

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 8 December 2013 at 12 noon in the Church

The meeting, which followed the Morning Service, was attended by 23 members of the congregation.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from John and Joan Dymond, Susan Forsyth and Margie Stephen

2. The Minutes.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9 December 2012, copies of which had been distributed in advance, were approved and their adoption proposed by David Miller, seconded by Kate Joynson and signed by the Chairman.

3. Vestry Report.

The Chairman reported that the Vestry had met on four occasions. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings are available in Church and Church Room and on the Church website: www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk

The Mission Action Plan (M.A.P.) was slightly amended as a result of the six month review made mid 2013 and discussed with Bishop David on his October visit. It is now in the hands of the Vestry and Rector to implement.

The Chairman paid tribute to his Vestry colleagues and all members of the congregation who have contributed to the running of St Mary's over the year. In particular he mentioned Nick Cooke, who after 17 years of service has now handed over to Alastair Gardner as Treasurer. We owe Nick a tremendous debt. He continues as Lay Representative and will still be involved with the Vestry. An inscribed crystal jug was presented to Nick to mark his exceptional contribution and the appreciation of all in St Mary's.

David Thompson retires as Vestry Secretary and he and Marie Thompson (Secretary's secretary and Lessons Rota Co-ordinator) along with Barbara Carruthers (Weekly Newsletter and Church Open Group), James Gardner (Godly Play and much else), Jean Sykes (Organist) and Marion Nolan (who cleans the Church) were all thanked for their efforts.

Looking forward, the Chairman noted there are a lot of jobs which now need to be filled- Magazine Editor, gardener, concerts and events, website and Chairman

4. Rector's Report.

The latter part of this year has been especially busy.

In conjunction with the Harvest Festival, it was decided to stage an 'Autumn Extravaganza'. The event opened with a concert on the Friday evening. Four lady flautists provided an entertaining evening. The church was open throughout the weekend for visitors to view proceedings. These consisted of floral displays provided both by congregation members and a number of local organisations and businesses. This was augmented by an exhibition of yesteryear's horticultural implements. Bishop John Crook made a welcome return to the pulpit for the Sunday service. Refreshment was wonderfully provided throughout the weekend. The event allowed us to establish and renew contacts within the community. Thanks to the many involved.

To an extent, this weekend was planned to facilitate a visit by the Primus later that month in conjunction with 'Casting the Net'. 'Casting the Net' is a Diocesan initiative to promote the Mission of the Episcopal Church. Some eighteen months ago the Church met to write down its aims and objectives for Mission. Bishop David's visit was to assist us to how as a parish we are practically addressing mission. A number of visits to local organisations and individuals were followed by a presentation about Aberfoyle by Neil Black, a Development Officer from the National Park. Nick Cooke who is closely involved with promoting Pilgrimage in the Province also made a stimulating contribution to proceedings. Tea was served to a number of congregation and guests before the Vestry met with The Bishop.

A number of other events in the form of evening concerts were also organised in the course of the year. These too have promoted St Mary's and we owe a great amount of gratitude to those who organise them.

Our website was further extended to include a 'Virtual Tour' of the building. This was donated by a member of St Andrew's congregation.

A number of visitors attended services over the year and some faces are becoming quite familiar. The McFarlane's from the USA for example spent most of the summer with us and we enjoyed their company. COG enabled St Mary's to open its doors for every Tuesday afternoon of the summer.

It was a great joy to host the baptism of Val and George Willis's first grandchild in June.

Attendance generally remains stable and has increased for the early morning third Sunday service. This in great part is due to Joan and John's hospitality. Attendance at the first Wednesday midweek has though been disappointing.

Two Linkage events were held in the course of the year, a Parish outing being one and the Harvest supper the other.

We thank Nick for his superb service as Treasurer, especially in the period of renovation. We are thankful to Alastair Gardner for taking over the reins from Nick in the course of the year. Likewise we thank David Thompson for six faithful and diligent years as Vestry Secretary and thank Susan Forsyth for partially stepping into his shoes as Minutes Secretary. David will be the first to admit that he would not have functioned as secretary without Marie's technical skills behind him. Marie is also my Administrator and a wonderful job she makes of it as well.

