



The Church of Scotland
Presbytery of Fife

Cluster: Aberdour: St Fillan's, Dalgety, Inverkeithing I/w North Queenferry and Rosyth

Facilitator: Alan Kimmitt (and his "pal", Margaret Kimmitt)

Date of meeting: 11th November 2021

Summary of Discussion Points

This was our initial meeting. The main objectives were to decide whether these congregations are the right congregations to form the cluster, to begin to get to know each other, to listen to each other's stories, to decide how each congregation should be represented and to agree a plan for meeting.

Actions from meeting (What/Who)

Alan & Margaret – To write summary note

All – To agree whether the summary note is a fair and helpful reflection of the meeting

All – Not talk about the content of the meeting until the summary note has been agreed

All – To circulate the summary note to keep the Kirk Sessions and congregations informed on the process

Agreed goals

Alan and Margaret are here to facilitate, enable and encourage. Any recommendations and proposals should come from the group, not the facilitators.

We agree that we don't know where this shared journey will lead, but we will embark on it together between now and the end of February.

We agreed that all the e-mail addresses of those at the meeting can be shared with each other. It is appropriate that we contact each other to talk about possible areas of cooperation between meetings.

To meet again at 2pm on Wednesday 15th December at Rosyth Parish Church with roughly the same number of representatives. If people are unable to attend, they are encouraged to find someone else.

It doesn't much matter whether each congregation is represented by the same people each time, but new people should be briefed on progress to date.

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It doesn't much matter whether the numbers are exactly balanced between congregations, but the priority should be to have good lay representation.

It is better if we can proceed in a friendly, relaxed, trusting way rather than being too rule bound or restrictive.

The agreed summary will be the primary method of reporting. We can talk about our experience of the meetings, but we should not be sharing the comments and views of others.

Anyone who has comments or questions can contact Alan between meetings on 01592 742233 or alan.kimmitt@churchofscotland.org.uk

Any Questions for Mission Strategy & Planning Group

Some questions were raised and discussed. No questions for the Group at this stage.

Any Support required

Not at the moment

Any other notes / matters arising

Summary of Stories shared -

Rosyth – Five years back in the building after 14 years by the dockyard. Readjusting after the recent retiral of the Deacon is a challenge. There are two other churches in the town, each shared - Methodist/Episcopal and Baptist/Chinese Christian Fellowship

North Queensferry – Only church in the village. The congregation are loyal and happy, but generally elderly. The community has a lot of commuters and retired people. There are alternating weekly meetings in the church for a coffee morning group and a walking group and a close relationship with North Queensferry primary school.

Inverkeithing – A Union of St Peter's and St John's, which has settled well. There is good community support for church events. The High School serves the neighbouring communities, with (prior to COVID) Colin and Christine as chaplains. There is significant sharing with Inverkeithing Baptist Church.

Dalgety – A large community with a lot of commuters. The church building was new in 1980 when the church moved to be in the main residential area. It is a broad church with people from many different denominational backgrounds involved. There is a good relationship with the local primary schools including using the Bubblegum and Fluff and Easter Code materials.



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Aberdour: St Fillan's – A 900 year old historic and evocative building, but without some modern facilities. There is an aging population but the Family Fun Week is popular. There are imminent new housing developments at both ends of the town. There is a good relationship with the primary school and the local Episcopal Church. The Church Hall is used by the whole community of Aberdour.

Other notes

The meeting was good natured and people contributed constructively and with respect. There was a good degree of rapport and a significant amount of enthusiasm and hope for the way forward.

We talked about "Quick wins" and there was some discussion about ways that the congregations can work together and support each other in the short term. These will be followed up by email.

Although there will be people in all the congregations who will find any change difficult, we believe that there is willingness to look at ways of working together and joining in missional activities together.

Possible areas of cooperation for immediate consideration – Boys' Brigade, Shared Pizza group for teenagers, Sharing of recorded services, Pulpit swaps.

Question for next time – How would the congregations feel about shared team ministry?

Date of next meeting

2pm on Wednesday 15th December at Rosyth Parish Church, venues to rotate thereafter.