

## St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

### Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

#### **1. Attendees:**

Rev. Christine Downey  
Lord Morton  
Pippa Crichton  
Denis King  
Margaret King  
John O'Connor  
Carole MacBride  
Anne Clapham  
Steve Haigh (via zoom)

#### **2. Apologies for Absence:**

Wilma Brown

#### **3. Opening Prayer and Welcome**

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

#### **4. Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> 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**

- **Sunday Plate Sign off:** Denis has got a sign sheet prepared ready; he is just now looking for volunteers to count and confirm the amount collected on the plate each Sunday. A suggestion was made that the stewards could take on this role. Vestry agreed that this would be a good idea and the stewards will be informed of this.
- **Assistance with hall / committee:** Margaret feels that the current CET are at full capacity, they already have a full program planned for this year and next year. Margaret has people that would be willing to help out with the hall, especially as the hall gets busier. It's felt that all the responsibility should not fall onto one person's shoulders. Christine also suggested that perhaps for certain tasks, she could reach out to those people that maybe don't attend church regularly but want to remain connected to St Mary's and this would perhaps help with that.

- **Car pool rota:** If volunteers are collecting people with mobility issues and they need assistance in getting them in the car. Please see if help can be provided by a member of staff. Staff at Crusader Court in Dedridge are more than happy to be contacted (number can be provided by Margaret King) and someone will come out and provide assistance. The question was also asked if those providing lifts to others should have an up-to-date PVG? The answer was yes, if anyone is in need of one or further information then they should contact Caroline Gunn.
- **Amazon Business Account:** An amazon business account has now been set up. No orders have yet been placed to check the invoicing process but this will no doubt be completed soon.
- **Moving children's area to front of church:** Each member of Vestry was asked for their opinion on moving the children's area. The majority of members were very much in favour of trialling it. They felt that children should be more involved and welcomed into the church. The concerns raised were the possibility of more disruption and would it make it more difficult for those with mobility issues to get to the front? It was decided that we will trial it, but we will have to be flexible and consider the children's ages, also crayons etc. will need to be provided to give them something to keep them occupied. Christine is also keen to involve them in the service where possible, such as turning the page.
- **Store-front Church Idea:** This was brought forward at the previous meeting due to the lack of facilities in the large new housing development at Calderwood, East Calder. It was felt that there was an opportunity for St. Mary's to have a space there where the community can go. The main issue is resources we do not have the numbers to staff something like this. Christine thought that this sounded like an excellent prospect. It was suggested that it be put to the Diocese as they have more staff and therefore could help out. Christine will present the idea to them.

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

- **Parking issues with cottage residents:** Unfortunately, a solution to this is unknown. The sad part is that any conflict reflects badly on St. Mary's. During St. Mary's events the parking is monitored and organised very efficiently. Other hall users are being asked for larger events to have someone out organising parking to try and stop these issues occurring.
- **Diocese Synod Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October:** Christine and Steve Haigh will be in attendance.

- **Vestry Role Courses:** These will begin in September. Any member of Vestry that would like a refresher on their role and feels like learning potentially new things, are encouraged to attend.
- **Charitable Giving:** Over the past few weeks the congregation have been asked to nominate a charity they would like to be considered to receive a donation from St Mary's out of the yearly charitable giving. The charities to receive a donation and amount to be donated are as follows:
  - A Child in the Rough: £450
  - Bishops Lent Appeal: £450
  - Aquabox: £450
  - My Name's Doddie Foundation: £450
  - Kirknewton Green Room: £200
  - Mary's Meals: £200
 This leaves £500 should an emergency appeal arise in the remaining of the year.
 

A suggestion was made for next year that Vestry will put forward names of potential charities to donate to, these will be handed out to the congregation who will then be asked to vote on which charity they would like the donation made to.

## **7. Treasurer Report**

Denis distributed his report which showed that the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 balance in the General Account was £59,679.75 (£57, 515.64 previous month) There was £48,844.36 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving £10,835.39 in unrestricted funds. (£8,671.28 previous month).

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £618.54 (previous month £678.54).

**St. Mary's Annual Income to date: £68,539**

**St Mary's Annual Expenditure to date: £56,929.** (This includes £12,454 received at the beginning of the year from Blackie's estate).

- £515 was received from proceeds from the Model railway exhibition
- £1,500 was received as our quarterly grant from the Douglas Trust.
- £3,363 received from HMRC as gift aid reclaim.
- £100 donation received from a baptism.
- £318 paid to Henry Willis for Organ Tuning
- £551 paid to Caledonian Horticulture for materials for the Rectory Garden

- £1,344 paid to Heartwood Tree Care Ltd for tree cutting / pruning around church grounds. (A donation of £1.100 was received towards this).

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

- Nothing significant to report. Progressing plans for upcoming events.

### **9. Fabric Report**

- **Church:** The guttering on the south side of the church has been fixed by Eddie Jones, (a builder from Ratho) free of charge.
- **The lights:** The lights have now been fixed
- **The west window:** secondary glazing will be coming to remove thoroughly clean and reinstated the window, which will hopefully solve the issue.
- **Douglas Hall:** Carole has had no luck in sourcing someone to come and clean the hall floor yet. The extension area has had a thorough sort through and items either relocated or gone to the dump.
- **The Rectory Cottage (aka Blackie's Cottage or Kiwi Cottage):** The second drawings have not yet been received; Carole has tried to contact them to see when these should be complete. One company is very keen on the work as has already been in touch asking if we have heard anything yet.
- **The Rectory:** Ben has been very busy in the rectory gardens. Christine has a problem with the kitchen sink and is in contact with a plumber but the whole sink may need replaced due to the broken part no longer being manufactured.

### **11. Lay Rep Report:**

- Nothing to report.

### **12. Eco – Rep Report:**

- Nothing to report.

### **13. AOB**

- **Cost of church hire for use during Model Railway Exhibition April 2024:** Unfortunately, due to time constraints a decision on this was not reached today. However, an amount will be decided at the next vestry in 3 weeks time.

- **Rectory Cottage new name:** Denis informed vestry that a new name for the cottage needs to be decided on so the data base can be updated, and all services informed. The name Kiwi Cottage was decided on in honour of Blackie and her amazing donation that will help refurbish the cottage.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Monday 26th June 2023.**

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