

Presbytery Plan for Riverside Area

Name of Congregation	Congregational Membership	2011 Gross Population	2011 Net Population	Current Status	Plan for Congregations by end of Plan	Interim Steps Required	Structure of Staffing Required	Total Staffing in Plan	Building Classification	Notes
Ferryhill	307	6,915	5,271	UT	Team Ministry, 1 Kirk Session, 2 buildings		2 Ministers, 1 MDS	3	A	
South Holburn	409	6,210	4,904	UT					A	
Garthdee			4,000							Fresh Expression
Ruthrieston West	301	4,578	3,858	UT					C	
		Total	14,715							

In the Riverside area, north of the River Dee we recommend the formation of one parish with a Team ministry, focussed on two buildings – Ferryhill and South Holburn. We believe the cumulative parish should be strong enough to sustain some new initiative for mission focussed on the Garthdee community. We are content to leave it to local parties to discern what form this mission and ministry should take. There is a distinct but changing community in Garthdee to which the locality should turn its attention.

The Report of the Necessary Buildings Group.

Charge	Building	Designation in new Plan
Ferryhill	Sanctuary and Halls	A
Ruthrieston West	Sanctuary and Halls	C
South Holburn	Sanctuary and Halls	A
Garthdee		

- A) *That the building is expected to remain in use beyond the lifetime of the Plan;*
- B) *That the building is expected to be closed during the lifetime of the current Plan, under an adjustment contained therein or otherwise;*
- C) *That the building is expected to be disposed of as soon as possible under an adjustment contained in the Plan or otherwise;*

Both Ferryhill and South Holburn buildings should be retained as Necessary Buildings, but both require investment in the near term.

The current entrance to Ferryhill's Halls is not welcoming and needs reconfiguration, as well as some thought given to the rear of the Halls.

At South Holburn the congregation should remove the coloured glass windows in the Sanctuary to let in more natural light and consider renovation of the Sanctuary to make it more modern and flexible for the future.

In addition, significant investment is required to create a welcoming area to the older suite of Halls as well as to upgrade their extremely dated aesthetic. The look and utility of the Jubilee Halls in the South Holburn Suite is the standard the congregation should set as their benchmark for future work. Again, within one year of the Plan, Presbytery should be in receipt of an investment and business plan to consider from both congregations, a task which they could consider undertaking together in recognition of their shared future.

The building at Ruthrieston West is already listed as having a uncertain future. We are agreed and certain that with its very dated sanctuary and halls, which would require a very great deal of upgrading, as well as its location, the building is unnecessary for the future mission and ministry of the Church of Scotland in Aberdeen.

Pending the result of their appeal, any proceeds from the disposal of the current Garthdee site should be utilised in this grouping, with its commitment to continued ministry and mission in the Garthdee area.

Extracted from; *"Proposed Plan for the Presbytery, October 2019"*

David Stewart