

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 10th May 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

Ann Donoghue

Ella Henderson

2. Apologies for Absence:

Margaret Chill

Wilma Brown

Jonathan Gibbs

Lord Morton

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of April 6th Meeting

There were two amendments to the minutes of the meeting held on April 6th. These were:

- The balance of the St Mary's Trust Account should have been £1584 and not £1441 as stated.
- The date of the next meeting had changed to May 10th from May 3rd after the original minutes were created.

These amendments to the minutes will be made prior to them being filed and they will now be displayed in the Douglas Hall.

The amended minutes were approved by the meeting.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- There was no update on the new Website.

- Gavin has submitted the application to register St Mary's to be listed as a possible film location. A reply is awaited.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- The Dean will be visiting Christine within the next month to carry out a review. This encompasses things like are the registers up to date and the congregational lists.
- Christine thanked the vestry for allowing her Study Leave to prepare and present a paper at a UCLA virtual conference. A link to the paper that she presented has been sent to the congregation via email. Christine asked for feedback on it, as she will be creating a report on the experience.
- The Mar Thoma church is now back worshipping in the Douglas Hall. This is in a manner that conforms with Covid restrictions and with limited numbers attending. Christine has asked them for advice on how best St Mary's could help with the current Covid crisis in India. Donating through a major charity is also being explored.
- The Monday 1.30 House Group meetings via Zoom continue to be held.
- Wednesday morning services in the church have restarted. Christine stressed that all are welcome to attend. There had been some confusion regarding the wording of the document which was issued regarding this re-opening. The only people that are being asked not to attend are those who are self-isolating, those showing any symptoms of Covid, and anyone who has been advised by a doctor not to.

7. Community and Growth Team

This is the new name for what was temporarily named the Sustainability Team. The first meeting of the team has been held. Margaret King has agreed to chair it and it will report monthly to the vestry. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25th. A questionnaire is being compiled to send out to the congregation for feedback on how St Mary's operates and suggestions on improvements which would assist St Mary's to meet its mission aims.

8. Treasurer's Report

Gavin had distributed his report which showed that the 30th April balance in the General Account was £20,255.

There was £3,853 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £16,402 in unrestricted funds.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £1,940

The value of the SEC Unit Trust Pool on April 30th was £48,387.

9. Fabric Report

Carole reported that the Quinquennial review had been carried out during April by Davis Willis of CLWG Architects. The report is awaited (as is the invoice). However, David had remarked that the church roof looked in a poorer condition than at the last Quinquennial. He also gave some advice on a firm to contact regarding advice on the correct form of mortar to use for any repointing work on the church exterior.

10. Hall Committee Report:

Nothing to report. It is hoped that as restrictions ease further there will be the possibility to begin running events again.

11. Lay Rep Report:

Nothing to report.

12 .PVG Report

Nothing to report.

13.Recovery and Renewal Fund

The Diocesan Mission and Ministry Committee had sent out a questionnaire to get feedback on mission opportunities now that lockdown is easing. This was discussed and St Mary's reply agreed. This will be documented and fed back to the DMMC.

There was also a note giving details of the Provincial Recovery Fund which may allow St Mary's to receive a small grant to assist with any mission opportunities identified in the questionnaire.

14. AOB

Charitable Giving was scheduled to be an item at the meeting, however, there was not enough time to properly discuss it. It will therefore be a priority agenda item at the next meeting. This will allow decisions on some of the charities St Mary's will support this year to be made at an early stage. Gavin had produced the details of the charitable donations made by St Mary's up until the end of April.

Date of Next Meeting: The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday June 7th**. At present this will be, again, a 'virtual' meeting.