

ISLA SPEY DEVERON GROUP OF CHURCHES

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 26th January 2023 at 7.30p.m. in Holy Trinity Keith and via Zoom

1. **Opening Prayer including RIP** with Reading for the Feast of Timothy and Titus. Remembering those from the congregations who had died during the year including Sandy Milne from Holy Trinity Keith and Adam (Bert) Thompson from Gordon Chapel with Rev'd Eric Nicolson who was House for Duty Priest at Gordon Chapel.
2. **Attendance** There were 9 in person and 10 attending via Zoom including Louise Monaghan the Treasurer for Items 1-6. Rev'd Michael Last was in the Chair. List attached.
3. **Apologies** There were 12 apologies. List attached.
4. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 26th January 2022 were accepted. Proposed by Jennifer Bressers-Stuart and seconded by Daphne Stevens.
5. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere** None
6. **FINANCE**
 - a) Presentation of the accounts for the year ended September 2022. As well as the official accounts in the form required by OSCR, a leaflet had been prepared to explain the different funds making up the total assets of the group. The General Fund was what paid for the day to day running of the group and for Holy Trinity Church and Rectory which had no specific fund to help. Restricted Funds could only be used for specific purposes. Designated Funds consisted of money set aside for particular purposes. The £73,000 deficit was misleading as it included the purchase of investments. The working deficit was about £15,000. Income was roughly the same as last year but difficult to compare as last year's figures only for 10 months. Louise pointed out that Standing orders were good in most ways but it was important that donors reviewed their giving regularly. Alan Grimley asked if the group should be alarmed about the deficit. Louise replied that she was not unduly alarmed and Rev'd Michael pointed out that fundraising had restarted but was still limited. There had been one coffee morning in Fochabers and the Pop up Shop in Lossiemouth in the year. The Vestry was looking at splitting off the Parish Room from the Flat at Gordon Chapel which would allow the Flat to be let at a market rent which would help. BUT everyone needed to review their giving. Janet Philpott questioned the fact that the group paid 40% of Rev'd Michael's stipend. The Vestry had agreed to raise the contribution to 50% and when Rev'd Michael retired the situation would be reviewed but the Bishop felt that there needed to be an incumbent in the area. The Trustees report in the accounts had been drawn up by Louise and Rev'd Michael and approved by the Vestry at their meeting on 18th January 2023. Joan Marsden proposed and Dolly Grant seconded that the accounts be approved. All were in favour. Louise was thanked for her hard work on behalf of the group and in preparing the accounts.
 - b) Appointment of Independent Examiner Rev'd Michael proposed that Mr S MacBeath of Keith should be reappointed. This was approved.

Fundraising Pop up Shop Dolly Grant was happy to organise but needed support to staff it. Catherine had organised a quiz night at Keith Golf Club which was enjoyed although the weather affected the numbers attending. As well as fundraising, such events offered opportunities for fellowship and mission and any suggestions should be passed to Rev'd Michael or members of the Vestry.
7. **REPORTS**
 - a) Lay Reps Diocesan Synod in March 2022 had been a hybrid event but as the Cathedral now had chairs in the nave the 2023 Synod would be in the Cathedral with catering by the Cathedral café.

- b) Property and Repair (Major items) i) Holy Trinity Keith The dead elms had been removed. ii) Christ Church Huntly Work on the garden was continuing. Thanks to those who were working on it.
 - c) Safeguarding The annual return had been sent off. In general congregations tried to help members who were aging.
 - d) Busega Scotland had sent a report which was on the website and had been distributed.
 - e) Clergy report – attached. Alan Grimley thanked Rev'd Michael for his report and wondered whether members of the Church of Scotland were moving to the SEC as their churches were closing. Rev'd Michael said that he had had interesting conversations with his colleagues in the Church of Scotland. Bishop Mark was clear that the SEC should be welcoming but not poach. The St Andrew's Declaration signed in 2021 was even more important now.
8. **APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS** – taken church by church
- a) Gordon Chapel Lay Rep Joan Marsden
 Vestry members Daphne Stevens to remain; Sarah Johnson and Janet Philpott elected
 Alt Lay Rep Dolly Grant proposed by Margaret Forsyth and seconded by Joan Marsden
 - b) Holy Trinity Keith Lay Rep Amanda Miller
 Vestry members Megan Cambridge to remain; Catherine Ellwood and Richard Weston elected
 Alt Lay Rep Geoff Macangus-Gerrard
 - c) St Marnan's Karen and Keith Davids continue as Vestry members
 - d) St Michael's Alastair Locke continues as Vestry member
 Jean Macdonald has said she is willing to be Lay Rep. proposed by Daphne Stevens and seconded by Jennifer Bressers-Stuart.
 - e) Christ Church Huntly Lay Rep Jennifer Bressers-Stuart
 Vestry members Richard Brown to continue Miranda Montgomery elected.
9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** Gillian Hood proposed a formal thanks to Rev'd Michael for guiding us through the year. This was unanimously approved.
10. The meeting finished with the Grace