

St John's Congregational Meeting 18th August 2019

Opening Prayer- Gail opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies Ann Danson, Donald & Bridie Graham, Jeremy Keen, Susanna Leslie, Mairi Maclean.

Sederunt Gail Sanderson, Gill Pimm, Vera Nairn, Diana Macdonell, Jackie MacNicol, Isla Cruden, Alan Danson, Christine Mylne joined the meeting during Matters Arising.

Minutes of Previous Meeting Accepted as a true record

Matters Arising

1Gail updated us on Canon 52 and Canon 35. The changes being approved at synod in June. Canon 35 includes curtilages in respect to the church grounds as well as within the building now. Any changes etc. need a permit from the dean. The Information and Communications Board has been disbanded, their role is now to be managed locally. National media coverage will continue. Gail explained that Synod had been an exceptionally uplifting experience with a standing ovation being given to the Imam who was the guest speaker and thoroughly engaging. His address centred around the themes of Love, Peace and Togetherness with his Christian Brothers and Sisters. He spoke of the real message of Islam and of the working between the faiths in Scotland on common causes. Gail was most pleased to see that our small diocese and our charge were very well represented and

encouraged to lead by our Primus and Bishop. Gail also brought to our attention the celebration of 150 years of Inverness Cathedral to be held 1st September beginning at 3pm. At 3pm on 14th September there is a triple ordination in the Cathedral to which we are all welcome to attend. There is an ordination in Thurso Saturday 21st to which we are also invited. Gail pointed out that at a time when many denominations are really struggling for new ministers we are blessed with people coming forward both locally and nationally.

2 The matter of good practice and visits was raised at vestry, a matter we have previously aired back in the Spring but which had not been discussed in Congregational meetings in the other two churches. As we had pointed out at our last meeting we would try where possible not to make a 'lone' visit. We usually only visit as individuals because of practical reasons, being a congregation spread across the Black Isle and beyond, we are not based around a settlement like St Regulus and St Andrew's. Being a congregation mainly comprising of Health and Education workers albeit mostly retired we are also used to working alone in a child protection and vulnerable adult sensitive environment.

3 Signage awaiting bill for galvanised post, (now arrived and £307.) Alan asked members to feel free to improve the interchangeable sections by preparing messages and

information for passers by. He asked that we laminate any inserts as we change them between the polycarbonate sheets so that the weather doesn't make the colours run from the inks. A big thanks to David Grigor (Raddery Smithy) for making, getting the sign galvanised and delivering it to the site.

4 Gutters to be cleaned by Donnie Goddard over the next few weeks when he is less busy. Our thanks to Bill Fraser, fabric convenor, for dealing with it. Donnie will also look at the cracked gutter and advise, we believe the building is listed and as such any replacement would probably have to be like for like.

5 Thanks to Thorfinn for cutting the grass.

Correspondence None

Budgets – Yellow bucket £30. We had a kind donation towards the lights of £200 and after VAT was added the bill came to £232 so the £30 from the yellow bucket will mean the cost to the Charge is £2 The lights will be going up when the holiday period is over and the electricians are free.

Health & Safety Issues – No major items but we need an Autumn Clean date. It was agreed that the first week in October would be used with members coming in and undertaking jobs from a spec sheet that Alan is to draw up

and put on the coffee table for folk to sign up to. During that week members can come in and undertake cleaning etc. when they are free, ideally in twos or more for safety purposes.

Mission & Ministry – **Harvest Festival** was agreed on and will be Sunday 6th October if this date suits Mel. The list of items on the Blythswood sheet was read out for guidance. Vee asked that fresh flowers be used and prepared on 5th, monies in **Flower fund** to be topped up for this during that week. Isla and Gill offered to arrange the flowers. **Vestry and Lay elections** are due later in the autumn and as such members are encouraged to put themselves forward if they would like to serve in this way, this would be an agenda item at our next meeting. **Music** we now have 3 years worth of CDs with our hymn choices on them. The use of CDs for 5 hymns is costly and although we would want to continue to add to our choice of hymns we could recycle and sing previously prepared CDs too. To allow for this Alan will compile a register of the ones we have in Year A, B & C and by their service title so that we have appropriate matching of hymns to service. This to be done by the autumn.

Fundraising Committee, Gill reported that the sum of over £600 was raised via the Tea Marquee at the St Boniface Fayre. Christine reminded the group that she had

volunteered to cook a lunch for about 20 people, in the Fortrose area for preference, with the proceeds going to the Charge funds. Gill to raise this with the Funding group as all Christine would need is the loan of a kitchen in the Rosemarkie/Fortrose area and a convenient date. Ultreya on 6th September at John Cuthbert's house- A bring and Share Supper starting at 1830.

Lay Rep, with Ann and Mairi both absent the group was reminded by Gail that Ann's tenure continues and that she will be in post for the Regional Synod but Mairi is moving away and will need to be replaced as our Alternate Lay rep.

AOCB Gail asked us all to include our family at St Regulus in our private prayers in the coming weeks.

D.o.N.M. The next Congregational Meeting will be held after the service on 17th November.