

# St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle

Rector: Revd. Richard Grosse

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

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## Minutes of Vestry Meeting

Held in the Church Room on 24 April 2013

**Present:** Mark Seymour (Chairman); Richard Grosse (Rector); Barbara Carruthers; Nick Cooke; Alastair Gardner; James Gardner; Peter Joynson; Margie Stephen; David Thompson and Anne Winther

1. The meeting commenced at 7.35 pm with a prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Susan Forsyth and Jean Sykes
3. **Sharing Faith – A Vestry Member (AiM 7A.4)**

Anne Winther shared with us some interesting observations on factors that have influenced her faith.

### 4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4.1. *Matters Arising*

Regarding 9.3 Nick Cooke has not yet investigated the possibility of attracting a Dunblane Cathedral organ scholar to play occasionally at St Mary's and will now do so. *Action:Nick Cooke*

Barbara Carruthers has still to check on equipment used by 'Thirsty' at Gartmore House and funded by St Mary's and to do so needs an inventory which Mark Seymour hopes to be able to provide.

*Action:Mark Seymour/Barbara Carruthers*

### 5. Rector's Report

Richard Grosse indicated that all matters he had to report would be covered under item 6 – Casting the Net MAP 6 Month Review

### 6. Casting the Net – Mission Action Plan 6 Month Review

6.1 The Rector had carried out this review which was circulated to Vestry well before this meeting. His proposals were considered in detail by Vestry at this meeting and agreed amendments incorporated in a second draft prepared by the Rector. He has prefaced this with the following explanatory note:

- (a)The numbering of the points will need to be amended in due course but I have left them as they are presently for ease of reference.
- (b)I have underlined suggested amended wording in the light of discussion.
- (c)I have added a new action point for Vestry consideration in due course.

**Casting the Net Review**  
**Spring 2013**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> draft following Vestry meeting dated 24.04.13**

**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 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

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

Continue

- 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 (e.g. Guild Visit) 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

New action point for future approval of Vestry

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

6.2 The Rector reported that as part of the MAP process Bishop David is undertaking a 'mid-term' visit about 18 months after our MAP launch. This will consist of a mid-week visit to us to see some activity or areas that are relevant to the MAP during the afternoon and early that evening the Bishop would like to meet with the Vestry to hear how they have been reviewing MAP and their views on it – successes and challenges. On the following Sunday the Bishop will attend for a celebratory service with the congregation at St Mary's.

6.3 Regarding dates for the above visits, Vestry considered two options proposed for October and chose Thursday 24 October at 3pm with the service on Sunday 27 October. This means that the Vestry meeting previously scheduled for Wednesday 16 October 2013 will now take place on Thursday 24 October early evening – with the time to be confirmed. *Action:Richard Grosse*

6.4 Two activities proposed for the afternoon of 24 October were considered by Vestry: St Mary's to host a meeting of Aberfoyle Kirk's Women's Guild or a visit to the Callander Youth Project with the latter the preferred option.. *Action:Richard Grosse/Nick Cooke*

## 7. Secretary's Business

7.1 S.E.C. Directory (Red Book) 2013/2014: Amendments for St Mary's entry to take account of office-bearer changes recently advised to General Synod Office.

7.2 Scotland's Churches Trust – Gathering: Dunfermline 1 May 2013. This event has been advertised in the Pew Leaflet and a copy of the letter and Application Form displayed in Church, but the Secretary was not aware if anyone from St Mary's is planning to attend. Nick Cooke confirmed he intended to be there.

## 8. Area Contacts

8.1 Juliet Edmonstone has agreed to be St Mary's contact for Strathblane.

8.2 A contact to cover Drymen, Balmaha etc.still sought.

8.3 It was agreed that a meeting of Area Contacts will be organised before the summer holiday season.

*Action:Mark Seymour*

## 9. Treasurer's Business

Nick Cooke had circulated his report to Vestry shortly before this meeting as follows:

### 9.1 *Cash Flow*

There is currently a running balance of some £3,000 in the main bank account, with no outstanding bills. With the receipt in February of £7,683 in Gift Aid tax recovered on donations in the 2011-12 financial year, a transfer of £3,420 was made to the Renovation Fund account relating to various transactions over the past year, including net proceeds of three lectures held in the Church in aid of the Renovation Appeal.

