

# NOVEMBER NEWS



## FROM THE MODERATOR



Clyde Presbytery is not simply a union of two Old Presbyteries to create a single Old Presbytery, but a union that will lead to a very different structure, with a different way of operating. That's quite a lot of change. Change is an inherent part of life, but we human beings can be very wary of it. It can be unsettling, we are losing the comfort of familiarity and experience, we don't understand how things will be in the future, we don't understand what our role will be in the future.

Dumbarton and Greenock & Paisley were both Old Presbyteries, but they were made up of different groups of people and had different histories (going back a long way) so their cultures and practices – though broadly similar – have slight nuances of difference. Bringing them together, it is important to recognise these differences and then explore whether to accept one approach or the other, or create a new way of doing something. Alongside this there is the challenge of creating a New Presbytery. There are no real models to follow, and the full powers are not yet devolved. There are challenges in trying to develop the vision for a) the fully-functional new body, and b) its transitional phase – and then trying to share that with the wider church community. The big reassurance in all this is that we are not simply an organisation – we are part of God's Church, and we believe that his Spirit is leading and guiding us in his work of building the Kingdom.

## Vacancy Business

### *Permission to call*

Neilston            sole nominee preached 1/11/20  
Paisley South    sole nominee preaching 15/11/20  
Greenock Lyle Kirk   nominating committee set up  
Paisley Abbey       nominating committee set up  
Duntocher Trinity's   permission to call expired –  
referred back to planning

### *Other adjustments*

The union of Paisley Martyrs and Sandyford is being severed. Thereafter Sandyford will unite with Wallneuk North and Martyrs will unite with St Columba Foxbar.  
Basis of Union agreed between Stow Brae and Glenburn.  
Kilmacolm Old and Kilmacolm St Columba – talks ongoing.

The linkage between Arrochar and Luss is to be severed. Planning is looking at what will happen with the vacancies there, and also with regard to the vacancies at Kilmarnock Gartocharn linked with Lomond and Clydebank Kilbowie St Andrew's linked with Radnor Park.

*John Armit – Convener Vacancy Procedure Committee*

## Stewardship & Finance

The committee formed from the Presbytery union has met by zoom on two occasions and by many e-mail exchanges. This being the time of the year for the 2021 Ministry and Mission contributions to be approved. This was done with the exception of three congregations who have appeals outstanding and are in discussion with the committee. All Members of the committee have been in touch with every congregation in the Presbytery. They have been heartened by the conversations from most congregations about fulfilling their M & M for 2020. A few congregations might not meet their contributions and the committee is looking at how to assist and give any advice.

Please be in touch about any finance issue you may have and we will try to help you or put you in the direction of somebody who can.

### *Discretionary Allowance monies*

There are monies available again in the following year and an application form and guidelines have been circulated to all Presbyters and congregational treasurers please consider making an application. The closing date for applications to be considered is Friday 27th November to Robert Kinloch [rkinloch@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rkinloch@blueyonder.co.uk)



*Robert Kinloch, Convener Stewardship & Finance*

### **Presbytery Planning Committee (s)**

Planning is split into two areas, with two different committees responsible for planning on the north & south side of the river. Both streams of planning will merge after two years and so initial conversations have taken place between the convenors of each and in addition, a joint meeting to introduce each other and discuss common areas of concern; we anticipate that the two committees will continue to meet on a regular basis leading up to the merger.



On the south side discussions have centred around drawing up an updated Presbytery Plan for the G&P side of the Presbytery. That involved setting up a small sub-committee who are gathering information from the Greenock and Gourock areas which will assist in forward planning there; as part of that sub-committee a representative of the Property Committee has joined to assist them in respect of buildings. The General Trustees are also keen to assist in the planning process and will meet with the committee in the near future.

The committee have also been involved in discussions with various Kirk Sessions/congregations seeking to implement the existing plan where that is appropriate. Some of these discussions have gone very well, whereas in some cases the issues raised have been more involved and complex; in a number of cases, the conversations are continuing.

On the 4th November the Principal Clerk is hosting a Teams meeting involving representatives of the newly merged or about to be merged Presbyteries, representatives of the Faith and Nurture Group and the Presbytery Planning Task Group to consider future Presbytery Planning, the convener has been invited to attend.

Both convenors are available to discuss planning, should anyone have any questions.

