

**At Beith, and within Beith High Church on Tuesday 15 June 2010, which place and date the Presbytery of Ardrossan met and was constituted following the celebration of Holy Communion.**

SEDERUNT Revds R I T Macdonald (Moderator), J R McKay (Clerk), A Adamson, D Granger, D J H Harbison, M L K Howie, A D McCallum, A D McCallum, A M McCance, A F McGurk, M H Mackay, G P Maclean, D R Mitchell, A B Noble, B H Oxburgh, I M Roy, S J Smith, J Teasdale, M Thomson, A Taylor, **Ministers**, J Aitken, A Buick, A C D Hamilton, R Jarvie, M G Kellock, J Laurie, A Lees, G K McConnell, W Mackay, S McLellan, S McMahon, D McMurray, J McSwan, K Milne, A Pringle, R chardson, G Ross, A K Saunderson, E Sillars, N Smith, A C Watt, C Welch, K S Welch, R F Welch, J Welsh **Elders**; M A Broster, H Knight, R McCool, , **Corresponding Members**

APOLOGIES were received from Revds M S Cameron, N Cruikshank, R J Grahame, D J Heberton, F C Ross, E R L Watson, V G C Watson, J Whyte, **Ministers** L Borwick, A T Butcher, J Cameron, G Cunninham, I Hackney, E Halliwell, R Kelso, R Lavalette, S Lavalette, V Macdonald, N Martin, T Muston, K Tudor, **Elders**; J C Q Hunter, Revd A Montgomerie, M M B Ross , **Corresponding Members**.

MINUTES The Minute of the meeting on May 4, having been circulated, were approved.

HOLY COMMUNION The Convener of the Business Committee moved that Presbytery expressed its appreciation to the Moderator, to those who assisted, and to all at Beith High Church for the arrangements in connection with the celebration of Holy Communion

ORDER OF BUSINESS. The Order of Business was approved with the addition of correspondence; a tribute to the late Revd Irene Bristow and congratulations to Revd Iain Roy on the jubilee of his ordination and induction and additional reports from the Business and Ministries Committees.

CORRESPONDENCE The Clerk reported correspondence from the Secretary of the Assembly Council confirming that monies raised through the Moderator's challenge will be used both at home and abroad; the Co-ordinator of the HIV/AIDS Project expressing appreciation of the presbytery's response; of an additional report from the Business Committee and from the Ministries Committee

#### TRIBUTES

W Findlay Turner Revd Brian Oxburgh paid tribute the life and work of Findlay Turner, a member of the Presbytery for many years, its first 'lay' moderator and convener of a number of its committees. And, at the time of his death, Presbytery Treasurer.

Findlay Turner was born in West Kilbride on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1944. Although he lived all of his life in Saltcoats, his influence, however would be felt all over Scotland, most particularly because of his work with the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. Findlay will be remembered by all of us as a man of uncompromisingly high standards of integrity and conduct in his personal and private life. He was often seen as a hard man to live with, because of these standards, but who could accuse him of being unfair, unprepared, unwilling or uncaring. Findlay was a passionate man with a brisk exterior but a soft centre. He would never turn away those who opposed him when they sought his help or advice. Indeed Findlay would go to great lengths to help congregations and individuals. Findlay also had a great sense of humour. He once commented about his school days, "I was never very athletic and always felt I did well to reach the sand pit in the long jump"

After school at Saltcoats Public School and Ardrossan Academy, Findlay qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1968 and was immediately offered a partnership. When Findlay retired as a senior partner from BDO Stoy Hayward in 2001, he left a career involving audit, accountancy, taxation services, and management advice to all types and sizes of business in public, private and not for profit sectors. As office managing partner for 30 years he specialised latterly in charity accounting, business valuation, and wealth management advice. He took pleasure when he saw his clients succeed.

It was during the many years in the Saltcoats office, which he established and ran, that Findlay would have a steady flow of ministers, including three presbytery clerks, seeking help and advice. People sought help with finance and church procedures, regarding congregational, presbytery and national church levels. They also sought and received, at no cost, advice on personal finance and private problems. Findlay would always set aside his work to help. In the evenings he would do invaluable work for the church, helping church treasurers and office bearers. For Presbytery he served on innumerable deputations and visiting committees. And whilst still working he had served on the Board of Stewardship and Finance and the General Trustees.

Findlay was a member of the church all of his life and could not remember a time when he did not believe in Christ. He was always at the heart of congregational life and was our congregation's treasurer and an elder since 1968. Rev George Balls, the minister at the time, wanted Ann, who is also a CA, but the session could not have a woman as

treasurer. So they picked Findlay and Ann got on with the job, with Findlay's help. I first met Findlay in 1988 when he was convenor of the congregation's vacancy committee; the vacancy interview was amusingly, one to one. Findlay was very highly respected in the congregation not only for the enormous loyalty, dedication and hard work, but because he took a personal interest in so many people and had been such a good friend.

