

St Colmon Local Church Review Annual Updates

Objectives set April 2014:

Rural context:

Investigate the feasibility of joining with other small neighbouring congregations to discuss and find ways of taking forward the issues they have in common - creating and establishing a rural forum/ group over the next 5 years.

Congregation:

- Discover what individual Church members want, expect and need from the Church.
- Ensure Kirk Session is fulfilling its obligations to congregation, Church of Scotland and Charity regulations.

Worship:

- Congregational involvement in worship
- Encourage people of all ages and abilities to hear the Good News and worship.

Community:

- Make contact between school age children and Church
- Communication of Church information / events to members and the wider community.
- Strengthen links between the linked charges of St Colmon and Ballantrae.

Update on LCR objectives June 2015:

Met with Rev Stephen Ogston, Session Clerk & members of the Kirk Session

Rural context:

As a first step a Rural Churches Conference was organised with the support of small working group from the South Area grouping, of which Rev Ogston is a member and has now also been co-opted onto the rural working group of Mission and Discipleship Council. The rural conference took place on Saturday 9th May at Girvan South Church hall. There was attendance from Office bearers, congregational members and member from other presbyteries at the conference discussing ways to thrive and not just survive. From the conference ideas to be progressed include making use of church buildings for film nights, looking at pilgrim ways routes between churches, making use of church heritage, connections with Mission and Discipleship rural working group.

Congregation:

Discover what church members want from church:

- In each of the Elders District's all members received letters in regards to Data Protection and also requesting support for church activities and fundraising. Follow up by elders carried out and response good - have 31 offers of support and people who will be willing to be involved in the new team structure being proposed.

Review Kirk Sessions role:

- At present a new team structure for St Colmon is being proposed and considered with remits and responsibilities to be agreed by the Kirk Session.

Worship:

Involvement in worship:

- Worship Team - 6 people have undertaken training and there is more congregational participation in the Sunday service with more people delivering the readings.
- Monthly service in Kirk Hall taking place and there is a good response to this service.

Informal forms of worship:

- Messy Church commenced and have had 3 successful gatherings and numbers of those attending continue to grow – will need to consider bigger venue to host.
- Alpha Course underway
- House groups and prayer teams continue to meet and are well supported
- Coffee morning held each Wednesday which allows another opportunity to bear witness.

Community:

Contact between school age children and Church:

- Minister very involved in the primary schools and with the schools project linking with Malawi
- 'Light up Malawi' fundraising underway to purchase solar lights
- Chocolate evening for young people still to be progressed.
- Sunday club - due to loss of leaders presents a challenge but there are activities for children to do in church while parents participate in the service although no formal Sunday Club at the moment
- Hall is used every Friday for the baby and Toddler Group

Wider community:

- Colmonell Community Development Group looking for the church to be involved and represented on the group which is a positive step and will facilitate community and church links.
- Church involved in Fun Days taking place in Colmonell Barrhill, Pinwherry

Strengthen links between the linked charges of St Colmon and Ballantrae:

- Now have a joint newsletter with Ballantrae
- Hosted joint fundraising events and treasure hunt with Ballantrae
- There people who attend the weekly coffee morning from Ballantrae as this is open to all in both communities to attend.

Visited carried out by Rev Mandy Hickman, MDO, Ayr Presbytery on 2nd June 2015

Update on LCR objectives 20th April 2016:

Met with Rev Stephen Ogston, Session Clerk & members of the Kirk Session

Rural context:

Update on rural issues was shared with those present.

Rev Stephen Ogston is now a co-opted member of the Mission and Discipleship Council for Rural Working Group.

Ayr Presbytery has been successful in their bid for one of the Pioneer ministry posts. The post will be for the farming communities within Ayr Presbytery, hopefully will have someone in post for the summer.

The second Rural Conference will take place on 30th April in Girvan Church halls, Rev Ogston is part of the organising group and will be delivering on Fresh Expressions and the Countryside at the conference.

