



Scottish Charity No SC011617

VESTRY MEETING

9TH January 2025

Present: Rev. Aaron Moffat-Jackman, Mr Iain Morrison, Mr Nick Cooke, Mr Paul Reed, Mrs Heather Reynolds, Mr Malcolm Cordwell-Smith. Veronica Bellers.

Guest: Mrs Alison McAlpine

Apologies: Dr Janet Sanderson, Dr Philip Gaskell

1. Opening Prayer:

2. Minutes of last Meeting: Approval proposed by Mrs Heather Reynolds and seconded by Mr Cooke.

3. Actions relating to Previous Meeting: None.

Hymns at Services: Veronica Bellers raised this point, because she believes that hymns need to be uplifting. She felt that the playlists on the hymnal generally are not uplifting. After discussion it was agreed:

- a. Aaron would discuss hymns with Archie and ask him what hymns he likes and is able to play
- b. Malcolm offered to contact the company that produces the hymnal to ask if there is new software available that would update the playlists and include more hymns.
- c. We would also consult the congregation about what hymns they would like to sing.

4. Annual General Meeting on 19th January 2025

- a. **Reports:** Aaron requested that all reports should be ready for Sunday 12th January. It was agreed that Veronica Bellers should send reports out by e-mail; perhaps in two tranches to avoid overwhelming people's computers. She and Heather Reynolds will print ten copies of each report (as well as other documents) to offer to members of the congregation who would prefer paper copies.
- b. **Any Other Competent Business:** It was agreed that The Vestry Secretary would ask the Congregation to make any items of AOCB known to her a few days before the AGM.
- c. **Appointments of Officials:** Mr Cooke offered to draft the wording of this section of the Agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer reported on the 12 months to 30th September 2024. This is attached Proposed by Mr Nick Cooke and seconded by Mr Paul Reed.. Approved unanimously. She stated that she is looking for suggestions for a new auditor.

6. Fabric Report:

- a. **Sound system has been upgraded.** Mr Cordwell-Smith had to buy a new unit and microphone for £800. Paid.
- b. **Gas safety certificate and heater and boiler safety certificates have** been done.
- c. **Cleaner. Mrs Ella McEwan has stepped down after 44 years working for St Modoc's.** The new cleaner is Sue. Cost the same - £20 per week. Mr Reed asked if we had given her a recognition of her many years service. Mr Cordwell-Smith said we normally give a bonus of £50 but this time we gave Ella £100.00 and Mrs Reynolds will buy a card. Her long service will be raised at the AGM.

7. **Five Year Plan:** Rev. Aaron has sent out a report, following the survey that was completed by the two congregations. He will be doing a Five-Year Plan shortly which he will be circulated before sending it to the Diocese.
8. **PVG.** Nothing to report.
9. **Website and Facebook:** Rev. Aaron will be meeting with a person who is offering to help with a combined website.
10. **Synod Report:** A Synod Report is being prepared for the AGM.
11. **Net-Zero:** Mr Nick Cooke reported that he had received an interesting e-mail highlighting a forthcoming Diocesan event on 21st February. There will be a webinar titled "Solar Panels and Other Energy Retrofit." Anyone can join. He also said that on 14th March the Aberfoyle Eco-Rectory is offering an open house day.
12. **Request to find an Understudy for the Sacristan:** Nothing further to report but it was agreed to keep it on the Agenda.

AOCB:

- a. Mrs Alison McAlpine suggested that a screen for hymns might be a good thing to have. Mr Cordwell-Smith would speak to the company that supplied the hymnal. There was some concern that a screen might spoil the exceptional beauty of the church.
- b. Mrs McAlpine suggested a fund-raising event during the coming Summer. There was a discussion about what might be a suitable event. It was agreed to keep the matter on the Agenda.

Next Meeting: 19th February 2025 at 6pm at Malcolm's House.

Treasurer's Report 9th January 2025

The accounts for the financial year to 30th September have been signed off by the Independent Examiner, so need to be approved at this meeting. Tom Burton has examined St Modoc's accounts for many years but has moved and feels unable to carry on. As suggested at a previous Vestry meeting, I have approached Elizabeth Wallace but she is unable to do them for us. I am now looking for other suggestions!

Also, in front of you please see the accounts for the three months to 31st December 2024. The only previous year's figures which I have are up to 24th December 2023 so it's not an exact comparison but very close.

Income is very similar to last year. Included in Donations is £56 donations from Thursday Coffee. I had stocked up on tea and coffee in the last financial year so there are no Thursday Coffee expenses in this quarter.

Property expenses are less than the previous year and our quota payment to the Diocese has been decreased. The increase in running costs is due to the introduction of stipend, pension and Rectory running costs. The only other increase of note is Outreach. This year it includes one payment to Kilmadock Church for use of their building which has now stopped, photocopying of service sheets for joint services, the outside sound system and other expenses for Carols Round the Tree.

On top of running expenses there is a capital cost of £3,980 near the bottom of the Payments list. This was a deposit towards new windows which were agreed a while ago. 50% of the total cost will hopefully be reimbursed by a Diocesan grant.

So, the deficit for this period is £9,972. Most of the capital costs should soon finish, so looking at the deficit of running costs against income, which is more long term, this deficit is about £6,000. However, included in this is £2,668 for insurance, which covers the whole year, making the running cost deficit about £4,000 for the quarter. The Independent Examiner has asked me to point out about the deficit. These were his words: *I couldn't help but notice the significant swing in results for the year, mainly due to - of course the new Rector and the cost sharing arrangement with St Saviours. In the absence of any new source of income, it would seem likely that the charity could be running a deficit for the foreseeable future. You have significant reserves to draw upon and this should not present a problem, but I do feel that the trustees should be made aware of that fact.*

Currently, we hold £17,000 of cash reserves, as you will see on the second page. Once that is used up, we will be drawing on our investments which, at the moment, have a valuation of over £300,000. Of course, that would mean less investment income coming in. We do, however, always have the options of organising fundraisers and/or a stewardship campaign.

One other matter to consider is that we have agreed to purchase a laptop and printer for our new Vestry Secretary to use. Printing has worked out fairly expensive so it should pay off in the long term. The laptop and printer will stay as capital assets of the Vestry.

Heather Reynolds