

# ST MARYS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ABERFOYLE

Rector: Revd. Canon Richard Grosse

[www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk](http://www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk)

Charity Registered in Scotland: SCO23266

## **Minutes of Vestry Meeting held in the Church Room On Friday 20th April 2018 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Rector (Chairman) Rev Canon Richard Grosse, Mark Seymour, John Willis, Saffrey Miller, Margie Stephen, Alastair Gardner, James Gardner, Christopher Roads, Mary-Clare Brown, Nick Cooke, Susan Forsyth

1. **Welcome and Prayer:** The Rector welcomed all to the meeting and opened with a prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Judith Poulton
3. **Approval of Vestry Minutes dated 18th January 2018:** The Rector signed these as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising:**

**Eco Congregation - Church Heating and Grants:** Christopher Roads had circulated a paper to the meeting, covering this and floodlighting and which is appended to these Minutes.

The storyboard displayed in Church explains the options being considered. It was explained that we would not get funding in the present year as all available monies had been allocated. Canon 35 Approval from the Diocese is needed before we can go ahead, and the three elements, church heating, rectory fuel efficiency and floodlighting will be submitted together. Estimates are required for work on the rectory. RECTOR/MARK SEYMOUR/CHRISTOPHER ROADS

**Floodlighting:** £2,227 remains in the Restoration Account to be spent on this. It was explained to the meeting that George Willis had been

asked to take charge of this, with Mark Seymour happy to help. Jill and Fiona Brown have agreed that the Charles Brown Legacy can be put towards the floodlighting project. A new planning application will need to be submitted. It was pointed out to Vestry that George Willis had agreed to take this on only if the project was properly funded. Vestry agreed to this, and that up to £5,000 would be available for the project. Vestry was to be consulted should the figure be above this. ACTION  
GEORGE WILLIS

5. **Rectors Matters:** The Rector appealed for volunteers to come forward with suggested hymns and a commentary for the forthcoming Songs of Praise to be held as a joint service with St Andrews Callander on 10th June. ACTION ALL

6. **Financial Report and Treasurers Matters:** Alastair Gardner explained his report which had been circulated to the meeting and is appended to these minutes. He explained that we had approx. £3,000 in the bank and had just received £6,739,86 in Gift Aid which was a tremendous help to our finances. Mark Seymour asked that the Treasurer prepare a budget for the next six months, for the next Vestry Meeting, and the Treasurer agreed to provide this. ACTION  
ALASTAIR GARDNER

The Treasurer explained that £300 of the Church Giving Fund had been donated to James Gardner for his trip to Calcutta on behalf of the Diocese. Vestry agreed that £300 was to be given to Greenroutes Charity at the Walled Garden, Gartmore House, Gartmore FK8 3RS.

The Rector thanked Alastair for his report.

OSCR Requirements - Mark Seymour explained that we met all requirements and our policy is on the Church website.

7. **Secretarys Correspondence and other matters:** The Secretary explained that new rules regarding the holding of Digital Data are to be introduced on 25th May which will require us to contact all on our address list to ask them to OPT IN to receiving Church information. Mark will be dealing with this and there will be an announcement in the Bulletin in due course. It was decided that the Concert Information Forms should be redesigned to take account of these changes.

The Secretary explained that a new Church Inventory listing our assets needed to be produced.

The Secretary receives information regarding Eco Congregational matters - we pay a subscription to this organisation.

A series of letters had been received from Stephen Kerr, the Member of Parliament. It was agreed that these should be displayed on the notice board in Church.

The Rector thanked the Secretary for his hard work.

**8. Concerts and Events:** Christopher Roads had circulated his report to the meeting, which is appended to these minutes. He explained that he would be claiming for the Contingency Loss to cover the loss on the concerts. He explained that the quality of concerts is excellent, but that we needed to attract more people to attend. Mary-Clare explained that we now had a dedicated Twitter and Facebook Pages for the Concerts. Discussion took place about advertising concerts, and Classic FM was mentioned.

The St Petersburg Choir will be performing in November, and accommodation will probably be needed for the participants. Fergus Wood had approached Mark Seymour offering to come again with his Trois Blonde trio. There was not much enthusiasm for this. It was intimated to the meeting that Aberfoyle now had a local group named Village People and also a new Business Hub trying to promote village activities.

