

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 17th January 2020**

PRESENT: The Rector, Richard Grosse (Chairman), Mark Seymour, Elizabeth Roads, John Dymond, John Willis, Mary-Clare Brown, Judith Poulton, Margie Stephen, Susan Forsyth

1. **WELCOME AND PRAYER:** The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer and thanked all for attending.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Alastair Gardner, James Gardner
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING DATED 10TH OCTOBER, 2019**

These were approved and signed by the Rector.

4. CONSIDERATION OF A PAPER FROM MARGIE STEPHEN REGARDING HYMN BOOKS:

Discussion took place regarding this matter and John Willis proposed that the matter was postponed until the next meeting, as the matter had to go before the AGM again. Margie Stephen was not happy about a long delay so It was agreed to discuss this topic further at the next Vestry meeting in April and to hold a Special Meeting of the Vestry if this was thought appropriate and an EGM of the Congregation.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED IN THE AGENDA:

- A) Eco Congregation - Elizabeth Roads reported that Christopher Roads had so far raised £6,300 in grants towards the cost of the Church Heating. The Rector thanked Christopher for all his hard work.

6. RECTORS MATTERS:

There were no matters to be raised.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT AND TREASURERS MATTERS:

The Rector had signed the end of year accounts and as the Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting today he would submit his report to be included within these minutes.

8. SECRETARIES CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATTERS:

There was no correspondence to be discussed.

Mark Seymour reported that the Church Inventory was well on the way to completion and the Rector thanked Elizabeth Roads and Mark Seymour for all their help with this.

The Annual Diocesan Return had been submitted

9. CONCERT AND EVENTS AND THE ABERFOYLE BUSINESS FORUM:

No discussion took place regarding the Concerts.

Elizabeth Roads reported on the first Aberfoyle Business Forum meeting held on 14th January and organised by Christopher Roads. This had been deemed a success and Christopher's Report is attached to these minutes. It is planned that these meetings are to be held on the second Tuesday of each month. Christopher Roads wished to record his thanks to Melanie Grosse for assisting at the meeting.

The Rector thanked both Christopher and Elizabeth Roads.

10. FABRIC MATTERS:

a) Mark Seymour reported that work is in hand to redecorate the Church Room following patches of damp appearing because of the leaking roof, which has now been repaired. **ACTION: MARK SEYMOUR**

b) It was reported that the Church Bell will not chime because of birds nests in the belfry. Mark Seymour explained that this would be

expensive to rectify, but it was agreed that an estimate for the work should be obtained. ACTION: **MARK SEYMOUR**

c) Vestry authorised the Secretary to commission the Quinquennial Church Survey. Mark Seymour explained the fee would be £1,100 plus VAT but that this was legally required every 5 years. ACTION: **MARK SEYMOUR**

11. OUTREACH: DISCUSSION OF JOHN WILLIS' PAPER AND RECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Lengthy discussion took place regarding Johns suggestions and the Rector's comments. Service times were discussed and whether there was scope for 2 or more joint services with St Andrews at say Advent and Whitsun and at other times during the year. It was further agreed that a Joint service might be held in June with a special theme.

Discussion also took place regarding the involvement of local organisations in a Sunday Service eg the local Search and Rescue or Greenroutes charity at Gartmore House, to encourage new people to attend.

Hymns were discussed and it was widely felt that it was important that the chosen tunes to the hymns were well known.

It was suggested that Jean Sykes might be asked to prepare a list of well known hymns ACTION: **SUSAN FORSYTH**

Discussion took place regarding how much the Church uses Social Media to promote itself.

The Church Summer Fair was discussed and it was agreed to try to organise this for Saturday 6th June. ACTION: **SUSAN FORSYTH**

The Rector asked all to reflect on these discussion and to report back to him with any ideas.

The Rector thanked John Willis for leading this discussion.

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Friday 17th April 2020

Appraisal of Refreshed A and M hymn book.

For discussion on Friday 17th Jan by Vestry

The above hymn book is now in its sixth impression, having been in circulation for some time.

It contains 847 hymns , including a large selection of Christmas carols, Taize songs and all seasons of the complete church year. In addition it has choices for Funerals, Mothering Sunday, Good Friday, Easter , Ascension Day etc. There are more hymns by Fred Kaan, Timothy Dudley and other well known authors.

It is much larger than our current books even added together, our current A and M has 533 hymns and Common Ground has 150. The proposed book contains a large number from both these books but not all.

