

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 29th June 2018**

PRESENT: Rector (Chairman) Rev Canon Richard Grosse, Mark Seymour, John Willis, Margie Stephen, Alastair Gardner, Susan Forsyth

1. The Rector welcomed all to the meeting and opened with a prayer and especially mentioned Peter Joynson and Joan and John Diamond.
2. APOLOGIES: Mary-Clare Brown, Judith Poulton, James Gardner, Nick Cooke, Saffrey Miller and Christopher Roads.
3. The Minutes of the last Vestry Meeting were approved, and signed by the Rector.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Eco Congregation - Christopher Roads had submitted a report which is attached to these minutes setting out the current position.

Floodlighting - George Willis is arranging a site visit on 3rd July with the electrician to discuss the floodlighting of the Church.

5. RECTORS MATTERS: None

6. FINANCIAL REPORT AND TREASURY MATTERS: Alastair circulated figures to the meeting - see attached - and explained that we were breaking even and had £11,999 in the bank.

The Treasurer set out the projected Annual Budget - this was noted by Vestry.

The Rector thanked the Treasurer for his report.

7. SECRETARYS CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATTERS: Mark explained to Vestry that the Green collection envelopes were to be replaced with White envelopes.

The GDPR privacy policy is now on the Church website and Vestry agreed to adopt this.

The Church Inventory is yet to be completed.

8. CONCERTS AND EVENTS:

Christopher Roads had submitted a report - see attached. The Rector thanked him for his detailed report

The Rector thanked Susan Forsyth for her help with the Annual Summer Fair.

9. FABRIC MATTERS: None

10. AOCB: Margie Stephen raised the matter of singing a hymn following communion. The Rector explained we would discuss this at the end of the year as we were at present concentrating on using new hymns from the Sampler.

The new Bishops induction will be on 20th October and 6 tickets will be allocated to each Parish.

Marie Thompson is no longer compiling the Lesson Reading Rota, the Rector explained that this was in hand, and thanked her for her time and effort over the years.

The Secretary pointed out that Vestry Membership should be discussed at the next meeting together with an Agenda for the Annual Meeting.

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Friday 12th October 2018

## Eco Congregation and Floodlighting report – email C Roads 29<sup>th</sup> June

As regards the heating, there has been little progress, due to other commitments. A first draft HLF application was prepared but its major failing is the lack of 'community events', other than the concerts. We shall have to work on this!

Floodlighting: George has the bit between his teeth - he has obtained an updated design from Cotterells and is meeting Sandy Fraser on Tuesday to discuss the installation. He is also working on the new planning application.

St Mary Vestry Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Treasurer Report

**1. Headlines**

- Current balances (as at 31/05/18):
  - a. Restoration Account - £2,227
  - b. Vestry Account – £ 11,599

**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	Credit
<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
<b>Jan Total</b>	£4,664.22	£4,061.70
<b>Feb Total</b>	£4,924.04	£4,504.06
<b>Mar Total</b>	£5,273.00	£4,419.63
<b>Apr Total</b>	£4,260.03	£11,896.56
<b>May Total</b>	£5,613.96	£4,263.01
<b>June Total</b>	£4,688.06	£3,989.93
<b>Grand Total</b>	£43,623.35	£47,033.38

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

Smith & Williamson (St Marys)		Smith & Williamson (R Sutherland)	
Jun 18	£465	Jun 18	£271

**4. Recent Income & costs highlights**

**Expenditure:**

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC 736116621	£206.88
SOUTHERN ELECTRIC 928075621	£379.79

**Income**

**HMRC – April**

Gift aid for Oct 16 to Sept 17 : £6,739.86 (Paid in April)

**Budget**

(Excluding Concert related Income and expenditure)

Expenditure type	Amount
Quota/Stipends/Pension	43,000
Council Tax	£2,452
Organ (Organist fees + maintenance)	£1,560
Insurance (Church and Rectory)	£1,920
Southern Electric (Church and Rectory)	£1,684
Viking Stationary (inc printer)	£500
BT	£800
Roof + Electrics repairs	£650
Cleaning	£600
Henderson (Gardening)	£580
Killearn /Balfron services	£480
Financial Examination	£268
Hayes and Finch (Alter goods)	£300
CCLI	£106
Clergy Conference	£105
Other Misc items	£500
Expenditure	£55,505

Alastair Gardner  
Treasurer

## CONCERT REPORT DATED 29 JUNE 2018

### GENERAL

This report covers the period April 18 to 29 Jun 18.

