

## Message from the Nominating Committee

At this time of year, we tend to look forward to the New Year and beyond. It is especially relevant at the present time as we look forward to a new ministry in Avendale & Drumclog. The Nominating Committee were very aware of the importance of finding the right minister and I thought you should share in some of the thought processes.

The brief we had was focussed on regrowth. The national church, as we all know, is in decline but across the nation there are churches developing ministries which are reversing this trend. Part of Presbytery's remit to us, was that we should be able to show a growth pattern over the next 7 years.

The challenge the Nominating Committee set to the new minister ( and in doing so I guess the whole congregation), was to achieve this by moving beyond a "Maintenance" model towards a "Missional" form of church.

We spent a significant amount of time in prayer and discussion about the qualities of our new minister - someone who will help us amongst other things:

- be sensitive to and maintain many of our traditions but also start some new ones.
- to grow in prayer and faith
- to reach out to lapsed members
- to engage with the community, those of faith and no faith
- to reach out to all ages and demographics.

In every question and through discussion, Calum evidenced beyond a doubt that these were his priorities too. And indeed, he felt called by our challenges.

One particular comment Calum made (and i'm sure you will hear it again) was "Come as you are". The achievement of these goals will not be the sole responsibility of the minister. After all - Calum can't do it all - he will be limited only by our enthusiasm and support.

I won't steal any more of his thunder, but I am absolutely sure that we will see new, exciting and different forms of ministry and worship alongside the old ones. New ideas and a renewed call to each of us as we enter the 250th anniversary of the Avendale building.

Ian Gibson - Chairperson



## December

**Sunday 12th** - Rev Forbes Walker

**Thursday 16th** - Induction of Rev Calum Stark 6.45 for 7pm

**Sunday 19th** - Avendale 11am- 'Preaching in' of Calum

Including Baptism of Elliot Walker

Drumclog 9.30am - Rev Forbes Walker

🎵 🎵 Avendale 7pm - Nine Lessons & Carols 🎵 🎵

**Friday 24th** - Drumclog 7pm. Christmas in the country

**Sunday 26th - 11am** Calum preaching at Avendale **only**.

Come and bring the family

