



Cruden Parish Church of Scotland

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January 2019

Dear Member

Rev Sean Swindells, Sole Nominee

I am delighted to inform you that Rev Sean Swindells, currently the minister of Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Church in the Presbytery of Gordon will preach, on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, as Sole Nominee for our church on Sunday 3 February 2019 at 10 am.

Rev Swindells was ordained as a minister in 1996 and prior to his current charge was minister at Newbattle in Lothian Presbytery. His wife, Alison, is currently minister at Barthol Chapel linked with Tarves and they live in the manse at Tarves. If elected as our minister he will continue to live in Tarves and use our manse as an office.

The task of finding a new minister is not an easy one with so many vacancies throughout the country and so few ministers to fill them. The Nominating Committee are to be thanked for their work in eventually finding someone whom they believe is a suitable candidate to lead Cruden Parish Church into the future.

As far as the Congregation is concerned the procedure for electing a new minister is a two stage process.

Having accepted the invitation to preach as Sole Nominee Rev Swindells will preach in our church on Sunday 3rd February at 10.00am and immediately after the service there will be a paper ballot conducted. Anyone whose name appears on the Electoral Roll of the congregation is entitled to vote. The votes will be counted as soon as voting is completed and the result declared. If the majority vote in favour Rev Swindells will be declared elected as our new minister.

We then move onto the second stage of the procedure to appoint a new minister. On Sunday 10th February the Call will be intimated at the beginning of the service in the church. The Call is essentially a confirmation of the vote held the previous Sunday where members sign a document stating that they wish Rev Swindells to be minister of Cruden Parish Church. The Call will be open for signature for a period of eight days. It will be available for signature after the service on Sunday 10th February and Sunday 17th February. The Call will also be available for signature in the Church Hall from Monday 11th February to Friday 15th February between the hours of 3.00pm to 5.00pm and 6.30pm to 8.00pm. The Call will also be available for signature in the Church Hall on Saturday 16th February between 9.30am and 12.30pm. If any member is unable to come and sign the Call, they can ask for transport to the Church or Hall or obtain a Mandate from Rosemary Pittendrigh, myself or any of our Elders which allows their name to be added to the Call. It is essential that members come and sign the call, if insufficient numbers come forward to sign the Call then Presbytery has the power to reject the Call to Rev Swindells to be our minister

In addition any person who is connected to the Church and whose name does not appear on the Electoral Register, including children, can sign a paper of Concurrence indicating that they wish Rev Swindells to be our minister.

After five years in vacancy this is a significant time in the life of Cruden Parish Church and I urge all members to consider supporting your church at this time.

Yours sincerely

Robert M Esson

Session Clerk

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