

**CARRICK CENTRE MAYBOLE, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020.**

At the Carrick Centre, on the third Day of March, Two Thousand and Twenty Years, the Presbytery of Ayr met, and was constituted in prayer.

**100. SEDERUNT.** Rev David Gemmell, Moderator, and others as per Sederunt Sheets in retentis. Ministers, 29; Elders, 45; Corresponding Members, 7; **Total 81.** Apologies were received from 5 Ministers, 5 Elders, 1 Youth Representative and 1 Corresponding Member.

**101. WELCOME**

The Moderator welcomed the Rev John McCutcheon, Minister of Ayr: St Quivox.

**102. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2019, and 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, were taken as read and approved.

**103. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Order of Business presented by the Rev David Prentice-Hyers was approved.

**104. INTIMATIONS**

1. Newlines – seeking a successor. Thanks were also extended by the Moderator to the Rev Ian Stirling for his editorship of Newlines which had ensured a very professional and informative publication.
2. Dalmellington & Patna Waterside Parish Churches Pulpit Supply. Thanks are extended to all members who have assisted with Pulpit Supply since June 2019 especially from Alloway Worship Group. Cover is still needed from 19th April 2020. Any member or worship group willing to assist should contact the Interim Moderator - Bill Mackie. Contact details in Presbytery Yearbook.

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**105. GUEST SPEAKER**

Mr Fred Vincent, Project Co-ordinator, Chance to Thrive.

Fred began his PowerPoint presentation focusing on the word 'thrive'. An explanation was then provided about 'Chance to Thrive' and the involvement in priority areas.

**106. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2020. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS**

<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>ELDER</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>
Barbara-Suchanek-Seitz	Ayr: St James	James Kirk	Straiton
Alastair Symington	Depute Clerk	Kenneth McKelvie	Troon: Portland
Alwyn Landman	Coylton / Drongan	Ian McGregor Anne Robertson	Coylton Drongan
John Paterson	Old Cumnock	Marge Paterson	Old Cumnock
Ian Paterson	Retired	Lorna Paterson	Ayr: St Columba
		Gordon MacDonald	Prestwick: Kingcase
		David Reid	Troon: Old
		Bill Duncan	Alloway
		Janet Armour	Monkton & Prestwick North
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

**107. ORDER OF THE DAY - 7.30pm****1. VACANCY BUSINESS**

The Rev Neil McNaught reporting on behalf of the Vacancy Procedure Committee:

**a. DEMISSION OF THE REV HELEN CUTHBERT, MINISTER OF NEW CUMNOCK**

- i) Congregation Representatives welcomed.  
Compared Miss Morag Ferrans, Session Clerk, paid fitting tribute to the ministry of the Rev Helen Cuthbert.

The Rev Helen Cuthbert made a suitable reply

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ii) The Presbytery appoint the Rev Ken Yorke, Minister emeritus at Dalmellington linked with Patna, as Interim Moderator and also note his appointment as Locum. This will be effective from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**b. DEMISSION OF THE REV DAVID CLARKSON,  
MINISTER OF MONKTON AND PRESTWICK NORTH**

i) Congregation Representatives welcomed.  
Compared Mrs Lesley Kennan, Session Clerk, paid fitting tribute to the ministry of the Rev David Clarkson.

The Rev David Clarkson made a suitable reply.

The Presbytery note that the Rev David Clarkson, Minister of Monkton and Prestwick North Parish Church, successfully preached as Nominee at Barclay Viewforth Parish Church Edinburgh on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.

ii) The Presbytery anticipating that the Call to Barclay Viewforth Parish Church will be sustained appoint the Rev Barbara Suchanek-Seitz, Minister of Ayr: St James, as Interim Moderator and also note the appointment of the Rev Morag Crossan, Probationer, as Locum. Both appointments will provisionally be effective from April 2020.

**c. INTERIM MODERATOR AT AYR: NEWTON  
WALLACETOWN**

The Presbytery appoint the Rev Rona Young, Minister emeritus Ayr: St Quivox, as Interim Moderator at Ayr: Newton Wallacetown. The appointment will be provisionally effective from April 2020.

