**Kilternan Church of Ireland Parish**

**Minutes of Annual Easter General Vestry Meeting**

**Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 8.00pm in Kilternan Parish Church**

Our meeting was held following a short prayer service.

**Attendance**

Rev. R. Clements, Mrs. Mary White, Mr. Fintan Keogh, Mr. Jonathan Holt, Mr. Neil Goolding, Mr. David Webb, Mr Gary Colclough, Mr. Christian Kraeft, Mr. Bruce Fitzsimons, Mrs. Ann Walsh, Mrs. Carol Hennessy, Mrs. Jackie Robinson, Mrs. Jackie Fitzpatrick, Mr. Stephen Newell and Mrs. Carol Barry

**Apologies**

Mrs. Susan O’Toole, Mrs. Fern Jolley, Mrs. Dorothy Elliot, Mr. Irwin Johnston, Dr. Una McConville, Mrs. Caroline Kennedy

**General Vestry Register**

The list of Registered Vestry members was made available.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the Easter Vestry meeting of 7th May 2019 were circulated, approved and signed.

**Report from the Rector**

**Rethinking Ministry: Rectors Easter Vestry Address**

Earlier in the year I attended a clergy conference led by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, now the newly installed Archbishop of York. Archbishop Stephen is a brilliant communicator. He spoke about five words in the Church of England ordinal that are used to describe the office and work of a *priest: servant, shepherd, messenger, sentinel, and steward*.

In all his time training and preparing clergy, he said, very few saw their primary calling as ‘sentinel’, though perhaps ironically, he suggested, it’s the one the church is most calling out for.

A sentinel is an old military term. It is a guard or a soldier who keeps watch, cognisant of threats at the gate of the city. As a sentinel, the clergy person occupies a strategic vantage point, looking attentively both at God and the world. The clergy person as sentinel reflects on what he or she sees all around them, what is changing in our society, what is happening in our culture, what are the needs in the world and in the church, what is God doing and what might scripture teach us. As we enter uncharted territory as a consequence of Covid-19, the church is crying out for sentinels.

My mantra this year is going to be ‘rethinking ministry’. As a result of Covid-19, the church has had to rethink how it does ministry and mission. We have realised that it is not simply a matter of biding time till we can get back to the good old ways it was before. Of course, there is mourning in that, especially in a church like Kilternan which had been in a period of growth, both in worship and in the Gathering Grounds. It’s appropriate that we lament that, but it is more pressing that we move forward together.

We will need to rethink our church services. This will demand creativity and flexibility, and. we will have to embrace a new norm that small is beautiful. We will need to change how we worship and when we worship. In order to balance the demands for worship and the requirements of safety, we are going to move to three services on a Sunday. Two will be in the church and one in the centre. The service in the centre will be more informal and young families will be encouraged to attend it.

We will need to rethink music, and Kevin is exploring good practice so our choirs and music groups can continue. We will need to rethink faith formation, and we are looking at developing a number a smaller ‘faith pods’, smaller cells perhaps lay led. We will need to rethink family ministry and youth ministry. We will need to rethink how we deliver pastoral care, perhaps moving to a neighbourly strategy rather than a clerical model We will need to rethink how we administer our buildings and how we manage our finances.

This all sounds a bit overwhelming, but we will move slowly and thoughtfully as we seek to discern God’s will. In that I am blessed to have the support of the staff team, who never stopped ministering and caring, even in the midst of the lock down, and of the many willing parishioners who simply checked in with neighbours and upheld the parish in prayer.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**2020 Easter Vestry – Finance Review**

Tonight, I will be briefly taking you through the Vestry Accounts which shows the income and expenses from the Parish’s current account. The information is supplemented by Note 7 which shows the movements in funds and investments held by the RCB.

These accounts are prepared by me but have not been reviewed or audited because a separate set of statutory accounts have been audited. These audited statutory accounts will be lodged with the Charities Regulator by the end of October. The 2018 accounts have been audited with a clean audit report.

Now, onto the Vestry Accounts.

Annual accounts showed a deficit for the year of €15,936.

