

# The Scottish Episcopal Church: Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

## St. Mary's Cathedral

### Report on the Vestry Meeting held on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Chair:** The Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth

**Present:**

Chris Athorne, Irene Ballantine, Veronica Colin,  
Ian Halliburton, Andrew Heatlie, Anne Jones,  
Isobel MacNaughtan, Paul Mallinson, Ken Taylor,  
Robin Webster

**Attending:**

Andrew Colin (Secretary), Caroline McKillop, Roger Mackenzie

The meeting began with prayers.

#### 2. New Vestry Members

Kelvin welcomed the new Vestry members. They were allocated to teams as follows:

- Chris Athorne: Compliance
- Veronica Colin: Finance
- Bruce Montgomery-Smith: Property

#### 3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

##### 3.1 Appointment of ACTS Delegate

This matter is still unresolved.

##### 3.2 Away Giving

The Vestry considered a paper submitted by a Vestry member. Kelvin suggested that we should start a "Justice and Aid" group. We shall be contacting those people who raised this idea at the recent AGM.

### 3.3 Youth Work Review Group

The new arrangements for children will start on January 10th. The facilities will be publicised in the pew sheets. Seven people have been asked to help.

As to teenagers, Kelvin said that if possible they should be actively involved in church services. Many teenagers were members of the trebles, and he hoped that others would join the bell-ringing team.

It was noted that several members of the congregation were keen to help with teenagers.

### 3.4. Duty of Care of Volunteers

The Vestry noted formally that it had a duty of care towards volunteers. Every attempt will be made to manage volunteers better in the future.

## 4. Cathedral Finances

Ian introduced his report for the financial year 08/09. The outcome was substantially better than forecast, largely due to the fact that Shona was only employed for part of the year and budgets are prepared on a 'good housekeeping' (hopefully) worst case scenario.

He then introduced an offer made by the Diocesan Treasurer:

We should repay our outstanding restoration loan of £131,225 and in return the Diocese will pay us an 'annuity' equal to half a clerical stipend (currently £11,236) *in perpetuity*. The annual amount will rise in step with clerical salaries.

In answers to some questions, Ian replied that no formal strings were attached to the offer, although the expectation was that we would use the extra funds to pay a second full-time priest. He added that the cash to repay the loan could be found from our current cash holding, with no need to realise the value of any shares or property.

Kelvin proposed that he and Ian be authorised to negotiate with the Diocese on this arrangement, and to accept it if offered on substantially the above terms. The proposal was seconded by Robin and passed, with one vote against.

Ian then spoke about the financial aspects of employing a second priest based on a worst-case scenario. In addition to the half-stipend just mentioned, the Diocese will offer us a support grant of £5000 for three years, and the use of a house for as long as we need it. This would bring us half-way to covering the cost of a full-time priest. The rest would have to be raised from other sources,

Kelvin then asked Ian to define a ‘trigger-point’ at which we could prudently go ahead with an appointment. Ian replied that if we could increase the annual pledged giving by £8,000 (including tax rebates) this would bring us three-quarters of the way to finding the necessary funds. At this point the Finance Group would be willing to endorse the employment of a second full-time member of the clergy team. The sum sought is equivalent to an extra £1.20 per pledger per week.

Kelvin then spoke of the cost of *not* making an appointment. Shona Lillie had brought many more people into the congregation, and since she left, this has created more work for the other members of the clergy team.

Kelvin felt that the work-load on the existing staff was so heavy that there was a real risk of breakdown and prolonged sickness. For this reason alone, more assistance was vital.

Ian then formally proposed that we should attempt to increase pledged gifts by £8,000 per year (including tax rebates). If and when this figure is achieved, and if we have by then reached a satisfactory agreement with the Diocese on the loan repayment, we should authorise Kelvin to appoint a further full-time member of the clerical team. The proposal was seconded by Isobel and carried unanimously.

## **5. Provost’s Business**

### **5.1 The Revd. Andrew Adam**

Kelvin told the Vestry that Andrew Adam (also known as “Akma” after his initials) had recently come from the USA to work in the Theology Department at Glasgow University. He was interested in joining the clergy team as a non-stipendiary minister.

### **5.2 Ecumenism**

The Vestry learned that the local Roman Catholic Priest, Fr. John O’Connor, is moving to become the Master of Blackfriar’s in Oxford (a Dominican foundation). Kelvin has congratulated him on behalf of the Vestry.

### 5.3 BBC

Kelvin reported that he had been asked to record six “Prayer for the Day” broadcasts for use in January. These will be aired at 5.43 each morning.

Recordings of the choir are frequently played on BBC2.

We may be asked to provide a live broadcast on a Sunday morning, some time in the New Year.

### 5.4 Election of the new Bishop

This will take place in the Cathedral on January 16<sup>th</sup>. All the electors will have to be fed. Anne and Kelvin will oversee the arrangements.

The consecration of the new Bishop will probably be in April. We can expect this to be the biggest event of the year.

### 5.5 Vestry Protocol

Kelvin asked Vestry members to remember that it is their task to “co-operate with and generally assist the Rector in all matters relating to the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the mission of the whole Church, subject always to the canonical rights and duties of the clergy” (Canon Sixty).

## 6. Communication

The Vestry considered a letter from a member of the congregation and agreed that there were several areas in which communication could be improved

It will actively pursue the following measures:

**Parish Magazine:** The pew notes, issued weekly, will be supplemented by a Newsletter containing such items as the Vestry Digest, and perhaps advance notice of longer-term plans. Anne Jones and Kelvin are having discussions with a potential volunteer to help in producing the magazine.

**Website:** More work is needed on the Cathedral website.

**Notice Board:** The Vestry agreed that the internal notice board is too high and badly organised, but this will be corrected as soon as the Northwest corner of the Cathedral is refurbished.

**Vestry Membership and Meeting Dates:** These will be publicised as soon as possible.

## **7. Team Reports**

### **7.1 Compliance Group**

The group proposes to raise all salaries by 2%. This has been taken account of in the budget.

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

### **7.2 Buildings Group**

The group is in the course of obtaining quotes to satisfy the recommendations made in the Quinquennial Report.

The proposed sound link between the Cathedral and the Synod Hall is still not in place, but alternative plans are being explored.

**The meeting ended with prayers at 2215.**

**Andrew Colin**

**(Secretary)**

*The Cathedral Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Glasgow (St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral) is a charity registered with OSCR, number SC006225.*