### DETAILED REPORTS

20 May: **Chris Nickol**, Director of Music at New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden, played a varied programme from Bach and Mozart to Satie and Rutter. **Audience 30; Box office: £199.30 + £42.32 GA.**

June: No concert.

### FUTURE CONCERTS

15/07/18 15.00 Feis Fhiort Gaelic/folk music  
18/08/18 15.00 Ulricke Wuschte, Mezzosoprano, Alistair Warwick, organ  
16/09/18 15.00 Alastair Savage & Friends Scottish fiddle music  
21/10/18 15.00 Monzani Trio Flute, violin, cello  
18/11/18 15.00 St. Petersburg Resurrection Choir Russian Choir.  
16/12/18 No concert (Carol Service)

### CONCERTS for 2019

No bookings hve been made yet, but the following performers are being considered:

Atholl Duo (flute & marimba) 17 Feb/17 Mar,  
Allander Jazz (by popular request) 17 Mar/21 Apr,  
LYRA Russian vocal quartet, dates to follow but likely early summer,  
Sax Ecosse,  
Kentigern string quartet,  
Pistons & Pipes (organ + trumpet + possibly timps.),  
Pure Brass (who gave a very successful concert in 2016),  
and Kevin Duggan (organ + I hope a trumpet and soprano).  
I also hope to arrange  
at least one other organ concert - they are very popular! N.B. At least  
five of these cost £600+.

### GRANT FUNDING

We have been allocated a £200 grant from the Scottish Churches's Trust towards the concert by Alistair Warwick.

News of next year's EMS grant was expected by now, but apart from follow-up questions to the application, they have yet to respond.

### TESTIMONIALS

To support our application for the HLF for heating, testimonials were sought from our performers to underline St. Mary's as a performance space. These follow:

"We very much enjoyed playing in St Mary's Church, and the acoustics of the church was ideal for the type of music we were performing. We were an ensemble of eleven musicians playing a wide variety of instruments typical of medieval and renaissance times, and our performance did not use any type of amplification. Nevertheless one of our non-performing assistants who sat at the back of the church reported that the blend and volume of the sound was good, with singers coming over clearly in items involving a mix of singing and instruments. From the players' point of view it was easy to hear each other, which is often a problem in churches."

Murray Cambell Professor of Musical Acoustics, University of Edinburgh, Director Edinburgh Renaissance Band, and particle physicist!

"Arriving for a concert, especially a solo one at a venue you haven't played at before can be a slightly daunting experience if the welcome and facilities encountered there are not quite what you expected them to be. My recent experience of performing at St Mary's Church in Aberfoyle was however a wonderfully positive one in every way. I was welcomed very warmly (even on an extremely inclement November day) and immediately made to feel very much at home. The church itself is a beautiful building with wonderful acoustics. This was particularly important for me, as my concert featured an array of 17th to 19th century guitars and lutes which were all beautifully picked up by the warm and resonant acoustic of St Mary's, so that all the music could be easily heard by all the audience. The backstage facilities were also very good. The concert itself had a very informal atmosphere and the audience were extremely appreciative. It was very nice to meet some of the audience afterwards over a cup of tea. All in all it was a very rewarding experience playing at Aberfoyle and I would heartily recommend St Mary's for both audiences and performers alike."

