

Lanark, on Tuesday 4 February 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in Greyfriars Parish Church and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Rev George Shand, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 10 Ministers, 17 Elders, 1 Corresponding member and 2 visitors.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Revs H Jamieson and N Macdonald Ministers; A Boag, W Coulter, M Harley and W Love, Elders.

Constitution of Presbytery

The Moderator led the Presbytery in praise and prayer and constituted the meeting.

Welcome to Visitors

The Moderator welcomed visitors attending the Presbytery meeting.

Approval of the Order of Business

The Order of Business as circulated was approved.

Conference Session - Worship and Discipleship Committee The Easter Code

Rev. Louise MacKay, Convener introduced Mrs Karen Nicol, Parish Co-ordinator from Forth: St. Paul's who spoke about The Easter Code project which works with Primary School aged children to tell them the Easter story. The Presbytery were invited to split into four groups and travel around different tents each containing a part of the story.

Following the experience Mrs Nicol explored more of the project and invited questions, as well as offering an invitation to any member of presbytery to visit Forth to see the Easter Code in action.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Nicol for her enthusiastic leading of the session, as well as those who told stories and those who set up from Forth and Lanark: Greyfriars.

Decisions taken under delegated powers

Presbytery noted the following decision that had been taken under delegated powers

The Presbytery:

1. Agreed in respect of the General Assembly 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.
2. Agreed in respect of Biggar to
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
3. Agreed in respect of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen to 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.

Report of the Relationship and Context Committee

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Relationship and Context Committee which was given in by the Rev. Mike Fucella, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

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 2nd May as details become available

Intimations

No intimations were made

Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 3 March 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

Moderator

Clerk

Lanark, on Tuesday 3 March 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in Greyfriars Parish Church and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Rev George Shand, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 9 Ministers, 19 Elders, 1 Corresponding Elders and 6 visitors.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Revs W Buchan, E MacLean, and A Rooney, Ministers; E Bradley, Elders.

Constitution of Presbytery

The Moderator led the Presbytery in praise and prayer and constituted the meeting.

Welcome to Visitors

The Moderator welcomed visitors attending the Presbytery meeting, especially those from Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen.

Approval of the Order of Business

The Order of Business as circulated was approved.

Minutes of meeting on 3 December 2019 and 4 February 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2019 and 4 February 2020 were held as read and approved.

Decisions taken under delegated powers

Presbytery noted the following decision that had been taken under delegated powers

The Presbytery:

1. Agreed in respect of Carstairs to 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.
2. Agreed in respect of Presbytery Finance to approve the moving of the Presbytery of Lanark Bank Account to the Bank of Scotland (and the subsequent closure of the RBS Account) with the signatories on the bank account operated by and in the name of the Presbytery of Lanark to Rev. Bryan Kerr (Presbytery Clerk), John Lumsden (Depute Honorary Treasurer) Scott Paget (Presbytery Support Convener), Rev. George Shand (Depute Presbytery Clerk) and Mary McGillivray (Honorary Treasurer) with any two signatories being required to sign cheques and instructions, and to instruct online banking to be established on the same basis.
3. Agreed in respect of Student Support, and following changes made by Faith Nurture Forum to the Formation Framework to appoint Rev Bryan Kerr as the formation supervisor for Kaye Gardiner and George Sneddon, on the understanding that Rev George Shand acts as formation supervisor for George Sneddon at the June 2020 review.

Correspondence

The Clerk informed members that all items of correspondence had been notified via email and that a number of pieces of correspondence had been received and remitted to appropriate Committee Conveners or passed on by e-mail to Ministers, Session Clerks and members of Presbytery.

Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed -

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 of the Special Committee for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note that a draft offer for the sale of the buildings at Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen has been received, and approved by the Kirk Session and Special Committee of Presbytery.
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 and resignation of status as a minister of Word and Sacrament within the Church of Scotland of Rev David Carmichael will take effect on 26 March 2020.
5. Agree that the union between Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen and Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old will take place on 27 March 2020.

Roll of Presbytery

The Presbytery were informed that no changes to the roll of Presbytery had occurred.

Farewell to Rev David Carmichael

The Moderator invited representatives of the Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen to pay tribute to Mr Carmichael's ministry. Alex McPhee, Session Clerk, spoke of the importance of Mr Carmichael's preaching ministry in the church and community and his desire that the new congregation can continue to work in partnership with the Church of Scotland in serving the community.

The Moderator invited Rev Steven Reid to share thoughts on Mr Carmichael's ministry. Mr Reid spoke of the friendship of Mr Carmichael, his theological insights which he shared with Presbytery and the importance of his ministry within the Lesmahagow area, across Scotland and around the world.

The Moderator invited Mr Carmichael to respond. Mr Carmichael spoke warmly of his congregation and the providence of God to lead him to the difficult decision to demit and resign his status. He paid tribute to the Clerk for his willingness to engage positively with the congregation and the guidance he gave over the previous six months.

The Moderator assured Mr Carmichael and the congregation of Abbeygreen New Church of the prayers of Presbytery as they sought to serve God in their community. The Moderator thanked Mr Carmichael for his service to the area which began with his ordination on 2 September 1982.

The Moderator also paid tribute to Mr Alex McPhee, Presbytery Elder for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen who has served in the role since 1 July 1989, making him the longest serving presbyter Elder currently serving. The

Moderator thanked Mr McPhee for his service to Presbytery and his willingness to play his part in the life and work of the Church within Clydesdale.

Report of the Relationship and Context Committee

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Relationship and Context Committee which was given in by the Rev. Mike Fucella, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.

Report of the Worship and Discipleship Committee

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Worship and Discipleship Committee which was given in by the Rev. Louise MacKay, Convener.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

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 24th May 2020 in Kirkton church at a cost of £350 plus travel expenses.

Presbytery Reform Process

The Clerk outlined the current state of discussions in the Presbytery reform process with the Presbytery speaking with Hamilton, Glasgow, West Lothian, Stirling and Falkirk Presbyteries.

Members of Presbytery were invited, around tables, to discuss questions sent by the Assembly Business Committee on the subject. The questions were:

1. Describe a time when you were encouraged, enthused and uplifted by engagement with Presbytery. What was it about you, Presbytery as a whole, and the situation that made this a pivotal or memorable time?
2. What are three hopes you have for reformed and restructured Presbytery during the next decade?
3. Imagine it's June 2024. The restructured and reformed Presbyteries are all working effectively and efficiently. Everything you ever hoped for, dreamed of, and prayed for has become reality for all the Presbyteries. You have just arrived home after a Presbytery gathering. Describe how you feel, what happened in the journey towards this new way of being Presbytery and sharing in the mission of the regional church?
4. The General Assembly 2019 approved 'the establishment of a total of around 12 regional Presbytery structures in Scotland by the General Assembly of 2024'. Take some time to think through the positives and negatives of embracing that change, and of not embracing that change
5. The answers to what questions would help you and your Presbytery in the journey of reform and restructure?

Intimations

There were no intimations

Adjournment:

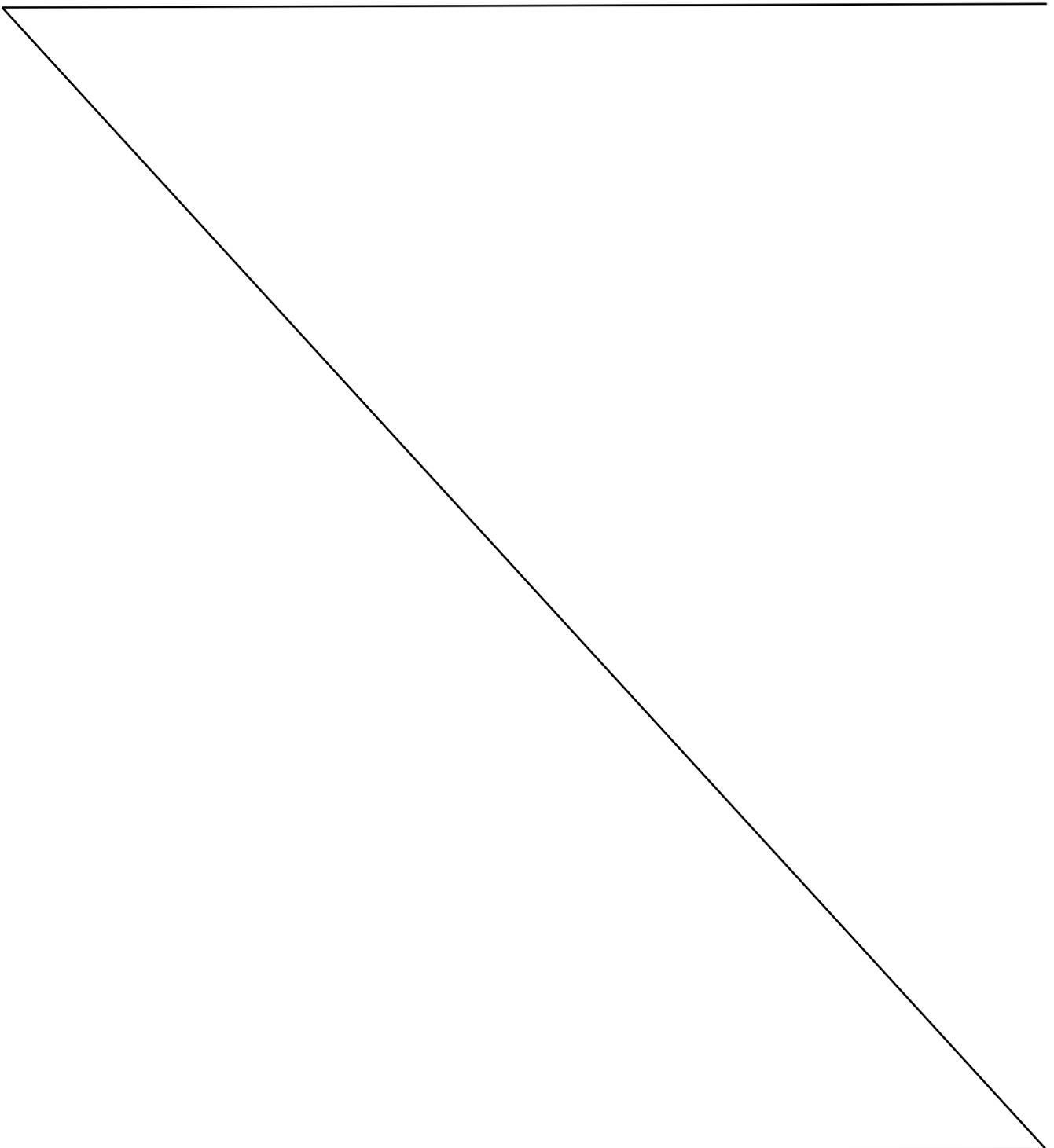
The Presbytery adjourned to meet in hunc effectum for a service of rededication of Carstairs Parish Church on Thursday 12 March 2020 at 6:45pm and for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

