

St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle

Rector: Revd. Richard Grosse

www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk

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Minutes of Vestry Meeting

Held in the Church Room on 18 April 2012

Present: Mark Seymour (Chairman); Richard Grosse (Rector); Barbara Carruthers; Nick Cooke; Philip Gaskell; Peter Joynson; David Thompson and Anne Winther

1. The meeting commenced at 7.35 pm with a prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Susan Forsyth and Margie Stephen

3. **Sharing Faith – A Vestry Member (AiM 7A.4)**

Nick Cooke kindly shared some of his thoughts and experiences with us.

4. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising.

5. **Rector's Report**

The Rector's written report had been circulated to Vestry members well before this meeting as follows:

5.1 *Service timetable Christmas 2012*

Christmas falls upon a Tuesday this year. Should the annual Carol Service be held on the 3rd Sunday of Advent (16th December), or on the 4th (23rd December)? The rationale for holding the Carol Service on the third Sunday has been so as not to dilute attendance at Christmas Eve/Day Services. Comments please: the ultimate decision may however be dictated by availability of musicians.

5.2 *Casting the Net*

The following matters are related to Casting the Net. The numbering refers to the relevant paragraphs of the Mission Action Plan

The following amongst others have been put into effect:

7B.1 – thanks to Carol and her team

7B.6 – thanks to Barbara and her team

7A.3 – thanks to Karen and Philip

7A.5 – next Area Council Meetings 22nd May Auchterarder – CtN Children Officer: 4th September
Callander Benedictine Spirituality

7A.6 – Library in operation

7A.7 – The Rector has read 'The Heart of Christianity'. His personal opinion is that it is unsuited for group discussion, but beneficial for individual study.

The following proposed actions require an input from Vestry:

5.3. *Away Day*

An invitation has been received from the people of St John Forfar to join them for a Sunday. Its Rector, the Revd Andy McCafferty is our ordained CtN facilitator. The suggested timetable for the day is attendance at Morning Service followed by lunch and then a visit to Glamis. There would need to be a start at about 8.30 from Aberfoyle and a coach hired. This would mean closing St Mary's for a Sunday, unless a locum was willing to conduct a morning service. For the future, there might be a return visit by St John's with a view to some form of informal twinning for the future.

5.4 *Songs of Praise (MAP 7B.4)*

It is suggested that participation in the BBC Songs of Praise at Dunblane Cathedral in May might be a suitable alternative to staging our own this year: does Vestry agree?

At what time of 2013 might our own Songs of Praise be staged and following what format?

5.5. *The celebration of St Mary's Patronal Festival (MAP 7B.3)*

The festival itself falls upon the 15th August each year. What form might the celebration take?

5.6 *Attendance at a Healing Service (MAP 7B.12)*

Holy Trinity Stirling is not planning such a service for the foreseeable future.

5.7 *Explore with sensitivity the need and scope of a ministry for healing MAP 7B.13.*

The Rector of St Saviours Bridge of Allan has offered to come and conduct an evening Healing service. Is this something that Vestry might wish to accept as a start to further exploration?

5.8 *Quiet Day (MAP 7A.9)*

A representative of the Diocesan spirituality Group has been approached. The group is willing to organise such an event in 2013. Is this something Vestry wishes to pursue? If so possible dates for next year need to be earmarked now.

Discussion followed regarding those matters on which the Rector sought Vestry's input:

5.1 It was agreed the date of the Carol Service is dependent on the availability of musicians and Malcolm Wood in particular whom the Rector will contact. **Action:Richard Grosse**

5.3 The date of the proposed Away Day yet to be confirmed, but whichever Sunday it takes place it will be virtually impossible to hold any service in St Mary's or St Andrew's. St Andrew's congregation invited to join in this event and accepts church would need to be closed that day, as virtually impossible to arrange for a locum. The final decision re the closure of both churches will be made once the date is agreed. **Action:Richard Grosse**

5.4 Ticket allocation to St Mary's now to hand for BBC Songs of Praise at Dunblane Cathedral in May. The Rector also reported that a local Songs of Praise at Kinlochard Hall is being scheduled for either 10 or 17 June. In the light of these events St Mary's would defer its Songs of Praise to 2013 – date and format still to be decided.