Gordon Ferries May 2018

"Sasha Savaloni and myself thoroughly enjoyed performing in St Mary's Church as part of the Sunday Music Recital Series. The acoustic is fantastic and the venue is perfect for chamber music and provides a beautiful, intimate setting. It would however benefit from upgrades in lighting and heating. It was lovely to see the community in attendance and I am pleased to say the people running events for the community in this church are very efficient."

Alison McNeill

"St. Mary's is the perfect size for chamber music and solo work, the acoustics are warm and the performance space is ideal for groups playing a variety of dynamics in their music. The venue is perfectly situated in the Trossachs for visitors who want to experience music in a beautiful setting. Also the sightlines are good for audience meaning they can enjoy from wherever they are seated. Because the church is reasonably small there is an evenness of acoustic sound wherever folk sit."

Alastair Savage

"St Mary's is a beautiful place to perform with a committed audience and surrounded by wonderful countryside. The acoustics were very complimentary and had a wonderful resonance. The size of the hall is ideally suited to chamber music concerts, and we very much enjoyed having the opportunity to perform there."

Lee Holland, Holland Savaloni Duo

"BabaYaga performed at St Mary's Church in June 2016. Set in the most beautiful location in the West of Scotland, St Mary's Church is a tranquil venue for intimate Chamber music concerts allowing you to connect with your audience." Karen Dufour

"In 2106 Pure Brass performed in St Mary's Aberfoyle. A venue with a good acoustic is essential for brass music, making the concert more enjoyable for both audience and performer. Aside from being a beautiful church, St Mary's boasts just this acoustic and is an ideal chamber music venue. In it's scenic rural location the church is perfectly placed as a community concert venue which appeals to all."

Andrew Connell-Smith

"Opus Duo had a wonderful afternoon at Aberfoyle in March. It is an ideal recital space, as it is an intimate venue but with plenty of room for the audience. We found the acoustics suited our instruments perfectly and really enjoyed performing there. We were made to feel very welcome and were extremely well looked after. We would love to visit again in the future."

May Halyburton & Jane Colvin (Opus Duo)

"The Kentigern Quartet really enjoyed performing at St. Mary's and the acoustic in the venue made for a great performing space. It was easy for us to hear each other and we felt the sound projected well while still keeping the sense of an intimate chamber-music venue. We were also warmly welcomed and felt that people appreciated the concert."

Barbara Downie

"Many thanks to you, Richard & everyone at St. Mary's for all your assistance and warm welcome during the weekend. I really enjoyed my first visit to such a handsome church in a picturesque rural setting; and with such an attractive-sounding organ, reflecting British organ-building at its best."

Chris Nickol Music Director at New Kilpatrick Parish Church

"I recently had the enormous pleasure of performing at St Mary's in Aberfoyle with my trumpet and organ duo Pistons and Pipes. The church itself is a fantastic music resource in the town with a great acoustic and something that is sadly now not particularly common, a great sounding organ."

Tom Poulson Co-Principal Trumpet Västerås Sinfonietta, Member of Pistons and Pipes, Stockholm Chamber Brass, WorldBrass, Kammarensemble

"I was delighted to be asked to play an organ concert at St Mary's last summer, and it was very enthusiastically received by a sizeable audience. The organ is small, but is very capable of a wide variety of musical colours and a joy to play. The acoustics are very sympathetic for live music, being neither too dry nor too reverberant, and every note sings clearly into the building. It is a delightful performing venue for music."

Dr Peter Christie BSc MBChB PhD MPH FFPHM FRCPE

Director of Music All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church, Bearsden

"St Mary's, Aberfoyle, hosts a series of monthly concerts that is unique in the area. Indeed, one would have to travel to Stirling or Glasgow to find another series to match the frequency and diversity of programming at St Mary's. The organ has great character and some lovely pipework, and is ideally suited to the intimate acoustics of the church. I commend the work of the concert organisers in promoting the instrument and church as a concert space and attracting a variety of performers from across Scotland and beyond."

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