

ST. MARYS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ABERFOYLE

Rector: Revd. Richard Grosse

www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk

Charity Registered in Scotland: SCO23266

Minutes of Vestry Meeting held in the Church Room
on Friday 2nd May 2014 at 7.30 pm

Present: Mark Seymour (Chairman), Richard Grosse (Rector), Susan Forsyth, Margie Stephen, Alastair Gardner (Treasurer), James Gardner, Nick Cooke, Jean Sykes, Christopher Roads (Observer)

1. Welcome and Prayer The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting especially Christopher Roads, as an observer. Margie Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer in the absence of the Rector who arrived a little later.

2. Apologies: Anne Winther and Peter Joynson

3. Sharing Faith Alastair Gardner shared his faith explaining that he had been always been involved in the Church and was drawn to it through music, the choir and teaching Sunday School. When the family moved to this area they met Richard, who drove the school bus at the time, and through this introduction the family became involved with St Mary's.

4. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 24th January 2014: Correction to be made at 6.1 take out "once a month" and insert "occasionally". The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

5. Secretary's Business:

5.1 An invoice has been received in respect of J and H Mitchell's fees for £180. The Chairman explained that he had no idea what this bill covered as no advice had been given regarding a title deed or legacy. He has asked for more information and then we will consider the fee note.
ACTION: Chairman

5.2 The Chairman is continuing to try to get a formal explanation of the position from the Diocesan office, regarding the income payable to us on the Robert Sutherland Legacy. ACTION: Chairman

The Chairman informed the meeting that we need to find a new Hosting company for the Website by September. Fast Host was suggested. ACTION: Chairman/Treasurer

6. Treasurer's Business:

6.1 The Treasurer reported:

Bank Mandates

The saga of the bank mandates is drawing to a close after a very frustrating 9 months. The bank mandates now reflect Alastair Gardner, Nicholas Cooke and Mark Seymour as the signatures, with the removal of David Thompson. This applies to both the Vestry and renovation accounts.

Current Expenditure

At the current time, no bank statements have been received since end of February as BoS. Complaint letter has been issued and being progressed. Internet Banking access is also being requested.

The main Vestry balance at 23th May was £5015 based on a phone call with Bank of Scotland. However taking into account cheques recently issued (and now posted), the working balance is nearer £3K.

The last three months have seen the following transactions over and above the usual Giving and normal outgoings

The receipt of £3k from HMRC (to be confirmed)

cheque payments of:

£704 for SEC Pension catch up

£560 Garden maintenance

£192 Chubb Fire rental / maintenance

£156 Organ Maintenance

£663 Scot-teck oil services

£192 Cleaning

£403 Roof repairs.

£60 Electrician (Blisset)

£60 Stationary/ expenses

Plus £1000 Electric bill

Forecast for Financial year end

These are in line with my budget and assuming no further large maintenance bills we should hopefully end the financial year roughly net neutral with outgoings matching income.

A full updated spreadsheet will be issued to Vestry Members upon receipt of the Bank Statements.

The Chairman and Vestry agreed that the Stewardship Campaign should be left until the Autumn. The payment of Gift Aid and an anticipated National Insurance Rebate payable through the Perth Office, will help our cash flow considerably.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report.

7. EVENTS

7.1 Alastair Savage - Scottish Fiddle Journey - 30th May 2014 The Chairman reported all is in hand for this event, posters and advertising have gone out and it was agreed wine would be served. ACTION: Chairman

7.2 Feis Fhiort - July 2014 - The Chairman asked the Vestry Members if they wished to go ahead with this Folk Music event. This was agreed. ACTION: Chairman

8. Communications:

8.1 As Barbara has retired from the Vestry it was agreed that the Rector would communicate events etc in his weekly email, and his column in Strathard News. Barbara has kindly agreed to continue with the weekly pew leaflet. ACTION: Rector

The Chairman reported that the laminated sheets are in hand to be circulated in surrounding villages.

