

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ISLA SPEY DEVERON GROUP OF CHURCHES
HELD VIA ZOOM ON 20TH JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30P.M.**

1. **Opening Prayer** Rev'd Michael welcomed everyone, especially Bishop Mark, to the first annual meeting since the group formally came into being on 1st December 2020. It was also the first via Zoom. He led the meeting in Prayer for Unity and for the Mission of the group and of the wider church.
2. **Bishop Mark** asked for prayers for Bishop Ellinah of Swaziland who had died on Tuesday of Covid. She was the first woman to be a Bishop in the African Anglican church and a good friend of the SEC. Swaziland was linked to the Diocese of Brechin.
Bishop Mark then said it was a delight to see everyone after a year of not seeing people. He thanked the congregations for being careful during the restrictions as it was important not to put anyone at risk. He thanked them for enabling the AGM to take place.
Thanks needed to be given to Rev'd Michael in particular and everyone else who had worked to make the group happen and to give it the potential to go forward. Yes things had had to be given up, there had been moments of doubt but he trusted and hoped that progress could now be made.
Alan Grimley said, having worked in broadcasting, he was very impressed by the standard of the Provincial online worship.
Bishop Mark gave his blessing.
3. **Attendance** Rev'd Michael Last (Chair), Bishop Mark (Items 1 and 2), Louise Monaghan (Treasurer) (Items 1-6, 8) and 29 members of the congregations (list attached)
4. **Apologies** Rebecca Last, Caliegh Bean, Fiona Gordon, Mary Burnett-Stuart, Richard Brown
5. **Minutes** of AGM held on 23rd February 2020. These were approved.
6. **Matters arising** There were no matters arising that would not be discussed elsewhere.
7. **REPORTS**
 - a) **Clergy** Rev'd Michael presented his report on the year which had been dominated by Covid. He would provide a copy with the pew sheet on Saturday. Miranda asked about the Keith Rectory and what possibilities there were to improve its energy efficiency. Rev'd Michael said he had no preconceived ideas and it would be a Vestry decision. Dolly suggested selling the site and buying something more practical.
 - b) **Lay Reps** Not much had happened over the year.
 - c) **Property & Repair** (major items) Most of the work this year was to ensure that the buildings were watertight and were up to safety standards.
St Marnan's – the hall had been painted
Christ Church – the electrics had been checked and the consumer unit replaced.
Holy Trinity – the electrics had been checked and the lightning conductor brought up to standard
Gordon Chapel – the lift had been LOLER tested, required as it was for public use. The window heaters had been installed, ten years after the wiring had been put in.
St Michael's – roof repairs had been carried out.
 - d) **Safeguarding** Denise McFarlane, the Diocesan Protection Officer, had joined the Vestry meeting in December to discuss how to provide safeguarding in the grouping. It had been decided that there would be 2 PVG officers, Catherine Ellwood and Caliegh Bean who both worked in the care sector. Any concerns should be taken to Catherine and new notices would go up in the churches when allowed.
 - e) There were no other reports.
8. **FINANCE** Louise Monaghan the Treasurer presented the following accounts

a) **Year ended September 2020** Gordon Chapel There appeared to be a deficit on the year but this was due to the lift costs, where the income had been received in the previous financial year. Once these were removed the accounts broke even on balance. This account was now the account for the grouping.

Isla Deveron Group The income for the year was similar to the previous year and there was a surplus of £1190. The UTP investments which had been cashed in had to be counted as income for OSCR purposes but it was a transfer from one pot to another. Looking at the IDG accounts the SEC Unit Trust Pool investments had done very well over the year yielding both income and capital growth.

St Michael's, Dufftown Thank you to David Duncombe for preparing the accounts and having them independently examined. St Michael's accounts did not show the £144,105.09p being held by the Diocese on behalf of St Michael's. This would now be transferred to the group accounts and at its last meeting the Vestry had agreed to invest £100,000 of this in the SEC Unit Trust Pool.

b) **Accounts 1st October – 30th November 2020** These have to be compiled for OSCR to complete the formation of the grouping.

Isla Deveron Group These show a shortfall of £2,700 for the 2 months but there are often extra expenses at the beginning of a financial year so this is not a concern.

St Michael's Dufftown Nothing to report on these.

The Vestry had approved these accounts, subject to the Gordon Chapel and IDG accounts being independently examined, at their meeting on 13th January.

Rev'd Michael proposed and Cliff Jones seconded that the AGM should now approve them which they did.

c) **Appointment of Independent Examiner** Rev'd Michael proposed that Mr S MacBeath, the Treasurer of Rufus Kirk in Keith, should be appointed. This was approved.

9. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Rev'd Michael thanked those who were retiring from office this year who had given many years of devoted service to the churches:-

Anne Exelby, Cliff Jones, Janet Philpott, Mary Burnett-Stuart, John Kemp and David Duncombe.

a) **Election of Lay Reps** (1 from each congregation)

Christ Church Jennifer Bressers-Stuart p. Hazel Wenbon s. Katie Cruikshank

Gordon Chapel Joan Marsden p. Janet Philpott s. Daphne Stevens

Holy Trinity Amanda Miller p. Richard Weston s. Jacqueline Kemp

No other nominations so Jennifer, Joan and Amanda were elected.

b) **Election of Vestry Members** (up to 3 from each congregation to serve for 3years)

Christ Church Miranda Montgomery to continue

Richard Brown p. Miranda Montgomery s. Pippy McEwen

Hazel Welbon p. Jim McEwen s. Miranda Montgomery

Gordon Chapel Amy Souter and Dolly Grant to continue

Daphne Stevens p. Brenda Shepherd s. Janet Philpott

Holy Trinity Richard Weston and Catherine Ellwood to continue.

Jacqueline Kemp p. Richard Weston s. Catherine Ellwood

St Marnan's Karen and Keith Davids are happy to serve on the Vestry.

St Michael's Alasdair Locke who was coopted onto the Vestry in December 2020 is happy to continue to serve.

There were no other nominations so the above people were elected.

c) **Election of Alternate Lay Rep** (1 from each congregation)

Christ Church Pippy McEwen p. Cliff Jones s. Katie Cruikshank

Gordon Chapel Myra Murphy p. Dolly Grant s. Gillian Hood

There no other nominations so Pippy and Myra were elected.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS Alan Grimley thanked Rev'd Michael for conducting the AGM so smoothly.

Gillian Hood thanked Rev'd Michael for his hard work over the last extremely difficult year. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

11. The meeting ended with the Grace.