

**St Margaret's Parish Men's Group****Draft Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Present:** , John McIllduff (Chair), Martin Wilkinson (Minutes), Pete Seath, Bob Creaney, Frannie McNicoll, Martin McNicoll.

**Apologies for Absence:** Tom Scott, David Hambley.

**Financial.** Our final balance at the end of 2024 was £409.

**Spiritual Activities**

**Lenten weekly scripture reflection sessions** had been planned to take place in the Lady Chapel on 20 and 27 March, 3 and 10 April. Unfortunately, the 3 April slot is no longer available since there are Stations being presented in the main church by the P7 pupils of St Margarets Primary School. There are no other similar slots available on other nights during that week. It was decided to cancel the third meeting but to retain the three other dates. Tom has suitable materials to use and will be back from holiday in time.

**Stations of the Cross.** The group has been allocated Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 4pm. So far willingness to participate has come from Martin Wilkinson, Tom Scott, Bob Creaney and other members are invited to come forward. Estelle had bought a set of the 2025 SCIAF stations for use by the One World Group and has kindly given us 6 spare copies. It was agreed to use these at our Stations.

**Recent Social Activities**

**Pre-Lent Meal** on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at *Namaste* Indian Restaurant on Carnegie Drive was enjoyed by 11 members and all seemed happy with the variety and amount of food, the helpfulness of the staff and the moderate bill.

**Future Social Activities.****Programme for 2025**

It was decided at this meeting to further review the list of possible activities proposed for our 2025 programme but to leave detailed planning until more members are present to discuss suitable dates, some of which are dependent on improved weather coming. The list discussed includes some new additions:

- Royal Yacht *Britannia* at Leith
- Museum of Flight at East Fortune
- Stirling Castle
- Perth Stone of Destiny exhibition
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
- Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life, Coatbridge
- Japanese Garden at Cowden near Dollar

**Reaching out to more parishioners** These would be open to all parishioners, male and female. We were concerned that we do not seem to appeal to younger parishioners or to the growing number of parishioners of overseas heritage, whom we would like to help to become more involved in parish life. We remembered well the multi-racial, international food feast in the crypt, about 8-10 years ago, which was massively attended and excellent. Although it has been said that this enjoyable occasion cannot be repeated because of current food hygiene laws, we believe that the parish may be trying to find an acceptable way around that and we would strongly support this.

**Post Lent group meal out.** There was support for this annual activity to take place in early May. Members are invited to suggest a suitable venue and the next meeting will discuss.

**Annual Golf Tournament.** September was considered preferable to May. Roanan's help in reducing the cost in 2024 was appreciated. We should ask him if he is still able to do this.

**Next Meeting** – In a month's time it will be Holy Week which is not a suitable time for our next meeting but we need to make a decision on a post-Lent meal so it was decided to hold a short meeting after our Lenten Reflection session on 10 April.