

Presbytery Meeting Tuesday 1st May 2018 Summary

Holburn West Parish Church hosted the May Presbytery meeting and the business included the following:

Installation of Moderator for 2018/19

Mrs Lorna Glen, an elder at Ferryhill Parish Church and recent Convener of the Presbytery Planning and Deployment Committee, was installed as Moderator of Aberdeen Presbytery for 2018/19 in succession to the Rev Keith Blackwood of Mannofield Parish Church. As is traditional, a version of the Bible of her choosing was presented to the new Moderator by the Scottish Bible Society, Aberdeen Branch.

Tribute

The Rev Dr Nigel Parker, minister at Bucksburn Stoneywood and Interim Moderator at St John's Church for Deaf People, led tribute to Mr John Matthew Naughton who was born on the 6th of August 1940 and died on 26th February 2018.

John was the first family member to be born deaf. At the age of five the family moved to Aberdeen so that he could have the schooling he needed at Aberdeen School for the Deaf where education involved lip reading and signing was not permitted. His working life included 36 years with Aberdeen City Council, mostly as a gardener planting and pruning roses in North Anderson Drive when Aberdeen was gaining the "Britain in Bloom" awards.

John was a loyal elder and after being appointed Presbytery Elder was a frequent attendee at Presbytery meetings when interpretation was available. As Session Clerk at St John's he was at the centre of church life and good support to the Interim Moderators, including Nigel.

Midstocket

Presbytery noted that the Rev Sarah Nicol had been elected as Minister of Saltcoats St Cuthbert's in Ardrossan Presbytery and agreed to release her from the charge of Midstocket Church, subject to her Call from Saltcoats: St Cuthbert's being sustained by the Presbytery of Ardrossan.

An opportunity to thank Sarah for her services at Midstocket Church will be given at the June meeting.

Centre for Ministry Studies

Presbytery received an update from the Rev Dr Kenneth S Jeffrey, Co-ordinator for the Centre for Ministry Studies at the University of Aberdeen, on forthcoming events at the Centre:

Calvin Conference

Saturday 12th May 2018 from 10.00 – 16.30 in the Craig Suite at the Sir Duncan Rice Library.

Summer School

Times and Seasons: Exploring transitions in life, the local church and the world. 20 - 24th August 2018, also in the Craig Suite at the Sir Duncan Rice Library.

North East Presbyteries Conference

This "What kind of church? Life Together" day conference will bring together the five Presbyteries of the North East of Scotland at the Acorn Centre in Inverurie on Saturday 9th September from 10.00 to 16.00.

MTh Ministry Studies

The MTh is a part-time degree programme built around four one-week intensive modules held in September and January that will be delivered at Aberdeen University over a two year period.

The contact for information on all of the above is: clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk

Guild Presbyterian Council

Mrs Jane Dargie, Convener of the Church of Scotland Guild Aberdeen Presbyterian Council, reported on the work and special events of the Guild in 2017. From 2015 to 2018, the work, worship and focus of the Guild falls under the strategy: Be Bold, Be Strong!

During 2017 they have continued to support the six projects of the three year strategy:

1. Ascension Trust: Supporting the work of Street Pastors.
2. Care for the Family: A project to support and encourage new parents.
3. Christian Aid: Supporting women and caring for the environment in Bolivia.
4. Feed the Minds: Breaking the cycle of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
5. Mission International: Helping rebuild a community in Haiti.
6. Prospects: Encouraging adults with learning difficulties into the life of the church.

To fund the projects, Guild members have raised the remarkable sum of nearly £600,000 so far.

A new set of projects for 2018 to 2021 are to be announced.

[After six years in the role Jane is stepping down.](#)

Presbytery Business Review Group

Presbytery received an Interim Report from the Review Group which was set up following a survey of Presbytery members and a follow-up conference on 20 January 2018 about how to improve the way Presbytery goes about its business.

The Report contained 18 recommendations amongst which were:

Recommendation 1: That Presbytery schedule six business meetings each year to be held in September, November, December, March, May and June; plus two conference-style meetings (as required) in October and February, each with a focus on a major issue, which outside speakers might be invited to address.

Recommendation 3: That business meetings (apart from the September meeting which will continue to be held in the Moderator's home church) be normally held in Queen's Cross Church sanctuary.

[Constructive comments were made regarding the Interim Report and the recommendations. Presbytery instructed the Business Review Group to note the comments and to amend the report accordingly for its intended final submission at the June Presbytery meeting.](#)

Committee Convenership Changes

Presbytery noted that Mrs Lorna Glen, the Rev Dr Nigel Parker and Mr Donald Brown were concluding their terms as Conveners of Presbytery's Standing Committees and thanked them warmly for their diligent service.

