

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESE OF MORAY, ROSS AND CAITHNESS
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CROACHY, STRATHNAIRN

REPORT OF THE VESTRY & ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

St Pauls Episcopal Church: Strathnairn

VESTRY REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2017

Introduction

The members of the Vestry present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017.

We are a small, friendly rural congregation whose objective is to advance the mission of the Christian Church by proclaiming the Kingdom of God through worship, service and fellowship. We aim to do this through supporting each other in our weekly worship and on special occasions. We are involved in local community activities and welcome visitors to our services throughout the year. The church at Croachy is usually open for visitors daily between Easter and September.

This annual report and accounts presents a summary of our financial activities during the year and gives an overview of the general activities which have taken place in the life of our church in the past year.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Activities

- We welcomed Diocesan Clergy to a summer Eucharist and provided lunch in the Church hall.
- The Christmas Community Fair was hosted by the church at Farr Hall in November. A number of community groups participated making the event both a successful fund raiser and as community outreach. Carol singing by children from Farr School was a welcome addition to the Festivities.
- The Crafty Ladies continue to meet weekly for a blether and craft activities.
- With the continuing vacancy in the local Church of Scotland Parish, the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial and Daviot Church was taken by Revd Canon Kathy Collins. We have also supported them in the continuation of services at Dunlichity Church.
- Christmas was celebrated with the usual strong support for the Christmas Eve Carol Service, where Humphrey the camel made a regular appearance to the delight of the children. We also unveiled a new knitted Nativity set made by our own crafty ladies.
- The Lent Group again took place as part of the Sunday sermon slot reaching a wider number in the congregation.
- At Easter we again welcomed Farr School, and the new interim Head Teacher, for a service in church where they created a lovely Easter Garden.
- We enlivened our Easter worship with a now regular Passover lunch on Palm Sunday. This is one of several Parish lunches and a summer BBQ held during the year.
- While we continued to visit members, in their homes and in residential care, who are no longer able to attend church; sadly two of these members died during the year.

- The Lay Representative and Resident Priest attended the Diocesan Synod in March.
- The Resident Priest attended General Synod in June as a Diocesan Clergy Representative. She is also serving as a Diocesan Advisor for a candidate in training for the Diaconate.
- Care in Strathnairn, a local community group, now use the Church Hall regularly for their meetings.

Buildings

As part of the agreed five year plan for maintenance and upgrading of the Parsonage quotes have been obtained for upgrading the heating, replacing the out dated storage heaters with more energy efficient electric heaters.

Ongoing maintenance of the church building and churchyard has improved over the year as new volunteers have come forward to help. The churchyard has been kept neat and tidy for visitors. Future work is planned on the electrics, trees on both sites and renewal of hall carpeting and furniture. Cleaning of the church/hall continues to be done by volunteers.

Support for Charities

The congregation continues to show great generosity in supporting various charities both local and international. We had a special collection for the Bishop's Lent Appeal. The Vestry adopted two local charities to support for the next two years, Combat Stress, Alzheimer's Scotland. A number of volunteers assisted Combat Stress at their stall during the Highland Tattoo. We continue to collect for the food bank at Blythswood on a regular basis and once again provided shoeboxes with Christmas gifts for Romania.

Income and Financial Review

St Paul's relies heavily on the generosity of the regular congregation and our seasonal visitors for its day to day funding. Additionally, smaller but significant amounts are generated by fundraising activities, from bank interest, recovery of Gift Aid tax, investment income and solar panel feed-in tariff. We continued during this year to use a significant amount of our locally held reserves to balance the books. This situation is being monitored by our new Treasurer and Vestry to ensure that we can cover our day to day expenses in the future without further depleting our reserves.

Statement of Vestry Member's Responsibilities

The members of the Vestry must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The members of the Vestry are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which on request, must reflect the current financial position of the Church at that time. this must be done to ensure that the Financial Statement comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. they are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and the irregularities.

On behalf of the Vestry

Revd Canon Kathy Collins
Chairman

Date