

The Scottish Episcopal Church

Greyfriars

Kirkcudbright

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2020 at 2pm in Greyfriars House

1. **The opening prayer and Lenten Collect** was given by the Revd. Stephen Hazlett.
Present at the Meeting were: The Rector, (SH); Doreen Blackadder, (DB); John Boyd (JB); Anthony Bird, (AB); Dr. Mike Moore, (MM); Robert Reddaway (RR).
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Randle Rushing and Barbara Hawkesford
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2020:** these were agreed and proposed by AB and seconded by RR. They were duly signed by the Rector.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. **Reports:**
 - a) *Lay Representative:* Barbara Hawkesford's report was noted with no further comment. SH commented that the new Bishop is inaugurated at St. Mary's Cathedral Glasgow on 4th July. By invitation only. SH said he would try to arrange for the new Bishop to visit us, however this would likely involve a joint service with several churches and possibly held at St. Mary's Gatehouse, being closer to other churches, like All Saints Challoch. SH advised the Meeting that no appointments had yet been made at the Churches he is presently covering for, at Challoch, Portpatrick and Stranraer.
 - b) *Treasurer:* AB advised that Income year to date was ahead of expenditure: £23,645.14 (income) and £19,745.94 (expenditure). Cash at Bank of Scotland at 10 March was £21,352.98. AB advised that stock market turbulence would be affecting the value of investments. AB has spoken to the investment manager at Epworth Investments and has been advised not to make any changes to investments at this stage.
 - c) *Property:*
 - JB reported that the new windows for Greyfriars House were on order from Andrew Campbell & Sons.
 - Bookings at Greyfriars House were solid in the early part of the week but less so in the latter part of the week and Saturday. The main users are University of 3rd Age. The council do not use the room for meetings anymore. JB advised that users of Greyfriars House had made it known that they would not accept a further price rise from the present £7.50 to £10.00 per hour. It was agreed to keep prices at £7.50 per hour.
 - A discussion was held concerning the responsibilities towards House users in respect of Covid 19. It was agreed a sign would be placed in the kitchen to say "Please wash your hands". JB will wipe all door handles with disinfecting wipes.
 - Rectory – SH advised that the rotted woodwork covering pipes at the property had been removed however would not require replacing. A new, metal bespoke sized, garage door was to be ordered from Andrew Campbell at a cost of £1,400.00. The

cost would be met from the Joint Account and costs approved by both Treasurers of St. Mary's & Greyfriars.

- RR advised the Meeting that the repair works to the lightning rod installation would take place on Tuesday 17th March.

 - AB advised the Meeting that the statutory Risk Assessments for both Church & House had taken place on Tuesday 11th March, with AB in attendance. Reports are awaited from Quantum Compliance. AB advised the meeting that no emergency works are required beyond installing additional sounders in the Church and meeting room in the House.

 - RH window behind Altar – this was noted to be still letting in water. RR advised this had been looked at previously, without success. It was agreed to ask George Shaw to look into this when he attended to repair the roof over the Church and to also consult with the Diocesan Surveyor as part of their Quinquennial Survey when falling due.

 - Digger by Church: SH asked that thanks be given to Gwen Shaw for having the digger outside the Church by the notice board removed. SH further advised the presence of the digger had put off a prospective wedding bride.
- d) *Kirkcudbright Churches Together*: Nothing further was added to the report submitted by Doreen Blackadder. SH advised that he circulated details of all Holy Week & Easter Services. SH advised the Meeting he would continue to visit people and provide pastoral care, regardless of the risk of contracting Covid 19.
- e) *Protection of Vulnerable Adults & Children*: AB advised that there was nothing to report.
- f) *Sunday School*: SH advised that Steph Moore was stepping back from teaching Sunday School. The Rector acknowledged Steph's work as Sunday School teacher and advised that Rose-Marie Main would continue as Sunday School teacher until June 2020. It was agreed to hold an Easter Egg hunt for the young people on Easter Day.

6. **Other matters:**

- a) *Appointment of the new Bishop, Kevin Pearson*. This will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral on 4th July. SH advised he would be attending.
- b) *Link Magazine*: SH paid tribute to the work done by previous editors, Rachel Inglis, James Burkitt, Sue Davies and Jane Richardson. SH further advised he was in discussion with a member of the congregation over taking on the role but was not able to provide further details at this point. The meeting further agreed to produce the Link quarterly and not bi-monthly as at present.
- c) *Duty Rosta & Pew Sheet Box Delivery*: The meeting gave thanks for the several years' of dedicated services provided by Wendy Milliken who was retiring from this role. AB will take on this role and will be contacting Wendy Milliken to take over the role.

- d) *Cabinet in memory of Lt Colonel Grant Oliver*: to be dedicated by the Rector on Easter Day, 12 April 2020. RR has done wording for a plaque to be attached to the cabinet, which has been approved by Patricia Oliver.
- e) *Art & Craft Trail 31 July – 03 August 2020*: SH advised Hazel Hazlett would be making a floral display relating to this year's theme of Scotland's Year of Coasts & Waters. SH advised he would like to see two local seafarers celebrated: the Radio Operator aboard the Victoria when it sank off the coast of Stranraer and the First Officer of the Titanic, who was from Dalbeattie. SH also advised the Harpist who played so well at 2019's Greyfriars A&C display would do so again in 2020, either on the Saturday or Sunday afternoon. SH also advised that the string quartet who played previously would also like to play again this year.
7. **Joint Meeting / Social with St. Mary's Gatehouse, Tuesday 12th May, 7pm**: RR noted there was always too much food. DB suggested that only the host Church should supply food. This was agreed by all. SH asked the meeting to think about what food to bring.
8. **Correspondence**: SH encouraged the meeting to vote for SCVS online for the award of £5,000.00 towards their running costs. Scotland's Churches Trust would like to give a talk and this was welcomed and agreed upon. Finally, the SEC are offering Churches £5,000.00 to set up and run a poverty fund to help poor children. After some discussion it was agreed that SH would speak to the SEC for further clarification.
9. **AOCB**: DB advised that the Stewards on duty on Sunday 8th March had left without waiting for people to depart and locking up. DB noted it had been left to Barbara Hawkesford to lock up. SH suggested Gwen Shaw put a note on the next pew sheet reminding those on duty to remain behind after the service and to lock up after everyone had left.
10. **Closing Prayer**: The meeting ended with The Grace said by all.