

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 5th December 2022

1. Attendees:

Rev. Christine Downey
Pippa Crichton
Wilma Brown
Margaret King
John O'Connor
Ann Donoghue
Steven Haigh
Anne Clapham
Denis King

2. Apologies for Absence:

Lord Morton

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of November 14th Meeting

There was no errors or omissions noted from the minutes.

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

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Cleaner for hall: Despite all efforts being made there has been no progress in finding a cleaner for the hall. Margaret suggested contacting a company that does "One off cleaning" to see if we could get them in on an ad hoc basis. Vestry felt that this was worth pursuing so Margaret will progress.
- Food bank donations: A list has been made up of what food item St Salvador's put into their donation bags. This will be placed on the pews from Sunday. People are welcome to take a list away with them, it helps to give people ideas of what food items they are in most need of.
- Mar Thoma notice board: The notice board has now been put up in the hall and an email sent to Mar Thoma to make them aware.
- Pilgrimage to Rosslynn Chapel: Steve has emailed Rosslynn Chapel with a brief outline of what he is proposing for next year. This will be a 13 mile

walk from Carlops to Rosslynn Chapel, this has been called "From Source to Sacred" on the Chapel's website. There is a 3:30pm 90 minute tour that Steve feels most people will like to take part in followed by a 5:15pm service. Logistics will all need to be planned in the New Year. Once Steve hears back from Rosslynn Chapel he will update and advertise the pilgrimage to the congregation along with an article for the next In Touch magazine.

- Steve wished to clarify a few points from previous meetings. 1. A service of healing was previously mentioned was this still going ahead? Christine advised that there was the Blue Christmas Service on 21st December 2. Did we contact Mar Thoma regarding attending AGM or attending an Advent Service. Pippa informed him that an email was sent to them inviting them to the AGM but no reply was received. At the moment Mar Thoma generally make contact regarding amendments to their schedules. St Mary's have reached out a few times now but at the moment the relationship has not developed, this is not to say that it won't in the future. 3. Was a reason for the Organist Fund debt found? Christine informed Vestry that there in fact was no issue and the discrepancy was due to a clerical error.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- Treasurer: Christine, Gavin and Denis had a very successful meeting earlier today with an accountant Gordon Mavor. Gordon ran his own accountancy business for over 20 years, he has now taken a step back and his son has taken on the business. This is allowing Gordon to take on some work at a reduced cost. He could provide St Mary's with everything that they need for 2 hours a week work at £11 per hour. This would equate to approx £1200 + VAT per year. Christine suggested that Vestry take till the next meeting to think on it and ask any questions that they may have. The decision will thereafter be made at the next Vestry meeting in the New Year.
- Vestry Away Day: Christine proposed that the Vestry Away Day would be mid-February next year. The focus of this would be Charitable Giving. The Sat 18th February was thereafter agreed. The venue has yet to be decided.

7. Treasurer Report

Gavin distributed his report which showed that the 30th October 2022 balance in the General Account was £55,374.11 (£ 48, 872.49) previous month)

There was £48,633 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £6,741.11 in unrestricted funds.(£12,903.49 previous month).

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £1,437.14 (previous month £1,188.14).

- The final payment of £12,370 was received from Blackie's estate.
- Mar Thoma has rent outstanding – Pippa to check on this.
- Payment made to Papa New Guinea for clinic building program.
- £309 paid for tuning of Organ
- £65 paid to Poppyscotland from Remembrance Sunday.
- £372.89 donated to Mission to Seafarers.

8. Community Engagement Team (CET)

- Noting much to report. There is no meeting this month. A meeting is planned for the first Tuesday in January to discuss the program for 2023.

9. Fabric Report

- Not much to report this month.
- The main door lock is currently broken but is being attended to on Tuesday 6th so will hopefully be mended or replaced by the time that the Captivate theatre group need to use it on Saturday.
- The sound system, microphones and loop system in the church were tested last Saturday, 3rd December, and a certificate for the loop system will be forwarded along with the invoice in due course.
- Steve has worked very hard to clear the graveyard, the planted areas and the steps down under the church of as many leaves as possible. The accumulation of leaves in the car park is something which bothers me but the task of clearing them seems too daunting.
- I am still waiting for invoices from Done and Dusted for the work that they have already completed, mainly electrical testing.
- Now that the secondary glazing has been in place for almost two months, I hope that you have all felt that it has lessened the cold draughts from the windows.
- The heating was discussed by some vestry members stating that they felt the church was still very cold and perhaps the heating isn't being used to its full potential.
- Anne Clapham mentioned that she has trouble opening the side door of the church and asked if anything can be done to improve this. Christine said that she would approach Robert the joiner and see if he can have a

look at it to see if can do anything to improve it.

11. Hall Committee Report:

- Nothing of note.

12. Lay Rep Report:

- Nothing to report.

13. PVG Report:

- Christine wanted to take the opportunity just to remind everyone, to be aware of who is vulnerable, check in with people and be mindful of what information you pass onto others.

14. AOB

- Solar Panels: Vestry were asked again to reinvestigate the possibility of Solar panels. Christine had a chat with Carole regarding this. At this point in time it is felt that the number of hours that it would take to fully investigate the possibility is just not feasible. Carole has not got the capacity to take on another large project at this moment in time.
- It was however stated that the church would not be a possibility for Solar panels due to aesthetic reasons and the majority of our income being generated by weddings we could not jeopardise that. The hall or the rectory roofs would however be a possibility to look at in the future. The priority at the moment is the maintenance of the church to get that air tight and try and resolve the damp issues.
- Friends of St Mary's Leaflets: The Christmas cards to be sent along with the leaflets to past wedding couples have been printed. The first batch have all be signed and sent and the second batch will be going soon.
- Common Cup: The issue of sharing the common cup has been raised again. Christine suggested having 2 -a small one for those who would "dip" and a larger one for those who feel comfortable using the common cup. Many churches in the diocese are now moving back to common cup and it is known that many truly miss what they feel is a more fulsome communion. Vestry was asked their opinion and to let Christine know there thoughts.

Date of Next Meeting: The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 9th January 2023.**

Due the darker evenings the meetings will take place via Zoom or at the Rectory until Spring.