

**St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**1. Attendees:**

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

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

Lord Morton  
Wilma Brown

**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**

- Defibrillator update. Christine recently discovered some new information from the Diocese. The Diocese of Edinburgh sponsored the St Johns Ambulance to enable them to place defibrillators in local communities. As a result, Scottish Episcopal churches can approach them to see if they qualify to have a defibrillator installed and maintained at no cost to the church. Christine will provide the necessary contacts to Pippa who will now pursue this.
- At the last meeting Steven agreed to take on the role of Eco rep for the church. Steven has now had more information on what the role entails. What they are asking for is a massive undertaking for a church and congregation the size of St Mary's. The Diocese require a vast quantity of information in order to determine St Mary's carbon footprint and then see what can be done to reduce it.

It has been agreed by vestry that what the Diocese is requiring is unrealistic for St Mary's to undertake. What Steven will do is focus on the measures that are already being taken and what we can do to improve them. We will also highlight more what we are doing at St Mary's, such as an environmental section in In Touch and the Order of Service, so people are more environmentally aware.

- Gavin contacted Mar Thoma to check on payments that were overdue, the Mar Thoma were apologetic at this oversight and have now paid all that was due.

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

- The Mar Thoma Congregation recently contacted St Mary's wishing to discuss the possibility of increasing their usage of the hall from May. They wished to increase from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday a month to the following:

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday:	Hall	2:30-18:00hrs
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday:	Hall and Church	2:30-18:00hrs
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday:	Hall	2:30-18:00hrs
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday:	Hall and Church	2:30-18:00hrs

The Vestry would very much like to continue the good relationship that they have with Mar Thoma, but equally there were obvious concerns with the increase use of the hall and what impact that would have on the hall availability for other uses such as Faith lunches, Fetes etc. The potential impact on weddings was also discussed as weddings are the major source of income for St Mary's.

Vestry agreed that we would agree to the increased usage but upon agreement of certain stipulations, these are;

- Flexibility: If we need the hall for a function of any kind we would have priority. They would be given plenty of notice of dates.
- Fees: The fee would have to be increased and would have to reflect the cost of the hall hire, church hire and the rising utility costs. We do also appreciate they are a charity so a 10% subsidy would be given.
- A review of fees and how its working after 6 months.
- Easing of restrictions: We are all aware that restrictions are easing. The two main areas that Christine felt needed to be discussed were the potential of reintroducing the common cup and masks.

At the current time Christine does not feel comfortable with reintroducing the common cup. All vestry members were in agreement and felt that the risks were still too high.

The potential of masks not having to be worn was discussed. The main viewpoint from the vestry members was that they wished people to feel safe when coming to church and if continuing to wear masks achieved that, then they would be happy to do so. However, equally how do we ever take steps to move forward.

It was agreed that masks will no longer be compulsory but if anybody feels more comfortable still wearing them then please do. We don't want anyone not coming because of it.

If you do have any concerns please let us know.

## **7. Treasurer Report**

Gavin had distributed his report which showed that the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 balance in the General Account was £ 13,904.27 (£14,277.75 previous month) There was £3,700 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £ 10,204.27 in unrestricted funds. (£10,572.75 previous month).

- There is not much change in the accounts this month.
- We have received £2,000 from Scottish Churches Trust for the heating.
- Listed places of worship VAT refund scheme paid us £2,760.10.
- We paid £3,574.23 deposit to FCC Recycling for the secondary glazing.
- We paid £750 for the tree work carried out at the Rectory.
- From the trust account £960 was paid to the architect due from a while ago.
- A double donation was also received from the couple in Texas last month of £440.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £163.34 (previous month £32.34).

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

A copy of the Friends of St Mary's pamphlet was brought to the meeting so that vestry could have a first look at it. The pamphlet looks great and blends very well with the design of the website. Other than a couple minor tweaks it is ready to be printed. Once printed the plan is to send it out to past wedding couples and baptisms that took place over the last couple of years.

## **9. Fabric Report**

- To enable any maintenance and repair work to be carried out on the church, architect (CAD) drawings are required. These are essentially blueprints of the issues surrounding the church. Only once we have these drawings we can make applications for funding and the work undertaken.

Carole contacted an architect and they have agreed to do these for us and provided a cost of £4,800 + VAT.

Vestry all agreed that although this was a lot of money, it was an essential and unavoidable first step.

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

- Nothing of note.

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

- Nothing of note.

## **13. PVG Report**

- Nothing of note.

## **14. AOB**

- The dishwasher is currently not working properly and it appears not to be heating up. Pippa has been tasked with contacting a repair person to have a look at it.

## **Date of Next Meeting:**

The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**. At present this will be, again, a face to face meeting which will also allow for people to attend via Zoom.