

**St Margaret's Parish Men's Group****Draft Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Present:** Tom Scott (Chair) Martin Wilkinson (Minutes), John McIlduff (Treasurer), Bob Creaney, Frannie McNicoll, Peter Dunn, Martin McNicoll

**Apologies for Absence:** Andrew Flynn, George Connolly, Steven Downie, Ken Ritchie, Pete Seath, Hugh Reid, David McIntosh.

**Financial.** The groups balance is £423.

**Spiritual Activities**

***Lenten weekly scripture reflection sessions*** The attendance at these meetings was not great this year, lower than in previous years, with just four members at each meeting. For Advent we should attempt to rectify this by advertising the meetings and opening them to all members of the parish.

**Future Social Activities.**

**Post Lent Night out** on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May at Namaste is taking place tonight immediately after this meeting with 11 places booked.

**Activity Program for 2025.**

Results of the online poll for events were as follows:

- Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh - 12
- Royal Yacht Britannia at Leith - 11
- Perth Stone of Destiny exhibition - 6
- Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life, Coatbridge - 6
- Japanese Garden at Cowden near Dollar – 6
- Stirling Castle – 4
- Museum of Flight at East Fortune - 3

Where a couple might attend it was counted as 2 votes.

It was decided to proceed with the two highest scorers- Botanic Gardens and Britannia.

Botanic Gardens could be a good visit both winter and summer so an immediate date was chosen, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, with also a possible winter repeat. There is free entry to the Gardens but a guided tour is available at £10 per head. Tom will initially check the date with the group by email and then open the visit to the parish.

The Royal Yacht Britannia has a charge of £20 per head. This can be organised later after we have completed the Botanic Gardens

**Visit to Iona.** The trip to the Holy Isle of Iona later this year, possibly late July or early September, seemed to be attractive to 5 couples. The accommodation costs are very high on Iona and staying elsewhere on Mull might be a possibility. Two night's accommodation was suggested as adequate. An email will be sent out with accommodation suggestions and costs to further test interest.

**Next Meeting** – will be on Thursday 5th June.