5.5 St Mary's Patronal Service. Could be on 12, 19 or 26 August this year and be an annual event, but may not be introduced until 2013.

5.6 & 5.7 Rather than organising a Healing Service at St Mary's at this point it was felt better to find such a service elsewhere in first instance that Vestry members could attend to understand the possible format, in next 18 months. When such a service is arranged it is felt that it should be specially advertised and open to all.

5.8 Agreed that a Quiet Day be organised for 2013. Possible date to be decided.

6. Casting the Net – Mission Action Plan

The following AiMs are in addition to those covered at 5 in the Rector's Report above.

6.1 Nick Cooke reported Chris Martin is willing to talk to Vestry regarding the Callander Youth Project (AiM 4.14) as a first step in this AiM. It was proposed that this could be fitted into the next Vestry meeting on 18 July as a half-hour slot with the meeting commencing at 7.00 pm instead of 7.30 pm if necessary. *Action: Nick Cooke*

6.2 Philip Gaskell picked up on a number of Mark 7 AiMs noted as follows:

7A.3 A successor to the recent Lent course to be arranged after Sunday morning service this year.

7A.5 Promotion of better attendance at Area & Diocese educational meetings still to be achieved. *Action: Philip Gaskell*

7A.6 Highlight some of the titles now available in the Church Room library via the Weekly Newsletter. *Action: Philip Gaskell/Barbara Carruthers*

7B.5 Restoring role of Area Contacts still to be addressed. *Action: Mark Seymour*

The Treasurer noted that £400 is earmarked in the budget for CTNAiM purposes including materials for Godly Play.

7. Secretary's Business

7.1 General Synod Committee Vacancies already circulated to Vestry and on Church notice board. However, to ensure congregation aware of these the Rector will make reference in his next two Weekly Bulletins. *Action: Richard Grosse*

8. Lay Representative's Report

8.1 The General Synod has taken place and papers relating to this, the Covenant and Annual Report are at the back of Church. It was proposed that these matters should feature in future in the Church Magazine. *Action: Philip Gaskell*

9. Music & Worship

No report

10. Health & Safety

It was reported that the lock ('snib') on the Church Room W.C. door was defective and requires repair/adjustment. *Action: Jonny North*

Comment [CDS1]: The Chairman commented that the snib is not defective but has 2 locked positions and 2 open positions. The snib needs to be rotated to the correct position

11. Financial Stewardship Team Report & Church Giving

11.1 The Treasurer explained that on this occasion he had not produced a written report prior to the meeting due to the limited amount of information to relate.

11.2 2011-2012 budget finalised and will be circulated shortly. *Action: Nick Cooke*

11.3 The appointment of Stephen Nisbet as Independent Financial Examiner for 2011-2012 Report & Accounts now confirmed.

11.4 The 2010-2011 Report & Accounts have been submitted to OSCR.

11.5 Gift Aid Claim of c £7.5k recently received. The Treasurer pointed out that the benefit of Gift Aid was now reduced from 28p in £ to 25p.

11.6 Net proceeds from Judy Urquhart's talk were £590 after a contribution to Loch Ard Local History Group of £50 recognising their involvement in arranging this very successful event.

11.7 Aberfoyle Co-op has been approached and will support by sponsoring as a local community project St Mary's fund-raising to floodlight the Church.

11.8 It was noted that there are too many white Gift Aid envelopes on the pew shelves and that they should be limited to three per pew. At present too many fall on the floor. When current stock is exhausted new envelopes should be shallower so that they fit the shelves.