Income

* Annual, monthly and quarterly subscriptions were down marginally compared to 2018 but this was offset by a small increase in Church collections.
* The tax reclaimed has increased by €6,592 mainly driven by the VAT Compensation Scheme for Charities.
* The income from the groups using the Parish Centre increased significantly from €6,817 to €18,150 and the letting of the Montessori for the full year brought in €25,205. While this is a great result, the limitations on the Parish Centre due to Covid-19 may stunt the impressive growth rates we were seeing in income. Luckily, the Montessori income is broadly unaffected so far for 2020.
* The Parish benefitted from €21,020 dividend income from its investment in the RCB Unit Trust.
* The Gathering Grounds has been hugely successful and generated €55,785 income for the Parish in 2019. With €22,780 expenditure on supplies, it is more than covering its costs and credit to Julie and all the volunteers for its success.

Parish Fundraising

* Again, the Parish Fete was extremely successful in challenging circumstances given the construction project. Note 1 shows that €22,691 was raised after expenses which is split evenly with the school so €11,345 accrues to the Parish. A tremendous result, I am sure you will agree and we are very grateful to Olive Walker and her team for the hard work involved.
* The Parish also continued to raise substantial funds for several causes:

Expenditure

A few things to note:

* The running costs for the Parish Centre have increased significantly as anticipated due to the larger facility and increased level of maintenance and overhead. The Select Vestry are continuing to monitor this but are happy that the Parish is not being wasteful in the expenditure undertaken.
* Salary costs have increased for the Parish as the team continues to grow.

I would just like to highlight that Note 7 in the Accounts on Page 7 shows our cash funds and RCB investment. €162,821 was spent on the Parish Centre and Cottage from these funds and €22,989 was spent on repairs to the Church. However, the Parish benefitted from €43,366 VAT refund on the Parish Centre build costs as well as an increase in the value of the investments of €101,192.

In summary, our Vestry Accounts show that the Parish was not in a bad place during 2019. However, there are obviously significant headwinds for 2020 due to Coronavirus and the work that was required to be done on the Church. Luckily, we received a significant of just over €97,000 from the Leader Fund which was received in May of this year. I would also like to thank the Parishioners who have contributed to the Church Tower Fund.

That is all from me in terms of the Financial Review. This is my fifth and final term as Treasurer of Kilternan and I have enjoyed it immensely over the years. I started with a cold sweat for the first Vestry Meeting but started to enjoy the role very quickly. It is wonderful to see the Parish prosper and benefit from the new Parish Centre. I would like to highlight how fantastic the team here is and I would like to say a big thank you to Annemarie who is the one who does all the real work in relation to the accounts.

Reverend Clements thanked Harry, on behalf of the parish, for the work he has put into the accounts over the past five years.

**Open Forum**

Mrs. Mary White commended Rev. Clements and the church team for keeping on line services going throughout the pandemic.

**Election of Incoming Select Vestry**

**Churchwardens**

**Rector’s**: Mrs. Jackie Robinson

**People’s**: Mr. Fintan Keogh

**Glebewardens**

**Rector’s**: Mr. Christian Kraeft

**People’s**: Mr. Bruce Fitzsimons

**Diocesan Synod Supplemental**

Mrs Mary White Mrs. Carol Barry

Mrs Caroline Kennedy Mr. Philip McQueston

Mr Nick Maxwell Ms. Ann O’Neill

**Parochial Nominators Supplemental**

Mr Jonathan Holt Mrs. Lorna Copeland

Mr Billy Tomkins Mrs. Fern Jolley

Mrs Ann Walsh Mr. Bruce Fitzsimons

Mr Nick Maxwell Mrs. Mary White

**Select Vestry**

Mrs. Jackie Fitzpatrick

Mrs. Ann Walsh

Mr David Webb

Mrs. Carol Barry

Mr. Philip McQueston

Mr. Stephen Newell

Mrs. Susan O’Toole

Mr. Irwin Johnston

Dr. Una McConville

Mr. Neil Goolding

Mrs. Carol Henesesy

Mr. Gary Colclough

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Immediately following the meeting, the new Select Vestry met briefly and elected Mr. Gary Colclough as Hon. Treasurer and Mr. David Webb as Hon. Secretary.

Approved:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_