

**The Presbytery of Perth met at Perth: St Matthew's Parish Church on
Saturday 3rd February 2024 at 10.30am. The meeting was duly
constituted with prayer.**

1. INTRODUCTION: The Moderator welcomed members to the meeting, both in-person and online and to those congregations cited to attend in their interests.

Cited congregations: Brechin and Farnell; Clackmannan I/w Sauchie and Coalsnaughton; Forfar Lawson Memorial; Forfar St Margaret's; Dunnichen, Letham, Kirkden, Aberlemno I/w Guthrie and Rescobie; Tullibody: St Serf's.

2. SEDERUNT: Rev Donna Hays, Moderator; Rev Dr John Ferguson, Clerk; along with 88 Ministers, 5 Deacons, 108 Elders and 8 Corresponding members as recorded in the Registers of Attendance.

3. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from 15 Ministers, 15 Elders and 2 Corresponding members.

4. MINUTES: The minutes of the meetings held on the 7th November; 23rd November; 30th November 2023; 11th January; 16th January and 18th January 2024 were approved.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Approved.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

7. INTIMATIONS:

Marjorie Clark advised that Marks and Spencer had gifted a quantity of low-alcohol wine which was available for collection at the vestibule of St Matthew's. She further advised that St Matthew's would be hosting the BBC radio programme 'Any Questions' on Friday 9th February.

8. WELCOME AND SIGNING THE FORMULA: The Moderator welcomed the Rev William McPherson who had transferred from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian, and was previously the CEO of the Vine Trust. After reaffirming his vows, he signed the Formula.

9. VACANCY PROCEDURE: The Clerk presented the report which had previously been circulated.

The Rev Drew Barrie was seeking permission to demit his Charge. He would attend the June meeting so that Presbytery could thank him after 40 years as a Minister of the Church.

After the lengthy period whereby charges could not call a minister, it was encouraging to see that the situation continued to improve. The appropriate paperwork for Brechin and Farnell

and Clackmannan I/w Sauchie and Coalsnaughton had all been submitted and was in order. The numbers signing the Calls were good and the committee recommended that both should be sustained.

It was moved and seconded –

THE PRESBYTERY

1. Received the report.

Tullibody: St Serfs

2. Noted that a letter had been received from the Rev Drew Barrie, dated 25th January 2024, seeking Presbytery's permission to demit from the charge of Tullibody: St Serfs.
3. Granted permission to the Rev Drew Barrie to demit from his charge from April 30th 2024.
4. Noted that an opportunity to thank the Rev Drew Barrie for his services to the Church would be given at the June meeting.
5. Instructed the Clerk to send an Extract Minute of this decision to the Ministries Department.

Brechin and Farnell

6. Noted that the Rev Adriaan Johannes Jacobus van Tonder had been unanimously elected as minister of Brechin and Farnell Parish Church and that the Call was signed by 150 members.
7. Sustained the Call to the Rev Adriaan Johannes Jacobus van Tonder to Brechin and Farnell Church and agreed to meet for the Induction on Tuesday February 13th 2024 for the service of Induction.
8. Instructed the Clerk to send an Extract Minute of this decision to the Ministries Department.

Clackmannan I/w Sauchie and Coalsnaughton

9. Noted that the Rev Austin Wicks had been unanimously elected as minister of Clackmannan I/w Sauchie and Coalsnaughton and that the Call was signed by 107 members, with 39 Papers of Concurrence.
10. Sustained the Call to the Rev Austin Wicks to Clackmannan I/w Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Church and agreed to meet for the Induction service on Thursday March 7th 2024.
11. Instructed the Clerk to send an Extract Minute of this decision to the Ministries Department.
12. Noted that powers were used to increase the size of the Nominating Committee for Pitlochry and Blair Athol from 9 to 11.
13. Noted that the Kirk Session of Montrose Trinity had decided to depart from the traditional position of the Church of Scotland in relation to ministers and deacons in a Civil Partnership or Same Sex Marriage.

