

ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ABERFOYLE

Rector: Revd. Richard Grosse

www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk

A charity registered in Scotland: SC023266

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in the Church on Sunday 7th December 2014 at 12.00 noon

The meeting, which followed the Morning Service, was attended by 20 members of the congregation.

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Margie Stephen, Kate Joynson and Alastair Gardner
2. **MINUES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING:** There were no matters arising from the Minutes which had been distributed. They were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **VESTRY REPORT:** The Chairman intimated that there had been 4 meetings this year, the minutes of which are on the Church Website and displayed at the back of the Church. The Bishop visited in October 2013 to review our Mission Action Plan (MAP) when he also toured the village of Aberfoyle. St Mary's MAP is ongoing and is reviewed by the Vestry every six months.

The Chairman thanked the Rector and his fellow Vestry members especially Barbara Carruthers who has new retired from the Vestry but still produces the weekly Pew Leaflet, and is actively involved in COG and Godly Play. He also thanked James Gardner and Melanie Grosse for their help with Godly Play. Jean Sykes who is now a member of the Vestry was thanked for playing the organ. The Chairman pointed out that we are looking for a relief organist to play for Jean from time to time.

The Chairman asked the meeting for volunteers to: Edit the Church Magazine, Edit the Website, help with Maintenance work i.e. gardening and painting. Organise concert and events. All tasks currently carried out by the Chairman.

4. RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rector thanked the Chairman and others for organising the Concerts in the Church. The Russian Choir concert in November was especially well attended and these concerts raise our

profile and provide a solution to the challenges faced by St Mary's which serves many local villages.

The service held in Killearn once a month on a Wednesday has been disappointing, as has the Fellowship Group. The Primary School have attended twice this year and the Church was open for a day in September through partnership with Stirling Council. Co-operation with the new Kirk Minister, Terry Taylor is encouraging and might open up new opportunities.

Sadly, this year we have lost three stalwart members of the congregation: Billy Bates, Peggy Aitken and Charles Brown.

The Rector thanked Jean Sykes for her work as organist and Sacristan Barbara Carruthers for the Pew Sheet. He mentioned that the joint Harvest Supper and Day Trip with St Andrews had been joint ventures.

The Rector explained that he is trying to promote St Marys in local Hotels. He thanked James Gardner and others for their work with Godly Play. Susan Forsyth was thanked for acting as Minute Secretary and Alastair Gardner for his work dealing with the Church accounts with such clarity. Finally he thanked all members serving on the Vestry. The Chairman Mark Seymour was thanked for repainting the iron railings and porch. Margie Stephen was thanked for all her help and support, together with Marion Nolan who keeps the Church in order.

4.1 Joint Services with Aberfoyle Kirk: It has been suggested we have a joint Midnight Service on alternate years with the Kirk. The meeting discussed this issue. It was agreed that the joint service should include Communion, and the Kirk have agreed to this and it was felt that the first joint service should be in St. Mary's. The Carol Service is already a joint service, and it was pointed out that this is very much a fixture in St Mary's calendar and should always take place in St Mary's. There was a feeling within the meeting that there should be more joint services with the Kirk.

4.2 Matins: Discussion took place as to whether to continue having a Matins service from time to time. It was felt that we should start with having a Quarterly Matins Service, and review the position after a year.

5. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS 2013-2014: The Accounts had been circulated and as Alastair Gardner was unable to attend the meeting, the Chairman explained the position. The accounts had been signed by the independent financial examiner. The Chairman asked for requests for funds to be allocated from Church Giving Fund. The fact that we had received two legacies this year had helped us remain solvent. Fund raising events are crucial if we are to remain in surplus and to avoid a stewardship campaign. We may look to replace the under pew heaters this year to try and reduce electricity costs.

Nick Cooke pointed out that we still had a £15,000 loan which has to be repaid, and it was Vestry's intention to start to do this next year. The Chairman felt it was important to raise our income and if we had 4 well attended concerts a year this would be a great help.

There being no questions, approval was given for the accounts to be signed: Proposed by Nick Cooke and Seconded by James Gardner.

At this point the Chairman left the meeting and Nick Cooke continued on his behalf.

6. LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: Nick Cooke being the Lay Representative attended the General Synod with James Gardner on 8th March 2014 in Perth. A full days meeting with full discussions. He pointed out that in 2012 there were 38 clergy within the diocese, down to 34 last year and now 28 but this position was being reversed with a number of new clergy inductions this autumn and winter. He and James Gardner had recently participated in a very positive Casting the Net Review Day held in Perth for some 50 diocesan representatives, with excellent case stories of mission based initiatives led by local charges involving young people, the creation of sacred spaces' in churches and parish walking groups being set up. Nick also reported that Rev Thomas Bruaer would be taking over as full-time Diocesan Missioner, which was good news.

Nick was reappointed as Lay representative and Saffrey Miller as the Alternate

7. VESTRY MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF LAY REPRESENTATIVE

7.1 Election of Christopher Roads to the Vestry

7.2 Re-election of Susan Forsyth and Anne Winther

Both elections were proposed by James Gardner and Seconded by John Dymond., and approved by the meeting.

Nick welcomed Christopher Roads to the Vestry.

Office Bearers: Alastair Gardner - Treasurer has agreed to continue as has Mark Seymour as both Chairman and Secretary Proposed: Elizabeth Roads and Seconded by David Miller.

9. AOCB: Safrey Miller pointed out that a lot of funerals were held in St Mary's generating a lot of visitors. It was felt that we should advertise the use of the Church more.

George Willis raised the subject of Floodlighting. It was explained that we no longer had funds earmarked for this, but it was felt that we should make progress and in particular light the window behind the alter from outside.

Nick Cooke mentioned sustainable energy i.e. heat pump. This would need a source of external funding as it was so expensive. Grants might be available

Nick Cooke closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6th December 2015