

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 21st October 2016 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Richard Grosse (Rector and Chairman), Mark Seymour (Secretary), Alastair Gardner, James Gardner, Mary-Clare Brown (Co-Opted during the meeting)

1. WELCOME AND PRAYER: The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer and thanks for attendance.
2. APOLOGIES: Jean Sykes, Margie Stephen, Christopher Roads, Susan Forsyth
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 15th July 2016: The Vestry approved the minutes as a true record of the meeting, and the minutes of the meeting were signed by the Rector.
4. The meeting Co-opted Mary Clare Brown as a member of the Vestry
5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES of the 15th July meeting:

Rectory Insulation

This matter is in the hands of Nick Cooke at present.

Action Nick Cooke

Church Floodlighting

This matter is in the hands of Nick Cooke at present who is to investigate help from an external grant. Mark Seymour undertook to confirm that planning consent was still in place. Action Nick Cooke and Mark Seymour.

The Brown Legacy Bring up at January 2017 meeting of the Vestry

Action Mark Seymour

Jean Sykes Remuneration Mark Seymour undertook to speak to Jean about Gift aid. Action Mark Seymour

Eco Congregation Bring up at January 2017 meeting of the Vestry

Action Mark Seymour

Purchase of a Printer Model to be purchased to be investigated by the Treasure in the New Year when new models are likely to be introduced. Action Alastair Gardner

6. RECTORS MATTERS.

The Carol Service is to be held on Sunday 18th December. Lighting and Mulled Wine to be arranged. Action Mary Clare Brown and Alastair Gardner

The Rector requested that Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults be placed on the agenda of the AGM. Action Mark Seymour

7. FINANCIAL REPORT AND TREASURERS MATTERS:

The Treasurer circulated his financial report to the meeting. A copy is attached. The Treasurer briefed the meeting in detail on the income and expenditure for the year to September 2016. The Independent Financial adviser will have the accounts ready for the AGM.

Sums held in the bank accounts at present amount to just over £12,400.

A surplus of income over expenditure just over £8000 was generated in the year to September 2016.

An income of around £58,000£59,000 is anticipated for the year ending September 2017, with an expenditure of around £55,000. The anticipated income includes an estimate for the recent Stewardship campaign the outcome of which will only become apparent after a full year following the campaign.

No recent invoice had been received from Iain MacDonald our roofing contractor. The meeting wondered whether the slates had been looked at recently. Action Jamie Parker

The Treasurer asked whether a new constitution is being prepared for charges. OSCR require that the constitution is put before AGM's on a regular basis. Mark Seymour undertook to find out. Action Mark Seymour

The full report is attached to these minutes. The Treasurer will update this report and provide a budget at the January 2017 meeting.

8. SECRETARYS CORRESPONDENCE:

Mark Seymour advised the meeting that in his opinion we should now register with the Data Protection Public Register since we are now distribute emails through MailChimp. It was agreed that we should register.

Action Mark Seymour

Mark Seymour informed the meeting that a letter had been received from Scotland's Churches Trust who are taking soundings as to whether there is a demand for grants for the provision of additional interpretive material for visitors to Churches. If such a grant was available, it was felt that 'Paddles' might augment the existing tryptic board on the West wall.

9. CONCERTS AND EVENTS :

Christopher Roads was unable to attend this meeting but had circulated his report prior to the meeting by email. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

Mary Clare Brown showed the meeting an example of the St Mary Mugs which are being manufactured. It was thought that these should be sold at a price of £5 each in order to recoup the cost of production

Action Mary Clare Brown

Mary Clare Brown is anxious to improve the lighting for musicians at concerts. Mark Seymour undertook to demonstrate the existing free standing spot lights already available. The meeting approved the purchase of additional lighting if required. Action Mary Clare Brown

10. FABRIC MATTERS

The Miller windows

The Rector has prepared a Canon 35 application to be submitted to the Diocese once plans and illustrations are received from Rainbow Windows. A copy of the application in so far as currently completed was circulated prior to this meeting. Action Rector and David Miller

The Lights on the Lower Beams in the Church. Mark Seymour reported that Bissets our electricians were unable to attend to investigate what was thought to be a broken switch. Tam Mackie has now been engaged to look at this. He advised us that there is an addition dimmer switch on this circuit unknown to us which had caused these lights to appear to be broke when they were not.