### 9.2 *Linkage Costs*

As noted in my last report, an overpayment of £545 relating to agreed Linkage costs in 2011-12 has now been paid to St Andrew's, Callander.

### 9.3 *Rectory Maintenance*

We have spent £1,032 on a major service and repairs/ remedial work on the Rayburn cooker/ boiler in the Rectory, carried out by Scott Flockhart. These are the first significant outlays on the Rayburn for some while, but I suggest the Rector gives an update to Vestry on its current performance. Mr Flockhart has also suggested

the Rectory oil tank needs replacing, and has provided a quote for this work which seems to be high. A second opinion / quote is being sought.

#### 9.4 Capital Loan Repayment

As agreed at the last Vestry meeting, the first two annual repayment instalments of the outstanding interest free loan given for the Renovation Appeal have now been paid, i.e. £2,000. The remaining balance of the loan now stands at £13,000, and will be noted as such in the 2012-13 Annual Report & Accounts.

#### 9.5 Renovation Fund

Following the cash transfer and loan repayment noted above, the balance in the Renovation Fund bank account stands at £2,727. This can be made available as a contribution towards the planned floodlighting of the Church exterior, as previously agreed in principle by Vestry. This project is subject to securing Canon 35 approval from the Diocesan Buildings Committee, and the Chairman is continuing to seek external grant funding to cover the balance of the costs.

#### 9.6 Handover to New Treasurer

I am aiming to hand over to Alastair Gardner as Vestry Treasurer by the end of May, assuming that Alastair will have moved house by then. I have briefed Stephen Nisbet as our Independent Examiner on the current situation and Alastair will liaise with him regarding access to the Excel spread sheet formulas to enable writing up the Cash Book receipts and payments for the current year in this format. I will provide Alastair with notes on various aspects of the Treasurer's role at the same time as handing over the relevant files.

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

10.1 A Gaelic Folk Group is booked for 12 July and has quoted a fee of £150 to cover costs.

*Action:Mark Seymour*

10.2 An ensemble – 'Flutes en Route'- comprising four lady flautists is available to perform in St Mary's either late September or early October for a fee of £200.

*Action:Mark Seymour*

10.3 A date has still to be set for 'Last of Barrett's Privateers' to give the concert promised for later this year.

*Action:Nick Cooke*

10.4 Alastair Durie – Historian at Stirling University and Open University and Lay Preacher – who attended St Mary's to hear Mary Bates' recent talk has offered to speak to us for free! Suggested topic 'The Scottish Sabbath' – but whatever the subject an accomplished and entertaining presenter. David Thompson will contact him to discuss arrangements and liaise with Mark Seymour. *Action:David Thompson/Mark Seymour*

### 11. Communications

No report

### 12. Godly Play

12.1 The next meetings of Godly Play will be on 26 May and 9 June before the summer recess.

12.2. James Gardner said it was intended that the children would produce Christmas cards again this year.

12.3 James also queried the whereabouts of the Child Protection Handbook. Mark Seymour hoped to help in its location.

*Action:Mark Seymour/James Gardner*

12.4 It was suggested that as part of the readers'/welcomers' duties one of them should go to the Church Room to summon the children and adults at Godly Play to join the service at the appropriate point. David Thompson would investigate. However, on reflection, this is not a reasonable or practical proposition and an alternative means of alerting Godly Play is under consideration.

*Action:David Thompson/Richard Grosse*

12.5 James Gardner indicated he will be available for the July Vestry meeting and service on Sunday 4 August before he commences his studies.

12.6 Vestry took this opportunity to express its appreciation for all James has done in leading Godly Play, wishing him well for the future and noting that he continues as a Vestry member.

**13. Fabric Report**

13.1 Jamie Parker reported to Vestry that the problem of nesting/roosting jackdaws appeared to have been solved by the addition of mesh to the gable louvres.

13.2 Carpetmaster are still due to carry out repairs to the carpet as previously noted.

**14. AOCB – None**

**15. The next Vestry meeting will be on Wednesday 17 July 2013.**

**16. The meeting closed with prayer at 9.05 pm**

Signed.....

Date.....