*Jack McHugh, Convener Planning Committee*

### **Christmas Shopping Ideas - Pop Up Shop**



OLIVE TREE is a small charity based in BRIDGE OF WEIR which for the last 15 years has sold crafts (largely fair trade) from PALESTINE, mainly at stalls in West of Scotland churches. Because of Covid this year, our aim to BUY, SELL and TELL is much restricted so hence the POP UP SHOP which is actually a POP DOWN SHOP in the large, safe “dunny” UNDER the house in Bridge of Weir (OUTSIDE access). Here there is a treasure trove of delights – BETHLEHEM OLIVE

WOOD (nativities and decorations), HEBRON ceramics, JERUSALEM jewellery, L’Arche wool and felt sheep and bags, VILLAGE CO-OP embroidered bags and purses, hand made CARDS, pashminas, TAYBEH olive oil, soap, ZAYTOUN dates, spices etc. ALL PROFIT goes directly to West Bank and GAZA charities – educational and medical.

MAKE an APPOINTMENT to POP IN  
TEL 01505612963 [www.olivetreescotland.org](http://www.olivetreescotland.org)

## **Mission Committee**

We have recently written to all Ministers and Session Clerks to get nominations from each congregation for Local Mission Groups (LMGs). This is the way the new presbytery agreed that the Mission Committee would be formed, with a focus on local needs and circumstances. There is no doubt that this is a new way of working, and it will only be successful where local congregations come together, and work together. The creation of a new Presbytery gives us a unique opportunity to do things differently, but this has been accelerated by the pandemic, where we have been forced to rethink what it means to be Church. Although it has been difficult, it's a fantastic and exciting opportunity to trust each other, to share, and take risks together, and try all those new things that we've always wanted to but didn't want to risk.

We recognise that this is a completely new concept. It will take time to build up relationships and each area will develop at different paces, depending on local circumstances, but please engage in the LMGs, contact your local reps and see what we can reimagine together.

The Mission committee are also keen to share resources where possible. We are collecting ideas for Advent which will be published on the Presbytery website. Ideas are there to be taken and adapted to your local setting. Where you wish to use the I.T being created by another congregation, please contact them and ask if you could share it on your channels, or indeed ask for some help in setting it up for yourselves.

One of the things that was agreed when both Presbyteries were discussing the merger, was the need to share some positive stories from around Presbytery. There are lots of them out there and in sharing they will be an encouragement for us all.

*Gary Noonan, Mission Convenor*

## **Good News**

### **Port Glasgow New**

The Revd. William Boyle was Ordained and Inducted into Port Glasgow New Parish Church (a newly united congregation) in March, during lockdown. Due to the restrictions, he was unable to physically meet with the congregation, and set about to develop a mission strategy for the Church that could take the Church into the Community.

William set up online services which have been attracting well over 1,000 views on both Facebook and YouTube and wanted to build upon this, so the

congregation have just recently purchased new cameras and equipment to live stream from their building. The first live streaming service attracted 1,500 views online.

They held a communicant's class on Zoom and have 12 new members, awaiting the day when they can celebrate and profess faith in front of the congregation.

Working in partnership with local community police officers, they have sought to make their grounds safe



and make improvements too, which engaged the local community. The Police paid for CCTV and there is now a gardening project underway,

with financial help and supplies by B&Q Port Glasgow.

### **Kilbarchan**

In these difficult times when a lot of our usual work seems to be on hold, it is refreshing to hear that Kilbarchan Church has recently ordained 4 new elders.

### **Resources**

Good Money Week – was celebrated 24-30 October, where sustainable and ethical options for savings, investments and banking was highlighted. Many congregations are considering these options alongside their care for creation. More information can be found at <https://www.goodmoneyweek.com>

For congregations wishing to explore this together, resource packs can be found at <https://www.eccr.org.uk/money-makes-change/>

If anyone has any good news stories or would like to share some useful resources, please contact either Gary Noonan or the Presbytery Office and we will try to share these in our next edition.

### **Zoom**

I doubt anyone will not by now have participated in a zoom meeting. This is a very useful tool which has enabled our committees, and indeed Presbytery as a whole, to continue to function in these difficult times.

If you need to organise a meeting in this way, there are detailed instructions available here <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/covid-19-coronavirus-advice/using-zoom-in-the-current-climate>