14. Noted that powers were used to appoint the Rev John Duncan as Interim Moderator pending the creation of the new charge of Broughty Ferry Parish Church.
15. Noted that powers were used to appoint the Rev Grant Maclaughlan as Interim Moderator at Camperdown Dundee from Jan 1st taking over from the Rev Roderick Grahame.
16. Noted that powers were used to appoint the following as the Advisory Committee for Broughty Ferry: Rev Dr John Ferguson (Convener), Rev Grant Mclaughlan and Mrs Helen McLeod.
17. Noted that powers were used to appoint the following as the Advisory Committee for Pitlochry and Blair Athol: Rev Robert Nicol, (Convener), Sheila Mannion and Liz McCrudden.
18. Noted that powers were used to appoint the following as the Advisory Committee for Dundee Northeast: Rev Jim Stewart (Convener), Rev Carleen Robertson and Mr David Murie.
19. Decisions approved by Presbytery under Section 2 of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act VIII 2003) as amended on 28th November 2023:

Cleish linked with Fossoway, St Serf's and Devonside

- (a) Appointed the Rev Beverley Stevenson as Interim Moderator at Cleish linked with Fossoway, St Serf's and Devonside from November 15th for vacancy purposes and for all purposes from November 27th.

Dundee: Northeast

- (b) Appointed the Rev Brenda Elwell-Sutton as Interim Moderator at Dundee Craigiebank, Douglas & Mid Craigie, Fintry and Whitfield and as Interim Moderator to the united charge of Dundee Northeast Church of Scotland from January 1st 2024.
- (c) Agreed that the united congregation of Dundee Northeast may call a minister on a Basis of Reviewable Tenure to work with the Ministry Team.
- (d) Agreed that the size of the Nominating Committee for Dundee Northeast should be 9.
- (e) Granted powers to the Clerk to appoint an Advisory Committee for Dundee Northeast.

Stirling: Church of the Holy Rude and Viewfield Erskine

- (f) Appointed the Rev Colin Renwick as Interim Moderator at Stirling: Holy Rude Viewfield, Church of Scotland from November 30th 2023, which was the date of the union of the congregations of Stirling: The Church of the Holy Rude and Viewfield Erskine.
- (g) Noted that the Service of Union for Stirling: Holy Rude Viewfield shall be delayed until the return of its Minister, the Rev Alan Miller, who had been on sick leave.

Forfar East and Old and Inverarity

- (h) Appointed the Rev John Orr as Interim Moderator at Forfar East and Old and Inverarity from November 15th 2023 for vacancy purposes only and for all purposes when the charge became vacant on January 17th 2024.

Abernethy, Dron and Arngask

- (i) Appointed Mr Michael Benneworth as Interim Moderator at Abernethy, Dron and Arngask from December 1st 2023.

Aberuthven and Dunning

(j) Appointed the Rev Alan Murray as Interim Moderator at Arberuthven and Dunning Parish Church from December 1st 2023.

Buchanan and Drymen

(k) Thanked and discharged Mr Ian McVean as Interim Moderator at Buchanan and Drymen and appointed the Rev Philip Hacking from January 1st 2024.

Monifieth

(l) Appointed the Rev Lorna Tunstall as Interim Moderator at Monifieth to replace the Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin from January 17th 2024.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer, Rhona Nicol presented the report which had previously been circulated.

The 2024 budget as issued had been based on the full complement of Presbytery staffing levels, office and administration costs and committee expenses.

Presbytery Dues for 2023 had been set at £168,500, which included £50,000 towards the Presbytery Mission Fund.

There had been a contribution of £120,000 from the Assembly Trustees, which would continue for the next 4 years. It was noted that without this support from the Assembly Trustees, the amount to be raised through Presbytery Dues would be circa £290,000.

It was moved and seconded –

THE PRESBYTERY

1. Received the report.
2. Approved the expenditure budget for 2024 in respect of the Presbytery of Perth's general fund, staffing costs and Presbytery mission fund as set out in appendix 1.
3. Noted the gross Giving to Grow contributions for 2024 as set out on Appendix 2.
4. Authorised the Treasurer to issue assessments on Congregations for 2024 at an average 1.83% of overall assessable income for 2024, such assessments to be payable by 31 March 2024.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Business Committee – The committee had met on the 25th January for ordinary business, and again on the 29th January to review the structures of Presbytery following one year of existence. Presbytery would be given time during the afternoon session to discuss these issues.

Nomination of Moderator for 2024/25 - Nominations for the next Moderator of the Presbytery of Perth had been considered by a sub-group from the Business Committee and

the Nominations and Connections Committee. The Business convener was pleased to propose, for the approval by Presbytery, the Rev Alan Reid, Minister of Kinross Parish Church to be the next Moderator. His appointment would take place at the June 2024 meeting of Presbytery.

