

**Minutes of Vestry Meeting held by Zoom Conference Call
On Friday 15th January 2021 at 6.30 pm**

Participants: Mark Seymour (Chairman and Secretary), Rev Canon Dr Alison Peden (Interim Pastor), Margie Stephen, John Willis, James Gardner, Alastair Gardner, Mary-Clare Brown, John Dymond, Elizabeth Roads, Judith Poulton, Susan Forsyth

1. **WELCOME:** Mark Seymour started the meeting and Alison Peden opened with a prayer.
2. **APOLOGIES:** None
3. **APPROVAL MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING HELD ON 9th OCTOBER:** Unanimously approved and signed by Mark Seymour
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE NOT COVERED IN THE AGENDA:** None
5. **APPOINTMENT OF a) JOHN DYMOND AS ACTING CHAIRMAN
b) ELIZABETH ROADS AS SECRETARY**

John Dymond - Proposed by Margie Stephen, Seconded by Judith Poulton
Unanimously agreed by Vestry

Elizabeth Roads - Proposed by Judith Poulton, Seconded by James Gardner
Unanimously agreed - both these offices to take effect immediately.

Mark Seymour asked if he could say a few words to the meeting. He said that he was very sorry that his robust management style and character had caused any offence or upset. He wished the Vestry well in the three projects currently underway. He was ready to answer any questions which might arise. He said that he had heard already on the 'grapevine' that he was being uncooperative, and wanted to reassure everyone that that was far from the case and that the Vestry would have his full cooperation. He thanked members of the vestry for their support in the past and left the meeting.

John Dymond then explained how very unfortunate the last couple of weeks had been, and how sad it was that it had ended this way. Mark Seymour's contribution to St Marys over many years had been considerable and as Chairman and Secretary he had had to deal with Covid 19, the Discernment process and the Renovation of the Rectory. He explained that we had tried to offload some of these responsibilities but Mark had insisted on carrying on. Following Mark's email of 3rd January to Vestry Members and after extensive discussions between Vestry members and with him, he had now relinquished the roles of Acting Chairman and Secretary. John Dymond wished to put on record St Marys deep gratitude to Mark.

John Dymond felt we must make a fresh start, which has concentrated minds, he thanked all for their support, and that of Alison Peden.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT AND TREASURER'S MATTERS:

- a) Alastair Gardner explained the current financial report which is attached to these minutes.

REPORT ATTACHED

- b) Income during Church Closure - Alastair explained that this was declining but that at present we were paying no stipend to a Rector which helped the situation.

It was generally felt that the the pledged Rectory Renovation monies should be put into the separate account. Alastair reported that the Restoration Account already held £2,227 which was remaining from the stained glass window project. It was felt this could remain in this account.

John Willis raised the issue of £20,000 being in the accounts regarding the Rectory. Alastair Gardner agreed to check the position, and clarify the ownership and position in our accounts. He also felt we should clarify our Reserves, and that the present Loan on the accounts should be incorporated into the reserves. Elizabeth Roads agreed to look into this. **ACTION: ALASTAIR GARDNER, ELIZABETH ROADS**

The Chairman thanked Alastair.

7. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE PERSONS:

James Gardner has now taken on this role. He will send Vestry information on the role and his responsibilities, as they affect the Vestry. An audit is being done across the Province on this matter, and this needs to be looked at and adopted before the new Rector is in place.

ACTION: JAMES GARDNER

8. RECTOR DISCERNMENT

- b) **Update on Progress:** It is understood there are 5 candidates to be considered. No date has yet been set for the interviews, but there is to be a meeting with the joint Vestries of St Andrew's and St Mary's with the Dean and Bishop on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 4pm by Zoom. It is hoped most of the Vestry will attend that meeting. John Dymond pointed out that we have been asked to put our suggested Questions for the Candidates into Groups/headings. **ACTION: ELIZABETH ROADS**

- b) **Composition of Interview Panel:** After a fresh vote was taken, Susan Forsyth, John Willis and James Gardner will be on the Interview Panel.

9. RECTORY RENOVATIONS:

- c) Appointment of Christopher Roads (Fabric Convenor) as Project Manager
John Dymond explained that as we now have funding pledged to complete the renovations he had asked Mark Seymour to see the project to the end, but Mark Seymour had declined to do this, hence the proposed appointment of Christopher Roads.

Proposed by James Gardner
Seconded by Susan Forsyth

There was unanimous agreement from Vestry to this.

b) Update on Progress: Christopher Roads had produced a very helpful background note which is attached to these Minutes.

REPORT ATTACHED

John Dymond reported that we should now include the Church Room and make the Rectory and Church Room and outside steps fit for purpose. He asked that a full list of works needed should be compiled. The funding application had been submitted to Perth to be put before the Buildings Committee on 28th January for consideration.

It was suggested a separate meeting of St Mary's sub committee comprising John Willis, Elizabeth Roads and Christopher Roads should meet to compile the list of works required. John Dymond thanked Christopher Roads for compiling his report at such short notice.

ACTION: CHRISTOPHER ROADS, ELIZABETH ROADS, JOHN WILLIS

c) Future Fundraising: John Dymond reported that Michael Forsyth had offered to co-ordinate this for which he was extremely grateful and which will enable us to complete the project.

10. **CONCERTS AND EVENTS:** The Wallace Collection Concert would be available over the internet on 31st January 2021 and Mark Seymour had circulated details of this.

11. FABRIC MATTERS:

a). An instruction to remove the Birds nests in the Bell Tower has been given, but has not yet been dealt with, but needs to be done before the nesting season.

b) The Fabric Convenor is now Christopher Roads, who has taken over from Jamie Parker.

12. DOCUMENTATION OF ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, REQUIRED TASKS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN:

Mark Seymour had very kindly produced a useful table setting out all the responsibilities of the Secretary, Rector etc.

Over the last few days John Willis and Elizabeth Roads had produced a working document regarding these roles, which is attached to these minutes and which will be most useful for the new Rector going forward.

PAPER ATTACHED

13. **AOCB:** Financial matters, bank accounts, new bank mandates for signatories for cheques etc. - Elizabeth Roads is to discuss with Alastair Gardner (Treasurer).

ACTION: ELIZABETH ROADS, ALASTAIR GARDNER

It was generally felt that a note should go out to the Congregation giving an update on events. Elizabeth Roads agreed to draft something for the Chairman. **ACTION: ELIZABETH ROADS**

Future Vestry dates were discussed, the next being 16th April 2021. Discussion took place as to whether earlier meetings were necessary. It was agreed the Chairman and Secretary would inform Vestry re this.

ACTION: ELIZABETH ROADS

Members thanked John Dymond for taking the meeting which was closed with a Prayer lead by Alison Peden.