

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

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**5<sup>th</sup> October 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

Denis King

Jonathan Gibbs

Carole MacBride

Ella Henderson

Margaret King

Douglas Walker

Claire Benton-Evans (Discussion on Young People at St Mary's only)

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

Lord Morton

Margaret Chill

**3. Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Christine said a prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. A special welcome was given to Claire Benton-Evans, the Diocesan Youth Convenor, who was attending the meeting to give guidance on how St Mary's could progress our desire to widen ministry to young people.

**4. Claire Benton-Evans**

As a result of previous discussions within vestry and input from other congregation members Christine had initiated contact with the Diocesan Youth Convenor, Claire Benton-Evans, about St Mary's outreach to young people and the possibility of St Mary's employing a person to drive this forward. Claire had suggested a preliminary meeting with the vestry to allow them to understand more about what would be involved in this.

Claire stated that she was pleased that St Mary's were doing the right thing by contacting her at this stage for advice. She then asked some exploratory questions to which she said there were no right or wrong answers. This was followed by vestry describing what had happened with St Mary's youth ministry previously.

We were then asked what St Mary's would want from this initiative and asked to highlight the challenges. The main challenges raised were finance and the spread of age groups (should we concentrate on one particular group). On the funding Claire said that there were three main options These were:

- Congregational Giving. Ask people to commit some extra per month for this specific purpose.
- Grants from an outside body. There are a number of organisations who may provide these.
- A mixture of both of the above. This would probably be the most likely as organisations giving grants tend to want the grantee to commit some of their own funds to the project.

Claire also made it clear that the commitment would need to be for the long term to allow for the solution to be developed and maintained into the future. She then went on to outline the next steps. These were :

- Set up a group who have this work as a special interest. This would not need to wholly consist of vestry members.
- Look at and research the community that we wish to reach out to.
- How can St Mary's congregation be a blessing to the community.
- What can St Mary's do for the community. It is not just a question of just getting people in the pews.
- As mentioned before this is not a quick process. There is a requirement to be patient and to be realistic in meeting any goals set.
- Claire will be available to assist at all steps along the way.

Claire had sent a book called "employing youth and children's workers" to Christine. This can be passed around the people who wish to read it. Christine will also send out information on how to purchase the book should anyone wish to.

#### **5. Minutes of September 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on September 7<sup>th</sup> were approved with no amendments. These will be displayed in the hall and on the website.

#### **6. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

There has been no further update on the availability of the website.

The Funds Appeal was issued in the In Touch magazine and via email. Gavin informed the meeting that there had been an encouraging response. The St Mary's pamphlet for distribution to the new housing is almost ready for distribution.

#### **7. Other Matters from Christine**

- Christine will be on holiday from October 6<sup>th</sup> until October 27<sup>th</sup>
- She will be contactable in emergencies during this period
- Janet Dyer will take the Sunday service on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Christine will take the Sunday Service on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
- There will be an All Souls service on Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> and Remembrance Sunday is November 8<sup>th</sup>. Both of these services will be held in the Douglas Hall.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

Gavin distributed his report which showed that the 30<sup>th</sup> September balance in the General Account was £3,997.

There was £2,523 held in restricted funds, leaving £1,474 in unrestricted funds.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £2,000.

The value of the SEC Unit Trust Pool on August 31<sup>st</sup> was £51,648. The September end figure was unavailable at this time.

Vestry approved the sale of £10,000 worth of units from the Unit Trust Pool. This should be received in mid-October.

Geoff has completed the half yearly Gift Aid return. HMRC are due to send £4,400 during October.

The funds appeal that Gavin sent out on September 30<sup>th</sup> had already brought in £700 (£875 when Gift Aid added).

Payments to the Stonemason of £16,688, for drainage works £264, and guttering £4,579 were made during the month. These were all part of the work on the Rectory. A sum £2,290 had been reimbursed from the Province with a further £8,480 to come during October. There is £2,700 of insulation work still outstanding on this project. The Province will reimburse £700 of this outlay.

There was also a payment of £2,250 for the new central heating boiler in the Rectory. The old one had been deemed unrepairable by the company that we have a maintenance contract with.

The Douglas Trust reimbursed £325 to the Trust Account for pest control.

The annual Fire Extinguishers check was carried out at a cost of £394

## **9. Fabric Report**

Carole reported that :

- The pointing work at the Rectory has been completed and the building is looking fabulous. Some minor works still need to be done on the gutters. The intended insulation work has not been undertaken as yet and only £700 of the promised £15000 remains to be claimed. It may take a few months to be able to get this work done but Christine has reported that the difference in the warmth in the Rectory is already noticeable since there are fewer draughts and less damp due to the repointing.
- In the church building, a couple of areas have been found to require prompt attention by the stonemason. This will be undertaken during early October but should not cost any more than £500.
- A number of slipped, presumably broken slates, have been noted on the church roof. Craig Stewart has agreed to investigate these and attend to the necessary repair. He has not had a chance to examine this as yet so can't give an estimate of likely cost but it is essential work and Craig has proved to be a reliable and reasonably priced contractor.
- The annual PAT testing has been undertaken in the church and Douglas Hall.
- The church heating was used on Thursday for a few hours and on Friday for 6 hours for the wedding. Having spoken to Michael Payne of BEAM Electrics, Carole recommends that in the

short term, the heating will be repaired. This will involve some rewiring work and possibly some replacement heaters. The cost will not be excessive in the short term.

- There are some concerns about the Douglas Hall heating system but these haven't been investigated yet.

As it is unlikely that St Mary's will be able to use the church for worship in the coming months there should be a saving in heating costs.

#### **10. Hall Committee Report:**

The Douglas Hall has not yet been opened to outside groups. It is felt that the rules around what activities are permissible at present are not clear enough to allow this to proceed. Hopefully some definitive information will be received soon. Pippa is in contact with groups wishing to hire the hall to keep them informed of any progress.

#### **11. Lay Rep Report:**

There will be a South West Area meeting via Zoom on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Christine and Gavin intend to dial in to it.

#### **12. PVG Report**

Nothing to report.

#### **13. AGM**

Christine informed the meeting that Bishop John had given approval to hold the AGM in the Douglas Hall. This could change if restrictions are tightened again. The date of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, after the service was suggested and approved. The requisite reports will be gathered with a view to having the AGM pack ready to send out at the beginning of November. This would allow for an ample period of time for people to read them. It is intended that the meeting will also be available on Zoom.

#### **14. AOB**

- It was felt that the Blessing of Animals service had gone well and been an enjoyable experience.
- The quality of sound via YouTube and Zoom when streaming the Sunday Service has been greatly improved as the technical difficulties are being addressed. Gratitude was expressed to Ben for his concerted efforts in making this work.
- There are normally around 50 views on the YouTube video of the Sunday Service. It was asked if it was possible in some way to request donations from people viewing. This will be investigated.
- It had been noticed that a number of people leaving the Douglas Hall at the end of the service were doing so via the main door rather than using the fire exit. This is contrary to the plan that the Bishop approved to allow St Mary's to reopen for Communal Services. The plan was based around a one way system. A reminder to leave by the fire exit will be made.
- Stewards are to be asked to send Christine the names of the people doing the Readings and Intercessions as early in the week as possible. This will allow them to be added into the Sunday Sheet.

**15. Date of Next Meeting:** The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on November 9<sup>th</sup>** At present this will be, again, a 'virtual' meeting.