

ST MARYS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ABERFOYLE

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 18th January 2019 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: Rector (Chairman) Rev Canon Richard Grosse, John Willis, Judith Poulton, Margie Steven, Saffrey Miller, Mary-Clare Brown, Elizabeth Roads, John Dymond, Alastair Gardner, James Gardner, George Willis, Susan Forsyth.

1. WELCOME AND PRAYER: The Rector welcomed all to the meeting, especially Elizabeth Roads and John Dymond and opened with a prayer.
2. APOLOGIES: Mark Seymour (Secretary)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF VESTRY DATED 12TH OCTOBER: The Rector signed the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.
4. MATTERS ARISING: None. The matters relating to Church Heating, Grants and Rectory Insulation are ongoing.
5. RECTORS MATTERS: George Willis gave a very full report on the installation of the Church Floodlighting which is now working, pointing out that the cost of having the lights turned on regularly by a timer should cost about £100 for 6 months. The total cost of installation was approximately £4,500.

The Rector thanked George for all his hard work and for coming to Vestry today.

The Rector reported that less mobile members of the congregation had found it difficult to park for the Christmas Carol Service. It was agreed that the Rector would reserve one space before Services, by the use of a cone in the parking bay, and details would be placed in the Weekly Bulletin.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT AND TREASURERS MATTERS: Alastair Gardner, the Treasurer explained his report which included his 2018/2019 Budget which is attached to these minutes. He explained that we had a small

surplus and that we were in a good financial position. He felt that there was not much scope to reduce costs further and that at present costs run to £53/£54,000.

He pointed out that the accounts for last year had yet to be signed off and suggested that we should start paying off the £15,000 loan from the Church Renovation. £500 had been received at the Carol Service, and it was agreed that discussion would take place at the next Vestry meeting to decide what charities to support. Start Up Stirling was suggested and one other to be agreed.

The Rector thanked the Treasurer for his report.

7. SECRETARIES CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATTERS: In the absence of the Secretary - none

8. CONCERTS AND EVENTS: A very full report from Christopher Roads is attached to these minutes.

9. FABRIC MATTERS: None

10. AOCB: None. The Rector thanked Mary-Clare and her choir for all her hard work over the Christmas period, both at the Carol Service and Christmas Day Service.

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Friday 3rd May at 7.30pm - please note change of date

18th January 2019
Treasurer Report

1. Headlines

- Start of Financial year (as at 01/10/18)
 - a. Restoration Account - £2,227
 - b. Vestry Account – £ 15,346.96

- Current balances (as at 31/12/18):
 - a. Restoration Account - £2,227
 - b. Vestry Account – £ 18,255.03

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
October	£4,910.25	£4,305.20
November	£5,846.79	£9,591.77
December	£4,360.50	£4,128.64
Total	£15,117.54	£18,025.61
Surplus		£2,908.07

3. Smith and Williamson / Robert Sutherland Investments Income

Smith & Williamson (St Marys)		Smith & Williamson (R Sutherland)	
Dec 18	£489.64	7 th Jan 19	£319.72

4. Recent Income & costs highlights**Expenditure:****October :**

Concert fees : £496
 Concert posters : £52.42
 Council Tax : £264
 Insurance : £112
 Insurance : £120
 Stipends + pension : 2,858.83
 Office (quota) : £559.70
 Clear-Business: £62

November

Concert : £600
 Concert posters: 49.98
 Hayes & Finch : 104.94

Roof repairs : £427.20
 Electricity Church - £362.02
 Electricity Rectory - £180.42
 Council Tax : £264
 Insurance : £112
 Insurance : £120
 Stipends + pension : 2,858.83
 Office (quota) : £559.70
 Clear-Business: £62

December:

Pipe organ Maintenance : £168
 ICO : £35 (by Direct debt!!)
 Council Tax : £264
 Insurance : £112
 Insurance : £120
 Stipends + pension : 2,858.83
 Office (quota) : £559.70
 Clear-Business: £62

Income :

St Andrews linkage : £1,338 (Monthly)
 HMRC (Morris & Young) : £5,998.77 (Nov)
 Aberfoyle Kirk : £106 (Dec)

January – Income and Outgoings

Payments:

Floodlighting:
 Cotterells : £1,605.68
 Tam Mackie : £2,824.00
 Window Cleaning : £100
 St Andrews Share of HMC rebate: £2,399.51
 Viking Stationary: £411.43
 CCLI - £113.55
 Financial Examination: £291

Income ~£2600

Concert (Russian Choir) - £602.50
 Carol Services £503 – Church Giving Fund
 Christmas Day : £303.35

Budget 2018/19

(Excluding Concert related Income and expenditure)

Expenditure type	Amount
Quota/Stipends/Pension	£41,000
Council Tax	£2,640
Organ (Organist fees + maintenance)	£1,800
Insurance (Church and Rectory)	£1,920

Southern Electric (Church and Rectory)	£1,800
Viking Stationary	£300
BT	£750
Roof + Electrics repairs	£600
Cleaning	£600
Henderson (Gardening)	£600
Killearn /Balfron services	£480
Financial Examination	£300
Hayes and Finch (Alter goods)	£300
CCLI	£106
Clergy Conference	£105
Other Misc items	£500
Expenditure	£53,800

Average of £4,483 per month

St Andrews contribute 40% of Rector's costs : £16,056

Alastair Gardner
Treasurer

CONCERT REPORT DATED 18 JANUARY 2019

GENERAL

This report covers the period 12 Oct 18 to 18 Jan 19.