8.2 "Inspire" the Episcopal Quarterly Church Magazine is available by subscription from Edinburgh. Vestry agreed that we are inform people it is available should they wish to receive a copy. ACTION: Rector

9. Report on Bishop David's Lent Road Show

Margie Stephen gave an interesting and detailed account of what Bishop David had to say - entitled "Worship that Renews and Inspires" - one of the nine Marks of Mission. She reported on how important Music was in drawing people into the Church. How we should welcome new visitors into the Church and try and get them to become more involved. The Bishop stressed that there should be space and time during prayers for personal prayer encouraging serious engagement with God.

The Chairman and Vestry thanked Margie for her very moving account of the Road Show.

Discussion took place as to whether we should have a hymn/sung prayer at the conclusion of Communion. It was agreed to try this once a month. ACTION: Rector/ Jean Sykes

10. Godly Play

James Gardner reported that he had attended the Young Church Leaders away day with the Bishop and that he is still involved with Godly Play at St Mary's. The next session being on 4th May ACTION: James Gardner

11. Fabric Report

11.1 The Chairman reported that the fitter of the carpet would not return and that we need to find a new carpet fitter, which will bear a cost.

11.2 The Chairman also reported that he had approached the contractors re the Paintwork on the Church Porch which needs attention. ACTION: Chairman/Jamie Parker

12. Rector's Report to Vestry Friday 2nd May 2014

1. Casting the Net

Our Mission Action Plan requires review once every six months. The current Plan is set out below in readiness for discussion concerning possible revision or the addition of a further Mark.

Casting the Net Mission Action Plan

Last Review: October 2013

Mark 4 - Reaching out to children and young people, because mission-shaped churches seek to engage with children and young people

4.2 Children to choose the final hymn for the services they are in church. A list of hymns relevant to Godly Play to be compiled and given to Jean. The chosen hymn might be practiced in the session prior to the service.

4.3 Children to distribute posies for Mothering Sunday

4.4 Invite all baptismal families to an annual service e.g. on Mothering Sunday with simnel cake

4.5 Organise an activity with the children to create an ornamental Easter Garden outside on the bank or in the Church Room

4.6 Ensure baptism families are informed about Godly Play when their children are of eligible age

4.7 Report on the work of the Child In Need Institute, Kolkata, (CINI) to Vestry and agree how the church will support their work for the coming year

4.8 Organise a sermon or other slot for charities such as CINI, CYP and the Chesney Trust each year

4.9 Encourage teenagers to attend Glenalmond Summer Camp

- 4.10 Send cards on the anniversary of baptisms
- 4.11 Vestry to support a member assigned to provide support for all work with children and young people
- 4.12 Review church address list and determine the age and location of all children and young people to identify 'audiences' for different activities
- 4.13 Develop a Face book page for young people linking with the church website and includes links to other SEC Youth Networks, including Glenalmond and engage with their parents as appropriate
- 4.14 Report on the work of the Callander Youth Project (CYP) to Vestry with the Rector taking steps to make contact and practically support the project
- 4.15 Refresh and develop pew bags containing activities for children of specific ages
- 4.16 Children design a Christmas card
- 4.19 Report on the work of The Chesney Trust (TCT) to Vestry and agree how the church will support their work for the coming year
- 4.20 Children to contribute towards church decoration on special occasions as is practical
- 4.24 Work towards gaining accreditation as a Child Friendly Church

Recent actions regarding the above

- 4.3 Flowers were distributed at the Mothering Sunday Service
- 4.9 James Gardner has now been appointed a leader at Glenalmond.
- 4.14 The Rector has recently attended meetings in connection with CYP projects
- 4.17 Shona Glen has been tutored at the organ by Jean and played for a service in March.
- 4.24 P3/4 Aberfoyle Primary School visited the church for an afternoon on the 13th March.

Mark 7. Sharing faith by confident and sensitive evangelism: witnessing to God's presence and power

