

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 7th March 2022

1. Attendees:

Rev. Christine Downey
Lord Morton
Wilma Brown
Pippa Crichton
Ann Donoghue
Gavin Craig
Margaret King
John O'Connor
Steven Haigh

2. Apologies for Absence:

None, all members present.

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 February meeting.

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

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Update regarding trees at Rectory – Please see Fabric Report section
- Eco rep position. Steven was asked and stated that he would be happy to take on the task, as long as should it be required, there was help available.
- The possibility of a defibrillator was discussed again. The nearest Defibrillator to St Mary's is at Hatton Sports Club, it is unknown at this time whether there is one located at The Dalmahoy Leisure Club. Defibrillators are a great expense to buy and maintain and it is felt that at this moment in time it does not make financial or practical sense. However, a name was provided for someone that was involved with getting one installed in a public area, so he will be asked for some advice on the matter, to see if there may be funding available.

6. PVG Report

- Christine has arranged for PVG training with Donald Urquhart for Wednesday 23rd March although she is still awaiting confirmation from him.
- The training will cover Pastoral Care, Visiting and Protocols. Anyone is welcome to come along to learn and to ask any questions they may have.
- Anybody who is interested in doing Pastoral Care (including phone calls) needs training and a PVG completed. The PVG now has to be renewed every 3 years.
- It is also planned that with the help of Donald a Pastoral Care handbook will also be created and made available for vestry and anyone interested.

7. Other Matters from Christine

- Ash Wednesday Services: A few people attended the morning service and only about 4 or 5 attended the 7pm service. Christine feels that even although the attendance was low for the evening service, she still feels it is important to go ahead with it to give those who work during the day a chance to attend if they wish. There was an issue with live streaming on this occasion, but in the future all services will be live streamed.
- This Sunday's Service is a Teaching Eucharist. This means that we will be re learning what we do and why we do them. Christine feels this is a great time to be doing it and is very much looking forward to it.
- Holy Week: All information for the services can be found on the back of the Bulletin so please have a look and take note of them. Christine will be absent for one of the services as she has to go and collect the special oil for Baptisms.
- Bible study started Tuesday 8th March at the rectory. Christine is trialling a course that she is thinking of running within the community, so will be looking for some honest feedback. If people are interested but cannot attend in person then Zoom can be utilised.
- Gavin asked if Christine had looked into a Paypal button being added to St Mary's YouTube for donations. Sadly Christine found that this was not a possible option.
- St Mary's does have a card reader in the office that is not being used. Christine would like to see this being used more, especially during larger services as it is realised that a lot of people just do not carry cash any more.

8. Treasurer Report

Gavin had distributed his report which showed that the 28th February 2022 balance in the General Account was £14,277.75 (£12,089.05 previous month) There was £3,705 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £ 10,572.75 in unrestricted funds. (£9,384.05 previous month).

- There is not much change in the accounts this month. The Trust Account has gone down but that was expected.
- Effort has been made and a couple of emails sent to the couple in Texas who have been regularly donating money to St Mary's to thank them for their kind contributions. No reply has been received but we have had a further donation.
- Mar Thoma's monthly rent payments have still not been made so it was felt by Vestry that a gentle reminder should be given.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £32.34 (previous month £3,701.34).

9. Community Engagement Team (CET)

- A meeting was held following the last Vestry. All the questionnaires are now in, the information has been collated and analysed. It was found that people felt there were two main areas that need work:
 1. Attracting new members / young members to St Mary's and
 2. Pastoral Care
- Discussions and brainstorming sessions have been had on how to attract new young people to St Mary's, the main thing missing seems to be some sort of playgroup, with the aim then that people will then come to the church. This is continuing to be looked into.
- Pastoral Care has recently changed a lot. Covid obviously had a massive impact. But on the positive side, this has allowed us to look at it afresh and plans are already in motion to re start Pastoral Care and hopefully have it work better than it did before.
- A first draft of the Friends of St Mary's pamphlet has been seen. Other than a few minor amendments it is looking good. A second draft will hopefully be seen soon.

10. Fabric Report

- Carole as always provided a very extensive report of works carried out and works still needing to be completed. I will highlight the main points

but should anyone wish to see the full report please contact the office and Pippa can email it to you.

- Rectory: The trees nearest the rectory have now been dealt with. The sewage line and septic tank have been reinstated. Serv-U electricians have assessed the rectory, work needed along with a quote is awaited.
- Douglas Hall: Serv-U will be carrying out an electrical inspection and will provide costs for any work needed.
- Church: A retrospective Canon 35 certificate has been issued for the heating installation. The £2,000 grant from the Baird Trust for the heating installations has now been received and a thank you letter will be sent.
- The SCT grant of £2,000 is still being processed but due very soon.
- We have had an offer from FCC Scottish Action Fund of £33248.63 towards the secondary glazing which is very welcome.
- For a number of recent services both heating systems (old and new) had to be used together. Carole will be tracking the heating use along with costs over the next few months. With the secondary glazing grant having been approved, once that is fitted that should make a considerable difference. Should it be needed in the future the option to lower the heaters is still there.
- There are many external maintenance / replacement issues which were raised in the Quinquennial report of 2021. This will all cost several thousands of pounds. All efforts will be made to secure as many grant contributions as possible but the church will inevitably have to bear some of the costs.
- Water damage is one of the main issues, due to rainwater goods, gutters and down pipes not functioning properly. This is not only leading to dampness of the external stonework but also the internal stonework.

11. Hall Committee Report:

- A discussion was had regarding the cleaning of the hall. At the present time Carole has been doing this in an effort to keep costs down. However, Carole is exceptionally busy with everything else that she does and she cannot continue on with this task forever. It is felt that getting cleaners in once again should be looked at in consultation with Carole.

12. Lay Rep Report:

- The synod is being held on 12 March 2022. Christine and Ann will be attending.

14. AOB

- A second letter from the police was received, from the Assistant Chief Constable, thanking St Mary's once again for the hospitality and support provide to officers during COP26.
- Two benches are ready and will be brought down to St Mary's. One will be moveable and one solid. A plaque will also be organised for one of the benches.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 4th April 2022**. At present this will be, again, a face to face meeting which will also allow for people to attend via Zoom.