[The following Conveners were appointed in their place: the Rev Scott Rennie \(Planning and Deployment\), the Rev Edmund Gatima \(Ministries\) and Mr Ronnie Johnstone \(Property\).](#)

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Presbytery noted that the Clerk and Depute Clerk undertook two training sessions on Data Protection for ministers and office bearers and advised all Presbyters to read the Law Department circulars on the new GDPR legislation at:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/law_circulars#data_protection

Hazlehead Park Service

Presbytery granted permission to Cults, Peterculter, Mannofield, Craigiebuckler, Holburn West and Kingswells Churches to meet together for worship in Hazlehead Park on Sunday June 10th 2018 at 11am and not to worship in their own buildings.

Meet the MPs Event

Presbytery welcomed the opportunity to display the corporate witness of the Church in Aberdeen at the "Meet the MPs" event on the morning of Saturday 28th April at the Boys' Brigade Headquarters in Aberdeen.

Thirty seven different churches and Christian agencies took part including 13 congregations from Aberdeen Presbytery. It had been a great encouragement that a number of politicians from Aberdeen City Council, Holyrood and Westminster Parliaments attended, showing an interest with many staying for several hours visiting stalls and speaking with all who were keen to share their stories.

Presbytery rejoiced in the positive experience of the "Meet the MPs Event" and expressed a desire to build on the interest shown by politicians from local and national arenas in the work of Christian agencies in Aberdeen.

Vocation Information day

At the March Presbytery, it was agreed that the National Vocations day event in Dunblane on 9th June would be highlighted.

The present system of recruitment means attending a national vocations' day and embarking on a period of discernment. If agreed, the applicant proceeds to a national assessment conference. If accepted at that point, the enquirer becomes a candidate in training in ministry and formal training can begin at the next appropriate opportunity.

The Dunblane event is the gateway to the enquiry process for 2018/19.

Presbytery encouraged ministers and others to continue to seek out individuals within congregations who may have a gift for ministry and direct them towards the enquiry process.

Presbytery also:

- Received the Presbytery Annual Report and approved the Accounts for 2017.
- Received the Annual Congregation Statistics for 2017.
- Approved a change of classification for the Middlefield Church building in the Presbytery Plan to Category (a) under Act VII (2003) and noted that this change remains effective for

five years from May 2018 enabling aspects of “An Experiment in Ministry” regarding Priority Area status to move forward.

- Noted the Visitation and Oversight Committee’s intention to proceed with the local church reviews of St Machar’s Cathedral, St Nicholas South of Kincorth and Torry St Fittick’s, and to conduct reviews of Mastrick and Stockethill in 2018-19.

Intimations included:

- WorkPlace Chaplaincy Scotland will host a lunchtime Information Session for those interested in considering volunteering with WorkPlace Chaplaincy. It will be held on Wednesday 16th May from 12 – 2pm at Caf4e@Credo Coffee Shop, within the Credo Centre on 14-20 John Street, Aberdeen. A light lunch and refreshments will be served. Please respond by the 9th May if interested in booking a place. Please contact the Rev Ron Flett at ron.flett@wpcscotland.co.uk alternatively please telephone 07508654423.
- The Go For It team will present a Go For It Roadshow which will be held on Tuesday 5th June at the Queen’s Hotel, 160 Nethergate, Dundee from 1.30 – 4pm. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Go For It fund, some of the projects they fund and speak with the team. Congregations considering project funding may wish to register to attend by contacting the Presbytery Office to obtain a registration form, alternatively, please email the Go For It team by contacting Ms Susan Calderhead at scalderhead@churchofscotland.org.uk

Please register by the 29th May. For further information and a list of all trainings during 2018, please access

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/48811/go_for_it_learning_and_training_2018.pdf

- At the heart. On the Edge. A day hosted by the Rev Scott M Rennie, Minister at Queen's Cross Parish Church, Aberdeen & Rev Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. Includes theology, ideas, solutions & support. Programme developed jointly by Queen's Cross & St Martin's.

HeartEdge is a growing ecumenical community network of churches and other organisations, initiated by St Martin's, which aims to catalyse Kingdom Communities. Learn more about HeartEdge: <https://stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/mission/heartedge/>

Wednesday 13 June, 10.00am – 3.30pm at Queen's Cross Parish Church.

To book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/at-the-heart-on-the-edge-tickets-45346364196>

- The Church of Scotland General Assembly 2018 - The General Assembly will be held from the 19th until the 25th May. Those who are unable to attend the General Assembly may be interested in accessing the Church of Scotland Gap publications webpage where access is available to view the proceedings live as they progress through the week. Please access - <https://gapublications.co.uk/>