increase due to a concerted effort of Stewardship within the congregation. As an appeal is only able to be made on an incorrect calculation the committee, following due consultation with the finance department of the Church of Scotland, recommend to Presbytery that the appeal is not upheld. The Presbytery is also reminded that there is ongoing support to the congregation in the form of payments of the 'second service' each Sunday that is not covered by the Guardianship allowance. That being said the committee recommend that the Kirk Session work with the Presbytery to identify missional projects that may be able to attract money from the Discretionary Allowance, and to make full use of income generated within the Consolidated Fabric Fund to pay for local fabric costs, freeing up money for other uses.

The committee recognises this recommendation will not meet with the approval of the Kirk Session of the Douglas Valley but in the interests of fairness to all of the other congregations within the Presbytery, and the fact that the Kirk Session are not questioning the correctness of the calculation the appeal should not be upheld.

### **Change to Congregational Constitution**

The Kirk Session, Congregational Board and Congregation of Carlisle: St. John's have resolved to move to the Unitary Constitution. The committee recommend that Presbytery agree to the request from Carlisle: St. John's to move to the Unitary Constitution and instruct the clerk to send an extract minute to the Delegation of Assembly to confer the new constitution

### **General Assembly 2020**

In line with the instruction of the General Assembly to appoint commissioners earlier in the year, the committee notify Presbytery that the following charges are due to send a minister and elder to the General Assembly from 16-22 May 2020:

#### **Douglas Valley, Lanark: Greyfriars, Kirkmuirhill and Carlisle: Kirkton**

At present there are two spare minister commissions available. Any minister who wishes to be considered for a spare place should apply to the committee no later than Tuesday 19 November 2019. Kirk Sessions are instructed to forward names of elders to be commissioned to the Presbytery Clerk no later than 15 December 2019.

<b>Presbytery Budget 2020</b>				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
<b>Opening Balance as at 1/1/20</b>				
General Fund*	25,254	0	0	25,254
Designated Survey Fund	0	0	8,760	8,760
Designated LCR Fund	0	0	3,530	3,530
Restricted Youth Work Fund	0	3,720	0	3,720
Restricted Bertram & Somerville	0	6,007	0	6,007
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25,254</b>	<b>9,727</b>	<b>12,290</b>	<b>47,271</b>
<i>* Includes dues for Dec 2019 of £18,182 - 5195 @ 3.50</i>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest	118	0	0	118
Dec 2020 Dues (4845 @ £3.75) Decrease of 350	18,169	0	0	18,169
Local Church Review (M&M Variance)	0	0	7,000	7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,287</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>25,287</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Clerk's salary	5,850	0	0	5,850
Clerk's expenses	600	0	0	600
Clerk's office	750	0	0	750
Printing & postage	250	0	0	250
Insurance & copyright	350	0	0	350
Honoraria	1,300	0	0	1,300
Surveys	0	0	5,400	5,400
Local Church Reviews	0	0	6,500	6,500
Pulpit Supply	220	0	0	220
Attestation Fees	2,750	0	0	2,750
Hall rent	1,125	0	0	1,125
Grants & Bursaries	750	0	0	750
Sundry	250	0	0	250
Travel Expenses	800	0	0	800
Data Protection	35	0	0	35
Governance	300	0	0	300
Valuations	0	0	0	0
Moderator's Visit	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,330</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11900</b>	<b>27,230</b>
Transfers	-3,500	0	3,500	0
Surplus/ Deficit	-543	0	-1,400	-1,943
<b>Closing Balances as at 31/12/20</b>				
General Fund	24,711	0	0	24,711
Designated Survey Fund	0	0	6,860	6,860
Designated LCR Fund	0	0	4,030	4,030
Restricted Youth Work Fund	0	3,720	0	3,720
Restricted Bertram & Somerville	0	6,007	0	6,007
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24,711</b>	<b>9,727</b>	<b>10,890</b>	<b>45,328</b>

