

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 9th January 2023

This meeting was a hybrid of zoom and in person from the rectory.

1. Attendees:

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

2. Apologies for Absence:

None

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of 5th December 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:** This is being progressed by Margaret and she will update vestry as and when she has any updates.
- **Solar Panels:** Steve informed Vestry that himself and Carole attended a good introductory webinar regarding solar panels. They felt that it did not change their feelings on solar panels not being suitable for the church roof however, they should be considered for the hall roof. The Douglas Trust would need to be approached regarding this as a possibility. Steve offered to put together a brief proposal in principle that Christine will forward onto the Douglas Trust for them to discuss.
- **Common Cup:** Following a discussion with vestry and a poll done by Christine at Sundays service with the congregation members present. It

was decided that there would be a two cup system. A Dipping cup and a sipping cup. Christine wanted to ensure that people felt no pressure what so ever to take the wine if they do not feel comfortable in doing so. Taking the wafer alone is enough. The two cup system will hopefully be introduced around the 19th February, this gives Christine chance to have servers / chalice bearers comfortable with the process and their roles. Denis raised the question of what would happen to the wine. Christine explained that it would be emptied out on the ground outside. Steve suggested that the liturgical assistant could be the chalice bearer, Christine felt that was a good suggestion and will consider that going forward.

- **Vestry away day:** The vestry away day is scheduled for Sat 18th February, where the main topic of discussion will be Charitable giving with a proposal being put together. Christine and Pippa are looking into possible venues and will have the location confirmed for the next meeting.
- **Pilgrimage to Rosslynn Chapel:** Steve is continuing with planning this event. He has put together an article that will be included in the next In Touch issue.
- **Treasurer Decision:** Following the last meeting vestry were asked to consider the proposal of an accountant Gordon Mavor taking on the role of our accountant for a fee of £11/hr for approximately 2 hours a week. It was felt by all of vestry that this was a good decision and to go ahead. It was felt that someone was needed to liaise with Gordon, and therefore still hold a treasurer like role within St Mary's, dealing with day to day income, expenditure etc. Denis offered to take on this role up until the AGM in November when everything will be reassessed.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- **Immigration application:** Ben informed vestry that Christine's ancestral visa that she came over with 5 years ago had expired.

Christine is in the process of applying for Britain Citizenship. This was found to be considerably cheaper than applying for another ancestral visa. All the paperwork is now completed and they have an appointment this week with an immigration lawyer to check the paperwork is in order. Once this has been completed they will submit the paperwork themselves. Christine will update vestry with any progress.

7. Treasurer Report

Denis distributed his report which showed that the 30th December 2022 balance in the General Account was £53,872.54 (£55,374.11 previous month) There was £48,737.11 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £5,135.43 in unrestricted funds.(£6,741.11 previous month).

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £1,327.14 (previous month £1,437.14).

- Mar Thoma rent for July – Sept was received. October to December is outstanding.
- Christmas Plate collection was £45 plus Gift aid. Total of £48.75 sent in January to Kirknewton Development Trust.
- Church Christmas Card collection was £80 plus Gift aid. Total of £100 to be sent in January to Aberlour.

The question was asked regarding the Legacy fund, what was it restricted for and what was the plan for it?

It was explained by Christine and Denis that often legacy funds were primarily used for the update of the Church. Sometimes people leave specific wishes as to what they would like done with the money. This time however no such specifications were left, meaning it can be used as and when it needs to be. It is only restricted as it is not to be used for general spending such as bills etc. It was suggested by Lord Morton that perhaps it would be better placed in an interest bearing account, rather than sitting in the current account. This was felt to be a good idea and will be looked into and advise sought as to the best location for it.

8. Community Engagement Team (CET)

- Anne Clapham who is new to vestry asked for further information as to what the CET is. Margaret explained that the idea came about due to the reducing congregation numbers which occurred during the pandemic. The team was established to look at ways to engage with and bring the community to St Mary's. As St Mary's is a rural church and has no parish it struggles to attract new members. CET have regular meetings to brainstorm ideas and then Margaret presents those ideas to vestry for approval.
- Noting much to report due to the festive season. There is a meeting planned for Monday 16th January. There a number of new ideas to be discussed in detail at the meeting, regarding a leaflet drop involving Konnect magazine and the possibility of also advertising in Konnect

magazine and What's On. Vestry agreed to a 1,000 leaflet drop and quarterly advertising in What's On in principle, but it will be fully discussed at the next meeting when details and costs fully known.

9. Fabric Report

- Not much to report this month.
- The gutters have been cleaned at the rectory and the church and all the leaves removed.
- Some pot holes have been filled in in the car park, it is unclear just now who did this but it is believed to be one of the cottage residents.

11. Lay Rep Report:

- Nothing to report.

12. PVG Report:

- Christine wanted to express her thanks to Caroline for all of her PVG work and recently getting everything up to date.

13. AOB

- Ann Donoghue and Steve Haigh mentioned that they both had approached Carole to offer to help out with the dropping off of the food donations to St. Salvador's. Carole is planning to do a drop off in January so will take them along to show them how it works.
- Agenda / Attachments for Vestry meeting: It was raised that some people may find getting all the documents for the vestry meeting on the same day may not give them enough time to read through them prior to the meeting. It was thereafter agreed that Pippa would send out the agenda, previous meetings minutes and any other attachments (if available) on the Wednesday before and then the final agenda on the Monday, day of the meeting.
- Christine wished to thank everyone for their participation in worship over the festive season. Those who came to the hanging of the greens which was great fun and those that attended the services.
- Christine and Ben have been getting emails regarding the Rectory cottage. At the moment it is unclear what the situation is with the cottage, whether the tenant has fully left or not. Ben checks on the property as no one else appears to be keeping an eye on it. Plans are to get the property up to standard to rent out once access is granted.

Date of Next Meeting: The next vestry meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Monday 6th February 2023.

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