Brechin Cathedral – Presbytery noted that progress on resolving this issue was being made and that the payment due to Presbytery would be received soon.

Support for Planning Convener – The Business committee had agreed that a part-time Pastoral Assistant would be assigned to help the Rev Dr Karen Fenwick with Parish duties to allow her more time to deal with planning issues.

Appointment of Depute Clerk – The committee proposed that Presbytery appoint the current Administrator, Mr Ed Morton, as Depute Clerk as from this date. There would be no increase in Mr. Morton's hours but there would be an increase in salary to compensate for extra responsibilities.

Congregational Statistics – The committee noted that 15 congregations still required to complete their annual statistics and that these should be submitted without delay.

Agendas for meetings – The Convener noted that daytime meetings afforded an opportunity for conference style elements. The Rev Muriel Pearson and Mrs Katherine Southern would address Presbytery in a later session this day.

It was moved and seconded –

THE PRESBYTERY

1. Received the Report.
2. Agreed that the Rev Alan Reid, Minister at Kinross Parish Church, should be Moderator of Presbytery from June 2024-June 2025.
3. Agreed to the appointment of Mr Edward Morton, Presbytery Administrator, as Depute Clerk and administered the Oath de Fideli.
4. Congratulated the Rev Drew Barrie on the 40th anniversary of his Ordination.
5. Noted that the final service of worship at St David's High Kirk, Dundee, took place on the 17th December 2023, and the congregation was dissolved on December 30th 2023.
6. Welcomed the appointment of the Rev Emma McDonald as a Pioneer Minister in Dundee from January 1st 2024 and wished her God's blessing in this new role.
7. Agreed to the transfer of the Rev William McPherson from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian to the Presbytery of Perth and invited him to sign the Formula.
8. Noted with sadness the death of Evelyn Sillars, Session Clerk at Bannockburn: Ladywell and Presbytery Elder, and sent the condolences of Presbytery to her family.
9. Extended the sympathy of Presbytery to the Rev David Searle and family, following the death of his wife Lorna.
10. Extended the sympathy of Presbytery to Jean Porter DCS following the death of her husband.
11. Extended the sympathy of Presbytery to the Rev Alex Strickland and Mrs Jan Strickland following the death of their son Alastair.

General Assembly 2024

12. Appointed the following to serve as Commissioners to the May 2024 meeting of the General Assembly:

Ministers: Rev Fiona Bullock; Rev Brenda Elwell-Sutton; Rev Dr John Ferguson, Rev Dr Andrew Gardner; Rev Michael Goss; Rev Donna Hays; Rev Dr Alison Jack; Rev Grant Maclauchlan; Rev Emma McDonald; Rev Gary McIntyre; Rev Gillian Munro; Rev Alan Reid; Rev Colin Renwick; Rev Carleen Robertson; Rev Anne Stewart; Rev Beverley Stevenson; Rev Anne Stott; Rev Allan Wilson.

Elders: Leslie Asher; Iain Cormack; Alisdair Drummond; Daniel Gunn; Ian Hunter; Christine Johnston; Elizabeth Kidd; Gordon McBean; Gordon McFarlane; Ian McVean; Thomas Morrison; David Murie; Valerie Rose; Catherine Ross.

Youth Representative: Kirstie Wilson.

