

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 10th DECEMBER 2017

PRESENT: 19 members of the Congregation and the Rector

The Rector/Chairman asked that the Secretary Chair the meeting, and Mark Seymour then welcomed all to the Annual General meeting.

1. APOLOGIES: David and Saffrey Miller, Robin and John Willis, Margaret Sutherland, Anne Winther and Melanie Grosse
2. MINUTES OF 2016 AGM - these were approved by the meeting. Proposed by James Stirling and Seconded by Alastair Gardner and signed by the Rector, Chairman of Vestry.
3. VESTRY REPORT: The Secretary reported that Vestry met 4 times there being two outstanding matters; upgrading the church heating subject to grant funding being successful and the gifting of a new Hymn Book - both to be considered further at the Vestry meeting in January.

Christopher Roads announced that he had placed a Story Board at the back of the Church setting out the suggested alternatives for heating the Church.

No further questions.

4. RECTORS REPORT - This had been circulated to the Meeting. There were no questions.
5. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS: The Treasurer, Alastair Gardner explained the accounts which had been circulated to the meeting. Expenditure stood at approx £55,500 p.a. and was not expected to raise above this figure. The accounts showed a surplus of £2,561 for the year. The Legacy has now been invested by Smith and Williamson providing an annual income.

Nick Cooke thanked Alastair for his neat summary. There were no further questions raised.

6. LAY REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: Nick Cooke reported on the Synod meeting, the position regarding the new Bishop, and the voting on three Canons, the most important being the Amendment to Canon 31 regarding the marriage of same sex couples. 46 voters were in favour with 22 against. The election of a new Bishop following Bishop David's retirement in July is expected in March. Nick also reported that the

Administration Board gave a great insight into the working of other Vestries. The Secretary thanked Nick Cooke for his report.

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

Nick Cooke - Lay Representative - Proposed by George Willis and Seconded by Margie Stephen

Saffrey Miller - Alternate Lay Representative – is now also an ex officio member of Vestry. Proposed by George Willis and Seconded by Margie Stephen

8. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Secretary reported that Jean Sykes and Anne Winther would be retiring and he thanked them both for their input and service.

Alastair Gardner, James Gardner and Nick Cooke had agreed to stand again. They were proposed by Elizabeth Roads, and Seconded by Margie Stephen.

Two new members have agreed to stand. John Willis and Judith Poulton. Proposed by George Willis and Seconded by John Dymond.

The Secretary pointed out that Margie Stephen and himself, Mark Seymour, were ex officio members of the Vestry as lay reader and secretary.

9. OSCR ADVICE: The secretary reported that the return had been submitted.

10. AOCB: George Willis asked about the floodlighting of the Church as this was not included in the Refurbishment - The Secretary pointed out that this was not forgotten and that we are awaiting a grant application. The Planning Permission will need to be renewed, and Church Lighting is due to be discussed at the next Vestry meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 9th December 2018

The meeting closed with thanks to the Chair.

Rectors Annual Report Aberfoyle December 2017

The year has been somewhat overshadowed by the death of Barbara Carruthers. The proverb 'never judge a book by its cover' springs to mind. Barbara was far more than a beloved little lady. In her time with us she proved to be a force for the good in many ways. Most memorably, she wrote our weekly pew sheets. Happily, her wisdom poured forth over the years was captured for posterity with the publication of a small book masterminded by Susan and Michael Forsyth. We continue to mourn our loss and also that of Jean Sykes, who lost her son Mark in January.

Over the year, members of Vestry have continued to investigate cheaper and more efficient means of heating the church. This has involved a considerable amount of time and effort and we are indebted to all concerned. The Summer Fair was repeated in June at Aberfoyle Tourist Centre and again was well justified although the sum raised proved slightly less than before. The event continues to raise the profile of St Mary's within our community as does The Third Sunday at Three concert series. On occasions, the lack of audience has been demoralising, but in the main the concerts have proved popular especially those featuring the organ. This leads to a respectful reminder that the success of these ventures depends primarily 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 had the benefit of their service.

