

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 15th July 2016 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Richard Grosse (Rector and Chairman), Susan Forsyth, Christopher Roads, Nick Cooke, Margie Stephen, Alastair Gardner, James Gardner, Mary-Clare Brown (observer)

1. **WELCOME AND PRAYER:** The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Mark Seymour (Secretary), Anne Winther, Jean Sykes
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6TH MAY 2016:** Vestry was happy for the minutes to be signed as a true record of the meeting. The minutes of the May meeting were signed by the Rector.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Rectory Insulation

The Rector thanked Nick Cooke for help re the Rectory Insulation, this was ongoing.

Church Floodlighting

An estimate for flood lighting already received was under £4,000 and was a part project not completed during the church renovation project 5 years ago, The project has been resurrected since it might be a good project on which to spend the Charles Brown Legacy. The matter was discussed and it was thought a good idea as we are now using the church much more as a public venue for events. Nick Cooke agreed to investigate help from an external grant, but running costs need investigating. Running costs will be very low indeed since all lights will be LED. Christopher Roads wondered whether planning permission was needed and Alastair Gardner agreed to check the insurance position. Vestry agreed to pursue the matter and look into external funding. James Gardner felt we should inform the Diocese of our

plans as this was an Eco friendly project. Diocesan consent will need to be renewed. The meeting decided that this project would only proceed if external funding was obtained. ACTION ALISTAIR GARDNER/NICKE COOKE

Post the meeting: The secretary confirmed post meeting that planning consent is still current, and that all lights would be LED, thus keeping running costs very low.

Jean Sykes Remuneration - to be carried forward ACTION Treasurer

Eco Congregation - Church Heating and Grants: A Green Deal consultant has been approached and we await his quote ACTION RECTOR/NICK COOKE

Christopher Roads reported that the timescale had been extended for the provision of an Air Source Heat Pump, We were to contact the provider of the Pew Heating pads with an update of our timescale. A site visit and information had been requested. ACTION CHRISTOPHER ROADS

5. FINANCIAL REPORT AND TREASURERS MATTERS:

The Treasurer had circulated his financial report which he explained to the meeting. Fire Extinguishers had been purchased and our contract with Chubb cancelled and we will now pay only a £80 annual maintenance fee.

The Treasurer reported that the capital from the Robert Sutherland Legacy was now £31,000 invested by Smith and Williamson of which we receive the interest. The paperwork is now being sent to us on a regular basis by JH Mitchells and so progress has been made with this matter.

Church Giving Fund: Vestry agreed that CINI should receive £400, specifically earmarked for the Sponsor a Mother project. ACTION ALASTAIR GARDNER

Vestry agreed that a Donation Box should be put at the back of the Church for Start Up - a charity in Stirling the Rector is involved with.

6. SECRETARYS CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter of thanks had been received from The Chesney Trust for the recent donation sent to them.

Potential income from Wayleave - Scottish Hydro - The secretary had instructed a firm of surveyors in Edinburgh to investigate free of any cost to us.

7. CONCERTS AND EVENTS :

The Rector thanked all for their efforts with the Summer Fete and concerts.

Concerts: Christopher Roads had circulated a very full report. He and Mary-Clare encouraged vestry members to distribute flyers for the concerts. Printing of flyers was discussed and the purchase of a new copy machine. Vestry agreed that the Charles Brown Legacy could be spent on a new copy machine and also on obtaining printed St Marys China mugs for use at the concerts and for sale. The Treasurer agreed to investigate printers ACTION ALASTAIR GARDNER, MARY-CLARE BROWN, CHRISTOPHER ROADS

James Gardner agreed to put all concert dates on line, and promote them through the Facebook page on Social Media, in addition to the promotion usually undertaken by the Secretary. ACTION JAMES GARDNER

8. THE MILLER WINDOWS

The Rector had circulated a note regarding the Windows. It was felt that we may be in possible breach of Canon 35 if we fix them to the walls in the Church without Diocesan consent. It was agreed by Vestry that we would wait for advice. Nick Cooke agreed to speak to the Dean, Kenny Rathband. ACTION NICK COOKE

8. AOCB

Margie Stephen raised the issue that members of the congregation not on email had no information about services, concerts, etc. as we no longer have the pew leaflet. It was agreed that copies of the Bulletin could be put at the back of the Church ACTION RECTOR

The Rector congratulated James Gardner on being appointed to several duties at the Cathedral. James was now on the Cathedral Vestry and on other committees. He is involved with the Heart to Heart Charity (work with divorced families) and organises the Glenalmond Youth Camp for young people.

