

## Christmas message to the Presbytery of Aberdeen & Shetland from the Moderator

Dear Friends,

To say that the past year has been difficult would be an understatement. It has been difficult as many of our time-honoured ways of carrying out our church and Presbytery activities has not been possible due to the restrictions placed upon us by the Covid-19 global pandemic.

However, there have been many positives in the past year. The former presbyteries of Aberdeen and Shetland united to form one Presbytery. We also agreed our ten-year Presbytery Plan which has already begun to be implemented. New ways of communicating with individual members and holding meetings have also been very much to the fore. Different initiatives to serve our parishes have been devised and put into action. When worship was once again permitted, albeit on a limited basis, it was good to see folk coming back to church. Many congregations have also made their service available online with some service going out live on the internet.

Almighty God has been with us throughout the year to inspire our work and witness and to assure us that He will never leave us or forsake us. As we once again prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ we can do so sure in the knowledge that whatever is in front of us Jesus will match his step to ours, He will lift us up when we fall, and He will carry us when we cannot stand. Our prayer is that we also will look to the example given to us by the Son of God and do our best to walk in His ways.

May God richly bless you all during this season of peace and goodwill to all.

Hutton

