**Poileasaidh Gàidhlig Paraiste Shlèite ‘s an t-Stratha**

**Mìneachadh**

Ri linn barrachd imrich, chan eil an co-luadair cho làidir ‘s bha e agus chithear seo anns na h-eaglaisean ionadail. Aig a’ cheart àm, tha am fiosrachadh agus an t-eòlas ris a bheil sinn an dùil mu chàch a chèile a’ sìor-dhol am meud. Tha ar poileasaidhean, ar n-amasan agus ar rùintean riatanach a-nise airson cothrom air airgead maoineachaidh a thional agus cuideachd gus fiosrachadh coileanta a thoirt seachad do dhaoine aig a bheil ùidh a leigeas leotha co-dhùnadh a dhèanamh far a bheil deagh mheasgachadh de roghainnean.

Tha àite na Gàidhlig ann am beatha nàiseanta na h-Alba air atharrachadh gu mòr thar nam beagan bhliadhnaichean. Ged a tha àireamh an luchd-labhairt dhùthchasaich air crìonadh, chuireadh car ann am beachdan dhaoine mun chànan agus tha ùidh a-nise, far an robh nàimhdeas, ann am buidhnean poblach agus anns an Riaghaltas. Chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh ann an 2005 agus thug sin air Bòrd na Gàidhlig Plana Nàiseanta a chruthachadh dhan dùthaich. ‘S ann a tha a’ Ghàidhlig a-nise glè tharraingeach agus daoine bho gach ceàrn den t-saoghal ga h-ionnsachadh - a dh’aindheoin aois is cinneadh m.s.a.a. Tha an Eaglais aig ìre nàiseanta a’ freagairt air na leasachaidhean seo le bhith ag ath-steidheachadh a’ Bhuidheann Ghàidhlig.

Cha bu bheag saothair Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Iona Nàiseanta cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig, ann an ath-bheothachadh na Gàidhlig, colaiste bheag a bha na h-ionad stèidheachaidh de dh’Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd. Bhiodh e iomchaidh ma-thà, do dh’eaglais Shlèite is an t-Stratha, a tha a’ seirbheiseachadh na coimhearsnachd sin, nochdadh gu follaiseach mar as urrainnear taic a chumail ris a’ cholaiste agus a h-amasan. Cha bhiomaid a’ tòiseachadh bho thùs, ach a’ togail air a’ phròiseact shoirbheachail - An Sgeul Mòr – a chaidh a liubhairt a-cheana eadar an dà ionad.

**Prionnsapailean**

Tha sluagh Shlèite air dùblachadh bhon a chaidh a’ Cholaiste a chur air bhog ann an 1973 agus tha an àireamh de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig san sgìre air fàs a rèir chunntas-sluaigh 2011. Tha dùil aig luchd-obrach agus oileanaich Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a bhith beò ann an coimhearsnachd a tha dealasach a thaobh ath-bheothachadh agus glèidheadh na Gàidhlig. Tha e cudromach a ràdh cuideachd gu bheil a’ cholaiste fhèin stèidhte an teis-meadhan na Gàidhealtachd agus mar thoradh air a sin tha na coimhearsnachdan ionadail bàidheil don chànan. Airson nan adhbharan sin, bu chòir gach cothrom a ghabhail gus am biodh adhradh agus cùram sa pharaiste tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig rim faotainn.

Tha Gàidhlig a’ sìor-dhol am meud anns na sgoiltean ionadail, gu h-àraidh Bun-sgoil Shlèite far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig na prìomh chànan agus ann am Bun-sgoil an Ath Leathainn, far a bheil i aig an aon ìre ris a’ Bheurla. Uaireannan, thig oileanaich aig nach eil Beurla dhan cholaiste a’ fàgail gur i a’ Ghàidhlig an cànan cumanta. Anns gach fear de na suidheachaidhean seo, tha dleastanas oirnn agus còir againn mar eaglais a bhith a’ conaltradh sa Ghàidhlig. Tha Ospadal an Ath Leathainn a’ frithealadh muinntir an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus Loch Aillse agus tha mòran dhen euslaintich dà-chànanach.

**Dòighean-obrach**

Bidh èifeachdas nan iomairtean seo an crochadh air an dà chuid, dealas a’ Mhinisteir agus luchd-taic na h-Eaglaise. Tha am Ministear air aontachadh a thighinn gu ìre sa Ghàidhlig, taobh a-staigh 3 bliadhna, far am bi e na chomas dha adhradh a stiùireadh san eaglais, sa cholaiste agus anns na sgoiltean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Fiù ‘s an-dràsta, cluinnear Gàidhlig aig toiseach agus aig deireadh gach seirbheis adhraidh. Thèid eildearan a tha bàidheil dhan chùis a bhrosnachadh airson an dearbh rud a dhèanamh.