St Mary's is especially grateful to Mary-Clare and Jean for their respective contribution to the Sunday Services. We have also enjoyed the skills of various sub-organists over the year. The Carol Service produced an astonishing range of musical talent and was well attended. We value the continued support and fellowship of Kirk members at Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith. We wish both well in their search for and appointment of a new Minister. The Midnight Christmas Eve Service will continue to be a joint venture this year.

Our long association with the Manchester Church Lads and Girls Brigade continues to flourish. It seems always to rain during their Annual Camp at Dounans, but this is borne by all concerned with cheerful fortitude. The officers and staff of the Brigade demonstrate to us the most wonderful example of practical love and faith.

It was heartening to have been able to hold a Confirmation Service this year which was combined with a farewell presentation to Bishop David and Alison. The future of the Diocese remains to the forefront of prayer as a new Bishop is sought. We are proud that James Gardner, a member of Vestry has been elected to serve on the Selection Panel.

St Mary's is not alone, but within a Linkage with St Andrew's. The Harvest Supper was able to be resurrected this year and proved a success. The joint summer parish trip took us this year to Callendar House and Larbert Parish Church where we were given a touching welcome. A joint Advent Service is being planned.

We rejoice that our links with St Antony's Roman Catholic Church flourish and we share its joy in this its 125th year.

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.

Richard Grosse

Rector

November 2017

St Mary AGM – 10th December 2017
Treasurer Summary for Congregation

1. Headlines

- Net income over expenditure of £2,561 this 2016-17 financial year.
- £5,000 legacy transferred to Smith and Williamson for investment

2. Income:

Income Summary

Type	Amount
Direct Debt Giving	£17,065
White / Green Envelopes	£6,786
Cash Collections	£3,427
Donations	£3,015
Smith and Williamson	£2,656
Fund raising	£5,742
HMRC/Wayleaves/ Weddings	£7,595
Subtotal	£46,286
St Andrews Linkage	£16,056
Total	£62,342

Notes: St Andrews contribute 40% of the Rector's costs (some £1,338 per month; £16k per annum). Our year end accounts show income of £46,286 as per usual we exclude the Linkage income (St Andrews produce their own Accounts)

Our fundraising has continued this financial year with our "third Sunday in the month" concerts now being a regular feature, a Heraldry talk together with our Summer fair. We have also invested in some new St Mary's Mugs which are now on sale. My thanks in particular to:

- Lady Forsyth for managing a very successful Summer fair for the second year in a row.
- Mr Christopher Roads for arranging the third Sunday in the month series of concerts featuring artists including Alastair Savage, Feis Fhoirt, Baba Yoga and Pippa Reid Foster, and has been successful in obtaining a further two grants towards hosting our concert programme in 2018.

3. Summary of General Running Costs

Expenditure type	Amount
Quota/Stipends/Pension	£42,437
Council Tax	£2,452
Organ (Organist fees + maintenance)	£2,320
Insurance (Church and Rectory)	£1,920
Southern Electric (Church and Rectory)	£1,684
Viking Stationary (inc printer)	£1,017
BT	£729
Roof + Electrics repairs	£644

Cleaning	£590
Henderson (Gardening)	£580
Killearn /Balfron services	£480
Financial Examination	£268
Hayes and Finch (Alter goods)	£266
CCLI	£106
Clergy Conference	£105
Other Misc items	£388
Expenditure Subtotal (1)	£55,986
Fundraising costs (concerts, Adverts printing, Coffee mugs)	£3,795
Expenditure Subtotal (2)	£59,781
Smith and Williamson - £5k Transfer from Vestry Account	£5,000
Total Expenditure	£64,781

For the year end accounts, the £5k transfer of funds to Smith and Williamson is NOT treated as expenditure (confirmed by Stephen Nesbit, our financial examiner) as we still have access to these funds and have not purchased any goods. Therefore:

Taking the Expenditure Subtotal of £59,781, we again remove the £16,056 St Andrews Linkage contribution, giving a Net Year End Expenditure of **£43,725**.

