

**TAKING SHAPE:**

**Beannachdan ràith an fhoghair bho Chlèir Eilean Ì – Harvest season greetings from Clèir Eilean Ì.** The countdown is on: with three months to go, CEI's leadership team is taking clear shape; embryo committees have begun to hold their initial meetings online, and all should do so over the next six weeks – the main agenda items in each case being to establish key remits and nominate conveners, who in turn will comprise CEI's Business Committee. Nine Mission Plans will become one; databases are due to be merged and established across CEI's area, and a date set for the first formal online meeting of the new Presbytery in January 2024. This Update is being circulated to everyone through our existing nine Clerks; it is hoped that we will move to circulating everyone centrally by the end of October. And here's the man who will do it...

**PRESBYTERY CLERK:**

Welcome to Rory MacLeod, who has been appointed as our first Presbytery Clerk, following interviews with short-listed candidates earlier this month. Rory, currently serving as Clerk to the Presbytery of Lochcarron-Skye, will now transition to his new role, becoming the key CEI contact. He says:

*"I am excited - and not a little nervous - to have been chosen to serve Clèir Eilean Ì as Clerk. No other calling would have persuaded me to leave my charge of Strath & Sleat, which I love. Indeed it is my concern for parish ministry which motivates me to channel my 30 years of experience into seeking ways of supporting local churches, through bringing more resources closer to the frontline of mission and ministry. As the Parish Church of Scotland in the Highlands & Hebrides, our new presbytery unites us in mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus to every single resident throughout over 40% of the Scottish landmass!*



*"That is an impossible though necessary task, which fuels our faith in the God who works miracles through those who rely on him. Once the Transition Team has completed its task of preparing us all for a flying start on 1st January 2024, my priority will be to get out and about so that all of our local churches feel supported and know that they / you are at the centre of Clèir Eilean Ì's activities. Nì mi fiughar ri bhith a' frithealadh còmhla ri-cheile gu glòir Dhè ann an seirbheis Eaglais... I look forward to us working together to the glory of God in the service of his Church."*

Rory will be in touch directly with our existing nine Clerks, to arrange transfer of databases, documents, and Mission Implementation Plans, as key functions of Clèir Eilean Ì are prepared to go into operation.

## **WORKING TOGETHER:**

Two of our Presbyteries – Argyll and Inverness – have already welcomed members of the CEI Transition Team to their meetings this month, for a presentation/Q&A/discussion opportunity. It's hoped to complete the "roadshow" round the other seven during Oct-Dec. So far, the main areas of interest were in combining Mission Plans, merging of databases, and the ways in which key functions (e.g. mission, finance, property) could be better resourced and developed. This can now be co-ordinated through Rory MacLeod as Clerk.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

### **Give thanks...**

...for Rory MacLeod's appointment to serve as Presbytery Clerk.

...for work already started, and vision expressed, through our nine Mission Plans, now due to be united.

...for the service and witness of our nine uniting Presbyteries, particularly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century so far.

### **Ask...**

...that the transfer of databases, documents, budgets and Mission Plans goes well, enabling future mission.

...for God's guidance in the merging of nine Mission Plans into one.

...that God's call to our first Moderator will soon be discerned.

***Beannachdan fhad 's a thigead sinn còmhla ann am misean agus seirbheis –***

***blessings as we unite in mission and service.***

**And finally... a glimpse of the future?**



**Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly, with CEI's designate Business Convener Rev Donald McCorkindale, at the dedication of a new church in his parish at Kilchoan, Ardnamurchan, this month. It's equipped for worship, community activities, and can stream services. Sally said "You will serve your God-given, love-inspired purpose. Blessed will be your worship and your music, blessed will be your clubs and meetings, blessed will be your outreach and service in the community you are part of, blessed will be your lives, an embodiment of Christ. Open wide the doors of your building and the doors of your hearts." The backlit cross was made from old pews, and another above the door is from an old mission church which was at Sanna Bay. As the Radical Action Plan puts it, we need "Well-equipped spaces in the right places." Here's a link: [Joy as Moderator dedicates new Highland church | The Church of Scotland](#)**