

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 17 July 2013

Present: Mark Seymour (Chairman); Richard Grosse (Rector); Barbara Carruthers; James Gardner; Peter Joynson; Margie Stephen; Jean Sykes and David Thompson

1. The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm with a prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Nick Cooke; Susan Forsyth; Alastair Gardner and Anne Winther
3. **Sharing Faith**

Rather than a Vestry member sharing thoughts on personal faith, on this occasion the Chairman took the opportunity to outline to Vestry two particular matters of a moral or ethical dimension and which were discussed at the recent SEC General Synod and on which he suggested that members of Vestry, individually, might wish to ponder.

3.1 *Same-sex ('Gay') Marriage*

The fact that the Anglican Covenant is likely now to be in abeyance, and the fact that the SEC was the only Province in the Anglican Communion who rejected it, leaves the question of same sex marriage in limbo. What is our view on this topic, as individuals, bearing in mind the recent House of Lords decision, and the likely presentation of an Act to the Scottish Parliament?

3.2 *'Church in Society' - Living Wage*

The General Synod were asked to consider the 'Living Wage' (currently £7.45 per hour) and whether we are paying enough to the poorest members of our society. Note: St Mary's is currently paying £9 per hour..

Vestry agreed that all members of the congregation, not just Vestry members, should have the opportunity to express their personal views on these very important moral/ethical issues if they wished to do so. It was stressed that neither dioceses nor the province are seeking collective views from individual congregations but Vestry and individual members of St Mary's might wish to make their views known on both subjects to whomsoever they felt it was appropriate (Civil or Church)

It was agreed that the Church Magazine be used to explain the above and invite individuals to ponder and express their views.
Action: Mark Seymour/Richard Grosse

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4.1 *Matters Arising*

None

5. Rector's Report

The Rector's written report was circulated to Vestry well before the meeting as follows:

5.1 **Sunday 28th July** Visit of Manchester Church Lads to the morning service. Please support the service and remember all those involved in your prayers. There have been a number of major difficulties in organising the camp this year including finances.

5.2 **Friday 9th August** Proposed linkage trip to St Conan's Church Lochaweside and thence to Cruachan Dam visitor centre for lunch etc. Details to be announced.

5.3 **Friday 4th October – Sunday 6th October** Proposed Open weekend. The weekend will open with a concert on the Friday evening. We are aiming to make a greater show of our Harvest decorations (which will incorporate a Flower Festival) and perhaps invite other organisations to contribute. The church will be open on the Saturday and perhaps the Sunday afternoon. The preacher on the Sunday morning at Harvest Festival will be Bishop John Crook

5.4 **Friday 11th October** – Linkage Harvest Supper

5.5 **Thursday 24th October** – Bishops visit to the parish and interview with Vestry followed by visit to church on the 27th October. The interview with Vestry will, after the Bishop's departure, also be an ordinary meeting.

5.6. The Bishop is being treated for prostate cancer presently and asks our prayers for a good recovery.

5.7 Regarding 5.4 of the above report it was noted that the Linkage Harvest Supper on Friday 11 October is a week later than usual as the Flutes en Route Concert at St Mary's is booked for Friday 4 October

6. Casting the Net – Mission Action Plan

6.1 *Adoption of 2nd Draft of 6 Month Review of MAP*

Vestry approved and adopted the above 2nd Draft as incorporated in the Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on 24 April 2013. This 6 Month Review will be attached to St Mary's Mission Action Plan approved by Vestry 18 January 2012 and to be read in conjunction with that document.

The 6 Month Review will now be circulated to the Bishop, Karen Gaskell and MAP coordinator.

Action:Richard Grosse

6.2 *Bishop's Visits marking mid-term of MAP October 2013:*

The proposed visit to the Callander Youth Project is not acceptable to the Bishop. He has visited CYP in the past and is willing to do so again, but not on this occasion.

Other than the above, the Bishop has not given reasons for his decision regarding CYP nor has he indicated his preferred alternative MAP activity he would like to see.

