

## **Vision Notes,**

*from the eldership meeting on Saturday 17th January 2026.*

Thank-you for taking the time to read through these notes of the Eldership meeting on the 17th January. While the kirk session are the trustees, responsible for the legal governance of the church as a charity, and the elders are the formal spiritual leadership for this parish, so much of what actually happens on the ground is dependent on you, the congregation. As such, your insight into what needs to change and your sense of the prompting of the Holy Spirit is critical in helping to form this 5-year plan.

The discussions at the meeting of the eldership were wide ranging and contained many excellent insights beyond those summarised here. This is simply an attempt to present what were some of the main points of consensus. Please read through these notes and suggestions, then follow the link to give your feedback.

### **Union**

The union is a work in progress that is nonetheless heading broadly in the right direction. There is an understanding that a union takes time and we shouldn't be concerned about the pace nor underestimate the extent to which we are already a united parish.

However, particular focus should be given to building personal relationships across the different church communities within the parish. This would better enable us to engage in cross-parish mission based on the natural grouping of like-minded individuals as well as develop the sense of unity across the different communities. There is a place for ministers to facilitate this by not being overly stuck in any one particular community.

*Action Point (AP): Foster the building of relationships across the parish.*

*AP: Worship leaders to work across the parish.*

## **Governance**

The general structure needs time to bed-in before we start making adjustments. However, there is a real imperative to implement local structures. People need to know who to talk to within their own communities about different topics. Unity and efficiency are important, but the different communities also need to be able to respond locally where appropriate. There is a need to link across the parish rather than always defer to a separate body.

*Suggestion: Have a named contact person within each worshipping community who can connect people to the wider structure.*

*Suggestion: Publicise who the convenors and local team members are.*

## **Communication**

The union has led to the loss of the previous methods of communication and there is not, as yet, a parish-wide source of information. The elders feel strongly that an internal communication strategy needs to be urgently considered as a precursor to an external communication strategy.

*AP: Agree and implement an internal communication strategy.*

## **Mission**

As the union progresses attention needs to shift towards mission. We should be thinking beyond our Sunday services, beyond the walls of our buildings, recognising the mission of God within non-traditional spaces as well as encouraging members to build links in the wider community with mission in mind.

There is a particular concern about the missing generations, the age-groups that are not well represented in church. There is a nuance here about not simply assessing things based on Sunday attendance but taking a wider view across the work of this church. Nevertheless, there is a desire within the elders to focus our attention on reaching younger people.

*AP: Enable the creative development of missional opportunities.*

*AP: Consider how to make reaching younger generations a priority.*

## **Culture**

There was a comment about rediscovering a “lightness” within our parish. The process of union has been quite heavy and, at times, tense. We need to rediscover the joy of church, releasing people from administrative burdens and enabling them to explore creative expressions of their own discipleship.

*AP: Equip the eldership and membership of this church to express their faith and passions in service to the mission of God.*

## **Conclusion**

I believe there was a significant level of agreement from the different groups regarding the priorities of this parish. Usefully, the vision session generated a lot of higher level thinking. As such, the task before us is to translate this into practical action. How are we going to foster relationships between different church communities? How are we going to empower local church communities while utilising centralised processes? What are the elements of an effective communication strategy? How will we equip people to engage in mission? These are the questions which need to be answered in order to draw together a list of goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). It is these objectives that will form the basis of our vision statement. This will require further input from across the church.

To comment on this summary, please follow this link:

[Vision Making - Kinross-shire Parish Church 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Alex Johnson  
*February 2026*