

ST. MARYS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ABERFOYLE

Rector: Revd. Canon Richard Grosse

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

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AFTER MORNING
SERVICE ON SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 2016

The Rector welcomed all to the meeting.

PRESENT: Revd. Canon Richard Gross (Chairman of the Vestry) , Mark Seymour (Secretary of the Vestry) and 25 members of the congregation.

APOLOGIES: Margie Stephen, Margaret Sutherland, Tim Winther

2. MINUTES OF 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

These were approved and signed by the Rector as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

3. VESTRY REPORT

The Vestry had met 4 times throughout the year the main topics of discussion were:

Stewardship Campaign
Economy measures
Concerts and Events
The Miller Windows
Legacy Received
Data Protection Register

As anticipated in last year's report, the year started with a Stewardship Campaign. Those who responded did so generously; thank you. A generous legacy was received with great gratitude. In launching the campaign, the Vestry was aware that the congregation's resources are not infinite. It therefore undertook the scrutinise expenditure. Our second largest overhead is energy costs. Members of Vestry have spent a good deal of time in the past months investigating cheaper and more efficient means of heating the church. This has involved considerable amount of time and effort. It is hoped that the fruit of such labours will become apparent in due course. The Vestry not only undertook to reduce all possible expenditure, but to generate new revenue. The fair in June held at Aberfoyle Tourist Centre was a leap in faith, but well justified. Apart from the sums raised it did much to raise the profile of St Mary's within the community. The third Sunday at three concert series has been built upon the foundations of our previous series of concerts and have proved popular Their success however depends in great measure on the continued and

sustained support of the congregation. Members of the current Vestry have been both dedicated and pro-active and we are fortunate indeed to have the benefit of their service.

St Mary's is especially grateful to Mary-Clare Brown whose timely return to St Mary's has greatly assisted Jean Sykes as organist. The Vestry has co-opted and asked her to stand for election at the meeting.

Our ecumenical links with Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith churches continue to be fruitful. The Midnight Service this year will be a joint venture for the first time.

Our long association with the Manchester Church Lads and Girls Brigade has been sustained. After a period of falling numbers and morale, it is heartening that numbers are again rising. The officers and staff demonstrate the most wonderful practical love and faith.

Bishop David preached and celebrated at the Mothering Sunday service.

A donation from the Church Giving Fund was made to CINI and our Harvest Produce was donated to Braendam and Start Up Stirling. It is hoped that St Mary's can support the latter on a more regular and focused basis in the year to come.

Thank you to everyone who has enabled the work and life of St Mary's to continue. May God guide and bless us all in the year to come.

4. RECTOR'S REPORT:

I should like to say a little about our Vestry members. As a Church we are fortunate to have such a proactive body working for our benefit. For example the Vestry agreed at the start of the year that it should not be relying solely on congregational giving to maintain cash-flow. Instead it agreed to be proactive in raising monies from those outwith the regular congregation. The Summer Fair was one result and another the third Sunday at three concert series.

This has carefully planned and then put into effect. I say carefully planned because Grants were first obtained from Enterprise Music Scotland to cushion the cost of some overheads and from the Scottish Churches Trust organ fund to bring our own instrument up to standard for the September Concert.

The programme thus far has been of high quality and great variety. The October event for example was a lecture on Ecclesiastical Heraldry a topic shrouded in mystery to most of us. Elizabeth Roads gave a magnificent illustrated talk.

What are we hoping to achieve by the series? We are hoping to interest young musicians in the area by allowing them where possible to interact with our performers. We are trying to raise the profile of St Mary's in the area, so that the concept of coming to a place of worship will be less alien and forbidding. And, as stated at the outset, the concerts aim to be another source of revenue.

So have the concerts been a success in material terms? Yes and no. Out of the six events so far staged, half have made a modest profit and the remainder a loss. To achieve a profit between forty and fifty tickets need to be sold. On half these occasions this number was not achieved. Mark has ensured that our publicity is not at fault: this is a well-oiled machine reaching far and wide. Frankly I can think of nothing more heartbreaking for those who have spent much time and effort drawing together the considerable number of strands that make a concert work to be rewarded with empty pews and a financial loss.

