

## **Scottish Episcopal Church – Diocese of Brechin**

### **St Drostans Episcopal Church: Tarfside Known as; St Drostans Church and Lodge Tarfside Scottish Charity Number: SC007239**

#### **Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

The trustees present their annual report together with their financial statements for the year 2015 to 2016.

#### **Address of Principal office**

C/o; Secretary/Treasurer.

4, St Michaels Road, Newtonhill, Stonehaven, AB39 3RW

#### **Current Trustees**

A Management Committee of Trustees consisting of the following administers the charity;

During 2015 - 2016 these were;

Priest in Charge/booking secretary - Rev Jane Nelson

Member - Rev Michael Turner (retired at AGM Nov 2015 and re-elected)

Member - Miss Sandra Guthrie

Member - Mrs C Phelan

Member - Mrs A Lowden

Secretary/Treasurer - Mr Peter Nelson

Members of the Congregation appoint the trustees at an annual general meeting established by constitution and under the Canon Law of the Scottish Episcopal Church. There is no formal induction programme, but ongoing guidance is given to ensure that trustees are familiar with the Church's values, aims and responsibilities as designated trustees of a charity.

#### **Structure and Governance**

The Church of St Drostans is a church of the Scottish Episcopal Church, in full communion with the Anglican Church, and is a registered Scottish Charity (SC007239). The superior authority is the Bishop of Brechin.

The Trustees govern all of its affairs, and its constitutional form is that of an Unincorporated Association

The present constitution applies from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 and is available for inspection if required.

#### **Charitable Purpose**

The purpose is the advancement of religion. The principle activities include public worship in sacrament and prayer and the operation of a low cost self-catering lodge in the Church Grounds at Tarfside. This church hall, known as St Drostans Lodge is used to provide accommodation for groups and families wishing to visit Glen Esk, for the purpose of religious retreats, recreation and family visits.

It was a condition of funding support received from the Community Fund in 2002, that the Lodge is open to all, and this has been maintained, with visitors from many denominations, and of no particular faith, being welcomed. We have also welcomed children from socially deprived groups and special schools and since the modifications made in 2002, less able persons have been able to use the Lodge.

The fees received from the use of the Lodge are the largest source of income, although donations and sales of books and postcards make a significant, contribution to funds.

## **Activities and Achievements, and Future Plans**

The Rev Jane Nelson was appointed Priest in Charge by Bishop Nigel in December 2015 following his proposal of this at the November AGM, and acceptance by the Trustees.

The Architects Survey of the Parsonage was completed in October 2015 and revealed defects in the roof tiles and ridging, rainwater goods and external timberwork. A number of suspected damp areas were observed inside the parsonage. A survey by a timber preservation specialist was advised, and completed. This revealed dampness damage to woodwork in the stairway and landing and possible damage to the floor at the upstairs bathroom. In addition, the edges of the roofing timbers were also seen to be damaged. A phased programme of repairs was agreed by the Trustees which commenced in June and is still ongoing at the time of writing. The roof tiles, ridge and rainwater goods work was also completed along with repairs to the chimney capping and guttering on the church.

The main church door frame collapsed due to rot. It was replaced and the door rehung in October 2015.

Some dampness had been observed on the northwest side of the lodge kitchen and a number of areas in the external stonework in this area were repointed.

An inspection of the lodge underfloor area was also carried out and found to be dry and in good condition.

All of the usual maintenance tasks and repairs were carried out with some help from Lodge users during their visits. A local handyman has been employed for some minor maintenance tasks, which has saved the mileage expenses between Newtonhill and Tarfside, and proved useful and economical. He has re-worked the rough area to the north side of the church which has improved both the appearance and the ventilation of the north wall.

A special occasion was the visit by the "Spirit of Discovery" group in July, young people from the companion Diocese of Iowa, Swaziland and Brechin together with Bishops Alan, Ellinah and Nigel. After a walk up to the cross stone and the site of the 1763 church on the Hill of Rowan, we all enjoyed a barbeque and socialisation. This was followed by Evening Prayer in St Drostan's.

Regular Eucharist services are held on the second Sunday of each month and it was a joy to attend the service in May with the St Ninian's Girls Brigade, which also attracted some new local residents. Although attendance at the regular services is not high, these have been attended by holiday makers and those with a family interest in the church.