The Presbytery of Lanark					
Ministry & Mission Contributions 2020					
Congregation	Average Income 2016-2018	Average Income 2017-2019	2019 Contribution (Gross)	2020 Increase/ (Decrease)	2020 Proposed Contribution (Gross)
Biggar	97,876	103,389	61,025	3,138	64,163
Black Mount	23,123	23,038	12,829	(55)	12,774
Cairngryffe	36,476	37,227	21,509	488	21,997
Carluke Kirkton	142,409	135,825	84,504	(3,292)	81,212
Carluke St Andrew's	55,078	54,128	33,600	(617)	32,983
Carluke St John's	92,376	95,627	57,844	1,832	59,676
Carnwath	23,284	23,460	12,911	137	13,048
Carstairs Parish	52,916	51,832	32,195	(705)	31,490
Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old	83,649	83,531	52,171	(76)	52,095
Crossford	38,070	37,419	22,545	(423)	22,122
Douglas Valley	56,910	60,371	34,791	2,250	37,041
Forth St Paul's	65,434	59,834	40,331	(3,640)	36,691
Kirkfieldbank	21,199	22,315	11,579	725	12,304
Kirkmuirhill	80,836	86,823	50,343	3,891	54,234
Lanark Greyfriars	90,425	91,754	56,554	798	57,352
Lanark St Nicholas	112,319	117,976	69,075	3,111	72,186
Law	49,169	51,348	29,759	1,417	31,176
Lesmahagow Abbeygreen	62,089	57,437	38,157	(3,024)	35,133
Libberton and Quothquan	20,557	20,626	11,161	45	11,206
Symington	38,662	37,256	22,930	(914)	22,016
Upper Clyde	39,044	36,083	23,178	(1,925)	21,253



# The Church of Scotland

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## Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark on Tuesday 3 December 2019  
at 7pm for the following and other competent business.**

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

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### **Order of Business – 3 December 2019**

1. Constitution
2. Welcome to Visitors
3. Approval of the Order of Business
4. Minutes
5. Decisions under Delegated Powers
6. Roll of Presbytery
7. Correspondence
8. Good News Stories
9. Presentation of Readers
10. Report of the Presbytery Support Committee
11. Report of the Special Committee for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen
12. Report of the Worship and Discipleship Committee
13. Report of the Relationships and Context Committee
14. Intimations
15. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business and in conference on Tuesday 4 February 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

## Decisions under delegated powers

The Clerk has been informed of the following decisions that have been taken under Delegated Powers.

### Carstairs (19<sup>th</sup> November 2019)

The Presbytery grant permission to the Kirk Session of Carstairs to install an upgraded Audio Visual System in the sanctuary in line with the guidance issued by the General Trustees Adviser, subject to the approval of the General Trustees.

## Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. In respect of Local Church Reviews:
  - a. Agree that Local Church Reviews will take place in 2020 in Biggar linked with Black Mount, Coalburn and Lesmahagow, and Douglas Valley.
  - b. Appoint Catch the Light to continue to lead Local Church Reviews during 2020.
  - c. Grant powers to the Presbytery Support Committee to appoint Local Church Review teams in advance of the next meeting of Presbytery.
3. In respect of Ministry and Mission Discretionary Allowance:
  - a. Agree that a sum of £7,500 be used by Presbytery to fund Local Church Reviews in 2020
  - b. Agree that the sum of £1,560 be granted to both Douglas Valley and Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old in respect of the charges having a second act of worship on a Sunday morning that is not covered by the Vacancy Allowance due to their status as united charges with 2 places of worship.
  - c. Agree that a sum of £15,000 be made available for grants from the Ministry and Mission Variance for the first application window of 2020 in line with the guidelines approved in June 2018
4. In respect of the General Assembly of 2020:
  - a. Agree to appoint Rev Louise MacKay and Rev Dr Elijah Obinna as commissioners utilising the two spare ministerial places.
  - b. Remind the Kirk Sessions in the charges of Douglas Valley, Lanark: Greyfriars, and Kirkmuirhill of the instruction to forward the name of their elder commissioner to the Presbytery Clerk no later than 15 December 2019.
  - c. Grant powers to the Clerk to finalise the list of commissioners by the deadline set by the General Assembly and, if necessary, to seek and appoint substitute commissioners.
5. Grant powers to the Moderator, Clerk, Depute Clerk and Presbytery Support Convener from the close of this meeting to the constitution of the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery on 4 February 2020.

### Report

#### Local Church Reviews

The committee propose that in 2020 the following congregations take part in the Local Church Review process: Biggar, Black Mount, Coalburn & Lesmahagow Old and Douglas Valley. The committee feel that the opportunity for both Douglas Valley and Coalburn & Lesmahagow to participate at times of significant change in their status and parish is helpful. The committee also recommend that Catch the Light be appointed for the forthcoming year to conduct the reviews.

