

ST. MARYS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ABERFOYLE

Rector: Revd. Canon Richard Grosse

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

Minutes of Vestry Meeting held in the Church Room on Friday 8th May 2015 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Mark Seymour (Chairman), Alastair Gardner (Treasurer), Susan Forsyth, Jean Sykes, Christopher Roads, Anne Winther, Margie Stephen

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and the Rector opened with a Prayer.
2. APOLOGIES: Peter Joynson, Nick Cooke, James Gardner
3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 23rd January 2015 - circulated beforehand . These were approved (subject to 4 below).
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 23rd January - Margie Stephen pointed out that under Events 7:1 the CINI presentation was by Ros Jarvis and Margie Stephen - this was added to the Minutes by hand and the Chairman then signed the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.
5. SECRETARY'S BUSINESS: The Chairman acting as Secretary pointed out that he conveyed most items needing attention to Vestry Members by email and on the notice boards. He reported that the coloured weekly Collection Envelopes had been printed to cover the next three years - only 6 members of the congregation use these envelopes at present. He mentioned that he received regular emails offering CDs for broadcast in Church.
6. TREASURER'S REPORT:
 - 6.1 The Treasurer circulated a paper setting out the Accounts Position as at 30th April 2015 and explained the current position to Vestry. All cash in the collection plate can be Gift Aided therefore bringing in approximately £1,000 per annum. The working balance at present is £7,295.91 and this includes the Restoration Account which stands at £2,227.37

Further discussion took place regarding the income received from the Robert Sutherland legacy. As the Chairman has been unable to get information from the Diocese he is not pursuing the matter, but it was felt that Vestry should review the position next year. We have received a payment of £110.51 from Mitchells the Diocesan lawyers and this amount should increase as dividend income is received by the Diocese on a quarterly basis.

The Treasurer explained that at present the finances are breaking even. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report.

Discussion then followed regarding the Electrics in the Rectory (also item 11) The electrics in the Church are satisfactory but not in the Rectory. A report was submitted by Bissetts (now Biskit Control) setting out the problems. Three estimates have been obtained from electricians to rectify matters ranging from £2,500 to rectify faults, and £7,000 for full rewiring. A further firm indicated a cost of between £15,000 to £20,000 for full rewiring and replacement of the conduits. Rewiring would require the Rector and his wife to move out for a few days. If replacement of the conduits is necessary then this would best be done during an interregnum when Rectory is empty. These

reports have been passed to the Diocese and their view is as long as the work receives a Certification certificate they are happy for us to make the decision as to which estimate and scope of work is accepted. The Chairman recommended rewiring at a cost of £7,000 but a grant from the Dunderdale Trust (maximum (£3500) and/or a loan from the Diocese/Province would be needed to cover the cost. It was explained that St Andrews would contribute to the cost, and the Rector agreed to raise this issue at their next Vestry meeting later in the month.

The report pointed out that there should be smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the Rectory, and Vestry agreed that this matter should be dealt with immediately. Vestry agreed to go ahead with the quote from Tam Mackie for £2,500 to make good the electrics, with a contribution made by St Andrews. It was felt that we should start adding to a fund in order that we might be able to tackle complete rewiring of the Rectory in 5-10 years time. We already have a renovation or building fund, and this should be built up during that period. Vestry also agreed that advice should be obtained from Mr Mackie regarding the hotplate in the Church room as this is unsafe and a decision should be taken whether to repair or replace this with a mobile unit run off a 13 amp plug.

Margie Stephen asked about the outstanding loan connected to the Restoration Work carried out on the Church - the Chairman pointed out that this was still outstanding.

