

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

1st April 2019

1. Present:

Rev. Christine Downey
Lord Morton
Gavin Craig
Denis King
Rona Finlayson
Rosie Mann
Ted Tracey-Bower
Carole MacBride
Ella Henderson
Margaret Chill
Jane Russell

2. Apologies for Absence:

Douglas Walker

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome:

Christine said an opening prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

4. Minutes of March 4th Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on March 4th were approved. These will now be displayed in the hall and on the website.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:

The Audio system in the church is still having issues. Ted was thanked for all the effort that he has put in to try to get it working with no intermittent feedback issues. There was a feeling that we should be looking to replace the system with something more up to date. This would need to be funded and the possibility of obtaining this funding will be explored.

The application forms for people hiring the Douglas Hall have now been amended to make clear that the person running the event will, by default, be the Fire Safety Officer for the event.

6. Other Matters from Christine:

- The Vestry Away Day will be held at St Peter's Linlithgow on April 27th from approximately 09.30 to 15.30. The agenda will include a review of the Constitution and an overview of the ideas that Jonathan Gibbs and Douglas Walker have around requesting funding for projects from outside sources. This will include which projects we would like to progress.
- Canada Day will be celebrated this year on June 30th this will include a barbeque at the rectory. The Dean, Frances Burberry will be attending.
- Christine will be on holiday from May 20th – May 31st.
- As result of feedback from a member of the congregation new envelopes for church offerings are being created and will be placed in the pews. This will make it easier for people to make a donation through the Sunday plate collection.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Gavin distributed his report which showed the end of February balance in the General Account as £13,058 (£5,114 of this is in unrestricted funds). The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £13,404. The value of St Mary's investment in the SEC Unit Trust Pool on February 28th was £62,059.

The cost of the telephone and Wi-Fi package for the rectory has increased due to it being necessary to move the service to BT.

So far this accounting year St Mary's outgoings are considerably higher than incomings. It has been recognised that there is a requirement look at initiatives to bring fresh funding in. As a result of this Jonathan Gibbs and Douglas Walker have agreed to use their knowledge of the financial world to identify opportunities where St Mary's may benefit from outside funding for specific projects.

It was agreed that St Mary's would register as a charity with the company EasyFundRaising. This costs nothing and will allow St Mary's to benefit from congregation members, friends, and family as they shop online with a number of retailers.

The vestry approved a donation of £500 to the African Cyclone Appeal. This will be made through Mary's Meals. A retiring collection for this appeal will also be held.

In response to a request from a member of the congregation the vestry also approved a donation of £500 to L'Arche. This donation will be given in August when representatives of the charity will be coming to speak to Dalmations.

8. Fabric Report:

Carole gave the following report:

- Remedial work has been undertaken by Brushstrokes in an effort to deal with the hairline cracks which had appeared after the redecoration of the hall. Gavin will be able to provide details of the costs involved. The cracks are understood to be due to the construction of the hall and the finishing of the plasterboard panels when first put in place.
- The fencing work at the rectory has been started.
- Ben has quotes for the work that is planned to be included in the Provincial Grant Application. He is still trying to get some additional information to be included in the submission.
- Some roof work is required on the Douglas Hall to prevent further leakage. This is not the direct responsibility of the congregation but Ben is assisting the estate with getting quotes for the necessary work.
- The vermin issue in the rectory grounds is being dealt with by Eliminate. A huge number of rats amounting to several hundred have already been knowingly killed and others are likely to have died underground.
- The grass around the church is being cut as required at the moment, the frequency will increase as growth speeds up.
- Some weed removal from the paths has already been undertaken, additional volunteers to assist with this would be greatly appreciated. Alan Coupe has agreed to tackle one of the five areas. I am happy to see to the paths between the archway and the main door and the archway and the east end of the church, the two paths from the car park to the church still need to be volunteered for.

- Rosemary plans to tend the planted borders to the south and east of the church, feed the roses, prune and dead head the shrubs and flowers as required on an as required basis.

9. Hall Committee Report:

An Afternoon Tea event is being planned for Saturday June 22nd.

10. Lay Rep Report:

Ted and Christine had attended the Diocesan Synod on March 9th. Ted brought attention to some things that had been discussed at the Synod:

- Emmanuel Church in Clermiston is no longer affiliated to the SEC.
- The Borders churches are working to support each other in conjunction with the Church Army.
- The role of the Bishop's Enabler of Mission, Annie Nash is nearly complete.

11.PVG Report:

No incidents had been reported.

12. AOB:

There has been a request for one young person from St Mary's to be allowed to attend Glenalmond this year. This was approved and will be partially funded from the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

We are now beginning to see a number of young children attending church on a Sunday. This is very encouraging. Mandy Smart is willing to set up activities in the Douglas Hall for them on Sundays when she is in attendance.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on May 6th** in the Douglas Hall.