

**Rubislaw Parish Church Local Church Review  
Five Year Action Plan 2017-2021  
Progress Update September 2017**

**Worship**

Discussion Session - 23 February 2017

**Action Plan**

1. Celebration of Holy Communion
  - Frequency and Style: Minister to prepare a proposal paper to be taken to Kirk Session on 15 May 2017 for their consideration and approval. **DONE.**
  - Who responsible: Minister, Kirk Session.
  - **Proposals considered and approved by Kirk Session on 15 May 2017; changes implemented, June 2017.**
2. Worship Spaces
  - The configuration of the pews makes the Church single use but there is no desire at present to remove all the pews as we have the Centre which can be used as an adaptable space for worship.
  - Investigate ways to utilise the Centre for more contemporary forms of worship using a smart screen/PowerPoint.
  - If new format services prove very popular and numbers grow there might then be a case for installing screens and opening up parts of the Church.
  - Who responsible: Minister, Worship Group, Fabric Committee.
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**Communication**

Discussion Session – 2 March 2017

**Action Plan**

1. Online
  - Website – revamp and keep up to date. **ONGOING.**
  - Facebook – create a Facebook page; regularly review and update. **ONGOING.**
  - Who responsible: Communications Task Group.
  - **Website reviewed at Open Meeting on 4 September 2017; recommendations reported back to Kirk Session on 11 September 2017; small working group to take forward plans for the refinement and redevelopment of the website - timescale 12 months.**
  - **Facebook page set up, August 2017; already used to publicise our participation in Doors Open Day, 9 September 2017.**
2. Visibility in the Community
  - Notice board outside the Centre - needs refurbishment. **DONE.**
  - Who responsible: Communications Task Group, Centre Management Task Group, Fabric Committee.
  - **Notice board outside Centre refurbished, August 2017.**
  - **Notice board outside Church amended to take account of Communion changes and Church Facebook page, August 2017.**
3. Links with Local Churches
  - Foster existing links eg
    - Good Friday vigil and occasional joint Sunday worship with Queen's Cross
    - Young Seekers Classes run jointly with Queen's Cross
    - Local Guilds invite other Guilds to their meetings
    - Lads Club invitation to Midstocket group

- Networking meetings with Session Clerks from Queen's Cross and Midstocket.
- Seek out further opportunities. **ONGOING.**
- Who responsible: Minister, Kirk Session, all Task Groups, all Church Groups, all Church Members.
- **Joint Services with Queen's Cross arranged for 29 October 2017 and Christmas Day 2017.**

## **Pastoral Care**

Discussion Session – 16 March 2017

### **Background/Need**

Our congregation and office bearers are ageing so our existing District Elder system is over stretched - it is not completely broken but needs some revision. We have a gathered congregation so are unable to cover geographically distant members. Our pastoral care is largely focused on the elderly but we also need to care for the young and families. We need to be proactive to plan for the future and make better use of our limited human resources.

### **Action Plan**

1. Discuss Current Pastoral Care System: strengths and weaknesses
  - Who responsible: Pastoral Care Brainstorming Group, discussion on 16 March 2017. **DONE.**
2. Work Smarter – for consideration:
  - Reduce the number of people being visited door to door
  - Those who attend regularly and/or are members of groups (eg House group, Guild, Lads Club, Friendship Group) may not feel a need for an elder's visit
  - Those with a Special Elder to no longer also have a District Elder **ONGOING.**
  - Use telephone calls and e-mail
  - Elders with pastoral care gifts who are unable to go round a district could be telephone contact Special Elders **ONGOING**
  - People have different gifts – so Elders should not feel this is something they have to do **ONGOING**
  - Recruit non-elder pastoral visitors who have the gift of caring
  - Consider creating teams **DONE**
  - Need to be trained and refresh this training periodically
  - Gather data
    - Survey members to determine who does/doesn't want to be visited eg a questionnaire to the congregation on several Sundays
    - Ask District Elders for information on the members in their district **DONE**
    - Ask all Elders about how they would like to be involved (or not) in providing pastoral care. **DONE.**
  - Who responsible: Minister, Pastoral Care Steering Group, Kirk Session.
  - **Session Clerks have telephoned all our District Elders and active Elders without a district to discuss their participation in our pastoral care system as District Elders, May-September 2017. Two wished to step down as District Elders to become Special Elders, both now have PVG clearance. Three without a district wish to become District Elders. One without a district wishes to become a Telephone Special Elder, PVG clearance ongoing. All others are happy to continue with their existing district.**
  - **Nursing Homes are being incorporated into our District Elder scheme so these members will now have just one Elder (who is a Special Elder).**
  - **One Session Clerk met with the Friendship Team Convener and Vice Convener from Ferryhill to learn of their experience of Area Care Teams, 2 August 2017. This information was considered by the Minister and Session Clerks, 9 August 2017, and**

then shared with our Caring and Fellowship Task Group, 10 August 2017. After consideration, it was decided not to create Area Care Teams.

3. Caring and Fellowship Task Group

- Amalgamating the two remits has not worked particularly well.
- Consider changing the remit to become a Pastoral Care Team; fellowship events led by the Centre Management TG or others on an ad hoc basis. **DONE.**
- Who responsible: Minister, Pastoral Care Steering Group, Kirk Session.
- **Caring and Fellowship Task Group met with Minister and Session Clerks to discuss remit, 10 August 2017.**

4. Pastoral Care Team & Traffic Light System

- Team of pastoral visitors, including District Elders. **ONGOING.**
- Traffic light visits: Red – serious illness, bereavement, family crisis  
Amber – housebound  
Green – does not need to be visited so often. **ONGOING.**
- Team Lead to work closely with the Minister to review levels of need and allocate visits to members of the team.
- Requires an excellent flow of information to update the Minister, Pastoral Care Team Lead and the Team so they can respond to care needs. **ONGOING.**
- Who responsible: Minister, Pastoral Care Steering Group, Kirk Session.
- **Pastoral Care Steering Group met to discuss Traffic Light System, 4 May 2017.**  
**Maps well onto our existing system: Green equates with our District Elders; Amber equates with our Special Elders; individuals move into and out of Red and are cared for by the Minister, Special Elders, District Elders and their friends in the congregation.**

30 April 2017  
19 September 2017