13. Noted that 3 Youth Delegate positions were available and encouraged congregations to submit names as soon as possible.
14. Appointed the Rev Alan Reid and Mrs Valerie Rose to serve as its representatives on the Commission of Assembly following this year's General Assembly.
15. Granted powers to the Clerk to grant Commissions in the name of Presbytery to fill the current vacancies and any future vacancies that may arise and noted with concern that there were 8 vacancies for Ministers, 1 for Deacons, and 10 for Elders.
16. Noted that the Rev Dr Karen Fenwick was pursuing the re-payment of money due to the Presbytery from central funds in respect of Brechin Cathedral.
17. Instructed Kirk Sessions which had not already done so, to complete their statistical returns as soon as possible and submit them to the Presbytery Administrator.
18. Noted that powers were used to agree an extension to the Rev Anne Redpath's contract of 12 months.
19. Noted that the committee approved a building sharing arrangement with Aberfoyle Parish Church and St Mary's Episcopal Church and that the Rector would preach in alternate buildings during the first three months of 2024, which was in line with the St Andrew's agreement.
20. Noted that the Rev Brian Ramsay had agreed to provide pulpit cover for the Rev Dr Karen Fenwick for which the Presbytery would fund due to her very heavy workload as Planning Convener.
21. Noted that FAPLT were holding a series of road shows with Presbyteries to discuss its work and also the Seeds of Growth Fund and that a meeting would take place on the afternoon and evening of May 8th 2024 at St Matthew's Church.
22. Noted that a complaint made under the Presbytery Complaints Process was now subject to a Procedural Review, which would be undertaken by a neighbouring Presbytery.
23. Noted that the Rev Alan Miller had now returned to work following a period of sick leave and thanked the Rev Colin Renwick for acting as Interim Moderator, noting that he was discharged as Interim Moderator using powers.
24. Notes that the Rev Fiona Bullock has returned to work following a period of sick leave and thanked the Rev Bob Milne for acting as Interim Moderator, noting that he was discharged using powers.

25. Noted that the Rev Nardia Sandison had returned to work following a period of sick leave and thanked the Rev Jean Kirkwood for acting as Interim Moderator, noting that she was discharged using powers.
26. Noted that the Rev Anne Redpath had returned to work following a period of sick leave.

b) Church in Community – The Interim Convener, Marjorie Clark presented the report which had previously been circulated.

Church of Scotland Mission Partners in Zambia - Ida and Keith Waddell previously had a strong link with a number of Churches in the legacy Stirling Presbytery. They would be returning home to Scotland and Churches had been invited to host them from May 3 – 13th. The Convener would welcome invitations from around the whole Presbytery. They were jointly sponsored by the Church of Scotland and the Methodist Church, and offered opportunities for ecumenical meetings locally.

St Mark's, Stirling - Rev Barry Hughes of St Mark's Church in the Raploch in Stirling shared news about Eman Musa, a Sudanese refugee living in his parish, and one of his Elders. Her mother had been killed in Khartoum - the victim of a bullet during street fighting. Barry's congregation and the wider refugee community in Stirling was supporting Eman at this difficult time. This served as a reminder about forgotten conflicts in the world, the need to be aware of refugees and asylum seekers in our own communities and the opportunities there may be for us to support them.

Action on Poverty – The committee commended the resources provided by Church Action on Poverty for Poverty Sunday on February 11th, and their ecumenical Lent Course, with contributions from Christian Aid and the Trussell Trust; it would be available on line on Thursday evenings during Lent, and also available to download from their website.

Working with other Presbyteries - The committee were now in contact with the Conveners of similar committees in other Presbyteries; and would jointly explore the possibilities of organizing Zoom meetings on particular issues. It was hoped to arrange a conference later in the year, focusing on the Net Zero Pathway; this would be in partnership with Eco-Congregation Scotland and Christian Aid, similar to conferences already held in Fife and the North east and Northern Isles Presbyteries.

The Convener would welcome more committee members. Those interested should contact her in the first instance.

It was moved and seconded –

THE PRESBYTERY

1. Received the report.
2. Welcomed World Mission partners Keith and Ida Waddell on deputation in May, and offered congregations the opportunity to hear about their work in Zambia.

3. Welcomed the Rev. Muriel Pearson, Minister at the Church of Scotland in Tiberias, and invited her to address Presbytery on the current situation in the Middle East.

The Rev Muriel Pearson addressed the Presbytery. Ever since the Hamas attack in October 2023 and the response from Israel, the situation had deteriorated with widespread destruction of buildings in the Gaza strip involving the displacement of the entire population as well as a very high toll of deaths. Her ministry sought to meet to pray, to heal divisions and to channel rage into positive outcomes.

The Presbytery of Perth could assist the ministry in Palestine in the following ways:

**** Stay informed** - Sign up for Mission Partner Letters and blogs, and with the Balfour Project, or Embrace the Middle East, both of whom also provided good commentary on the situation.

**** Financial support** - Raise money to make small grants through Christian Aid or the Church of Scotland to support the Christian community and/or local NGOs working to promote peace with justice. Support Palestinian craft producers by inviting Hadeel to run a stall at church events.

