

St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle

Rector: Revd. Richard Grosse

www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk

A charity registered in Scotland: SC023266

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11 December 2011 at 12.15 p.m. in the Church

The meeting, which followed the Morning Service, was attended by 28 members of the congregation.

Mark Seymour, Vestry Chairman, welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Dymond, Jonny North,, Bill Richardson and Anne Winther.

2. The Minutes.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 December 2010, copies of which had been distributed in advance, were approved and their adoption proposed by Peter Joynson, seconded by Karen Gaskell and signed by the Chairman.

3. Vestry Report.

The Chairman reported that the Vestry had met on four occasions. Minutes of these meetings can always be made available and are on the Church website: www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk as well as hard copies of recent meetings in the Church and Church Room.

Another excellent Harvest Supper and Quiz Night was held with St Andrew's at Callander in October. Two most enjoyable concerts had been held at St Mary's and most recently Michael Forsyth's highly entertaining and fascinating talk on his charity climb of Antarctica's highest peak filled Aberfoyle Memorial Hall - the proceeds of these latter three events contributing to St Mary's funds.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all in St Mary's for their help in so many ways during the year. In particular to our Rector, Richard Grosse; our Treasurer, Nick Cooke; Karen Gaskell for the Magazine, Casting the Net and her Diocesan role; Philip Gaskell for Casting the Net; Margie Stephen for all she does; Barbara Carruthers for the Weekly Newsletter and the Church Opening Group (COG); James Gardner, Melanie Grosse and Barbara Carruthers for Godly Play and David Thompson, Secretary, assisted by Marie Thompson.

Last, but certainly not least, the Chairman referred to Casting the Net and the progress made over the year in preparing the Mission Action Plan. This has very recently been published in draft following the Congregational Meeting held at Kinlochard in October. Members of the Congregation are asked to give their feedback on this draft as soon as possible and urged to volunteer for a specific task if possible. The Congregation should not be daunted by the Plan which is flexible and many of the actions proposed, members of St Mary's are already engaged in to some extent.

4. Rector's Report. The Rector's written report is presented here in full:

I express my gratitude to those who have agreed to stand as Church Officers and those who support them for this coming year. All three have expressed their wish to stand down. For the sake of St Mary's however each has agreed for the sake of continuity to remain until replacements might be found. This highlights the reality that within the very near future new blood will need to be found: if anyone feels they might assist please don't hesitate to come forward. In the meantime I am grateful to all of the officers for their incalculable assistance and loyalty.

Much of this year has been spent in bringing the Diocesan initiative 'Casting the Net' to a stage where it might be launched. This has involved a number of meetings culminating in a congregational meeting eventually held on the 29th October at Kinlochard. The next step will be a formal launch of the Marks of Mission chosen at this meeting by the Bishop at a service scheduled for the 5th February 2012. The meeting highlighted the unique challenge that St Mary's faces. This challenge to my mind is serving a wide diversity both of community and people. I believe there is no one way of being the Church. The Holy Spirit which guides and directs us does so in a variety of ways that speak to our local situation and the talents of those who make up the congregation. We are not called to be clones or strive to copy larger parishes.

With this in mind, it is encouraging that 'Casting the Net' has already produced and encouraged tangible result. James Gardner with others has been running Godly Play which is an investment in the younger members of our church. Barbara Carruthers and her team opened St Mary's to visitors over the summer months. By the time 50 parishioners from Christ Church Edinburgh asked to pay a visit in the autumn, hosting had been honed to perfection. Many letters of appreciation have since been received.

Carol Seymour and her team have in the course of the year organised a number of quite outstanding events that have encouraged those outside to become better acquainted with St Mary's

Thus the New Year brings both possibility and challenge.

Lord grant us to see the right path, and steadfastly to follow it wherever it leads, for the sake of Him who is the way, the truth and the life, even Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

5. Presentation of Accounts 2010-2011

The Treasurer reported that the Annual Accounts had still to be signed off by our Independent Financial Examiner and apologised for the fact that these were not available for this meeting's examination and approval.

He explained that our previous Independent Examiner, Iain Kyle, had now retired and our new Examiner, Stephen Nisbet was expected to complete his examination of the 2010-11 Accounts very shortly. To take account of the latest OSCR requirements, and the fact that our Receipts and Payments now fall well below the £100k threshold, the accounts have been re-presented in a new and simpler format to reflect this.

The meeting unanimously agreed to the proposal that Vestry be authorised to approve the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2011 at their next meeting on 18 January 2012 on behalf of the Congregation. Immediately thereafter, copies of the Accounts would be available for inspection on St Mary's website and in Church in the usual way. Following the Stewardship Initiative last year, givings this year have increased by £5k.

The Treasurer reported that he was now a member of the Diocesan Administration Group and was finding his involvement in this both helpful and enjoyable

In response to a question the Treasurer confirmed that the following charitable donations had been made by St Mary's in the past financial year: Artlink Centre £100; British Red Cross Japan Tsunami Appeal £200; Callander Youth Project Trust £100; Chesney Trust £100; Christian Aid, including the East Africa Appeal £150; Diocesan Lent Appeal £75 – in total £725.

6. Casting the Net & Mission Action

Philip Gaskell (co-chair of the MPG) traced back to later in 2010 when the Vestry decided to follow the Casting the Net process. Since a first meeting of the Mission Planning Group (MPG) in December 2010 there had been publicity, discussion and prayer culminating in a congregational meeting/Mission Action Planning workshop in late October at Kinlochard Village Hall. That meeting had been delayed from June and August because of absences. At the meeting Marks of Mission⁴. Reaching out to Children and Young People and 7. Sharing Faith by confident and sensitive evangelism were chosen as priorities for action over the next three years

A draft Mission Action Plan was in circulation and all were invited to comment and offer their involvement. A final draft plan will be presented to the Vestry on 18 January for approval prior to the launch of the plan by Bishop David at a special service in St Mary's on 5 February. From that point on, the Vestry becomes responsible for ensuring that the plan is followed.

Philip expressed thanks to the members of the MPG, our facilitators, Revd Andy McCafferty and Nicky Whyte, Karen Gaskell and all whose involvement had taken the process to this stage

7. Lay Representative's Report

Three Area Council meetings had been held as usual. These are all now open meetings which all are invited to attend. During the year, the main topics discussed were "Epiphany for the Bishop – sharing Christ in 2011"; "Better Vestries" and "Casting the Net"

The Chairman thanked Philip Gaskell for his continuing contribution as St Mary's Lay Representative.

8. Vestry Membership and Appointment of Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative

No new members of Vestry were proposed. However, Susan Forsyth, David Thompson and Anne Winther have agreed to continue their Vestry membership for a further year. All were proposed by Kate Joynson and seconded by Saffrey Miller.

Philip Gaskell expressed his willingness to serve as Lay Representative for a further year and was proposed by Carol Seymour and seconded by Peter Joynson.

Saffrey Miller agreed to continue as Alternate Lay Representative for another year and was proposed by Carol Seymour and seconded by Peter Joynson.

9. Any Other Business

The question was raised as to the effectiveness of the 'Loop' audio system in the Church. It was confirmed that it should operate effectively for those with modern digital hearing aids, but it was pointed out that these need to be switched to the appropriate setting to receive the 'loop' transmission.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday 9 December 2012.

There being no other competent business the Chairman thanked the Congregation and the meeting closed at 1.15 pm with the Grace.

Signed.....

Date.....