



St Andrew's Church Brussels

Report to Presbytery, March 2020 *'The Long & Winding Road'*

It has been an interesting year for us since we last reported in March 2020 as it has been the first time in 14 years that we have been without a regular minister. Despite a certain apprehension at the outset we were richly blessed and well served by a series of five locums who supported us over a period of about eight months. With about three months to 'fill' we were pleasantly surprised and extremely grateful to five of our elders (Karen Bloomer, Ian Forrester, David Lloyd, John Macdonald and Sia Van den Brent) who volunteered to lead worship and preach interesting and stimulating sermons.



David Lloyd preaching

During all this time congregational life has been as busy as ever with our main events festivals celebrated and well attended. All our Christmas services were all led by elders and our new Nativity play involved not only all the young people but also the

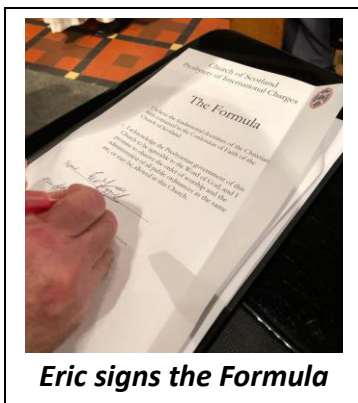
congregation.



Nativity play

In the background our Nominating Committee were winding their way along the tortuous process of finding us a new minister which culminated in the induction of Rev Eric Foggitt on February 7. Eric was recommended as Sole Nominee by the Nominating Committee in the summer but, as St Andrew's is also a full member of the United Belgian Protestant Church (EPUB), he then had to go through the EPUB selection process. Due to summer holidays this did not complete until October. Eric had to have an interview with a selection panel and an examination on the EPUB history and constitution. After it was over Eric was warmly welcomed as a minister of the EPUB.

The induction was arranged for February and was led by Rev Irene Bom, as Moderator of the International Presbytery, and Pasteure Laurence Flachon, the EPUB consulente (the equivalent of the Interim Moderator) and was attended by members of Presbytery, including Rev Dr



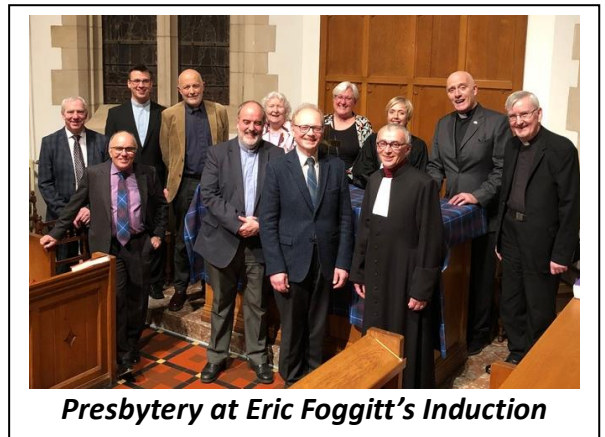
Eric signs the Formula

Lance Stone and Presbytery Clerk Rev Jim Sharp. The selection process had been quite long and tested some new selection procedures of the EPUB, which took some time to arrange. It was fitting that Eric chose as the introit Lennon and McCartney's 'The Long and Winding Road'.

There was a reception to welcome Tineke and Eric after the service. It was a great evening and was a fitting end to just over a year of vacancy. Eric was preached in on 9 February by Rev Graham Austin and led his first service on 16 February.

Here are Eric's thoughts on the process, extracted from his first 'Minister's Letter' to the congregation:

'Well, it's been a "Long and winding road", but here we are... This time last year I had no idea that I would be back in full-time "parish" ministry & even less that we would be in Brussels. But God had other plans and the strong conviction - which both Tineke and I had - that you were to be a big part of our lives, came both strongly and suddenly and you were so welcoming... Thank you! I am very grateful for all those who have stepped into unfamiliar roles during the vacancy - elders leading the worship and preaching, others doing visits, people making phone calls, sending emails and keeping things going. They have made my task so much easier and we're all beneficiaries of their work.'



St. Andrew's Church
Brussels
25 February 2020