**** Advocate and lobby** - Write to MP's asking them to raise with the UK Government the hope that International Humanitarian Law would be upheld; that the State of Palestine would be recognised; and that they would work with all parties to ensure a political solution to the conflict with human rights guaranteed for all.

**** Pray** - Join Christian Aid, the Church of Scotland and others on the 24th of each month to hear from partners and to pray in an informed way. Sign up for Sabeel's weekly prayer letter which gave good background as to what was happening 'on the ground'.

The Moderator thanked the Rev Muriel Pearson for an excellent presentation and wished her God's richest blessing.

The committee further commended the various statements made over the years by the Church of Scotland on the Middle East, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories – these could be found on the Church of Scotland website.

4. Encouraged Churches to be aware of opportunities to engage with and offer support to refugees and asylum seekers in their local communities.
5. Commended the resources from Church Action on Poverty for Poverty Sunday on February 11th, and the Lent Course.
6. Invited suggestions for future focus for the Church in Community Committee, and encouraged members of Presbytery to consider joining the committee.

C) Planning and Deployment – The Rev Dr Karen Fenwick presented the report which had previously been circulated.

Forfar - The PMP for Forfar called for two Kirk Sessions in the first instance, working towards one. Towards the latter part of 2023, the western part of the Forfar cluster came together as one Kirk Session with the newly formed congregation of East, Old and Inverarity, which was now in vacancy.

On Sunday 28th January 2024, the congregations voted on a Basis of Union and a Basis of Team Ministry to form Forfar: All Souls Church of Scotland.

Whilst four of the five Kirk Sessions voted in favour of both bases, the Kirk Session of Guthrie/Rescobie voted 4 to 3 against the Basis of Union (they voted 4 to 3 in favour of the Basis of Team Ministry). However, in light of the favourable vote on both bases by the congregation, Presbytery was asked to approve the Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry.

Supplementary report -

The Kirk Sessions of Craigie and Moncrieffe and St Leonards-in-the-Fields were excited about the opportunities in the South Perth area to enhance current youth, family and elderly ministry in the area with a vision of a fully integrated Intergenerational mission. The existing parishes had a mixture of young families and the elderly, many of whom were already engaged in the Churches through YMCA initiatives, Messy Church, uniformed organisations and dementia singing groups. There was much to do to achieve the vision, not least bringing the congregations into union and the consolidation of the buildings to meet the requirements of the Presbytery Mission Plan.

A Transition Minister would work alongside the congregations to achieve the vision of bringing the Gospel to all people in the South Perth area through a wonderful, fresh expression of Intergenerational form of Ministry and mission.

It was moved and seconded –

THE PRESBYTERY

1. Received the Report.
2. Granted permission to Forfar: East, Old & Inverarity to call a Minister on the Basis of a 7 Year Reviewable Tenure.
3. Noted that on Sunday January 28th 2024, 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) voted in favour of a Basis of Union and a Basis of Team Ministry and approves the Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry to form the united Charge of Forfar: All Souls Church of Scotland. The votes were:

	Basis of Union		Basis of Team Ministry	
	For	Against	For	Against
Aberlemno	20	9	21	7
Guthrie and Rescobie	12	7	16	3
Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden	32	0	32	0

Forfar Lowson Memorial	90	1	90	1
Forfar St Margaret's	61	4	65	0

4. Noted that on Sunday 26th November, 2023, the congregations of Blair Atholl and Struan (Sc013516) and Rannoch Churches voted on a Basis of Severance and the congregations of Blair Atholl & Struan Church of Scotland (SC013516) and the congregation of Pitlochry Church of Scotland (SC008361) voted in favour of a Basis of Linkage. The votes were:-

	Basis of Severance		Basis of Linkage	
	For	Against	For	Against
Blair Atholl and Struan	21	0	21	0
Foss & Rannoch	5	0	n/a	n/a
Braes of Rannoch	4	0	n/a	n/a
Pitlochry Church of Scotland	n/a	n/a	43	0

This was approved by the committee.