## Ministry and Mission Discretionary Allowance

In line with previous years the committee recommend the following use of the Discretionary Allowance at this point in the year:

- a sum of £7,500 be approved for Local Church Reviews in 2020
- a sum of £1,560 for each charge of Douglas Valley and Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old in respect of second service supply costs be approved.

The committee will be in contact with the Tinto Parishes to bring forward recommendations to assist with third Sunday cover in due course.

The committee recommend that a sum of £15,000 be made available for congregations to apply for assistance with mission projects in the first of the two application windows in 2020. The first application window is open from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> April. Any congregation wishing to apply should follow the guidelines approved by Presbytery in June 2018 which will be circulated by the Clerk immediately following the approval of Presbytery.

## General Assembly 2020

Following the invitation to ministers to apply for spare commissions, two applications were received. The committee recommend that Rev Louise MacKay and Rev Dr Elijah Obinna be commissioned.

The Kirk Sessions of Douglas Valley, Lanark: Greyfriars, Kirkmuirhill are reminded of the instruction to forward names of elders to be commissioned to the Presbytery Clerk no later than 15 December 2019.

The committee invite Presbytery to grant powers to the Clerk to finalise the list of commissioners by the deadline set by the General Assembly and seek substitutes if necessary.

## Recess Powers

Due to the two month break between meetings over Christmas the committee recommend granting powers to the Moderator, Clerk, Depute Clerk and Presbytery Support Convener for any matters that may arise, always in the knowledge that the Moderator has power to call a pro re nata meeting should the need arise.

## Report of the Special Committee for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note that a meeting with the Congregation of Lesmahagow; Abbeygreen took place on 12<sup>th</sup> November.
3. Note that at that meeting personalised letters were given to those members of the congregation present detailing their options. These letters to be returned to the Clerk by 31<sup>st</sup> December.
4. Note that, due to the volume of applications they are currently dealing with, OSCR are unlikely to be able to process the application for charity status from Abbeygreen Church before the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2020.
5. Instruct the Special Committee to work towards a date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, or such date as soon thereafter as legal processes will permit but no later than 28 February 2020, for members to resign their membership of the Church of Scotland and the Rev David S. Carmichael to demit the charge of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen and also his status as a Minister of Word and Sacrament within the Church of Scotland.

6. Note that the congregation of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen, in terms of the title deeds of the buildings has, at a duly constituted and called congregational meeting appointed the building trustees as William Love, John Lumsden and Elizabeth Muir in place of the Minister, Session Clerk and Clerk to the Congregational Board with effect from 12 November 2019.
7. Note that the Committee has instructed the congregation to ensure that all bank accounts operated by, or on behalf of the trustees (including organisations where funds form part of the charity accounts) be subject to the same governance procedures as the main accounts with assessor elders as signatories.
8. Note with disappointment that the photographic inventory of contents of the church properties previously instructed to be submitted by 31 October 2019 and instruct the congregational trustees to submit this within seven days of the date of Presbytery (no later than Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019).

## Report

At the congregational meeting held in Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen Church on 12<sup>th</sup> November 68 members attended along with 26 adherents. Details of the process were outlined to those present along with their three options regarding membership, it being pointed out to them that their membership of the Church of Scotland was as an individual.

- a) To ask for a transference certificate allowing them to join any other congregation of the Church of Scotland or any of the denominations with which the Church has reciprocal arrangements.
- b) To resign from the Church of Scotland by intimating this in writing to the Presbytery Clerk.
- c) To do nothing and so remain members of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen Church of Scotland and therefore become members of Coalburn and Lesmahagow Church following the Union.

Personalised letters were made available with these options on them with instructions that they be returned to the Presbytery Clerk, signed and indicating which option they preferred, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December. Letters were subsequently sent to those not present on the evening.

Rev David Carmichael told the meeting that, due to the large number of applications currently being received, OSCR had indicated that it was likely that it would be 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at the earliest before the application for the new charity of Abbeygreen Church would be processed. Rev Carmichael also indicated that it would be a further 20 days thereafter before the legal processes could be gone through to allow them to purchase the buildings. In terms of the instruction in Deliverance 3 m) of the Presbytery meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 the committee therefore ask that the date of 31 December 2019 for members to resign their membership of the Church of Scotland and the Rev David S. Carmichael to demit the charge of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen and also his status as a Minister of Word and Sacrament within the Church of Scotland be amended to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 or such date as soon thereafter as legal processes will permit. The Presbytery are invited to instruct the committee to ensure that this date does not extend beyond 28 February 2020.