Stirling Albion Football Club relies on their home supporters to purchase tickets to finance the season. Ticket sales to visiting supporters make a welcome contribution

to the coffers, but the success or failure of the venture depends upon the loyalty of Albion supporters.

So what am I saying? We have potentially a wonderful source of income, but these concerts in order need sustained support from the congregation to encourage those outside the church to attend and to make those who organise these events feel that the efforts are worthwhile and appreciated. It is surely not too much to ask that for a concerted commitment for an afternoon a month for something which after all is a pleasure to attend?

5. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNT 2015/2016

The Treasurer circulated papers including a financial summary to the meeting and these can be found attached.

Christopher Roads announced to the meeting that we were hoping to improve the heating in the Church together with the efficiency of the rectory.

Mark Seymour pointed out that on Page 8 of the Accounts The signature on behalf of the Trustees should be the Rector as Chairman of the Vestry.

There were no questions in relation to the Accounts and the Rector thanked Alastair for his hard work which was very much appreciated.

Adoption of the Accounts (unanimous)

Proposed by Nick Cooke

Seconded by David Miller

6. LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT TO 2016

- Diocesan Synod 12th March – St Ninian's Cathedral

Lengthy agenda – standard items of business, Committees , Reports etc
Bishop's address – new partnership with Church Army in central Fife
Thomas Brauer – Mission Committee – excellent report on CTN becoming embedded as a set of values that underpins all Diocesan activity; MAPs grow out of it, not the other way round.

Reintroduction of SEC Building Grants and first Funders Fair for Places of Worship.

Report from Mothers Union on its work with Cornton Vale Prison

General Secretary, John Stewart, report on links between charges, Dioceses and the Province – review of SEC clergy remuneration and online survey for all Vestries.

- Work of the Diocesan Administration Board

NC a co-opted DAB member for past 5 years, very useful insight into business management of the Diocese, and work with Vestries in dealing with a wide range of financial and buildings issues facing individual charges. Useful monitoring of progress in administering investment income to St Mary's from the Robert Sutherland legacy. Bi-monthly meetings at the Diocesan Office in Perth, chaired by

John Ferguson-Smith, who is a very experienced operator, also attended by the Bishop and Dean ex officio.

- Casting the Net Review Day - 26th November

Excellent day on 26th November at St John's, Perth with 40 + attendance from across the Diocese. Strong reaffirmation that CTN is not just a box-ticking, Mission Action Plan exercise but a narrative for a process across the Diocese to enable each of us to move from simply being members of the Church into being disciples.

Much positive thinking came out of the two Discussion Groups during the day. To give you a flavour of this, here is the prompt for one of the Groups which I facilitated:

"The Diocese is a family of disciples. We are all in the same boat together, sailing on the winds of the Holy Spirit. We have discussed from where we have come. This is a time to imagine where we are going. Given where we have been, what do you imagine for the diocese, your charges and your communities looking forward to 2020?"

For most of you, the Diocese is probably a remote and possibly rather uninteresting entity but I can assure you there is much good work going on out there. We in St Mary's should engage with this, take encouragement from it and use it here in the Aberfoyle charge. In my view, we are well served by the Bishop, the Dean and other key people, both clergy and lay. I am personally sad that Thomas Brauer, who has made a particularly positive impact as Diocesan Missioner, is leaving shortly for New Zealand for family reasons and we can only hope his post will be filled soon.

Nick Cooke
Lay Representative

The Rector thanked Nick for his report.

7. VESTRY MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF LAY REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE LAY REPRESENTATIVE

Nick Cooke agreed to continue as the Lay Representative as did Saffrey Miller as the Alternate Lay Representative.