Administration committee are looking to put together a directory of tradesmen to assist rural congregations plus looking into a specialist group who can assist with some of the finance and property issues for small congregations.

Congregation:

Discover what church members want from church:

Still a work in progress people have agreed to volunteer

Have 10 new members and families, who are involved in church life and activities

Review Kirk Sessions role:

Have 2 new elders

Barrhill has had a boost through a couple who have moved to the area as they felt called by God to help the church and are involved in mission

Worship:

Involvement in worship:

Worship team doing well - have taken services in Ballantrae, Barrhill, café church and are going from strength to strength

Reading rotas in place for congregation and looking to extend that to involvement in prayers

Hoping to do 'healing rooms' on a Saturday morning

Prayer meeting held on a Saturday

Informal forms of worship:

House groups stopped and now moved to a café church model

Café Church started in September on Friday night twice a month- going well approx. 21 attend mix of ages from teens to older adults

Messy Church progressing and numbers good date for further MC events to be arranged

Easter Egg Hunt for community well attended

2 x Alpha courses completed hope to run another this spring and in the autumn

Prayer teams in place both in Colomnell and Ballantrae

Joint prayer and praise meetings 2nd Sunday in the month with Girvan North and Milestone

Also joint attendance at Sunday @7

Community:

Contact between school age children and Church:

Baby and tiddler groups continues on Friday afternoon in church hall

Café church is open to young people

Film nights continue

Primary school still very involved with the church

Wednesday Coffee morning continues a podiatrist now attends every 6 weeks allowing people to get their feet done!

Wider community:

Church hosted a stall at each of the Fundays in Colmonell, Barrhill and Pinwherry

Banner making project

Teddy bear trumbola

Church involved at the Christmas Lights event

Involved Project looking at Churchyard stones

Development Group – not a lot happening

Strengthen links between the linked charges of St Colmon and Ballantrae:

Shared coffee morning

Joint carol concert

Joint newsletter continue

Joint services and events

Agape Supper at Easter

Links through the Guild few attend from St Colmon

Other:

Involved in Vision Day at Newton Stewart

Some members attended the recent Community Faith event – found it very helpful

Visited carried out by Rev Mandy Hickman, MDO, Ayr Presbytery on 20th April 2016

Appendix 5: ST COLMON PARISH CHURCH LCR OBJECTIVES AGREED SEPTEMBER 2014					
OBJECTIVE	SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ACHIEVABLE	RELEVANT	TIME-BOUND
<p>1.</p> <p>Discover what individual Church members want, expect and need from the Church.</p>	<p>Conduct a roll review.</p> <p>Identify elders able and willing to undertake the task.</p> <p>Identify Church members who may be willing to assist.</p>	<p>Record responses, being aware some information may need to remain confidential.</p>	<p>Requires sufficient elders and assistants to undertake training and carry out visits.</p> <p>Some members of the congregation may not be willing to respond.</p>	<p>Required to identify the way forward for the Church.</p> <p>Essential to identify why so few members attend worship.</p>	<p>Complete by December 2015</p>
<p>2. a</p> <p>Encourage people of all ages and abilities to hear the Good News and worship.</p>	<p>Request CARTA, Historic Scotland and an architect assess the access possibilities in and around the Church.</p> <p>Monthly service in Kirk Hall to enable those with mobility problems to worship.</p> <p>Have a Church presence at all local public events.</p> <p>Offer more informal forms of worship and consider Fresh Expressions of Church.</p>	<p>Note feedback from services and events and any changes in the numbers attending worship.</p> <p>Records stocks of literature used.</p> <p>Note use of the Prayer Tree.</p>	<p>Kirk Hall venue and volunteers available.</p> <p>Inform and invite through personal invitation, press, posters, newsletters and word of mouth.</p> <p>Keep a stock of resources e.g. literature approved by Minister to be available at events.</p> <p>Consider Messy Church, Gathering or Cafe Church.</p>	<p>Keep the Church alive in the community and involve Church members in reaching out to community.</p> <p>Give the options to talk, discuss and / or read information.</p> <p>Monthly Prayer Team responds to Prayer Tree requests.</p>	<p>Assessment of Church access by June 2015.</p> <p>Monthly service in Kirk Hall.</p> <p>Monthly Prayer Meeting.</p> <p>Attend October Fresh Expressions event at Castlehill Church.</p> <p>Two "Fresh Expressions of Church" events by December 2015.</p>