Comment [CDS2]: The History Group have in turn passed this on to the Aberfoyle Surgery as a donation

Comment [CDS3]: Suggested rewrite. The Chairman reported that he had recently met the Manager of the Aberfoyle CO-OP with a request that a grant be made available from the CO-OP Central Community Fund for our floodlighting project, which is presently budgeted at a cost of £4100. In preference to an application for a grant, the local Manager, John Smith, wished to take this on as local fundraising project, with collections taken from staff and customers of the Aberfoyle Shop during the summer. The Manager hoped to raise most if not all of the funds required. The Chairman has written to thank the CO-OP for their wonderful support. The Chairman asked that anyone using the store to please thank everyone on every visit

12. Treasurer & Secretary's Vacancies

No progress reported.

13. Communications

Barbara Carruthers written report was circulated to Vestry before the meeting as follows:

Pew Leaflet The pew leaflet seems to be helpful. I would welcome any suggestions for improvement or for other items that anyone feels it would be helpful to include.

The COG Group (Jean, Melanie and Barbara) has met fairly regularly over the winter and is now in the process of planning for this summer's openings.

The main items to bring to Vestry are:

13.1 The need for a light (Anglepoise type) to shine on the triptych showing the church's history. The corner it is in is quite dark.

13.2 Offering tea/coffee in the Church for people who cannot get down to the Church Room. This would require permission to use a kettle in the Vestry .

13.3 Permission to purchase a Visitors' Book.

13.4 Help with ideas about how to get the Tourist Office to advertise us.

13.5 Getting a leaflet professionally printed to put in the leaflet holders in the Wool Centre, the Aizle, and Tourist Centre, Drymen and Balfron Libraries.

13.6 Barbara is proposing to prepare a laminated , 1 – page guide called "What to look for In St. Mary's Church" for visitors , to give to them when they come in.

13.7 Offering goods for sale - e.g. tea towels and postcards cards. James has offered ideas for places to go for such items. Help is required from Vestry members for whether this is feasible or not..

Godly Play Godly Play has proved its worth and James' input is so enthusiastic and creative. He does not spare himself in providing materials and energy. The children love it. Seeing the number of children who came to the Easter Sunday service it would be good if we could encourage some to join Godly Play.

The Weekly Pew Leaflet is excellent and much appreciated.

13.1 Vestry agreed that the triptych would benefit from lighting and affordable options should be investigated.

13.2 Agreed to use of electric kettle in Vestry

13.3 A Visitors' Book exists but location not known. If this can be found should continue to be used.

13.4/5 A new leaflet will be produced taking account of the optimum size to suit the Tourist Office. National Park office in Callander and David Marshall Lodge should also be approached to display it. Forthcoming events should be included in leaflet. Mark Seymour offered to print it.

Action: Barbara Carruthers/Mark Seymour

13.6 This proposed laminated information sheet for visitors to St Mary's could also be printed in small quantities by Mark Seymour.

Action: Barbara Carruthers/Mark Seymour

13.7 Concern was expressed at the proposal to offer a range of 'branded' St Mary's goods for sale to raise funds. Of these only postcards/notelets were considered starters – especially if the floodlit Church could be featured in due course.

Godly Play: A formal plan with dates for three months ahead for Godly Play is desirable. Vestry expressed its thanks to James Gardner for all he has done and is doing to develop Godly Play.

14. Concerts/Events in St Mary's

17 May 'High Society' Jazz Concert

14 June Kiev Accordion Duo

Autumn – Telemann Ensemble (date to be fixed)

15. Fabric Report

15.1 James Parker reports that the lighting problem that Bissett's should have sorted out on their first visit should have been put right on a subsequent visit. This appears to be the case.

15.2 The damp patch in the Church Room has been dealt with by Ian Macdonald, but has apparently not yet dried out. If the dampness persists much longer we should get him to investigate further.

16. AOCB

16.1 Peter Joynson noted that the Snowball seat requires cleaning and treatment and the plaque reinstated. The Chairman reported that this was in hand.

16.2 Nick Cooke and Anne Winther advised that Bridge of Allan Kirk is planning an Eco Congregation gathering to become an annual event.

17. Date of next Vestry Meeting

Wednesday 18 July 2012

18. The Meeting closed with prayer at 9.15 pm

Signed.....

Date.....