

St Margaret's Parish Men's Group**Draft Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 4th December 2025 - held in the Crypt at St Margaret's Church**

Present: Tom Scott (Chair) Martin Wilkinson (Minutes), John McIllduff (Treasurer), Bob Creaney, Ken Ritchie, Frannie McNicoll, Steven Downie, Martin McNicoll.

Apologies for Absence: George Connolly, Andrew Flynn

Minutes of the meeting of 4th November approved. Martin McNicoll asked to place on parish website.

Financial. The group's balance of £423 has increased by receipts from the gin tasting. See below for details of gin tasting costs. After costs there was surplus of about £140 so we now have an available balance of about £563. We should disburse some of this to parish charities. Decided to contribute £100 to SVP and £100 to One World Group.

Spiritual Activities

None since the last meeting. We had suggested to the Ladies Group that we share the weekly scripture meetings previously held in Advent. Charlotte had circulated Ladies Group members with our suggestion but none have replied. Therefore, we will not proceed with the scripture meetings this year.

Social Activities

- The **pre-Advent meal** at Incontri on 25th November was enjoyed by 11 members
- Saturday 29th November. Parish event. **Scottish Gin evening** in the Crypt. 25 tickets sold. 21 people attended on the night. There was very positive feedback which could be judged to have been much better than the previous occasion. Much more time was taken over presentation of the gins and the whole proceedings were slower than previous similar events which was probably a contributor to the success. Takings totalled £250. Outgoings were for tonic water, fruit, balloon glasses and shot glasses totalling £105.19. Tom will be refunded £100 for this and there was £10 in small costs giving a surplus of £140 The gins were kindly donated by members. The seat covers for the crypt chairs bought by Tom Scott for trying out were used and found to be very satisfactory. They can be tried again at Hogmanay. John will ask Paddy about possible purchase.

Future Activities

- **Tuesday 9th June 2026. Trip to Iona.** No change. Frannie will firm up with the hotel. £200 was set aside to help Fr Chris to come as a spiritual adviser.
- **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. The crypt has been booked. A notice will be in the coming week's parish bulletin. Suggested charge of £5 this year with up to 50 tickets available to be sold. We should consider transport needs for old people. We should have musical accompaniment. Fr Chris will play his accordion. Not sure yet about other musical contributors except possibly parish music group members. We will not bother with television this time. Last time it was tuned in to London rather than Scotland which was not satisfactory. Not enough room for ceilidh but we have games available. Set up the crypt immediately after 1000 mass 31st December.
- **Art exhibition and wine evening.** We are still hoping that 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.

Next Meeting: Thursday 5th February 2026 in St. Margaret's crypt.