

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 10th March 2025

1. Attendees:

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

2. Apologies for Absence:

Mandy Smart
Wilma Brown

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of 27th January 2025 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

Resumed talk about charitable giving from previous meeting. Previously, options discussed were the Seagull Trust, Christian Aid, NHS Lothian Charity, EFTC Foundation, Mary's Meals, Star of Wonder, Ministry Centres Papua New Guinea and local schools. It was noted that we already support

Seagull Trust, Christian Aid, Mary's Meals and Star of Wonder. Christine suggested adding the Bishop's Lent Appeal to the list which had the support of the Vestry. Christine noted that last time we donated £200 to the Seagull Trust and asked if people would like to support them again this year, to which the consensus was favourable, so it was decided we will continue to support the Seagull Trust. It was decided that for this year NHS Lothian and EFTC Foundation should be removed from the list.

It was agreed upon that we continue to support Mary's Meals, and Star of Wonder, whom we donate £280 to yearly to sponsor a child.

Christine noted that St Mary's has supported the Ministry Centre Papua New Guinea for many years and every year we receive a letter detailing how they use our donation and expressing their gratitude. It was agreed to continue to support Ministry Centres Papua New Guinea.

It was noted that in the past St Mary's had donated to local schools and all the vestry agreed to add them to our charitable giving list this year once again. Ella expressed that there are a lot of children struggling currently and she feels it important we support them.

The final charitable giving list was agreed on as the following:

1. Seagull Trust
2. Bishop's Lent Appeal
3. Star of Wonder
4. Mary's Meals
5. Ministry Centres PNG
6. Local schools (Kirknewton and Ratho)

It was then discussed what the amount breakdown should be for each charity. At present, there is £3,026 in available charitable giving funds.

It was decided that we donate £200 to the Seagull Trust, as per last years donation.

Ella suggested an amount of £500 to the Bishop's Lent Appeal, which was agreed by the vestry.

It was noted that the congregation give a lot throughout the year to Mary's Meals, so perhaps the amount donated could be lower. Kate suggested £100, Steve suggested £200 and an amount of £200 was agreed upon.

We have already donated the £280 to Star of Wonder to sponsor a child for the year.

Last year we gave £250 to Ministry Centre PNG and it was agreed to stick at this amount for 2025.

Christine suggested we give £500 to each Kirknewton and Ratho Primary Schools and this was agreed by the vestry.

This leaves us with £596 in the fund for the rest of the year. It was agreed that this money be kept aside in case of any emergencies later in the year.

6. Other Matters from Christine

We are having issues with the age and stability of the flooring in the Douglas Hall. Done 'n' Dusted have been in and will provide us a quote for a new floor soon. Christine noted we have recently received a grant for £5000 which has put us over the top of our fundraising for the church repointing, however it is worth noting that a huge amount of works needs to be done to the electrics in the Douglas Hall. We have had an Electrical Installation Condition report done by C

Kerr Electrical, who has advised that urgent attention is required, so we will have to look at that as well as the flooring. Christine noted that we may have to source some wood to patch the weak parts of the floor until we can raise funds for a whole new floor.

The issue of the frequency of vestry meetings was raised, with Christine suggesting they be moved back to monthly, instead of six-weekly. Steve noted that he supports going back to one meeting a month, however he would be unable to do the first Monday of the month. It was then agreed upon to have a vestry meeting the second Monday of every month, with the next meeting being Monday 14th April. The meetings will continue to be held in the Rectory, due to the ongoing hall rental by the Race Car Club every Monday evening.

Christine advised that it had been confirmed that it was a rat who had been taking candles from the church. Harry Lawrie Pest Control has been out and has found evidence of a rat building a nest and so has set bait boxes.

7. Events Committee

Unfortunately, the report from the meeting was picked up too late to be presented to Vestry this time around.

It was noted by Christine that dates need to be set for the events as Summer is getting very busy.

A document has been passed around to the congregation to gather their opinions on which languages should be used on the Peace Pole. Christine noted that the purpose of the peace

pole is to spread the word of peace to as many people as possible, so usually people choose languages that are spoken most in the world. We also need to choose languages close to the people of St Mary's.

A list of languages suggested already by members of the congregation was presented. Christine suggested adding Latin to the list, as it was the first international language, and so many of today's language derives from it.

It was discussed how the languages should be cut down to 8, and who should be in charge of the final decision. It was agreed that it would be a nice gesture to present all the languages suggested to Janet Dyer and let her have the final say, as she has been suggesting a peace pole at St Mary's for many years.

8. Treasurer Report

The church accounts were presented in their new format, which will be used going forward.

This month we do not require to take any units out of the Unit Trust Pool as the accounts do not require it.

Steve noted that we have £2000 more going out of the accounts a month than coming in which is a concern.

Christine agreed that a way needs to be figured out to cover the deficit going forward, and that maybe we need to look at fundraising events beyond our 175th celebration year. She noted that having the golf tournaments every year with the Dalmahoy would be a possible idea.

Steve wanted to clarify for the minutes that we have been fundraising for the church repointing up to £50,000. We are currently up to £42,000, so the £5,000 will not take us up to

£50,000,. However, Carole believes we can claim back the VAT after payment. Christine noted that the cost of the repointing was around £47,000.

Steve Haigh made a motion to accept the accounts, Judy Goodman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A.O.B

The electrics report and the quote for the Douglas Hall flooring repairs will be in the fabric report for the next meeting.

Steve enquired about the status of the fire door survey. Carole MacBride had advised Olivia previously that the company has not gotten back to her yet.

Christine noted that the Bishop elections will be held in September.

The church car park has had new gravel put down and some of the potholes have been filled.

The trees that were damaged in the recent storm have been taken down and the wall in front of the church will be repaired.

Steve asked if there was any progress on the tree planting, to which Christine said she will ask which would be the best variety of tree to plant and will speak to the Dalmahoy about where the tree and the peace pole can be planted.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14th April 7pm