**Church of Scotland Planning 2022-2025 - Update**

Edinburgh Presbytery received reports in October 2021 from the Cluster Groups which it had set up and charged with holding conversations on working more closely together. Currie Kirk was in the Water of Leith Cluster Group along with Balerno and Juniper Green Churches. Through 2021 the three churches held a number of discussions on collaborating for the way ahead. The essential points made in the Water of Leith Cluster Group Report to Presbytery were shared with you in an article in last month’s Kirk News.

After receiving all Cluster Group Reports, Edinburgh Presbytery issued a Consultation Document on the Presbytery Plan in December 2021. The Plan is now based on Mission Districts, wherein some Cluster Groups were merged, some reshaped, all now to form Mission Districts.

Edinburgh Presbytery is also merging with West Lothian Presbytery with effect from 1 January 2022. Currie Kirk finds itself in a Mission District with Balerno Church, and is now clustered with Kirkliston and Ratho, Dalmeny and Queensferry.

Juniper Green Church has been moved to a Mission District with Colinton Church and Slateford Longstone Church, clustered with Holy Trinity and St Nicholas, Sighthill, Carrick Knowe and St David’s Broomhouse, Barclay Viewforth and Craiglockhart, Polwarth and St Michael’s Churches.

Presbytery asked for comments and questions on the Consultation Document by 15 January 2022, emphasising that no final decisions about ministries or church buildings have been made. Presbytery received over 450 questions prior to holding a Webinar, an online meeting on 15 January to clarify the thinking behind the writing of the Consultation Document.

**Edinburgh Presbytery issued the following statement:** The Church is committed to operating more effectively and efficiently to ensure that it is properly equipped to deliver the Good News of Jesus Christ in a dynamic and sustainable way. At recent General Assemblies the whole church has been instructed to begin to draw up plans which will look at the future shape and number of ministries. As you may know, the church in Edinburgh and West Lothian, like churches across the country, is at the very start of a four-year process to ensure that the best structures are in place to meet 21st century mission and ministry needs.

One of the objectives of the current Presbytery consultation is to ensure that congregations work more closely together in efficient and imaginative ways to serve local communities, and to find ways to make this happen. A planning strategy team has produced a consultation document for discussion, but no final decisions have been made and the details contained within the plan are subject to change.

An agreed plan on the best way forward will evolve in due course and will be shaped by the feedback from congregations within the Presbytery, as well as national church bodies that have responsibility for overall planning, and for buildings.

No final decisions about ministries or church buildings have been made, but this will play a part in future discussion this year. In the meantime, the good work that Edinburgh churches are involved in to support the vulnerable and the marginalised and those with real pastoral need continues.

Across the country the whole Church of Scotland is facing similar challenges in planning, and the process is not an easy or straightforward one, but the ultimate goal, whatever Plan is finally agreed, is to ensure that the good work of the Church continues.

It will be together that we will, with God, find a way forward.   **(Church of Scotland 12 Jan 2022)**

*Note: The Consultation Document will be on Currie Kirk website – it is lengthy but information relating to Currie can be found at Pages 64-65 and 103.*