

St. Michael and All Angels Church, Helensburgh

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Constituent Members of the Congregation

Sunday 5th December 2021

The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Sederunt.

57 members of the congregation attended. A number of apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of AGM 2020.

Pandemic restrictions necessitated a 'virtual AGM' in 2020 but notes of all decisions had been made available. These were agreed to be an accurate record. (Proposed Gerry Quickfall, Seconded Joy Michie). There were no matters arising.

3. Elections

a) Vestry Members.

Sheila Baker retired as a Vestry Member and was thanked for her service.

Richard Smith volunteered to serve and was duly elected to the Vestry (proposed by Nicholas Davies, Seconded by Joan Thompson).

b) Lay Representative.

Richard Horrell volunteered to continue to serve as St Michaels Lay Representative and was duly elected (proposed by Nicholas Davies, Seconded by Margaret Gilbert).

c) Alternate Lay Representative .

Richard Smith stood down as Alternate Lay Representative and was thanked for his service.

David Sheen volunteered to take over as Alternate Lay Representative and was duly elected (proposed by Richard Smith, seconded by Margaret Gilbert).

There were no volunteers to take over from Margaret Wardil as the 2nd Alternate Lay Representative, but as there had been no call for the role it was agreed that this post need not be filled.

4. TAR and Accounts FY 1 Sep 2020 – 31 Aug 2021

The Accounts had been independently checked and, together with the Trustees Annual Report, had been made available as paper copies at the back of the church and on the St Michaels website since 20th November.

The Honorary Treasurer started her financial report by thanking all those who helped throughout the year with the various financial jobs. These jobs are done willingly and with commitment and are vital to the running of the church.

The accounts had been examined by Caroline Kerr CA who was thanked for the amount of time and effort that she dedicated to them.

Our total income for the year was £101,289 compared to £106,885 last year. Our total expenditure was £101,713 compared to £94,127 last year when we spent less due to a longer lockdown. This resulted in a very small deficit of £424 for this year. Our share portfolio, held with the SEC Unit Trust Pool, increased significantly to £274,800 compared with £227,678 last year.

We had an unrestricted legacy this year of £5,000 and a grant from the Miss Bell Trust of £2,000. The SEC also gave us a lockdown grant of £3,100 and a 15% reduction in our quota. The amount that we were able to claim back from Gift Aid was £16,670 which had just gone into our account.

We didn't qualify this year for a VAT refund under the LPWGS scheme as we didn't reach the minimum claim threshold. At the end of the year we held £10,628 in our current account and £40,017 in our premium account. Charitable giving continues to be at the forefront of our ethos and we carry on supporting local and other good causes.

We have challenges in front of us, not least with a huge increase in energy costs, and we must therefore ensure that our finances remain as stable as possible. Our expenditure outstrips our income and we need to look at ways of increasing income from giving, revenue through hall rentals and fundraising activities while minimising our expenditure but without compromising the good work of the church.

There were no questions of a financial nature, and the accounts were received as presented (proposed Chris Packard, seconded by Geoff Mason).

5. Independent Examiner.

It was agreed that Caroline Kerr be re-appointed as Independent Examiner of the St Michaels accounts (proposed by Trevor Quickfall, seconded Mark Duncan).

6. Rector's Report.

The Rector delivered his report during the 5th December 1030 service.

7. AOCB.

The only item of AOB that had been declared was the re-decoration of the upper hall, the plan for the upper-hall floor and whether insulation of the roof space and double glazing of the sky-light had been considered. In response it was explained that the plan is for the upper hall floor to be re-surfaced on a self-help basis which will save money. There is a plan to replace the missing pane on the sky-light and to double glaze it. The discussion moved on to how St Michaels could reduce its carbon footprint in general, noting the example of a listed church that had installed solar panels. The Property Manager confirmed that a survey of St Michaels had taken place recently using a qualified 'Eco Congregation' consultant and the report, once received, would be considered by the Vestry.

The AGM concluded with The Grace.

N Davies

Vestry Secretary

6th December 2021