

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 24th October, 2014

PRESENT: Mark Seymour (Chairman), Susan Forsyth, Peter Joynson, Alastair Gardner (Treasurer), Jean Sykes, Richard Grosse (Rector)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. APOLOGIES: Margie Stephen
3. SHARING FAITH: The Rector shared his thoughts which centred on TIME. How the elderly were burdened by time and how we all set time targets for getting things done i.e. Casting the Net. It took him 5 years to be accepted for training to be a curate. All is Gods will, and things cannot be rushed. The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer and the Chairman thanked him for this.
4. MINUTES of the Vestry Meeting held on 25th July had been distributed.
 - 4.1. There were no matters arising and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.
5. SECRETARY'S BUSINESS: nothing to report. All relevant information coming to the Secretary is displayed at the back of the Church.
6. TREASURER'S BUSINESS:
 - 6.1 The Treasurer circulated and explained his report which took us to the end of September. With the help of legacies we had a small surplus in September. Gift Aid had been applied for, and also payable on casual Church donations received. There were no extravagances and he pointed out that he would try and get a better electricity tariff and would chase the matter of National Insurance which had been discussed at previous meetings. He suggested that a Stewardship Campaign should be delayed and discussed later. ACTION: Treasurer
 - 6.2. Legacy Policy - discussion took place on how these should be spent. It was agreed that the should not be a fixed policy for legacies, but that each should be considered upon receipt as individual opportunities. Given the two recent legacies (Peggy Aitken & Billie Bates – totalling £3000) we should perhaps consider replacing the under pew tubular heating system or to buy new hymn books. Discussion also took place on charges for Weddings and Funerals. These charges were not to be fixed sums but are to be at the discretion of the Rector.
7. EVENTS:
 - 7.1 Russian Choir 13th November. Everything is in hand, tickets are selling well but the Chairman hoped that attendance might reach 75 with a good number sold before the event. Members of St Mary's had kindly offered to accommodate and feed members of the choir.
 - 7.2 Lyra had approached the Chairman to play next year but it was felt that this should be declined.

7.3 Margie Stephen has offered to present a talk on CINI on 11th March. It was agreed that this would be very welcome and hoped that the CINI Committee would help to coordinate this event.

Ideas would be welcome on further events.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 Posters in outlying villages. The Rector had given new posters to the Rob Roy, Tigh Mhor and Forest Hills. He also agreed to include The Trossachs Holiday Park and Cobeland Caravan Site.
ACTION: Rector

8.2 Area Contacts - Action Needed. ACTION: Nick Cooke

8.3 it was agreed the Chairman and Rector would discuss a possible Christmas Magazine.

9. GODLY PLAY

The Chairman thanked James Gardner for his input and reminded members the next Godly Play session would be on 30th November.

10. FABRIC REPORT

10.1 Rectory Rayburn - fixed

10.2. Church Safe - fixed

10.3 Rectory Wiring - an inspection is due next year under the quinquennial survey and the Treasurer agreed to look into this to ascertain whether an inspection is due now for the insurers.

ACTION: Treasurer

Following the recent leak into the Vestry WC, the roofer had visited to this roof and the Chairman agreed to ask Jamie Parker for a report. ACTION: Chairman & Jamie Parker

The Treasurer offered to check that we are receiving the best tariff from the Electricity provider and perhaps to obtain a gadget to monitor usage of electricity. ACTION: Treasurer

11. RECTORS REPORT AND MISSION

11.1 Matins - It was agreed this should be on the Agenda for the AGM in December. Discussion should take place regarding a regular Matins Service with a vote taken.

11.2 Music and Worship - the Chairman explained that Margie Stephen felt the need for a possible new Hymn book. Discussion took place re CH4, the music edition of which is a large heavy book. Smaller editions of CH4 are available. The Chairman suggested we should look at possibilities though the general feeling was that this was not a priority at present. ACTION: Margie Stephen

11.3 Further Mark for Mission Action Plan - to be carried forward.

11.4 Christmas Services - The Rector reported that there had been an approach from the Kirk to combine the service on Christmas Eve. At present we have a joint Carol Service with the Kirk and it has been suggested that on alternative years the midnight service should be held in The Kirk and in St Mary's. Discussion took place and it was felt the midnight service must include the Eucharist and that it was too late to have a joint service in the Kirk this year. The Rector felt this should be discussed at the AGM. ACTION: Secretary for AGM Agenda

The Rector reported that he was keen to continue with the service in Balfron at 8am.

12. AGM Matters- as discussed above

12.1 Vestry Membership - the Chairman agreed to ask Christopher Roads to join the Vestry prior to the AGM. Alternative names were suggested should CR decline. ACTION:
Chairman

13. AOCB

Jean Sykes reported that her arthritis is causing her problems but that she was still willing to play the organ for services. The chairman thanked her for her support. Relief organists were discussed, but it is proving very difficult to find assistance.

