

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

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 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

Ella Henderson

Denis King

Jonathan Gibbs

Carole MacBride

Rona Finlayson

Margaret King

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

Douglas Walker

Lord Morton

Margaret Chill

**3. Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Christine said a prayer and welcomed people to the meeting.

**4. Minutes of April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on April 14<sup>th</sup> were approved with one amendment. This was regarding the closing balance of the Triodos account. It should have read £1139.06 (not £1339.06). After amendment these will now be displayed in the hall and on the website.

**5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

- Eddy Goodfellow has informed that due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions the East Calder Gala will not be held this year. They have rescheduled their 100<sup>th</sup> Gala Day for Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2021. The £500 donation to the Gala, previously agreed, will be held over until then.
- Alan Philips had informed us that the organist's wedding fee quoted in the March minutes was incorrect. The figure quoted was £170 and should have been £173. The £173 is made up of a £110 basic plus £63 to cover performer's rights. He had been receiving the £173 it was just the minutes that were incorrect. Alan also informed us that these fees were based on the recommendation of the Musicians Union who publish new guidance each year in April. The recommendation from the MU this April is £113 basic fee plus £64.50 performer's rights. The meeting agreed that Alan's wedding fees be brought in line with this.

**6. Other Matters from Christine**

Christine's reported that :

- Jane Russell's brothers obituary had been posted on the St Mary's Facebook page.

- She is continuing to put videos on to YouTube on a frequent basis. The technology can be a bit hit and miss.
- The YouTube videos are something that Christine would like to extend in a more stable way but it would need a bigger audience. It was suggested that this may be something that could be done in conjunction with the Mar Thoma church.
- The new Website is still in progress. The Covid-19 situation has slowed down the work needed for its completion. Christine will find out the current position on this.

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

Gavin distributed his report which showed that the end of April balance in the General Account was £36,063.

There was £2,123 held in restricted funds, leaving £33,940 in unrestricted funds.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £5,167.

The Value of the SEC Unit Trust Pool on March 31<sup>st</sup> was £38,031. The April end figure was not available at time of meeting.

*Since the meeting Gavin has passed on the information that the April end figure was issued on May 11<sup>th</sup> and that the current value of the holding is now £41,148.*

During the month £4,700 had been received from HMRC as the half yearly Gift Aid return.

The Douglas Trust had paid £1,467 for sundry items in the Douglas Hall since 2019 and £1,175 for the new windows. They also paid the £1,190 due from Blair Morrison (Ratho Park) for the extra vermin control cost that St Mary's had incurred in the past year.

As the diocese had informed that the Bishop's Lent Appeal would now be open until the end of August it was agreed St Mary's would extend its closing date for donations until late May. Gavin would then send the money donated to the diocese.

As agreed at previous vestry meetings £500 had been sent to Aberlour and £100 to Cystic Fibrosis.

### **8. Fabric Report**

Carole had submitted the Grant Application for the repairs to the rectory stonework, roof/gutters, and insulation had been sent to the diocese. St Mary's were requesting a grant of £30,364. There had been some early feedback from Alex Stewart (Diocesan Building Committee chair) pointing out St Mary's were looking for the grant to cover 100% of the work and that it was unlikely that this would be approved. Grants given out are not normally greater than 50% of the cost.

An emergency vestry meeting was called on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the way forward. That meeting agreed that St Mary's could offer to pay £4,000 from the St Mary's Trust account towards the work. It was also felt pertinent that we should highlight the fact that St Mary's had spent around £31,000 of their funds since 2016 in bringing the rectory up to standard. On that basis we felt that the work being progressed now was the next stage of a project St Mary's had significantly contributed to already. Gavin agreed to create a covering email to make this clear and detail some of the bigger items of expenditure which had been carried out.

This has now been addressed and the grant application is in the hands of the Diocese. It is due to be presented to the Provincial Buildings Committee for a decision at the end of May.

Carole had also been trying to progress the issue of Church Heating. She reported that she had contacted 10 companies but only 1 had got back in touch. They had actually come to the church and given a verbal quote, which Carole felt to be much more than we would be willing to pay. At present

due to the Covid-19 situation most companies in this industry are not working. Therefore it was felt that no more progress can be made until restrictions ease.

The gutter clearance and fabric health checks on the church and rectory have been carried out.

**9. Hall Committee Report:**

Nothing to report.

**10. Lay Rep Report:**

Nothing to report.

**11.PVG Report**

Christine pointed out that under a strict set of guidelines she was allowed to and willing to visit congregation members if emergency situations occur.

**12. AOB**

After communication with St Salvador's, and the fact that St Mary's could not currently provide items for their Foodbank, Carole suggested that a monetary donation be made as a substitute. She suggested an initial £100 donation which would be around the cash amount of the goods donated over a two month period. The meeting agreed to this and to review again in July if the current restrictions are still in place.

**13. Date of Next Meeting:** The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on June 1<sup>st</sup>**. As the current Lockdown has been extended until, at the earliest, May 28<sup>th</sup>, this will be a 'virtual' meeting again.