For the avoidance of doubt, the office bearers of the congregation are in no way responsible for these delays, having submitted their application to OSCR immediately this process commenced.

The congregation, in terms of the title deeds of the buildings has, at a duly constituted and called congregational meeting appointed the building trustees as William Love, John Lumsden and Elizabeth Muir in place of the Minister, Session Clerk and Clerk to the Congregational Board with effect from 12 November 2019.

The Committee continue to work with the Office bearers and congregation of Lesmahagow Abbeygreen in the best interests of all parties concerned in this process and thank them for their active and co-operative engagement with them.

The Special Committee continue to work with the congregation on matters of finance and property. The Committee instructed the congregation to ensure that all bank accounts operated by, or on behalf of the trustees (including organisations where funds form part of the charity accounts) be subject to the same governance procedures as the main accounts with assessor elders as signatories.

The Special Committee have not received, as of 30 November 2019, the photographic inventory of contents of the church properties. The committee had instructed the submission of this by 31 October 2019 and invite Presbytery to instruct the congregational trustees to submit this within seven days of the date of Presbytery (no later than Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019).

## **Report of the Worship & Discipleship Committee**

### **Deliverance**

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report
2. Note that the keynote event for February meeting will be the 'Easter Code'
3. Note the 'Fischy Music' event planned for May 2020

### **Report**

Following the feedback from the prayer in public worship workshop earlier this year discussions took place regarding a further event. It was decided that this would be a worthwhile project but due to timings and the Christmas period it would take place next spring with lent being the theme. Further planning will be done for this.

As Presbytery agreed time at the February 2020 meeting would be given over to the committee and plans have started to be put in place. It is hoped to offer a taster session of the "Easter Code" which has been designed by the Calderside Chaplaincy Team and is run in Forth by a member of Forth St Pauls congregation. This will be a chance for people to have a sensory experience by immersing themselves in parts of the Easter story but also an opportunity to gain creative ideas that can be taken back to congregations.

Plans have been made for a 'Fischy Music' event next year on a Sunday in May. This will be an event aimed at children of all ages from across the presbytery, allowing them to gather together and enjoy worship with 2 members of the 'Fischy Music' team. More details will be available in the new year.

Thanks goes to all the members of the committee who regularly attend meetings and have helped in all various events which have happened during 2019.

## **Report of the Relationships & Context Committee**

*The convener has indicated that the following deliverance may be presented to Presbytery however there has been no report submitted to present to Presbytery.*

## Deliverance

### The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note the committee's concern about the limited time afforded to guest speakers and interactivity at the Conference Style Presbytery Meeting and ask the moderator to consider shortening the ordinary business part of such meetings in the future.
3. Encourage congregations to engage with 'Try Praying' in the near future. Booklets can be obtained through the convenor or directly through Try Praying.
4. Note that the Reverend John McCulloch, Presbytery Mission Partner in Israel/ Palestine will be available to visit congregations between 17-27 July. Encourage congregations to have joint services with the Reverend McCulloch in order to make best use of the two Sundays he is with us



# The Church of Scotland

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## Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark on Tuesday 4 February 2020 at 7pm for the following and other competent business.**

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

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### **Order of Business – 4 February 2020**

1. Constitution
2. Welcome to Visitors
3. Approval of the Order of Business
4. Worship and Discipleship Committee - The Easter Code
5. Decisions under Delegated Powers
6. Report of the Relationships and Context Committee
7. Intimations
8. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business and in conference on Tuesday 5 March 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

### **Decisions under delegated powers**

The Clerk has been informed of the following decisions that have been taken under Delegated Powers.

#### **General Assembly (7<sup>th</sup> January 2020)**

The Presbytery note that Douglas Valley Church were unable to send an elder commissioner and appoint Rev Iain Cunningham, Rev Bryan Kerr, Rev Louise MacKay, Rev Dr Elijah Obinna, Rev Andrew Rooney, Mr Alan Boyd, Mr William Love, Mr Allan McDade, Mrs Val MacSween, and Mr Scott Paget as commissioners to the General Assembly of 2020, with Rev Bryan Kerr and Mrs Val MacSween serving on the Commission of Assembly should such be necessary.