11 AGM PLANNING

A discussion took place about Vestry membership and relevant dates of election. It is proposed that Mary Clare Brown be put forward for election by the congregation to the Vestry.

12. AOCB

Margie Stephen had raised the prospect of purchasing new Hymn books. In her absence a lengthy discussion took place. Questions about what hymns which we do not presently have, and what hymns we might lose, if new books were purchased, were asked. The new books were to be purchased at no cost to the Church. More information is needed on this subject and the content of the new proposed hymn book. The Vestry would wish any new hymnbook to be in addition to the exiting books and not replace them.

Action Rector to respond to Margie Stephen

The Rector pointed out that we already have a stock of English Praise which have never been used and that books had been donated by a family member of a member of the congregation.

The Meeting approved the dates for the 2017 meetings of the Vestry

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Friday 19th January 2017

Distribution

All present
Susan Forsyth,
Nick Cooke,
Margie Stephen,
Christopher Roads,
Jamie Parker
Website

Date of 2017 Meetings of the Vestry

19th January
21st April
7th July
13th October

To be attached

Treasures report
Concert and Event report
Scotland Churches email

St Mary Vestry Meeting– 21 October 2016

Treasurer Report

1. Headlines

- Financial year end was 30th September 2016.
- Start of year balances:
 - a. Restoration Account - £2,227
 - b. Vestry Account – £2,015
- Year end Balances
 - a. Restoration Account - £2,227
 - b. Vestry Account –£10,227
- Net income over Expenditure : £8,212

2. Actuals year to date

The table below is an extract from on-line banking where I have summarised the total income and expenditure by month for the financial year.

| 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 | £4,671.35 | £4,252.04 |
| Feb Total | £4,362.87 | £3,758.81 |
| Mar Total | £4,186.18 | £10,857.52 |
| Apr Total | £3,857.12 | £4,563.00 |
| May Total | £3,784.25 | £3,340.45 |
| June Total | £5,103.53 | £4,857.91 |
| July Total | £5,145.68 | £5,163.07 |
| Aug Total | £5,508.51 | £6,931.50 |
| Sept Total | £5,408.66 | £4,831.69 |
| Total | £57,562.29 | £65,738.96 |
| | | £8,212.67 |

3. Headline Items for July-Sept

For Expenditure;

| July | Aug | Sept |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Henderson Gardening - £580 | Stirlingshire Fire - £292.56 | Electric (Rectory)- £133.63 |
| BT - £159.61 | Financial Examiner - £253 | Electric (Church)-£860.45 |
| Chubb Termination - £97.54 | CINI (Giving fund) - £400 | Viking Stationary - £116.63 |
| | Pure brass (concert) - £650 | Liam Devlin (concert) £350 |

For Income

| July | Aug | Sept |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Donations - £827 | EMS Grant - £2,500 | Liam Devlin (concert) - £555 |
| S&W -£60.69 | Stewardship donation - £78 | Donation – Wedding - £150 |
| SCT Grant - £300 | Feis Fhiort (concert)- £295 | S&W - £607.49 |
| Summer Fair - £602 | Pure Brass - £490 | S&W - £112.20 |

4. Smith and Williamson / Robert Sutherland Investments Income Summary

| Smith & Williamson (St Marys) | | Smith & Williamson (R Sutherland) | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Dec 15 | £361.51 | Oct 15 | £108.80 |
| Mar 16 | £555.27 | Feb 16 | £78.31 |
| June 16 | £358.16 | Apr 16 | £6.71 |
| Sept 16 | £607.49 | July 16 | £60.69 |
| | | Sept 16 | £112.20 |
| Total | £1,882.43 | | £366.71 |