**d. DESTRUCTION OF VACANCY PAPERS**

In terms of Act VIII, 2003, the Clerk reported that the Vacancy Papers for Ayr: St Quivox had been destroyed.

- e. INTERIM MODERATOR AND LOCUM AT CROSSHILL AND MAYBOLE**
- i) The Presbytery homologate the decision by the Presbytery Clerk and Vacancy Procedure Convener in appointing the Rev Paul Russell, Minister of Ayr: Castlehill, as Interim Moderator at Crosshill and Maybole from the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
  - ii) The Presbytery note the appointment of the Rev John Lochrie, Minister emeritus of St Colmon, as Locum at Crosshill linked with Maybole from the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
- f. LOCUM AT TROON: PORTLAND**
- i) The Presbytery note the appointment of the Rev Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers as Locum at Troon: Portland from the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
  - ii) The Presbytery homologate the decision of the Presbytery Clerk to send a letter of support to the Marriage Section of the National Records of Scotland allowing the Rev Mary Elizabeth Prentice-Hyers to conduct Marriage Services for a temporary period of up to three years.
- g. TEMPORARY LOCUM AT MAUCLINE AND SORN**
- i) The Presbytery note the appointment of the Rev George Fiddes, Minister emeritus Prestwick: St Nicholas, as temporary Locum at Mauchline linked with Sorn. This was effective from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and its anticipated this will be for 3 months.
  - ii) The Presbytery note that Mrs Christine Stewart, the appointed Locum at Mauchline linked with Sorn, is currently on sick leave. The Presbytery wishes Mrs Stewart a speedy recovery.

**h. MUIRKIRK LINKED WITH OLD CUMNOCK: TRINITY**

- i) The Presbytery homologate the decision by the Presbytery Clerk and Vacancy Procedure Convener in appointing the Rev Helen Cuthbert, Minister of New Cumnock, to act as Interim Moderator at recent Kirk Sessions meetings held in January 2020.
- ii) The Presbytery appoint the Rev Dr Alwyn Landman, Minister of Coylton linked with Drongan, as Interim Moderator at Muirkirk linked with Old Cumnock: Trinity.
- iii) The Presbytery note that the Rev Dr Robert Anderson will be stepping down as Locum at Muirkirk linked with Old Cumnock: Trinity. At the suggestion of the Presbytery Clerk and Depute Clerk the Rev Dr Robert Anderson will continue as Locum until Easter Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**i. INTERIM MODERATOR AT GIRVAN NORTH, BARR, DAILLY & GIRVAN SOUTH**

- i) The Presbytery note that the Rev Ian Stirling, Minister of Fisherton & Kirkoswald, has stepped down as Interim Moderator at Girvan North, Barr, Dailly and Girvan South with effect from the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- ii) The Presbytery convey their thanks to the Rev Ian Stirling for serving as Interim Moderator.
- iii) The Presbytery appoint the Rev Edgar Ogston, Minister emeritus North West Lochaber, as Interim Moderator at Barr, Dailly and Girvan South.
- iv) The Presbytery appoint Dr James Anderson, Reader, as Interim Moderator at Girvan North.

**j. NOMINEE AT AYR ST ANDREW'S**

The Presbytery note that the Rev Stanley Okeke will preach as Nominee at Ayr: St Andrew's on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

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**2. DEMISSION OF THE REV ELIZABETH CRUMLISH**

The Presbytery note that the Rev Elizabeth Crumlish, Path of Renewal and Pioneer Coordinator, will be demitting her status as a Church of Scotland Minister and transferring to the Scottish Episcopal Church. This will be effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

**3. ADOPTION OF UNITARY CONSTITUTION  
DRONGAN: THE SCHAW KIRK**

- a. In terms of Act XIX, 1964, as amended, the Presbytery note that the Congregation of Drongan: The Schaw Kirk has resolved to adopt the Unitary Constitution.
- b. The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to send an Extract Minute, together with an Extract Minute of the above Congregational Meetings to the Solicitor of the Church of Scotland.

