

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 23rd October 2015

PRESENT: Mark Seymour (Chairman), Susan Forsyth, Christopher Roads, Jean Sykes, Nick Cooke, Alastair Gardner (Treasurer), Anne Winther, Richard Gross (Rector)

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and the Rector opened with a prayer.
2. APOLOGIES: James Gardner, Margie Stephen
3. MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING HELD ON 17TH JULY 2015: The Chairman signed the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.
 - 3.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:
 - Church Giving Fund – see below
 - Area Contacts meeting – Nick requested that this be cancelled
 - Insurance. Treasurer to check that the church room is covered for meetings held by outside organisations
4. RECTORS REPORT: Nothing to report
 - 4.1 Music and Worship - Nothing to report
5. SECRETARY'S BUSINESS:
 - 5.1 Vestry meeting dates for the next year were agreed:

29th January 2016

6th May 2016

8th July 2016

21st October 2016

AGM Sunday 4th December 2016

5.2 AGM Business - none

5.2.1 - New Members were discussed - No action agreed

The Chairman reported that the Canons are now available on the Provincial Website and that hard copy is no longer produced or updated.

The Bethany Trust booklet will be placed at the back of the Church and they will be asked not to send material to us unless as part of a general distribution to all Churches

6. TREASURER'S BUSINESS:

6.1 Please see attached Treasurer's Report covering the full financial year. He pointed out that there is likely to be a £4,000 shortfall. A revised insurance quote had been received and his would now be paid £1,447 for the Church and £527 for the Rectory.

The Treasurer informed the meeting Michael Forsyth and Barbara Carruthers had produced a small booklet of Barbara's pew leaflet pieces and £400 of Gift Aid would come to St Marys.

Discussion took place as to how to raise the extra funds needed - by events/concerts, or a stewardship campaign, or ask regular givers to give more. It was felt that at the very least an idea of a preliminary plan should be put forward at the AGM in December.

A Sub Committee Meeting agreed to discuss this attended by The Chairman, Nick Cooke, Christopher Roads, Alastair Gardner, the Rector and possibly Anne Winther on November 6th at 7.30pm in the Church Room.

6.2 Church Giving Fund - payments were agreed at the July meeting for payments to be made of £200 to the Chesney Trust and £250 to CYP. These will be paid in the very near future. It has been agreed that the collections from the Harvest Service and the Carol Service were to go to the Church Giving Fund.

ACTION: Alastair Gardner

7. EVENTS:

7.1 Les Trois Blondes - Friday 30th October 2015

The Chairman providing the wine and Susan Forsyth is co-ordinating food for the event.

It was agreed that a survey form should be handed out to all attending the concert asking how they heard about the event ACTION: Alastair Gardner

7.2 Russian Choir scheduled for 11th November next year.

7.3 Kentigern String Quartet (formerly Albion String Quartet) scheduled for March/April 2016 .

No other events have been organised.

ACTION: Chairman

7.4 Re-allocation of tasks currently undertaken by Mark Seymour

Discussion took place as to the way forward. Possible Music Festival or Organ Recitals - perhaps a Season of Recitals say every 2 months over the winter months. Nick Cooke pointed out that funds were available from Scotland's Churches Trust to help with organ recitals.

It was agreed James Gardner would ask Matthew Beetschen about an Organ Recital in St Marys. ACTION: James Gardner

An alternative would be Bill Ritchie with whom Susan Forsyth is in touch.

No allocation of the tasks currently undertaken by Mark Seymour was agreed and he reiterated on three occasions that the tasks he presently undertakes need to be re-allocated and that this was in the hands of vestry members in accordance with the agenda (item 8.4). He would not be organising further events and that it was up to others to take up the mantle.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 Area Contacts Meeting - no further action.

8.2 Barbara Carruthers Pew Leaflet - Barbara has said she may not be able to produce this during the winter months. It was felt that we should try and have a leaflet for the Pew each week. The Chairman and Rector agreed to liaise with her if it was just a matter of getting the leaflets to St Marys for the Sunday service.

ACTION: Chairman and Rector

9. GODLY PLAY: Nothing to Report

10. FABRIC: Nothing to Report

The Chairman mentioned he would close off the area where birds are nesting in the south transept under the gutter.

ACTION:

Chairman

11. ECO CONGREGATION:

Christopher Roads reported he had nothing to report yet regarding the Eco Survey

See Report submitted by Anne Winther prior to this meeting.

Anne Winther asked the Treasurer to check about switching to a Green Tariff for energy costs and to check on the investments made by Smith and Williamson and whether these are with ethical companies. She also asked the Rector to include Eco matters in general prayers during services. Eco-congregation renewal was discussed - £50 fee due at the end of the year. There are 21 networks in Scotland which includes 347 congregations. ACTION: Alastair Gardner and the Rector.

An Eco Service is to be held in Edinburgh on Saturday 28th October at 11 am. Anne Winther will be attending with her family

12. A.O.C.B. None

13. The Chairman thanked all for attending and the Rector closed with a Prayer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 29th January 2016

Eco Congregation Report

Eco-congregation 23 October 2015

1. Energy and buildings update.

Christopher is still progressing an energy survey for the Church and attended the Eco-congregation network meeting. Anne has switched supplier to Good Energy as they obtain their energy from renewable sources and recommends that a green tariff should be investigated for St Mary's.