Findlay's involvement at Presbytery level goes back to the Presbyterial Council of Youth Fellowships in the 1960's. He became an additional elder member of Presbytery in 1979 and served as a member of the Business Committee and as convenor and Vice Convenor, Convenor of Stewardship and Finance three times, Trustee of the Nan Stevenston Trust and as Presbytery Treasurer. He was the first elder to serve as acting Presbytery Clerk in 2002 and in 2003. Findlay was the first elder to be appointed as Moderator of Presbytery in 2004, first elder to be an Interim Moderator and was trained and used as an occasional preacher within the Presbytery.

Nationally, Findlay served on the Board of Stewardship and Finance, The Parish Development Fund Committee, the Funding Forum of the Council of Assembly, the Council of Assembly Governance Group, and as a member of the Scottish Churches Committee.

He is of course remembered for his role as a member, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the General Trustees. Findlay felt that it was a great honour and deeply fulfilling to be Chairman of the Trustees. He was very keen that when the Trustees became involved with congregations and presbyteries, that they should be visited if at all possible. Far better to actually meet the people locally, see the situation and discuss face to face. These visits could produce surprising results. Sometimes presbytery representatives would be told that it was Presbytery, not the Trustees who should formulate the plans for buildings, sometimes congregations would be told to develop much more realistic plans. On other occasions Findlay would argue for congregations against Presbytery decisions and on others he was able to offer help from the Trustees which the congregations had never expected. Buildings became very much Findlay's passion. He could not stand to see money spent unnecessarily on building which did not have a future when more prudent measures would have released money for the mission and ministry of the church. Neither could he stand to see money not being spent to maintain or improve necessary buildings. Findlay's guiding principles were always very straightforward. He sought to see the ministry and mission of the church develop and be properly resourced, with the unnecessary being removed, or replaced by something better.

His concern for good governance in the church was again because he always sought the best for the church. He wanted the church nationally, at presbytery and congregational levels to be as well run and managed as possible, for the good of the church and for the protection of all concerned. Again we see Findlay's concern for individual people as well as for the church as an institution.

Findlay's life had a seamless quality. His personal life, professional life and church life were all integrated by his faith. It was his parents who gave him his moral values and started him on his life of faith. From this faith and these values, guiding him through life, came the principles by which he conducted his business, church and personal affairs. He was straightforward, honest, hard working, hard thinking, fair, forgiving, generous, kind and faithful. He sought to be faithful to his Saviour, his family, his friends, and his fellow man.

Findlay enjoyed lots of happy family occasions and for several years, holidays in the Scilly Isles and walking in the Lake District with Ann, his wife. He was very proud of his three sons, Robin, Gordon and David. He had played some of the UK's best golf courses and enjoyed cricket at Lords. Findlay enjoyed social events in the church, with family and friends, with colleagues and as a former member and past President of the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Rotary Club.

Findlay accepted the diagnosis of his cancer with resolve, determination to make the most of the days given to him, and courage. He accepted that the days would be fewer than we would have wished, but was grateful to God for each one of them. When it became clear that his illness was progressing rapidly, he was disappointed that he could not fulfil his commitments to the General Assembly on behalf of the General Trustees. But he never complained and he never doubted that his life was in God's hands.

Findlay always strove to be the best that he could be, and especially because he was serving Christ and the church. He always kept his word. He always showed personal concern.

Findlay's life may be summed up in his own words:  
"I am conscious that I have been much blessed. I have often felt that the hand of God was not far away. How I have responded to that is for others to comment and for God himself to judge. I have always hoped to respond to my master's sacrifice."

We remember Ann and the family, Robin, Gordon and David in our prayers and extend our deepest sympathies.

Rev Irene Bristow The Revd Dr Johnston McKay, paid tribute to the life and work of Revd Irene Bristow, formerly Interim Minister at Lochgelly and locum tenens at Kilwinning Old, Dalry St Margaret's and West Kilbride: St Andrews.

Irene Bristow was a remarkable Church of Scotland minister: not because she was in her forties when she decided to train for the ministry; nor because she believed that she was called to serve in places of considerable deprivation and to work with those marginalized in society; but because she had the most finely tuned capacity to listen to what people meant and not simply to what they said, and a highly developed ability to find ways of achieving conciliation and reconciliation where there had been disagreement and discord. While the congregations where she was minister

will remember a devoted pastor and a very sensitive preacher, what she also accomplished in her retirement will leave an abiding impression on the Church's work.

Irene Bristow was born in Glasgow, educated at Strathbungo Senior Secondary School and worked for fourteen years in cost accountancy. She and her husband John, whom she married in 1971 settled in Falkirk, where they became members of Falkirk Old Parish Church. The late Leith Fisher, who became minister there in 1979 was hugely influential in Irene Bristow's life and faith, and it was during his ministry that she decided she herself had a call to ministry. She studied at New College in Edinburgh where she graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree, and after a year's assistantship in Larbert West she was inducted to St Andrew's Church in Dumbarton in 1989 which served a huge housing scheme on the eastern outskirts of the town. In 1997 she moved to St Thomas' Gallowgate, a very small congregation in an area of considerable need.