Moderator

Clerk



Carstairs, on Thursday 12 March 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in Carstairs Parish Church and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Rev George Shand, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 6 Ministers, 7 Elders, and 1 Visitor, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Colin Sinclair.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Revs W Buchan, P Grant, N Macdonald and A Rooney, Ministers; E Bradley, A Grant, R Hyslop, R Mitchell, and D Waters, Elders.

Narrative

Following the refurbishment of Carstairs Parish Church and in recognition of the importance of this event in the life of the congregation, the Presbytery were called to meet on this day for a service to rededicate the church sanctuary to the Glory of God.

Service of Rededication

The Presbytery proceeded to the Church, where the Sermon was preached by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Colin Sinclair. The Moderator, Interim Moderator and Mr Sinclair led the congregation in an act of rededication and the Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland rededicated the building to the Glory of God.

After the service Mr Scott Paget expressed the thanks of the Presbytery to the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Moderator of Presbytery, the Clerk, the Interim Moderator, Mr Denham MacDougall, for the conduct of the service.

Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business and Conference on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.

Closure

The Moderator of the General Assembly closed the meeting with the Benediction.

Moderator

Clerk

Virtually, on Tuesday 5 May 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in virtually due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Rev George Shand, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 11 Ministers, 14 Elders, 1 Corresponding Member and 1 visitor.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Revs E Clelland, Minister; A Boag, J Sinclair and D Waters, Elders.

Constitution of Presbytery

The Moderator led the Presbytery in praise and prayer and constituted the meeting.

Welcome to Visitors

The Moderator welcomed visitors attending the Presbytery meeting, especially Mr Neil MacLennan from Sanctus Media who was assisting with the running of the meeting and taking feedback to the Principal Clerk who has constituted a group to look at online meetings.

Approval of the Order of Business

The Order of Business as circulated was approved.

Decisions taken under delegated powers

Presbytery noted that no decisions had been taken under delegated powers

Correspondence

The Clerk informed members that all items of correspondence had been notified via email and that a number of pieces of correspondence had been received and remitted to appropriate Committee Conveners or passed on by e-mail to Ministers, Session Clerks and members of Presbytery.

Good News Stories

Rev Elspeth MacLean, Forth: St Paul's spoke of the positive impact the Zoom Worship has had on the congregation.

The Clerk thanked all ministers for the work they had undertaken to ensure services of worship and community work was still ongoing during the Covid Lockdown.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of Presbytery to the Clerk for the coordination work and support he has given throughout the lockdown.

Group Discussion

The Presbytery split into breakout rooms and discussed the following questions:

- I. 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?

Feedback was offered which include:

- Don't lose the important of physical contact and context.
- Concerns over economic issues and domestic violence levels in communities

- Concern that children are now living in an adult world with resulting loss of friendships.
- People are missing worship – a big hole in people
- A hope that churches do not automatically return to the way things were
- Difference between contact and presence – we can be present with people but still distant
- Worries about people's anxiety over safety when moving back into churches
- Difficulty of funerals
- Surprise over the kindness of people when explaining things are not the same in churches

Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget, Convener.

It was moved, seconded -

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 23rd 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 23rd 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 26th March 2020.
 - b. Note that, without exception, all communicant members of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen resigned their membership of the Church of Scotland as of 26th 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 26th March 2020.
15. In respect of the union between Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old and Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen
- a. Note that the union took place on 27th 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 27th 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.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to insert a new section 6 "Grant permission for Rev Paul Grant to undertake part time chaplaincy duties at the NHS Louisa Jordan in Glasgow as part of the Covid-19 response and assure Mr Grant and the congregation of Law of the prayers of Presbytery in this vital work.

The deliverance as amended was agreed.

Intimations

The Clerk reminded members of the live Installation of the Moderator of the General Assembly to take place on Saturday 16 May at 11am and Heart and Soul due to take place on Sunday 17 May at 2pm

Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourned 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).

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

Moderator

Clerk

Virtually, on Tuesday 16 June 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in virtually due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Rev George Shand, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 15 Ministers, 11 Elders, 2 Corresponding Member and 2 visitors.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Revs E Clelland, Minister; and D Waters, Elder.

Constitution of Presbytery

The Moderator led the Presbytery in praise and prayer and constituted the meeting.

Welcome to Visitors

The Moderator welcomed visitors attending the Presbytery meeting, especially Mrs Karen Gillon from the Church of Scotland Guild.

Approval of the Order of Business

The Order of Business as circulated was approved.

Decisions taken under delegated powers

Presbytery noted that no decisions had been taken under delegated powers

Correspondence

The Clerk informed members that all items of correspondence had been notified via email and that a number of pieces of correspondence had been received and remitted to appropriate Committee Conveners or passed on by e-mail to Ministers, Session Clerks and members of Presbytery.

Good News Stories

Mrs Anne Reid, Carluke: St. John's spoke of a virtual praise night on Zoom with over 70 people attending along with a virtual Bible Study Group.

Experiences from around the Presbytery

The Clerk circulated a paper (Appendix 1) outlining some of the work in which congregations within the bounds have been engaged during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Lanark Guilds Together

The moderator invited Mrs Dorothy Wiseman, Convenor to present her annual report to Presbytery. Mrs Wiseman spoke of the year just passed and of the many ways in which Guilds within churches across Presbytery were supporting local and national projects as well as working to develop faith and friendship amongst the members. Mrs Wiseman spoke of the disappointment of many Guilds that the end of the session was cut short due to Covid and asked for the support of Presbytery in working to ensure that local groups can open when it is safe to do so. Mrs Wiseman also spoken encouragingly of the ways in which Guilds have been working to ensure they keep contact with those who might be more vulnerable in their membership.

The Moderator thanks Mrs Wiseman and assured her of the support and prayer of Presbytery.

The National Church of Scotland Guild

The Moderator invited Mrs Karen Gillon from the national office, and an elder at Carluke: St. John's to address the Presbytery. Mrs Gillon spoke of the ongoing challenge for the Guild in seeking a return to normal activities given the vulnerability of many members. She explained that all groups are being communicated with and encourages churches to continue to foster the links between church and Guild. Mrs Gillon expressed the

understanding that this is a very difficult time for the Church and our nation but encouraged all churches to ensure that our Guilds were part of the discussions on how to reopen and safely resume activity.

The Moderator thanks Mrs Gillon for the attendance and encouraged Presbytery to pray for the work of the Guild.

Group Discussion

The Presbytery held a discussion on the ways in which churches were working during lockdown, and the ways in which churches could move out of lockdown when the time came.

It was noted that it would be much more difficult to move out of lockdown than it was to move into lockdown for our churches.

Report of the Presbytery Support Committee

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget, Convener.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed -

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. In respect of reopening of church buildings:
 - b. Instruct all Kirk Sessions to have discussion on the section on 'Being Church' in the Church of Scotland Guidelines.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. 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.
 - f. 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.
 - g. 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 23rd 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."
 - h. Note that the Clerk has organised an evening meeting on 18th 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
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.

- d. 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.
 - e. Agree that the Annual Inspection of Records will be held in Lanark: Greyfriars on 27th April 2021.
 - f. 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.

Intimations

Rev Elijah Obinna, Carluke: St. John's intimated a Praise Night on Zoom on 28 June 2020

Mr Obinna also highlighted the fundraising efforts of Mrs Rebecca Parker, 98, of McClymont House who is raising money (currently £4,717) for NHS charities by playing the piano each day for 100 days. The Clerk was instructed to write and express thanks to Mrs Parker.

Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourned 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).

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

Moderator

Clerk

Appendix I

What have our congregations been doing during Lockdown?

Kirkton Church

All members of congregation are being contacted by telephone through elders and other volunteers on a regular basis

After an extensive exercise to update our data, 3 newsletters (1 a month) have been sent out to all members and adherents by email wherever possible or by post if not.

The church noticeboard was altered to say that although the buildings were closed the church was not and offering help to the community. A limited number of people have taken up this offer.

We have regularly made available free "Try Praying" booklets on the gatepost of the Manse (below Try Praying banner) and these have been uplifted regularly by people in the community at a rate of between 6 and 10 a week. Handout leaflets echoing the noticeboard and giving contact details have also been placed in the same distribution box and around 45 of these have been taken.

Since the beginning of lockdown regular weekly online worship resources have been produced involving a number of members as well as the Minister, Youth Worker and Organist. Numbers visiting the website each Sunday/Monday average around 200 but have been as high as 400 on one particular week

An online Communion Service took place on 7th June

The Youth Worker has regularly led Zoom sessions with children as well as engaging them in preparing items for the weekly worship and other craft activities

The Youth Worker has also provided support for vulnerable families

The Church's Facebook Group has been widely used to disseminate information and the number of members of the group has risen considerably since lockdown- currently it has 416 members (including several people from the local community who are not members or regular adherents of the congregation)

To help members who are not on the internet to participate we now produce about 18-20 DVDs each week of the online worship, together with a handful of audio CDs for those who either do not want a DVD player or are partially sighted. We have supplied 3 DVD-players and 1 CD player to those who did not have any

Our Church website was updated to provide relevant and up-to-date information on our various responses to the pandemic and also to host the online worship

I have produced a daily blog since the beginning of April that is available on both the website and the Church Facebook Group as well as my personal Facebook Page

Various members of the congregation have helped with delivery of groceries and medicines

We have continued to supply to bereaved families printed copies of Funeral Services that have taken place

We have joined and contributed to the new OneCarlisle website

We have held several Kirk Session meetings by Zoom

Members of the choir have kept in contact with each other through a WhatsApp group

A telephone/email/text Prayer Chain continues to operate

The Church provided food vouchers to Primary School children as identified by Head Teachers using the Kirk Session Benevolent Fund

We held a 'virtual Souper Sunday' and raised money for the local Foodbank

A special working group has been set up to plan for re-opening church buildings when restrictions are eased.

Hand-Sanitiser have been installed at all strategic points

A Community Defibrillator has been installed on the outside wall of the Church Halls

A Church PayPal Account is being set up for online donations

We have registered for Audio phone streaming but it is not up and running as yet

Uniformed Organisations have kept in touch with their members through Facebook and other social media

During Christian Aid we directed people through our own website to make donations through the Christian Aid website

Carluke: St. Andrews

To stay in touch with those in our congregation and those we support through the Drop in we have used

- Zoom KS meetings every two weeks at present
- a mixture of phone calls from elders/minister/weekly e-mail update to everyone with e-mail
- Magazine currently in production to post/e-mail/deliver
- Weekly Zoom sessions – 3 times a week – one with music one for Church family and one reflective worship. These include folk from Drop in where they are able to join us . There is also a Heart for Art online session fortnightly on Go to meeting (Crossreach art tutor led)
- Posted direct to a number of those who come to Drop in and related activities – jigsaws, games, aqua paints, Heart for Art packs
- Some contact by phone/email from Coordinator to folk from Drop in
- Arranged playlists of music working with Playlist for Life
- Spiritual care resource packs are about to be delivered to all those without internet and others who would benefit
- Singing at door/window for some of our elderly folk who are shielding
- Volunteers have provided support to a number of people in terms of shopping etc
- Activity packs have been delivered to Milton Grange Care home and regular contact made by phone

Biggar Kirk

Sunday Worship - We began with live streaming services, but when lockdown came into place, we have been prerecording our services every Sunday from the manse sitting room. The minister has had to get to grips with the technology required. This has not been trouble-free!

Folks have been helping with music by recording voices to backing tracks often played by one of our musicians or by a guest musician. We have been able to introduce the congregation to different styles of music which may have not been possible ordinarily.

We have included videos of church members in lockdown, some have sent fun videos of their experiences, others have engaged in Zoom interviews with the minister. We've also had an interview with mission partners in Bangkok and various guest speakers from around the world have sent us messages to include in our service. An elder who has been participating in the 'Leading Worship' course recorded a message to be shared in one service.

A highlight, of course, was the moderator's service on Pentecost Sunday. This gave the minister a much-needed week off!

We have been surprised by the numbers of people viewing our services which have far surpassed the numbers we were getting in the church building before the lockdown.

The minister was contacted by two different people who started joining us online and who wanted to know more about how to become a Christian and be more involved in the church.

Community Engagement – From before the lockdown our community organised an action group to consider its response to the crisis. The church has been represented on the group from its inception.

The Community Action Group

has helped organise a system of running errands (buying groceries, delivering prescriptions and organising tradespeople to help in emergencies) for people who are self-isolating.

organised queuing outside local shops, helping to maintain social distancing.

helped with hot meals twice weekly for 50 vulnerable individuals (the church made the application and was awarded a grant from South Lanarkshire Council for this initiative)

coordinated the collection for and the distribution of ‘boxes of kindness’ – mainly for folks who are on their own during the crisis. These individuals were by and large identified by the church.

Biggar Kirk continues to run a satellite for the Clydesdale Foodbank. We have received even more support than ever before from the community for the foodbank.

Last Sunday we had a ‘virtual’ Gala service online in lieu of what we usually have in the Kirk building.

Pastoral Care – Throughout the lockdown we have had an online ‘pinboard’ where people in the community and the church can post prayer requests and answers to prayer.

Elders have been phoning people in their districts and letting the minister know of any special needs. Early on we developed notes that elders could refer to when making phone calls so to be sure that the needs of individuals were being covered in the conversations.

The weekly prayer meeting has moved from the hall on a Sunday evening to Zoom on a Wednesday at lunchtime. We have tripled the numbers of people attending!

The weekly prayer email continues to be sent to intercessors in the congregation.

The minister has written a weekly email to every member of the congregation for encouragement and to let them know what is happening and what needs there are that they can practically and prayerfully respond to.

Fellowship and Study Groups – Groups that used to meet in homes have moved to using Zoom. Groups presently at Biggar Kirk include: Two Bible study and fellowship Groups, a leadership ‘huddle’, a ‘Freedom in Christ’ group, a group doing the ‘Prayer Course’ and a group doing a health and wholeness course. These groups have continued to be a positive experience for all involved.

Several weeks back we began to meet for coffee on Zoom before and after a Sunday service. If numbers are high, which has happened on occasion, we direct participants to breakout rooms.

Young People – our young people have contributed videos to our times of worship—the latest is a video of children leading the congregation in the Lord’s Prayer. A weekly email is sent to all parents with activities kids can do during the week to follow-up from the theme of the service on Sunday.

Giving – by phone the treasurer has contacted all members who normally give by freewill envelopes suggesting alternatives ways to give and offering to pick up envelopes. An announcement has been made online each Sunday concerning ways to give.

Our income, however, suffers because our halls are not able to be used by the many groups that had been renting from us in the past. The Gillespie Centre too has had to shut—depriving us not only of that income, but also the opportunity to reach out to our community.

Session – we have had one session meeting online (and by phone) which, to my mind, was very successful. Only one elder did not participate because she was not able to use the necessary technology.

Black Mount

Sunday Worship -Black Mount joins with Biggar in the Sunday morning services online. One member shared a video of life in lockdown at lambing season. It is hoped that some members will also help with the music via pre-recorded tracks in the coming weeks.

Members who are not able to access the services have CDs of the audio recording delivered during the week.

Pastoral Care – Elders and members continue to keep a look out for one another via telephone calls.

Douglas Valley Church.

As a Locum Minister I live 15 miles away from the communities I serve. This has always been problematic but during the pandemic it has made life more difficult to keep up with what is happening in Douglas and Rigside.

I have continued to offer pastoral support to those who have been bereaved. This has been done using telephone and e-mail.

In the Douglas Valley 2020 has seen a much higher death rate than in the previous two years. In the first 5 months of 2020 I have carried out more funerals than in the whole of 2019! None of these have been directly related to Covid 19. I wonder if this has been noticed presbytery wide or is confined to the Douglas Valley.

From the first week of lockdown I have produced a weekly newsletter. This began as a way of keeping members up to date with what was happening in the church. I saw it as a way of keeping the church community connected.

However it quickly developed into a written mini service. It consists of an introduction from me. This is usually about what's happening in my life with a bit of bible teaching, then we have a couple of prayers, the weekly lectionary readings we would have had if the church had been meeting, a short thought followed by any intimations. I have used the intimations to let folk know what is happening in the national church, how to access online services and how to give to the church using online banking.