**4. TROON JOINT SERVICE**

The Presbytery note that Troon: St Meddan's Parish Church and Troon: Old Parish Church will be joining with Troon: Portland Parish Church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and, accordingly, there will be no morning Worship Service held at Troon: Old and Troon: St Meddan's that day.

**5. REV DEREK PEAT ADMITTED TO PRESBYTERY OF  
GLASGOW**

The Presbytery note that on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 the Rev Derek Peat was admitted to membership of the Presbytery of Glasgow in his capacity as Local Church Review Coordinator. The Rev Derek Peat signed the Formula and was welcomed into the Presbytery of Glasgow.

**108. BUSINESS & NOMINATION COMMITTEE**, given in by the Rev David Prentice-Hyers, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted.

**1. NOMINATION OF ADDITIONAL ELDER**

The Presbytery nominate Mrs Paula Lennox, Ruling Elder at Maybole Parish Church, to serve as an additional Elder.

**2. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

The Presbytery nominate Ross McKay to be their Youth Representative at the 2020 General Assembly.

**3. CHAPLAIN TO READERS**

The Presbytery agree to appoint the Rev Ken Yorke, Minister emeritus at Dalmellington linked with Patna, as Chaplain for Readers.

**4. CHAPLAINCY PROVISION IN AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN HEALTH BOARD TRUST**

i) The Presbytery note correspondence has been received from the Presbytery of Irvine & Kilmarnock regarding the recent change in working practice employed within Trust Hospitals. Concern has been raised about the withdrawal of 24 hour on call Chaplaincy cover. The Presbytery of Ardrossan has also been contacted.

ii) The Presbytery agree to support an approach from the Presbytery of Irvine & Kilmarnock to the Health Board highlighting the concerns that have been raised about the withdrawal of 24 hour on call Chaplaincy cover.

**5. INTER PRESBYTERY TALKS**

- i) The Presbytery note that on the 18<sup>th</sup> February a meeting took place in St Marnock's Parish Church Kilmarnock with representatives from the Presbyteries of Ardrossan, Ayr, Irvine & Kilmarnock plus the addition of representatives from the Presbyteries of Annandale & Eskdale and Wigtown & Stranraer. There was an apology from the Presbytery of Dumfries & Kirkcudbright that no representatives were able to attend.
- ii) The Presbytery note that at the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February it was unanimously agreed by all present that further discussions should now ensue, examining the feasibility of potentially creating a Presbytery of the South West of Scotland in accordance with the General Assembly's approved Radical Action Plan.
- iii) The Presbytery agree that representatives from the six Presbyteries should therefore pursue further discussions with a view to preparing an overall plan to submit to the Presbyteries concerned and subject to agreement present the plan to the General Assembly of 2021.

**6. NORTH AREA MISSION FOCUS GROUP**

- i) The Presbytery notes that Rev Scott McKenna has been appointed Convener of the North Area Mission Focus Group.
- ii) The Presbytery record their thanks to Mr Jim Skinner and Rev Robert Mayes who served respectively as Convener and Rapporteur of the North Area Mission Focus Group until December 2019.



**109. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**, given in by the Rev Gerald Jones, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted.

**1. ATTESTATION OF COURT AND COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- i) The Presbytery note that the Minutes of the Court and Committees have been attested and found to be in accordance with the instructions of the General assembly.
- ii) The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to send an Extract Minute to the Principal Clerk.

**2. ATTESTATION OF CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS**

The Presbytery note that the examination and attestation of congregational records is now in progress, and will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The Presbytery record their warmest thanks to all those who participate in this process. Please note that more attesters are required, those interested should contact the Rev. Gerald Jones.

**3. ATTESTATION OF LOG BOOKS**

The Presbytery note that all Ministers using log books, or recording their pastoral mileage electronically, are requested to send their records to the Rev Gerald Jones as soon as possible after 31<sup>st</sup> March, so that examination and attestation can take place in April 2020.

**4. CATRINE PARISH CHURCH: MINISTRIES AND MISSION PAYMENTS**

The Presbytery agree to the request from Catrine Parish Church to make payment of their 2020 Ministries and Mission contributions by bank giro credit slips.

