

St Mary's Church, Dalmahoy
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

21st November 2021

Opening Prayers : Rev'd Christine Downey welcomed the attending members of the congregation. . This was followed by a prayer and a remembrance of the departed.

Present: There were approximately 25 Members of the congregation present.

Apologies for Absence: Maureen Blackwood, Margaret Chill, Marjorie Smart, Amanda Smart, John Blaber, Myrtle Blaber, Kate Graham. Helen Lumsden, Douglas Walker, Ella Henderson

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting 22nd November 2020: These were accepted with no amendments.

Proposed by Geoff Angell Seconded by Christine Downey

Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes: None.

Presentation of Reports: previously circulated.

(a) Rector's Report: written and presented by Christine Downey.

There were no specific questions on the report from the members present.

(b) Rector's Warden's Report: written and presented by Wilma Brown. There were no specific questions on the report from the members present.

(c) People's Warden's Report: written and presented by Carole MacBride.

There were no specific questions on the report from the members present. However, Carole addressed the meeting saying that she felt that when in this role she had been more Fabric than People focussed. She apologised for this and said that she is committed to continuing to progress the required Fabric issues. This would allow the incoming People's Warden to concentrate on the People side of the role.

The general consensus of the meeting was that Carole was underselling herself on her efforts on the People front and she was thanked for all she had done in this role.

(d) Protection of Children & Vulnerable Groups Report: written and presented by Caroline Gunn. There were no specific questions on the report from the members present.

(e) Website Report: written and presented by Christine Downey. There were no specific questions on the report from the members present.

The reports above (a-e) were Proposed en masse by Margaret King Seconded by Jane Russell

(f) Treasurer's Report: created and presented by Gavin Craig.

There were no specific questions on the report.

Geoff Angell congratulated Gavin on his hard work and diligence in the Treasurer's role during the year and in producing the end of year accounts. Sadly, he said, the accounts showed a continuing downward trend in St Mary's finances.

Alan Coupe expressed his thanks to The Douglas Trust for the financial support that they provide to St Mary's. The meeting echoed their appreciation for this.

Proposed by Olive Metcalfe and Seconded by Geoff Angell

- (g) Fairtrade Account Report:** written and presented by Steve Haigh
There were no specific questions on the report from the members present.
Steve informed the meeting that a new member had joined the group. He also said that he was planning to organise a meeting of the Fairtrade Group in the first quarter of 2022.
- (h) Lay Representative's Report:** written and presented by Ann Donoghue. There were no specific questions on the report from those present.
- (i) Dalmations Report:** written and presented by Denis King.
There were no specific questions on the report from the members present.
- (i) Health and Safety Report:** written and presented by Alan Coupe
There were no specific questions on the report from the members present.
- (j) Wedding Report:** Written and presented by Carole MacBride.
There were no specific questions on the report from the member present.
- (k) Community Engagement Team Report:** Written and presented by Margaret King
Margaret emphasised that the work of the CET would be a long haul exercise as there were many areas being addressed by the CET to allow them to meet the objectives for St Mary's. A question was asked regarding the congregational survey which was due to be circulated. Margaret said that for various reasons it has been held up, but should be available very soon.

The reports above (g-k) were Proposed en masse by Wilma Brown and Seconded by Jane Russell

Elections:

- (a)** Margaret King was proposed and accepted to be Peoples Warden
- (b)** Margaret Chill, Ella Henderson and Denis King had completed their terms on the vestry. Jonathan Gibbs had stood down earlier in the year, due to moving out of the area. There were at least three vacancies to fill. John O'Connor was Proposed by Olive Metcalfe Seconded by Jane Russell, to fill one of these positions. The meeting supported this. The other two positions remain vacant at present.
- (c)** Ann Donoghue was proposed and accepted to be Lay Representative.
- (d)** Steve Haigh was proposed and accepted to be Alternate Lay Representative.
- (e)** St Mary's Administrator, Pippa Crichton, had agreed to become Secretary to the Vestry. This is a role appointed by Vestry. It is a non-voting role.
- (f)** Carole MacBride had stepped down from her People's Warden role. However, she will now officially be the Fabric Convenor. This is not a Vestry position. Should anyone be interested in being part of the Fabric Committee, please talk with Carole or Christine.

Christine then thanked the vestry for the work that they had carried in the past year. It had been a difficult time, but she was grateful for all the support that she had received and for vestry members 'just being there'. She also gave the following thank you acknowledgements to those leaving vestry for their service.

Carole for all the work that she has carried in researching solutions to fabric issues, filling in grant applications, corresponding with relevant companies, and arranging for work to be done. On top of that for cleaning, wedding co-ordinating, grounds maintenance work and many other

unseen actions that allow St Mary's to function. The hours that she puts in to do all of this are well above any expectations. Christine and St Mary's are very grateful for this.

Denis, for his work as Secretary to the Vestry for the past 3.5 years and for keeping her right on procedural and constitution issues.

Margaret Chill for being an important voice on the vestry in pointing out areas where St Mary's was lacking in inclusiveness for those who have disabilities, whether seen or unseen. Also, for being able to question things she was uncomfortable with in a positive manner.

Ella for organising events such as St Scruff's Dog Show, and the Schools Choir Festival. Also, for her sense of humour, where she sees some lighter side of most situations.

Jonathan Gibbs, who moved south in August, for having given St Mary's the benefit of his considerable financial expertise. His input had come in very useful when planning for both the financial and church growth of St Mary's.

Christine also expressed thanks to The Earl and Countess of Morton, Stewart and Amanda Douglas, for all their support.

Any Other Notified Business:

Carole gave an update on the Fabric works that she has been progressing :

- There had been some issues getting the Canon 35 for the proposed Infrared Heating units approved. This was in regard to the aesthetics of where they would be positioned. The installation of the heaters is planned to go ahead on November 30th. The units will be placed higher up than originally planned, but will have a long enough lead to allow them to be lowered if they are not providing suitable warmth.
- A Canon 35 has been approved for the Secondary Glazing project. This project will not proceed as planned unless Grant Funding can be obtained. Carole was in the process of filling in an application to the FCC Scottish Action Fund to request a grant. This is the only organisation that may provide a grant for this purpose. It will be March 2022 before a decision is made on whether or not the grant is approved.
- The recent Quinquennial Review highlighted a number of areas that required work to be carried out. The church roof was one of the main areas referenced. Carole is following up this by arranging for external reports to be carried out. These reports will clarify what needs to be addressed and propose solutions, with estimated costings. These reports will come at a cost, but will be of use when applying for grants to carry out the identified work.

Concluding Remarks :

Thanks were expressed to :

- Ben Bright for the incredible support that he gives to Christine and all the work which he does for St Mary's. It was mentioned that when St Mary's employed Christine that we actually got a '2 for 1 Deal'
- Graeme MacBride for cutting the grass around the church and graveyard. It always looks very well maintained.
- John Helliwell for maintaining the graves by identifying and repairing any problems.

- The two Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers and Oatridge College for carrying out grounds maintenance work.
- Alan Phillips for providing the music and playing the organ for the Sunday Services.

Finally Wilma thanked Christine for keeping St Mary's operating smoothly .

The meeting finished with the attendees saying a communal blessing