#### **Biggar (22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020)**

The Presbytery grant permission to the Kirk Session of Biggar to undertake electrical work, replace lighting and new AV equipment at an approximate cost of £69,580 subject to the approval, and scheme revision of CARTA and the General Trustees.

The Presbytery further instruct the Kirk Session of Biggar to amend the proposal for work in the sanctuary to ensure that the 'draught corridor' has certified safety glass in the roof, adequate heating and proper lighting for safety reasons, and encourage the Kirk Session of Biggar to create accessible seating spaces in symmetrical locations in the main centre aisle in order that those who require to use them have choice as to where to sit.

#### **Special Committee (Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen) (22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020)**

The Presbytery appoint Mr Bill Love as Interim Moderator in the charge of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen for any matters relating to readjustment, the continuing congregation, or where there may be any perceived conflict of interest.

## Intimations

The Presbytery Support Committee encourage all congregations to hold an annual 'Student Sunday' offering during March and April to provide support for our Candidates for Ministry within the Presbytery.

## Report of the Relationships & Context Committee

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note change in dates of John McCulloch's deputation visit to Lanark Presbytery. Encourage congregations to attend joint services in Lanark, Carluke and Kirkmuirhill where John will be speaking.
3. Encourage congregations to participate in the Red Laces event in support of the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Fund on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May as details become available.

### Report

#### Mission Partner

John McCulloch will be returning from Jerusalem in 2020 for deputation. He will visit Lanark Presbytery for the changed dates of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September. This will include two Sundays, the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup>. It is imperative that we make as much use of John's valuable experience and wisdom as possible, both within our churches but also in the wider community. At a modicum are the two Sundays that he will be available. It was suggested that he could be in Lanark on the 6<sup>th</sup> and in Carluke on the 13<sup>th</sup> to accommodate normal patterns for celebration of Communion. In addition, it is proposed he is invited to speak at the evening services in Carluke and Kirkmuirhill on those respective evenings. Carluke, Biggar and Lanark High Schools may also welcome a visit from him to discuss the situation in Israel/Palestine. Kirkton Girls Brigade may also welcome a visit as the Moderator's visit to them last year was cancelled. Please contact the convenor with any other suggestions. Publicity about times and dates of John's visits will be forthcoming as details are confirmed.

#### All Tied up

A community walk taking place in New Lanark. A date of Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May is proposed by the committee for this event as it avoids other holiday weekends in that period. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and funds for the Church of Scotland HIV fund as well as foster closer fellowship in our Presbytery. The event will take place at New Lanark. Timing is still to be negotiated with the venue. A keynote address is planned, highlighting the work of a project supported by the fund and delivered by Jane Fucella. Jane helped to establish the Sangklaburi HIV/AIDS project and continues to be in close contact with the operation of this vital lifeline for the migrant community on the Thai/Burma border. Her address will serve as a launch to the walk. There will be two levels of walk to suit most abilities—one a gentle stroll and the other a more robust climb around the Falls of Clyde. All participants will be asked to wear red laces in their shoes/boots and we hope to also have T-shirts for all participants. The committee has decided to not ask participants to seek sponsorship for this event, but to have a flat fee/donation for entry. Any surplus to costs will be donated to the HIV/AIDS Fund. Refreshments can be had on completion of the walk in the New Lanark Café. Publicity will be forthcoming as details are confirmed.



# The Church of Scotland

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## Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark on Tuesday 3 March 2020 at 7pm for the following and other competent business.**

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

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### **Order of Business – 3 March 2020**

1. Constitution
2. Welcome to Visitors
3. Approval of the Order of Business
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Decisions under Delegated Powers
6. Correspondence
7. Good News Stories
8. Report of Presbytery Support Committee
9. Report of Special Committee for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen
10. Roll of Presbytery
  - a. Farewells to Rev David Carmichael
11. Report of the Relationships and Context Committee
12. Report of the Worship and Discipleship Committee
13. Presbytery Reform Process
14. Intimations
15. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business and in conference on Tuesday 5 March 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

### **Decisions under delegated powers**

The Clerk has been informed of the following decisions that have been taken under Delegated Powers.

#### **Carstairs (9<sup>th</sup> January 2020)**

The Presbytery approve the works undertaken in Carstairs Parish Church during the recent refurbishment and set a date of 12 March 2020 for a service of rededication.

