

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 27th March 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
Steven Haigh
Anne Clapham
Denis King
Margaret King
John O'Connor
Carole MacBride

2. Apologies for Absence:

None.

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of 6th March 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

- Treasurer update: This is still ongoing. Gavin is currently progressing this with the new accountant Gordon, finishing last year accounts. Otherwise, they are up to date.
- **Cleaner for hall:** Margaret informed the cleaner that the £140 for the deep clean has been agreed and this has been scheduled for the first week in April. Margaret suggested a Tues or a Thurs would be best as there is less going on in the hall those days. If the cleaners prove to be good, they could be used again as and when needed.
- **Flower rota:** Money has already been received towards flowers. Ideas of how to record donated money are still being discussed. A sign-up sheet for each Sunday has been suggested, where people can also note down

if they wish the flowers to be in memory of someone and this can then be included in the service. This needs to be in place prior to Easter as it is a popular time that people wish to donate towards flowers.

- **Rectory Cottage:** See below for update.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- **Meeting of St Mary's Trustees:** Christine had a zoom meeting with the Dean and the Bishop to discuss the proposed plans for the Rectory Cottage. The meeting was very positive and the Bishop gave his full support in the redevelopment of the cottage. The Bishop was given an idea of the figures we could be looking at and he was also impressed to hear that we had already started the process of getting the drawings done.
- **Rectory Cottage:** Christine took the vestry members on a tour of the cottage, in person and by zoom, to show them the current condition of the cottage and what the proposed plans were.
All vestry members were very surprised at the size of the cottage, it has many very good-sized rooms, apart from the kitchen which is very small. They could see the scale of work that needs to be done but also the possibilities available.
The cottage is a C-listed building which means that will not cause any issues with redevelopment. It will need a full re-wire, new heating system, walls taken down to reconfigure rooms, possibly make an additional bedroom and the kitchen into a more functional kitchen diner. Steve pointed out that an additional toilet would be preferable and a couple of locations could be seen where this could be possible, that will be investigated.
The aim is also to make the cottage as eco-friendly as possible and to use sustainable materials where budget allows.
Ongoing updates will be provided.

7. Treasurer Report

Denis distributed his report which showed that the 28th March 2023 balance in the General Account was £59,020.75 (£61,328.46 previous month)
There was £48,884.36 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £10,136.39 in unrestricted funds. (£12,608.10 previous month).

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £843.54 (previous month £903.54).

Not much change since last meeting.

£105 paid to H Lawrie for Pest Control.

Annual Income to date: £50,617 (Includes £12,454 from Blackie's Estate)

Annual Expenditure to date: £39,898

8. Community Engagement Team (CET)

- Nothing much has changed since the last meeting 3 weeks ago; projects are all still progressing. Easter Sunday's Easter Egg Hunt is still being organised, a poster will be organised and put up in the coming week.
- Railway Exhibition: Carole and Margaret busy planning for this. They now have enough volunteers for people to do a 2-hour shift during the 2 days.
- Ella suggested the possibility of doing concerts on the last Friday of the month during the better weather. Margaret feels that right now she does not have the time or the resources to progress this idea. It was suggested to perhaps aim for one concert rather than multiple due to the volume of work involved. This could be looked at for next summer.

9. Fabric Report

- Not much to report this month.
- The main thing to mention is that Carole has a meeting with someone from a specialist glazing company on Thurs 30th March, when they will be assessing the West Window. They will then provide a report on the window and what needs to be done. The cost of the consultation and report is £300.

11. Lay Rep Report:

- Steve Haigh has agreed to become our Lay Rep, Christine and everyone is very grateful to him for offering to do this.

12. Eco – Rep Report:

- The Net-Zero Action plan consultation survey has been completed and submitted on behalf of St. Mary's.
Nothing needs to be actioned at this time as the draft plan has to be agreed at the General synod. Steve imagines that it will be agreed or will look very similar to what he circulated. Steve also mentioned there is an

updated tool kit coming out soon, so lots coming our way. Steve will keep us updated.

13. AOB

- **Amazon Account:** Pippa and Christine wanted to ask Denis regarding the possibility of setting up an Amazon account for St Mary's as often things needed for the office, church and hall can be ordered from Amazon at a better price. Denis wasn't sure if it was possible as we do not have a bank card for St Mary's, but will look into it.
- **Memorial to Blackie:** Wilma felt that as the money Blackie left to St Mary's would be enabling us to do the works needed on the Rectory Cottage, we should do something to commemorate that. It was suggested perhaps renaming the cottage to something that represents Blackie. Vestry all felt that this was a fantastic idea and something that should be done. Christine stated that it would also be less confusing for people and delivery drivers.
- **Coffee Mornings:** Margaret asked if when we have coffee mornings in the church, could the pews be also opened up on the other side to give more space.

It was also noted that a few members have mentioned that they prefer having coffee within the church that they find it more sociable.

It was suggested that a coffee corner could be created but also the Fair-trade stall would need to be considered.

- **Movie Meeting:** St Mary's has been approached by a US production company asking if they could come and have a look at the church with a view to potentially filming there in the Spring of 2024. The meeting has been arranged for 9am on Easter Saturday.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 1st May 2023.**

This will be in person in the hall for those that can, zoom will also be available.