

**ST MARK THE EVANGELIST
PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of 14 December 2016
7:00 pm, Bishop Reed Hall
DRAFT MINUTES**

In attendance: Cynthia Greer, Ray Davidson, Kate Greer-Close, Jenny Morphew, Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Heather Simpson, Gillian Morris, Penny Miller, Suzanne Wilkins, Laurie Slaughter

1. Opening the meeting

a. Call to order – 7:03 p.m. by Suzanne Wilkins

b. Opening Prayer/Reflection

c. Regrets: Fr. Jim Roberts, Sharon Walter

d. Approval of the Agenda

added 2017 Events Calendar to follow Budget discussion

Moved by Laurie Slaughter, seconded by Gillian Morris; carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting(s)

Motion to approve minutes: moved by Kate Greer-Close; seconded by Jenny Morphew; approved.

3. Business arising from previous meeting(s)

Budget 2017

Parish Council dedicates the December meeting to the next year's budget and so there was a review and discussion of the proposed 2017 budget. A Membership/ Vitality Report and a Stewardship insert will be attached to the end of the minutes.

Some areas that were looked at included Outreach, the Wellness Committee and Conferences and Memberships. We particularly wanted to make sure that we are paying our fees to the Anglican Foundation.

At the end of the review and discussion Jenny Morphew offered congratulations to those who prepared the 2017 Budget and this was seconded by Laurie Slaughter.

2017 Events Calendar: Parish Council looked at the upcoming events that should be on the office calendar. This helps when offering rentals as we can avoid booking spaces needed by the parish. Some of the following dates may change but serve as place holders for the moment.

January 1 Epiphany
January 8 Crèche Sunday Parish Breakfast
January 11 Parish Council
January 22 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity- Hellenic Church
February 20 Vestry
February 22 Baden Powell Pot Luck
February 28 Pancake Supper
March 1 Ash Wednesday
March 12 Parish Breakfast
March 26 Mothering Sunday
April 1 Art Show
April 9 Palm Sunday
Holy Week
April 13 Maundy Thursday
April 15 Easter Vigil
April 16 Easter Day
April 23 St. Mark's Day

The Agenda being completed the meeting adjourned with the Grace at 9:06pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janis Perkin, Parish Council Secretary

December 2016 Membership / Vitality / Communications

Margaret Lodge

Membership:

- 2 new members this month. Of special note, both ladies bought tickets for the Stairwell Carollers concert and both of them helped out at the reception and in the kitchen – their comments were that they both felt right at home
 - We are now using new blue membership cards with more details for office / church use
 - More people have signed up for electronic mailings
 - Name tags: Cynthia is collecting names for those wanting name tags. Georgia to provide tags.
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- Seniors Eucharist & Lunch November 16: Numbers are down (total of 41 including helpers) down in numbers but still very welcomed by the seniors. Garth Hampson entertained
 - Advent Lessons & Carols November 27: another well attended service and soup supper (organized by Penny and Georgia). Free will offering to cover costs.

Vitality:

- **Stairwell Carollers**, December 9 - what an amazing concert and turn out. Nearly 150, including 5 or 6 children, attended. Refreshments, provided by parishioners, garnered \$125 in donations. After paying the choir, there was a profit of \$1750.
- **Vitality FUNdraising** took on 5 events this year, the Queen's 90th, Tales & Tunes, Garage Sale, Pasta Supper, Stairwell Carollers. The goal was \$5000. The total to date is \$6781.
- **Events** put on by the Vitality Group to raise funds for the church have been very well attended and supported by the church and the community.
- **Christmas cards** - Vitality has taken back this initiative to send Christmas cards to all the parish.
- **Meeting** – The group will hold a meeting in January to plan for 2017 events

Attendance: These events have drawn in not just our own parishioners but friends and outsiders too, especially the Stairwell Carollers concert. Paid tickets for events show well over 450 adults and 25 – 30 children. This doesn't take into account those attending the Garage Sale and Big Give.

Events supported by Vitality, but sponsored by other groups and funds not included in our total, were also well attended: Card Party – 80 ladies (Circle 2) and Songs for the Soul (Choir) 40 singers, and both will be run again in 2017

Communications:

Mark This Word: The Advent newsletter was distributed and/or delivered. This issue brought in many positive comments about uplifting, informative contents etc. There has always been positive comments in passing, but more so this time as people went out of their way to phone or email. This was passed on to contributors.

Dates to remember:

December 18 Advent 4

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Lessons & Carols for Christmas with Communion

December 24 Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Holy Eucharist for the Family with Pageant

8:30 pm Carol singing

9:00 pm Sung Eucharist

December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

January 1 New Year's Day - Epiphany

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

January 8 Lords Baptism - Crèche Sunday

8:45 am Parish breakfast

Advent is a time of preparation, a time of waiting and a time of reflection. As I have been journeying through this Advent I have had time to reflect on our journey this past year. We ended 2015 with a rush of hope and generosity with our Advent Giving campaign and oh what hope that brought for the New Year, reducing our debt and preparing the way for 2016. In spring we raised yet more hope with generous giving and dedicated tithing both via pledges and by individual donations. Throughout the year we have been entertained and fed and entertained again by the many many unique and inspired vitality events. Our volunteers and organizers have really surpassed themselves in dedication and time spent. And we cannot forget those who attended these events or supported them through their generous participation and donations.

But Advent is not just about reflection it is also a time of preparation. I know that many will already have the Christmas tree trimmed, presents purchased and Christmas cards sent out. As we journey I ask you to take a moment and reflect on any opportunity you may have to renew or review your financial participation with St. Mark's. Consider increasing you monthly giving, a one time financial gift (remember they are all tax deductible) or just pray for our continued journey as we seek out opportunities for ministry in our parish, our community and in the wider world.

As we wait for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your kind, considerate and generous participation in the life of our church.

Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

May the blessings of love, generosity and grace that are poured out to us through Jesus, be with you and your families always.

Michael Perkin

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP
A way of life