The Rector thanked all for attending and closed with a prayer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Friday 21st October 2016

St Mary Vestry Meeting– 15 July 2016
Treasurer Report

1. Headlines

- Balances of £9,364 and £2,227 in the two accounts at end Jun 2016. Net £689 down from end April 2016 (last report).
- Stewardship campaign :
 - Increased annualised giving of £3,850 pledged
 - One-off donations : £700
- Legacy from the estate of Charles Brown - £5,000

2. **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 (up to end Jun 2016).

Month	Expenditure	Income
Oct Total	£5,733.52	£4,351.23
Nov Total	£5,059.58	£8,601.61
Dec Total	£4,705.04	£4,230.13
Jan Total	£4,972.35	£4,553.04
Feb Total	£4,362.87	£3,758.81
Mar Total	£4,264.72	£10,936.06
April Total	£3,857.12	£4,563.00
May Total	£3,784.25	£3,340.45
Jun Total	£5,103.53	£4,857.91
Grand Total	£41,842.98	£49,192.24

3. Items of Interest in last two months

May – nothing of note

June Expenditure:

Electricity - £688 (Church + Rectory)

SW Print Studio - £227.95 (Fair Banner)

Chesney Trust (Church Giving fund) - £200 (original cheque lost in post)

June Income

Donation (£120)

Funeral fees (£160)

Smith & Williamson (£358)

4. July Income / Expenditure

Summer fair £602

- Guess the weight of the Cake £62; Tombola about £140

Donation : £680

Henderson Gardening - £580 (invoice just in)

Stirlingshire Fire ~£300 (new fire extinguishers) – replacing Chubb contract (terminated).

Rayburn maintenance (£122.40) – so significant saving on the £683.88 last year.

5. Other items

- HMRC Gift Aid for 6 months to be submitted – expecting @£2,700 of income
- Independent Examiner - £275 (invoice still due from last year)

6. Smith and Williamson Investments update

Latest income: Jun 16 - £358.16

(previous amounts : Dec 15 - £361.51; Mar 16 - £555.27)

7. Giving Fund

£1,500 ringfenced. £400 paid out this year so far. Propose further £400 is paid before end of Financial year (end Sept).

Finally, a thank you to all those involved in the Summer fair and concerts – your efforts to support our fundraising are very much appreciated.

Alastair Gardner
Treasurer

St Mary's Aberfoyle
Vestry Meeting Friday 15th July

Chairman's remarks

Mary-Clare Brown asks to attend the meeting on Friday as an observer. If anyone has objection to this request, please let me know

Agenda item 4 Matters arising

Church Floodlighting

Is Vestry agreed in principle that floodlighting is necessary/desirable ?

Points to consider

- a. When will the lights be turned on? Our concerts are scheduled for afternoons rather than evenings. We have three scheduled services a year, these being the Carol Service, Midnight Mass on a two yearly cycle, and Ash Wednesday. Which other occasions might the lights be used
- b. Who will turn them on and off? Would a timer switch be sufficient
- c. What is the point of the lighting? Is it to floodlight the building or the windows? If it is the latter probably only the east window would benefit from lighting. Should a quotation be sought just for the lighting of that window?
- d. Will the lighting attract unwanted attention?

Item 8 The Miller Windows

Whilst personally welcoming the display of the windows, I continue to have concerns that this will contravene Canon 35. The text of Canon 35 (1) reads *With the exception of minor works identified by the Provincial Buildings Committee no change (whether by introduction alteration or removal shall be made in the structure ecclesiastical furniture or ornaments monuments mural tablets or painted windows of any church nor shall any scheme of redecoration or any alteration of lighting or heating system be undertaken unless the Vestry of the same with the consent of the Rector shall have*

obtained the approval in writing by the Bishop and of the Diocesan Buildings Committee...'