14. CLOSING PRAYER

The Rector closed the meeting with a prayer and the Chairman thanked all for attending. Peter Joynson proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Dates agreed for 2015 Vestry Meetings

23 January

8 May

17 July

23 October

AGM Sunday 6th December 2015

REPORTS ATTACHED: Treasurers. Godly Play

St Mary Vestry Meeting– 24 October 2014 Treasurer Report

Headlines

Financial year completed 30 September 2014

Surplus of income over expenditure of £2k

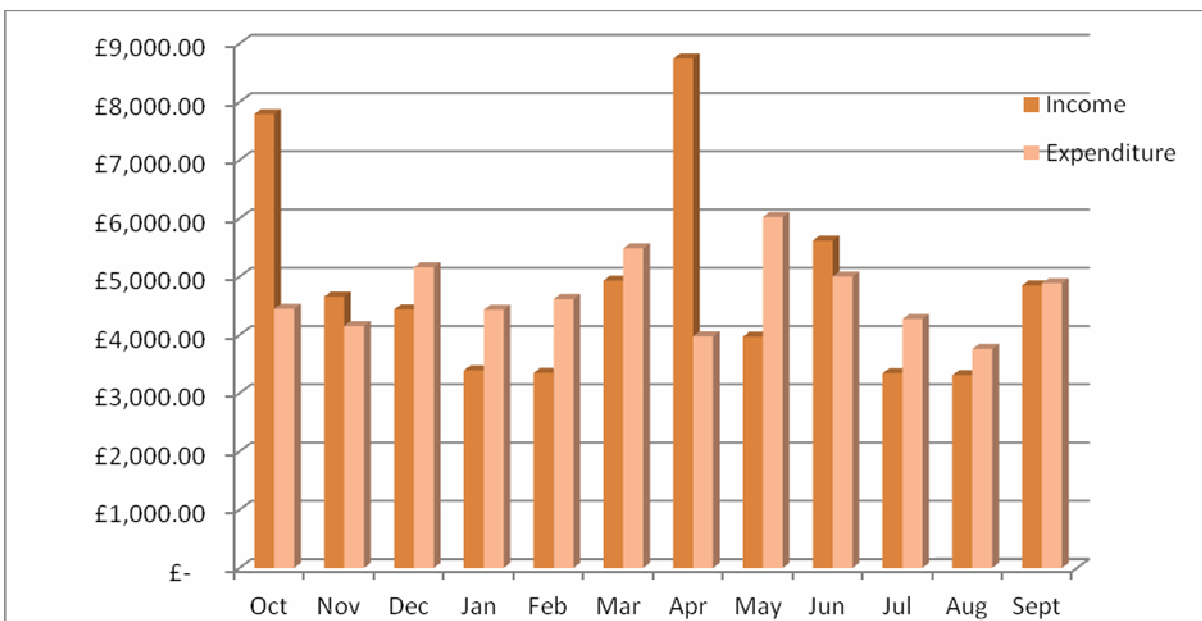
Balances of £4,119 and £2,227 in the two accounts at end September

Statement from Smith and Williamson - £45,384 value of our investment.

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 for the financial year (upto end Sept)

	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	£ 3,342.53	£ 4,271.74
Aug	£ 3,309.04	£ 3,762.15
Sept	£ 4,849.62	£ 4,888.70
	£ 58,397.74	£ 56,233.12



Summary of Income

Regular DD/SO - £34,063 (inc £14,400 from St Andrews linkage)

Donations (White/Yellow envelopes/ cash/ cheques) - £15,885

HMRC (Gift aid) - £6,766

Smith & Williamson - £1,682

Last three months – items worth of mention.

July saw £220 for carpet repairs plus £ 325 Scot-tech repairs

September saw £945 Electricity bill, but also received £1k from estate of Peggy Aitkins

Future items

Gift Aid claim for Oct 13- Sept 14 now submitted for @£6k – should hit the account in October

Year end Audit

Spreadsheet and documentation to be ready for Stephen Nisbit by end October, so accounts approved ahead of AGM on 7th December 2014.

Alastair Gardner

Treasurer

Godly Play Report. September - December 2014

After the last report in July, while Godly Play was on holiday until September, there is not much really to feedback.

Glenalmond this year was a great success again, and plans are moving fast for a bowling event in November for teenagers in our diocese, on the 15th of November. This is so these types of activities can be discussed at the Casting the Net Diocesan review day the following week, and hopefully more events will begin to happen. We are hoping to have two events a year in the diocese so the next one will be spring 2015.

We have already begun to plan for next year and have the dates and Glenalmond booked. The theme in 2015 will be the Holy Spirit.

Also the last few years we have had two weeks running, however in 2015 we are only having one big week. In September Melanie and Barbara organised Godly Play and it was based on the feeding of the 5000. In October it was harvest festival so we looked at waste and does waste fit into God's plan for the universe? The children got involved in the service by giving out book marks during the first hymn which related to Richard's sermon. The bookmarks had flour, inside the bookmark, to symbolise harvest. This was in a messy church style. As we did not use any Godly play materials. Messy church is another way in which churches with children, and adults of all ages, can explore the bible and Jesus' teaching by a more hands on approach. In the case of harvest we had some shortbread dough, and the children got to make shapes out of it which of course make waste as the small pieces were left. However the small pieces could be used to form another bigger piece which could be used. We then cooked the pastry in the microwave and then the children got to eat it, with chocolate spread on it. This formed as part of their meal.

The next Godly Play date is the ~~1st December~~ 30th November. I hope to have the next term dates organised for the AGM.

Looking ahead it will be likely that Godly Play will be lead by myself, Barbara and Melanie, with James and Melanie taking it in turns to lead a month.

Following for the last meeting and emails sent regarding the website, it was clear that our youth session of the website is out of date, as my email address listed is the one I lost due to hacking. Currently I am rewriting what to put on the website. I will send out a copy of this in the next day or two.

Facebook: Since the last meeting James and Mark tried to get this linked to the website from long distance, by giving Mark access to my account, however Facebook, did not like this and blocked access, so passwords had to be changed. This is still currently being pursued.

Next report will be circulated for the AGM in December.

James Gardner