### **Intimations**

## Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Encourage all congregations to hold a 'Student Sunday' collection in March, April or May to go towards the living costs of students training for Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery
3. Remind all Kirk Sessions and Congregational Boards of the annual attestation of records to be held on 28 April 2020 in Greyfriars Church, Lanark from 6:30pm.
4. Note the Office Bearers Evening to take place on 26 March 2020 in Greyfriars Church, Lanark at 7pm
5. Approve a sum of £300 to be made available from the Ministry and Mission Variance Allowance to Cairngryffe to develop farming chaplaincy materials.
6. Remind congregations of the deadline of 14 April 2020 for applications for the Ministry and Mission Variance Allowance to be submitted to the Presbytery Support Committee.

### Report

#### Student Sunday

The committee invite Presbytery to once again encourage all congregations to hold a 'Student Sunday' collection to go towards the living costs of students training for Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery. The committee ask that these collections take place during March, April or May.

#### Attestation of Records

All Kirk Sessions and Congregational Boards are reminded of the annual attestation of records to be held on 28 April 2020 in Greyfriars Church, Lanark from 6:30pm. All Session Clerks have been notified of arrangements.

#### Office Bearers Evening

The committee has arranged an evening for new and existing office bearers to take place on Thursday 26 March 2020 at 7pm in Greyfriars Church, Lanark. This is open to all Session Clerks, Clerks to Congregational Boards and Deputies. It is hoped that this evening will offer support to those in these positions.

#### Ministry and Mission Variance Allowance

A request has been received from the Tinto Parishes (Via Cairngryffe) seeking support to purchase materials to be used in Lanark Market as they establish a farming chaplaincy. The committee recommend a sum of £300 be made available from the variance.

Congregations are reminded that a sum of £15,000 was made available to fund projects with applications to be with the Support Committee no later than 14 April 2020. More details of criteria and process are available from the Clerk and were previously circulated as part of the June 2018 meeting papers.

## Report of the Special Committee for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note that a draft offer for the sale of the buildings at Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen has been received.
3. Declare, in respect of the sale of the buildings, that with all members of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen having indicated that they will move to the new congregation there is no congregation that can approve the sale and therefore Presbytery acts in the place of the congregation in this matter.
4. Agree the demission of Rev David Carmichael will take place on 26 March 2020.
5. Agree that the union between Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen and Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old will take place on 27 March 2020.

## Report

### Update

The new congregation have now received their charity number and have submitted a draft offer for the building. The Kirk Session and the Special Committee have agreed this offer and more details will be available at the Presbytery meeting.

As there is no congregation in Abbeygreen that can approve the sale of the building due to all members indicating they will be leaving and joining the new congregation and therefore having a conflict of interest, the Special Committee invite presbytery to declare that there is no congregation that can approve the sale of the building and, in this matter the Presbytery acts in place of the congregation.

The date of the demission of Rev David Carmichael, and the proposed date of entry for the property will be 26 March 2020. The union of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen and Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old will therefore take place on 27 March 2020.

The Kirk Session and Special Committee have met on a number of occasions to ensure that the transition is smooth and that all necessary paperwork and documents are dealt with in a timeous manner. The Special Committee will be seeking meetings with key office bearers in the next few days.

## Report of the Worship & Discipleship Committee

### Deliverance

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report
2. Note the success of the Easter Code Event at last Presbytery meeting
3. Agree to the Fishy Music event on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in Kirkton church at a cost of £350 plus travel expenses.

## Report

The committee had a discussion on the event led by St Paul's Forth at the Presbytery meeting on 4th February. Feedback was very positive and discussion highlighted the simplicity of the stations of the Easter Code and the powerful effect they had. It was also mentioned that as a transition event or event for older children the use of senses rather than mere discussion and talks was an attractive way of telling the Easter Story.

Discussion also went on to consider how the event could be opened to other areas of Lanark Presbytery using a central point and transporting pupils from the outlying areas to participate in a way they would not be able to do on their own. It was considered to be a worthwhile committee event, different and engaging, showing what could be done. A huge thanks goes to Karen Nicol, St Pauls Parish Co-Ordinator.

The committees next event is one involving Fishy Music. To be held in Kirkton Church, 24th May, in afternoon. Iain Cunningham to be asked about publicity. The cost is thought to be £350 plus travel. The event itself should be free plus refreshments offered. Louise to include this in her report to Presbytery, looking for approval of event and expenditure.