5. Noted that the congregations of Arbroath: Old and Abbey Church of Scotland (SC013052), Arbroath: St Andrew's Church of Scotland (SC005478), Arbroath: West Kirk Church of Scotland (SC006482), Arbroath: St Vigeans Church of Scotland (SC003049), Carmyllie Parish Church of Scotland (SC017424) and Colliston Church of Scotland (SC001293), Friockheim and Kinnell Parish Church of Scotland (SC005085) and Inverkeilor and Lunan Church of Scotland (SC017785) voted on Sunday 3rd December in favour of a Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry to form Arbroath and District Parish Church. The votes were:-

	Basis of Union		Basis of Team Ministry	
	For	Against	For	Against
Arbroath: Old and Abbey	27	6	32	1
Arbroath: St Andrew's	95	4	95	4
Arbroath: West Kirk	57	3	57	3
Arbroath: St Vigeans	39	0	39	0
Carmyllie	15	0	15	0
Colliston	8	0	7	1
Friockheim and Kinnell	10	0	10	0
Inverkeilor and Lunan	7	0	7	0

The committee approved the Bases and granted permission to call on 7-year reviewable tenure for the vacant post.

Presbytery agreed that the Union should take effect from February 29th 2024.

6. Noted that the congregations of Auchterhouse Parish Church (SC016717), Fowlis and Liff Parish Church (SC002792), and Lundie and Muirhead Parish Church (SC001085) voted in favour of a Basis of Union on Sunday 10th December 2023. The votes were:-

	For	Against
Auchterhouse	38	0
Fowlis and Liff	15	2
Lundie and Muirhead	29	0

The committee approved the Basis of Union.

Supplementary Report:

1. Received the report.
2. In accordance with the Presbytery Plan, agreed in principle to the appointment of a Transition Minister to the congregations of St Leonard's in the Fields and Craigie & Moncrieffe as they worked towards union, noting that the person appointed shall become the Transition Minister of the united charge.
3. Noted that the appointment of a Transition Minister in principle at St Leonard's in the Fields and Craigie & Moncrieffe was subject to the approval of both congregations.
4. Noted that if the congregations agreed to the appointment of a Transition Minister that they would not have the right to Call under the normal vacancy process.
5. Instructed the Clerk to send an Extract Minute of this decision to the Ministries Department.

d) Mission and Ministries – The Rev Drew Barrie presented the report which had previously been circulated.

Social needs - Various congregations provided help with food, clothing and warm spaces, as did other Christian groups, religious organisations and secular charities. To enable congregations to share expertise and concerns around running foodbanks, larders, warm spaces and clothing support projects it was intended to run a **Pop-Up** Resource Event (PURE) in the near future. They welcomed any suggestions of ways in which Presbytery might support such projects.

Worship Leader Accreditation - Presbytery was asked to Accredite Elaine Melrose as a Worship Leader.

Training for Leaders working with young people - The Team was asked to consider arranging a training session for that group. A short life working group would be formed, led by Gordon Roy from Blackford Church. The group would comprise representatives from the legacy Presbyteries to plan the event for those working with the different age groups, to be help in September 2024. To ensure that the committee understood the range of activities provided

for that group Presbytery would request contact details of leaders working with young people.

Invite a Friend to Church – It was suggested that all congregations in the Presbytery ask members of their congregations to invite a friend to come with them to Church on Palm Sunday, 24th March 2024. If this were being done by a number of congregations on the same date, publicity might be placed in local papers and social media. If a congregation wished to do so invitations could be printed. Whilst the date was arbitrary, there may be advantages in Churches issuing this invitation for the same date.

Grants - A grant from the Presbytery's fund for 2023 was approved by the Mission Fund Committee. The purpose of this grant was as follows: ***In Together***, a volunteer led initiative with a vision to reach out to families who had children with additional support needs.

As agreed at the last Presbytery meeting, the next deadline for applications for Presbytery funding would be the 29th February 2024. All applications should be in the hands of the Presbytery Clerk by that date.

It was moved and seconded –

THE PRESBYTERY

1. Received the report.
2. Noted that the next deadline for applications for Presbytery funding of projects was 29th February 2024 and that all applications should be in the hands of the Presbytery Clerk by that date.
3. Noted the intention to run a **Pop-Up Resource Event** (PURE) to encourage congregations to share expertise around ways to address food and other forms of poverty.
4. Noted that a training course for leaders of groups working with young people would be organised for September 2024.
5. Invited those involved in the ministries of the church to make their training needs known to the committee.
6. Noted that the Rev. Graham Duffin of **Growing Young** would be invited to speak at the November meeting of Presbytery.
7. Encouraged congregations to hold an **"Invite a Friend to Church"** Sunday on Palm Sunday, 24th March 2024.
8. Asked the Business Committee to invite the **Towards Ministry Team** to run a Celebrating Calling event in the Presbytery area.
9. Noted that the recent application to the Seeds of Growth fund by Kinross Parish Church was successful. The Church had been awarded £103 000.
10. Noted that the recent application to the Seeds of Growth fund by Dunblane: St. Blane's and Dunblane Cathedral was successful. The Church had been provisionally awarded £103 000.
11. Noted that the recent application to the Seeds of Growth fund by Perth North Church was not successful.

