

## St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

### Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

#### 1. Attendees:

Rev. Christine Downey  
Pippa Crichton  
Lord Morton  
Mandy Smart  
Judy Goodman  
Anne Clapham (Zoom)

#### 2. Apologies for Absence:

Wilma Brown  
Steve Haigh  
Ella Henderson

#### 3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

#### 4. Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Meeting

There were 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

- **Cottage Update:** Over the course of the refurbishment, we have encountered some issues. The architect drawings were incorrect and had to be amended. There was a leak that had been going on for years, which was supposed to have had been fixed. This had to be sorted and this then delayed things by extending the drying time before the painting etc. could commence. The last issue is, we are missing 2 draws for the kitchen, these aren't due to arrive till August, which is very frustrating.

There have been ongoing issues with the council tax. The property was meant to have been given an exemption for the year. This has not happened, an inspector for Edinburgh Council has been out to look at the property and it is hoped now that this will be sorted and no money will be due.

Done N Dusted have frustratingly been called off the cottage refurbishment on a number of occasions to do other jobs, this has

also added to the delay. Christine has had a meeting with them and they have agreed to be there as much as possible over the next couple weeks to get the cottage finished and ready for the cleaners to attend.

The good news is that we are still on budget and it looks as if, if we do go over it will be by very little.

- **Organ / church roof:** The roof has had a temporary fix done at the moment. We have had a quote from Buckstone Roofing for £16,284, to replace all the guttering and fix the roof area and flashing where the organ is. This company comes highly recommended and has worked on our buildings before. We will be able to claim the tax back so that reduces the cost to £13, 570, and we have received an incredible donation of £10,000 so that covers the majority.

Vestry all agreed that this work needs to be carried out as soon as possible and were in agreement that Carole should be given the go ahead to proceed with the company.

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

- **Holidays:** Christine will be away from **June 7<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>**, she returns in time for General Synod that weekend. Christine is still looking to arrange cover.  
Christine will then be on annual leave from **5<sup>th</sup> August to 26<sup>th</sup> August**. Christine has arranged cover for “Sea Sunday” Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August (Rev Tim Tunley) and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August (Rev. Prof Graham Gordon).
- **Charity Donation request:** Christine has been in contact with a friend of hers Rev. Dr Daniel. He informed her about a Charity called Igreja Na Rua in Rio de Janeiro which has been established since 2006. The charity provides pastoral care and supplies to the homeless. Each month they prepare and distribute soup to 100 people, along with much needed items such as clothes, blankets, toothpaste and medicines. The appeal is asking for £7.58 / month to help them continue this support. Christine asked if a portion of the remaining charitable giving money could be donated to this charity.  
Vestry were all in agreement that they would like to donate and agreed that a total of £200 would be donated.
- **Archaeological Project:** Ben is heading a project to investigate and record the archaeological landscape of Tormain Hill which is situated to the West of Ratho. (please see June – July In Touch for more info).

Ben is asking if he can use the hall as a base, he would also love for the people of St Mary's to get involved. The Scouts have shown an interest and a lot of interest is being shown from the community of Ratho. Vestry agreed that Ben can have access to the hall and they feel that this is a great project that will bring the congregation and the local community together.

## **7. Treasurer Report**

Denis distributed his report which showed that the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 balance in the General Account was **£27,311.77** (£27,722.58 previous month).

There is £1529.50 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving **£25,782** in unrestricted funds (£26,163 previous month).

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £430.12 (previous month £550.12).

**St. Mary's Annual Income to date: £121,655.82**

**St Mary's Annual Expenditure to date: £142,030.12**

- Donation of £8000 received towards church maintenance
- HMRC half yearly Gift Aid Return of £3,307 received.
- Quarterly grant of £1,500 received from Douglas Trust.
- Done N Dusted paid £658 for temporary church fabric repairs
- Done N Dusted paid £6,000 for continuing work on Kiwi Cottage refurbishment. Total paid out so far: £81,000 (£45,000 came from Douglas Trust)
- Xerox paid £822 in regard to office printer
- Alclean Drainage paid £2,460 for work on Rectory and Kiwi Cottage drainage.
- Aquarius Thermal solution paid £108 for hob issues in Rectory
- JMECA cheque for £250 cashed (congregational giving)
- A Child in the Rough £500 (Congregational giving)
- £185 of donations were received for the Bishops Lent Appeal. £130 was eligible for Gift Aid so total paid to Diocese was £217.50.
- Two payments each of £60 for H Lawrie Pest control.

## **9. Fabric Report**

- **Church roof / guttering:** mentioned above

- **Hotel GM:** Carole had a meeting with Colin Richards the general manager of the hotel to discuss them advertising events and services at St Mary's. Christine intends to also have a meeting with him to discuss further how the hotel can help market St Mary's more. The hotel are not continuing with weddings after 2025 so this means a loss of an important revenue stream for St Mary's, so we need to explore other possible avenues.

#### **10. Events Committee:**

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

#### **12. Eco – Rep Report:**

- **Heat-Hack report:** Steve has put together a comprehensive report and action plan for jobs that if completed would improve efficiency and safety of the hall. The list of jobs has been split up into time period and priority, ranging from 0 – 52 months for completion. The priority at the moment is to get the hall doors assessed and replaced with the correct fire doors if necessary and to get the access ramp moved so that people aren't exiting into passing traffic.

#### **13. AOB**

- **Lawn mower repairs:** The deck of the lawn mower had rusted and needed to be replaced. Ben managed to do the work himself so no labour costs were incurred. The replacement part came to £450. Ben has asked if vestry will reimburse him for the part. Vestry agreed.

#### **Date of Next Meeting:**

The next vestry meeting will be held at **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7pm 2024**  
this will be held within the hall in person.

#### **Vestry dates 2024:**

12<sup>th</sup> August

23<sup>rd</sup> September

4<sup>th</sup> November

16<sup>th</sup> December