

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Congregation  
held in the Hall on Sunday the 17th November, 2019 after 11.30am Service.

PRESENT: 25 members of the Congregation, the Treasurer, Secretary and  
Rev. Reuben Preston in the Chair.

APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

Mrs. Jane Turner, Mrs. Margaret Russell, Mrs. Anne Flynn, Laura Lynskey,  
Adam Kilpatrick and Ian Cunningham.

REMEMBER THE DEPARTED

A few moments of silence was held to remember Jessie McGhee, Stella Millard and  
Peter Parrack. Rest eternal grant them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES of the last Annual General Meeting held on Sunday the  
25th November, 2018.

Photocopies of the Minutes of the above meeting had been circulated to the members of  
the Congregation during recent weeks and the meeting took them as read. There being no  
comments, the Minutes were approved on a Motion by Mrs P. Watson,  
Seconded by Mrs. M.Bruce.

PRESENTATION of the AUDITED VESTRY ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup>  
August, 2019.

Photocopies of the Treasurer's Report of the Vestry, full Audited Accounts and  
Independent examiner's Report were distributed to the meeting, all of which are attached  
to these Minutes.

Discussion took place with regard to hall lets, these having gone down. We have lost  
Slimming World and Line Dancing.  
Advertising was mentioned and this to be discussed at the next Vestry Meeting.  
Thanks were extended to Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Lynskey.

ELECTION of LAY REPRESENTATIVE and ALTERNATE LAY  
REPRESENTATIVE

It was proposed by Mrs S. Graham and Seconded by Mr A. Ferguson that Mr. John  
Mitchell continue to serve as Lay Representative and upon Mr. Mitchell signifying his  
willingness to serve, he was appointed for another year.

It was proposed by Mrs. M. Bruce and seconded by Mrs J. Mitchell that  
Mr. David Peden continue to serve as Alternative Lay Representative and upon Mr.  
Peden signifying his willingness to serve, he was duly appointed Alternative Lay  
Representative for another year.

ELECTION of TWO VESTRY MEMBERS/

#### ELECTION of TWO VESTRY MEMBERS to serve for THREE YEARS

Mrs C Perrie and Mr. R. Flynn retired in rotation, having served on the Vestry for the last three years.

It was proposed by Mr. J. Mitchell, Seconded by Mrs. V Blair that Mrs.S. Graham be appointed and it was proposed by Mrs. P. Watson, Seconded by Mrs. S. Graham that Mrs. Moira Searl be appointed. Upon Mrs Graham and Mrs. Searl signifying their willingness to serve on the Vestry, they were duly appointed to serve for three years.

#### ELECTION of CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR

It was proposed by Mrs. J. Mitchell, Seconded by Mrs M. Searl that Mrs. V. Blair continue to serve as Child Protection Co-ordinator and upon her signifying her willingness to serve, she was duly appointed to serve for a further year.

#### APPOINTMENT of AUDITOR

It was proposed by Mrs. C. Perrie Seconded by Mrs S. Graham that Mrs. Gail Lynskey continue as our Auditor. Mrs. G. Lynskey upon her signifying her willingness to continue to serve was accordingly appointed to serve for a further year.

#### STATISTICS

2 Baptism; 0 Confirmations; 0 Marriages; 4 Funerals; Total number of persons of all ages belonging to the congregation 91; Number of persons on the Communicants Roll 76; Total number of celebrations of Holy Communion – public, private and house 124 ; Number of Communion throughout the year 1841 ; Attendance Sunday next before Advent 24.Total number of Services using the Reserved Sacrament in total Worship 14; Total number of Communion made throughout the year with the Reserved Sacrament (excluding public worship) 76.

#### REPORT from CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

Mrs. V. Blair's Report and Congregational Safeguarding Checklist 2019 are attached to these Minutes.

Thanks were extended to Mrs. Blair.

#### REPORT from SOCIAL COMMITTEE CONVENER

Mrs.V. Brockie's Report is attached to these Minutes.

Thanks were extended to the committee.