At the start of lockdown the newsletter was sent to elders and some members that we had e-mail addressed for. We asked them to pass it on to those they thought might be interested. We also encouraged people to give us their e-mail addresses so we could send them their own personal copy. We also put it onto our Facebook page.

We began with about 10 copies sent out by e-mail, now on a weekly basis 40 copies are sent out electronically and a further 30 hard copies are delivered to those without e-mails.

On the Facebook page, at the start of lockdown we had around 30 people viewing its pages. This has steadily grown and is holding now at a steady 100 plus per week.

On a normal Sunday I would expect a congregation of about 45 people (Douglas 35 Rigside 10) now we reach a much wider audience.

We are clearly reaching people that don't come to church but who are interested in what we do and some who are in need of spiritual food in their lives.

We are also allowing the Community Council to use the church building for storage of food parcels etc. We took advice from Edinburgh about this. The sanctuary is not used. Whether it has ever been used am unsure.

The National church need to look at how we count church interest and connection other than membership levels.

When we are able to meet for regular worship again I intend to keep the newsletter going in some format, to see if interest keeps up.

It has also become clear that our membership records are inadequate for society today. As a matter of course we need to be able to reach members by e-mail and other methods.

It is also apparent that in the Douglas Valley a sizable number of people don't have on line access. We also have an older population who may well have online access but who need their children or grandchildren to help them access things like Zoom etc.

Coalburn and Lesmahagow Parish Church.

Immediately following the decision that church buildings were to close, members were notified. All Elders were asked to contact each member in their District by telephone (where numbers were known) and enquire of their well-being. This initial call would be followed by regular telephone contact with offers of help with basic shopping, collection and delivery of prescriptions etc., for those in a 'vulnerable' category with no family to help. This is ongoing.

Weekly reflections and prayers are posted on Coalburn and Lesmahagow Parish Church facebook page. In addition, others receive copies by email while a limited number are printed and posted to those with no internet access.

Online services from other locations are made known but feedback indicates a strong preference for people to gather, albeit socially distant, within a building and join with others in worship and fellowship.

Session and other meetings have been held via zoom but, again, this creates particular difficulties for those with no computer or internet facilities.

On the finance front, and in line with Church of Scotland guidelines, in order to maintain regular givings alternatives to Freewill Offering envelopes have been discussed by Session, members subsequently made aware of these alternatives and encouraged to change.

Kirkmuirhill Parish Church

Church Focussed

Sunday – Online Service goes live each week on YouTube and is linked to the Church Facebook page. The sermon for that week then goes on the website as an audio track. A Twilio line has been set up to allow people to listen in to the sermon over the phone. This also goes live at I I am. Y-Zone (Sunday School) are given an activity pack each week with puzzle sheets and teaching material. This has been developed by our Y-Zone leaders. Young people have been involved in services in various ways.

Worship Wednesday – Weekly reflection on a hymn or Christian worship song.

Theology Thursday – Fortnightly study on different 'ologies' or doctrines of the Christian faith as suggested by members of the congregation.

Other – Elders are continuing to phone round their districts on a regular basis to continue pastoral contacts. Any specific pastoral needs can then be passed to the minister. Minister has spoken to every member and adherent that we have a contact number for. A 'Praying for you' postcard was sent to every member and adherent. Plans are beginning to be put in place to run our holiday club virtually this year.

Community Focussed

Minister is a member of the Resilience Group Committee who have based their hub in the church building. The hub has become home to a team of call handlers who are located at the church each morning. They are then responsible for allocating a response team depending on the need that is required. This may include an emergency food parcel, a local shop (Spar, Tesco Co-op) a prescription pick up or drop off. The hub is also home to an emergency food bank and is the centre for the donations from the community, which has included food and money but also books, games, DVDs and jigsaws which have been utilised to alleviate isolation and boredom in the community.

The hub is also the base for the community outreach and recovery. These activities include;

Outreach Activity Packs

Environmental poster packs

Recycled garden challenge

TikTok Challenges for Teenagers

Coffee and Chat (isolated members of the community are paired with someone from the community. They then receive a delivery of a cupcake and are able to speak to someone outside their usual circle)

School Uniform exchange

Wednesday night quiz night (Run by another member of the committee with prizes donated by the local business community)

Sunday High Tea (With high tea supplied by the local restaurant)

Messages of Hope (Written by young people which are then sent out to those in the community who are isolating)

A Story writing competition

Easter Bonnet Competition

This week (08/06/20-13/06/20) is the usual Gala Week. There are events happening each day from a mini disco to judging the best decorated house. Plans are being developed for the future and into the summer. Community recovery will also involve the local businesses to best support them in the future.

Crossford and Kirkfieldbank

during lockdown we have been producing a wee message and putting on youtube and on the telephone line. I and the elders have kept in touch with the members through the telephone and text messages, and have regularly put out prayer points by text.

The Tinto Parishes

What activities have you been undertaking?

Couple of funerals

Telephone calls to sheltered members and those at work, and others (minister) and to districts and friends (elders).

Trying to devise a communications strategy that makes sense to me (minister) which includes

Running Sunday worship on Zoom

Midweek reflective worship – monthly - on Zoom

Writing up a weekly newsletter for email and a monthly newsletter for postal delivery to those without internet access

Learning and continual updating of skills on Zoom,

including involving others, recording input, with a view to having more than one Host, and to make the experience more connective and satisfactory, etc

Exploring other options – initial research into Twilio

Researching channel on YouTube for Slide reflections

Some administrative catch-up

Trying to catch up on some reading – with not a lot of success

Trying to be responsive to what new things might be possible, to keeping informed, engaged with colleagues, enjoying family life, keep sane.

Now, setting up a new computer so the Zoom experience is better, and the old computer can have a rest

How have you kept in church with members?

Initial priority was to find a way to engage with those who wanted to continue a fellowship experience in worship. Zoom – which connects with 35 to 45 people regularly, and a few additional people -

To continue to develop that experience into more social fellowship through breakout rooms – mixed groups occasionally, and church related groups more often. This gives me opportunities for catch up with a fair number of people.

Through finding new ways for members to contribute to the worship – some Worship leaders do the occasional reflection, other do the scripture readings. Some members can contribute to the visual materials - local area pictures, thematic pictures, etc. Try to get some singers to record.

To engage electronically with a wider group – weekly mailout to all members and contacts who are on email, including devotional and reflective materials, and an Order of Service and link for the Zoom service.

To engage with members who do not have internet access

Monthly postal mailout of newsletter (local support information, reflection, etc) to any member not on the email list

Establishing a telephone reflection line targeted mainly at those with no computer access – weekly reflections, hopefully through time based on Sunday reflections.

Seeking to move towards a YouTube channel for some slide recordings – still based on the most visual of the weekly reflections. That's more outreach than members.

Lanark: Greyfriars

Worship

- Sunday morning 'Live' Worship at I am with St. Nicholas Church – developing new content and reflections
- Weekly reflections on Facebooks
- One Minute Sermons on Facebook and YouTube
- Tuesday and Thursday evening midweek worship on Zoom with St. Nicholas
- Holy Week Evening Services every night
- Ecumenical Service in Lanark on Easter Sunday
- Two services of Communion online

Pastoral Care

- Regular phone round of congregation
- Identification of more vulnerable individuals to phone more regularly
- Establishment of a 'card' ministry sending greetings cards to those in hospital/ isolated etc
- Funerals
- Phone calls to those in distress and suffering bereavement/ illness/ family concerns

Community Support

Working with other community groups and churches to establish community support project Lanarkhelps

- Community Support Phone Line

- Co-ordination of Volunteers
- Shopping and Prescription Requests
- Establishment of activity library with jigsaws
- Donations of Mindfulness colouring books
- Establishment of dementia support activity library
- Community Check-In (phone calls)
- Family Support (Family activity packs to vulnerable households)
- Supporting Hear for You with extra capacity
- Emergency Food Delivery
- Supporting Foodbank with referrals and drivers

Greyfriars has provided the governance and IT support for the project.

Administration

- Kirk Session meetings
- Planning meetings
- Grant Finance Applications for support
- Building remaining open for emergency use as community support project

Carluke: St. John's Congregational Life During the Lockdown

Communication

- Members of our congregation are being contacted by telephone by some of the elders and other volunteers on a regular basis.
- 2 pastoral letters (April and June) have been sent out to all members and adherents by email. We asked members to pass it on to those they thought might be interested to know what is happening in the congregation and community.
- Our congregational Communication team, has been doing an excellent job with updating our website and Facebook account and the Youth Church Facebook account have been widely used to disseminate information and to be in contact with members and the community.
- Congregational Youth church leaders have been communicating via phone calls, sending of cards to children and celebrating their transitions.
- Members of the Guild and Tuesday Bible study group (Tuesday Connect) have kept in contact with each other through a telephone/email/text.
- Giving – members have been advised to contact the treasurer by phone or email on how to make their donations or offerings to the congregation.
- Rebecca Parker, a 98-year old member of our congregation has as at Tuesday, 16 June, raised £4,717 by playing the Piano for 100 days in aid of NHS South Lanarkshire.

Pastoral Care

- Supporting Food Bank with referrals and volunteers.
- Our pastoral visiting team has continued with keeping in contact with our members in care homes, hospitals or housebound.
- Couple of funerals and offering pastoral support to those who have been bereaved, telephone, e-mail and posting of customised cards.

