

**St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy**

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**

**1. Present:**

Rev. Christine Downey  
Lord Morton  
Alan Coupe  
Caroline Gunn  
Gavin Craig  
Denis King  
Jane Russell  
Rona Finlayson  
Geoff Angell  
Carole MacBride  
Rosie Mann  
Ted Tracey-Bower  
Ben Bright (for Hall Painting Only)

**2. Apologies for Absence:**

Douglas Walker

**3. Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Christine said an opening prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. She explained that Ben had been invited to attend the meeting to talk to his paper on the Douglas Hall Painting project and asked that this be dealt with first. It was suggested that as this project would entail a significant monetary outlay the Treasurer's report should be presented before any further discussion. This was agreed.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Gavin distributed his report which showed the end of August balance in the General Account as £38,214 (£30,869 of this is in unrestricted funds). The Triodos Account stands at £1,129 and the St Mary's Trust Account £14,211. Currently the outgoings for the year are larger than incomings by approximately £6,200.

There is an outstanding bill of £1,100 to pay for the organ repair work. This will be paid from the Organ Fund.

A request was made as to what the current value of St Mary's holding in the SEC Unit Trust Pool is. This will be actioned and vestry informed.

**5. Hall Painting**

Ben had produced a report on the work of the Hall Painting Committee and talked the meeting through it. The main points were:

- Five companies were asked to quote.
- Three quotes were received. One was dropped due to significantly higher estimate.
- Brushstrokes was chosen as the successful bidder due to more professional approach.
- The estimated cost of the work is £5137. The final figure could be higher or lower depending on amount of hours needed and cost of materials.
- The work will be carried out between October 11<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>. The hall will be available for use on Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Vestry were asked to give approval for this work to proceed. This was given and it was agreed that payment would be made from the General Account. It should be noted that this work is required to be carried out as a condition of our lease on the Douglas Hall.

Ben was thanked for his detailed work on this project.

#### **6. Minutes of Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

These had been approved at the Vestry Away Day on June 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### **7. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:**

Agreement on signatory requirements using online banking on the St Mary's Trust will be discussed when the Trustees meet. A date for this meeting has to be agreed but it is hoped to have it in November.

The Rectory chimney will be swept on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ted reported that the sound system in the church had been inspected by a specialist company, Sonic Lodge. They said that there was some work which could be carried out on the rack unit to sort out the wiring. This would take around 3 hours at a total cost of £90. Rona was concerned that she felt it was feedback on the wireless microphones that was the biggest problem especially when two people were using them simultaneously. Ted said this had been tested and no issues were found. It was agreed that Christine and Rona would test out again at the Sunday service and report back on results.

#### **8. Other Matters from Christine:**

- Claire Benton-Evans will preach on youth ministry on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Christine will be off on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Bob Gould will take the service.
- AGM succession planning needs to be addressed. Anyone due to or wishing to stand down should let Christine know. Also if anyone wishes to be considered for any role please make Christine aware.
- Cemetery. One request has been made for interment of ashes in an existing grave.
- Cemetery. A lot of rubble has been removed.

Christine raised the subject of transport for congregation members who were finding it difficult to get to church. This is a serious issue for St Mary's given our location and age demographics. It was agreed that a rota of people who could provide transport would be set up. The possibility of acquiring or sharing a bus could be investigated.

#### **9. Away Day Progress:**

A folder has been placed in the Douglas Hall where congregation members can note their favourite hymns. The hymns requested will be played at future services.

A congregational meeting to discuss same sex marriage in St Mary's is tentatively planned for the weekend of October 27<sup>th</sup> or November 4<sup>th</sup>. A speaker/facilitator is to be arranged.

A pamphlet highlighting St Mary's presence has been created for distribution to the new local housing estates. Delivery to the houses should happen during September.

Appointments with schools and broadening the scope of the Choir Festival are underway. Meetings on ministry to/with our youth are also taking place with Mandy with the youth being consulted on what they would like to happen, some change is anticipated as Claire will have completely finished her role with youth.

#### **10. Fabric Report:**

There is a requirement for the insulation in the Rectory to be improved before winter sets in. This will include some maintenance work. Three quotes have been received. These will be followed up. Investigations are being carried out as to whether Grants are available for this

Quotes have also been received for fencing in the Rectory garden.

Planned work on the Church stonework has been completed. The contractor has identified some other work which, although not urgent, is recommended to be done. This will be revisited next year.

Carole will talk with Ben regarding getting a plan of the church car park.

It was agreed that a new carpet is required for the Office. Carole will progress. It was also agreed that Carole be repaid for the costs of the new carpet in the Vestry.

#### **11. Charitable Giving:**

The vestry approved the following donations from St Mary's as part of our annual charitable giving commitment:

Free Cakes For Kids - £200. A charity where volunteers make birthday cakes for families who cannot afford cakes for their children.

Freedom Enterprises Unlimited -£400. A local charity which provides training and employment opportunities for people with criminal records.

Christine will talk with Ratho Primary school to see if St Mary's can offer them support.

#### **12. Hall Committee Report:**

- The Fire Extinguishers have been serviced.
- Plans for the Organ Concert on September 8<sup>th</sup> are in place.
- The St Scruffs Dog Show will take place alongside the Animal Blessing Service on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **13. AOB:**

Janet Dyer has a wish to donate a 'Peace Pole' which would, with appropriate permissions, be placed near the Church by the roadway up to the Dalmahoy Hotel. This was approved in principal.

#### **14. Date of Next Meeting:**

The next vestry meeting will be held at 7.30pm on October 1<sup>st</sup> in the Douglas Hall.