12. Noted that the recent application to the Seeds of Growth fund by Downfield Mains Church, Dundee was not successful.
13. Noted that the recent application to the Seeds of Growth fund by Stirling North Church was not successful.
14. Noted that, from the Presbytery Mission Fund 2023, the following additional grant was allocated: Perth North Church £10 000.
15. Noted that, acting under powers, the committee approved Study Leave for the Rev Jean Kirkwood. This was to attend a winter school in Manchester at the Luther King Centre for Theology and Ministry which was entitled "**Theologies of the Body.**"
16. Noted that, acting under powers, the committee approved Study Leave for the Rev. Alan Reid.
17. Noted that, acting under powers, the committee approved Study Leave for the Rev Scott McInnes to look at Cafe Church and do some reading on Mission and Evangelism.
18. Appointed the Rev Emma McDonald as the Presbytery link to the Presbytery Mission Initiatives of Bertha Park and Intogether.
19. Agreed to Elaine Melrose of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers/Fortingall being accredited as a Worship Leader in Presbytery.
20. Noted that Presbytery would ask congregations for detail of Leaders of groups working with young people.
21. On behalf of the congregation of Perth: Auchterarder, supported the application to Seeds of Growth which fitted within the criteria and mission purpose outlined in the Presbytery's Mission Plan and that, should an award be made, the Presbytery would delegate the responsibility for it (including accepting the conditions of award, finances, receiving payments and accounting for the Grant, administration of the project and reporting) to the congregation.

E) Finance and Stewardship – Katherine Southern, a Stewardship consultant with direct responsibility for the Presbyteries of Clyde, Fife and Perth, addressed the Presbytery. She noted that Stewardship was more than money, and was about how to make the best use of resources.

The Stewardship Team was available to advise and support churches in relation to Christian stewardship: provided resources, offering practical solutions and encouraged generosity in all aspects of life in response to God's abundant love.

As well as developing their own specialisms, each consultant served as the key stewardship contact for their designated Presbyteries, building up local knowledge and forming links with the congregations in those areas.

The team could help with the promotion of effective stewardship through engaging and flexible teaching and worship resources, focussed programmes, event facilitation and practical giving solutions. These services were provided free of charge to support congregations in this vital work.

The Moderator thanked Katherine for an illuminating presentation.

F) Property – The Convener, Ian McVean presented the report which had previously been circulated.

Perth North Church - Surveyors had identified dry rot in the north east Church corner on the ground floor and first floor. The work to remove the dry rot and do the restatement work would be carried out by The Preservation Company of Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife.

Kirriemuir Church - The application was for a complete refurbishment of the Church with removal of pews to create flexible space and increase the use of the building. They had funds available for the work and would send their financial plans to the General Trustees.