- So Adjusted Income : **£46,286** vs adjusted Expenditure of **£43,735** gives a **surplus of £2,561**

[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].

4. Investments

Our Smith & Williams portfolio value increased from £49,798 to £57,309 including the £5k investment. We saw 7% yield Oct 16-Mar 17 and then 2% yield Apr 17 to Sept 17. generating an Income of £1,878.

We received a further £778 of income generated from the Robert Sutherland estate.

Alastair Gardner
Treasurer

ST MARY'S ABERFOYLE - LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT TO 2017 AGM

- **Diocesan Synod 11th March – St Ninian's Cathedral**

Lengthy agenda – standard items of business, Committees , Reports etc

Bishop's address – process for election of new Bishop under Canon 4.

Canonical Matters - voting on significant changes:

Canon 31 (Same Sex Marriage in Church) – 46 in favour, 22 against.

Canon 22 sections 2 and 3 (Administration of Sacraments etc) - 59 in favour, 10 against

Canon 63 (Lay Representative) – 59 in favour, 9 against

The Diocesan Synod's votes in favour of all three changes to the Canons were subsequently reflected in the votes of the SEC General Synod held in Edinburgh in June.

As you know, there has been major media publicity and press coverage of the issue of Same Sex Marriage within the Scottish Episcopal Church.

For the purposes of this report, I would simply ask you to note that, following the change to Canon 31, a member of clergy can only solemnise a marriage between persons of the same sex if this is not against their conscience and if he /she has been approved to do so by the Registrar General of Scotland on the nomination of his / her Bishop and Vestry. Under the same Canon, the definition of people forbidden to marry has also been updated to include close relationships by consanguinity, affinity and adoption.

I have a copy of the Diocesan Synod papers for anyone who wants more information.

- **Election of new Bishop**

Following Bishop David's retirement in July, the process of electing his successor is now well under way and I understand the Preparatory Committee elected by the Diocesan Synod in March has now shortlisted at least three candidates for consideration at the meetings of the Diocesan Electoral Synod to be held in late January and early February. As Lay Representative to St Mary's, I will be participating in both meetings.

- **Work of the Diocesan Administration Board**

I have also served as a co-opted DAB member for past 6 years, providing a very useful insight into the business management of the Diocese and the work of other Vestries in dealing with a wide range of financial and buildings issues within individual charges. Bi-monthly meetings at the Diocesan Office in Perth are chaired by John Ferguson-Smith, who is a very experienced lay convenor, also attended by the Bishop and Dean *ex officio*. I am glad to report the re-organisation of all Diocesan investments under Smith & Williamson professional management is now complete, and that St Mary's is now receiving its due allocation of regular income under the Robert Sutherland legacy.

Nick Cooke

Lay Representative

December 2017

Canon 31 – Deletion of clauses 1 and 2 and substitution with the following:

“In the light of the fact that there are differing understandings of the nature of marriage in this Church, no cleric of this Church shall be obliged to conduct any marriage against their conscience. Any marriage which is to be conducted by a cleric shall be solemnised strictly in accordance with the civil law of Scotland for the time being in force provided the said cleric is satisfied, after appropriate enquiries, that the parties have complied with the necessary preliminaries as set forth in the civil law. No cleric shall perform the Marriage Service, nor permit it to be performed in Church, for parties who are within the forbidden degrees as specified in Appendix 26. No cleric shall solemnise a marriage between persons of the same sex unless the said cleric shall have been nominated by the Bishop and the Vestry on behalf of the Church to the Registrar General for Scotland.”

DRAFT UNTIL Signed at 2018