# The Church of Scotland

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## Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet in online using Zoom on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7pm for the following and other competent business.**

**To join the meeting click on the following link**

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

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### **Order of Business – 5 May 2020**

1. Constitution
2. Approval of the Order of Business
3. Decisions under Delegated Powers
4. Correspondence
5. Good News Stories
6. Group Discussion

Thinking about the church, your congregation, or more generally ...

- a. What's worst about this for you at the moment?
- b. Has anything surprised you?
- c. What matters most to you right now?
- d. What are some of things you are hoping for?
- e. What is getting you through?
- f. What are you most anxious about?

7. Report of Presbytery Support Committee
8. Intimations
9. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (or online should that be the official advice).

### **Decisions under delegated powers**

The Clerk has not been informed of any decisions that have been taken under Delegated Powers.

### **Intimations**

# Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

## Deliverance

### The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Commend the ministers, elders and members of the congregations within Presbytery for their leadership, creativity and determination to provide worship, care and practical support to the communities of Clydesdale during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
3. Homologate the decision taken on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 that, with immediate effect, no church building in Lanark Presbytery are should be open for individual prayer until further notice and until this decision is revoked by Presbytery.
4. Grant powers to the Clerk, Depute Clerk, Moderator and Presbytery Support Convener to interpret advice from the government and church offices in relation to the closure and re-opening of church buildings and issue decisions on when churches in Presbytery may reopen, in line with the decision of Presbytery of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.
5. Remind all congregations that should continue to remit Ministry and Mission contributions to the church offices but if they find themselves in financial difficulty during the COVID-19 closure and beyond, to speak to the Presbytery Clerk in the first instance.
6. Note that the 'Student Sunday' collection is postponed until a suitable time in the calendar can be found following a return to congregational worship in churches.
7. Note that congregational accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 should be in the hands of the Clerk and sent to the Church Offices in Edinburgh as soon as it is practically possible.
8. Agree that the attestation of congregational records will take place at a date to be determined when it is safe to do so, and encourage clerks and office bearers to have records collated in order that they can be brought for attestation at short notice.
9. Note that the General Assembly of 2019 has been cancelled and agree to the rota for 2020 being moved to 2021 to allow charges to be represented.
10. Note that the HIV/Aids Walk at New Lanark for May 2020 was postponed and a revised date for an event in the future will be arranged in due course when current restrictions are lifted.
11. Note that the Fischy Music event for May 2020 has been postponed and a date for the event will be circulated when it has been able to be determined.
12. Remind congregations of the deadline of 14 August 2020 for applications for the Ministry and Mission Variance Allowance to be submitted to the Presbytery Support Committee.
13. Note that the Clerk will be sending Elder Commission Forms to Session Clerks in the coming days to enable the appointment of a Presbytery Elder for the 2020/2021 Session and that all Kirk Sessions will be expected to meet in some form to appoint.
14. In respect of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen
  - a. Note that Rev David Carmichael demitted the charge and his status as a Minister of the Church of Scotland on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
  - b. Note that, without exception, all communicant members of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen resigned their membership of the Church of Scotland as of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
  - c. Note that members who were on the Supplementary Roll will be moved to the Supplementary Roll of Coalburn and Lesmahagow and that contact will be made, by letter, inviting individuals to either re-establish contact with the Parish Church or have their membership removed.
  - d. Note that the buildings were sold to the new congregation for the sum of £335,000.
  - e. Note that the car used by the minister was sold to the minister for the sum of £6,000.
  - f. Agree that the funds held by Abbeygreen pertaining to groups, The Ark Parent and Toddler (£866), Midweek Fellowship (£92), Youth Fellowship (£14) and Youth Club (£2) would be retained by said groups at the levels in the account on 31 March 2020 as declared in parenthesis.
  - g. Note that with all bills being settled a sum of £2516.06 will likely be transferred to Coalburn and Lesmahagow.
  - h. Note that the new congregation have become a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland.
  - i. Thank the Assessor Elders appointed to Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen for their graciousness and willingness to serve, and discharge them as at 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
15. In respect of the union between Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old and Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen

- a. Note that the union took place on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and that the Law Department have informed OSCR of the change.
- b. Note that Mr Alan Grant was appointed as Interim Moderator in the charge as of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- c. Declare that the Vacancy Procedure and Advisory Committees previously constituted in respect of Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old become the Vacancy Procedure Committee and Advisory Committee in united vacancy.



