

**St Pauls Episcopal Church: Strathnairn**  
**VESTRY REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**30 June 2018**

**Introduction**

The members of the Vestry present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2018.

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 October.

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**

- The Christmas Community Fair was once again 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.
- Working with King's Church Strathnairn and Daviot & Dunlichity Parish we organised a Community Christmas Carol evening with participation from Farr School and Strathnairn Music Initiative.
- The Crafty Ladies continue to meet weekly for a blether and craft activities.
- With the future of the local Church of Scotland Parish under review and ongoing ministerial vacancy, we have supported the continuation of services at Dunlichity Church. We also joined their celebrations of 400 years being a united parish.
- 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.
- The Lent Group again took place as part of the Sunday sermon slot reaching a wider number in the congregation.
- At Easter the Resident Priest visited Farr School, who made a lovely banner for the Church.
- We enlivened our Easter worship with Greek themed Parish Lunch on Palm Sunday following our successful Armchair Pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Paul on his second missionary journey in Greece. This is one of several Parish lunches held during the year.
- We welcomed Bishop Mark Strange to our service on Advent Sunday.
- We continue to visit members, in their homes who are unable to attend church.
- The Lay Representative and Resident Priest attended the Diocesan Synod in March. The Resident Priest attended a Regional Synod in October.

- 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.
- Vestry met five times during the year and is planning celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Paul's church in September 2019.
- Work was undertaken to comply with new GDPR legislation during April/May

## **Buildings**

As part of the agreed five year plan for maintenance and upgrading of the Parsonage a quote for replacement of the out dated storage heaters with more energy efficient electric heaters has been accepted and work will begin in the autumn.

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. In January the flooring in the Hall/vestibule was replaced with a grant from the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund. Damage to the church roof caused by heavy snow and winter storms was repaired with funds from buildings insurance. The locks throughout the church/hall were replaced giving better access especially during heavy snow.

Future work is planned to upgrade the electrics in the church/hall and the sound system. While the Vestry continues longer term plans to create a car park on Parsonage land adjoining the church and plan an initial inspection of all the large trees on both sites for the coming year.

## **Support for Charities**

The congregation continues to show great generosity in supporting various charities both local and international. The Vestry adopted two charities to support for the next two years, Combat Stress and Chernobyl Children's Project (UK) 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 the 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

23 September 2018