

Minutes of Vestry Meeting

Held in the Church Room on 18 July 2012

Present: Mark Seymour (Chairman); Richard Grosse (Rector); Nick Cooke; Susan Forsyth; Philip Gaskell; Peter Joynson; David Thompson

1. The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm with a prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Barbara Carruthers; Jonny North; Margie Stephen and Anne Winther
3. **Sharing Faith – A Vestry Member (Aim 7A.4)**

Susan Forsyth described how she endeavoured to have a conversation with God every day. In this she found a book 'Opening Doors Within' by Eileen Caddy (who founded the Findhorn Community) very helpful with daily thoughts, advice and prayer. The book is available through Amazon.

4. Minutes

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

The only matter arising was confirmation by Nick Cooke that he had attended the Eco Congregation annual gathering hosted by Bridge of Allan Kirk on 21.04.12 which was well supported. (Item 16.2 refers)

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

A decision still needs to be reached about the timing of the Christmas Carol Service i.e. whether it is to be held on the 16th or 23rd December.

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

(a) 7A.5 Area Council: The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 4th September at Bridge of Allan
Speaker: Brendan Grimley on Benedictine Spirituality

(b) 7A.6 – Library in operation but needs promotion again.

(c) Away Day

The day has now been set for the 23rd September and a timetable for the day discussed. The Rector envisaged the hire of a coach, but with the closing of Aberfoyle Coaches, transport logistics will need to be reconsidered.

(d) Songs of Praise (MAP 7B.4)

This was held in June at Kinlochard in conjunction with Aberfoyle Kirk. Thanks to Susan for providing excellent refreshments.

Members of the congregation attended the BBC Songs of Praise at Dunblane in May

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

Has anyone ideas for celebration, please?

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

The Rector will advise of services as and when they are held in other churches.

(g) **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.

5.3 Other activities

(a). **Manchester Church Lads**

The Brigade will be attending St Marys on the 29th July.

(b). **Harvest Supper**

This will be held on Friday 5th October at Callander

(c) **Harvest Festival**

This will be held Sunday 7th October. Gifts of non-perishable goods required, please.

Discussion followed on the undernoted matters in the Rector's report:

Christmas 2012

It was noted that the date will depend on who might be available to play the organ and lead the music. Philip Gaskell reported that **** will not be available since he now lives some distance away.

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5.2(c) **Away Day.** Numbers attending need to be confirmed before hiring coach so that size of coach can be established. It was noted that the day included an exchange with St John's, Forfar, with a service to be followed by a visit to Glamis Castle with lunch

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Action:Richard Grosse

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5.2(e) **Patronal Festival.** The Feast Day of St Mary is on 15 August so event could be marked on Sunday following (19th August). Question was raised as to how our church came to be named after St Mary? Peter Joynson might have some information on this.

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Action:Peter Joynson

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5.2(g) **Quiet Day.** Vestry agreed this should be pursued. A Saturday in May/June 2013 suggested. Diocesan Spirituality Group to be consulted. *Action:Richard Grosse*

6. Mission Action Plan: Draft 6 Month review – August 2012

This had been circulated to Vestry well before the meeting by Philip Gaskell and further points relating to the undernoted AiMs were noted at the meeting:

AiM 4.7 Nick Cooke is arranging for Chris Martin to talk to St Mary's about Callander Youth Project.

Action:Nick Cooke

AiM 4.10 Philip Gaskell to check that Melanie Grosse is willing to sent out cards on the anniversary of baptisms.

Action:Philip Gaskell

AiMs 4-10 Philip Gaskell to check that Barbara Carruthers (Vestry Children's Lead) is still agreeable with her involvement in the AiMs.

Action:Philip Gaskell

AiM 7A,7 Book study with Congregation should be convened in September – not at Pentecost. Autumn better time for this each year. Richard Grosse will raise with Karen Gaskell.