James Gardner and his team have continued to run 'Godly Play' with success. We wish James well as he continues with his chosen career.

We continue to enjoy and value our friendship with members of the Kirks at Aberfoyle and the Port and hopefully look forward to the arrival of their new minister sometime in the New Year.

We are most grateful to you Jean for your dedication to our music and your wonderfully caring role as our Sacristan. Barbara entertains and enlightens us with her weekly pew sheets and even finds time to play the organ as required. Marion Nolan our cleaner continues to work far beyond her call of duty.

This leaves Mark who is principally Chair of Vestry but in practice much more besides. As Rector I value immensely his dedication to St Mary's and his willing support throughout the year. We are delighted for you both with the news of Peter's forthcoming marriage to Eleanor at the end of the year.

We ask God's blessing over us all and of our endeavours to serve him.

5. Presentation of Accounts 2012-2013

Alastair Gardner introduced himself as the new Treasurer, allowing Nick Cooke to retire as Treasurer after some 17 years

It is with pleasure the accounts are presented at this year's AGM, having been reviewed and approved by Stephen Nisbet, the independent financial examiner.

The accounts show income of £43,721 against outgoings of £46,908 resulting in a net loss of some £3,187.

Our income comes from our generous congregation providing donations through :

- Bank account Direct Debits,
- Yellow envelopes,
- White envelopes
- General collection plate cash donations.

Fundraising events made a total of £980 through two concerts and the talk by Mary Bates

We also received some £1,589 in dividends/ interest from our investment fund

We applied for some £7,700 back through Gift Aid, which highlights the importance of using Gift aid when providing donations. This is a key element of our income.

Our outgoings are made up of:

Stipends, pension contribution and Diocesan quota which is 75% of the cost base.

Other items are a mixture of items such as

- Electricity bills (£3k) – options being explored going forward
- Council tax
- Insurance (Church/ rectory)
- Building repairs/ maintenance
- Cleaning
- Organ related expenses
- Gardening
- Fire extinguisher maintenance
- Hayes and Finch (alter items)
- Stationary

There are no optional expenses. All the costs we pay are very competitive. There is minimal room to make any significant savings. We can "tweak" costs, the odd £20 or £50 here and there but nothing significant.

The Vestry will be reviewing the budget for 2014 in January and will need to consider a potential Stewardship campaign so that our giving matches our outgoings.

6. Lay Representative's Report

Due to commitments overseas Nick Cooke explained that he regretted he was unable to represent St Mary's at either the Diocesan or Provincial Synods. However, Saffrey Miller attended the Diocesan Synod and Mark Seymour the Provincial Synod. Nick Cooke reported that he continues to sit on the Diocesan Administration Board.

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

Barbara Carruthers retired following her 4 year term, but has agreed to serve on Vestry for a further two years. She was proposed by Kate Joynson and seconded by AnnWinther.

Nick Cooke has agreed to serve a 4 year term on Vestry and was proposed by Kate Joynson and seconded by Peter Joynson.

Nick Cooke has agreed to continue as Lay Representative for a further year and was proposed by Kate Joynson and seconded by Peter Joynson.

Saffrey Miller agreed to continue as Alternate Lay Representative for a further year and was proposed by Peter Joynson and seconded by Kate Joynson.

8. New Office Bearers

The Chairman explained that it was for the Vestry to appoint office bearers such as Chairman and Secretary rather than for them to be elected at the Annual Meeting by the congregation. However, he reported that as yet there were no volunteers for the position of Vestry Secretary. The Chairman was willing to take this on in a temporary capacity, continuing as Chairman also, for a maximum of one more year.

9. AOCB

Peter Joynson raised the question of parking at St Mary's. He noted that not all spaces in the parking area belonging to the church were being vacated by local residents as they have been requested to do on Sunday mornings.

Vestry would consider how best to deal with this, without putting up notices.

10. Date of next meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday 7 December 2014.

There being no other competent business the Chairman thanked the congregation and the meeting closed at 12.40 pm with the Grace.

Signed.....

Date.....