#### REPORT from SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mrs. V. Blair's Report is attached to these Minutes .

Thanks were extended to all three teachers, Mrs. Ferrari, Laura Lynskey and Mrs. Blair

#### REPORT from PROPERTY CONVENER/

#### REPORT from PROPERTY CONVENER

Mrs. S. Graham's Report is attached to these Minutes.  
Mr. Mitchell extended grateful thanks to Mr. Michael Graham for all the work he does for us and time he puts in, thanks also to Mrs. Graham.

#### CHAIRPERSON'S PRESENTATION on the Mission of St. Margaret's

Rev. Reuben then began his report with a couple of quotes from the scriptures which are attached to these Minutes.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that Mrs. Watson, Mr. Peden and Mr. Mitchell were licensed as Worship Leaders and Mr. Mitchell as Pastoral Assistant on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 and Mr. Peden commented that it was good to get an opportunity to be a Worship Leader and Mrs. Watson said it was an honour.

Mr. Mitchell expressed appreciation to Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Watson for setting up ready for Services. He also expressed thanks to all who clean, deal with the music and do all the jobs about the Church. Mr. Mitchell as Pastoral Assistant meets with the Rector regularly to keep updated on visiting. Thanks to Mrs. Ward for Secretary duties and Rector for all he does, we are extremely blessed to have him ministering to us in addition to all the work at St. John's.

Thanks to Vestry members and look forward to Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Searl serving on the Vestry.

Mr. Mitchell reported Christmas cards going out shortly.

Burns night to be Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.  
Quiz night suggested as Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
DATE OF NEXT VESTRY MEETING

Wednesday 8th January, 2020 after 7pm Service.

This concluded the business of the meeting which closed with The LYCIG PRAYER

God of Mission  
Who alone brings growth to your Church,  
send your Holy Spirit  
to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions,  
and power to our witness.  
Help our Church to grow in numbers,  
in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Departed list across the two Charges

Peter Parrack  
Norman Sproule  
Isabel Roberts  
Muriel Gibb  
Stella Millard  
Marolyn Kennedy  
James Arthur  
Jackie Pattison  
Gillian McGinley  
Jessie McGhee  
Nancy Geddes  
Robert Maxwell

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord

**And may light perpetual shine upon them**

May they rest in peace

**And rise in glory**

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## Rectors report at the 2019 AGM of St Margaret's Church Renfrew

I want to begin this report with a couple of quotes from the scriptures....

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

A capable **wife** who can find?

**She** is far more precious than jewels.

**She** opens **her** hand to the poor,  
and reaches out **her** hands to the needy.

**She** opens **her** mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on **her** tongue.

**She** looks well to the ways of **her** household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

**Her** children rise up and call **her** happy;

**her** husband too, and he praises **her**:

"Many **women** have done excellently, but you surpass them all."

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a **woman** who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give **her** a share in the fruit of **her** hands,  
and let **her** works praise **her** in the city gates.

This is the word of the Lord. Proverbs 31. 10, 20, 26-31

Take two let's change the pronouns to male ones.....

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

A capable **husband** who can find?  
**he** is far more precious than jewels.  
**He** opens **his** hand to the poor,  
and reaches out **his** hands to the needy.  
**He** opens **his** mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on **his** tongue.  
**He** looks well to the ways of **his** household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
**His** children rise up and call **him** happy;  
**his wife** too, and **she** praises **him**:  
"Many **men** have done excellently, but you surpass them all."  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a **man** who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give **him** a share in the fruit of **his** hands,  
and let **his** works praise **him** in the city gates.

This is the word of the Lord. Proverbs 31. 10, 20, 26-31

Take three for 2019 going into 2020 when we think about the attitude of people in their relationships and households...

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

A capable **partner** who can find?  
**they are** far more precious than jewels.  
**They open their** hands to the poor,  
and reaches out **their** hands to the needy.  
**They open their** mouths with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on **their** tongue.  
**They** look(s) well to the ways of **their** household,  
and do(es) not eat the bread of idleness.  
**Their** children rise up and call **them** happy;  
**their partner** too, and **they** praises **them**:  
"Many **people** have done excellently, but you surpass them all."  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a **person** who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give **them** a share in the fruit of **their** hands,  
and let **them** works praise **them** in the city gates.

