

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 27th January 2024

1. Attendees:

Rev. Christine Downey
Lord Morton
Steve Haigh (Zoom)
Judy Goodman
Wilma Brown
Ella Henderson (Zoom)
Anne Clapham
Olivia Almond

2. Apologies for Absence:

Kate Graham
Mandy Smart

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of 28th October 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

N/A

6. Other Matters from Christine

- 175th Anniversary events were discussed from a list made by attendees at the January 11th planning meeting. Christine went on to list the events that are confirmed, which is as follows:
 1. Peace Pole, which is paid for by an anonymous donor.
 2. Golf Tournaments (x2) at Dalmahoy
 3. Gospel book to be replaced or repaired, which has been paid for by an anonymous donor
 4. Bishop visit on 29th of June for a BBQ
 5. Andante choir will visit on 31st May where they will perform traditional choral music in the church, and then secular music in the Douglas Hall with refreshments. A suggested donation of £10 for entry will be charged.

Christine went on to discuss the option of a ceilidh, noting that it would require a lot of work and organisation to make a success. She noted that in the past ceilidhs have been successful but have taken enormous effort, particularly with catering and so maybe a better option would be snacks instead of a meal, a BYOB option and soft drinks to buy.

A quiz was discussed, hosted at the Bridge Inn, in a traditional 'pub quiz' format, however some raised the issue of how money would be raised through this. The idea was discussed to sell a ticket with a meal and quiz.

Wilma suggested that perhaps a 'Games Night' would be the best option to incorporate all of these ideas. It was widely agreed upon to have an event at the Douglas Hall with a quiz,

tombola, a beetle drive and maybe even Auld Spice (band) playing. Along side this it was suggested to serve baked potatoes and various toppings, in the style of a 'baked potato bar' for guests. Judy and Wilma said they would be happy to help with the potatoes and could purchase potatoes and toppings from Costco, as Judy is a member. This would keep costs low. The vestry agreed that this event should go on the confirmed list of events.

Steve will be embarking on a sponsored walk as a fundraising idea. It was discussed that maybe this was something the local papers would be interested in and Steve suggested he could walk 17.5km in honour of St Mary's 175 years.

Christine and Olivia will make a pamphlet and activity book in the office.

The idea of an art auction was discussed as a consideration for later in the year.

It was decided that a St Mary's cookery book would be a good idea, with recipes from various In Touch magazines over the years as well as recipes from all the various cultures that make up St Mary's Church. It was suggested to perhaps ask Irina, Ekpono, Mar Thoma, so that the book has lots of different cuisines (Canadian, Georgian, Scottish, etc)

On the 21st of September Christine will host a Thanksgiving service in the church. Invited will be past Rectors, people who have been baptised or married at St Mary's and past congregation members who have moved away.

The idea of planting a native tree was agreed upon, and it was suggested to combine the planting of this with the

erecting of the peace pole and the Bishop's barbeque visit on 29th June.

It was suggested that a banner be made for the church by the congregation, but this would depend on who wanted to participate and what sewing/crafting skills people possess.

A jazz afternoon was suggested, with afternoon tea. This could be catered for by an outside firm, or sandwich platters could be purchased from Costco. Ella suggested a strawberry tea with sandwiches and strawberries and cream. This was agreed upon by the vestry.

Christine advised we would reach out to local newspapers and TV stations for press coverage, and to the Calders Group of Churches and planted churches.

Wilma would like to have a dedicated events committee and would like to ask members of the congregation who would like to join. Olivia has agreed to send an email to gauge interest and will put them in contact with Wilma.

7. Treasurer Report

The treasurer has noted that there is only £9,776 unrestricted funds in the General Account and unless income is received to boost this there will soon be a requirement to sell some of the Units held in the SEC Unit Trust Pool. Christine has suggested asking the congregation to donate the amount saved from their two-month council tax break, if they have one. Christine asked if someone would be willing

to ask at Sunday's service. She also noted that we will take money out of funds to boost General Account. A motion to ask Denis' advice on the amount to take out of Unit Trust was raised by Anne Clapham and seconded by Judy Goodman.

Christine would like the funds raised by the 175th anniversary events to go into the General Account, as it is much needed. Steve agreed with this and noted that this has been an ongoing problem for the last two years. Steve also asked whether the rent from Kiwi Cottage must go into the St Mary's Trust accounts. Christine advised that the rent goes into the Trust to support the upkeep of the cottages, church and church grounds. Christine said she will look into if the St Mary's Trust could 'gift' the rent money to the General Account, although is currently unable to say if that is allowed. A motion to accept the Position of Accounts was raised by Steve Haigh and seconded by Stewart Morton.

Christine noted that currently we have £500 of Rector's discretionary funds to use for fundraising events.

8. Charitable Giving

We currently have £3,026 for charitable giving in 2025. Christine asked if the vestry would like to adjust that amount given the current financial position of St Mary's. Judy stated she would like to keep the amount as it is.

Charities put forward for consideration were:

- Seagull Trust
- Christian Aid (Gaza)

- NHS Lothian Charity
- EFTC Foundation
- Mary's Meals
- Star of Wonder
- Ministry Centres Papua New Guinea
- Local schools

Due to the number of charities suggested, Christine asked if any could possibly be removed from the list for this year. She noted that St Mary's has been involved with Mary's Meals for many years and so we will continue to do so this year. Star of Wonder has already been pledged £280 for its sponsor a child program so that will go ahead.

Wilma suggested the Anglican Church and Diocese in Jerusalem be considered. Christine asked if we need to redefine how we split out charitable giving. Currently, we give to local, national and international charities, but it should be looked at how many charities in each category we give to. Ella stated she feels the location doesn't matter and would rather prioritise world events and give to who needs it most at the time.

At this point the meeting had overrun by approximately 30 minutes and so Christine suggested we may need an additional meeting to finish discussing Charitable Giving, to which all attendees agreed. It was also agreed upon that anything else on the agenda which had not been discussed due to time constraints be carried over to the next meeting's agenda, which is 10th of March.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next vestry meeting will be held on **Monday 10th March at 7pm and will be held in the Rectory** in person.