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**5. 2020 RURAL CHURCH CONFERENCE**

The Presbytery agree to set aside £400 to underwrite the cost of the 2020 Rural Church Conference, provisionally arranged to take place at Alloway Church Hall, on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020. Details of the Conference will be made known when all the arrangements are finalised.

**6. 2020 DISCRETIONARY ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE DELIVERANCES**

- i) The Presbytery agree to the following reductions in Ministry and Mission contributions:

New Cumnock	£10,000
Alloway	£7,500
Ayr: Newton Wallacetown	£6,500
Maybole	£5,000
Ayr: Auld Kirk	£3,000
Annbank l/w Tarbolton (Annbank £2,000 / Tarbolton £1,000)	£3,000
Ayr St. Andrews	£2,500

- ii) The Presbytery agree to instruct the Clerk to forward Deliverance (a) above to the General Treasurer of the Church of Scotland.

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iii) The Presbytery note these reliefs are granted for the following reasons:

New Cumnock      Urgent manse repairs in light of the vacancy in April 2020.

Alloway      Rehabilitation/maintenance of the hostel block: Bandawe Girls Secondary School.

Ayr: Newton  
Wallacetown      To promote the Room/Sixty project.

Maybole      To meet loan repayments/unforeseen vacancy expenses.

Ayr: Auld Kirk      Towards Church Hall roof repairs

Annbank l/w  
Tarbolton      Audio-visual equipment update to promote mission at Annbank: new LED security floodlights at Tarbolton.

Ayr: St. Andrews      Unforeseen water ingress in roof.

iv) The Presbytery note that further applications for a possible allowance from the fund should be sent to the Convener, the Rev. Gerald Jones, before the date of the Presbytery Committee meetings in November 2020. This assumes that congregations are striving to meet their commitments by keeping Stewardship firmly before them, while **also examining their unrestricted reserve funds**, before making a formal application.

v) The Presbytery note a short report on the use of the Allowance is expected and should be submitted to the Administration Committee in due course.

**7. DALMELLINGTON PARISH CHURCH UPDATE**

- i) The Presbytery note that there has been no movement with the project to carry out alterations to the church building at Knowehead, Dalmellington, approved by Presbytery on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 subject to securing the necessary funding. The cost of the works, at that time, was estimated to be in the order of £330,000.

To try and move matters forward a meeting was held at Dalmellington on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 attended by members of the Kirk Session, William Mackie, Interim Moderator, Fred Vincent, Co-ordinator – Chance to Thrive and a representative from Presbytery. Ian Trushell from the General Trustees had committed to attend the meeting, but was unable to do so.

The feeling of the Kirk Session is that the congregation are becoming quite despondent as time passes and nothing positive is happening. The reality of the situation being that the longer nothing happens, the less likely anything will come of the development.

Consensus was reached that the Kirk Session reopen discussion locally as to which building might best attract funding and secure a future at Dalmellington.

- ii) The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to send an Extract Minute to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

**8. SORN PARISH CHURCH**

- i) The Presbytery homologate the decision taken, through delegated powers vested in the Presbytery Clerk, the Convener of the Administration Committee and the Sub-Convener (Benefice and Fabric), to approve the application to carry out a Feasibility Study for the creation of kitchen, toilet and meeting room facilities within the curtilage of the existing Sanctuary,

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subject to availability of funds. Furthermore, approval is granted to seek to secure funding to cover the cost of the Feasibility Study.

Should the Congregation, in due course, decide to proceed with the works, a fresh application will require to be brought to Presbytery for approval.

- ii) The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to send an Extract Minute to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

## 9. TROON: OLD PARISH CHURCH

The Presbytery approve the relaxation of the current embargo on building works as applies to Troon Old Parish Church, to allow essential remedial stonework repairs to be carried out to the clock tower/steeple of the former 'B' Listed 1838 church, now the main hall.

Given the lapsed time since the embargo on building expenditure was put in place, almost two years, and the as yet unidentifiable timescale when the future use of the Troon buildings will be determined, failure to address these matters now can only contribute to further, potentially costly, deterioration and possible Health & Safety issues.