- Minister has spoken and reached out to many members and adherents that we have a contact number for or through Facebook messenger, text messages or WhatsApp.
- Sending greeting cards to those in hospital/ isolated and the vulnerable.
- Drop-off and distance blather with members.
- Telephone calls to members and those at work, and others including other ministers.

Worship

- Sunday Worship - We have been prerecording our services for every Sunday which is posted on our website every Sunday morning. This has drawn wider audience including participants as far as Australia.
- Members, both young and old have been helping with reading the Scriptural lessons and taking the intercessory prayers with our organist suppling the gathering songs.
- The Youth church produced a video featuring our children sending their greetings and prayers to the congregation at Easter.
- Posting a wee message from our home's weekly services on Facebook.
- To mark the Pentecost, we produced a special video featuring people from 6 different countries saying the 'Grace' in their different languages.
- Weekly worship and activity programmes for the Youth church and Jesus A Friend For All (JAFFA 2).
- At the start, we were having congregational prayer time and candle lighting every Thursday at 7:30pm. Members were encouraged to use the prayers written by Very Rev. Collin Sinclair (immediate past moderator of the General Assembly)
- Virtual Bible studies (using Zoom platform), focusing on the Book of Acts, which will run for 6 weeks.
- Virtual Praise service on 31 May with about 70 in attendance via Zoom including 4 participants from Nigeria. Another one is scheduled to hold on Sunday, 28 June.

Administration

- Regular communication among the Session teams and clerks of Session.
- Building inspection to check against mouse.
- Discussion with cleaners for the post-Covid 19 church reopening.

Offerings/donations received by Standing Orders, Bank transfers and continued efforts to claim Gift Aid.

Remotely, on Tuesday 1 September 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in remotely due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Rev George Shand, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 11 Ministers, 19 Elders, 2 Corresponding Member and 2 visitors.

Apologies for absence not intimated by any member.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Moderator led the Presbytery in worship and presided over the Sacrament.

Constitution of Presbytery

The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer and constituted the meeting.

Installation of Moderator of Presbytery 2020-2021

The Clerk presented the nomination of Mrs Anne Cochrane as Moderator of the Presbytery for the coming session.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed -

The Presbytery:

1. Approve the nomination of Mrs Anne Cochrane, Presbytery Elder from Carnwath as Moderator of Presbytery for session 2020-2021.
2. Thank Rev George Shand for his term of office as Moderator of Presbytery.

Presbytery, having elected Mrs Anne Cochrane to be Moderator, installed her as Moderator of the Presbytery for the session 2020-2021.

The Moderator thanked Presbytery for the trust they have placed in her by appointing her to the role. The Moderator thanks Mr Shand for his leadership over the year and Mr Shand responded with thanks to Presbytery for the honour of serving in the role and reflecting on the highlight of the year being the visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the opportunities that afforded him.

Approval of the Order of Business

The Order of Business as circulated presented by Mr Scott Paget, Convener, and was approved with the insertion of the item 'Minutes'.

The Convener also sought homologation for the cancellation of the Presbytery meeting on 5 August 2020.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed -

The Presbytery:

1. Homologate the decision taken to cancel the Presbytery meeting scheduled to take place on 5 August 2020.

Minutes of meeting on 3 March, 12 March, 5 May and 16 June 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March, 12 March, 5 May and 16 June 2020 were held as read and approved.

Decisions taken under delegated powers

The clerk informed Presbytery that the following decisions had been taken under delegated powers

23 June 2020 - Covid-19 Support

Presbytery:

1. agree, in respect of Covid-19 reopening of church buildings,
 - a. to purchase 660 indoor and 330 outdoor 'Welcome please wait here' and 440 directional arrow 200mm vinyl floor stickers to encourage physical distancing and one-way systems with

- a pack of the same to be given to each congregation when permission to reopen a building is granted by Presbytery
- b. to accept the quote of £1,972.79 from Fantasy Prints Ltd following being the lowest of the quotes available and providing the best quality safety product, and being the company being used by Edinburgh Presbytery for a similar purchase
 - c. to make use of the Variance Allowance to a sum of £1,972.79 to cover the cost of the product to allow church buildings to reopen safely and continue to serve their communities
 - d. instruct the clerk to issue an extract minute to the Stewardship and Finance Department seeking a transfer of monies from the Variance Allowance.

25-26 June 2020 – Reopening of Church Building(s) – Lanark Greyfriars

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Lanark: Greyfriars
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Bryan Kerr had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of building(s)
 - d. grant permission for the buildings of Lanark: Greyfriars to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 29th June 2020
 - e. remind the Kirk Session 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.

26 June 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Lanark St Nicholas

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Lanark: St. Nicholas
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Louise MacKay had confirmed her agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of building(s)
 - d. grant permission for the buildings of Lanark: St. Nicholas to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 29th June 2020
 - e. remind the Kirk Session 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.

1 July 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Carluke: Kirkton

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Carluke: Kirkton
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Iain Cunningham had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of the building(s)
 - d. grant permission for the buildings of Carluke: Kirkton to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 5th July 2020
 - e. instruct the Kirk Session to submit further approved Risk Assessment for any activity beyond the scope of private prayer within the sanctuary

- f. remind the Kirk Session that once the sanctuary has been approved for opening the decision as to whether a funeral is held within the building lies solely with the parish minister
- g. remind the Kirk Session 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.

27 July 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Kirkfieldbank

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Kirkfieldbank
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Steven Reid had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of building(s)
 - d. grant permission for the Church building of Kirkfieldbank to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 12th August 2020
 - e. instruct the Kirk Session to submit further approved Risk Assessment for the reopening the church hall in due course
 - f. remind the Kirk Session 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.

27 July 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Crossford

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Crossford
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Steven Reid had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of building(s)
 - d. grant permission for the buildings of Crossford to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 3rd August 2020
 - e. remind the Kirk Session 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.

30 July 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Biggar

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Biggar
 - a. note the receipt of approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklists for Biggar Church, St. Mary's Hall and Gillespie Centre, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church buildings
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Mike Fucella had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of building(s)
 - d. grant permission for St. Mary's Hall to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 7th August 2020
 - e. grant permission for Gillespie Centre to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 2nd September 2020.

- f. grant permission for Biggar Church to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 20th September 2020, but for insurance purposes, note that at this time Biggar Church shall remain closed due to refurbishment and not Covid-19.
- g. remind the Kirk Session 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.

1 August 2020 - Covid-19 Support

Presbytery:

1. Agree to purchase a roller banner for each church displaying important messages for visitors and worshippers as they enter at a cost of £750 which shall be taken from the Ministry and Mission Variance Fund.

10 August 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Kirkmuirhill

Presbytery:

1. in respect of the reopening of Kirkmuirhill
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building, noting that the local food bank had been operating from the hall throughout the Covid-19 lockdown
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Andrew Rooney had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of building(s)
 - d. remind the Kirk Session 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.

12 August 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Carluke: St. John's

Presbytery:

1. in respect of the reopening of Carluke: St. John's
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Dr Elijah Obinna had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of the building(s)
 - d. grant permission for the buildings of Carluke: St. John's to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 31st August 2020
 - e. instruct the Kirk Session to submit further approved Risk Assessment for any activity beyond the scope of worship within the sanctuary
 - f. remind the Kirk Session that once the sanctuary has been approved for opening the decision as to whether a funeral is held within the building lies solely with the parish minister
 - g. remind the Kirk Session 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.

12 August 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Lanark: St. Nicholas

Presbytery:

1. in respect of the reopening of Lanark: St. Nicholas
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church hall
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Louise MacKay had confirmed her agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allow a safe reopening and management of the building(s)

- d. grant permission for the Church Hall of Lanark: St. Nicholas to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 13th August 2020
- e. remind the Kirk Session 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.

19 August 2020 – Presbytery Property Inspections

Presbytery:

- I. Agree to suspend Presbytery Property Inspections scheduled for 2020 and carry all inspections forward into 2021

20-24 August 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Carluke: Kirkton

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Carluke: Kirkton
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to extend the reopen the church building for worship
 - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Iain Cunningham had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen for worship
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allows a safe reopening and management of the building(s)
 - d. grant permission for the buildings of Carluke: Kirkton to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 24th August 2020
 - e. instruct the Kirk Session to submit further approved Risk Assessment for any activity beyond the scope of private prayer and worship within the sanctuary
 - f. remind the Kirk Session 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.

20-24 August 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Douglas Valley

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Douglas Valley
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
 - b. note that the interim moderator of the congregation, Mr Bill Love had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allows a safe reopening and management of building(s)
 - d. grant permission for the buildings of Douglas Valley to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 24th August 2020
 - e. remind the Kirk Session 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.

20-24 August 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Coalburn & Lesmahagow

Presbytery:

- I. in respect of the reopening of Coalburn and Lesmahagow
 - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
 - b. note that the interim moderator of the congregation, Mr Alan Grant had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
 - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allows a safe reopening and management of building(s) in both Coalburn and Lesmahagow
 - d. grant permission for the buildings of Coalburn and Lesmahagow to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 24th August 2020

- e. remind the Kirk Session 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.