# The Church of Scotland

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## Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet in online using Zoom on Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 7pm for the following and other competent business.**

To join the meeting click on the following link

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

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### **Order of Business – 16 June 2020**

1. Constitution
2. Approval of the Order of Business
3. Decisions under Delegated Powers
4. Correspondence
5. Good News Stories
6. Experiences from around the Presbytery
7. The National Church of Scotland Guild
8. Group Discussion
9. Report of Presbytery Support Committee
10. Intimations
11. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 4 August 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (or online should that be the official advice).

### **Decisions under delegated powers**

The Clerk has not been informed of any decisions that have been taken under Delegated Powers.

### **Intimations**

### **Report of the Presbytery Support Committee**

## Deliverance

### The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. In respect of reopening of church buildings:
  - a. Instruct all Kirk Sessions to have discussion on the section on 'Being Church' in the Church of Scotland Guidelines.
  - b. Instruct Kirk Sessions to submit a completed Checklist, Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Extract minute confirming desire to reopen the church building(s), and approval of documents to the Presbytery Clerk in advance of reopening.
  - c. Grant powers to the Clerk, Depute Clerk, Moderator and Presbytery Support Convener to grant permission to open church building(s) if the committee are content that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of building(s), all paperwork has been submitted, and after conference with the minister that there is agreement between minister and Kirk Session.
  - d. Inform all Kirk Sessions that any breach on procedures or what is allowable activity within Church building(s) at each stage of the Phased approach may result in closure of buildings in the congregation until issues can be resolved.
  - e. Grant powers to the Clerk, Depute Clerk, Moderator and Presbytery Support Convener to act with the authority of Presbytery to order the temporary closure of church building(s) should any breaches of guidelines occur.
  - f. For the avoidance of doubt, where permission to reopen a church building(s) is granted in accordance with section 2(c) above this revokes the decision of Presbytery on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 that "no church building in Lanark Presbytery are should be open for individual prayer until further notice and until this decision is revoked by Presbytery."
  - g. Note that the Clerk has organised an evening meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to discuss the process of reopening church building(s) with relevant individuals from congregations within the bounds.
3. Remind all congregations that should continue to remit Ministry and Mission contributions to the church offices but if they find themselves in financial difficulty during the COVID-19 closure and beyond, to speak to the Presbytery Clerk in the first instance.
4. Note that the Registration of Ministries process is delayed but is ongoing at this time.
5. In respect of meeting dates for 2020/2021
  - a. Agree that the Presbytery will meet for ordinary business on the following dates, at 7pm in Lanark: Greyfriars during the 2020/2021 session: 4 August, 8 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December, 2 February, 2 March, 4 May, 15 June.
  - b. Agree that the Worship & Discipleship and Relationship & Context committees will meet on the following dates, at 7pm in Lanark: Greyfriars during the 2020/2021 session: 18 August, 22 September, 20 October, 17 November, 19 January, 16 February, 23 March, 20 April, 1 June.
  - c. Agree that the Presbytery Support Committee will meet on the following dates, at 7pm in Lanark: Greyfriars during the 2020/2021 session: 19 August, 23 September, 21 October, 18 November, 20 January, 17 February, 24 March, 21 April, 2 June.
  - d. Agree that the Annual Inspection of Records will be held in Lanark: Greyfriars on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
  - e. Agree that where meetings cannot be held in person they will be held online and fall under the scope of Act 6, 2018
6. Appoint Mr Denham MacDougall (Cairngryffe), Mr Alan Grant (Carluke: St. John's), Mr William Love (Lanark: St. Nicholas), Mr William MacSween (Carluke: Kirkton) and Mr Scott Paget (Lanark: Greyfriars) as additional elders to Presbytery for the session 2020-2021.
7. Thank Mr Ewan Easton for his years of dedicated service as an elder to Presbytery and as Property Convener.
8. Note that it is still not possible to set a date for the attestation of congregational records and remind clerks and office bearers to have records collated in order that they can be brought for attestation at short notice.
9. Remind congregations of the deadline of 14 August 2020 for applications for the Ministry and Mission Variance Allowance to be submitted to the Presbytery Support Committee.
10. Grant powers to the Clerk, Depute Clerk, Moderator and Presbytery Support Convener from the close of the meeting until the opening of the next Ordinary meeting of Presbytery.