Aig seirbheis na Cille Mòire, cluinnear earrannan a’ Bhìobaill gach cuid sa Bheurla agus sa Ghàidhlig. Thèid an cleachdadh seo a bhrosnachadh am measg nan eaglaisean eile sa pharaiste agus a leudachadh le laoidh no sailm Gàidhlig cuideachd. Leis mar a tha goireasan Gàidhlig agus eadar-theangachaidhean de laoidhean a’ sior-dhol am meud, thèid an dà sheirbheis Gàidhlig sa mhìos a leudachadh le seirbheisean ùr-nodha gan lìbhrigeadh cuideachd: anns an eaglais, sa cholaiste, sna sgoiltean agus sa choimhearsnachd.

Cha bheag a’ bhuaidh aig a’ chiad sealladh air beachd duine agus ri linn sin, thèid soidhnichean agus cinn-litrichean na h-eaglaise atharrachadh gu cruthan dà chànanach (Gàidhlig agus Beurla).

**Uallach**

Gus an tèid seo a chur air bhog chun na h-ìre as èifeachdaiche, bidh uallach air an t-Seisean airson a’ phoileasaidh seo agus thèid ath-sgrùdadh gach bliadhna.

***Gaelic Policy for Strath & Sleat***

Rationale

On account of increasing mobility, society is fragmenting and local churches reflect this diversity. At the same time, our expectations of what we should know about each other is rising all the time. Policy profiles and mission statements have become mandatory for attracting financial support and for providing interested parties with enough information to distinguish between what can seem like a bewildering range of options.

The place of Gaelic in the national life of Scotland has changed dramatically in recent years. While the number of native speakers may have declined, attitudes have been transformed and institutional antipathy has been reversed. A Gaelic Language Act giving recognition and parity of esteem to the language became law in 2005 and Bòrd na Gàidhlig was required by statute to produce a National Plan for Gaelic. Gaelic is now cool and is attracting learners throughout Scotland and internationally - of all ages and backgrounds. The Church at a national level has responded to the developing interest in the language by setting up a Gaelic Group.

Key to the revival of Gaelic language and culture is Sabhal Mòr Ostaig,the National Centre for Gaelic language and culture and one of the partner colleges that form the University of the Highlands & Islands. As the church which serves that community, it would seem appropriate for Strath & Sleat to articulate how we believe we can and should support the college and its aspirations. In so doing we would not be initiating from scratch, rather building on a successful partnership, An Sgeul Mòr (The Big Story), which has now run its course.

Principles

The population of Sleat has doubled since the College was established in 1973 and the 2011 Census recorded an increase in the number of Gaelic speakers in the area. Those who work and study at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig expect to inhabit a community which is dedicated to preserving and promoting Gaelic. It also deserves saying that the college is located in the heart of the Gàidhealtachd (Gaeldom) and so an appetite for Gaelic exists throughout the community as well. For both of these reasons, every opportunity should be taken to facilitate Gaelic in worship and the pastoral care of those who prefer to communicate in Gaelic.

Gaelic is enjoying growing prominence in local schools, in one of which (Sleat PS) it is the principal language and in another (Broadford PS) it is on a par with English. Occasionally students come to study at the college, who have no English, and so Gaelic is the common language. In all of these situations there is both a duty and an opportunity for the local church to communicate in Gaelic. Broadford Hospital serves the whole of Skye and Lochalsh and many patients are bilingual.

Approach

Turning good intentions into practical initiatives will require the commitment of minister and office-bearers. The minister has committed to reaching sufficient fluency, within three years, to take the lead in conducting worship: in church, college and school environments. Even now, every act of worship begins and ends in Gaelic. Supportive elders who lead worship will be encouraged to adopt a similar habit.

At the Sunday service in Kilmore the Bible reading is read in Gaelic and English. This practice will be encouraged in the other three churches which serve the parish and will be expanded to include a hymn or psalm in Gaelic. Drawing on the proliferating resources of new material and translations of popular worship songs, the current diet of twice monthly traditional Gaelic services will be increased to include gatherings of a more contemporary style: in church, college, schools and community.

First impressions play a significant role in creating atmosphere. Accordingly, all church signage and stationary will be bi-lingual (Gaelic and English).

Responsibility

For maximum effectiveness, this must rest with the Kirk Session and be reviewed every year.