

# Union of Congregations

Barry– Carnoustie – Carnoustie Panbride

## Background

Members will be aware of the huge declines in membership and attendance in the Church of Scotland since the 1950s. More recently, Church income has also begun to decline significantly, while congregations have grown steadily older with rising difficulties recruiting essential office bearers.

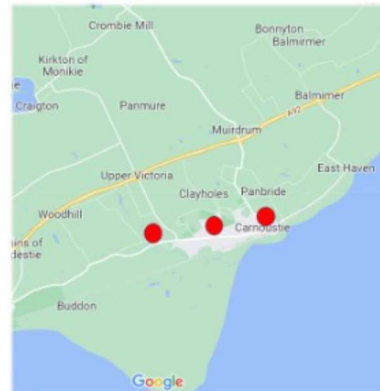
In 2021 the General Assembly passed the Presbytery Mission Planning Act to address these realities and, it was hoped, help form a leaner and fitter Church of Scotland for renewed mission to our nation and beyond.

The local Presbytery Mission Plan for Angus Presbytery has taken account of the need to reshape Ministry patterns and rationalise the provision of the right kind of buildings in the right places for the Church's life and mission.

## The Plan for Carnoustie

All Presbytery Mission Plans are to plan for the future pattern of Ministries and of buildings to serve the Church's mission.

The Angus plan is for a union of the three congregations of Barry, Carnoustie, and Carnoustie: Panbride, with a Team Ministry of two Ministers to serve the union. In the future, we are to work towards a new partnership with the churches in Monifieth and surrounds.



## The Plan for Buildings

The Philip Hall has already been put up for sale and at the time of publication was under offer. This is part of a significant rationalisation of buildings being pursued by Carnoustie Church which would see major redevelopment of the Church building, to provide a flexible and well-provisioned space for Worship, Mission and Community life. This renewed Church building is part of the long-term future for the new charge.

The Newton Church and Halls are in good shape as a complex serving the East end of the town, and they also have a long-term future in the Presbytery Plan. However, the Panbride Country Church is not well-sited or provisioned, and is to be disposed of by the end of the year.

Barry Church and Hall did not score well in the assessment done on the buildings. However, it has the potential to be a useful space for the mission of the Church, particularly in conjunction with the desire of Barry residents to have access to a public meeting space. Barry Church and Hall will also be considered within the wider discussion with Monifieth and surrounds. The date of final determination is subject to a change to the Presbytery Mission Plan being approved.

## Congregational votes

Representatives of the Carnoustie Kirk Sessions have been meeting for a number of months to draw up plans for the union of the congregations. A Basis of Union and a Basis of Team Ministry has now been drafted in keeping with the Presbytery Mission Plan.

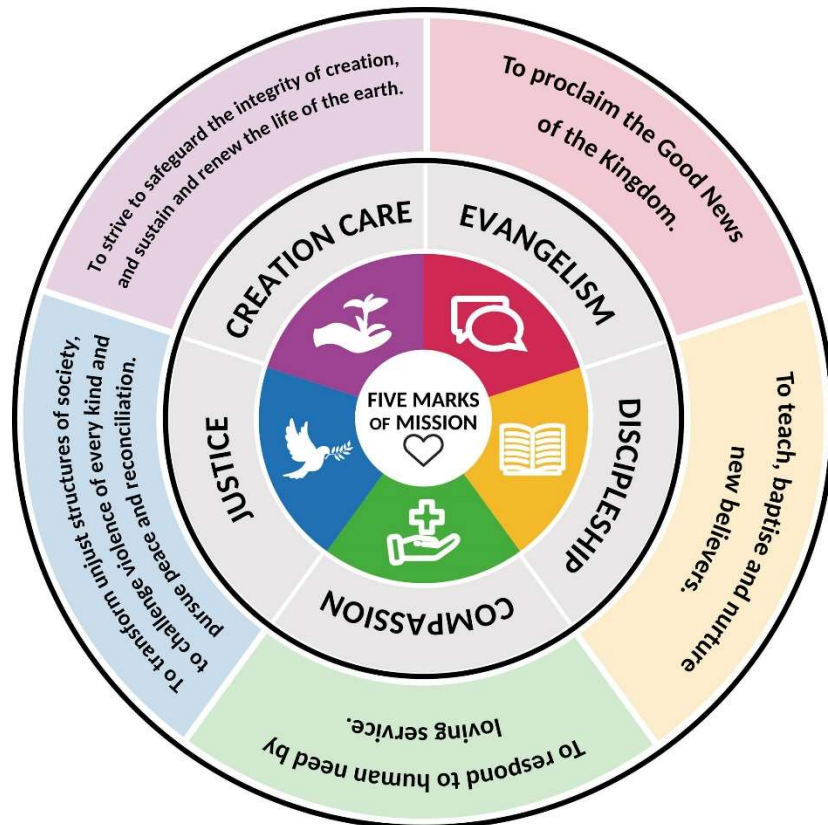
These will be voted on by the Kirk Sessions in August and congregational meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. Voting will be done by ballot, and there will be two questions on the ballot paper – the first to approve the Basis of Union except for clause 8, and the second to accept the two Ministers (Mike and Annette) as the Team Ministers of the new Union.

The Basis of Team Ministry is available on the congregations' websites or on request.

As we are going to print, the congregations are being polled to determine whether or not to use the name **Carnoustie: Trinity** – the result will be included within the final documents for voting.

Early local planning meetings reflected on our future partnership in line with the Five Marks of Mission:

1. Tell: Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. Teach: Baptise and nurture new believers, and lifelong discipleship
3. Tend: Respond to human need by loving service
4. Transform: Challenge injustice, seeking reconciliation and peace
5. Treasure: Safeguard the integrity and renewal of creation



The Presbytery of Perth will call congregational meetings in each constituent congregation to consider the Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry and seek members' acceptance of the two sitting ministers (Rev Mike Goss and Rev Annette Gordon) as the members of the Team Ministry.

## **Congregational meetings for Barry, Carnoustie and Carnoustie Panbride are scheduled to take place after morning worship on**

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.**

This newsletter is your invitation (as a member or regular adherent) to attend and vote.

At these meetings each congregation will vote in a closed ballot on whether to accept the Union or otherwise. If you have any questions about whether or not you are eligible to vote, please speak to your Session Clerk. Their details are included with the Basis of Union information online or in print from each parish.

**Please note that you must attend the congregational meeting in person in order to vote, and only at the particular congregation where you are a member or recognised adherent.**