OBJECTIVE	SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ACHIEVABLE	RELEVANT	TIME-BOUND
<p>2. b</p> <p>Make contact between school age children and Church</p>	<p>Minister visits Colmonell and Barrhill Primary Schools.</p> <p>Hold a “Chocolate Evening” in the Kirk Hall for young people.</p> <p>Enable children / young people to use the Kirk Hall as a meeting place.</p> <p>Offer Sunday Club to children 3 years and over as part of Sunday worship</p>	<p>Identify volunteers permitted to work with children and young people.</p> <p>Identify families with young people and children.</p> <p>Note response to invitations and consultation about use of the Kirk Hall.</p>	<p>Request volunteers to meet, plan event, identify funding source and issue invitations.</p> <p>Request advice from those experienced in working with young people.</p> <p>Involve Colmonell Community Council and Association.</p> <p>Consult with villages of Barrhill, Pinwherry and Lendalfoot.</p>	<p>Very few children and young people attend Church services or events.</p>	<p>Minister regularly visits Primary Schools.</p> <p>First event by March 2015</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>Ensure Kirk Session is fulfilling its obligations to congregation, Church of Scotland and Charity regulations.</p>	<p>Review Kirk Session’s role in managing the Church.</p> <p>Identify priorities for Church management.</p> <p>Consider need for more Elders.</p> <p>Consider work being done by South Carrick Rural Grouping Forum</p>	<p>Review roles of individual Elders to see how work can be shared.</p> <p>Review system of districts for Elders.</p> <p>Send representative(s) to any event organised by the Forum.</p>	<p>Consider whether a special meeting is required.</p> <p>Obtain information and advice from CofS and Presbytery of Ayr.</p>	<p>Reduced numbers of Elders and lack of new Church members is leading to a large workload for a small number of Elders in terms of pastoral care, mission and care of buildings.</p>	<p>Clarify current position with a report on present roles and workload by September 2015.</p> <p>Plan response / action over next 5 years.</p>

OBJECTIVE	SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ACHIEVABLE	RELEVANT	TIME-BOUND
4. Congregational involvement in worship	Worship Team trained to lead services. Volunteers to be asked to read the Bible or lead prayer.	Worship Team to meet and review services, noting members' feedback.	5 volunteers from St Colmon and 1 from Ballantrae Churches have been trained.	To encourage participation in worship. To lead worship in the Minister's absence.	Worship Team completed training in August 2014. Ongoing participation.
5. Communication of Church information / events to members and the wider community. Strengthen links between the linked charges of St Colmon and Ballantrae.	Disseminate Church information through all available means. Review distribution of the newsletter to reach beyond those who attend Church. Discuss with Ballantrae possibilities to share information for the linked charges e.g. a joint newsletter. Annual social event for the linked charges.	Note feedback / comments about the newsletter and through those who attend events. Kirk Sessions to discuss possibilities with the Minister. Note attendance and comments.	Volunteers to design and distribute posters and newsletters. Consider printing costs, ways to deliver newsletters e.g. volunteers or pick up points. Volunteers from both Churches to arrange an event and issue invitations.	Both Churches already join for some events and activities e.g. Home and Prayer Groups, "Sunday at 7", Worship Team. As linked charges, ways should be sought to support each other and strengthen links	On-going