

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 7th February 2022

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
Gavin Craig
Margaret King (Zoom)
John O'Connor (Zoom)
Caroline Gunn (First Part only)

2. Apologies for Absence:

All person present. Steven Haigh is unable to attend at the moment due to other commitments, but is hoping to attend more following his retirement.

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of December 6th Meeting

There were no errors, omissions or amendments to the minutes from the December 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 has been busy with other commitments.

6. PVG Report

- ⑩ Caroline informed Vestry that she recently attended a PVG Coordinators workshop via zoom run by the SEC. The course consisted of two workshops just over an hour each. There were approximately 73 church representatives attending which was good to see.

- ⑩ Caroline found the courses very intense and a lot of information was shared.
- ⑩ The main aim of the course was about safe guarding the congregation and making sure that St. Mary's is a safe church for everyone.
- ⑩ Due to the volume of information and complexity of some of the issues it was felt by Vestry that further advice should be sought from a contact at the SEC, to aid us in implementing what was learnt and how it would look like for St Mary's Church.

7. Other Matters from Christine

- Vestry were informed of a new online forum that can be now found on the SEC website. It enables vestry members to register and have a platform to ask for advice on anything relating to their specific role.
- A Defibrillator is something that has been mentioned in the past but recently came back to the forefront. Christine is unaware if there is a defibrillator at the hotel / country club, but she feels along with the Vestry that it is something worthwhile to look into as it would be a benefit to the church and surrounding area if one was available. Research will be carried out regarding cost, maintenance and installation initially.
- Lent Program. Christine will commence the Lent program on 8th March. Christine would like to involve as many people as possible and appreciates that many of the congregation are unavailable during the day due to work and other commitments. The possibility was discussed of Christine doing something during the day and also one evening, depending if one day was better than another. It could also be conducted over Zoom so people did not have to venture out of an evening. Christine plans to send an email out to gauge people's opinions on the matter and then take the best course of action.
- A new position of Eco-congregation representative is needing to be filled. The SEC are now starting to push churches into becoming more Eco friendly in a view to all churches eventually being Carbon Neutral in the coming years. Vestry were asked if they had any names that came to mind.

8. Treasurer Report

Gavin had distributed his report which showed that the 31th January 2022 balance in the General Account was £12,089.05 (£26,774.02 previous month) There was £2,705 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £ 9,384.05 in unrestricted funds. (£22,995.02 previous month).

- The balance is currently less than that of November as funds were taking out of the Trust for the heating costs. We are waiting on £4,000 coming back from the grants for the heating along with the VAT refund.
- A wedding couple who were married many years ago at St Mary's and reside in Texas have been sending monthly donations of £212 totalling 5 payments at present. Effort is going to be made to trace them and thank them for their kind contributions.
- It has been noticed that the Mar Thoma's monthly rent payments have recently stopped. We are aware of staff changes within the congregation so believe this to be an oversight. This situation will be monitored and contact made if needed.
- Denis King has offered to remain as secondary payment authoriser on the Trust account even though he is no longer on Vestry. This was put to Vestry and all members were more than happy for this to continue.
- The living wage increased towards the end of last year. Pippa's wage has not as yet been amended. It was put to vestry to see if they agreed with the amendment and all were in favour of the increase.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £3,701.34 (previous month £3,406.94).

9. Community Engagement Team (CET)

- Due to Margaret King convalescing she has not been well enough to progress matters recently. However, a meeting is planned with Christine for Tuesday where current projects will be discussed and plans made.

10. Fabric Report

- ⑩ A lot of works have been carried out since the last report.
- ⑩ Gutters have been cleaned and inspection carried out, report will follow.
- ⑩ New heating is functioning well on the whole but we are still learning and tweaks need to be made.

- ⑩ Alex Stewart from the Diocesan Buildings Committee is due to visit next week to see the new heating and may recommend a retrospective Canon 35 Certificate is issued.
- ⑩ Additional information was requested by the FCC Scottish Action Fund for the grant application for the proposed secondary glazing project. This was provided and we now await the decision which is expected mid-March.
- ⑩ Douglas Hall: Carole is still trying to get the electrical contractor used by the estate, Serv-U Ltd to make arrangements for an inspection of the electrics to be carried out.
- ⑩ A number of issues have arisen and been attended to at the Rectory. The heating which continually malfunctioned has now been resolved.
- ⑩ A blocked and damaged sewage pipe has been replaced.
- ⑩ The front door lock replaced and the previous one failed.
- ⑩ Gutters were also cleaned at the same time as the churches were done.
- ⑩ The priority now is the trees near top the Rectory to remove dangerous limbs and reduce the canopies. This is due to the safety implications should a large limb fall onto the house or person. The plan moving forward is to initially get a quote for the works, once this is achieved it will be discussed by Vestry to see if it is feasible.

11. Hall Committee Report:

Nothing to report

12. Lay Rep Report:

The synod is being held on 12 March 2022.

14. AOB

- ⑩ Wilma is going to Ireland at the end of March and plans to visit St Mary's sister church whilst there on the 20th March. The plan is that Wilma will take a gift for them.
- ⑩ Christine has had holidays confirmed for this year. Christine and Ben will be away for 3 weeks from 31st July - 21st August.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 7th March 2022**. At present this will be, again, a face to face meeting which will also allow for people to attend via Zoom.