**SOLE NOMINEE - REV. FIONA WILSON**

Rev. Fiona Wilson, currently minister of Dalmellington and Patna Waterside, will preach in Urr and Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon churches on Sunday 14 September as the sole nominee for the vacant charge. The service at Urr will be at 9.30am and that at Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon at 11.00am. After each service, members of Dumfries & Kirkcudbright Presbytery, under the chairmanship of our Interim Moderator, Rev. Val Ott, will conduct a vote with each member present at the service who is on the Electoral Register of the church having the opportunity to vote. Voting will be by secret ballot and on a straight YES/NO basis. The ballot boxes from both churches will be opened at the same time following the service at Dalbeattie and the representatives of Presbytery will carry out the count in the presence of members of the Kirk Sessions of Urr and Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon. The result will be posted on the notice-boards at both churches as soon as possible and certainly within 24 hours of the completion of the count.

If the vote is in support of Rev. Wilson and if she accepts the post, there will then be the opportunity for those on the Electoral Register to sign what is referred to as The Call which is, in effect, a reinforcement of the invitation to Mrs. Wilson to accept the call to these churches. Intimation of where the Call papers will be placed will be given in church on Sunday 21st September, but the likelihood is that they will be sited in the Library and Post Office in Dalbeattie and in the Laurie Arms in Haugh of Urr.

In arriving at their unanimous decision to invite Rev. Wilson as sole nominee, the Nominating Committee set up by the churches firstly reduced the applications to a short-list of three, heard each of these three conduct a service and carried out an interview with each of them.

Fiona Wilson is a native of Ayrshire who, after a life-time of close involvement with the church as Sunday School teacher, Cub Leader, elder and treasurer decided to study for the ministry. Following a probationary placement at Girvan North Parish Church, her first ministry was at Blantyre Livingstone Memorial Church before moving to her present charge at Dalmellington & Patna. She is married to Richard and has two sons, a third son having been tragically killed in a road accident last year.

Her interests lie in reading and her exercise in keeping up with grandchildren and in walking their five dogs. Richard, outwith his daily work, is a breeder of Belted Galloway cattle.

In her application and subsequent interview, Rev. Wilson impressed upon the committee that her aim is to bring God’s word and His love to the people, to those who have heard and accepted it - and to those who have not. She wants to help enrich those lives not yet touched by the love of God and to support the growth of His Christian family by leading the Church forward and making it open and accessible to all.

Fraser Sanderson
Convenor
Nominating Committee