Irene's natural style of ministry was not to lead from the front, imposing her views of a congregation's role on the membership, but rather to listen, to work towards consensus but meanwhile gently to drop into discussions her own very firm ideas and views which may have taken some time to surface but usually did. When the Church of Scotland created what it called "Interim Ministry", where ministers with particular pastoral gifts worked for a relatively short time in church settings which had been fraught with difficulty, Irene Bristow was a natural Interim Minister, working in Lochgelly in Fife.

Irene Bristow was a member of the Iona Community, a much more complex person than the surface pleasantries suggested, a much tougher person than the tender smile revealed, a and much deeper thinker than she pretended to be. I was privileged to share the journey she made from Boxing Day 2008, when she told Stephen Smith and myself of the diagnosis of cancer, to a final visit with her last week. The Church will miss her, as will most particularly her son Martin and her sisters.

The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayers of commemoration of Mr Turner and Mrs Bristow.

**JUBILEE** The Moderator drew attention to the fact that the Revd Iain Roy, formerly of Livingstone:Ardeer linked with Stevenston Livingstone, and clerk emeritus of the Presbytery would celebrate the jubilee of his ordination, and fifty years of membership in the presbytery on July 5. The Moderator expressed the congratulations of the Presbytery and Mr Roy made suitable reply.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY DILIGENCE** Mr Alan Saunderson, reported diligence on behalf of those elected commissioners to the recent General Assembly.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Business

For the Committee, the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

- i. Note that Revd James Whyte has been signed off work for four weeks from 27 May and express the hope that he will soon be fully restored to health
- ii. Agree to grant paternity leave to Revd James McNay from 12 to 26 July, or between such dates as may be required.
- iii. Appoint Mrs Ann Turner treasurer of the Presbytery for the current financial year with a view to extending her appointment thereafter should she wish so to do.
- iv. Note that J McSwan, R A Richardson and G McConnell have been appointed assessor elders in the Kirk Session of Stevenston: Ardeer.
- v. Approve the decision of the Business Committee, acting as the Vacancy Procedure Committee, in terms of the Presbytery Plan, agreeing to Kilwinning: Mansefield Trinity being given permission to call a minister without restriction.
- vi. Resolve that in the light of visitations in connection with the agreed Presbytery health Check, resolve that Congregational (but not Property) Quinquennial Visitations be suspended until further notice
- vii. Resolve that the September meeting of Presbytery shall be held within Lamlash Parish Church on Saturday 4 September at 2.00pm, the Business Committee to meet at 4.00pm on 25 August.
- viii. Authorise the Convener and the Clerks to take any decisions required over the summer to progress appraisal in Beith and Cumbræ.

### Property

For the Committee, the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

- i. Saltcoats: St Cuthbert's: Approve the replacement of windows in the church hall at a cost of £43K, estimates having been received and this being the most appropriate; and also the removal of asbestos from the ceiling of the main hall, at a cost of £12,100; and approve an application for support from the Central Fabric fund.
- ii. Dalry: Trinity: Grant permission for an application to the General Trustees for a grant of up to £10K to carry out a feasibility study on heating, the possible removal of pews and replacing them with chairs, and at the role and place of the church building within the community.
- iii. Grant permission to the Clerk and the Convener of the Property Committee to take any decisions regarding property which may arise during the summer recess

### World Mission

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Note with considerable approval that the amount raised for the Moderator's Challenge to Presbyteries raised was £27,300; express thanks to all congregations who contributed; and record appreciation of those who acted as overall or congregational co-ordinators.

### Mission and Discipleship

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

- i. Note with appreciation the report on the Moderator's visit to Largs and record thanks to all who assisted in making arrangements for the visit (Reports Page 42)
- ii. Note the report of the Elder Trainer and express thanks to Mr Ian Hackney for all the work he undertakes in this important area of the Presbytery's work (Reports Page 43)
- iii. Note the report of the Safeguarding Trainer, ask that members of presbytery make sure its contents are made available to those responsible for safeguarding in congregations, and thank Mrs Marr for her meticulous work in the Safeguarding field (Reports pages 44-5)
- iv. Agree in principle that A.S.P.I.R.E (Ardeer and Stevenston Parishes Integration Regeneration Enterprise) formerly known as the Transformation Team may take steps to seek charitable status but resolve that, following agreement with Revd Martin Johnstone, it is a condition of such permission that Miss J M McSwan and the Depute Clerk become part of the A.S.P.I.R.E steering group and at least one of them must agree to any proposals drawn up and arrange for these to be approved by Presbytery in advance of submission.

### Ministries

For the committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

- i. Approve an application for Study Leave from Revd Gillean Maclean from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August in order to complete a final paper for her Open University degree.
- ii. The Ministries Council having approved the appointment of a part-time temporary presbytery worker for Cumbrae on the basis of a Sunday and two and a half days a week, the Presbytery resolve to continue the appointment of Mrs Nicky Smith in this post until such time as the future of the congregation is decided.

#### Church and Society

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Encourage congregations prayerfully and carefully to consider the use of all their resources, both spiritual and material

**Presbytery will meet on Saturday 4 September at 2.00pm in Lamlash, the  
Business Committee to meet on Wednesday 25 August at 4.00pm in Saltcoats New  
Trinity**

Moderator

Clerk