

# St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle

Rector: Revd. Richard Grosse

[www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk](http://www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk)

A charity registered in Scotland: SC023266

## Minutes of Vestry Meeting

Held in the Church Room on 17 October 2012

**Present:** Mark Seymour (Chairman); Richard Grosse (Rector); Barbara Carruthers; Nick Cooke; Philip Gaskell; Peter Joynson; Margie Stephen; David Thompson and James Gardner (by invitation)

1. The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm with a prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Susan Forsyth; Anne Winther
3. **Sharing Faith – A Vestry Member (AiM 7A.4)**

David Thompson described how he had not received any parental guidance in Christian faith during childhood and had been left to form his own views. Only as an adult did he make his first church connections, initially as an Anglican, then Church of Scotland, before joining St Mary's five years ago. He concluded by reading Hymn 236 'God be in my head....' as one of his favourites.

## 4. Minutes

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

4.1 There were no matters arising.

## 5. Rector's Report

5.1 The Rector gave an update on arrangements for the Carol Service: This will be on Sunday 16 December At 3.00 pm. As usual it will comprise seven lessons and seven carols. Mark Duncan has agreed to lead the music and has recruited several musicians including organist. The exact number not yet known. Some concern was expressed that this service should not be elevated to a concert as a consequence of the numbers of musicians attending. Care would be taken to ensure that its essence as a Carol Service with full congregation involvement be maintained. Suggested inclusion of anthem would depend on whether a small choir could also be formed for the occasion.

## 6. Casting the Net – Mission Action Plan

6.1. *Away Day* Philip Gaskell thanked the Rector for making the arrangements for the proposed visit to Forfar, but expressed his disappointment at the poor response – only eleven from both St Mary's and St Andrew's confirmed they would participate. To be financially viable twenty three would have been needed, so the visit had to be cancelled.

6.2 *AiM 4.10* To send cards on the anniversary of baptisms is in hand.

6.3 *AiM 7A7* Organising a book study group after Sunday service is still under consideration. This could possibly take place during Lent 2013. Richard Grosse and Philip Gaskell to choose material.

**Action: Richard Grosse/Philip Gaskell**

6.4 *AiM 7B.9* Joint advertising with Church of Scotland, Aberfoyle of our services and other activities to be pursued. It is noted with regret that Rev. Linda Stewart is leaving Aberfoyle for family reasons. In the meantime Philip Gaskell will endeavour to progress this with their Session Clerk. **Action: Philip Gaskell**

6.5 *AiM 7A5* The Regional Gathering at Stirling on 4 October with some thirty attending and St Mary's well represented was a wonderful experience. Hosted by Holy Trinity, some activities extended to Stirling University also. It was felt that this event should be reported to the Congregation, possibly at the A.G.M.

*Action:Philip Gaskell*

## **7. Secretary's Business**

7.1 *Vestry Resources Website:* Information regarding this received from Edinburgh on 28.09.12 and subsequently emailed to Vestry for information. It was noted that this resource replaces the old Vestry Handbook.

7.2 *Gift Aid:* HMRC requires revised wording on all new Gift Aid Declarations signed after 31 December 2012. Secretary will liaise with Treasurer to ensure this is done. *Action:David Thompson/Nick Cooke*

7.3 *Dates for 2013 Vestry Meetings:* 23 January; 24 April; 17.July; 16.October. All Wednesdays at 7.30 pm.

7.4 *Colin Liddell Seminar: The Charity Trustees Toolbox:* This is on 08 November 2012 at 7.30 pm at Pitlochry Festival Theatre and details have been emailed to Vestry. Attendance is strongly recommended especially to understand fully charity trustees responsibilities.

## **8. Lay Representative's Report**

8.1 The last Area Council meeting was in September and was attended by Richard Grosse and James Gardner as well as Philip Gaskell. However, considering these are 'open meetings' it was poorly attended.