This is the word of the Lord. Proverbs 31. 10, 20, 26-31

DISCORD – who feels it – who feels connection with an including text?

A difference of feelings and a difference of takes on something we have become blind to its exclusive voice.

At my ordination I was called to 'proclaim the faith afresh to each generation'. Does the younger generation feel different from you?

YES – I should hope so!!!!!!

At the end of St Matthews gospel in chapter 28

### **The Commissioning of the Disciples**

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshipped him; **but some doubted.** <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**'

Do you doubt?

Do you wonder if Jesus is with us?

Do you wonder where God is for you?

Do you have a desire to reach others with the message of Jesus?

Do you wish the Rector would shut up?

This week our St Margret's Vestry received the news that the application to the Diocese for help in developing the Leading Your Church Into Growth programme was successfully signed off by the Primus. We have £1800 towards helping us to set ourselves up for "Proclaiming the faith afresh to THIS generation"

As a parish priest I cannot over emphasise the degree of support and confidence that the Primus has in me, the Vestry at St Margarets and his desire to see us do the work of Matthew 28 – doubters and worshippers alike.

AGMs are in some churches a time for ego massaging public adulation. I do not want to fall into that trap with us at St Margarets.

We heard this morning about the gentle, committed humility of our patron saint – her dedication in prayer and in good works.

Notice how contemplation and action so frequently work together in the lives of God's saints.

A dedicated prayer life leads to a dedicated heart – recognising those in need.

So what has all this to do with the LYCIG programme?

Let me explain.....

We have been awarded financial resources to help us grow and foster skills and talents to help our community of St Margarets reach out in ways – I do not know what they are.

We are about to start on a process which will involve all of us.

We heard how God used St Margaret to reach the heart of her husband, here in 2019 & 2020 God wants to use your lives to reach the hearts of others in Renfrew and the surrounding villages and conurbations.

I want to share with you a few aspects of the LYCIG programme which we shall be considering over the coming years.

ONE – The 4 Ps

Prayer

Presence

Proclamation

Persuasion

Do we pray for the growth of St Margarets (or do we want it to just carry on as it is now, without changing, so that it's there for my funeral.....?!!)

Presence – how are we a Presence in Renfrew? What is our voice in the 'market place'?

Proclamation – When do we celebrate ourselves existing as a church?

Persuasion – how do we engage with people to talk about the life of faith? How do we provide opportunities to allow faith to develop and grow and ask the difficult questions?

TWO – DNA

Desire

plan

Action

Being organized – with our calendar, with our finances, with our invitations and advertising, with our hospitality and with our welcome and with our preparations.

THREE – the Basic 12 (read out from the book back page)

Our funding bid give us the finances to take 4 people from St Margarets (possibly vestry people possibly not) to the Hayes Conferences Centre in Derbyshire for the 4 day LYCIG training conference. Where we meet with other ordinary churches in the Anglican Communion trying to think about how God is calling them to work in their parishes in 2019 ff.

The sort of people we want to go and represent St Margarets are people with a desire to see St Margarets grow – spiritually, numerically and in outreach. We need older folk and younger folk, we need a mix of genders we need people who are happy to work with the vestry and plan a way ahead. It is not any vision which any of us can have as individual but a vision that God will give to us as a community.

Do you want to be a part of it?

Have a think.. Have a chat to people you think you be good at it.... Don't discount anyone for any reason....take your musings to your prayers and ask God to reveal who God is calling to this role for St Margarets.....

This is a great opportunity we have been given by the Regional Growth Fund and the Primus.....let us plan and work and pray for growth in every aspect of St Margaret's life.

A place where all are valued, all are included, where we are aware of the work of the Spirit in the world and where we bring to our worship our lives in all their wholeness's.

May we have the compassion and perseverance of our patron St Margaret.

<sup>17</sup>When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him; **but some doubted.** <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.'**