

## Our Buildings, Our Mission, Our Future: an update.

Over recent years we have been reflecting carefully on how best to serve our communities in Aberlady and Gullane. After listening to local needs and reviewing our buildings, the Kirk Session believes that improving our church buildings and facilities is an essential next step for the life and sustainability of our church and its mission.

This handout explains what is planned, where the work will take place, when it is likely to happen, and why these changes matter for the future.

### Why change is needed:

- Our buildings need updating to remain welcoming and usable.
- Improved spaces will help support both church and community use.
- Our community values strong local connections and shared spaces.
- Community halls are heavily used, but our buildings are under-used.
- Social isolation is increasing, particularly among older residents.

So this is not just about buildings: it is about community, welcome and stewardship.

### What is going to happen:

#### Gullane

New heating system - *an urgent priority.*

More flexible internal space and new entrance - *supports more varied activities.*

Modernisation of the Church Centre and kitchen - *untouched for 30+ years.*

#### Aberlady

Installation of water supply and accessible toilet in the Church - *essential to make the building usable and welcoming for events and visitors and compliant with 21<sup>st</sup> century expectations.*

New heating system.

Damp repairs at the Kirk Stables.

## When will this happen?

The improvements form part of the church's 2026–2031 plan and will be carried out in phases.

<b>2025–2026</b>	<b>2026 onwards</b>	<b>2026–2031</b>
Surveys, permissions, funding. In January 2026 the General Trustees agreed to give us £150,000.	Priority works begin. Exact dates will depend on local authority permissions and availability of contractors.	Further works enabling new initiatives: a play-café in Gullane; more weddings, events and retreats in Aberlady.

## Where will the work take place?

Work will take place across all our church sites:

- Gullane Church and Church Centre.
- Aberlady Church and Kirk Stables.

Every effort will be made to minimise disruption to worship and regular activities.

## How this supports our future:

Improving our buildings will help us provide warmer, more accessible and flexible spaces for worship, events, community groups, families and visitors. It will also help ensure that our church and its facilities remain sustainable and well used in the years ahead.

## How you can support this work:

- Stay informed through church updates in intimations and the magazine.
- Share any feedback or questions with the Session.
- Support future fundraising initiatives where you are able.
- Consider offering practical help if opportunities arise.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support as we take these careful steps forward together.