DETAILED REPORTS

21 Oct 18: Monzani Trio: Attendance 44 inc. 3 children. Box office: £380 + £82.50 gift aid. Fee £450 + expenses £46.80.

18 Nov 18: St. Petersburg Choir: Attendance ~70 (inc. some children). Box office £600 + £128.75 gift aid. Fee £600 in used English notes. No expenses, but we (Elizabeth, Saffrey, and Melanie) did provide lunch!

Both concerts very much enjoyed, with requests for both to return in due course. (N.B. Although the Russian concert was well attended, numbers were down on their last visit.)

The fame of our concerts is spreading! A certain Dennis Deas from Portobello has asked for our 2019 programme because he is so impressed.

Lastly, mention should be made of the December Carol Service. The church was absolutely full, and the music much praised, all due to the efforts of Mary-Clare and her choir.

FUTURE CONCERTS

2019: No change:

20 Jan: Les Trois Blondes	Fee: 70% of ticket sales
17 Feb: Kevin Duggan and Ines Zimmerman;	Fee: £200 + £100 expenses
17 March: Allander Jazz;	Fee: £240
28 April: Kentigern Quartet;	Fee: £600
19 May: David Hamilton (Organ);	Probably nil
June: No Concert	
21 July Feis Fhiort;	Fee: £120
18 Aug: Sax Ecosse;	Fee: £600 + expenses
15 Sep: Pure Brass;	Fee: £600 + expenses
20 Oct: Atholl Duo (flute and marimba);	Fee: £300 + expenses
17 Nov: Pistons & Pipes + Sally Carr (soprano & timpani)	Fee: £600 + expenses

CONCERTS for 2020

Some concerts have already been pencilled in for 2020:

16 Feb: Enggard String Quartet	Fee £600
15 Mar: Les Shankland's Chapterhouse Singers: Faure Requiem	TBC - possibly expenses only
19 April: Genovia Bassoon quartet	£600
17 May: Andrei Soyuz Lyra vocal quartet	£600

Our bid for Tunnell Trust winners Palisander for April was unsuccessful but I have asked an exciting young bassoon quartet Genovia to play for us instead. TBC.

Report to the Rector on floodlighting by George Willis

Floodlighting the outside of the church.

We decided *not* to have a great white blanket of light, but rather to highlight the main architectural features of the church.

This has been achieved - and in no small measure !

Floodlighting the Church - from the road

I have always believed it to be *very* important, also to highlight our church, when approaching the village, so that it becomes highly visible, above the canopy of the garage.

To this end, we have sited a very large floodlight, to the south east of the church which fulfils this function admirably. To our delight, it is also bright enough to floodlight our bell tower - such a special feature of our church.

Today we are therefore able to highlight, and thus to advertise, our church - and also to have provided a new, and very pretty, architectural feature, for everyone driving into the village at night.

An added bonus - our beautiful Stained Glass

The more I have worked through the project, the more I have come to realise that our new floodlights could be made to highlight the rich heritage of our lovely stained glass windows as well !

The three small stained glass windows down the sides all have lovely stained glass, fed from above with the smaller flood lights, now tucked neatly into the eaves and with little or no wires showing.

The next thing we did was to clean the glass !

What an extraordinary transformation !

The major features are, of course, the two large stained glass windows, at both the east and the west ends of our church.

My primary goal has been to augment the natural daylight, on both these features, *so that our two extremely bright floodlights, sited above both of these two windows will enhance the colours during our normal weekly services, during the day.*

Additionally, and hardly surprisingly, the effect is even greater at night !

The effect of this has been even greater than my expectations - very exciting indeed !

Planning Permission

This proved to be the most difficult, and most frustrating part, of the entire exercise !

I was told, from the outset, that it *should* take between six to eight weeks - it actually took about three months ! (You can't instruct *any* work to proceed until you've got it !)

Our budget

At the outset, we were given a budget, with a ceiling of £5,000 - with the possibility of coming back for a little more, if we *really* needed it !

I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have been able to fit in our ideal specifications for everything within our £5,000 budget - no skimping necessary !

I am happy to be able to tell you that our *total* costs have come in at only £4,530 , giving us a *cost saving* over budget of £470 - very satisfactory !

Conclusion

From a standing start in May, we are now the proud possessors of a comprehensive Floodlighting scheme, which not merely floodlights our beautiful church, but which is also delightfully visible from the approach road into Aberfoyle.

“ A city set on a hill cannot be hid “ !

Between dusk and 11.00 pm, every night during winter, St Mary's will shine, like a beacon, to everyone who drives into Aberfoyle - and *all this for an extraordinary total estimated running cost of only £100 !* (It's the amazing LEDs !!)

From the inside, our large stained glass windows, at both the East and the West Ends, will augment the, often grey, natural daylight, so helping to highlight the beautiful colours in these two very important windows, during our normal weekly services.

Beyond that, not surprisingly, where these lovely windows have hitherto been black and featureless, at night - they really now come to life for Christmas *and* our concerts.

So, what have we really achieved ?

1. St.Mary's is now fully floodlit, in all it's glory - for *all* to behold !
2. We have highlighted a new, and very beautiful, architectural feature - for the village.
3. Our large stained glass windows will have their colours augmented, during our normal *daytime* services.
4. *All* our beautiful stained glass windows will now be backlit *for our evening services*, highlighting them in this very special way.
5. For our Christmas services, and for our Concerts, our church will be considerably enhanced - both from inside, and from the outside of our church.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have been able to make a contribution to our very special church, in this way.

George Willis
Project Leader