In August the Brechin Churches Together Explorers Holiday Club used the church as a base for a picnic, treasure hunt and bible puppet show followed by thanksgiving prayers.

Although the overall numbers using the lodge were down this year, 849 from 948, the number of separate visits by groups was also down from 53 to 42.

Of the groups using the Lodge over the past year, three were directly related to the Diocese of Brechin, (one churches, the woman's retreat and St Ninian's Girls Brigade). Three family groups who were members of Diocese of Brechin churches also attended. Three other SEC churches also used the Lodge. On the "ecumenical" aspect, seven groups ranging through Church of Scotland, Baptist and Church of England used the facilities for retreats and youth group meetings.

The largest user group category continues to be families many of whom have been using the Lodge for generations!

The use by social works and educational groups continues to be important contributions to assisting young people make their way in the world.

The Priest in Charge continued to maintain links with Tarfside primary school and it is expected that this will continue.

Whilst cleaning out the fireside cupboard, and old rusty door knocker was found, when the rust was removed it was found to be engraved "1983", the year when the Lodge was opened. The knocker was repainted, regilded and attached to the main door.

The Insurance values of the three buildings are inflation linked and are currently:

Lodge – ANSVAR	£659,385.00	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Parsonage –ANSVAR	£921,720.00	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2016
Church – Ecclesiastical	£1,515,926.00	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2016

### **Trustee Remuneration and expenses**

Expenses have been paid to the following trustees. All mileage is paid at the SEC/IR not for profit rate of 45p/mile.

P Nelson

£386.55 Mileage associated with repairs/renewals & Admin

Rev J Nelson

£ 210.60 Mileage associated with services.

### **Reserves**

Reserves are held in The Co-operative Community Direct Plus Account, which is interest paying, (although from 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the bank ceased to pay interest on deposits less than £25,000) and the SEC Unit Trust Pool. These unrestricted reserves are held for items of major expenditure, improvements and repairs to the properties at Tarfside; Church, Lodge, Parsonage and associated grounds. A strategic reserve is held the SEC Unit Trust Pool, which pays dividends twice per annum.

Levels of strategic reserves are reviewed at the AGM when future budget expenditure is being considered, and at the AGM held in November 2015 it was agreed to purchase £5,000 worth of units in the SEC using cash from our current account. (Note that £10,000 of units was sold in July 2016 to fund damp repairs in the parsonage agreed by the Trustees, however it should be noted that over the period December to July the £5,000 investment earned an additional £178.14 in dividend over the previous investment)

The balance sheet shows current reserves to be carried forward of £18921.61 and units within the SEC pool which had a value of £13814.96 in June 2016.

### **Surplus/Deficit**

St Drostan's account shows a surplus of £4137.99 this year, mainly because of the purchase of additional £5,000 SEC units in November, and sale of £10,000 of SEC units in July. This surplus will contribute to funding the ongoing parsonage repairs

Rebates of £1,000 from Certas Energy and £94.14 from HE were received due to falling energy prices, monthly direct debits for these were also reduced.

Fee income was below last year due to a smaller number of users, and a one off income of £10,000 was due to sale of SEC bonds to fund parsonage repairs

The fees for 2017 will be £20 per person per night, and there will be no discount for members of Brechin Diocese, who are encouraged to claim from the Diocesan Murray Scarlett Glenesk Fund. The scope of eligibility for this fund has been increased to assist more members of the Diocese attend the Lodge.

We also received our share of the Diocesan Brechin/Tarfside Travel Grant.

The levels of regular donations were at the same order as previous years, assisted by the HMRC GASDS process of claiming gift aid from small cash donations. The votive candle stand in the Church continues to be a welcome source of donations.

#### **Donated Facilities and Services**

The Trustees are grateful for the time freely given by a small number of volunteers without whom it would be difficult for the charity to operate successfully. No other donated facilities or services were received.

#### **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

The Trustees must prepare financial statements, which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Church during the financial year. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which, on request, must reflect the current financial position of the Church at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



P Nelson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Date 8/9/2016  
Statement of account and balances signed



P Nelson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Date 8/9/2016