Action:Richard Grosse

AiM 7B3 St Mary's Patronal Festival. Guests to be invited from outside Church to 'supper' which means food any time of day (see also Rector's Report above). *Action:Richard Grosse/Philip Gaskell*

AiM 7B.9 Joint advertising with other churches in our area to cover all denominations including St Anthony's. It was suggested that this might be in the form of a printed leaflet for distribution to houses in the village and elsewhere

In summing-up Philip Gaskell noted that progress has been made on both Marks of Mission with some discussion points to be highlighted for next Vestry meeting. *Action:Philip Gaskell*

7. Secretary's Business

7.1 The Secretary expressed concern that communication of important information to the congregation may not be reaching everyone despite being displayed on the Church and Church Room notice boards. It was agreed that where appropriate, the Rector's Weekly bulletin and Weekly Pew Leaflet should draw attention to important notices. *Action:David Thompson/Richard Grosse/Barbara Carruthers*

7.2 It was accepted that the notice boards need more rigorous supervision to avoid the present overloading. It was suggested that this should be the Secretary's responsibility. He is willing to do so in the short term, but the ultimate objective of new and improved notice boards should fall to his successor. *Action:David Thompson/A.N. Other*

7.3 The recent petition against the Government proposal to end the policy of zero rating VAT on listed buildings appears to have proved successful and is of particular relevance for many churches.

7.4 Vestry was reminded of Caroline King's recent email requesting up-to-date photographs of buildings and people from around the Diocese for the new Diocesan web-site on which she is working as Casting the Net Co-ordinator.

8. Lay Representative's Report

Nothing to report

9. Area Contacts

9.1 Mark Seymour's paper of 04.07.2012 has been circulated to Vestry and will be the basis for further discussion.

9.2 A meeting of current Area contacts, hosted by Karen Gaskell, probably to take place - first half of September proposed. It was suggested that Bill Richardson be invited to return as an Area contact and that George Willis should also be asked. *Action:Mark Seymour*

9.3 The questions of the pastoral role and confidentiality in the work of Area contacts was raised and the Rector will give thought to these aspects. *Action:Richard Grosse*

10. Music & Worship

10.1 The organ has been tuned recently.

10.2 The current absence of a 'reserve' organist noted. Would Matthew Beetschen be willing to do this? If so what fee would be needed? *Action:Mark Seymour*

11. Health & Safety

No report

12. Financial Stewardship Team Report & Church Giving

The Treasurer in a verbal report stated:

12.1 Balance at bank @ end June 2012 £6K

12.2 Value of Investment portfolio @ end March 2012 £40432
(Yielding 3.9% or £1600 p.a.)

12.3 To date funds tracking budget closely – showing small balance.

12.4 The Jazz Concert gross proceeds were: £504
Expenses: £230
Net proceeds: £274

12.5 The Church Giving Fund: £800 for the current year. Of this £200 has been donated to Christian Aid. Suggestions from the congregation for the charities to benefit needed by September.

Action: Nick Cooke

13. Treasurer & Secretary Vacancies

No progress.

14. Communications

No report

It was noted that the timetable for Godly Play needs to be drawn up. *Action: Barbara Carruthers*

15. Concerts/Events in St Mary's

15.1 Carol Seymour wishes to withdraw from the organising group and Mark Seymour has indicated he will take her place until a replacement has been found. The continued involvement of Saffrey Miller, Kate Joynson and John Tilman to be confirmed. Jonny North to be asked if he is agreeable to assuming Carol Seymour's role. *Action: Mark Seymour*

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15.2 The date for the planned Telemann Ensemble concert has still to be confirmed by Cara Wilson.

15.3 James Ogilvie of the Rosslyn Chapel choir has indicated that they do perform in other churches and may be able to come to Aberfoyle. To be pursued. *Action: Nick Cooke*

15.4 'Last of Barrat's Privateers' is an 'Indie' group of which Nick Cooke's son is a member. They are considering making a recording in St Mary's – subject to acoustic suitability and Vestry agrees they should be persuaded to give us a gig. *Action: Nick Cooke*

16. Fabric Report

16.1 The only matter to report by Jamie Parker is the invasion of jackdaws nesting in the louvres on the gable ends of the church. This will be attended to before next season. Mark Seymour has asked Jamie to get Ian Macdonald to attach suitable wire mesh when carrying out his annual roof check. *Action: Jamie Parker/Mark Seymour*

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17. AOCB

17.1 It was reported that the College of Bishops has ruled that no wall plaques may be placed in churches in future.

18. Date of Next Vestry Meeting

Wednesday 17 October 2012

19. The meeting closed with prayer at 9.15 pm

Signed.....

Date.....