5. 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 | £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

- 1) No Electricity invoice for Main church in Mar 16 (but invoiced in June and Sept 16).
- 2) Investment in Fire Equipment in 2016 – anticipated service charges @£80 pa ongoing
- 3) PM Organ Maintenance – cheque (£162) not presented by end Sept missing accounts cut off

6. HMRC

This last financial year, only 6 months of Gift Aid claimed (after 18 month's worth claimed in previous year to help offset electrical works), resulting in 2 year's worth of Gift Aid claimed in last two years. Submission of 12 months Gift Aid to be progressed 4Q16.

7. Income Summary

| | 2015-16 Giving | 2014-15 Giving | 2013-14 Giving |
|--|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Gift Aid 1 (DDs) | £ 15,593 | £ 16,244 | £ 17,908 |
| Gift Aid 2 (Yellow/Green) | £ 1,452* | £ 1,523 | £ 2,066 |
| Gift Aid 3 (White Envelopes) | £ 4,534* | £ 4,752 | £ 4,622 |
| Collections | £ 4,856* | £ 3,048 | £ 4,774 |
| Smith & Williams & Sutherland Estate | £ 2,249 | £ 2,248 | £ 1,682 |
| Donations (weddings, funerals, legacies & stewardship donations) | £10, 085* (£1,400 to be re-aligned) | £ 3,886 | £ 4,700 |
| Fund Raising (net of expenses) | £3,736 | £ 1,180 | £ 621 |
| Sub total: | £42,505 | £ 32, 881 | £ 36,373 |

Most stewardship increased giving was April onwards – so only half year benefit.

8. Look Ahead – forecast for 2016-2017

Gift Aid :

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Gift Aid 1 (DDs) | £ 15,593 |
| Gift Aid 2 (Yellow/Green) | £ 1,452 |
| Gift Aid 3 (White Envelopes) | £ 4,534 |
| Collections | £ 4,856 |
| Gift aid to be allocated | £1,300 |
| Smith & Williams & Sutherland Estate | £ 2,249 |
| Stewardship increase | £ 2,000 |
| Sub total | £31,984 |
| Fund raising (initial target) | £1,000 |
| Donations | £3,500 |
| St Andrews | £16,000 |
| HMRC (12 months) | £7,000 |
| Total | £59,484 |

Against:

Run costs : £55k + £3k (Church Giving £1k, Loan repayment £1k, Future Maintenance £1k)

So on target to achieve our objectives.

Alastair Gardner

Treasurer

CONCERT REPORT DATED 21 OCTOBER, 2016

SUMMARY

After the disappointing start with Alastair Savage's concert, audience figures for Pure Brass and Liam Devlin picked up to just over 50. More detailed reports of the concerts so far are below.

The production and distribution of leaflets seem to have spread the word about the concerts and St. Mary's. A new leaflet will be produced shortly once the programme for next year is finalised, hopefully in time for the AGM. (Hopefully also we shall have a printer by then.)

The concept of "Third Sunday at Three" is still developing but it is hoped that this will soon become fixed in the audiences' minds. While 3 o'clock is not a very convenient time for some of us, its popularity will probably improve as winter draws in.

The ticket price of £10 seems to have been accepted by the audience. There is little evidence that the price is deterring people. Few stay on for tea afterwards.

The printing of tickets was a small but significant cost. It has been decided to dispense with tickets as unnecessary, and money/donations are simply collected at the door.

The letters to care homes offering reduced tickets (free to carers) was followed up with telephone calls and further leaflets but it was clear that none of the homes could be bothered.