20-24 August 2020 – General Assembly Youth Representation

Presbytery:

1. Appoint Miss Allie Sinclair (Forth: St. Paul's) as the Presbytery Youth Representative to the General Assembly in October 2020

Roll of Presbytery

The Clerk laid the roll of Presbytery for session 2020-2021 on the table (Appendix 1).

The Moderator welcomed Robert Boag (Kirkmuirhill) and Pamela Watt (Carluke: St. Andrew's) to their first meeting as commissioned elders. The Moderator also welcomed the Clerk and Depute Clerk from the Presbytery of Lothian who were visiting and observing to learn more about conducting online Presbytery meetings.

The Clerk informed members of the death of Rev John Turnbull. The Moderator invited Rev Mike Fucella to address Presbytery. Mr Fucella spoke of Mr Turnbull's kindness and generosity to the church and community of Biggar during his retirement. Mr Turnbull played a large supportive role in Biggar church supporting Mr Fucella in worship and care and will be missed. His commitment to the Rugby Club and other organisations will also be greatly missed. Mr and Mrs Fucella have been supporting Mrs Turnbull and were with her when the news arrived of Mr Turnbull's unexpected death. The moderator assured Mr Fucella of the prayers of Presbytery. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mrs Turnbull expressing condolences and assurance of prayer.

Correspondence

The Clerk informed members that all items of correspondence had been notified via email and that a number of pieces of correspondence had been received and remitted to appropriate Committee Conveners or passed on by e-mail to Ministers, Session Clerks and members of Presbytery.

Good News Stories

Mr Willie MacSween, Carluke: Kirkton spoke of a congregational scheme to give DVD players to individuals who had little access to technology to allow them to continue to engage with worship during lockdown, with 8 being distributed to date.

Mrs Mabel Morris, Carstairs, expressed the thanks of the congregation for the inspiring evening for the rededication of Carstairs Church on 12 March 2020.

Mr William Love, Douglas Valley, spoke of the MDS post for the Southern Ministry Cluster currently being advertised following a delay due to the Covid lockdown.

Rev Helen Jamieson, Carluke: St. Andrew's spoke to two members of the Heart for Art group who had paintings selected by Crossreach to be turned into fundraising Christmas Cards for the 2020 catalogue.

Report of decisions to be made

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget, Convener.

The Clerk informed Presbytery that for item 7 it was necessary to suspend Standing Order 7. In line with Standing Order 13 a vote was taken with 31 voting for and 0 voting against. Standing Order 7 was declared to have been suspended.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed -

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Appoint Rev Paul Grant as Joint Depute Clerk of the Presbytery from 1 September 2020.
3. In respect of General Assembly (October 2020)
 - a. Homologate the actions of the Clerk to send names of commissioners as those appointed by Presbytery for the cancelled May 2020 General Assembly
 - b. Note that David Hall (Kirkmuirhill) will replace Allan McDade (Kirkmuirhill)

- c. Encourage ministers to apply for a commission as a replacement for Rev Andrew Rooney (Kirkmuirhill) who is unable to attend.
 - d. Appoint Rev Bryan Kerr and David Hall as members of the Commission of the General Assembly should it be required to meet.
4. In respect of Ministry & Mission Discretionary Allowance:
- a. Approve a grant of £2,900 to Biggar for provision of equipment to allow the streaming of services.
 - b. Approve a grant of £2,750 to Forth: St. Paul's for provision of equipment to allow the streaming of services.
 - c. Acknowledge the application from Carluke: St. Andrews which will not be funded at this time due to the Covid restrictions on activities.
 - d. Approve a grant to each congregation in Presbytery to enable them to reengage with congregation and community following the Covid-19 lockdown and to stimulate worship, activity and mission in line with the amounts in Appendix 2.
5. In respect of congregational accounts:
- a. Approve the revised process for attesting congregational accounts for year ended 31 December 2019, note that all submitted were found to be in order, and instruct the Clerk to write to treasurers instructing submission to OSCR to take place prior to 30 September 2020.
 - b. Declare that due to the Covid-19 restrictions any congregation that has been unable to hold a Stated Annual Meeting in line with Act 2 1994 (as amended), Act 3 1994 (as amended), and Regulation 2 2016 and have made all efforts to inform the congregation about the ongoing financial health of the congregation shall be deemed to have fulfilled the obligation to hold a Stated Annual Meeting in advance of submitting accounts to OSCR.
 - c. Instruct the Congregational Board and Kirk Session of Carstairs to submit approved and examined accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 to the Clerk no later than 23 September 2020.
6. Note that the Clerk organised a Zoominar for Children's workers and youth leaders in the Church of Scotland on 25 August 2020 and 460 volunteers from across Scotland took part and were joined by Aileen Campbell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government who paid tribute to the work the congregations had undertaken to support children and young people during the pandemic.
7. In respect of Presbytery Structure:
- a. Until 31 December 2020, or an earlier date agreed by Presbytery, amend Standing Order 7 as follows:
 - i. Amend 7 (a) to read 'The following shall be the Standing Committees of the Presbytery: i. complaints, ii. Vacancy Procedure, iii. Moderators Committee
 - ii. Remove 7(g),
 - iii. Amend 7(h), to read 'All casual vacancies shall be filled by the Support Committee and shall'
 - iv. Remove 7(r) ii, iii, and iv
 - v. Insert 7(r, ii) to read 'Support Committee: The committee shall consist of the Moderator, Clerk, Depute Clerks and Convenor of the Presbytery Support Committee (as at 30 June 2020) and shall ensure the smooth running of Presbytery, present reports to Presbytery on matters requiring discussion and shall support congregations within the bounds. The Convenor shall be the Convenor of the Presbytery Support Committee (as at 30 June 2020)
- Delegated Powers:
1. to dispose of all applications in respect of fabric and furnishings, unless in the opinion of the Committee the nature or cost of the work to be done, or considerations of forward planning, requires the judgement of Presbytery;
 2. to dispense with matters relating to the discernment and training for candidates for all ministries of the Church, other than in cases of difficulty, as allowed for in the relevant training Acts of the General Assembly;
 3. full powers to examine, and also attest, except where a Court may be held to be censurable in respect of any of its Records;
 4. to oversee Safeguarding Procedures within the Presbytery.

5. to act in routine matters not the business of other Committees in accordance with the accepted practice and procedure of the Church and to advise the Moderator to call a meeting in the event of business arising which, in the opinion of the Committee, requires to be considered by the Presbytery and which cannot be held over until the next ordinary meeting
- vi. Amend any references in Standing Orders to 'Presbytery Support Committee' to 'Support Committee'

The Clerk informed Presbytery that all Standing Orders were reinstated.

Local Church Review

The Moderator called for the report on Local Church Review which was given in by the Depute Clerk, Rev George Shand. Mr Shand explained that there was no deliverance attached to the report rather the Presbytery were being asked to discuss and come to a collective mind on the matter.

The Presbytery split into breakout rooms for 15 minutes.

Following a period of feedback, question and discussion it was agreed to continue the matter over to the next Ordinary meeting of Presbytery and for members to continue to reflect on the need for mission to be at the forefront of congregational life as churches began to reopen.

Intimations

The Clerk reminded members of the spare ministerial commission for the General Assembly and invited ministers to get in touch to express interest.

Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (or online should that be the official advice).

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

Moderator

Clerk

Appendix I**Roll of Presbytery 2020-2021**

Mr John Austin	Commissioned Elder LIBBERTON AND QUOTHQUAN
Mr Alexander Boag	Commissioned Elder CROSSFORD
Mr Robert Boag	Commissioned Elder KIRKMUIRHILL
Mr Robert Carson	Equalising Elder - Commissioned Elder SYMINGTON
Mrs Helen Chekansky	Commissioned Elder LANARK ST NICHOLAS
Mrs Anne Cochrane	Commissioned Elder CARNWATH
Mr William Coulter	Commissioned Elder BLACK MOUNT
Rev Iain Cunningham	Minister in Charge
Rev Michael Fucella	Minister in Charge
Mr Alan Grant	Equalising Elder - Equalising Elder Presbytery
Rev Paul Grant	Minister in Charge
Mrs Margaret Harley	Commissioned Elder UPPER CLYDE
Mr Ross Hyslop	Commissioned Elder LANARK GREYFRIARS
Rev Helen Jamieson	Minister in Charge
Rev Bryan Kerr	Minister in Charge
Mr William Love	Equalising Elder - Equalising Elder Presbytery
Rev Dr Nikki Macdonald	Minister in Charge
Mr Denham MacDougall	Equalising Elder Presbytery
Rev Louise Mackay	Minister in Charge
Rev Elspeth MacLean	Minister in Charge
Mr Willie MacSween	Equalising Elder - Equalising Elder Presbytery
Mrs Janette Mason	Commissioned Elder LAW
Mr Robert Mitchell	Commissioned Elder DOUGLAS VALLEY
Mrs Mabel Morris	Commissioned Elder CARSTAIRS
Rev Dr Elijah Obinna	Minister in Charge
Mrs Christine O'Neill	Commissioned Elder CARLUKE KIRKTON
Mr Scott Paget	Equalising Elder - Equalising Elder Presbytery
Rev Steven Reid	Minister in Charge
Mrs Anne Reid	Commissioned Elder CARLUKE ST JOHN'S
Rev Andrew Rooney	Minister in Charge
Mr Alexander Russell	Commissioned Elder KIRKFIELD BANK
Rev George Shand	Minister in Charge
Mr Jim Sinclair	Commissioned Elder FORTH ST PAUL'S
Mr Hugh Stewart	Commissioned Elder COALBURN AND LESMAHAGOW
Mr Kenneth Watson	Commissioned Elder BIGGAR
Mr James Watt	Commissioned Elder CAIRNGRYFFE
Mrs Pamela Watt	Commissioned Elder CARLUKE ST ANDREW'S

