

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 6th June 2022

1. Attendees:

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

2. Apologies for Absence:

All persons 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 MAY meeting.

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

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Cleaner for hall: Margaret and Ann have both been in touch with various contacts and so far they have not had much luck in sourcing a cleaner for the hall. The issues being that 2 hours a week is a very small contract and that they are already fully booked. They have a couple more names they are going to contact.
- Eco rep update: Gavin has been able to source all the relevant documentation needed to provide the Diocese with the information they require to determine our carbon footprint. Steven and Carole have been looking at other areas using the tool kit provided to see if there are any areas we can improve on. A couple of areas they identified where reducing paper waste and improving separation of waste from the hall.

As a result the office will reduce the amount of Service booklets printed and if members of the congregation wish to use their tablets, mobile phones or other device to view the service on they can.

A suggestion of having two bins available in the hall, one for general waste and one for recyclable waste was put forward, to make it easier for people using the hall to separate their waste.

- Notice board for Mar Thoma: All agree that it is important for Mar Thoma to have an area in the hall for themselves. John has kindly offered to make them a notice board, Christine will provide him with the required measurements.

6. Other Matters from Vestry

- Periodic Inspection of The Rectory Cottage: An inspection was carried out of Rectory Cottage. It found that the cottage was in a bad state of disrepair after a prolonged period of neglect. It would need substantial work done once the current tenant vacates for it to meet a rentable standard. The current tenant is due to leave in August, Christine will ask if access could be allowed early so that quotes can be obtained and work can start as soon as possible.

The positive is that once the cottage is back in good order it will generate more income than it does at the moment.

- Helping the community of Kirknewton: Christine had a meeting with Debbie at the Green Room. The community currently has a grant to help them with their fuel costs however this runs out in September. St Mary's would then like to help support the community with the rising costs. Debbie will keep in contact with Christine and get in touch nearer the time.
- Christine's costs of NHS supplements, visa etc: Christine is currently trying to establish how much it will cost for the NHS supplement that is due. Christine was able to establish that there has been a dramatic increase in the supplement cost from £1000-£3000, it is unclear at the moment whether this is still for a five year period or not. The Visa price has remained the same at £1400.
UPDATE: We have some excellent news to share. During her research Christine found that she is able to apply for British Citizenship and has started the process
- Parking Issues: Pippa spoke with Mary at the estate office to try and establish what parking if any is allocated to the people residing in the 3 adjoining cottages in their rent agreements, as St Mary's feel that they

take up a lot of the car park and it can cause some unnecessary issues. Mary informed Pippa that there is nothing in writing but feels its best that they should have parking available should they require it for themselves or visitors. The outcome was that Mary felt the best solution was what is happening at the moment.

The burden for parking will need to be put onto the hirers of the hall, especially of large groups to ensure people park considerately and make best use of the space.

- CHAS presentation: A letter was received from CHAS offering to come and do a presentation at St Mary's. Denis informed Christine that they did a presentation at Dalmations in 2017 and it was very informative and emotive. Vestry felt that it would be a good idea to have them attend again and that Dalmations would be the perfect set up to accommodate them.
- BBQ at the rectory: Sat 26th June is the BBQ at the rectory. All family and friends are invited. Ted has made a great poster that will be put up shortly and used to advertise on Facebook, to Ratho and Kirknewton. A list will also be going up with suggestions of what to bring along. There is no real set time for the gathering, people are welcome any time after the service but food will not be served before 1pm.
- St Scruffs: The dog show will be held on Saturday 16th July from 2pm. Posters are up and more details will be sent out.
- Welcome to St Mary's leaflet distribution: Ann and a team of 7, including 4 members from the Church of Scotland are getting together to help each other out, by distributing theirs and our leaflets to the houses within the Calderwood development in East Calder. They plan to be out for about 2 and half hours during the evening of Monday 20th June.

7. Treasurer Report

Gavin distributed his report which showed that the 31st May 2022 balance in the General Account was £18,355.52 (£ 13,513.85 previous month)

There was £3,730 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £14,625.52 in unrestricted funds. (same as previous month).

- There is not much change in the accounts this month.
- We received payment of £3,830 from HRMC for Gift Aid Claim.
- We only received £5 from Amazon Smile donation. This method of donation needs to be explained to the congregation and help offered to set it up should it be needed.

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £685.14 (previous month £163.34).

8. Community Engagement Team (CET)

- The Friends of St Mary's pamphlet is finished and at the printers. 500 copies are being printed and this should be being distributed from July 2022.
- The Knitting Bees are going very well. It has been decided to extend this for a further 4 weeks from Thursday 16th June.
- The toddlers group is still being progressed, Ann had a great idea of including Bookbug and related activities that children really enjoy. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Further to the letter that Margaret sent out to the congregation, regarding integrating more with the Mar Thoma congregation, the feedback was very positive, so we are now looking at how we can implement this. It was felt that once they have a permanent priest Christine will reach out to them and have a discussion to see how best to move forward. In the meantime Pippa will email their secretary and invite them to the BBQ.
- The CET have a meeting scheduled for Monday.

9. Fabric Report

- The secondary glazing of the church is well underway. The frames are already in place around the small windows leaving just the big windows to do.
- The lawn mower went in for its very overdue check up. It did need extensive work as it hadn't been able to be regularly maintained. It is now in good working order.

11. Hall Committee Report:

- Nothing of note.

12. Lay Rep Report:

- Nothing of note.

14. AOB

Date of Next Meeting: The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 4th July 2022.**