Eight children were invited to the Pure Brass concert. Four replied but only one family turned up. (Another gave profuse apologies, having got the day wrong.) M-CB received a slap on the wrist from Stirling Council Education Department for inviting them! It was decided not to send invitations for Liam Devlin or Elizabeth's talk, and Kentigern have declined to speak to children. However, it is intended to pursue this policy, but in a different format, for future concerts.

Although not really part of our programme, the National Chamber Music Day event was disappointing, and recommendations to improve it have been made to Enterprise Music Scotland.

DETAILED REPORTS

Sat 18 June at 7.30 pm: Alastair Savage and Friends. This concert was held on the evening after the St. Mary's Fair. Whilst the Fair was very successful, efforts to sell tickets for the evening concert were disappointing. After days of rain, it was a pleasant summer's evening. The result was an embarrassingly low attendance of 25, which was a shame for an outstanding concert by the performers. Fortunately, Alastair and his friends did not seem too put out, and have offered to come again next year.

For the organisers, this was a sharp wake-up to revitalise the marketing effort. A thousand leaflets of the concert programme were printed and distributed to Aberfoyle Co-op, the Post Office, the filling station, the Forest Hills Hotel and Rob Roy, and posted to adjacent denominations and to 3 care homes in Callander, Strathard, and Blanefield.

Result: Ticket Sales: £250. Performers' Fees: £250. Cost of tickets: £25.27. **Loss: £25.27.**

Sunday 17 July at 4.00 pm: Feis Fhiort. The Feis were performing at the Kinlochard Gathering earlier in the day so could not come at 3 o'clock. This was at the start of their summer programme,

and their performance was still shaking down. Nonetheless, the increased marketing effort resulted in an audience of 40, including one concession.

Result: Ticket Sales: £395. Performers Fees: £120. Cost of Tickets: £25.27. **Profit: £249.73**

Sunday 21 August at 3.00 pm: Pure Brass. The first true "Third Sunday at Three" at St. Mary's. To support audience numbers and "widen the net", the care homes were telephoned but clearly the earlier efforts of sending leaflets had been wasted. Eight personal invitations, two per school, were issued to selected pupils + one parent. Four accepted but only one appeared on the day (with one apology later).

Nonetheless, a respectable audience of 50 attended and were rewarded with a sparkling performance by Pure Brass, including the solo tuba show piece "Fnuug" (Baadsvik).

Result: Ticket Sales: £500. Performers' Fees: £650. **Loss against Grant: £150.**

Sunday 18 September at 3.00pm: Liam Devlin and Friends (soprano, trumpet, and organ). The organ had been tuned for this event but nonetheless started cyphering in the pedals during the first piece. The organist had to get away which made for a rather rushed performance, and some comment from the audience about the concert being "a bit short". Very good trumpeting by Lloyd Griffin, a 4th yr student at the Conservatoire.

Result: Tickets Sales: £555. Grant: £300. Total income = £855. Performers' fees & expenses: £350; organ tuning: £162. Total costs = £512. **Profit = £343.**

Sunday 16 October at 3.00 pm: Ecclesiastical Heraldry. With many people unable to attend for a variety of reasons, the audience was a disappointing 27 inc. Carol, Mark, and me. However, as Snawdon did not charge, the £270 is pure profit. The content of the talk recied high praise from many people.

A set of draft accounts are attached. Please note that although we are still showing a surplus of income over expenditure, the six concerts to June 2017 will be more expensive.

CONCERTS 2017.

The concert programme for 2017 so far is:

15 Jan: Pistons & Pipes: trumpet, clarinet and organ;

19 Feb:

19 Mar: Pippa Reid-Foster, Helen Reid-Foster + 2: harp, violin, + ?;

16 Apr: Easter;

21 May;

18 June: Organ?

16 July: Feis?

20 Aug: Organ?

17 Sep: Alastair Savage;

15 Oct: ?Alison McNeil & Sascha Savaloni, soprano + guitar. I have bid for this concert subsidised by EMS – cost will be £250 + expenses. Bid result NYK.

