

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 6th April 2021

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
Lord Morton
Denis King
Gavin Craig
Carole MacBride
Margaret King
Jonathan Gibbs
Wilma Brown
Ann Donoghue

2. Apologies for Absence:

Margaret Chill
Ella Henderson

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

Christine said a prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. She asked that, although Scotland and the UK is currently coming out of lockdown, we remember those in other parts of the world where the virus is still escalating.

4. Minutes of March 1st Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on March 1st were approved with no amendments. These will now be displayed in the Douglas Hall and on the website.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Christine had been in dialogue, via telephone, with the person creating the new website. She has sent a final couple of documents off for inclusion and asked that the site be made available as soon as possible, even if not quite complete.

- Gavin has now taken the photographs of the church interior which were required to enable St Mary's to be listed as a possible film location.
- Ann reported that Connect Scotland had sent the 2 iPads and 2 MiFi connectors which had been approved for St Mary's. However, as it was not possible to identify people who qualified through the criteria to receive them, they have been returned. Thanks were expressed to the Connect Scotland project for the support they had given.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- Christine will be taking a week of Study Leave from April 25th to May 3rd. This is to allow her to complete preparations on a paper she will present (virtually) to a conference being held at UCLA.
- Communal Worship in the Douglas Hall will resume on April 11th. A document outlining the procedures which will be in place to allow the environment to be as safe as possible will be sent out. In order to circumvent confusion, notification that congregants are allowed to travel across council boundaries to attend 'their normal place of worship' will also be sent out.
- Private Prayer in the church will be available during the times that Pippa is in the office. These are Mondays and Wednesdays 9.30 – 12.30. Please either call or email the office if you intend coming. This will allow for sanitising procedures to be properly observed. Should anyone wish to attend for private prayer outside of these hours they should contact Christine to arrange.
- As a result of recent vestry 'virtual away days' it has been agreed to set up a Sustainability Team. The composition of this team is being finalised. Once this is complete a first meeting of the team will be arranged. A document describing the rationale for creating this team and its high level aims will be published at the same time as these minutes.
- There had been some sound problems when transmitting the service from the church on Easter Sunday. These will be addressed as more testing is carried out and familiarity gained with the new internet connection into the church. Meanwhile, as we start worshipping again in the Douglas Hall, Ben has personally purchased some new equipment which will enhance what was in place previously. Thanks go to Ben for this and all his efforts in creating the infrastructure to allow St Mary's to hold online worship.

7. Treasurer's Report

Gavin had distributed his report which showed that the 31st March balance in the General Account was £21,856.

There was £3,853 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £18,003 in unrestricted funds.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £1,584.

The value of the SEC Unit Trust Pool on March 31st was £46,252. This includes disbursement of £502 which bought 17 units.

The following had been paid from the General Account :

- Rectory garage roof replacement (mentioned in previous minutes) £1,140
- WiFi into church £538. This will improve St Mary's ability to broadcast from the church.

Incoming transactions to the General Account were :

- £46.47 from Easyfundraising for quarter up to December 31st

Mandatory PAT Testing had been carried out in the Rectory Cottage at a cost of £153. This payment came via the St Mary's Trust Account.

8. Fabric Report

Carole reported that :

- Problems are still occurring with the electrics in the rectory kitchen. The power is being tripped frequently when devices are turned on. It needs more powerful wiring to be installed. A quote to correct this is awaited but it not thought that it will be a large expenditure
- As the organ had not been used since Christmas some problems, due to damp and cold, were experienced when Alan started to use it again prior to the Easter service. These have now been fixed by the engineer who services the organ. It is now back in fully working order. The de-humidifier in the sacristy continues to be running at all times..

Carole had spoken with Tina Avery regarding what would be required to carry out a full Quinquennial Review of all St Mary's buildings. As a result of this conversation Tina had intimated that it was not something she could commit to carrying out at this time. Carole has therefore gone back to David Willis, who has carried out the previous Quinquennial reviews. She has discussed with him what she feels is required to allow St Mary's to have a report which can be used as input to any future grant applications. The cost

will be £1,500 plus vat. The meeting agreed for this to go ahead. The review will be carried out over two days later in the month. Carole will be available to be on site on these days.

9. Hall Committee Report:

Under current restrictions the Douglas Hall continues to be unavailable for use outside of Communal Worship. The only exceptions to this are for two companies who are hiring the hall to carry out First Aid training for key workers. They have government exemptions which allow them to do this.

10. Lay Rep Report:

Nothing to report.

11 .PVG Report

Christine gave a reminder that if people would like anything posted to the St. Mary's Facebook page, to please email her. Public postings or tags have been disabled to better monitor the content of the page. This will help ensure that anything St Mary's publishes does not contravene any rules.

12. AOB

The next wedding at St Mary's is scheduled to take place in May. Carole has had contact with two couples who are looking to get married at St Mary's.

Carole requested that Charitable Giving be an item at the next vestry meeting. This will allow decisions on some of the charities St Mary's will support this year to be made at an early stage.

13. Date of Next Meeting: The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday May 10th**. At present this will be, again, a 'virtual' meeting.