

Basis of Union

The congregations of **Aberlemno Parish Church of Scotland (SC018944)**, **Guthrie and Rescobie Church of Scotland (SC017327)**, **Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church of Scotland (SC003833)**, **Forfar Lowson Memorial Parish Church of Scotland (SC002417)** and **Forfar St Margaret's Church of Scotland (SC001506)** shall be united on a date to be determined by Presbytery, and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Name:** The name of the united charge shall be Forfar: All Souls Church of Scotland and SC 002417 will be retained.
2. **Transference of Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united charge and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.
3. **Places of Worship:**
 - A. The united charge shall have 4 places of worship in the first instance. The places of worship shall be the former congregational buildings of Aberlemno, Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden, Forfar: Lowson Memorial and Rescobie. Services initially shall be conducted in the remaining Church buildings each Sunday at times to be decided by the Ministers and Kirk Session, subject to the approval of Presbytery.
 - B. The role of Rescobie Church and Hall (currently Cat B+ and due to be reviewed) within the future mission of this union shall be established and agreed with Presbytery and the General Trustees, subject to the Presbytery's approved Mission Plan. The church buildings at Guthrie and those at present used by the congregation of Forfar: St Margaret's shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which it is held, subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the General Trustees (Delegated Powers) Act (Act 7, 1995) be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.
4. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be designated as the bounds of the parishes of Aberlemno linked with Guthrie & Rescobie, Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden, Forfar:Lowson Memorial and the congregation of Forfar St Margaret's, or as the Presbytery shall determine.
6. **Kirk Session:** Elders from all five Kirk Sessions with the two ministers of word and sacrament and the ordained local minister in the team ministry will make up the Kirk Session of the united congregation. One minister shall be deemed to be the Moderator of the Kirk Session. At its first meeting, the Kirk Session shall consider the numerical size and composition of the united Kirk Session and also whether use might be made of fixed term appointments.
7. **Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of the united congregation shall be administered by the Kirk Session in terms of the Unitary Constitution, the Delegation of Assembly being authorised to issue the appropriate Deed of Constitution to the said congregation.
8. **Minister:** The united charge shall be served by a team of two Full-Time Ministers of Word and Sacrament and an Ordained Local Minister. The Rev Dr Karen Fenwick, currently minister at Forfar: Lowson Memorial, and the Rev Maggie Hunt, currently minister at Forfar St Margaret's, shall be the ministers of the united charge operating under a Basis of Team Ministry in terms of

section 7(10) of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021), together with Rev Heather Gourlay as an OLM appointed by Presbytery. The tasks which shall fall to each minister within the Team Ministry will be as set out in the Basis of Team Ministry attached.

9. **Manse:** The manses of the congregation of Forfar: Lowson Memorial and Forfar: St Margaret's shall be the manses of the united charge.

The manses of the congregation of Aberlemno, Guthrie and Rescobie and Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of, subject to the titles on which they are held, and subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, of the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the General Trustees (Delegated Powers) Act (Act 7, 1995), be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.

10. **Ministerial Support:** The stipend of the charge shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the National Stipend Scheme.
11. **Power to Readjust:** While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the five congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.