

## St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

### Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

It should be noted that due to the current situation this meeting was a hybrid meeting with some attendees being on Zoom and others in the Douglas Hall. The attendees were in agreement that it was acceptable to regard it as a vestry meeting and minute it as such.

#### 1. Attendees:

Rev. Christine Downey  
Lord Morton  
Wilma Brown  
Pippa Crichton  
Ann Donoghue (Zoom)  
Margaret King (Zoom)  
John O'Connor (Zoom)

#### 2. Apologies for Absence:

Gavin Craig

#### 3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

Christine said a prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. She specially welcomed the new members of Vestry. All members were prayed for at the service on Sunday.

#### 4. Minutes of November 1st Meeting

There were no errors, omissions or amendments to the minutes from the November meeting.

The minutes were approved by the meeting and will now be filed and displayed as normal.

#### 5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- There was no update available regarding registering St Mary's as a film location as Gavin was not present at the meeting.

- Pippa continues to keep a track of her hours to determine the extra hours that may be required for her to be in the office.
- There were some issues with streaming the service from the church on Sunday due to changes in Facebook and new broadcasting software was needed. This has now been updated and all should be good for this coming Sunday.

## **6. Other Matters from Christine**

- Intinction: Vestry discussed the current Eucharist practices as a member of the congregation mentioned some churches were doing it differently. However it was decided to continue as we have been.
- Activate Christmas "A Christmas Carol" is happening and well under way. Captivate Theatre have sold out both Friday and Saturday night and are have now opened up tickets for the Thursday night for sale.
- This Saturday is the Christmas Carol Service and we have Jamie Graham and Rachel Grant doing a reading for us which is fantastic.
- In lieu of Christmas Hampers last year, gifts or charitable donations were given to or made on behave of St Mary's neighbours and other recipients. After some discussion it was decided that this year grocery vouchers to the value of £50 would be given to 5 recipients.

## **7. AGM Minutes**

There were no errors, omissions or amendments to the minutes from the November meeting.

The minutes were approved by the meeting and will now be filed and displayed as normal.

## **8. Treasurer Report**

Gavin had distributed his report which showed that the 30<sup>th</sup> November balance in the General Account was £26,774.02 (£17,879 previous month)

There was £3,779 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £ 22,995.02 in unrestricted funds. (£14,100 previous month).

- Following the instructed sale of £9,000 from the UTP the funds have now been received and in the general account.
- A donation of £1000 from the Diocese Covid relief fund was received.

- The Mar Thoma congregation also kindly donated £500 towards the heating fund.
- Notification was also received from Blackies estate that St Mary's will be in receipt of a legacy.
- It was suggested and agreed by vestry that £100 should be gifted to Graeme MacBride as a thank you for taking care of all the grass cutting around St Mary's.
- A total of £1,400 charitable giving has been donated by Vestry this year. This has been split between Education for the Children Trust, Papua & New Guinea Trust and East Calder Gala day.
- On behalf of the congregation a donation of £471.50, which was rounded up to £500, has been donated to Mission to Seafarers.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £3,406.94 (previous month £2,659).

### **9. Community Engagement Team (CET)**

- The Questionnaire/Survey has now been distributed. They may be an issue with multiple people from the same household completing it but that is being discussed and hopefully will be sorted.
- The CET plan to use the congregational list to identify people who would benefit from a one to one conversation is currently in discussions.

### **10. Fabric Report**

Application to the FCC Community Action Fund was made on November 29th for the grant to progress the secondary glazing project. The decision is not due until mid-March 2022, until then we just need to hope that the application is persuasive.

The heating system is now fully installed and will hopefully respond to programming which Carole will be able to operate remotely through an app. It will take a bit of trial and error to work out the most economical way to operate the heaters so please bear with her.

The organ is also functioning again, it was only an inadvertently flipped switch at a plug hidden behind the wooden covering in the Vestry.

### **Future plans for early 2022.**

Full Electrical Checks in the church and rectory, last carried out during the vacancy and also the Douglas Hall which has not had a full check in recent years.

Due to recent high winds and resultant broken limbs from trees in the rectory grounds, the work which was quoted for several months ago but deferred, should now be seriously considered for progressing.

Please feel free to call Carole if anyone has questions which they would like answered during the meeting.

### **11. Hall Committee Report:**

Nothing to report

### **12. Lay Rep Report:**

Nothing to report

### **13. PVG Report**

Christine wanted to remind everyone to be vigilant for themselves and others as there are a lot of scams out there. Especially at this time of year. The scams are incredibly convincing and may often know personnel information. They can be in the form of emails, phone calls or people attending at the door. If in any doubt at all don't give details or money.

If you find yourself a victim of a scam, please reach out to us and to the police. You are not alone.

Let's look out for and check in with each other. If you over hear someone talking about something that sound suspicious, check in with them.

Also, people are very vulnerable this time of year with the colder weather and often don't let on that they may be having an issue with heating or similar.

Please remember we are here and willing to help.

### **14. AOB**

Margaret mentioned that her and Jane were hoping to get a Makro card to aid in buying supplies that go along with restrictions for such events as the

Dalmations lunch. It was thought that this was a good idea and suggested to also get a Costco card.

The Hotel had previously mentioned involving the church in their Christmas Eve torch light procession. Christine will check in with them to see if this is still the plan and what form it will take.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is due to be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022. It was agreed that this meeting will not go ahead, but should any matters arise they could be dealt with by a zoom call.

Therefore, the next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday February 7<sup>th</sup> 2022**. At present this will be, again, a face to face meeting which will also allow for people to attend via Zoom.