The Rector indicated that he was now becoming more involved with CYP and it was also noted that some Aberfoyle youngsters are involved.

The Chairman and Rector will now endeavour to select and arrange an activity from our MAP that will meet with the Bishop's approval.

Action:Mark Seymour/Richard Grosse

Peter Joynson indicated that he and Kate were extending an invitation to the Bishop and his wife to lunch at 'Laraich' after he has preached at St Mary's on 27 October.

7. Secretary's Business

7.1 *General Synod's Annual Report ('Blue Book')*

An email of 27 May 2013 from Betty Robertson, circulated by the Secretary to Vestry, explains that the 'Blue Book' is now published on the SEC website instead of being available as hard copy.

7.2 *Pensions Consultation and Recommendations*

Following the issue of the consultation paper in October 2012 the Standing Committee's recommendations, arising from the consultation responses, were considered by General Synod in June. These recommendations have been circulated to Vestry.

7.3 Scotland's Churches Trust

Saint Andrew Press summer sale is an opportunity to buy the 'Sacred Scotland' area guidebooks for only £2 each. Series of nine guides covering Scotland which can be obtained through the Saint Andrew Press website. A notice/advert will be placed for these in Church and Church Room.

It was agreed (in the absence of the Treasurer) to purchase one set of the series of nine guides and 3 additional copies of the guide covering our area at an estimated total cost of £24. One set of the guides would enable prospective purchasers to view them in Church for a short period and thereafter would be added to St Mary's 'library'. The 3 extra copies of the local guide would be for sale, but all other purchases would be made on-line to St Andrew Press as explained in the notice, by individual members. **Action:David Thompson**

8. Treasurer's Business

Both the retiring and incoming Treasurers had intimated their apologies and no financial report had been received for this meeting.

9. Events (talks/concerts) in St Mary's

9.1 An excellent concert of Scottish folk and traditional music was given by a group of enthusiastic and talented young musicians in St Mary's on 12 July. Unfortunately, this event was poorly supported, possibly in part, because they are performing in most of the west Stirlingshire villages.

9.2 The next concert is by 'Flutes en route' on the evening of 4 October.

9.3 the Secretary reported that he had still to follow up Dr Alastair Durie's offer to give a 'free' talk to St Mary's on his suggested topic 'The Scottish Sabbath'. Vestry agreed that March 2014 would be a good time to invite him to give us an evening talk on the above topic. **Action:David Thompson**

10. Communications

10.1 Barbara Carruthers had issued her report and thoughts before the meeting as follows:

The Tuesday Afternoon Church Open time has resumed. So far we have had one visitor who was very interested in the history of St Mary's, but quite concerned to reassure (?) us that he was NOT a Christian but his wife was.

We are considering the message on the board which is put out every Tuesday afternoon, feeling that it is not welcoming enough. This is in hand.

The role of Area Contacts is still something that I would like to discuss with other Area contacts and for this reason I would like to seek a short discussion with Richard and other Area Contacts.

Godly Play is now in the hands of Melanie and myself as James is no longer able to be here on a Sunday. Requests for very occasional extra help have fallen on stoney ground. Any suggestions?

The production of a magazine is another thing needing group discussion. It is a large commitment for two people and more volunteers are needed to take on the various roles. More discussion on this please.

Feedback on the usefulness or otherwise of the Pew Leaflet is requested. Is it serving a useful purpose? Is it focussed in the right direction? Etc.

Matters arising from the above report were:

10.2 It was agreed that Mark Seymour would chair the requested meeting of Area Contacts if Barbara Carruthers can make the arrangements for a mutually acceptable date.

Action:Barbara Carruthers/Mark Seymour

10.3 Regarding the request for extra help in running Godly Play it was suggested that members are approached to be part of a rota. However, it was pointed out that if PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) disclosure was needed, this proposal might be impractical. James Gardner will check whether disclosure is required.

Action: James Gardner

10.4 The view of Vestry and feedback from the congregation are clear in their support for the Pew Bulletin and the Chairman expressed his appreciation to Barbara Carruthers for producing such an excellent bulletin.

