

## **Presbytery Meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Summary**

The final Presbytery meeting of 2016 was at Queen's Cross Parish Church where the opportunity was taken to thank Queen's Cross for its hospitality during three successive months with the next meeting in February to be at Holburn West Parish Church. The business included the following:

### **Boundaries of two new parishes including Cove**

Following the decision taken at the Presbytery meeting of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, approving dissolution of the Parish of Cove, a meeting held with the Kirk Sessions of Torry St Fitticks and South St Nicholas Kincorth agreed the parish boundaries for the two extended parishes.

Presbytery approved the new boundaries.

### **Ruthrieston West/Garthdee**

There had been considerable discussion over a number of months about matters concerning the linked charges of Garthdee Parish and Ruthrieston West Parish. Recent meetings had been held with the Presbytery Strategy Group set up to consider the matter, the two Kirk Sessions, and the Presbytery Planning and Deployment Committee (PDC). The conclusion was reached by PDC that a Union of the two Parishes was not tenable and that the Linkage should be dissolved.

Presbytery:

- Noted that Garthdee and Ruthrieston West Kirk Sessions had agreed in principle that the Linkage between the two congregations should be dissolved
- Agreed that a Basis of Dissolution of the Linkage between Garthdee and Ruthrieston West should be presented to each congregation for approval and then brought to the February meeting for the approval of Presbytery.

### **Pastoral Report**

The Presbytery Church, Society and World Mission Committee presented a Pastoral Report on the impact of cutbacks in the UK Oil and Gas Industry on the North East economy and community. The report was written to promote pastoral awareness across the Presbytery about some of the issues that people are facing in their congregations and parishes.

The full report is available elsewhere on the Presbytery website and Presbytery commended the report for discussion and reflection.

### **Ascend**

The Presbytery Ministries Committee reported on Ascend, a Church of Scotland Ministries Council publication, a brochure that builds on the 2016 Ministries Council report to the General Assembly.

'Ascend' is the project name for the work on ministerial development review, continuing ministerial development and supervision and coaching. The brochure is a prospectus for what the Ministries Council calls the continuing "transformation" and "revolution" of the support for ministers. It carries the subtitle "advancing ministerial development".

Within its pages are articles on:

1. Future of ministry
2. Supporting a flourishing ministry
3. Developing ministry
4. Ministerial development review
5. Wellbeing
6. Continuing ministerial review

It also points forward to the development of an online hub to increase access for development opportunities, hopefully coming on stream in 2017.

The brochure provides a starting point for anyone seeking to access the opportunities for continuing education and support.

Presbytery commended the brochure Ascend to Ministers, Ministries Development Staff and other Presbyters.

Hard copies of Ascend can be ordered. It is also available by searching Ascend on the Church of Scotland website.

#### **Presbytery also:**

Noted that the Moderator of the General Assembly will be making the annual visit to the University of Aberdeen on the weekend of February 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> and that the Presbytery Service will take place on Friday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm at Tillydrone Parish Church at which Long Service Certificates will be presented.

- Received a report on the Local Church Review of St Mark's Parish Church.
- Agreed to the setting up of a five-year lease between Presbytery and the Rape Abuse Support charity (RAS) for their occupancy of 112 Crown Street.
- Noted that £6000 will be paid to Cairns Counselling as per the three-year cycle of support agreed previously by Presbytery.
- Noted with sadness the death of the Rev John Humphreys, former Moderator of the United Reformed Church National Synod, who had worked with Presbytery in regard to the Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting, and extended condolences to the National Synod.