The theme of the Study Day was inspired by the implications of a resolution of the 2019 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, following a joint report from the Panel on Review and Reform, the Theological Forum, the Committee on Ecumenical Relations, and the Legal Questions Committee, which reads:

*Instruct the establishing of a Joint Working Group, comprised of the Ministries Council, the Mission and Discipleship Council, the Theological Forum, the Committee on Ecumenical Relations and the Legal Questions Committee to develop proposals, based on the principles articulated in the joint Report, for ordination to a form of the ministry of the Word and Sacrament shaped by the context of the emerging Church, and to report to the General Assembly of 2020.*

The resolution leads to an examination of what ordained ministry is in the Church of Scotland, why it is needed, and how we might develop our understanding of it in the future. These issues are shared across denominations, in both emerging church, and traditional settings which are having to be creative in their use of financial and human resources, whilst addressing the need for sacramental provision in these contexts.

*Our study day brings together a panel of theologians, liturgists, and clergy working in parishes where the issues are played out on the ground, and invites all participants, ordained and non-ordained, to contribute their wisdom and experience to the conversation.*

**Timetable**

- **10am** arrivals and coffee in the Main Hall
- **10.30am** opening worship in the Church
- **10.45am** contributions from our speakers
- **1.00pm** Lunch at the Church in the Main Hall
- **2.00pm** Gilleasbuig Macmillan, formerly Minister at St Giles’ Cathedral, Edinburgh, leads us in a reflection on themes arising from the morning’s speakers. We will then have time in facilitated small groups to discuss key issues.
- **c.3.00pm** The day closes with a celebration of Holy Communion in the Church
- **Day ends c.3.45pm**
Keynote Guest Speakers

Rev Dr Marjory MacLean, of Abernyte, Inchture, Kinnaird, and Longforgan, former deputy clerk of the General Assembly, former naval chaplain.

Rev Dr John McPake, the Church of Scotland’s Ecumenical Officer, author of reports on ordination for the Panel on Doctrine, and participant in the discussions and drafting behind the Assembly report which inspired this study day.

The Rt Rev Ian Paton, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane in the Scottish Episcopal Church and a specialist in liturgy.

Rev David D Scott, minister at Traprain parish (Prestonkirk, Stenton, Whittinghame) who has approached our understanding of ordination by interrogating early Reformed rites.

Travel Advice


The train station is only a few minutes’ walk from the Study Day venue.

Car Parking

There are three disabled bays outside the church on Marshall Place, useable by blue badge holders. There is a lot of metered parking on street immediately around the church, but with a four hour limit. However, there is metered parking for up to 10 hours along Edinburgh Road through the South Inch park, with up to 10 hours costing £4.80. This is a few minutes’ walk from the venue.

Access to the Venue

There are two entrances to the halls, one from Scott Street with a ramp; the other with steps from James Street.

Registering for the Study Day

Cost: £20, including refreshments on arrival and a soup and sandwich lunch at the church. Gluten free and vegetarian options will be provided. Please let us know of any other dietary requirements when you book.

To book a place, contact:
Martin Ritchie, Secretary, Church Service Society

Email: martinsritchie@gmail.com  Phone: 07984 466 855