

**MINUTES OF THE ST MAGNUS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 22th NOVEMBER 2015**

PRESENT

Revd Neil Brice - Chair

Ann Longmuir, Catherine Wiln, Arabelle Bentley, Peter Davis, Billy Mycock, Joy Whitelaw, Allan Wishart, Pam Smith, Daphne Mycock, Rachel Brice, Trudy Ratter, Marghie West, Mary West, Carol Wishart, Ivy Cluness, Joyce Tait, Jackie Tait, Mary West, Peter Bardell, Hilde Bardell, Emily Jamieson, Nial O'Rourke, Suzanne O'Rourke, Helen Mair, Stephen Raikes, Cyril Baker, Pat Baker.

IN ATTENDANCE

Ashley Bland – (Independent Examiner – Accounts)

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ingri Johnson, Lawrence Radley, Sharon Taylor, Helen Quirk, Aileen Robertson, Liz and Stewart McNab

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM - SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2014

The minutes of the St Magnus Episcopal Church AGM held on 23

November 2014 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were approved with the following correction:

- Joy Whitelaw was appointed as People's Warden and Allan Wishart as Rector's Warden and not the other way around (as the minutes had recorded)

ITEM 3 REPORTS – MATTERS ARISING

(reports are attached to these minutes)

- Rector's report – none
- Treasurer's report – Ann Longmuir noted that last year we were facing a deficit of £12,000 but this year we will just about break even. Ann thanked members for their hard work and contributions. Members thanked Ann for all her efforts and hard work with the accounts.
- Choir report – A vote of thanks was given to the choir and accompanists for their contribution to services and enrichment of worship in the church.
- Sunday School – Marghie West proposed a vote of thanks to everyone involved in the Sunday School and the big contribution that the children make was noted. Billy Mycock suggested that we needed to consider how to involve the older children more, as they outgrow Sunday School. He also suggested that we need to involve the young people more in decision-making and listen to what they have to say. Carol Wishart suggested that a Sunday School leader be invited to attend Vestry meetings.
- PVG report – no issues raised.
- Lay Rep's report – no issues raised.

ITEM 4 ELECTIONS

Standing down at this meeting are:

- Ivy Cluness (Vestry member)

The following nominees were elected at the meeting:

(p = proposer, s = seconder)

Rector's Warden Joy Whitelaw p Arabelle Bentley s Peter Davis

People's Warden Allan Wishart, p Marghie s West Mary West

Secretary Arabelle Bentley, p Peter Davis s Joy Whitelaw

Trudy Ratter, p Peter Davis s Joy Whitelaw

Treasurer Ann Longmuir, p Marghie West s Joy Whitelaw

Lay Rep. Catherine Willn, p Arabelle Bentley s Ann Longmuir

Alternative Lay Rep; Rachel Brice, p Carol Wishart s Arabelle Bentley

Vestry Members; Stephen Raikes, p Carol Wishart s Rachel Brice

Carol Wishart, p Pam Smith s Lesley Gair

Rodney Jamieson, p Carol Wishart s Rachel Brice

Continuing as Vestry members are:

- Peter Davis

ITEM 5 RISK ASSESSMENTS

We are now obliged to have a fire and a buildings risk assessment. These are live documents which can be added to and are available for inspection in the church. Stewards will need to be briefed on how to evacuate the building in the event of a fire. Ann Longmuir asked if we have a registered First-Aider.

ACTION: NEIL TO ORGANISE STEWARD TRAINING AND TO CHECK IF WE HAVE A FIRST-AIDER

ITEM 6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Ingri has asked for more people to volunteer as cleaners, tea makers, stewards and intercessors. The cleaners were asked to discuss ways for sharing cleaning duties in a fairer way. Marghie West asked if there could be job descriptions produced for the various roles and suggested that people are matched to tasks in the cleaning jobs so they can undertake the tasks that they are physically able to do and not everything.

- Shetland Council of Churches Trust – both Bill and Billy are stepping down as Trustees so replacement trustees need to be found. The commitment is 5 or 6 meetings per year. SCCT receives money from Shetland Islands Council each year for church buildings and SCCT decided where and how to spend the money. Funding is set to decrease over the next 5 years. The money also supports Bible Week and people attending Church meetings/Training/Synod. Nomination form to be placed at the back of the Church.

Date of the next AGM – Sunday 20th November 2016

Lay Representative's report

Firstly I would like to thank you for having me as lay representative; it has been an eventful and interesting year! Much gratitude to Catherine Willn, for her many years' service as lay representative and for loosing the reins for me to take them up. The diocesan synod in March was busy with business. A number of changes were made to reduce the age from 18 to 16 in a variety of canons. There was a move in an attempt to disrupt the progress of General Synods' decision to pursue the change canon law regarding marriage. We have since learned that this move was not accepted by General Synod.

An additional Synod was held along with the autumn conference this year on the 1st September which was preceded by a retirement 'doo' for Bishop Bob on the Friday night.

The business of synod was short, with some amendments to the Diocesan constitution (2012) in order to bring it in line with the Canons. Representatives were elected as part of the selection panel for the purpose of finding and appointing a new bishop - a process that should see our new bishop enthroned about June 2017.

The afternoon heard talks about, then discussed the role and person of a bishop. Needless to say there are many views on the type of person the bishop should be but I think the best description was, s/he should be a skilled conductor. We also heard where we are as a diocese; the general opinion was that we are still moving forward. Even though some churches that are 'dying' there is new birth and growth in other areas.