Of interest is a quiz run by the BBC about favourite hymns as in the Sunday programme Songs of Praise. This indicates some popular choices. The most popular choice was Jerusalem which appears to have come back into fashion again. Very near the top was Amazing Grace , and very high was 'Make me a channel of your Peace' All three are in the 'Refreshed book'. Many others also .i intend to bring some copies of the book to church this coming Sunday for anyone to see it for themselves.

Re the music ,all important, tunes can be the same as usual of course. If a newish hymn is occasionally chosen ,depending on the metre , a well known tune can usually be used.

The book also contains favourites from other well known books eg Seek ye First the Kingdom of God which is in Mission Praise.

Altogether it is a very comprehensive edition. Selecting ones for a particular Sunday should be relatively simple because there is a very good index mentioning the appropriate choices for any particular Sunday Service.

I trust this gives you an overview of the book under discussion.

St Mary's Episcopal Church Aberfoyle

Vestry Meeting Friday 17th January 2020

Rector's response to the paper relating to agenda item 4

The Ancient and Modern Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship (the new book) was presented to St Mary's congregation between Easter Day and the last Sunday before Advent during the course of 2018.

The laws governing the Scottish Episcopal Church lay down that no major change to worship such as the introduction of a new hymnbook can be made without prior congregational consultation. It was agreed by Vestry that consultation should be by means of a Sampler. The Sampler was duly compiled and published together with a full explanation of the process. One hymn was chosen from the Sampler and sung each week. At the Annual Meeting held on the 9th December 2018 a secret ballot amongst those present was held to ascertain whether the new book should take the place of our existing hymnbook at no expense to the congregation. The ballot showed those present not to be in favour of the proposed change.

Although not expressly stated, it is assumed that the purpose of this agenda item is to ask Vestry members to consider the reintroduction of the Sampler at Easter for another trial period followed by a congregational vote at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Should this be the case, Vestry members will be asked to vote by simple majority under a secret ballot to indicate whether there is a wish for this process.

Suggested ballot paper

Vestry wishes a further trial period for the proposed new hymnbook to commence from Easter 2020 and the decision of the congregation to be ascertained by a vote taken amongst those present at the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting.

Yes*

No *

*Delete as applicable

St Mary Year End Accounts Oct 18 to Sept 19
Treasurer Summary for Vestry

1. Headlines

- Net expenditure over income of £367 this 2018-19 financial year.
- This year saw two exceptional items:
 - Floodlighting installation
 - HMRC Rebate on Rectors Income (shared with St Andrews)
- £1k of the £15k loan for the restoration repaid (not reflected in the above cash flow position – treated as a reduction on the balance sheet by our Financial Examiner.

2. Income:

Income Summary

Type	Amount
Direct Debt Giving	£16,315
White / Green Envelopes	£4,271
Cash Collections	£2,353
Donations	£3,269
Smith and Williamson	£3,017
Fund Raising	£7,272
HMRC	£14,591
Sundry	£110
Subtotal	£51,203
St Andrews Linkage	£16,056
Total	£67,259

Notes: St Andrews contribute 40% of the Rector's costs (some £1,338 per month; £16k per annum).

- HRMC Income rebate was £8,024 [of which we subsequently paid 40% to St Andrew], plus our annual Gift Aid of £6,567

Our year end accounts show income of £51,203 as we exclude the Linkage income (St Andrews produce their own Accounts)

3. Summary of General Running Costs

Expenditure type	Amount
Stipends inc Pension	£34,821
Quota	£7,059
Cost of Fundraising	£4,408
Floodlighting	£4,330
St Andrews HMRC rebate	£3,210
Council Tax	£2,680
SSE Energy	£2,322
Insurance (church and Rectory)	£1,986

Organ (Organist fees + maintenance)	£1,866
Loan Repayment	£1,000
Rectory Phone & Broadband	£778
Stationary	£751
Music and worship	£676
Church Giving Fund	£600
Cleaning	£600
Roof repairs	£427
Financial Examiner	£291
CCLI and ICO and PPI PRS	£252
Clergy conf	£134
Internet (Zen)	£97
Fire protection	£72
Other items	£265
Sub total	£68,625
Remove St Andrew linkage	£16,056
Revised total	£52,569
Remove £1k loan repayment	£51,569

So our net expenditure was £51,570 vs Income of £51,203 and therefore the shortfall of £367

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].

Alastair Gardner
Treasurer