Appendix 2

Ministry & Mission Variance Award Grants

Congregation	2020 Contribution (Gross)	Adjusted Percentage of Presbytery Total	Variance Award Grant
Biggar	64,163	8.57%	£1,729.47
Black Mount	12,774	1.71%	£346.21
Cairngryffe	21,997	2.94%	£594.47
Carluke Kirkton	81,212	10.85%	£2,188.37
Carluke St Andrew's	32,983	4.40%	£890.17
Carluke St John's	59,676	7.97%	£1,608.68
Carnwath	13,048	1.74%	£353.59
Carstairs Parish	31,490	4.21%	£849.98
Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old	52,095	6.96%	£1,404.62
Crossford	22,122	2.95%	£597.82
Douglas Valley	37,041	4.95%	£999.40
Forth St Paul's	36,691	4.90%	£989.98
Kirkfieldbank	12,304	1.64%	£333.56
Kirkmuirhill	54,234	7.24%	£1,462.19
Lanark Greyfriars	57,352	7.66%	£1,546.12
Lanark St Nicholas	72,186	9.64%	£1,945.41
Law	31,176	4.16%	£841.53
Lesmahagow Abbeygreen	0	0.00%	£0.00
Libberton and Quothquan	11,206	1.50%	£304.00
Symington	22,016	2.94%	£594.98
Upper Clyde	21,253	2.84%	£574.44
	747,019	99.77%	£20,155.00

Remotely, on Tuesday 20 October 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in remotely due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Mrs Anne Cochrane, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 11 Ministers, 18 Elders, 1 Corresponding Members.

Apologies for absence were intimated by Rev E MacLean, Minister.

Constitution of Presbytery

The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer and constituted the meeting.

Homologations

The Clerk presented the report and presbytery agreed:

The Presbytery:

1. Homologate the decision of the Support Committee, in light of decisions taken at General Assembly 2020 to cancel the ordinary meeting on Presbytery on 5th October 2020 and hold a conference style meeting on 20th October 2020.

General Assembly 2020

The Clerk gave brief overview of decisions made at the recent General Assembly held remotely. All decisions are available on the Church of Scotland website. Thanks were expressed to the commissioners who attended from Lanark Presbytery.

Discussions on the future of the Church

The Moderator invited the Presbytery to move into breakout rooms to begin to discuss the questions on the future of the church and the Presbytery. The following questions were offered for discussion:

- Is the church of Scotland in crisis? If so – what are some of the ingredient of that crises? If not, what alternative description would you offer for our denomination?
- How would you describe the purpose of the church?
- What spiritual resources do we need as churches to fulfil that purpose?
- What practical resources are needed to fulfil that purpose?
- Structural Change is inevitable in the church but what change do we need to bring in given the way society has often moved beyond traditional church and even Christianity? It is enough to engage in reshaping of presbyteries or altering the number of ministers/charges? Is there a need for a more radical response? If so, what might that look like?

After a time of discussion a period of open debate and feedback was held.

The Moderator invited Mr Scott Paget to lead the presbytery through a mapping exercise, looking at the presbytery area and related geography to aid understanding of the area and how presbytery may start to address issues of presbytery planning and reforming.

Report of the Support Committee

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget, Convener.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed -

Presbytery:

1. Agree to the cancellation of the November meeting of presbytery but invite all presbyters to keep the November committee night (17 November) free for a conference style meeting should it be necessary.
2. Note that Ministry and Mission Contributions for 2021 will be reduced with the clerk sending them to Treasurers and Session Clerks in due course.
3. Note the intention of the Support Committee to bring proposals for the 2021 Presbytery dues to the December meeting on the understanding that they will be no more than the 2020 level.

Intimations

There were no intimations

Adjournment:

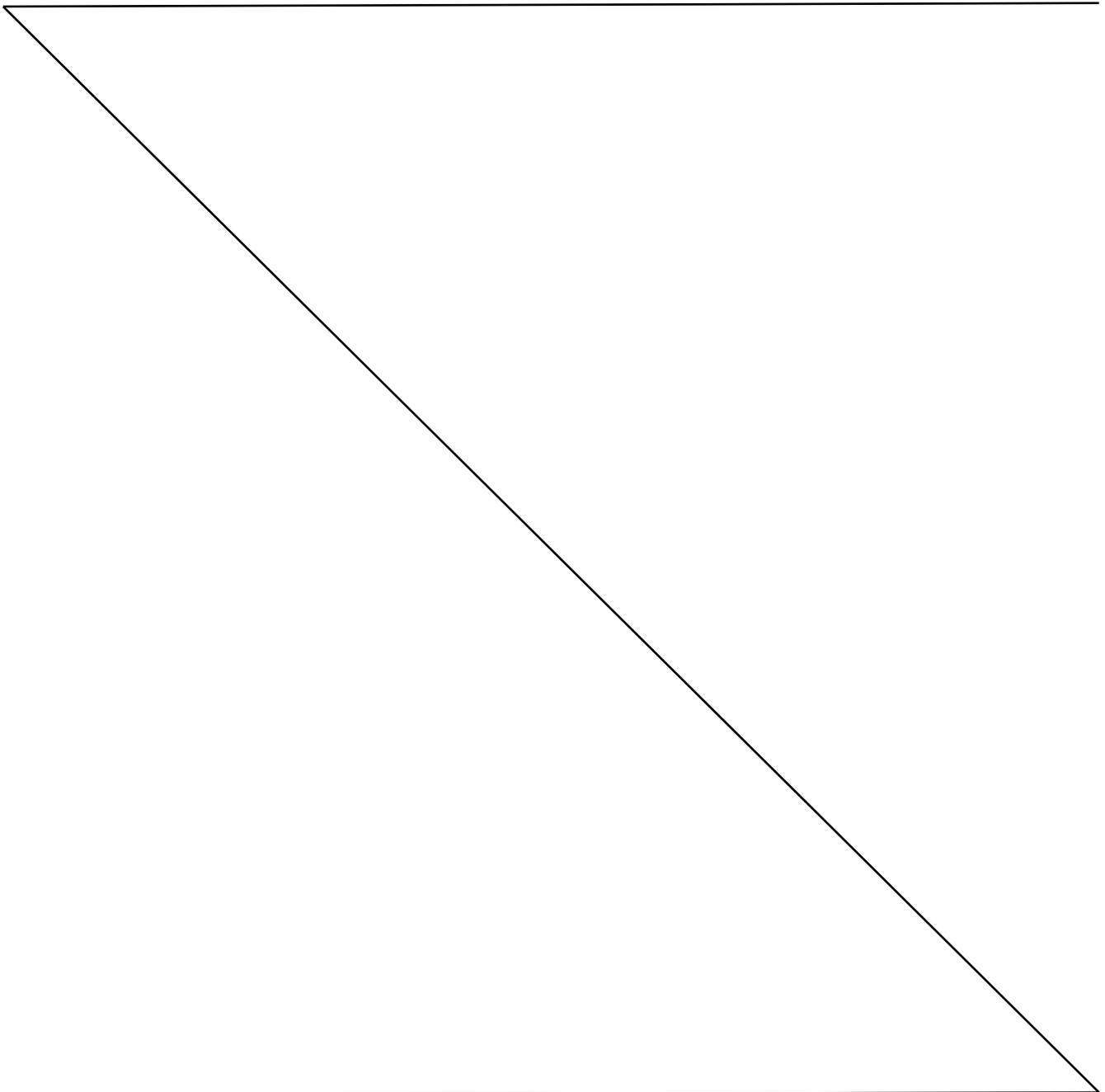
The Presbytery adjourned to meet in conference on Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 7pm and for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (or online should that be the official advice).

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

Moderator

Clerk



Remotely, on Tuesday 17 November 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in remotely due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Mrs Anne Cochrane, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 13 Ministers, 20 Elders, 2 Corresponding Members and 22 visitors.

Apologies for absence were intimated by Rev W Buchan, J Sinclair, Elder

The Clerk intimated that Mrs Hazel Buchan, wife of Rev Bill Buchan had passed away that morning. Rev Mike Fucella, Parish Minister, addressed Presbytery and the Moderator invited members to remember Bill and the family in prayer.

Constitution of Presbytery

The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer and constituted the meeting.

