

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

6th May 2019

1. Present:

Rev. Christine Downey
Gavin Craig
Denis King
Rosie Mann
Ted Tracey-Bower
Carole MacBride
Ella Henderson
Jane Russell

2. Apologies for Absence:

Douglas Walker
Margaret Chill
Lord Morton
Rona Finlayson

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

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

4. Minutes of April 1st Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on April 1st were approved. These will now be displayed in the hall and on the website.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Killian Steele, who previously installed St Mary's sound system, was invited to review its current compliance and suitability. He met with Christine, Rona, and Carole who were able to convey the problems that have been occurring. Both the church and the hall were included in the review. Killian produced a report and costing for work to be carried out. The main points were:

- The fixed microphones in church work well and do not need replacing.
- The current four speaker system should be replaced with an eight-speaker system.
- St Mary's cannot continue to use the current radio microphone system as the bandwidth is no longer available for radio microphones and is illegal for us to use. Therefore, this function of the system needs to be replaced.

The cost of the work required to have the system brought up to standard would be £3196.20 for the church. It was noted that this was a discounted price as Killian could source some of the required parts at a lower cost. As the sound system has been a major issue over the past few years it was agreed on a vote that this should be progressed (7 for and 1 abstention). The funds will come from the Legacy Fund. There was also a quote for £620 to improve the sound system in the hall. It was decided not to progress this at present.

Christine's holiday arrangements have now changed. She will now be on holiday June 15th – June 22nd and July 6th- July 29th. Arrangements are being made to cover the weekly services while Christine is away.

6. Vestry Away Day

The notes taken on the Vestry Away Day at St Peter's Linlithgow were presented to the meeting.

A small change to the Mission Statement agreed on the day was approved and accepted. This was to change the wording of 'St Mary's will reach into our communities' to 'St Mary's reaches into our communities'.

Ted asked that we consider a change to the Constitution regarding length of service when the Lay-Rep takes up a role on the Diocesan Council. Once the wording of this is agreed it will be verified at a congregational meeting and also by the Bishop.

7. Other Matters from Christine

The rectory fencing replacement project has now been successfully completed. Ben had produced a report detailing why the work was required, how the contractor was selected, the cost of the work, and how the total cost will be split between the responsible parties. The total cost came to £5674 of which the St Mary's Trust will pay £2602, The Douglas Trust £1883, Christine and Ben have paid £500 for a fence rail and the remainder will come from the neighbouring landowner and the Ratho Park Hotel. Denis will write to the interested parties outside of St Mary's to request payment.

It is worth noting that the cutting back of the hedgerow and removal of deadwood from the North field boundary has resulted in the reclaim of a 3m-3.5m strip of land over roughly 70m.

The Labyrinth which Ben is creating in the rectory grounds is progressing well. It spans 65 feet and is almost 1km to go in and out from entrance to the centre.

8. Treasurer's Report

Gavin distributed his report which showed the end of April balance in the General Account as £10,016 (£2,149 of this is in unrestricted funds). The St Mary's Trust Account stood at £8,837. The value of St Mary's investment in the SEC Unit Trust Pool on March 31st was £64,900.

The half yearly Gift Aid income from HMRC is due to arrive soon.

It was acknowledged that there was too little money in unrestricted funds in the General Account for comfort. Therefore, the meeting voted unanimously to take steps to withdraw £10,000 worth of unit from the Unit Trust pool to top this up.

The meeting also agreed that a lot of money had been spent over the past couple of years on work that had to be carried out urgently and that this had the result of depleting St Mary's funds. We should now be in the position that new projects can be graded as Urgent, Required in the foreseeable future, and Nice to do. How and when they are progressed will be dependent on which grants and outside funding we are able to obtain.

9. Fabric Report

- The septic tank at the rectory has now been repaired and cleaned out. Although the repairs required were expensive it was necessary that they were carried out quickly as they posed a health and safety risk.
- The rat infestation at the rectory remains an ongoing issue. The company being used to bring it under control say that it is worse than anything that they have encountered before but they are confident that it can be addressed.
- It was agreed that Harry Lawrie should be retained to control issues with mice in the rectory. At present there are no problems but bait traps are always being emptied.
- There is a leak in the corner of the hall. This and some roofing problems are being addressed through the Douglas Trust.
- There is a leaking radiator in the hall due to a small hole in it. Carole will ensure that this is fixed.
- A new bulb is required for the fire exit sign above the door out of the hall. Carole will purchase.

10. Hall Committee Report

Plans for the Afternoon Tea event on Saturday June 22nd are progressing.

11. Lay Rep Report

Nothing to report.

12.PVG Report

No incidents had been reported.

13. AOB

- Ella remarked that the large wooden cross that was displayed at the Easter services was a good addition to the worship at St Mary's over Eastertide.
- Jane asked about getting the new hymn books stamped in order that they were recognised as belonging to St Mary's. This will be progressed. A question was asked about what happened to the old hymn books. The meeting was informed that they had been donated to other churches.
- Christine and Carole had met with a representative of an Indian Anglican congregation who may wish to use St Mary's one Sunday afternoon each month. Their initial feeling was that if Indian congregation wished to go ahead St Mary's would be able accommodate them and benefit from it. The meeting felt that it would be in line with our outreach objectives.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next vestry meeting will be held at **7.00pm on June 3rd** in the Douglas Hall.