

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 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with their financial statements for the year 2022 to 2023.

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 members administers the charity;

During 2022 - 2023 these were;

Priest in Charge/booking secretary - Rev Jane Nelson

Member - Rev Michael Turner

Member - Miss Sandra Guthrie

Member – Mr Kenneth Goddard

Member – Miss Susan Auld

Member – Mrs Lyn Marsh

Secretary/Treasurer - Mr Peter Nelson

(NB at the AGM of 3rd November 2022, Ken Goddard agreed to take over the Role of Secretary/Treasurer during 2023 after a period of transition, however a possible conflict of interest arose due to Ken expressing an interest in purchasing the Parsonage, and at a Trustees meeting on 25th May 2023, they agreed that Peter Nelson continue in the Role until the issue is resolved)

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

Parsonage issues:

A major issue which arose in February 2023 was that our Parsonage Tenant and Trustee Sandra Guthrie informed Peter Nelson that she was intending to move from the Parsonage due to poor health and indicated that she hoped to be away by the end of June. She requested that he provide a "Landlords Reference" to the Solicitors acting for a property in Blairgowrie; this was provided on 15th February. During most of early 2023 Sandra was not occupying the Parsonage and although she signed an agreement for a new rent commencing 1st June, she did not cancel her previous bankers order for 1st June and this was refunded by us on 2nd June (£280). On 31st May her brother Graham paid in £624 (2 month's 'new' rent) by bank transfer, this was to replace an undated cheque for £624 received from Sandra and returned to her on 30th May. Rent payments in July and August were made by The Guthrie Group, Graham's company.

Kenneth Goddard expressed a written interest on February 17 in purchasing the Parsonage if and when it came up for sale. (This was reported to the other Trustees).

On 30th August Sandra wrote to me, after I sent her an e mail enquiring where to send documents for the forthcoming AGM: "Sorry about the confusion, but I am now settled at the new address. 5, Honeyberry Drive, Rattray ,Blairgowrie. PH10 7 RB"

There are three financial Implications for the next year; Increased Insurance for the Parsonage as it is unoccupied, Legal Fees to complete termination of Tenancy and sale of property, Proceeds from any sale of property.

Lodge Usage

The overall numbers using the Lodge were lower this year 449 compared with 658 last year and a budget figure of 600. The "TGO CHALLENGE" and 19th Dundee (St Ninian's) Girls brigade visits each accounted for 40 bed nights. Yoga groups continue to make a vital contribution to usage and St Silas Glasgow and Dundee City Church also had significant visits.

St Luke's Pirate Monks and St Andrew's Brechin Explorers were the only other Brechin Diocese users despite generous grants being available from the Diocese Murray-Scarlett fund.

Regular groups of families and walkers made up the majority of other users

We held our annual July open day picnic and songs of praise on Sunday 16th July over 40 people from all corners of the Diocese, and our neighbours 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.

The day closed with a Songs of Praise, and the congregation's singing was excellent (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).

No major items of maintenance were undertaken; however a new dishwasher was purchased to replace our worn out machine (£309) and a new laptop and printer to support the administration of the bookings and the charities business (£813.97).

Although fuel costs were slightly higher than budget at £9019.53 vs. £9000, rebates of £1356 from OVO energy/government were a welcome addition to our income.

Donations, collections and Gift Aid refund totalled £2024.44 about as expected

We also wish to thank Mrs Lyn Marsh for the washing and cleaning work and also thanks also to Mr Ken Goddard for the maintenance work on the Lodge, and for both in taking over the Booking administration activities.

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

Lodge – ANSVAR	£924,833.00	24 th November 2022
Parsonage –ANSVAR	£1,323,660.00	31 st May 2023
Church – Ecclesiastical	£3,330,000.00	31 st May 2023

(* 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 £21,739.09 instead of the predicted budget loss of £5,993, due to deferment of some maintenance and replacement activities, and energy rebates.

Units within the SEC pool had a value of £14,994.23 June 2022, up from £13,774.96 in June 2022 due market fluctuations

Surplus/Deficit

St Drostan's account shows a Deficit of £537.43 this year. Mainly because of the reasons indicated above, and lower than expected Lodge usage.

Fee income was less than last year £15,244, as compared to £18,557.

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 17th September 2023

Statement of account and balances signed

P Nelson



Secretary/Treasurer

Date 17th September 2023