

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

3rd December 2018

1. Present:

Rev. Christine Downey
Lord Morton
Gavin Craig
Denis King
Rona Finlayson
Rosie Mann
Douglas Walker
Ted Tracey-Bower
Ella Henderson
Margaret Chill

2. Apologies for Absence:

Jane Russell
Carole MacBride

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome:

Christine said an opening prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. A special welcome was extended to the new members of the vestry.

4. Minutes of November 12th Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on November 12th were approved. These will now be displayed in the hall and on the website.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:

- The issues with the Audio System in the church will be progressed. Ted will get in touch with 'Sonic Lodge' to look at the system and give advice on what can be done to improve it.
- The Audio System in the Douglas Hall has now been reconnected thanks to Ben and Ted. Ben has also labelled everything and written a comprehensive user guide which sits next to the system. The fixed cable mic is working well. There are still some issues with the wireless mics which are being addressed.
- The Peace Pole application is currently on hold but will be progressed when time allows.
- John Helliwell has made the necessary repair to ensure that the dangerous gravestone in the churchyard has been made safe.

6. Away Day Progress:

Christine is going to arrange for another Away Day to be held with the new Vestry to review progress on last June's Away Day goals and to make plans for the coming year. This will be scheduled in February/March 2019.

7. Other Matters from Christine:

- Christine proposed that a request be made to Bishop John asking that Val Lawrie be awarded the St Cuthbert's Medal as recognition for all that she has done for St Mary's over many years. This was seconded by Rosie Mann and unanimously agreed by Vestry. Bishop John is to be asked to present

the award at Sunday Service on January 20th. Christine will write the letter of proposal to Bishop John.

- Christine asked Vestry to try and avoid having members talking over each other or having side conversations during the meetings as it makes it hard for people to concentrate on the main discussion.
- A 'Reimagining Stewardship' course is being planned for early 2019 with the target of having it completed by the beginning of Lent (March 5th).

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8. Treasurer's Report:

Gavin distributed his report which showed the end of November balance in the General Account as £18,263 (£12,084 of this is in unrestricted funds). The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £15,333. The value of St Mary's investment in the SEC Unit Trust Pool on November 30th was approximately £63,772.

Gavin pointed out that in previous years Graeme MacBride had received a token of appreciation from Vestry for the excellent and onerous work that he does cutting the grass around the church and graveyard. It was agreed we arrange for a similar gesture of thanks to be given this year.

It was also agreed that Jonathan Gibbs be given a small gift as thanks for carrying out the Independent Examination of the accounts. Both this and Graeme's work on the grounds save St Mary's a considerable amount of money.

9. Fabric Report:

Carole had circulated her report before the meeting which addressed progress during November.

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- The new curtains for the Douglas Hall have been chosen. The total cost of fabric and fittings is approximately £1020. It was agreed that Carole be repaid the £109 that she had already spent plus the balance. This would allow her to purchase all that is required. It is the intention that the monies paid for the curtains will be recouped through a fund raising initiative.
- The septic tank at the Rectory needs a replacement cover. Carole is progressing this and is waiting feedback from the contractors.
- The dehumidifier seems to be working in its new position on the draining board in the vestry and no further leakage problems have been encountered.
- The possibility of creating a grant application for the external stonework mentioned at the November meeting will be investigated more thoroughly in the new year.
- Due to the time of year there are a number of mice around and traps have been placed in the hall kitchen and extension. Some mice have already been caught. Carole and John Helliwell will check the traps regularly.
- Warning signs for the Fire Exits and Extinguishers in the hall have now been replaced.
- Initial conversations on the replacement of the Rectory fence have taken place. The old fence is no longer of any use. A meeting is to be arranged between Christine, Ben, Rona, Carole and Lord Morton to discuss the requirements. Lord Morton also agreed to contact the neighbouring farms to discuss their thoughts on paying some of the funding of the fence replacement.

10. Hall Committee Report:

There was nothing new to report.

11. Vulnerable People Report:

Donald Urquhart, the Provincial PVG Co-ordinator will attend the February 4th Vestry meeting to give a short presentation on St Mary's responsibilities in this area.

12. Lay Rep Report:

There was nothing to report.

13. AOB:

- Ella will apply for a grant from Claire Benton-Evans (Diocesan Children's Co-ordinator) to help with funding an extended Choir Festival in May.
- Margaret King had written to Vestry to ask if St Mary's would be willing to donate to the charity Friends of Chernobyl Children West Lothian. This was agreed in principle. However the amount of the donation is still to be decided. This will be further discussed at the February meeting once the congregation has been given the chance to nominate any other charities for consideration.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on February 4th** in the Douglas Hall. Please note the earlier time which is being trialled in order that attendees can get home earlier.