We now look towards the first meeting of electoral synod which will take place on 17th December. If anyone is further interested in any of the synod 'goings on' the diocesan website has all the relevant documents and all of the Bishops' 'charges' which are very worthwhile reading. To finish with some words from Bob's charge of 5th March 2016 Synod...

"I firmly believe that the only way to live, indeed to be, 'the mind of Christ' is to open our understanding to those who are different from us. Truth, at our simple human level, is to be found in that broader, multi-faceted interpersonal perspective."

Rachel Brice

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Report.

One further PVG has been completed for Rev'd Graham Booth, who will be a non-stipendiary assistant priest for Shetland. We are awaiting his clearance.

There will be refresher training, for everyone currently undertaking regulated work, and will be held jointly with the Methodist Church, as we share the same Provincial Protection Officer. This training will be open to anyone who is interested in volunteering for regulated work, as well as those currently cleared for working with children, or for visiting adults in their own homes on behalf of the church.

However, this will not be immediate, as Andrew Fox, new Methodist Minister for Shetland is checking and updating the PVG documentation

for his Ministers and volunteers undertaking Regulated Work.

Meanwhile please ensure you read the information at the back of the Church. Should anyone have any concerns for a child or an adult, please contact either Neil or me. You **must not** investigate. Any concerns will be kept confidential but information will be passed to the Provincial Officer for advice.

Joy Whitelaw PVG Co-ordinator 12.11.16

CHOIR REPORT 2016

The role of the Choir at St Magnus Church is to provide music to serve the liturgy within church and beyond. This year again has seen the choir reduced in number. That throws up challenges over doing full-scale settings for Choral Evensong and other occasions, and also on some Sunday mornings we may be thin on the ground. However we still have a committed choir and will continue to provide music where and when we can.

We invite singers to join us who can read music and are keen, particularly tenor and alto voices. It is not a 'closed shop'!

We have undertaken the usual services particularly at Christmas and sang Choral Evensong for Harvest. We also did some carol singing at Tesco in aid of Project Bongo. Currently we are planning on a service of Nine Lessons & Carols in December.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Choir members for their constant commitment to the choir and its role in the church. I also add a special thanks to our organists Ann and Cyril who have provided support and accompaniment throughout the year.

Peter Davis

Sunday School Annual Report 2015-2016

This year the Sunday School has continued to take place on a weekly basis with over nine children attending regularly. The Sunday School has a team of five Storytellers and two doorkeepers, thanks to everyone for all their hard work and help working with the children over the year.

As always we would encourage anyone who would like to help with the Sunday School and be either a Story Teller or a Doorkeeper.

On Sunday 20th December 2015 the Sunday School teachers and children, with the help of members of the congregation and the choir led this year's Nativity Play - The Question - asking "what does Christmas mean to you?"

The Sunday School Christmas outing took place on the 29th December with the children and teachers going to see the Snoopy & Charlie Brown: A Peanuts Movie on 29th December, followed by a Chinese meal at Baroc, a fine time was had by all.

It has been a busy year and the children have taken part in several events along the theme 'exploring the meaning of communion with the whole Church family' in preparation for receiving Holy Communion.

Two family days were held, on 27th February and 16th April and together with the congregation the children looked at - The Eucharist service, Why we do what we do and Looking at Jesus' greatest gift to us.

The children took part in a Passover Meal which was held on 16th March in the Church Hall and enjoyed taking part in the rituals, prayers and songs along with others from the congregation.

This year the children have had a role in several Sunday services; these include Pentecost, when some of the children received their first communion, Harvest Sunday and All Saints & All Souls. They have been taking part in Welcoming and giving out the hymn books, readings, intercessions, bread and wine and the offertory.

We continue to use the Godly Play method of teaching, which aims to support, challenge, nourish and guide children in their spiritual quest. It is a way of preparing our children to join in the worship and life of our congregation as they develop a deeper understanding. During our Godly Play sessions we tell stories using symbols and objects as well as words, we then explore the story with open questions and discussion by the children, who then form a response using play, art, drama, writing etc. This response to the story doesn't come from us, we don't tell them what they have to do or make, and over the months, the older ones have found the confidence to interact with members of the congregation as they come in for their coffee, challenging them to think about what they have heard in the Gospel.

This year Celia has organized three Godly Play Network meetings on 6th February and 17th September in St Magnus Church Hall and on 23rd April in the Methodist Schoolroom. The group also enjoyed a visit from Godly Play Trainer - Alex Mackenzie who held a training weekend from Friday 3rd June to Sunday 5th June and also did a Godly Play presentation of the Parable of the Mustard Seed in St Magnus during the service on 5th June. The Network Meetings are a form of outreach and a means of getting to know Sunday School teachers and clergy from other churches throughout Shetland, and are held to share information and knowledge, everyone is welcome to come along.

ST MAGNUS EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2016

St Magnus Church Hall at 11am

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Welcome and apologies

Minutes of the last AGM - Sunday 22nd November 2015

Reports

- Rector's Report
- Financial Report
- Choir Report
- Sunday School Report

- PVG Report
- Lay Rep's Report

Elections

- Church Wardens
- Secretaries
- Treasurer
- Lay Representative
- Alternative Lay Representative
- Vestry Members

Risk Assessments

Any Other Business (to be handed to Vestry before meeting)

Closing Prayer

If there are any other matters you wish to discuss please speak to Neil before the meeting