

St Paul's Church, Strathnairn

Annual General Meeting 10 September 2017

Present - Priest-in-Charge and 13 members of the congregation.

Apologies – Ms C Kennerly, Lt Col J Murray, Mr R Sutton, Mrs K Sutton

Minutes of Previous AGM - – it was moved that the minutes of the AGM held on 6 November 2016 represented a true record; proposed Mrs P Simpson, seconded Mr N Gibson; approved by all present.

Matters Arising –

- The Stewart Mallin bench is still to be replaced & other one needs treating to
- Car parking at front of church - still ongoing discussion with Highland Council but plans for road improvement are expected.
- Use of the 1970 liturgy will be continued on 5th Sunday in the month.

Chairman's Report – copy attached for records; highlighted

- Trust – having taken the risk of worshipping faithfully following some difficult years, the congregation has increased, and the average age of the congregation has gone down, so we are in good heart. Now is the time to think what comes next.

The current challenge is financial - monthly expenditure still outweighs income. Next year's budget shows about £140 per month deficit. Currently the deficit is made up from reserves, but this cannot continue. Reserves might be used for other things such as the car park, hall carpet replacement, parsonage heating, renewal all of which are over and above general maintenance such as painting etc. The alternatives are to stop using reserves and start the process of making up the deficit or continue to use reserves (about 10 years left with no major item of expenditure). Smarty challenge – fill new hexagonal box with new pound coins (or 20p pieces), but further than this, challenge is however often a coin is put in to think about what a difference this makes to the individual (e.g. what given up); then, when the tube is full, to think about whether we as individuals can go on giving up that item and continue putting the money not spent in to St Paul's. We need to start the process of increasing our regular giving to try to exceed our spending.

- Outreach charities – the current charities have now been supported for 2 years, so Vestry will consider which charities to support for the next 2 years – suggestions to members of Vestry.
- Ann Miller has regretfully decided to leave St Paul's and attend a church more local church.
- Canon 31 – same gender marriages. Rev Collins summarized what happens next; She is happy to conduct such marriages and Vestry unanimously agreed that such marriages can take place in St Paul's. No member of the congregation will be asked to help in any way on these occasions if they do not agree.

Report of Vestry - a written report will be posted on the website to comply with OSCARs requirements (for church records, copy attached). A summary by the Rev Canon Collins covering the following points

- Bills are being kept down as much as possible.
- There have been quite a number of visitors even though not many signed the visitors' book.

Treasurer's Report – the accounts for the year ending 30 June 2017 were presented by the treasurer, Mr Jeremy Kelly, and explained (for church records, copy attached), which have been approved by Vestry.

- Mismatch in Christian outreach due to having already paid for and donated a recorder to the hospital.
- Mrs C Murray to be added to list of trustees.

Mrs Imelda Fraser was thanked for carrying out the independent examination of the accounts.

It was moved that the accounts be accepted, proposed Mrs M Ellis, seconded Mrs C Murray and accepted by all present.

The budget for 2017 – 2018 was explained by Mr Kelly. It was pointed out that the shortfall is about £140 a month.

A suggestion was made that donations be requested at lunches (possibly to a particular cause). Vestry is to consider collection from carol service – views can be given to any vestry member.

A vote of thanks was given to the Treasurer for all the work involved was recorded.

Vestry Membership – the constitution was summarized by Rev Collins. 2 current members are standing down (Mrs P Simpson & Ms E McCormick) and both were thanked for their service. Only one new member is needed - Mrs Marion Gerlings, having agreed to stand, was proposed Mrs M Speight and seconded by Ms E McCormick; all agreed, so Mrs Gerlings was duly elected to Vestry.

Appointment of Examiner – Mrs Fraser to be requested that she continue next year. Proposed Mrs P Simpson, seconded Mrs M Ellis. All agreed.

AOB –

- Contact list – now updated and copies will be available from next week.
- Thanks to Kathy, Jeremy Eileen and HL for services
- The hedge on other side of parsonage belongs to the neighbour; David will cutting it and hiring a chipper so has offered to cut the parsonage side at the same time, thus reducing the cost. He also offered to weed kill church grounds and path and cut 'hedges' at east end of the churchyard. Accepted with grateful thanks.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.02pm.