10.5 It was noted that the transfer of the last of the audio equipment belonging to St Mary's, used by 'Thirsty' at Gartmore House, to CYP is in hand.

10.6 the new cards and postcards of St Mary's have been well received and already selling well.

11. Godly Play

James Gardner had circulated the following report well before the meeting:

11.1 Since the last meeting, the Godly play team have got together and discussed the next academic year. For me this is a case of tying up loose ends. As you are all aware I am now taking a more 'behind the scenes' role instead of all the organising and running of Godly Play, as I am moving out of the area, to carry on my studies at Perth, and hopefully a job as a Support for Learning Assistant in a primary school nearby to where I plan to be living. With this in mind Barbara and Melanie will be running Godly Play from the next session. Again a request for help would be much appreciated by them both. I will be getting the materials required and in contact with Alex and Margaret in Edinburgh I will be in contact with Barbara with regards to swapping materials. I know that Barbara and Melanie between them have already got some of the books with the stories in already. Consent forms are being updated currently and they are almost all ready to go out to parents and will be sent back to be kept as an up to date record of the children and emergency contacts are still right, as it has been two years since they were last completed.

11.2 At the beginning of June we had the Casting the Net Gathering in St Ninian's Cathedral Perth. Richard and I attended from Aberfoyle, it was a good day of thought and prayer. As I was leading Godly play in the second workshop and assisting in the first I was only able to go to one of the workshops which was interesting and finding out ways churches can be used for an number of community events- an example was an art studio. Caroline King the CTN Co-ordinator, as now is resigning from the post as she is taking up her studies to be a Secondary school RME (Religious and Moral Education) Teacher. Before she left she set up an online form for Young church leaders in the diocese so ideas can be shared and all church young church leaders can communicate in one place. This was one of the ideas from the day we all had in February.

11.3 Something to think about next year, at the end of June I stewarded at the Solas Festival (first time I had ever been) which is a Christian based festival near Perth, between Perth and Methven. Worship in the evening in one of the tents. At The Bield near Tibbermore. It was a great weekend and for families that are members of St Mary's with older children upper primary school into secondary school it may be something that could be promoted as a Family event, and you can stay and camp or just go for the day. A wide range of Activities for children and younger children as well.

11.4 Pew bags, as part of the action plan I am currently getting pew bags organised. I plan these to be in church on my last Sunday on the 11th August. Currently they will be draw string bags with soft toys and pens and paper and a folder of colouring sheets. Any other suggestions welcome.

11.5 Christmas Cards, I will be leaving this up to Barbara and Melanie, if there will be a Christmas card this year, I hope to be seeing Barbara and Melanie at Open church on Tuesday so I should know by Wednesday evening.

11.6 Finally Thank you for all the support I have received with the establishment of Godly Play, and I know it is in very safe hands and new and exciting ideas will continue to come and develop.

The Chairman again thanked James Gardner for all he has done to establish Godly Play at St Mary's.

12. Quinquennial Inspection

12.1 The Chairman reported that congregations were required to appoint an architect/surveyor to act for the Vestry on a permanent basis. One of this person's duties will be to supervise or carry out the Quinquennial inspection. The Chairman had a possible contact for this in mind. *Action:Mark Seymour/Jamie Parker*

12.2 The Secretary had checked that as the final report at the completion of the Renovation Project issued by the Treasurer was on 20 January 2010 the next Quinquennial Inspection would be due at the beginning of 2015.

13. Fabric Report

Jamie Parker reported that he is chasing-up Carpetmaster to carry out the repair required.

14. AOCB

The rapid deterioration of the external paintwork of the Church porch was noted. While it was thought unlikely we could seek redress, as the main contractor has ceased trading, the decorator is still in business and will be approached. Otherwise, the Chairman may be able to help redecorate but not until next year.

Action:Mark Seymour

15. The next Vestry meeting will be on Thursday 24 October 2013 at 6.00 pm in the Church room with Bishop David present.

16. The meeting closed with prayer at 9.05 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....