

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 28th October 2024

1. Attendees:

Rev. Christine Downey
Lord Morton
Mandy Smart
Steve Haigh
Judy Goodman (Zoom)
Anne Clapham
Kate Graham
Olivia Almond

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 23rd September 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

Steve asked about updates for fundraising and merchandise, which Christine advised would be addressed in AOB.

Anne asked about the response to Christine's request to the congregation for their favourite hymns. Christine advised she has received 3 or 4 responses so far.

6. Other Matters from Christine

- Christine reports that there is a mould problem in the cottage, especially in the children's bedroom behind the radiator. Craig attended and has sealed the mould in with plastic. The roofing company have been on the roof and have reported that the leading is in bad disrepair and has been allowing water to run into a gap between walls. At present, it looks as though the leading needs to be replaced, as well as some missing roof tiles and the chimney boot has gaps to be repaired. The roofing contractor will write a report for the Vestry to look at. Christine will ask the Douglas Trust to partner with St Mary's to address repairs required once the report has been received. Christine does not have exact cost to be expected

currently, but hopes the report from roofing company will be received before the next Vestry meeting.

- Christine has designed some new signs for the church to be put on the road up to the Dalmahoy Hotel. Christine thinks she will be able to get these signs made at a good price and will speak to Craig about this. The current sign should be replaced and moved into a more visible location, which will involve moving the current pole. Christine will speak to Paul regarding this. The design will be presented to the Vestry to reaffirm in the coming weeks.
- There are new full time renters in the Douglas Hall, a model car club which will commence mid-November. They have offered to help us clean out the back storage cupboard in exchange for allowing them to use some storage space. They have also advised that they intend to put on multiple fundraising events in 2025 and would like for St Mary's to be the recipient of their first fundraising effort.
- There is a bad sewer smell coming from the toilets in the Douglas Hall. Christine will speak to Tony about fixing. The issue has arisen previously and has been looked at but not fully resolved. Bookings for the Douglas Hall are at risk and a few hall users have commented negatively on the smell with one Yoga class even cancelling.
- There will be a Baptism in the church on Saturday, followed by the All Souls Requiem mass. On Sunday John Blaber will be the guest organist, and the church will welcome two guests from Finland. Carole will collect the guests from the airport and bring them to join worship, following which Christine and Carole will take them for lunch.

7. Treasurer Report

Received and carried.

9. Fabric Report

Roofing works concluded on the church at a cost of £2400 and guttering work has begun.

Fire Door Survey – Carole has received the costing for the survey which will be £235 + VAT. This needs to be done to ensure fire doors are all up to code. Steve proposed motion to go ahead with the survey. Mandy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

10. Events Committee:

Merchandise – Mandy advised Wilma will bring samples of coasters on Sunday to look at, some wood and some slate. Once Matthew advises when the coasters will be ready, a work party will be organised to assemble and polish the coasters. One order has already been accepted. Orders will begin to be

taken properly in the next few weeks. These will also be stocked in the Dalmahoy Hotel gift shop.

Fundraising updates: 175th Anniversary – The Dalmahoy Estate will be putting on 2 golf events in 2025 with 100% of proceeds going to St Mary's church. Mandy advised that she discussed the event recently at the Warden's Lunch and got a very positive response.

Andante choir would like to come and do a fundraiser at the church.

The Dalmahoy Hotel has offered use of a 200-seat conference room for free to be used for fundraising events (ceilidhs, for example)

11. Lay Rep Report:

Steve and Christine attended the Synod on 24th October. Steve has provided a detailed report to Vestry members.

12. Eco – Rep Report:

The new ramp outside the Douglas Hall has been completed. It is noted that the ramp now goes directly into the disabled parking space that exists there. Christine suggested moving the disabled parking space. The ground is uneven where the ramp goes over the drain and needs to be smoothed out. Christine suggested where the remaining two disabled parking spaces are requires new, proper signage and a new hard surface.

Mandy noted that the posts where the spaces are require reflectors for better visibility in dark evenings. Christine agreed to facilitate this.

EFT report

We have received our Energy Footprint Results from the Diocese, which are available for the vestry to view. It is noted that since the installation of the infrared heating system in 2021 and the new glazing in 2022, St Mary's carbon emissions have dramatically reduced.

13. AOB

Advent appeal - Christine suggested earmarking an amount to donate to the appeal after the AGM in November. Anne made a motion to donate £50 to the appeal after the AGM, which Stuart seconded and so the motion is passed.

Sponsor a Child – Christine made note to add this to the next meeting's agenda.

AGM – The AGM will take place on 17th November 2024. Reports will be put together next week so everyone is advised to have any reports in ASAP.

IT issues – Ben upgraded our OneDrive and Microsoft 365 package, so we now have more storage space and have been able to do necessary updates. Subscription cost is around £70 per year.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next vestry meeting will be held on **Monday 16th December at 7pm**
and will be held in the Rectory in person.

Vestry dates 2024:

AGM 17th November

16th December