

St Margaret's Parish Men's Group**Draft Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 13th February 2025**

Present: Martin Wilkinson (Minutes and Chair), Pete Seath, Bob Creaney, George Connolly, Andrew Flynn.

Apologies for Absence: Tom Scott, John McIlduff, Frannie McNicoll.

Our treasurer, John McIlduff, was called to enter hospital about an hour before this meeting. It is thought that it was not an emergency. All present wished John successful treatment and look forward to seeing him soon. Thank you, John, for ensuring that we got the pizzas you had bought for the meeting, kindly delivered by your wife.

This was a brief meeting since our chair, Tom Scott, is abroad on holiday and our treasurer was unexpectedly unable to attend.

Spiritual Activities

Lenten weekly scripture discussion sessions will take place in the Lady Chapel on 20 and 27 March, 3 and 10 April. Tom has suitable materials to use and will be back from holiday in time.

Stations of the Cross. The group expressed willingness to lead the stations on one or more occasions but hoped that this could be arranged well in advance so that we had time to recruit a suitable large team.

Jubilee Year. Martin distributed the Jubilee 2025 General Calendar (attached to email with these minutes) and explained that Fr Syriac had asked if parish groups could consider whether they could mount any suitable activities for one or more of the jubilees listed in the calendar. This will be further considered at the next meeting when members have had time to examine the calendar.

Recent Social Activities

Hogmanay in the Crypt on the evening of 31st December was enjoyed by those present. The number attending was about 30 which was much less than number of tickets sold. It was however gratifying to see some young people present. There may have been transport problems for older people who might have liked to attend and had maybe bought tickets.

This brought up again how we might encourage the greater diversity of nationalities now present in our parish to feel able to participate more fully as well as encouraging young people to freely take part. This may require that we offer additional activities to our traditional ones and at times which may be suitable for families such as Sunday afternoons. This discussion can be continued at a future, more full meeting.

East End Park visit. Frannie arranged a visit behind the scenes at 5pm on Wednesday 5th February before an evening match with Livingston. Five members attended and thought it was a great experience and also had a meal and stayed for the match.

Future Social Activities.

Because of the low attendance it was decided not to resume planning of most of the 2025 programme at this meeting. It was noted that one of the first events might be a visit to the Royal Yacht *Britannia* at Leith and some of those present who had been there particularly recommended this activity.

Pre-Lent Meal Out. This was the one social activity that could not be left until another meeting since it must be held before the start of Lent. It was decided to hold this meal on Wednesday 26th February at *Namaste* Indian Restaurant on Carnegie Drive with the usual gathering before dinner in the *Commercial Inn*. Martin will email members and make a booking.

It was noted in the discussion that another former Indian restaurant venue, *Khushi's*, is expected to reopen shortly, but not at the site damaged by the fire, but next door to *Incontri* in Bruce Street.

Next Meeting – wait for the return of Tom and John and decide a date by email.