The presbytery met to continue discussion on considering how Lanark Presbytery addresses the need, laid down by the General Assembly for reform and a robust round of presbytery planning. It was made clear that at the meeting no proposals will be made, rather it was an opportunity to further clarify thoughts and shape the process and possibilities. Due to the nature of the topic an invitation had been extended to all congregations to attend if they so desired.

Presentation – Rev Dr Doug Gay

The Moderator invited Rev Dr Doug Gay to address the Presbytery with thoughts of reform and change. Following the presentation, a time of discussion took place.

The Moderator thanked Dr Gay for his time and consideration to Presbytery.

Intimations

The Clerk intimated the induction in Carnwath linked with Carstairs, subject to the sustaining of the call, would take place in mid-December.

Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourned to meet in conference on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (or online should that be the official advice).

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

Moderator

Clerk

Remotely, on Tuesday 1 December 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in remotely due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and was constituted in prayer.

Sederunt: Mrs Anne Cochrane, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 7 Ministers, 14 Elders, 2 Corresponding Members.

Apologies for absence were intimated by Revs W Buchan, E Cleland, M Fucella, E MacLean, S Reid, Minister.

Constitution of Presbytery

The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer and constituted the meeting.

Approval of the Order of Business

The Order of Business as circulated was presented by Mr Scott Paget, Convener and agreed.

Decisions taken under delegated powers

The clerk informed Presbytery that the following decisions had been taken under delegated powers

10 September 2020 - Lanark: St. Nicholas (AV Upgrade)

- I. In respect of Lanark: St. Nicholas
 - a. Approve the application from Lanark: St. Nicholas for the upgrading of the AV system in the church at a cost of £9780, noting that
 - i. funds are available locally,
 - ii. CARTA's AV consultant suggested such a system for the church
 - b. Grant permission, if necessary, for the congregation to use funds from capital holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.
 - c. Urge the General Trustees to approve the application as quickly as possible, in the knowledge that the application matches the AV consultant's devised scheme for the building, to allow the congregation to install the equipment to help enhance the restarting of worship following the Covid-19 shutdown.

22 October 2020 - Black Mount (Glebe)

- I. In respect of Black Mount
 - a. Following communication from the General Trustees, agree to the sale of Dolphinton Glebe

26 November 2020 – Vacancy Procedure Committee (Carnwath lw Carstairs)

- I. In respect of Carnwath linked with Carstairs
 - a. having received all relevant papers relating to the vacancy in Carnwath linked with Carstairs including:
 - i. voting papers and a signed declaration of election result whereby 207 members voted for and 0 voted against electing Rev Sumit Harrison as minister of Carnwath linked with Carstairs;
 - ii. a call to Rev Sumit Harrison subscribed by 78 members of Carnwath and 100 members of Carstairs;
 - iii. a certificate of eligibility from Faith Nurture Forum in respect of Rev Sumit Harrison;
 - b. and in terms of Act VIII, 2003 (as amended), sustain the call to Rev Sumit Harrison and set a date for the induction of 16th December at 7pm
 - c. In light of
 - i. South Lanarkshire being currently in Level 4 Covid-19 restrictions until at least 11th December 2020 and
 - ii. the Kirk Session of Carstairs Parish Church have not been agreed to the reopening of the building, nor have the Presbytery approved such and
 - iii. Carstairs Parish Church not currently having the technical capabilities installed to allow a suitable live broadcast of the service

agree that the service take place in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark and broadcast live online and on audio feed, with as many members of the Kirk Sessions as possible in attendance subject to Scottish Government regulations for Places of Worship. A small representative number of

members of Presbytery will be in attendance with the majority of members of Presbytery joining online.

Roll of Presbytery

There were no changes intimated

Correspondence

The Clerk intimated that the Ministry and Mission Contributions for congregations had been received and communicated to Financial Courts (Appendix I)

Report of the Support Committee

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget, Convener.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed -

Presbytery:

3. Receive the report.
4. In respect of Salaries and Honoraria
 - a. The Clerks Salary for 2021 continue to be 1/7th of the maximum stipend.
 - b. The Depute Clerks receive an honorarium totalling £1,500 for the duties undertaken during 2020, split £750 to Rev George Shand and £750 to Rev Paul Grant
 - c. 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.
5. In respect of Presbytery Finance
 - a. Approve the Presbytery Budget for 2021 (appendix I)
 - b. Set congregational dues at a levy of £2.00 per member and instruct congregational treasurers to remit payment to the Presbytery no later than Friday 18 December 2020
 - c. Encourage congregational treasurers to budget for a levy of £3.00 for payment in December 2021.
6. In respect of Insurance Revaluations:
 - a. Agree to work with COSIC and General Trustees to undertake a project to revalue all church buildings at an approximate cost of £5,000 with COSIC paying a contribution with the rest to be taken from the Variance Fund.

Presbytery Reform

The Moderator invited Mr Scott Paget to present the Interim Report on Presbytery Reform. The Presbytery broke into groups to discuss:

1. Do the points of commonality resonate with what the committee imagine a new presbytery shape should be built on?
2. Do people recognise these areas of tension?
3. What excites, intrigues or scares people around this report?

Following breakout rooms, a period of open discussion was held.

Intimations

The Clerk intimated

Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourned to meet in hunc effectum for the Induction of Reverend Sumit Harrison to the charge of Carnwath and Carstairs in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (and online) at 6:45pm on Wednesday 16 December 2020; in hunc effectum for a conference session with Hamilton Presbytery on Wednesday 13 January 2020 at 7pm online; and for Ordinary Business Tuesday 2 February 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark or online as permissions dictate.

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

Moderator

Clerk

Appendix I

Ministry & Mission Contributions 2021

Congregation	Average Income 2017- 2019	Average Income 2016- 2018	2020 M&M	2021 Increase / (Decrease)	2021 Proposed Contribution (Gross)
Biggar	109,443	103,389	64,163	(6,470)	57,693
Black Mount	22,453	23,038	12,774	(1,548)	11,226
Cairngryffe	36,887	37,227	21,997	(3,554)	18,443
Carluke Kirkton	137,098	135,825	81,212	(9,163)	72,049
Carluke St Andrew's	53,748	54,128	32,983	(5,922)	27,061
Carluke St John's	93,940	95,627	59,676	(10,510)	49,166
Carnwath	22,090	23,460	13,048	(2,003)	11,045
Carstairs & Carstairs Junction	50,923	51,832	31,490	(5,983)	25,507
Coalburn and Lesmahagow Old	88,552	83,531	52,095	(5,892)	46,203
Crossford	35,848	37,419	22,122	(4,198)	17,924
Douglas Valley	65,168	60,371	37,041	(3,699)	33,342
Forth St Pauls	60,171	59,834	36,691	(6,097)	30,594
Greyfriars	91,321	91,754	57,352	(9,626)	47,726
Kirkfieldbank	21,598	22,315	12,304	(1,505)	10,799
Kirkmuirhill	92,570	86,823	54,234	(5,821)	48,413
Lanark St Nicholas	119,639	117,976	72,186	(8,885)	63,301
Law	48,945	51,348	31,176	(6,704)	24,472
Libberton And Quothquan	20,228	20,626	11,206	(1,092)	10,114
Symington	34,631	37,256	22,016	(4,701)	17,315
Upper Clyde	33,868	36,083	21,253	(4,319)	16,934

Lanark, on Tuesday 16 December 2020, the **Presbytery of Lanark** met *in hunc effectum* due to Covid-19 restrictions at Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark to induct Rev Sumit Harrison BA, DipTheol, BTh to the charge of Carnwath linked with Carstairs and was constituted with prayer.

Sederunt: Mrs Anne Cochrane, Moderator; The Reverend Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk; and others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 5 ministers, 2 Elders and 1 visitor with other members of Presbytery joining remotely due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Apologies for absence were received from Rev W Buchan, Minister

Induction Rev Sumit Harrison BA, DipTheol, BTh

The appropriate papers being laid before the court and no one having appeared to object to the life or doctrine of Rev Sumit Harrison, the Presbytery resolved to proceed. Mrs Anne Cochrane, Moderator, conducted worship and Rev Andrew Rooney preached the sermon. After answering the appropriate questions and signing the formula, Rev Sumit Harrison was inducted to the charge of Carnwath linked with Carstairs by the Moderator, who then delivered charges to both minister and members of the congregations.

Due to the unique nature of the service speeches of welcome and presentations were made by Mr Harrison, the Session Clerks and Mr Harrison's supervisor, Rev Scott Marshall.

At the end of the service the Clerk explained that due to Covid restrictions the call which had been prepared could not be physically handed to Mr Harrison but it would be passed to him at the first appropriate moment.

Thanks were recorded to Mr Denham MacDougall for his service as Interim Moderator and he was discharged. The thanks of Presbytery were expressed to the Moderator, and Mr Rooney for their conduct of the service of Induction. Thanks were also expressed to the Clerk and the AV team at Greyfriars and St. Nicholas for arrangements made.

Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourned to meet *in hunc effectum* for a conference session with Hamilton Presbytery on Wednesday 13 January 2020 at 7pm online; and for Ordinary Business Tuesday 2 February 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark or online as permissions dictate.

Closure

The Moderator closed the meeting with the benediction.

Moderator

Clerk