

**St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy**

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**It should be noted that due to the lockdown situation this meeting was a 'virtual' meeting via Zoom. The attendees were in agreement that it was acceptable to regard it as a vestry meeting and minute it as such.**

**1. On the Zoom Meeting:**

Rev. Christine Downey

Gavin Craig

Douglas Walker

Denis King

Jonathan Gibbs

Carole MacBride

Rona Finlayson

Margaret King

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

Ella Henderson

Lord Morton

Margaret Chill

**3. Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Christine said a prayer which included reference to the difficult time that people are going through at present and thanking the front line workers and volunteers for all that they are doing to help people.

**4. Minutes of March 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on March 9<sup>th</sup> were approved with one amendment. This was regarding Christine's preferred weekly day off which she has not yet decided upon. After amendment these will now be displayed in the hall and on the website.

**5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

- Jonathan reported that the Funding Roadshow which he had attended had been quite disappointing. There were less Grant Providing Charitable Organisations in attendance than he would have expected. It was also the case that the workshops which were available were oversubscribed and none of the St Mary's attendees could get a place on them. He said feedback had not been good.
- Carole reported that she had been working on the resubmission of the grant application for the work deemed necessary on the fabric of the rectory. The previous application had been rejected by the Provincial Buildings Committee. She had been in contact with Alex Stewart, who chairs the Diocesan Buildings Committee, and David Gibben from the Provincial Committee. David had requested Carole to send him the Building Report that the surveyor produced when he inspected the rectory (this inspection had been paid by the Province through a grant). He also asked to see any quotes that had been submitted for doing parts of the work. By receiving these he may be able to give some advice on how best to word the

application and whether anything else would require to be done before submitting it. The meeting agreed that these items should be forwarded to David.

- In relation to the above point Carole said that she aimed to have the application ready to be submitted by the end of April. The Diocesan Committee meets on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Provincial Committee on May 26<sup>th</sup>. These are still scheduled even though they will be 'virtual' meetings.
- At the previous meeting it had been agreed that St Mary's would donate £500 to the East Calder Gala as it was due to be their Centenary Gala. Due to the current restrictions it was assumed that the Gala would not be able to proceed on its scheduled dates in June. It was agreed that the donation would be withheld at present but would be given the next time that the Gala was scheduled. (*After the meeting it was found that this is currently August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>*).

## **6. Other Matters from Christine**

Christine's main points were around what she is doing to communicate during the current crisis. This has included :

- Posting daily Videos online.
- Online church services for which she sends out service sheets that allow the participants to follow the service. These have been well received.
- Calling around members of the congregation to see that they are coping well and for a general chat.

The message to all was to keep in touch as best we can.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Gavin distributed his report which showed that the end of March balance in the General Account was £32,421.

There was £2,123 held in restricted funds, leaving £30,328 in unrestricted funds.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £3,323.

The Value of the SEC Unit Trust Pool on March 31<sup>st</sup> was £41,070.

During the previous month the £1,139.06 from the closure of the Triodos Bank account had been received.

The request to sell £20,000 worth of the units held in the SEC Unit Trust Pool had been actioned and this money was now in the General Account. This money was initially earmarked for fabric projects but will now provide a cushion to see St Mary's through the current Covid-19 situation, during which income will be depleted.

Gavin had previously sent out a note regarding income and the fact that currently St Mary's does not have the Sunday Plate coming in each week. There had been a positive response to this with congregation members making donations on-line or via cheques sent to him.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal is being addressed in a similar way. It was agreed that a closing date for donations to this would be April 30<sup>th</sup>. Gavin would then send the money donated to the diocese.

An appeal for donations from Aberlour had been received. This appeal is supported by the Primus. The meeting agreed to donate £500 as part of this years' Charitable Giving to this cause. It was also

agreed that an email be sent out to the congregation highlighting this appeal in case anyone wished to make a personal donation.

The tidy up work in the Douglas Hall carried out by Brushstrokes was completed and they have been paid their £860 charge.

#### **8. Fabric Report**

Carole had sent out two emails prior to the meeting. These were in regard to Church Heating and the Access Audit respectively.

- On the Church Heating a report that Carole had received from Zero Waste Scotland had been circulated earlier in the month. As a result of this she has been emailing potential suppliers to see if they would quote for the work. She had also identified a number of potential sources who may be approached to supply a grant.
- Carole has the first draft of the Access Audit. This was quite comprehensive and contained many points for consideration. After discussion with Susan, the author, she now has a list showing high, medium, and low priority for each of the areas identified. Carole has also got clarification on a number of the observations. At present nothing can be physically progressed but once things get back to normal decisions will be taken on what is feasible to progress.

#### **9. Hall Committee Report:**

All planned events are cancelled until the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

#### **10. Lay Rep Report:**

Nothing to report. Due to illness Rona was unable to attend the Synod on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **11. PVG Report**

Nothing to report.

#### **12. AOB**

Margaret King and Rona informed the meeting of how they had arranged for a group of congregation members to make telephone calls to others in the congregation. This especially targets those who live alone and may feel isolated.

**13. Date of Next Meeting:** The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on May 4<sup>th</sup>**. As the current Lockdown has been extended until, at the earliest, May 7<sup>th</sup>, this will be a 'virtual' meeting again.