The Rector thanked Christopher for his hard work.

**Summer Fair:** Susan Forsyth reported that all was in hand with a number of tables already taken. Fiona Brown had agreed to provide baking again, and Elizabeth Roads had agreed to do a Tombola stall.

ACTION SUSAN FORSYTH

**10. AOCB:** James Gardner gave a report on his recent trip to Calcutta for which he had received a contribution from the Church Giving Fund. He visited the Oxford Mission Boys School, Cathedral Relief Projects and schools in the slum areas, the Arumina Hospice caring people with HIV and AIDS and also had a meeting with the Bishop of Calcutta. More information can be seen on the Blog on the Diocese website. The Rector thanked James for his report.

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

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Friday 29th June at 7.30pm in the Church Room

St Mary Vestry Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
Treasurer Report

**1. Headlines**

- Current balances (as at 31/12/17):
  - a. Restoration Account - £2,227
  - b. Vestry Account – £ 7,887

**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	Debit Amount	Credit Amount
<b>Oct Total</b>	£4,816.29	£3,915.80
<b>Nov Total</b>	£4,886.73	£4,724.20
<b>Dec Total</b>	£4,497.02	£5,258.49
	£14,200.04	£13,898.49

**3. Smith and Williamson / Robert Sutherland Investments Income**

Smith & Williamson (St Marys)		Smith & Williamson (R Sutherland)	
Dec 17	£516.44	Dec 17	£305.06

**4. Recent Income & costs highlights**

Expenditure:

Council Tax - £257 (Monthly)

Insurance – Church/Rectory : £228 (Monthly – for 7 months)

Stipends / Pension : £2,858 (Monthly)

Quota: £504 (Monthly)

Electricity : Rectory : £132; Church £276

BT - £183

Enterprise Music Scotland - £250

Eco-congregation membership - £50

Gordon Ferries concert - £350 fees (income £260 before Gift Aid)

Concert Expenses - £37.84

ICO (Data Protection) - £35

CCLI - £109

**Income**

Carol Service - £299

Christmas : £249 and £782

Extra Donation : £880 in January (not included in the summaries above)

## **REPORT TO VESTRY MEETING 20 APR 2018**

### **CHURCH HEATING, RECTORY FUEL EFFICIENCY, AND FLOODLIGHTING**

#### **GENERAL**

Following the visit in April 2016 by the Diocesan Buildings Committee (DBC), the three elements of church heating, rectory fuel efficiency, and floodlighting are to be taken together and submitted as a 'batch' of three Canon 35 applications.

#### **CHURCH HEATING**

As a result of the storyboard, a comment was received that savings in the church's electrical usage had already been made, so was it worth spending quite a lot of money, even if someone else's money, on a new heating system?

A comparison of the church's electricity consumption per quarter (estimated) between Feb 2014 and Feb 2018 shows a reduction in 'night units' of 5468 units and 1227 'day' units, or approximately 60% and 70% respectively. This has been achieved by turning off the night storage heaters, and turning down the heaters in the vestry/kitchen. However, 'night' units are still approximately 90% of usage, and the question remained: what was using these? An inspection of the meters showed that there is no separate 'night' meter which could be switched off to reduce consumption further. Instead, all electricity flows through one meter but a timer diverts 'off peak' usage through a night meter. As the bulk of usage is between Friday evening and Sunday evening, this accounts for the high off peak usage.

Although in the main bearable, there have been occasions when the church has felt decidedly chilly, especially during concerts. For performers, the crossing is cold and poorly lit. Unless the current heating arrangements are changed, it will not be possible to reduce our bills further. Moreover, as tariffs are only going up, it is considered important to pursue an alternative heating system, as discussed in previous submissions to Vestry.

#### **RECTORY**

Three estimates are required each for installing a modern fuel efficient boiler, to improve the loft insulation, and to install cavity wall insulation. The cost of replacing the windows with double glazing is also to be considered. The Rector is to arrange for these but needs to be advised of suitable contractors.