8.2 The next Area Council meeting will be on 19 February.2013 and should be advertised in St Mary's by early notice in the pew leaflet and posters. *Action:Philip Gaskell/Barbara Carruthers*

## **9. Area Contacts**

9.1 The Chairman confirmed that the meeting of Area Contacts will now take place after morning service on Sunday 21 October in the Church Room when a light lunch will be provided.

9.2 It is understood that the revised list of Area contacts is as follows:

Aberfoyle & Gartmore: Richard Grosse

Balfron: Barbara Carruthers

Buchlyvie, Arnprior & Fintry: Mark Seymour

Croftamie, Drymen, Gartness, Gartocharn & Rowardennan: Philip Gaskell

Killearn: Vi Boyd

Kinlochard: Saffrey Miller

Port of Menteith & Callander: Nick Cooke

## **10. Vestry Membership – Changes at A.G.M.**

10.1 At the forthcoming A.G.M. it will be necessary to elect new Vestry members or obtain agreement of existing members to extend their term, or both. Otherwise, Vestry will not have sufficient elected members entitled to vote to form a quorum - the constitution requires a minimum of three.

10.2 Several possible 'new' candidates were suggested who will be approached together with existing members who may be willing to extend their term on Vestry. *Action:Mark Seymour*

10.3 James Gardner has indicated his willingness to stand for election in December, but due to future university studies, is unlikely to be able to serve for more than a year

## 11. Church Magazine

11.1 Karen Gaskell has intimated her retirement as editor of the magazine. Vestry expressed sincere gratitude and thanks for all her work in producing such an informative and splendid magazine over the years.

11.2 The immediate priority is to have the next issue of the magazine in time for Christmas. The Rector suggested he could produce this by expanding on his Weekly Bulletin in the form of an omnibus edition to be printed for Christmas. Distribution outwith the Church could be undertaken by Area Contacts.

*Action:Richard Grosse*

11.3 For 2013 it was hoped that a small group be formed to edit the magazine and representing both St Mary's and St Andrew's.

*Action:Richard Grosse/Barbara Carruthers*

## 12. Music & Worship

There was nothing to report beyond that already covered by the Rector concerning the Carol Service (item 5)

## 13. Health & Safety

Nothing to report

## 14. Financial Stewardship Team Report & Church Giving

14.1 The Treasurer reported that current funds were:

Cash: £6065

Renovation Fund: £1300

Latest Investment Valuation: £ 44302

Annual Income: £1696 (4.2% gr)

14.2 Gross income from the Telemann concert was	£670
Less expenses	<u>(£146)</u>
Net contribution	<u>£544</u>

14.3 Preparation of year end (to 30 September 2012) accounts in hand.

*Action:Nick Cooke*

14.4 The Treasurer circulated to Vestry the 2011-12 Operating budget and 2 year Financial Profile

14.5 Apart from £200 donated to Christian Aid earlier this year no other charitable donations have yet been made out of the budget allocation of £800 in the Church Giving fund. Suggestions from the congregation for the charities to benefit needed by next Vestry meeting on 23 January 2013.

*Action:Nick Cooke*

14.6 The Treasurer suggested in future the heading for this item be changed to Treasurer's Business.

## 15 SEC Pension Fund

Papers relating to this have recently been received and circulated to Vestry. It is recognised that there are complex issues involved in considering the future form and affordability of the Fund.

Vestries are invited to respond by completing the Consultation Response Form before 31 December 2012. Nick Cooke has kindly agreed to attend to this. His initial view is that the maximum contribution St Mary's can afford is 35% of stipend – as it is currently – and as explained in para. 2.4 of the Executive summary of the Consultation Paper. Vestry agreed.

*Action:Nick Cooke*

## 16. Treasurer & Secretary Vacancies

No progress was reported in the quest for successors for the present incumbents. In the meantime both have agreed to continue into 2013 until replacements are found.