There has been, for some years now, an ongoing fundraising project by the congregation/community to address the stonework issues together with the restoration/refurbishment of the 'Town Clock' faces and mechanism. This ring-fenced fund now stands in excess of £60,000 and it would therefore be the intention, while costly scaffolding is surrounding the tower, to deal with the clock at the same time.

The General Trustees have been consulted and have indicated that they would be supportive of the proposed actions.

**10. TROON: ST MEDDANS PARISH CHURCH MANSE**

The Presbytery homologate the decision taken, through delegated powers vested in the Presbytery Clerk, the Convener of the Administration Committee and the Sub-Convenor (Benefice and Fabric), to approve the letting of the Manse at 27 Bentinck Drive, Troon, during the period of the current vacancy.

**11. MAYBOLE PARISH CHURCH MANSE**

The Presbytery homologate the decision taken, through delegated powers vested in the Presbytery Clerk, the Convener of the Administration Committee and the Sub-Convenor (Benefice and Fabric), to approve the letting of the Manse at 74A Culzean Road, Maybole, during the period of the current vacancy.

- 110. MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT**, given in by Mrs Isabell Montgomerie, Convener.  
Report by Rev Chris Blackshaw, Pioneer Farming Minister.

- 111. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**, given in by the Rev Barbara Suchanek-Seitz, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted.

**GRANTS FOR CANDIDATES**

The Presbytery agree to grant the candidates in training Gillean Richmond and Andy Muir £250 each for the purpose of purchasing theological literature from the Girvan Bursary and Mackie Knockgerran bursary respectively subject to the approval of the trustees.

**112.    REVIEW AND REFORM COMMITTEE REPORT  
ON THE 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 CONFERENCE,** given  
in by the Rev Neil McNaught, Convener.

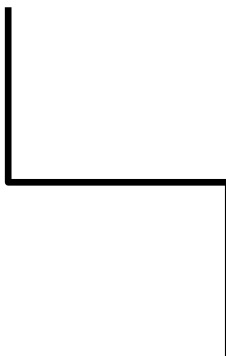
**113.    CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter received from RSABI (*Supporting People in Scottish Agriculture*) thanking the Presbytery of Ayr for their recent donation of £100, from the Christmas Carol Celebration in Ayr Mart on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**ADJOURNMENT.**    The Presbytery rose at 9.15pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Presbytery of Ayr will be held within Carrick Centre Maybole on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, at 7pm.

The Committees will meet in Ayr: the Auld Kirk Halls on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020, at 7pm.



**MODERATOR**

**PRESBYTERY CLERK**

**ONLINE INDUCTION, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

Online, via Skype, on Tuesday the Twelfth of May, Two Thousand and Twenty Years, the Presbytery of Ayr met and was constituted with prayer.

**114. SEDERUNT.** Rev Brian Hendrie, Moderator, and others as recorded. Ministers, 3; Elders, 1; Total **4**.

**115. INDUCTION OF THE REV STANLEY OKEKE TO AYR: ST ANDREW'S CHURCH.**

All relevant matters being in order and the Clerk having confirmed that Schedule A had been duly executed, no one having appeared to object to the life or doctrine of the said the Rev Stanley Okeke, the Presbytery resolved to proceed to the Induction of the Rev Stanley Okeke to the Pastoral Charge of Ayr: St Andrew's Parish Church.

The Moderator conducted a short act of Worship. The Narrative and Preamble having been delivered and the prescribed Questions asked and answered satisfactorily, the Rev Stanley Okeke signed the Formula.

The Moderator, the Rev Brian Hendrie, did induct the Rev Stanley Okeke to the Pastoral Charge of Ayr: St Andrew's Parish Church.

The Induction being concluded, the Presbytery instructed the confirm the Rev Stanley Okeke name on the Roll of Presbytery and inform all interested parties. Those taking part were thanked and the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

Special thanks were conveyed to Ian Kirkpatrick for all his assistance with the Induction.

**MODERATOR**

**PRESBYTERY CLERK**