19 Nov: ?Voskresenije (Russian choir). I have emailed them but not yet had a reply. They are probably touring just now.

A bid for a free concert funded by the Tunnell Trust was unsuccessful

Potential performers include:

Gordon Ferries – solo lute + variants;

Monzanit Trio: flute/violin/cello;

Baba Yaga: sax/.harp duo;

Sax Ecosse: Saxophone quartet;

Arctic Winds: flute/oboe/clarinet/bassoon/horn;

Arunda Trio: oboe/clarinet/bassoon. N.B. On maternity leave from early 2017.

Various other performers have been on contact.

Organists: I have been given the names of Derek Clark and Bill Kean by the Daisy Henderson Agency. I have also written to Bill Ritchie asking for names.

I shall not go firm on any of these until I have attended the "Tours Conference" on 19 Nov in Glasgow (cost £25) at which I hope to meet other music clubs to compare notes and possibly meet other performers.

Finally: There have been some problems with sticking mechanics in the organ. Alan Clarke suggests a small heater inside the organ to maintain a fairly regular temperature. I shall discuss this with the tuner.

Concerts Accounts 2016/17

| | Income | Expenditure | Running Total | Use of Church | Adj Running Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| EMS Grant | 2500.00 | | 2500.00 | | 2500.00 |
| SCT Grant | 300.00 | | 2800.00 | | 2800.00 |
| Banners: | | 227.95 | 2572.05 | | 2572.05 |
| Alastair Savage: | | | | | |
| Ticket Sales: | 250.00 | | 2822.05 | | |
| Performers' Fees: | | 250.00 | 2572.05 | | |
| Cost of Tickets: | | 25.27 | 2546.78 | 200.00 | 2346.78 |
| Feis Fhiort | | | | | |
| Ticket Sales: | 395.00 | | 2741.78 | | |
| Performers' Fees: | | 120.00 | 2621.78 | | |
| Cost of Tickets: | | 25.27 | 2596.51 | 200.00 | 2396.51 |
| Pure Brass: | | | | | |
| Ticket Sales: | 500.00 | | 2896.51 | | |
| Performers' Fees: | | 650.00 | 2246.51 | 200.00 | 2046.51 |
| Liam Devlin: | | | | | |
| Ticket Sales: | 555.00 | | 2601.51 | | |
| Performers' Fees: | | 350.00 | 2251.51 | 200.00 | 2051.51 |
| Elizabeth Roads | | | | | |
| Ticket Sales: | 270.00 | Nil | 2321.51 | 200.00 | 2121.51 |

Dear Member Church,

Scotland's Churches Trust aims to advance the preservation, promotion and understanding of Scotland's rich architectural heritage represented in its churches and places of worship of all denominations throughout the country.

With a mission as important as this, you will not be surprised to hear that we are constantly thinking of new ways to help churches attract more visitors/worshippers through their doors.

A number of people over the last few months have emailed in to the SCT offices to comment on the number of churches which they have visited that did not have any informative guides about the church they were visiting. Nothing was available to pick up and read whilst they strolled around these wonderful buildings.

We think this is a great shame, not least because visitors will visit a church and leave without learning about its history!

So, SCT would like to launch a project whereby we provide free, tailor made, information leaflets to our member churches. These leaflets will inform visitors of the mysteries, tales, architectural facts and anything else of interest to do with the individual church. However, for this project to get up and running we have to conduct a quick survey to see whether this is something that you, our church members would find useful.

If you are in need of more informative leaflets/brochures which document the interesting history of your church then please do email me on info@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk to let me know. We would love to be able to help you teach your visitors about the rich history your church has to offer!

If we have enough signatures, we will be able to move this project forward relatively quickly! For now, all we need is a contact name for the church, the name of the church, an email address and a phone number!

If you would like to hear more about this project, do be in touch with us on the number

below!

Warm regards,

Georgina Treharne-Hulks,

Development Officer

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