#### **FLOODLIGHTING**

As Mark no longer wishes to be involved in this, in consultation with the Rector it has been decided to ask George Willis to take this on, which he has agreed to do. He has, however, imposed an important condition to his involvement, which is that, if he is to put in this effort, the lighting will be properly funded and able to be installed. Therefore, the following formal motion is put to the Vestry for endorsement:

"That this Vestry agrees to make the necessary funds available to install the floodlighting."

It is George's belief, from discussions with Nick Cooke, then treasurer, that the sum of £2,000 had been laid aside for the floodlighting project, shortly after the major renovation programme had been completed. At the most recent AGM, he asked our current treasurer Alistair whether this sum was

still laid aside for this specific purpose and was assured that it is. If necessary, further sums may be available from the Brown legacy, in which case George would particularly like to ask Jill Brown herself if she felt that this would be an appropriate way to invest part of Charles's legacy, and to describe to her, in person, what this is all about.

George also needs to know whether the design consultant, Cotterells, were paid a fee. He will then need to ask Cotterells whether their design needs to be updated before submitting a new planning application. Both these actions will require modest funds from the Vestry. He will also need to obtain three estimates for the Canon 35/funding application.

## **FUNDING**

Three sources of funding are to be sought: a Big Lottery 'Awards For All' grants up to £10k, with a 10 week response time; a SEC Provincial building loan or grant funding; and St Mary's own funds. While we may be aware that the last of these, from the floodlighting fund (see above), is ring-fenced, it can nonetheless be use to 'leverage' other funds.

Before any funding can be sought, final estimates of all the works to be carried out are needed .

The basis of the bid to the Big Lottery 'Awards For All' will be for church heating and floodlighting, with the main 'pitch' being the church's use as a community resource of wide and increasing public benefit to Aberfoyle and the surrounding communities. Evidence of this, e.g. letters of support from some of the groups who have performed at our public concerts, may be required. The Rectory works will not be part of this application.

The balance of funding will be sought from the SEC. All grants for this financial year (which started on 1 November) were quickly allocated. It is quite clear from the Buildings Grants Group report for 2016-17 that not only were grant applications promptly submitted by Dioceses but the Group were well aware of these in advance. However, the sums available for 'soft' loans, approximately £240k, were untouched. It is therefore intended to explore this funding route, with the intention to convert to a grant when available, the rationale being that the loan could be paid from the savings incurred. This would allow the necessary works to be carried out before winter. Close liaison with the DBC will be required once our estimates are ready.

## CONCERT REPORT DATED 20 APRIL 2018

### GENERAL

This report covers the period October 17 to April 18.

### FINANCES

Please find attached a statement of account from 1 May 17 to 30 April 18. At first sight it does not make pleasant reading. However, the concerts do show a net profit of £337.76. Subtracting the 'venue charge', i.e. money going into St. Mary's' coffers, plus the various expenses and the loss becomes £2567.48. Add in the profit brought forward from last year and the EMS grant and the loss is reduced to £315.80 but I am awaiting the account from PRS. I shall claim the extra sum of up to £500 against loss to cover this. So, we should be just about covered and still have added £2,200 to St. Mary's' account.

Having said that, audience figures, particularly since October, have been disappointing. Fortunately, most of these concerts were modest in cost, but it is quite clear that unless audience figures are at least 40 over the season we shall not be able to afford larger ensembles.

The grant application to EMS for next year is due in by 15 May. I understand that instead of a grant plus guarantee against loss, promoters will be offered a single lump sum of up to £3000.

### GIFT AID

So far, the gift aid approach seems to be working well, with most attendees donating £10/head. However, there is an increasing few who have joined our audience after the scheme started and tend to give only £5.

### DETAILED REPORTS

15 October 2017 Alison McNeill and Sasha Savaloni Audience: 38 Box Office: £380  
This was a EMS subsidised concert from their 'Artists in Residence' programme. A quality performance of 19th and 20th century music, including Four Attar Songs based on a Persian poem.

19 November 2017 Gordon Ferries, lute and early guitar Audience: 26 Box Office: £260  
A master of the guitar and lute, Gordon Ferries brought along and described a wide range of historic and modern instruments, including a large archlute. This was a quality performance of music covering 4 centuries.

21 January 2018 David Hamilton, Organ Audience: 10 Box Office: £100  
David Hamilton gave a very interesting account of the evolution of organ music from Buxtehude to Bach, and Widor to Vierne, and the evolution of the organ to match the music. Unfortunately, the concert coincided with a blizzard which kept many people away.

