

Minutes of the Easter General Vestry meeting of Carrigrohane Union of Parishes held in The Parish Centre, Carrigrohane following the United Celebration and Bring & Share Lunch on Sunday 7 April 2019.

Attendance and apologies sheets were circulated.

Ian reviewed the minutes from last year which had been circulated after the meeting in 2018 and hard copies were available during lunch. The meeting was happy for Ian to sign them as a correct record of last year's meeting.

SV elections:

Wardens: St Peter's: Laurel Watts, Jane Moffatt; St Senan's: Richard Wood, Andrew Watson, The Church of the Resurrection: Richard are happy to stay on and April Gunn is happy to be warden in Blarney. All agreed!

Glebe Wardens: Robert Devoy happy to remain & Paddy Heron willing to serve. All agreed.

SV members: Sylvia Bolster, Chris Hockey, Ruth Hockey, Cian Jenkinson, Bill Lane, Michael Kenning, Doug Venn, Mary Venables, Marion Murphy, Liz Kenning. No other nominations and all agreed. Ian expressed his thanks – and to those who served on the SV last year.

Finance: Jim reported – copies available and slides on screen (attached).

Key points raised:

- Full audit this year as we expect to apply for charitable status in our own right as a parish – so this was done in anticipation.
- We use Omega as a database and finance recording system. Every transaction is tracked on that system.
- Jim explained the 5 bank accounts and 2 investment accounts.
- Notes on the accounts detail the end of year charity giving, youth-work finances, Rector's discretionary fund, The Carraig Centre account and the Serge/No 4 account.
- General parish giving had gone down in 2018, the budget expected a lowering but it actually was lower again. Most other incomes were as expected. The tax reclaim was higher than budgeted. This helped offset the general donations decline – but this will have a knock on effect in tax reclaim reduction this year. A proportion of the tax reclaim will need to be re-allocated to TCC account (about 7k). Next year's tax reclaim will include the special YW giving and a proportion of the reclaim next year will be re-allocated to YW.
- Fair Share (what the diocese has from the parish to cover clergy salaries & running costs for the diocese) – 139k in 2018. Admin costs are lower than budget. Charity giving on target. The allocated mission funding wasn't used last year and will be re-allocated for 2019. Children/YW looks lower than budget but taxes for 2018 were completed in 2019.

- The 13k surplus: some of this is taxes from 2018. The mission funds for Russ Parker visit will also be spent in 2019. The actual surplus is about 3k – rather than the predicted deficit.
- Jim thanked Jaki & Patsy for all the help and day-to-day financial work and recording in the office.

Ian thanked Jim for all the work and faithful commitment, and explained that he is stepping down this year due to family commitments. A small token of appreciation was presented to Jim and the meeting expressed deep appreciation with applause and standing ovation.

Ian asked for prayerful support as the next steps to manage the finances are organised – and for the appointment of the next Hon. Secretary.

Ian has written his comments and these are available to take home – copy attached.

He gave small gifts of warm appreciation to the church wardens and glebe warden: Jean, Richard, Laurel, Jane, Andrew, Richard, Robert.

The parish office is now 20 years old! Gifts were presented to Patsy and Jaki.

Andrew thanked Ian and Robert for their leadership and guidance. The meeting agreed!

Robert F thanked everyone – the clergy stipend is to free the clergy to empower God's people, and he continues to feel God's call to be here and feels loved here. God's work here shows the new future for the church – demonstrated in TCC and in the faithful congregations in each other church. The small surplus shows God gives just the right provision for NOW.

Ian echoed those sentiments. He quoted Earl Storey from the editorial from the new form of the Church of Ireland Gazette – speaking of the power of one. People's voices are being heard. CUP has much to do in the years ahead.

The meeting closed with 'May the Lord bless you and keep you' for everyone to share the blessing and saying The Grace.