The minor works referred to above are

- 1. Decorative banners used for displays not lasting more than three months.*
- 2. Fire Extinguishers (subject to the recommendation of the local Fire Officer as to location).*
- 3. Introduction of movable bookcases or display stands.*

I have explained this dilemma to David and he in turn has asked the contractor repairing the windows for his opinion.

This aside, their situation in the church would need to be identified. Although not visually prominent, display at the north side of the chancel would be practical as it would cause the minimum of interference to other activity in the building

St Mary's Church - Vestry meeting 15th July 2016

Applications to the Church Giving Fund

Margie Stephen has written to the Rector as follows

St Mary's Vestry Meeting 15th July 2016

Agenda item 5 Requests for donations from Church Giving Fund

Sponsor Margie Stephen who writes :

CINI.

'They organise a sponsor a mother programme for a family in great need of financial support as well as health care. They do this by identifying a very malnourished mother who is pregnant with a husband or partner either out of work or unable to cope, struggling with no money. There is negligible funding for those not in work.

CINI health care workers work in several slum areas where there is terrible poverty. Hence they know the situation with families and try to focus where the need is greatest.

The sponsor is asked to help the pregnant mother when she realizes she is having a baby. The science behind this is that the child will not develop properly with poor nutrition and be born underweight with an undeveloped brain. The sponsor provides about £100 per year for three years by which time the child is two. This provides funds for health care monitoring of progress in pregnancy, and food and vaccination etc for the child. The family are not the only ones to benefit, because to some extent the money is used in general to help the slum people. eg for vitamins, particularly vitamin A.

I have been in several of these areas and seen for myself the situation and there is no doubt the programme works. There are slums in the city, urban, and also in the countryside rural. Both are disturbing to see but it is very encouraging to watch progress.

The sponsor is notified when the birth happens, maybe by email and then when the child is about one year old, so the sponsor has some connection with the family.

St Mary's helped a family several years ago when Nick Cooke was treasurer and the letter was put up in the coffee room for the congregation to read if they were interested.

It may obviously be a step too far to expect a donation every year, but even if a smaller amount was given towards this sponsorship it would be very useful.

Education also is provided by CINI to try to end the cycle of poverty so this would be an alternative with a less specific sum of money'.

Report to Vestry re Church Fete held on Saturday 18th June 2016 in the Tourist Office, Main Street, Aberfoyle Noon - 4pm

Christopher Roads and I set about organising the above event. The main purpose was to raise the profile of St Marys in the village and to encourage local traders/small businesses and charities to take a table to sell their wares.

We had 11 tables in all including Original work by local artists, cards, pottery, Green Routes plant charity from Gartmore House, Kinlochard History Society, photographic cards, and Word Maps - 2 tables were organised by Melanie Grosse for St Marys which included contributions from the congregation including baking from Fiona Brown. We also had a very successful Tombola stall run by Elizabeth Roads, and a Guess the Weight of the Cake organised by Christopher Roads.

With a lot of support from members of the congregation the afternoon was a great success, the weather was kind and we had 2 tables outside. The Tourist Office staff were most accommodating and special thanks should go to Christopher and Elizabeth, Judy and Christopher Poulton and Melanie and for all the hard work they put in to make the day run so smoothly. 2 banners have now been purchased with Church Funds which were displayed on the outside of the Tourist Office to advertise the event very effectively.

The total raised was £602 - The Tombola raised £140 and Guess the weight of the Cake £62.

Susan Forsyth
15th July 2016

Report to Vestry dated 15 July 2016

CONCERTS

This report follows on from the report to Vestry dated 6 May 2016.

Concerts So Far. Alastair Savage and Friends gave an excellent concert on 18 June. This was in the evening after the Fair. However, the audience figures were very disappointing, only 25. As Alastair was paid £250, the concert made a slight loss as the cost of printing tickets was £24. More

importantly, the low audience figures were embarrassing, although Alastair put a brave face on it and is keen to come again next year.

Planned Concerts. The following concerts are programmed:

Sunday 17 July 2016 at 4.00 p.m. Feis Fhiort;
Sunday 21 August 2016 at 3.00 p.m. Pure Brass
Sunday 18 September 2016 at 3.00 p.m. for Soprano, Trumpet and Organ.
Sunday 16 October, 2016 at 3.00 p.m. ecture: "Ecclesiastical Heraldry"
Sunday 20 November 2016 at 3.00 p.m. The Kentigern Quartet
Sunday 15 January 2017 at 3.00 p.m. Pistons and Pipes.

