

St Margaret's Parish Men's Group Draft Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 4th November 2025

Present: Tom Scott (chair), John McIlduff (treasurer), Martin Wilkinson (minutes), Frannie McNicoll, Martin McNicoll, George Connolly, Steven Downie.

Apologies for Absence: Bob Creaney, Peter Seath.

Minutes of the last meeting on 2nd October 2025 were approved. Martin McNicoll was asked to arrange their posting on the parish website.

Financial. The group's balance is £423.

Spiritual Activities

Advent. The last two years our Advent Reflection Meetings have been poorly attended. The Ladies Group have been approached to see and see if they would like to join us in a combined programme. The response was negative and it seems they will not be operating their own sessions this year. In view of the low numbers, it was decided that our group would not proceed this year.

Assistance to other Parish Groups.

The Parish Fabric Committee are asking for help to paint a new fence at the Presbytery and to clear some litter from the front of the church. Members who can help should contact Paddy Mallan: (paddymallan@btinternet.com)

Social Program.

Events since the last meeting.

- **Wednesday 15th October. Trip to Lindores Abbey Distillery.** Six members enjoyed this visit. Besides the spirit itself there was much historic interest connected with the monks at the abbey and with it being the earliest documented site of whisky distillation. Lunch was taken afterwards at a nearby Inn.
- **Friday 24th October. Dinner at Garvock House with Partners.** 20 people attended. The "Partners" is a historical relict and single guests are welcome and two attended, one of who was Fr. Chris. There had been some cancellations and the Garvock Hotel policy was to charge for these which we will take into account when planning next year.
- **Thursday 30th October. Theatre trip to see *Miss Saigon* at the Edinburgh Playhouse.** Twelve parishioners attended a matinee performance followed by post theatre dinner at *Mamma Roma*.

Forthcoming activities

- **Saturday 29th November. Parish event. Scottish Gin evening in the Crypt.** Four different gins will be used with a group member giving a presentation on each. We need to buy four exciting gins, mixers, fruit such as lemons and a set of identical shot glasses. To cover this with an expected attendance of 30 people the ticket price should be £10. A quiz will be organized. Tickets have already been printed and will go on sale immediately. The group members organizing this event will meet at 1830 in the Commercial Inn on Tuesday 25th November, just before the Pre-Advent meal.
- **Pre-Advent night out Tuesday 25th November.** Meet at 1900 in the Commercial Inn for pre-dinner drinks followed by a meal at Incontri in Bruce Street. Tom Scott will email for participants.

- **Tuesday 9th June 2026. Trip to Iona.** Four couples are currently booked on this trip. Staying at the Bunessan Inn on Mull for three nights at £600 B&B. The itinerary will be decided by those going but will include a daytrip to Iona and possibly a trip to Staffa. *There are still rooms available so if anyone else would like to join this trip they should contact Frannie McNicoll sooner rather than later.*
- **31st December. Hogmanay in the Crypt.** A social evening with music and a quiz for parishioners to get together, especially those who would otherwise be alone.
- **Art exhibition and wine evening.** We are waiting to see if Tom Canning from Holy Name would be happy to display some of his work in the crypt in a social evening following the successful exhibition of his work in Oakley.

Other Business. Steven Downie referred to the uncomfortable nature of the folding chairs in the crypt and said that he and Sara had seen in IKEA comfortable cushions with arms that would fit on these chairs and make them much more comfortable. They cost £5 each. A quick internet check during the meeting showed that there were several possible cushions that might improve these chairs at low cost. While there seemed to be 75 folding chairs in the crypt most events use only a few, up to say twelve. The Men's Group would be happy to contribute to the cost of such a small purpose. But this would first need to be cleared with the Fabric Committee and just a few bought to try out this idea.

Next Meeting: Thursday 4th December at 7.30 pm