It was moved and seconded –

THE PRESBYTERY

1. Received the report.
2. Approved the application from The Glens and Kirriemuir United Parish linked with Oathlaw Tannadice for refurbishment of Kirriemuir Church at a cost of £548,436 and instructed the Presbytery Clerk to send an Extract Minute and information to the General Trustees.
3. Matters approved by the committee under powers:
 - (a) **Monifieth and South Angus:** Permission had been given under legacy Dundee Presbytery to sell Murroes and Monikie Churches and the committee agreed that the monies raised should help to pay for the alterations of Murroes Church Hall as a worship centre for South Angus.
 - (b) **Lecropt Church:** Permission was granted to carry out emergency repairs to the tower at a cost of £10,000.
 - (c) **Dundee North East:** Permission was granted to sell the old manses of Whitfield and Fintry and to buy a new manse for the incoming minister.
 - (d) **Stobswell Trinity:** Permission was granted to carry out an audio visual upgrade at a cost of £38,000.
 - (e) **Strathmartine Manse:** Permission was granted to sell this old manse as Strathmartine was being united with Dundee Chalmers Ardler and the Chalmers Ardler manse was in a better condition.
 - (f) **Tullibody St Serf's:** Permission was granted to carry out external repairs to the Church, Hall and Manse at a cost £6,258.
 - (g) **Drymen:** Consented to draw down £3,190 from Funds held by the Church of Scotland for fabric repairs to the Church.
 - (h) **Balfroon:** Consented to draw down £9,337 from Funds held by the Church of Scotland for fabric repairs to the Church and Hall.
 - (i) **Aberuthven:** Consented to draw down £4,637 from Funds held by the Church of Scotland for new carpets and vinyl in the Church.
 - (k) **Kingsgait :-** Permission was granted to carry out flooring repairs to the Glasite Hall at Dundee St Andrew's at a cost of £20,000.
 - (l) **Lundie and Muirhead Manse:** Permission was given to the Auchterhouse, Fowis and Liff and Lundie and Muirhead to sell the existing manse at Lundie and Muirhead and replace it with a new manse.

- (m) **Rattray:** Consent was granted to draw down £5,017 from Funds held by the Church of Scotland for repairs to the East Gable window.
- (n) **Dunkeld Cathedral:** Approval of the application for a grant to the General Trustees for payment of Architect's fees of £26,392.
- (o) **Perth North Church:** Permission was given to Perth North Church to carry out the emergency removal of dry rot from the Church at a cost of £56,035.

4. Noted that the Buildings Officer, Jamie McNamara would be distributing documents to offer more detailed guidance on property matters and they would be sent to all congregations in the Presbytery.
5. Noted that all congregations in the Presbytery replied to the instruction to complete a Manse Survey and the information was sent to the General Trustees.

G) Congregational Support – The Convener, Margaret McVean presented the report which had previously been circulated.

The Congregational Support Committee had met to agree which congregations were to be visited in 2024. The Congregations selected were ones who were not currently about to undergo great change, have a Minister in place and charges where Ministers were in their first five years in a charge. The visiting groups would each be led by a member of the committee and consist of a Minister and Elders.

A choice of two training sessions would be offered for members of the visiting groups on Fridays 9th and 16th February, 10-12 at the Madoch Centre, St Madoes.

It was moved and seconded –

THE PRESBYTERY

1. Received the Report.
2. Agreed the list of congregations who would receive a Congregational Support Visit in 2024:

Auchterarder
Blairgowrie
Bridge of Allan
Dundee Kingsgait Kirk
Dundee Stobswell Trinity
The Glens & Kirriemuir I/w Oathlaw & Tannadice
Eassie, Nevay & Newtyle
Glamis
Isla Parishes
St Madoes & Kinfauns
St Matthew's Perth
Stirling Park

The meeting was adjourned for lunch and was resumed at 1.50pm

12. Order of the Day – Following a recent survey which attracted 41 responses, the Presbytery set aside the afternoon session to consider the following questions:

- a) Did Presbytery have the Five Marks of Mission at the centre of all its work?
- b) What had gone well in the first year of Perth Presbytery and what had not gone well?
- c) How did Presbyters feel Presbytery meetings had gone, how could they be improved and was four meetings a year the right number?
- d) Was the committee structure fit for purpose?
- e) Should Presbytery be given more autonomy in relation to 121?
- f) What changes would members suggest that should be made in the running of the Presbytery going forward?

Members were asked to gather into groups of 8. Those online were put into similar sized breakout rooms. Following a period of discussion, comments were received. The leaders of each group were encouraged to write to the Presbytery Clerk with their group ideas.

13. Date of next meeting: The Presbytery would next meet for ordinary business on Tuesday 11th June at 7.00pm. The meeting would be in-person and in hybrid format.

14. AOCB: The Rev Barry Hughes alerted members of Presbytery to a funeral scam which had also featured on Radio 4 – Moneybox. Specifically, people setting up fake pages for people to donate towards a family's funeral costs, or setting up a page to charge people to supposedly view a live feed of a funeral (which unwitting people were asked to pay for, where there was no feed). The people perpetuating these scams did so by scouring the papers for funeral notices and then setting up the fake pages.

14. Adjournment: Following the closing worship, the meeting was adjourned with the Benediction.