**Farewell to Lord High Commissioner**

Your Grace,

Last Saturday I expressed the Assembly’s and my own personal delight that you had been commissioned by the Queen to attend on her behalf at this General Assembly.

That delight has been well-founded. You mentioned you first attended the Assembly in 1969. And we’ve found a video clip.

You have literally graced our proceedings and all your time with us with approachable dignity, with undeniable style, and with easy charm. In your encounters with commissioners and others you have shown a very high level of understanding and empathy, and an insight that has made all of us appreciate the carefulness with which you have lived out your commission.

You have travelled the length and the breadth of this country, visiting Wigtownshire, Argyllshire and Aberdeenshire, as well as around Edinburgh.

You have attended services and walked the avenue at Heart and Soul and shown deeply appreciated interest in the work and life of the Church.

You have been supported by your suite, including your indefatigable Pursebearer, unfailingly charming ladies-in-waiting, and stalwart ADCs. You have even had your chaplain Albert Bogle singing to you most mornings at prayers. Ah well.

Your hospitality at the Palace of Holyroodhouse has been generous and you have welcomed a wide cross-section of British society at your table. You have been the epitome of hospitality and graciousness.

I for one have enjoyed the privilege of your company and the insight of your conversation, and your wonderful humour.

In a few moments I know you will be suggesting to this General Assembly that our labours will be at an end. I know that, for a short time at least, your labours on the Queen’s behalf with us will soon come to an end too, and we wish you, and Sir Tim, some time of relaxation.

In the name of this General Assembly, I thank you most warmly for all that you have done with us and for us.

May God continue to bless you in the years ahead.

I now invite you to address the General Assembly.