- 7A.1 Undertake an interview with a member of the congregation for some editions of the magazine
 - 7A.2 Provide the Scottish Episcopal Church leaflet in church and summarize in the magazine
 - 7A.3 Run a Lent course after Church and other courses as appropriate
 - 7A.4 At the start of a Vestry meeting to encourage a member to share something that is important in their faith to them.
 - 7A.5 Promote attendance at Area and Diocese educational meetings
 - 7A.6 Develop a library in the Church Room
 - 7A.11 Explore possibility of joint activity with Aberfoyle Kirk
-
- 7B.1 Organise three events per year in church involving children and young people in welcoming, refreshments etc.
 - 7B.2 Communicate information about Christian Aid and the annual collection in Aberfoyle in the weekly newsletter and church magazine
 - 7B.3 Celebrate St Mary's patronal festival but not necessarily upon the Feast Day
 - 7B.5 Restore role of Area Contacts and organise annual meeting of Area Contacts to agree activities for the coming year including worship, communications and social events
 - 7B.6 Promote the Church Open Group (COG) to encourage fellowship
 - 7B.7 Bear in mind the use of other more accessible buildings in Aberfoyle for church fellowship meetings
 - 7B.8 Issue personal invitations to those on the fringes to services such as Harvest Festival
 - 7B.9 Assist communications with other churches in our area by promoting joint advertising of events
 - 7B.10 Publish St Mary's recipe book
 - 7B.11 Develop action plan from Eco-Congregation audit including activities for children

7B.14 Organise a discussion group with a keynote speaker for a wider audience than just church members

7B 15 Take steps to support and strengthen the Linkage with St Andrews Callander

Recent actions regarding the above

7A.3 A Lent Study Group took place over a series of Sundays before Easter

7A.11 Mark and the Rector entertained the new C of S Minister Terry Taylor to lunch in March. Terry preached at the Good Friday Service. The Minister and Rector shared the care of a large village funeral after Easter.

7B. 6 It is hoped that COG will again undertake opening of St Mary's once a week during the summer

The future of Casting the Net

Does Vestry feel that an additional Mark of Mission might be chosen for the duration of the Casting the Net Process?

The following Marks might be considered

Worship in ways that inspire and renew

Activities that transform lives and communities

Use of prayer word and sacrament to experience God's will

Serving the community in practical ways

Should a new Mark be chosen then a revised Mission Action Plan will need to be drawn.

2. Other matters

The following topics were raised at the last meeting of Vestry

Lay Intercessors

An appeal for lay-intercessors for perhaps two or three Sundays of the year has been issued. James undertook the prayers on the 6th April. One other person has indicated interest but otherwise there has been no further response. How should matters now proceed?

Proposed revival of the Music and Worship Group

Music Groups in other churches are usually lay-led with its members actively participating in worship such as undertaking responsibility for planning and leading part of a service. Is there anyone willing to take responsibility for such a Group, please?

If the proposed Group meets only to discuss what has already previously been planned by the Rector in consultation with the organist, then this seems counter-productive both of time and effort.

The Rector's mind is always open to guidance by Lay Readers or Vestry.

Members

Occasional use of Matins

This will be an experiment on a fifth Sunday starting on Sunday 29th June. Matins nowadays comes in two forms; The Book of Common Prayer and the modern Morning Service in contemporary language. Which does Vestry require? The BCP provides for the inclusion of the Venite and Jubilate. Should these be said or sung? Should there be an ante BCP Communion Service? Report by Richard Grosse - Rector

The Chairman thanked the Rector for his Report.

12.1 Discussion took place regarding the introduction of a Matins Service - the first to be held on 29th June. The Rector agreed to decide on the service to be used. Vestry agreed that

Communion should follow the service and members of the Congregation could leave before this if they wished.

12.2 Discussion took place on chants and music within the Matins service. ACTION: Rector/Jean Sykes

12.3 The Rector appealed for lay Intercessors. It was agreed this request should be printed in the weekly bulletin produced by the Rector. ACTION: Rector

12.4 Discussion took place regarding various items in the Mission Action Plan. Jean Sykes reported that the COG Group planned to open the Church on Tuesday afternoons throughout June, July and August.

The Rector asked whether Vestry Members felt we should embark on another mission mark. This is to be raised at the next meeting. ACTION: Vestry

A.O.C.B.

James Gardner reminded members that there is to be a Memorial service for the late Michael Henley former Bishop on Saturday 17th May in Perth Cathedral and it has been suggested 6 members attend from each congregation.

Jean Sykes reported about Christian Aid and that envelopes were to be given to the Port Kirk and the Kirk in Aberfoyle to be placed in the pews as there will be no door to door collection.

The meeting closed with a Prayer and the Chairman thanked all for attending.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 18TH JULY 2014