

Church of Scotland – Faith Nurture Forum

Extract from the Minutes of the Faith Nurture Forum meeting
held on 16 December 2022

4. Presbytery Mission Plan for the former Presbytery of Ayr

The Plan for the former Presbytery of Ayr, now part of the Presbytery of the South West, was presented for consideration and approval.

The Faith Nurture Forum approved the Presbytery Mission Plan for the Presbytery of Ayr, now part of the Presbytery of the South West, subject to the following conditions issued by the General Trustees:

In accordance with the Act, the General Trustees have considered the Mission Plan for the former Presbytery of Ayr, resubmitted in December 2022, and are content with the categorisation of the ecclesiastical buildings therein, subject to the following items, agreed previously with the Presbytery, being actioned:

- A. the Presbytery committing to and evidencing at the subsequent Annual Evaluation and Development review:

1. Troon Old

- i. The commissioning of a Professional Feasibility Study, in conjunction with and funded by the GTs, to determine the following:
 - i. *The challenges, and approximate costs, associated with separating the hall and sanctuary buildings at Troon Old, including the taking down of the link between the buildings, the making good of the remaining structures and the reconciliation of the utilities and services.*
 - ii. *The marketability of the sanctuary building and site once separated from the hall, considering likely interested parties, estimated market value and challenges around disposal.*
 - iii. *Possible alternatives premises available to meet the missional requirements that are currently met by the Troon Hall building.*
- ii. It is asked that these buildings be categorised B while this commission is being undertaken.

2. Ayr

- i. The undertaking of a comprehensive review, in conjunction with the GTs, of the buildings in the town of Ayr. The number of buildings retained in the town exceeds planned building retention in towns of a similar size across the rest of Scotland. In addition, some of these buildings are situated within close proximity to one another. The review should include a detailed assessment of:
 - each building's requirements for expenditure, including maintenance and compliance matters and the congregation's ability to meet these financial commitments.
 - the current occupancy and usage of each building (including the civic usage of Ayr Auld Kirk)
 - whether the building is best meeting the needs of the congregation and the community.
 - The sustainability for the period of the Plan of the building and congregation in the light of the above
- ii. While the precise remit and composition of the Reviewing Team is left to the Presbytery of the South West to determine, it is suggested that the team should include members and

General Trustees with PMP experience from beyond the boundaries of the former Ayr Presbytery.

3. Auchinleck

- i. The audit suggested that the building is used infrequently and that the space is inflexible. It also found the building lacked facilities. It is noted that there has been a recent Ministry & Mission shortfall from the congregation, with centrally held funds showing a small balance and no activity for nine years. Details of how the proceeds from the sale of the hall, or other sources of income, can be reinvested to improve the church building in terms of usability and facilities, should be submitted at the first annual review. It also needs to be demonstrated that there are the financial and human resources to sustainably maintain and manage the building in order for the GTs to continue to support its retention.

4. Patna Waterside

- i. The submission of an Accessibility Audit and Quinquennial Survey at the first annual review along with the details of how repairs and improvements are going to be funded.

5. Sorn

- i. Provide details of the scope and cost of the proposed refurbishment project. Provide details on how the project will be funded. The building should be categorised B in the plan and the potential retention of the building is subject to these improvements being demonstrated as viable and ultimately taken forward.

6. Barr

- i. Provide details of the scope and cost of the proposed refurbishment project. Provide details on how the project will be funded. The building should be categorised B in the plan and the potential retention of the building is subject to these improvements being demonstrated as viable and ultimately taken forward.

7. Dalrymple

- i. Provide details of the scope and cost of the proposed refurbishment project. Provide details on how the project will be funded. The building should be categorised B in the plan and the potential retention of the building is subject to these improvements being demonstrated as viable and ultimately taken forward.

B. the Presbytery committing to continue:

8. Prestwick

- i. Whilst changes in building categorisations are not proposed at this stage, it was observed that the level of building retention in the town Prestwick is considerable. It is asked that the Presbytery continue to consider whether this level of retention is viable throughout the life of the plan. There might be scope for looking at the Prestwick and Ayr groupings holistically.

Extracted on 16 December 2022 by



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