

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 1st March 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

Denis King

Gavin Craig

Carole MacBride

Margaret King

Jonathan Gibbs

Wilma Brown

Ella Henderson

2. Apologies for Absence:

Margaret Chill

Ann Donoghue

Lord Morton

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of February 1st Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on February 1st were approved with no amendments.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Christine had been in dialogue with the person creating the new website which is now very close to going live. She gave the meeting a quick view, via Zoom, of what the website will look like. A few final actions are required before it is made public.
- Gavin said that he required to get access to the church to allow him to take pictures of the interior. These pictures will be used for listing St Mary's as a possible film location, as indicated in previous minutes. He asked if the Led light bulbs in the chandeliers could be changed as the current ones do not photograph in a clear manner. It was agreed that 'warm white' Led bulbs could be purchased with this in mind. How best to utilise the bulbs already purchased will be addressed.
- As a result of St Mary's application to Connect Scotland we have been approved to receive 2 iPads and 2 MiFi connectors. These are intended to be given to congregation members who do not currently have the technology to be able to participate in St Mary's online services, meetings etc. Work is being done to identify who may best benefit from these devices. Once identified, and with the intended recipients permission, Ann Donoghue will give the assistance required to familiarise the recipients on the use of the devices.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- The new roof has been put on to the rectory garage. It is now watertight and can be used for storage. See more on this under the Fabric Report

- It was unclear at the time of the meeting what the situation will be for churches opening at Easter. The Scottish Government had hinted that there may be the possibility that face to face worship may be allowed on Easter Sunday. Even if given the go ahead the numbers allowed and whether people could travel between council areas would still need consideration. The meeting agreed to wait until further clarity was given on this before deciding on the plan for St Mary's.
- Whatever happens on the previous point Christine is planning to stream a version of the Easter Vigil and also a Dawn Service in the church grounds.

7. Treasurer's Report

Gavin had distributed his report which showed that the 26th February balance in the General Account was £24,404.

There was £3,173 held in restricted funds, leaving £21,231 in unrestricted funds.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £1,441.

The value of the SEC Unit Trust Pool on January 31st was £46,663. February figure not available at time of meeting.

The following had been paid from the St Mary's Trust Account :

- £1,500 to remove tree preventing drainage in the rectory grounds. This was referenced in the January minutes.
- £135 for ongoing pest control at the rectory. This included moles as well as rats this month.
- £60 for lock repair at rectory.

Incoming transactions to the General Account were :

- £500 donation to the Fabric Fund.
- £1,500 quarterly donation from the Douglas Trust.
- £50 for hall rent by the Covid training company.
- £6.24 from Amazon Smile up to December 31st.
- A cheque donation received representing two months Council Tax.

Gavin had received correspondence from the diocese regarding the Unit Trust Pool which had performed well in challenging times. Over the year to 31 January 2021, its share price rose by 36.7%. In the same period the FTSE 100 index fell by 14%. At the same time, its annual distribution has risen from 55.5p per unit to 58p per unit, an increase of 4.5%. They did also warn that, as there is a market risk, holdings in the UTP should be treated as a medium to long term investment, a source of future income but not a reliable place to keep funds that will or may be needed in the short term. Vestry will continue to monitor the fund's performance closely.

Gavin also reported that the diocese had given information that a number of financial scams had been attempted recently. The message was to be very careful if receiving any unsolicited requests for cash or information which may be used for nefarious purposes.

8. Fabric Report

Carole reported that :

- A replacement lock had been required to be installed in the rectory (mentioned under Treasurer Report)
- Replacing the rectory garage roof had been too large a task for Ben to handle. Therefore an outside company had been employed. The replacement roof has now been installed and is fully fit for purpose. When removing the old roof it was found to contain asbestos materials. This will require be disposed of by a company registered to do this in line with the

regulations. Contact is being made with a contractor that St Mary's has used previously, and has the required registration, to get this addressed.

- Carole said that she would be attending an online session on the subject of National Lottery grants to get a better understanding of what needs to be taken into account if applying for a grant from this fund.

Carole had contacted the company that had carried out St Mary's Quinquennial Reviews previously to get the current cost of this exercise. She was told that it would be £1,000 plus Vat. This was much higher than the previous cost but it was explained that there were now extra things mandated to be included in the review. Carole also asked if the report from the review would be sufficient to be used as support for any grant applications that were made. The answer was, no.

The more detailed report, carried out by a different person, on the church only, that Carole had explored earlier was quoted at £600 Vat free. However, as minuted previously, this alone would not be acceptable as a full Quinquennial review of the church properties.

The meeting was reluctant to pay out twice for the required reviews on the church. Carole is going to contact the person who quoted on the church only review to see that if given the format and rules around Quinquennial Reviews they would be willing to proceed and what the cost would be. Christine is to talk with the Bishop to see if there is any way that the reports could be mixed and matched to ensure that St Mary's would not have to pay twice for the church to be assessed.

9. Hall Committee Report:

Nothing to report.

10. Lay Rep Report:

Nothing to report.

11 .PVG Report

Nothing to report.

12. AOB

The two weddings planned to take place in April have been postponed. There is one scheduled for May.

13. Date of Next Meeting: The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday April 6th**.

Note this meeting will be on the Tuesday due to the 5th being Easter Monday. At present this will be, again, a 'virtual' meeting.