

Selkirk Parish Church

Charity No SC014883

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Looking to the future

Letter to all members and adherents of Ashkirk and Selkirk

18th January 2021

About two years ago, the linked congregations of Ashkirk and Selkirk started a conversation with the congregation of Ettrick and Yarrow about how we might work together to bring stability and strength, enabling us to be effective witnesses to Christ's love in our three parishes. This local conversation has taken place in the context of the Church of Scotland's overall 'Radical Plan' which considers the future shape, size, structure and resources of the Church in the future. This was discussed by our Kirk Sessions and at congregational meetings.

A draft "basis of linking" has been drawn up by representatives of each congregation, agreed by all three Kirk Sessions and presented to Presbytery. This document (attached) outlines how our three parishes could work together sharing one minister.

The key points of the draft "basis of linking" are:

- Each congregation retains ownership of its own church building(s) and responsibility for all associated maintenance and upkeep costs.
- Each congregation retains its own Kirk Session
- There will be one full-time Minister for the linked churches with additional parish support anticipated – all congregations share the Ministerial costs based on an agreed apportionment.
- Selkirk congregation retains ownership of its manse where the Minister lives and all congregations share the cost of manse maintenance and upkeep based on an agreed apportionment.
- Each congregation is free to make changes to the linking agreement in the future as agreed by Presbytery

If you have any questions about this draft "basis of linking" please notify Mr David Bethune by 2nd February 2021. All questions must be in writing via The Church Office, High Street, Selkirk TD7 4JX or via email david@dbethune.com

The Kirk Session will consider any questions raised and prepare a document with answers to the questions. This document, along with your unique voting slip and a stamped addressed envelope for your completed voting slip will be posted to you around mid-February 2021.

The completed voting papers will be posted direct to nominated representatives of Presbytery who will count the votes (to ensure fairness and anonymity) and we will be informed of the result. If the vote is in favour, the "linking" will then be ratified by Presbytery and then by 121. Then Presbytery will set a formal date of linking, probably in summer/autumn of 2021.

Please pray that God will guide us through this time of change, so that we can know and follow His way ahead.



Session Clerk for Selkirk Kirk Session