

St. Columba's Jersey
26th September 2024
Helpful Information for the Process of Growing Together
and Managing Effective Change in Church

**“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded.”**

Matthew 28:16-20

With Jesus at the core of who we are and what we do, we held a day of discernment on the 27th of July, 2024 regarding St. Columba's our and missionary potential. We began with a warm welcome and refreshments followed by Communion and prayers. We explored what we hoped to gain from the day and received a managing effective change presentation. We then reflected on what we thought God was saying and we listened to the still small voice within us. We collected our thoughts and ended sharing the grace before we shared a fellowship meal.

Between the 1st to the 15th of September, the congregation were also invited to add their thoughts. Together, we have discerned the following: How the congregation grew together through the vacancy to become a healthier church and what might help or hinder newcomers to the church.

In our healthy church check-up where zero is lowest and three is highest we scored the following: Integrity – 2 -3, Body and Soul 1-2, Church as an open house ½ -2 ¾, Growth ½ - 1 ½, Connection with Local Church 1 ½ - 2, Connection with National Church ½, Love and Care 2-2 ½.

The Kirk Session and the congregation also had the following hopes, dreams and visions – change opinion of the make-up of the church, i.e., it is not all down to the minister, connect with the community, stable finances, financially viable, better lighting in the church, engagement, to grow individually and collectively, there will be a Church of Scotland beyond five years, maintain core Presbyterian aspects in environment of growth, to always have a presence on island, to collaborate with other churches and denominations to grow, further social outreach, to fill the church every week and have more people joining the church, get a car park including disabled parking, greater use of the church buildings, regular participation of young families, provide attractants for young people, increased presence on social media, success integrating with FREEDA, improve retention, change the outside of the church which will impact on change within our church, consider heat/light/hospitality when the church is open midweek and fundraising/budget for church flowers.

In addition, we reviewed the following documents: Local Church Review, Five Year Plan, Five Marks of Mission, Annual Presbytery Review.

Since the induction to the Charge of St. Columba's in October 2023, Rev Carolann Birnie, the Kirk Session and congregation have reflected upon our identity and morale, spiritual health, emotional health, financial health and our relational mission. We have measured this by the success of the following:

- Transforming the inner church by setting up working groups with remits.
- Engaging with the characteristics of the Five Marks of Mission.
- Developing relationships and an action plan with Rouge Boullion School, Shelter Trust, Freeda, La Moye Prison, Grace Trust, Bible Study, Trypraying, Advent and Easter messages on social media, a successful Easter Appeal, a successful Stewardship Campaign (Souper Sunday), the

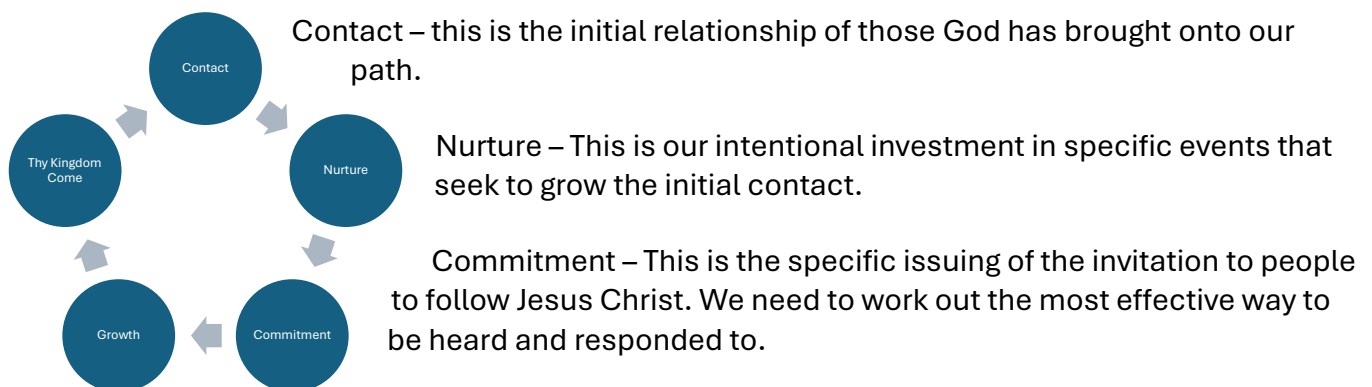
introduction of three new services (Prisoners' Week Service, Remembering our loved ones at Christmas, and Holy Saturday). Finally, we engaged with the Thy Kingdom Come Campaign.

We also work in the following areas of outreach: Noah's Ark for young families, establishing better ecumenical relations with other denominations on the island, providing courses for elders and others, managing effective change and cascading conversations exploring faith, offering the Bereavement Journey Course. Our minister has completed her annual CPD and Study Leave Training.

Our Minister has a passion for managing sensitive and effective change in the church and in the community as part of the story of transformation and transition true to the Spirit of God's story retelling it within the cultural challenges of our time. She believes that we have not seen the fullness of what God's church is meant to be for this is the current chapter, not the first, nor the last.

Clearly, we have a great deal of work to do and a detailed and measurable annual strategy to propose. Inviting the congregation to have their say is the first step forward. With the nomination, training and ordination of additional Elders, and with the consultation of and with the support of the congregation, together, we can make a difference.

In addition, as in the Great Commission from our Lord Jesus Christ, our ministry of evangelism is vital. This could be a helpful plan of action for every member.



Growth – is the development of faith that has begun. In this way a person is grafted into the community of faith. They will become part of nurturing other relationships, which will begin the journey for others. This process is how church can create a culture of evangelism that builds on the words in the Lord's Prayer, 'Thy Kingdom Come.'

Finally, our buildings. The church building is underutilised by the community. Given the General Assembly (2024) review of manses, our manse is under review with important decisions to be made. The church flat and the Caretakers Agreement is also due for inspection.

In conclusion, we have established deep levels of trust, and we pray to honour our part in glorifying God in all of our decisions. The Spirit of hospitality in St. Columba's is ready, willing to listen and engage in cascading conversations whilst embracing the principal of working to consent for the best practice in reaching God's missional goals.

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."
Hebrews 13:2 NKJV