

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

The trustees present their annual report together with their financial statements for the year 2010 to 2021.

#### **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 2020 - 2021 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 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 Coronavirus Pandemic and associated "Lockdown" have had a significant impact on the operation of the Lodge during the latter part of 2020 and most of 2021, fully opening only after 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 following the relaxation of Covid restrictions. Clear warnings have been given about not visiting if showing any symptoms, and rooms, shower/toilets are allocated to specific people and their contact details recorded. The pre allocation of bedrooms has also assisted in the management of bed linen and cleaning and will be adopted permanently.

The Church has remained closed since October 2019, because of the difficulties of ensuring sanitisation and cleaning between random visitors related to our very rural location, However Sunday services resumed on Easter Sunday, in line with COVID guidance. We have been well supported by the attendance of local families and children at these services.

Four more groups requested a deposit refund. Other groups have carried over their plans to 2021 or 2022. We now have £2140 in deposits outstanding, some of which will be "used" later in 2021

The overall numbers using the lodge were again lower this year, 235 compared to 301 last year. The number of separate visits by groups was 18 compared to 19 last year, a direct result of the Pandemic precautions.

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, in line with prevailing Covid restrictions. Unfortunately, we also had to once again cancel our annual July open day picnic and songs of praise, although a number of groups and churches are now enquiring about bookings in 2022.

Major budgeted expenditure included purchase new boilers for the Lodge (£4610) and Parsonage (£4399) both as quoted. Work was also carried out on the parsonage roof and the fire alarm control system.

Generous donations of £7200 (including related gift aid) enabled us to mostly cover the costs of the boilers; however we have also been promised an additional £2,000 from the Luscombe Benefice towards this work

The external painting of the parsonage, purchase of new church gates, and provision of new underfloor hatches in the "east wing" of the lodge, have not been completed, due to "lockdown" and cash flow problems.

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 on re opening the Lodge. 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	£770,889.00	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Parsonage –ANSVAR	£1,089,059.00	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021
Church – Ecclesiastical	£2,900,000.00	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021

(\* 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, 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.

To ease cash flow associated with the fitting of the new boilers, ongoing maintenance, and repayment of deposits, 200 units were sold to raise £6,000 in cash. The units were sold at £30.0345 which was the highest price yet seen for these units.

The balance sheet shows current reserves to be carried forward of £12,485.46 instead of the predicted budget loss, mainly due to deferment of some maintenance and replacement activities, and generous donations towards the cost of the new boilers. Units within the SEC pool had a value of £17,075.28 June 2021, down from £18,190.44 in June 2020 due to the sale of 200 units.

### **Surplus/Deficit**

St Drostan's account shows a Surplus of £2,502.68, this year, mainly because of very generous donations, sale of SEC Unit and Users allowing the carryover of deposits rather than requesting refunds. Postponing projects (parsonage painting, church gates, lodge underfloor access), also assisted, in addition to some utility rebates due to low usage. Fee income was less than last year by £1,314 again due to the Lockdown reducing "bed night" income to £5,505.

The levels of donations were very much higher than previous years (mainly for new boilers), however 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 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Statement of account and balances signed



P Nelson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Date 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021