

Scottish Episcopal Church – Diocese of Brechin

St Drostans Episcopal Church: Tarfside
Know as; St Drostans Church and Lodge Tarfside
Scottish Charity Number: SC007239

Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st August 2019

The trustees present their annual report together with their financial statements for the year 2018 to 2019.

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 2018 - 2019 these were;

Priest in Charge/booking secretary - Rev Jane Nelson

Member - Rev Michael Turner

Member - Miss Sandra Guthrie

Member - Mrs C Phelan

Member – Mr Kenneth Goddard

Member – Miss Susan Auld

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 1st 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

A “Brainstorming day” was held on the 9th February to consider possible other uses for the Lodge to improve our outreach and increase usage, particularly after Jane and Peter retire in 2020. It was attended by a wide cross section of people representing the Diocese, Users and the local community. A number of ideas were put forward and two working groups formed to carry develop these further. Once again a key event of the year was the St Drostan’s BBQ and Open Day, which included a “Tarfside treasure hunt”, a “Lone Piper” and concluded with an enjoyable “Songs of Praise” during which Bishop Andrew was presented with a Hamish Mc Bishop “flying haggis”! The local community had a large input into the day, assisting in the preparations and particularly cooking at the BBQ.

Three significant unexpected items of expenditure occurred, firstly, the collapse of a very large Grey Poplar tree in the Parsonage Grounds, which thankfully only slightly damaged the Parsonage roof, and for which we were able to reclaim the cost of repairs on the insurance (but not the tree surgeon costs!). The second was the cracking of the shower tray in St Luke’s room which necessitated major replacement and repair activities in order to replace it. Thirdly, a CO alarm in the Parsonage activated and it was found that a leak had occurred in a flue liner, which necessitated replacement.

Two new picnic benches manufactured from recycled plastic were purchased and installed, and a new oak bench seat was donated by friend and relations in memory of long time user Janet Maynard.

The purchase of new gates is carried over to next year as is the painting of the Parsonage external woodwork. Mr Ken Goddard has agreed to take over maintenance issues from Peter Nelson and a handover is on-going. We also wish to thank Mrs Lyn Marsh who took over the washing and cleaning work from Mrs Beverly Penny in January, and also now deals with the Lodge Keys.

The overall numbers using the lodge were slightly down this year, 783 from 797, the number of separate visits by group visits was 42, the same as last year and these figures are below our budget figure of 850 bed nights.

Of the groups using the Lodge over the past year, four were directly related to the Diocese of Brechin, (St Ninian’s Youth Group and St Ninians Girls Brigade, St Luke’s ALPHA Course and St Luke’s Men’s workgroup who did a great job dealing with some maintenance items while they were at the lodge). Four family groups who were members of Diocese of Brechin churches also attended. Three other SEC churches also used the Lodge.

On the “ecumenical” aspect, five groups ranging through Church of Scotland, Epiphany Group, Roman Catholic used the facilities for retreats.

The largest user group category continues to be families many of whom have been using the Lodge for generations although this is matched by the “special user groups” who have a wide range of interests. The level of use by Yoga groups continues to grow and the regular use by TGO Challenge, Scottish Christian Hill Walkers, Bagpipers, Greek/Hebrew Bible studier’s, and Wildlife Studies continues. The use by social works and educational groups continues, and is an important contribution to assisting young people making their way in the world.

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

Lodge – ANSVAR	£734,587	24 th November 2018
Parsonage –ANSVAR	£1,055,094	1 st June 2019
Church – Ecclesiastical	£2,704,000	1 st June 2019

(* the insurance company now states a “maximum” repair amount for the church)

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

£516.15 Mileage associated with repairs/renewals & admin

Rev J Nelson

£ 320.40 Mileage associated with services and visits

Reserves

Reserves are held in The Co-operative Community Direct Plus Account, which is not now interest paying 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.

The balance sheet shows current reserves to be carried forward of £14,073.44 (slightly more than the agreed budget figure of £13,230.20), and units within the SEC pool which had a value of £15,091.97 June 2019, up from £14,244.34 in 2018

Surplus/Deficit

St Drostan's account shows a surplus of £2,071.42 (Budgeted £1,228) this year, mainly because of incomplete projects (parsonage painting and church gates, but offset by unexpected costs as mentioned above).

Fee income was less than last year due by £613.00 due to smaller numbers in groups reducing "bed night" income.

The fees for 2019 were £22 per person per night but will rise to £25 in 2020. The levels of regular donations were about 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 and a new source of regular donations were locum fees from the services which the Priest in Charge takes in Stonehaven, Muchalls and Aberdeen

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 16/9/2019
Statement of account and balances signed



P Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer
Date 16/9/2019