

ST. MARYS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ABERFOYLE

Rector: Revd. Richard Grosse

www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk
Charity Registered in Scotland: SCO23266

Minutes of Vestry Meeting held in the Church Room on Friday 18th July 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Mark Seymour (Chairman), Richard Grosse (Rector), Susan Forsyth, Nick Cooke, Alastair Gardner (Treasurer), James Gardner, Anne Winther, Jean Sykes

1. **Welcome and Prayer** The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and the Rector opened the meeting with a Prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Margie Stephen, Peter Joynson

3. **Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 2nd May 2014** - already distributed

3.1 There were no matters arising. The Chairman signed the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.

4. **Secretary's Business** (Mark Seymour)

4.1 The Chairman reported that he was no further forward with J and H Mitchell regarding their Fees or the Income from the Robert Sutherland Legacy, and that he would not be taking this further. Discussion took place as to whether we should pay Mitchell's fees and it was felt that these should be covered by the Diocese. Nick Cooke reported that Smith and Williamson are now acting for the Diocese and it was now the policy of the Diocese to invest all funds as a single designated fund and that the Fund Managers are expected to demark income due for each individual fund/legacy. It was expected that this may be an annual payment. The Chairman is expected to have a meeting with Graeme Brock of Smith and Williamson next week.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

5. **Treasurer's Business** (Alastair Gardner)

5.1 Alastair explained the current financial position as per his report which is attached at the end of these Minutes. At present our Income is covering our Expenditure and he felt that we should delay a Stewardship Campaign and review matters in the Spring. Money was held in the Restoration Account (which included Billy Bates Legacy) and perhaps the floodlighting might be addressed next year.

ACTION: TREASURER/CHAIRMAN

Nick Cooke reported that an Employers NI Refund is due to Vestries as a one off payment of approximately £1,000 and he expected payment of this sometime in July with a Memo coming from the Diocesan Office in Perth explaining this.

The Chairman thanked Alastair for his report.

6. **Events**

6.1 Feis Fhiort - 25th July - The Chairman encouraged people to attend and Anne Winther agreed to provide savouries. ACTION: ANNE WINTHER

6.2 Discussion took place as to whether to invite the Russian Choir from St Petersburg to sing Sacred and Folk songs in the Church in November this year. It was agreed the Chairman would approach them. If they were not available it was agreed to approach a group of singers from Glasgow.

The Chairman reported that no further events were planned at present.
CHAIRMAN/ANNE WINTHER

ACTION:

7. **Communications**

7.1 Village Posters - It was agreed the mid-week service should be held on a Wednesday and that new posters should be printed and laminated. The Rector agreed to distribute these to local hotels, B&B's and Village Notice Boards
ACTION: RECTOR/CHAIRMAN

Nick Cooke reported that he will be organising a meeting regarding Area Contacts in late Summer or early Autumn
ACTION: NICK COOKE

James Gardner reported that he puts concerts etc. on Facebook and Anne Winther reported that local events were advertised on the Buchlyvie Banter.
The Church website is now being organised by Peter Robinson. Anne agreed to liaise with him and look at the new website. ACTION: ANNE WINTHER/CHAIRMAN

8. **Godly Play** (James Gardner)

James reported that he, Melanie and Barbara are planning for Autumn to December. More information will be in the Bulletin and on social media. They begin to start sessions late August/early September.
ACTION: JAMES GARDNER

9. **Report on General Synod** - June 2014 (James Gardner)

His report is attached at the end of the Minutes. He attended the Synod in Edinburgh 12-14 June on behalf of the Dunblane Area Council. Equal Marriage was discussed at length. Much unhappiness on this issue and a very tight vote.

The Chairman thanked James for his report.

10. **Fabric Report**

10.1 It was reported that the carpet had been repaired. The Chairman suggested a painting party to paint the porch and church rails and rail/stairs to the rectory. Discussion took place regarding the Rayburn in the Rectory and the condition and siting of the oil tank. The Chairman was in touch with Jim Wilcox and Bilsland concerning this. The Chairman agreed to ask Jamie Parker to review the position of the Rayburn and whether it should be replaced with something more economic/eco friendly. There may be grants available for this.
ACTION: CHAIRMAN/RECTOR

11. **Rector's Report** - attached at the end of the minutes

11.1 Matins - It was decided to hold a Matins Service on the 1st Sunday in the month in September, October and November and then review this at the AGM when the congregation can be consulted as to their views.
ACTION: RECTOR/ JEAN SYKES