2. Climate talks Paris 2015 - the ecumenical service is to be held at St Albert's Chapel, George Square, Edinburgh, at 11am Sat 28th November followed by meeting at 12:00 in the Meadows. 12.30pm March sets off from the Meadows, down the Mound into Princes Street Gardens, 1.00pm Rally with bands and speakers Ross Bandstand, Princes Street Gardens, 2.30pm Rally ends.

3. Refugee donations. Thank you to all who have donated. Donations collected in September were sent by lorry to Calais. Re-Act Scotland are now managing the distribution process and are expecting to deliver to destinations beyond Calais in the future.

4. Investments. Across the UK there is action to divest from companies that are unethical and fossil fuel companies. I recommend to the Vestry that we should ask our investment provider for a summary of what companies are in our investment portfolio. Assuming that we are investing in fossil fuel companies, then we should take action to divest from companies that are drilling for oil and coal, or promoting coal fired power stations. This is also an opportunity to check our investment provider is investing in ethical companies (ie no weapons manufacturers, BAT, etc.).

5. Eco-congregation renewal

Our membership is due for renewal at the end of the year. I ask for the vestry's approval to renew the membership for a cost of £50.

DRY

St Mary's Budget / Accounts Position – at 30th September 2015

Vestry Meeting: 23rd October 2015

Current balances at 30 Sept 2015:

Vestry account: **£2,015.16**

Restoration Account : **£2,227.32**

Detailed breakdown of actual expenditure and Income type on attached page

Summary of Actuals (last 12 months)

Month	Income	Expenditure
Oct	£9,792.48	£4,658.10
Nov	£4,411.10	£4,282.48
Dec	£4,805.68	£5,092.09
Jan	£3,202.20	£4,948.20
Feb	£4,227.90	£5,604.01
Mar	£5,536.42	£5,347.42
Apr	£5,474.19	£4,341.10
May	£3,528.76	£5,839.41
June	£3,103.62	£5,403.30
Jul	£4,858.88	£4,269.25
Aug	£2,792.14	£6,445.37
Sept	£7,551.52	£5,158.34
	£59,284.89	£61,389.07

Net cash flow shortfall of £2,105

Comparison to previous years

This last 12 months has seen:

- One –off costs of £5,767 for the survey and electrical works, offset by seeking a further 6 months of Gift aid and a £895 contribution from St Andrews.

If these are stripped out of the numbers, then

- Running costs are almost flat £55,622 compared to £56,055 in 2013/14
- Income is however **down** to £55,167 compared to £58,226 in 2013/14.

Forecast for 2015/16

Looking ahead, run costs are again expected to be @£56-57k

We also need to factor in:

- £1,000 loan repayment
- £1,000 for building up re-wiring provisions
- £1,000 for Church Giving provisions

So Income need to be @£60k

The Robert Sutherland estate is estimated to generate £773 next year (£157 this year). That still leaves us @£4k shortfall. Therefore some form of extra income is required.

Alastair Gardner,

Treasurer

Account Numbers	Opening Balance	Closing Balance
00938082	£ 4,119.34	£ 2,015.16
06001904	£ 2,227.32	£ 2,227.32

	Cr	Dr		
Ministers Stipend + Pension+ Diocese Quota		£ 42,205		
Southern Electric		£ 3,117		
Council Tax		£ 2,327		
Insurance		£ 1,796		
Church Organist fees		£ 900		
Cleaning		£ 699		
BT GROUP PLC		£ 662		
Scot Tec Oil Services		£ 639		
Henderson (Gardening)		£ 580		
Viking Stationary		£ 376		
Ian McDonald Roof repairs		£ 343		
Fundraising Expenses		£ 338		
Independent Examination/ Accountancy		£ 275		
Hayes & Finch		£ 267		
Church Giving (CINI Donation)		£ 200		
Chubb Fire Extinguisher		£ 196		
Pipe organ Maintenance		£ 195		
CCLI licence		£ 104		
Sundries		£ 107		
Clergy Conference		£ 121		
newsletter/ Website		£ 65		
Scot Audio		£ 60		
Eco Congregation membership		£ 50	£ 55,622	£ 56,055
One-off costs				
Arromar (web site development)		£ 195		
Yellow Envelope printing		£ 71		
Biskit Electrical		£ 1,763		
Mackie Electrical		£ 2,538		
CKD Galbraith - Quin Survey		£ 1,200	£ 5,767	£ -
				2013-14 Giving
Gift Aid 1 (DDs)	£ 16,244			£ 17,908
Gift Aid 2 (Yellow/Green)	£ 1,523			£ 2,066
Gift Aid 3 (White Envelopes)	£ 4,752			£ 4,622
Collections	£ 3,048			£ 4,774
Smith & Williams & Sutherland Estate	£ 2,248			£ 1,682
Donations (weddings, funerals, legacies)	£ 3,886			£ 4,700
FundRaising	£ 1,180			£ 621
HMRC Gift Aid claims (18 Months)	£ 11,108			£ 7,453
St Andrews Linkage	£ 15,295			£ 14,400
Totals	£ 59,284	£ 61,389		£ 58,226
Variance		-£ 2,105		