Future Concerts. We have been approached by the Lyra vocal quartet who are offering a concert on 21 May. We have also been approached by the Glasgow Chamber Choir, a semi-professional group of 30, who cannot manage the 3rd Sunday in June but are offering a concert on Sunday 11 June, probably of Shakespearean themed music.

Funding. The following financial support has been offered:

From the **Scottish Churches Trust** organ fund: £300, subject to the organ being tuned. This offer is to support the concert on 18 Sep. A further grant will be sought to support the concert on 15 Jan.

From **Enterprise Music Scotland**: An up-front grant of £2500 plus a further £500 Guarantee Against Loss.

Both offers are subject to acknowledgement of this support in all marketing material. (N.B. The grant offers arrived after the production of the flyer described below.)

Marketing.

Two banners were procured to support the Fair, from the concert marketing budget, as they are dual purpose.

Press releases were printed by the Strathard News and the Stirling Observer.

Additionally, a few posters have been put up in Aberfoyle garage, the Co-op, the Tourist Office, and the Kinlochard notice board.

Sales of the Alastair Savage concert were promoted at the Fair but only a few tickets were sold. It became quite apparent that many local people who visited the Fair had no idea that St. Mary's arranged concerts. They are, of course, not on our email list. It was decided that an alternative marketing tactic was required so 1000 copies of a flyer has been produced listing the concert programme. Numbers of these have been distributed to the Aberfoyle filling station, the Post Office, and the Co-op. They have also been deposited at the Rob Roy and the Forest Hills hotels. Richard has also left some in local libraries. A number have been sent to Terri Taylor and to the RC priest in Callander, and to three Care Homes.

Ticketing. Elizabeth ran the "front of house" operation for the Alastair Savage concert and pointed out that a ticket price of £10 saved the complication of giving change just when many people were coming through the door, and saved on a float. Thus, the price of £10 has been fixed for future concerts, with a concessionary price of £5 for students in full-time education and for residents of

care homes (carers free). As the price is quite high, tea and biscuits will be offered after the concert at the back of the church.

“Golden Tickets” have been offered to 8 children across 4 local schools, starting with the August concert.

Tea. Initially, it was considered to be too difficult to arrange tea/coffee (with milk and sugar) after the performance in the church, but the advice is that tea might be arranged in the church room for possibly up to 50 people. Also, initially, the possibility of asking for contributions towards the tea would be sought, as opposed to making a charge, as is presently done after church. However, as mentioned above, the relatively high cost of tickets suggests that tea should be included in the ticket, and so it is now proposed that tea should be arranged in the church, and that the rear two pews should be used as space to organise this. This arrangement would have the additional advantage that any wheelchair users would still have access to tea and so not feel disadvantaged.

However, we do not have enough cups (mugs). There are 13 St. Mary’s mugs left from the last batch. While we could buy some from IKEA, we might consider buying a new batch (96) of the St. Mary’s mugs, which would also be on sale through the church. The cost (inc. VAT) is just over £500 and delivery is 6 weeks.

Conclusion. The decision to move the concerts to Sunday afternoon of necessity required the performance to be reduced to one hour only. In turn, it was felt that the ticket price should be reduced from £12 to £10 and to include the concert notes and the offer of a cup of tea. It also removed the opportunity to sell refreshments in an interval. Thus, the hoped-for revenue will be reduced from the earlier plans. Nonetheless, it is hoped that the renewed marketing effort will result in larger audiences, not just from our traditional email base but also from new people from the village who would not otherwise visit the church, and that the church will thus derive some income from the concert series. It remains to be seen how successful the uptake of the “golden tickets“ to schoolchildren and the offer of concessionary tickets to care homes will be.

And finally . . . Although not directly relevant to St. Mary’s, I have been asked by EMS to propose a venue for a chamber group to play on National Chamber Music Day, Sat 17 Sept. These groups are sponsored by Creative Scotland to play all over the country on that day. I have suggested the Tourist Office.