11.2 There were no items regarding Music and Worship

11.3 It was agreed that there would be no further New Marks for the Mission Action Plan. This needs to be reviewed at the October Vestry Meeting
ACTION: RECTOR

Open Doors Day - 6th September sponsored by Stirling Council - where all buildings of interest are open to the public. Jean Sykes agreed to provide refreshments for anyone visiting the Church, and it was suggested extra flowers should be on display. This will be a good opportunity to raise the profile of the Church. ACTION:JEAN SYKES/RECTOR

The Chairman thanked the Rector for his report

12. **AOCB**

The Chairman raised the issue of the Rectory wiring as this needs to be certificated to comply with the law. Alistair Gardner agreed to check the situation with the insurers ACTION: ALASTAIR GARDNER

Eco Congregation - Anne Winther reported that things were no further forward but that she and Nick Cooke has been discussing alternative renewable systems for the vestry and church. Links could be made with the Strathard Community. The Climate Challenge Fund could be investigated, but we would require a project ACTION: ANNE WINTHER/NICK COOKE

The Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting which was closed with a Prayer by the Rector.

Date of next meeting : 24th October 2014

Rector's Report

Rector's Report to Vestry July 2014

1. Fifth Sunday Service

As agreed at last Vestry, this took place on the 29th June. The next fifth Sunday falls at the end of November.

2. Open Doors Saturday 6th September.

This is an event sponsored by Stirling Council whereby buildings of interest in the area are open to public viewing. This year it has been arranged for St Mary's to be included. Practical arrangements for the day will need to be discussed.

3. Harvest Supper

This has been provisionally arranged for 19.30 Friday 3rd October at Callander

4. Harvest Festival

This has been provisionally arranged for Sunday 5th October

5. Carol Service

This is provisionally arranged for Sunday 21st December

6. Church Exterior Lamp and Railings

Many thanks to Mark for his painstaking maintenance work on the above. Both are extremely vulnerable to rust and expensive to replicate.

Richard Grosse

Treasurers Report

Bank Mandates

I can now confirm that Alastair Gardner, Mark Seymour and Nick Cooke are the three signatories on both bank accounts with the Bank of Scotland.

Internet Banking has been set up for Alastair Gardner, allowing online visibility of all transactions and better awareness of the current balance. Mark Seymour is in the process of being set up. Internet banking also allows all the transactions to be downloaded in Excel which will save significant time when completing the annual excel audit spreadsheet from our Auditor Stephen Nesbit.

The mailing address for our Bank of Scotland accounts has been changed to Alastair Gardner's home address, albeit bank statements for May and June are still outstanding having not been received.

Actuals year to date

The table below is based on an extract from on-line banking where I have summarised the total income and expenditure by month.

	Income	Expenditure
Oct	£ 7,791.55	£ 4,449.93
Nov	£ 4,657.94	£ 4,154.03
Dec	£ 4,435.80	£ 5,164.67
Jan	£ 3,391.80	£ 4,431.58
Feb	£ 3,349.76	£ 4,616.08
Mar	£ 4,932.70	£ 5,485.96
Apr	£ 8,744.38	£ 3,978.16
May	£ 3,971.42	£ 6,026.41
Jun	£ 5,621.20	£ 5,003.71
Jul	£ 2,405.74	£ 896.89
	£ 49,302.29	£ 44,207.42

The position is better than anticipated, primarily due to 4 transactions :

- A single donation of £1k in March 14
- Two donations totalling £2k in April 14
- £2K from the estate of Mrs Billy Bates in June 14.

With 2.5 months until the financial year end (end September), I am now forecasting income to exceed expenditure in the 2013/14 year end accounts – which will make a more encouraging

statement at the AGM. As a result, the forecast HMRC gift aid claim for the period Oct 13 to Mar 14 has not yet been submitted.

Working Balances are :

Restoration Account: £ 5,627

Vestry Account : £3,649

Future expenditure

The balances above reflect two recent invoices for Carpet repairs (£220) and Rayburn repairs (£324). Further Rayburn repairs are anticipated based on the recent feedback from Scot-tec.

Investment income

Last quarter saw £357 of interest from Smith & Williamson who manage our investment portfolio.

Alastair Gardner

Treasurer

Report on the General Synod - to follow