



Edenshead Parish Church P1 National Church News Update

Hello Friends

Summer 2021

Please take time to read this letter as it contains details of information which will affect us all.....

We want to update you with what is happening in our church, locally and nationally because we are moving into an exciting time of change for congregations everywhere.

At the General Assembly this year many issues were discussed and agreed. Below is information about the items which directly affect us here in Edenshead, in Eden Tay Cluster, and in Fife Presbytery.

The General Assembly in May passed a new Presbytery Mission Plan Act which will see the number of charges in the National Church cut from **800 to 600**. Each Presbytery will work on how best to make the changes and Mission Plans will be finalised by December 2022. The full programme of change is scheduled to be complete by 2025.

At the General Assembly, the Rev Rosie Frew, Convener of the Faith Nurture Forum, said:

"We are draining the resources of the Church - people, morale, finance - just to keep this broken system going. Without a radical treatment plan the Church of Scotland will not survive."

"We know there is no easy or painless way forward. But we can choose our pain: the short, sharp pain of surgery, with the prospect of recovery; or long, debilitating decline with no hope of getting better."

For us this means that while the plan is being considered, certain things are “on hold”

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Vacancies -

Only currently active vacancies can proceed but a sole nominee must be found by 31 December 2021. In Edenshead we are *not* an active vacancy and our right to call a minister runs out in September 2021.

Property -

No new building projects will be approved - only wind and watertight or Health & Safety work will be given the go-ahead until December 2022.

Reduction in numbers of staff and buildings-

There are currently a total of **76 charges** across Fife Presbytery as of June 2021.

The total number of **ministries** (This can be Ministers of Word & Sacrament, Deacons or Mission Development Staff) in the current combined Fife Presbytery Plan is **56.5 Full Time Equivalents** (Dunfermline 16.5, Kirkcaldy 24, St Andrews 14)

In the revised numbers from the General Assembly, Fife Presbytery has been allocated a total of **44.5FTE** ministries for the period to 31st December 2022. That is a reduction of **12FTE**.

In our Eden Tay Cluster, (Howe, Lindores, Falkland, Freuchie and Edenshead), we have an allocation of **2.5 FTEs**.

It must be Déjà vu.....

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Do you remember, back in 2016, when we had the Cluster Consultations? We met with the other churches in the Eden Tay Cluster and we did some serious thinking and discussing. We were so fired up and ready to make changes then. Can you remember how good it felt to be planning for our future?

We were a bit too radical then but **now** there's lots of talk about bringing churches together and sharing buildings and ministry

We've been here before so we're already well ahead on the road to planning our future.

Maybe we could actually put the plan into action now.

Maybe we could team up and share resources with other congregations nearby?

Tell us what you think - phone Rod on 827001

This is our chance to say what we would like to see happen.

As part of the consultation process Kirk Sessions, Clusters/Areas/Groupings are invited to consider their future and possible local adjustments that could include:

Local Mission Church, Presbytery Mission Initiatives, Team Ministries and New Forms of Church Life and to report back to Presbytery.

This is your Church, so your input is essential. Please don't let our future be decided by someone else.

So, to summarise -

We are on a journey to rethink how we do Church here and nationally.

We do need to engage with plans for our future because we want to be able to influence what happens here.

Whatever else happens - There is no question of staying as we are.....



- The status quo is not an option.
- It's up to us to discuss what changes can be made.
- We're the ones who know our area and our people.

To revisit Rosie Frew's words from page 1 -

"We know there is no easy or painless way forward. But we can choose our pain: the short, sharp pain of surgery, with the prospect of recovery; or long, debilitating decline with no hope of getting better."

So.....

- What surgery would you propose?
- Why not discuss it with your friends?
- Should we have a meeting to share our thoughts?
- How about giving Rod a call for a chat?