

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 2022

The trustees present their annual report together with their financial statements for the year 2021 to 2022.

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 2021 - 2022 these were;

Priest in Charge/booking secretary - Rev Jane Nelson

Member - Rev Michael Turner

Member - Miss Sandra Guthrie

Member - Mrs Carole Phelan

Member – Mr Kenneth Goddard

Member – Miss Susan Auld

Member – Mrs Lyn Marsh

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

Although the Coronavirus Pandemic and associated "Lockdown" had a significant impact on the operation of the Lodge during most of 2021, and only fully opening only after 9th August 2021 following the relaxation of Covid restrictions, bookings improved in the spring of 2022 and continued at a reasonable level throughout the remainder of 2022. The Church reopened on Easter Sunday 2022, supported by the attendance of local families at our monthly services.

All of the outstanding deposits not used during 2020-2021 due to Covid have been used or refunded, except for one English shooting club, who have closed down (according to their website) and we have been unable to contact.

The overall numbers using the Lodge were higher than expected this year, we budgeted for 500 bed nights and achieved 658 bed nights compared to 235 last year. The number of separate visits by groups was 36 compared to 18 last year.

Of the groups using the Lodge over the past year, four were directly related to the Diocese of Brechin. The largest user group this year continued to be families and related households (11), followed by other non-SEC church groups (7) however the word is spreading amongst Yoga groups (5), who value the peace and quiet of the Lodge.

We held our annual July open day picnic and songs of praise on Sunday 17th July. 50 people from all corners of the Diocese, and our friends who live in Glenesk, enjoyed an afternoon of friendly conversation and an excellent BBQ. The free burgers were cooked by our local resident and Private Butler, Gamekeeper and Nation Park Warden, Anthony, to whom we give great thanks for cooking for us in between his other jobs. Thanks also to Ken and Lyn for helping to set up and clear away. We had quite a few visitors from our Churches in the Mid to Southern part of the Diocese who had not been to St Drostan's before and were impressed by the tranquillity of Glenesk and the facilities available at the Lodge. Most were also unaware of the help available to congregational groups from the Diocese Murray Scarlett Glenesk Fund which will pay the cost of the stay and also an additional contribution towards the cost of food. The day closed with a Songs of Praise, and the congregation's unaccompanied singing of the final hymn, "Thine be the Glory" really raised the roof. (It should be noted; donations received for the "free burgers" once again greatly exceeded the costs, although as previously the burgers and associated foodstuff had been generously donated).

Because of the uncertainties of our cash flow related to the Covid outbreak, no major repairs or modifications were undertaken this year, only the essential routine maintenance and servicing being completed. (The external painting of the parsonage and repairs to roof, purchase of new church gates, and provision of new under floor hatches in the "east wing" of the lodge, were not completed).

We received generous donations of £4054.0 (including related gift aid) which included the promised £2,000 from the Luscombe Benefice towards the new boilers installed last financial year.

We also wish to thank Mrs Lyn Marsh for the washing and cleaning work, particularly the additional work associated with the sanitisation work associated with the Covid precautions. Thanks also to Mr Ken Goddard for the maintenance work on the Lodge.

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

Lodge – ANSVAR	£806,350.00	24 th November 2021
Parsonage – ANSVAR	£1,211,034.00	31 st May 2022
Church – Ecclesiastical	£2,960,000.00	31 st May 2022

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

Trustee Remuneration and expenses

No Expenses have been paid to Trustees.

The Charity pays Mrs Lyn Marsh for services related to laundry and cleaning against invoices provided at the end of each month.

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.

The balance sheet shows current reserves to be carried forward of £22,276.52 instead of the predicted budget loss of £6954, due to the increased usage, good level of donations and deferment of some maintenance and replacement activities, Units within the SEC pool had a value of £13774.96 June 2022, down from £17075.28 in June 2021 due market fluctuations At the Trustees meeting of 26 May 2022, it was agreed to raise the cost per night in 2023 to £35, in view of the predicted fuel cost increase and the rapid increase in the rate of inflation.

Surplus/Deficit

St Drostan's account shows a Surplus of £9791.06, this year mainly because of the reasons indicated above.

Fee income was greater than last year £18557, as compared to £5505. The Locum fees from the services which the Priest in Charge used to take in Stonehaven, Muchalls and Aberdeen, ceased due to her retirement from this activity.

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 10th September 2022

Statement of account and balances signed



P Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer
Date 10th September 2022