Proposed by: George Willis
Seconded by: Alastair Gardner

8. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS

The current Vestry Members agreed to continue including Mark Seymour (Secretary), Alastair Gardner (Treasurer), Susan Forsyth (Minute Secretary)

Mary Clare Brown had been co-opted onto the Vestry earlier in the year and the Meeting was asked to officially elect her to the Vestry.

Proposed by: Mark Seymour
Seconded by: James Stirling

9. OSCR ADVICE ON NOTIFIABLE EVENTS - CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Melanie Gross is our officer, and confirmed that all safeguards are being obeyed. A copy of her report will be sent to the Diocese.

10. AOCB: There was no other business - comments regarding floodlighting are to be dealt with.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 3rd December 2017

The Rector closed the meeting with the Grace and thanked all for attending.

St Mary AGM – 4th December 2016

Treasurer Summary for Congregation

- **Headlines**

- Net income over expenditure of £8,213 this 2015-16 financial year compared to a loss of £2,110 in the previous financial year.
- This last spring saw a successful the Stewardship campaign, with increased giving being pledged annually of almost £4,000. My sincere thanks to all those individuals who answered our appeal in such a positive manner, especially to those who already give most generously.
- Our fundraising has significantly stepped up a gear, generating £3,736 (net) this financial year due to several successful fundraising / social events being held in aid of St Mary's. My thanks in particular to
 - Lady Forsyth for managing a very successful Summer fair
 - Lord Forsyth for support in the publication of the Barbara Carruthers booklet.
 - Mr Christopher Roads for arranging a series of monthly concerts featuring artists including Alastair Savage, Feis Fhoirt, Pure Brass and Liam Devlin (with more concerts in the pipeline), and has been successful in obtaining two grants towards hosting our concert programme

- I acknowledge and give thanks for the generous legacy of £5,000 left to St Mary's by a long standing and very loyal member of the congregation (Vestry are now determining how best to use this fund)
- Continued focus on the running costs, seeking to reduce expenditure where practical.
- £850 paid out from Church Giving Fund

• **Summary of General Running Costs**

Description	Oct15-Sept 16	Oct 14-Sept 15
Rectors Stipend + Pension+ Diocese Quota	£42,531	£ 42,205
Southern Electric	£2,250	£ 3,117
Council Tax	£2,336	£ 2,327
Insurance	£1,896	£ 1,796
Church Organist fees	£870	£ 900
Archdiocese St And / Killearn Kirk	£480	£ 480
Cleaning	£625	£ 699
BT Group	£648	£ 662
Rayburn Maintenance (change of supplier)	£122	£ 639
Henderson (Gardening)	£580	£ 580
Viking Stationary	£326	£ 376
Ian McDonald Roof repairs*	£nil	£ 343
Independent Examination/ Accountancy	£253	£ 275
Hayes & Finch	£14	£ 267
Fire Extinguisher*	£502	£ 196
Pipe organ Maintenance	£162	£ 195
CCLI licence	£106	£ 104
Clergy Conference	£105	£ 96
Total General Running costs	£53,806	£ 55,257

*Notes

- Investment in Fire Equipment in 2016 – anticipated service charges @£80 pa ongoing
- No roof repairs this financial year but should be budgeted for 2016/17
- St Andrews contribute 40% of the Rector's costs (some £1,338 per month; £16k per annum).

[As in previous years, St Andrew's produce their own accounts so the formal accounts **exclude** the St Andrews income and the equivalent amount of expenditure].

- **Investments**

Our Smith & Williams portfolio value increased from £45,139 to £49,798 (we saw 8.8% increase in value in the six month period from March to Sept 2016), generating an Income of £1,882.

We received a further £367 of income generated from the Robert Sutherland estate.

- **Look Ahead – forecast for 2016-2017**

With the Stewardship pledges, I am budgeting for a total of £58k made up of our giving, fund raising, HMRC gift aid, Investment Income and St Andrews contribution. This allows for:

Running cost of @£55k

Church Giving Fund : £1k

Loan repayment : £1k pa (to start repayment)

Future Maintenance : £1k

Alastair Gardner

Treasurer