6.2 Church Giving Fund - We raised £445 at the Carol Service which will need to be distributed. The Chairman pointed out that we usually give to the same charities since some members of the congregation had close links with specific charities. Consideration must be given to this matter at the July meeting, and the Rector agreed to add something to the Weekly Bulletin and possible the Pew Leaflet asking for charity suggestions from members of the congregation. Various members of the Vestry felt that there is some merit in continuing to make regular donations to the same charities. Action: RECTOR

Discussion took place about contributing to the present Nepal appeal following the recent earthquake. CINI is already working in the Area as is Christian Aid - The Rector agreed to add this to his Weekly Bulletin and to encourage people to donate in Church on Sunday 10th May to the Christian Aid Envelopes in the pews, during Christian Aid Week. It was agreed to send £200 to CINI specifically for their Nepal appeal and for work in that country

Action RECTOR and TREASURER

7. EVENTS

7.1 Feis Fhiort in May - they must promote this themselves - The Chairman will circulate details by email to the existing list. Tickets will be £10 with a contribution going to the Church.

7.2 Kentigern String Quartet - agreed for next year - not during Holy Week - Action: CHAIRMAN

7.3 Les Trois Blondes - agreed for 30th October - Action - CHAIRMAN

7.4 Evangelical event - decline Action - CHAIRMAN

7.5 Russian Choir for November 2016 - decide nearer the time - it was felt that providing accommodation for the Choir could be a problem Action - CHAIRMAN

7.6 Talk on the Great War - the Rector agreed to report back on this Action - RECTOR

7.7 It was felt that we needed guidelines for charging for the use of the Church - the Rector agreed to investigate local charges - The Kirk, and Memorial Hall in Aberfoyle. It was suggested that £30 would be a suitable fee to cover cleaning, heating, lighting etc. Action - RECTOR

The Chairman asked for a volunteer to help with and possibly take over the running of events. It was suggested this should be raised at the AGM. Discussion took place and it was felt that we should have fewer events or consider taking on a paid administrator to help. The concerts are part of the CASTING THE NET initiative.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 Area Contacts - remains on the Agenda Action - NICK COOKE

9. GODLY PLAY - nothing to report

10. FABRIC REPORT - nothing to report

10.1 Quinquennial Review – The report has been received from CKD Galbraith and submitted to the Diocese. The Chairman explained that the Church is in good condition apart from a few minor items needing attention. A working list will be drawn up with estimates provided from JP McDonald for the work i.e. Some pointing on the stonework, cracks in the Porch and attention needed to the Rectory Harling in 2 places. The Chairman explained that further costs would be incurred. The Church Room window sills also need attention. Action: CHAIRMAN AND JAMIE PARKER

11. RECTOR'S REPORT - nothing to report

11.1 Music and Worship. The Chairman pointed out that a MAP review was due in July. Margie Stephen asked for more hymns with modern words, and the Rector and Jean Sykes assured her that this was happening.

Discussion took place regarding the use of an IPOD through the sound system to provide music/hymns etc if Jean Sykes was not available to play the organ. It was agreed to look at the sound system to improve the amplifier.

Discussion took place about a relief organist - this is not without costs, but it was agreed that someone should be found and payment made if required. Action - RECTOR

12. ECO CONGREGATION

Anne Winther explained the position. She and Nick Cooke are involved in encouraging the Church to take an interest in Climate Change and reducing carbon emissions and encourage renewable energy options. Various options could be investigated - hydro electric scheme with the Garage to provide renewable energy and switching to a Green Electric Tarriff. She pointed out that we are not fulfilling our Green obligations as a member of the Eco Congregation. Through our worship we should respect the environment. It was suggested these points could be made in the Weekly Bulletin and the Pew Leaflets. Notice was given of a meeting on 27th May in St Columba's Church in Bridge of Allan to discuss their new renewable technologies in the Church. Christopher Roads may be able to attend the meeting. Action RECTOR and CHRISTOPHER ROADS

13. AOCB

Margie Stephen raised the issue of Church Notices for the villages. The Chairman assured her that the Rector had laminated versions available.

14. CLOSING PRAYER

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and the Rector closed with a prayer and thanks to the Chairman and Vestry for all their help.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Friday 17th July 2015