18 February 2018 Lee Holland, Flute, Sasha Savaloni, Guitar Audience: 24 Box Office: £210  
The Monzani Trio had to postpone their visit to October so their flautist Lee Holland stepped into the breach and persuaded Sasha Savaloni to return for this entertaining concert of music ranging from Dowland to Piazzolla.

18th March, 2018    May Halyburton, double bass, and Jane    Audience: 29    Box Office: £260  
Colvin, cello

An unusual combination of instruments played a variety of musical styles with gusto by this entertaining pair.

15th April, 2018    Edinburgh Renaissance Band    Audience: 40    Box Office: £365  
Up to 130 mediæval instruments played by 11 performers, with their characteristics amusingly explained by their director; a varied and ebullient programme for our entertainment. Thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## **FUTURE CONCERTS**

20 May: **Chris Nickol**, Director of Music at New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden, who will play a varied programme from Bach and Mozart to Satie and Rutter.

June: No concert.

15 July: Feis Fhiort (TBC)

19 August: Alistair Warwick, Director of Music at Holy Trinity, Stirling, will accompany Ulrike Wutscher, mezzo-soprano, probably including Dido's Lament.

16 September: Alastair Savage and Friends return for a concert of fiddle music.

21 October: The Monzani Trio: Lee Holland, Flute - Rachel Spencer, Violin - Feargus Egan, Cello. Programme to follow.

18 November: St. Petersburg Resurrection Choir - by popular demand!

Concert Accounts 1 May 17 to 30 April 18		Box Office	Other Income	Fee	Expenses	Gross Result	Use of Venue	Net	Other Costs	Running Total	Gift Aid
	B/F									£251.68	
	EMS Grant	£2,000.00								£2,251.68	
21 May 2017	Kevin Duggan, Organ	£420.00	£200.00	£500.00	£0.00	£120.00	£200.00	-£80.00		£2,171.68	
31 May 2017	Music stands & lamps								£177.89	£1,993.79	
01 June 2017	Verge signs								£76.95	£1,916.84	
18 June 2017	Baba Yaga	£150.00		£300.00	£25.00	-£175.00	£200.00	-£375.00		£1,541.84	
16 July 2017	Feis Píort	£225.00		£120.00		£105.00	£200.00	-£95.00		£1,446.84	
01 August 2017	Organ Tuning								£162.00	£1,284.84	
20 August 2017	Peter Christie, Organ	£480.00		£0.00		£480.00	£200.00	£280.00		£1,564.84	
01 September 2017	Leaflets								£12.43	£1,552.41	
17 September 2017	Alastair Savage	£473.00		£400.00		£73.00	£200.00	-£127.00		£1,425.41	
01 October 2017	Leaflets								£28.62	£1,396.79	
15 October 2017	McNeill & Savaloni	£380.00		£250.00	£70.60	£59.40	£200.00	-£140.60		£1,256.19	
19 November 2017	Gordon Ferries	£260.00		£350.00	£37.84	-£127.84	£200.00	-£327.84		£928.35	£65.00
21 January 2018	David Hamilton, Organ	£160.00		£0.00		£160.00	£200.00	-£40.00		£888.35	£40.00
18 February 2018	Lomond Duo	£265.00		£300.00	£43.15	-£78.15	£200.00	-£278.15		£610.20	£52.50
25 February 2018	Leaflets								43.28	£566.92	
18 March 2018	Opus Duo	£273.25		£300.00	£46.90	-£73.65	£200.00	-£273.65		£293.27	£47.50
25 March 2018	Organ Tuning								£168.00	£125.27	
01 April 2018	Leaflets								£27.24	£98.03	
10 April 2018	Leaflets								£8.83	£89.20	
15 April 2018	ERB	£395.00		£600.00		-£205.00	£200.00	-£405.00		-£315.80	£78.75
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>£3,481.25</b>	<b>£200.00</b>	<b>£3,120.00</b>	<b>£223.49</b>	<b>£337.76</b>	<b>£2,200.00</b>	<b>-£1,862.24</b>	<b>£705.24</b>		<b>£283.75</b>