

St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle

Rector: Revd. Richard Grosse

www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk

A charity registered in Scotland:SC023266

Minutes of Vestry Meeting

Held in the Church Room on 24 October 2013

Present: Bishop David Chillingworth (items 1 - 3); Mark Seymour (Chairman); Richard Grosse (Rector); Barbara Carruthers; Nick Cooke; Susan Forsyth; Alastair Gardner; James Gardner; Peter Joynson; Margie Stephen; Jean Sykes and David Thompson

1. The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm with a prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Anne Winther

3. **CASTING THE NET: MISSION ACTION PLAN REVIEW WITH BISHOP DAVID**

3.1 The Chairman welcomed Bishop David for the first, and main part of this Vestry meeting.

3.2 St Mary's Mission Action Plan priority over its first three years are **Mark 7. Sharing faith by confident and sensitive evangelism: witnessing to God's presence and power** and **Mark 4. Reaching out to children and young people: because mission-shaped churches seek to engage with children and young people.**

3.3 Bishop David's meeting with Vestry discussed the implementation of the two above marks of the M.A.P. The M.A.P had been revised following discussion by Vestry on 24 April 2013 and the revision approved at the Vestry meeting on 17 July 2013. We were now at the mid-point of the first three years of the M.A.P. and Bishop David felt this was an appropriate point at which to undertake this review. However, he emphasised that he was not intent on 'ticking boxes' in our list of Actions in Mission (AiMs), but rather to discuss, advise and offer support in our implementation of the M.A.P.

3.4 The Bishop's constructive comments, advice and discussion that followed were much appreciated by Vestry. He summed up the wide-ranging discussion, including answering a number of questions by posing two more: ' Does the congregation really get the point of the Mission Action Plan and its intentions?'

' Does the Ministry of the Church change as it needs to change?'

3.5 One specific AiM - 7B.5 - was mentioned by Nick Cooke as requiring urgent attention and he offered to arrange and chair a meeting of Area Contacts to restore their role. *Action:Nick Cooke*

4. **Other items of Vestry business requiring urgent attention**

(Note: No prior Agenda had been set for this)

4.1 *Draft Accounts for year to 30 September 2013*

Alastair Gardner, St Mary's newly-appointed Treasurer, reported that a loss of £3K expenditure over income has been incurred for this year and his draft budget for the next year shows a further £3K shortfall. Neither of these documents was tabled at the meeting, currently being with the Independent Financial Examiner.

The Treasurer noted that he is taking all possible steps to assist cash flow, but that this will not alter the shortfall problem. This will require a stewardship review. It was agreed that the Chairman and Treasurer should meet as soon as possible to agree how this matter should be addressed for presentation at the Annual Meeting on 8 December 2013. *Action:Mark Seymour/Alastair Gardner*

4.2 The Chairman and all members of Vestry unanimously thanked Nick Cooke for his exceptional service as St Mary's Treasurer over the past sixteen years.

4.3 Margie Stephen indicated her willingness to contribute to the future organisation of Music & Worship especially for the Christmas Carol Service.

5. AOCB

None

6. The next Vestry meeting will be on Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

7. The meeting closed with prayer at 7.45 pm

NB Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2013 will be presented for approval and signature at the next Vestry meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....