

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 12th August 2024

1. Attendees:

Wilma Brown
Mandy Smart
Pippa Crichton
Steve Haigh
Judy Goodman
Anne Clapham
Kate Graham

2. Apologies for Absence:

Rev. Christine Downey
Lord Morton
Ella Henderson

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of 1st July 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 Tennant update:** The tenants have now moved into Kiwi Cottage. They are very happy with the cottage and the kids love it too. The gas and electric bills have been finalised and the accounts swapped over to the tenant.
- **Church roof and repointing decision:** An additional meeting was had on Sunday 4th August via zoom to discuss the work needed on the church, St Mary's Financial position and what work was achievable at the moment. Following that meeting a decision was made tonight to proceed with the roofing works agreed with Buckstone Roofing, with the additional input from Kevin from KS Stone (see fabric report). The additional repointing work will need to be put on hold until extra funds have been raised.
- **Fundraising Campaign Ideas:** Fundraising has already ready commenced by Christine asking for donations towards the upkeep of the church on a

Sunday during the service and this has already generated a number of generous donations. However, more is needed and on a regular basis. The Dalmahoy Hotel have offered us some display space and Wilma put forward a number of possible products that could be sold within the Dalmahoy hotel. Her son Matthew makes items with his laser. Such as slate or wooden coasters, bookmarks and keyrings, which he can put a picture of St Mary's church onto and then sold as souvenirs. Matthew would just need a decent image of the church to work with to produce a decent template. Kate will look at the photos we have already and send them to Wilma, if they aren't suitable then Christine or Matthew will be asked if they could get a better photo.

It was also suggested and agreed that the congregation could be asked to put forward fundraising ideas, then a selection process could be used to select which ideas to go ahead with. Kate has been tasked with asking the congregation on Wednesday as part of the weekly email and for ideas to be emailed into the office for Kate to collate.

- **Guide to donation target and amount achieved so far:** Christine asked vestry to come up with a visual aid that shows our donation target and where we are in achieving that. Vestry discussed some ideas but decided on a large vinyl sticker of a thermometer from Amazon. Kate will purchase this through the Amazon business account.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- **Clergy Conference:** The clergy conference 2024 has been scheduled for Christine and a contribution of £310 has been requested, this is an increase from last year but vestry all agreed that it is a necessary payment and agreed for that to be paid.

7. Treasurer Report

Denis distributed his report which showed that the 8th August 2024 balance in the General Account was **£14,876.29** (£14,620.58 previous month).

There is £1905.50 held in restricted funds or for other specific purposes, leaving **£11,399.79** in unrestricted funds (£12,715 previous month).

The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £29,484.67 (previous month £31,616.87).

St. Marys's Annual Income to date: £135,014

St Mary's Annual Expenditure to date: £167,814

- Donations of £2,075 made so far for the Church Repointing. This includes Gift Aid where eligible.
- £277 paid for mower repairs
- £133 paid for annual School of Church Music subscription.
- £250 charitable giving paid to Papa New Guinea Church Partnership.
- £155 paid towards funding attendance of Provincial Youth week.

St Mary's Trust Account:

- £60 for H Lawrie pest control
- Payment of £4,071, 25% payment to Buckstone Roofing.
- £2000 received for Kiwi cottage rent payment and one month deposit.
- Douglas Trust have generously agreed to pay for the new disabled ramp access to the hall.

9. Fabric Report

- Carole has been doing a lot of work regarding the work needed on the church. She has been liaising with Buckstone roofing to find out when the work on the gutters and down spouts will start.
- Carole has contacted Craig from Done and Dusted and asked if we would be able to use their scaffolding for the works to help reduce costs. But as yet we're not sure if that will be possible and we would also need to consider liability issues if an accident was to occur and who would be responsible.
- Carole spoke with Kevin from KS Stone to explain our financial limitations at the moment and that we are unable to progress with the repointing at present. Kevin has agreed to work alongside Buckstone roofing so that the areas around the gutters and down-spouts can be attended to when access is available.
- Carole has had a meeting with Neil Rawlins, the Diocesan Net Zero officer, he is aware of all that we are trying to achieve with St Mary's and as a result Carole plans to submit another grant application to the Provincial Building Fund for up to 50% of the repointing cost. Hopefully fundraising efforts will raise the other 50% needed.
- Carole has managed to purchase 2 fluorescent tubes for the hall lights. These are not being manufactured any more. But stock was found within a DIY shop in Broxburn. One light has been replaced the other tube is for when it is needed.

10. Events Committee:

- **St Scruff's Dog show:** The dog show was held on the Sat 10th Aug, although it wasn't as busy as last year, attendance was good, the refreshments, hot dogs and tombola did well. The weather stayed dry so luckily it was held outside. Thank you goes to all those that organised and helped out to make it possible.
- **Autumn Craft Fair:** The planning and advertising for the craft fair is under way. As yet we haven't got a confirmed charity doing a home baking stall. The scouts are unable to attend this year as they have a big camp that weekend. Pippa has approached Murieston Brownies / Rainbows and offered them the stall, we are just waiting to hear from them. Other than the home-baking one, we only have one stall left. All stall holders have been asked to advertise the Craft Fair as much as possible.

11. Lay Rep Report:

- The next Diocesan Synod meeting is 24th October

12. Eco – Rep Report:

- The next Heat-hack meeting is scheduled for 28th August.

13. AOB

- Emma the new administrator will be starting on Monday 2nd September. She has expressed that she is happy to take on the role of secretary. Vestry were happy with this decision. Emma will therefore attend the next Vestry meeting with a view to take over after that.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next vestry meeting will be held on **Monday 23rd September at 7pm 2024** this will be held within the hall in person.

Vestry dates 2024:

4th November

16th December