It was suggested that the role of Vestry Secretary could be split by having a Minute Secretary solely to record Vestry meetings. Such a position might be filled from outwith the Church as a paid appointment. However, it was doubted if this would be affordable and could lack the obvious benefits of someone with knowledge of the internal workings of St Mary's. The search continues... *Action:Mark Seymour/Nick Cooke/David Thompson*

## 17. Communications

Barbara Carruthers had circulated the following report well before this meeting

17.1. *Open afternoons June, July and August.* The number of visitors this year was down on last year and we put this down to the recession and the poor weather.

A special visitor was Cynthia Dowdle, a Canon of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral who was very enthusiastic about St. Mary's and very much wanting to keep in touch. She has sent us a copy of Liverpool Cathedral's Recipe book which is much appreciated giving the three of us, Melanie, Jean and myself incentive to keep going with our projected recipe book.

We plan to repeat the Open Afternoons next year.

Balfron Women's Guild have been invited to visit during this coming year to hear a talk on the history of St. Mary's. Jean, Melanie and Barbara will offer afternoon tea and it is hoped to hold a short service in the church before they leave.

This has grown out of the successful visit we had from Morningside Church. Ideas for other churches who might be interested are welcomed.

17.2. *Godly Play* has been very successful this year with regular attendances from our four children.

James comes very well prepared and the children are very concentrated on his presentations.

The slow introduction of them into taking part briefly in the main service has been successful and we are very grateful to Richard for his encouragement and involvement in this.

It would be good if some members of the congregation would pay a visit to a session occasionally.

James is with us for the remainder of this year but will be going to university after that. *Godly Play* needs as much support as possible in order to carry on the good start that James has given us.

17.3 *Monthly 6.p.m. Prayer meeting.* This has suffered somewhat from events - David Stephen's death, John and Ruth Champness' settling in Callander, Karen's heavy work schedule etc. Perhaps we could give some thought as to the future of this meetings.

17.4. *Area Contacts.* Could the role of the Area contacts include advertising the regular events e.g. Prayer Group, Open Days, *Godly Play* etc?

17.5. *Balfron Churches* hold occasional ecumenical events. We need to raise our profile in these. Barbara will try to find out who to approach but Richard may already have this information.

17.6. *The evening events* have been well attended. It would be helpful to consider what future events we might hold.

17.7 *James Gardner* joined the meeting reporting that next year he will be going to university to study Primary Education. Therefore, a replacement to lead *Godly Play* will be needed. He outlined the timescale for installing a new leader:

1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2013: newcomer documentation and disclosure

April-May 2013: induction – How We Work

June 2013: newcomer leads group.

Dates for *Godly Play*: January-June 2013:

20 January; 24 February; 10 or 17 March; 21 April; 19 May; 16 June

James indicated that he could be available for all the above meetings if necessary.

There is a need to collect material for *Godly Play* periodically from Edinburgh and Vestry should be able to arrange to do so.

## 18. Concerts/Events in St Mary's

Lyra Group has made approach for further concert, but too soon after their last visit, so offer declined this time.

'Last of Barrett's Privateers' an 'Indie' group from Edinburgh, will be holding a recording session in St Mary's shortly and it is hoped they will return next year for a concert.

Saffrey Miller, John Tilman and Mark Seymour are still all involved in organising our concerts and events but a new leader is sought to take over from Carol Seymour and Mark who is standing in for her temporarily.

## 19. Fabric Report

Jamie Parker had not reported any matters for this meeting. However, it was noted that the jackdaws are still using the gable-end louvres of the Church as roosts. Ian Macdonald is to attach wire mesh to these louvers when he carries out his annual roof inspection. David Thompson will ask Jamie to remind Ian Macdonald to do so.

*Action:David Thompson/Jamie Parker*

## 20. AOCB

None

## 21. Date of Annual Meeting and Next Vestry Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be on 9 December 2012 at 12.00 noon (approx) after Morning Service at 11.15 am.

The next Vestry Meeting will be on 23 January 2013

## 22. The meeting closed with prayer at 9.50 pm

Signed.....

Date.....