

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

3rd February 2020

1. Present:

Rev. Christine Downey
Lord Morton
Gavin Craig
Douglas Walker
Margaret Chill
Denis King
Jonathan Gibbs
Carole MacBride

2. Apologies for Absence:

Margaret King
Ella Henderson
Rona Finlayson

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

Christine said a prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

4. Minutes of December 2nd Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on December 2nd were approved with no amendments. These will now be displayed in the hall and on the website.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- The new Website is currently under construction and it is hoped that it will be available soon.
- Christine and Pippa have successfully produced their first edition of In Touch. It has been well received.
- Christine will put an article into the next edition of In Touch which will show how Quota is calculated.
- 11 Christmas Hampers were distributed to our neighbours. Thanks to donations of both goods and cash there was no requirement to use any church funds for this project.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- Christine reported that the work which was being carried out on the bathroom was now complete. As a number of issues had been found the cost came in at approximately £1,000 over estimate.
- A number of members of the vestry attended the Mar Thoma Church Carol Service on Sunday December 8th. It was a very enjoyable experience. It is being suggested that a joint Carol Service could be held this year
- Metrical Psalms will be used during the Sunday Service in Lent
- Via Media (Anglican Explorations) will be a subject for the house groups in the rectory during Lent.

- On March 7th an event detailing First Nations History in Canada will be run in the Douglas Hall.

7. Treasurer's Report

Gavin distributed his report which showed that the end of January balance in the General Account was £13,833.51.

There was £6,018 held in restricted funds. This included £3,895 in the Building Fund Appeal.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £2,371.

The Value of the SEC Unit Trust Pool on December 31st was £60,427.70 (January figure not available at the time of the meeting).

A letter has been sent to the Triodos Bank to request closure of the account which St Mary's holds with them. This account balance currently is £1,333.

It was agreed by the meeting that there was a requirement to sell £20,000 worth of the units held in the SEC Unit Trust Pool in order that there is cash available to meet any financial requirements.

St Mary's is now registered to receive donations via Amazon Smile as well as Easyfundraising. Gavin will send out details.

The rental of the Douglas Hall brought in £1,370 during Q4 of 2019. The current rental costs are £10 per hour for up to 5 hours, with a maximum charge of £50. This comfortably clears the cost of heating etc. It was agreed to keep the charges the same for the present time but that they should be reviewed on a frequent basis.

8. Fabric Report

Carole reported that :

- The report from the surveyor who had carried out the inspection of the Rectory had been received. Using this report as a guide a new Grant Application will be raised. As St Mary's has already carried out and paid for most of the internal work that the previous application covered it is hoped that this application will be more favourably received.
- A quote for church heating had been obtained. This quote came from a large national company. Their quote was £18,000 for an electric based system or £25,000 for a 'wet system' which runs on gas. The wet system would lead to lower heating costs. As the cost of this work is substantial some more thought is required before progressing. However the heating in the church is something that needs to be addressed as the current system is not functioning well.
- The roof on the large shed next to the Douglas Hall is leaking and needs re-felting. Corstorphine roofing have been asked to carry out the work.
- The cost of providing a paved path between the hall and the church has been found to be prohibitive. Other options will be explored.

9. Vestry Away Day

The vestry away day will be held at St Peter's Linlithgow on Saturday February 22nd

It will be a 9.30 for 10.00 start. An agenda will be published when available.

10. Hall Committee Report:

Dates for events during 2020 are being published in the In Touch magazine. As the hall is now being used most days now it is important that people check that the hall is available before scheduling any meetings etc.

A clear out of the hall and storeroom is planned for February 14th.

11. Lay Rep Report:

Nothing to report since the AGM. The next Synod is on March 14th. Rona will be attending.

12.PVG Report

Nothing to report.

13. AOB

- A suggestion had been made that a charge should be made to people who receive In Touch but do not contribute to St Mary's. The meeting agreed that this should not be progressed. Providing a copy of In Touch was felt to be a justifiable expense keeping those who receive the magazine informed. Through receiving the magazine there is the potential that they may wish to re-engage with St Mary's. It was also mentioned that some congregation members will pass on the magazine to relatives and friends which gives a ripple effect in making people aware of St Mary's.
- There are still some problems with microphones in the church. Carole is going to speak to Killian Steele but she wonders whether the problems might be more with the way that the microphones are being used rather than the equipment itself. New procedures have been put in place for the setting up and use of microphones for Sunday services.
- There had been a question as to whether the Congregational List could be made available. Due to Data Protection rules this is not thought to be advisable. Should someone wish to get the contact details for another congregation member they should ask them personally.
- The subject of a hand rail to allow for easier access to the sanctuary was raised. Although it is acknowledged that this is an issue that needs to be addressed the logistics of installing a hand rail are not simple. Other methods of allowing congregation members to participate in activities during the service without having to climb the steps are to be trialled.

14. Date of Next Meeting: The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday March 9th** in the Douglas Hall.