

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

**Present:** Tom Scott (Chair) Martin Wilkinson (Minutes), John McIllduff (Treasurer), Bob Creaney, George Connolly, Peter Seath, Ken Ritchie,

**Apologies for Absence:** Frannie McNicoll, Steven Downie

**Financial.** The groups balance remains at £423.

**Spiritual Activities**

None since the last meeting.

**Social Activities**

None since the last meeting.

**Future Activities already planned**

**Theatre Visit** planned for matinee performance of *Miss Saigon* on 15<sup>th</sup> October at the Playhouse, Edinburgh, followed by a meal at 1730 at Mamma Roma, which is close to the theatre. Ten people have booked. More can come, if they wish, but they need to act quickly in case all tickets for this performance have been sold. Suggested to contact Mike Pendlowski if interested.

**Visit to Iona.** Departing 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and staying four nights at the Bunesan Inn on Mull. This gives three active days for Iona and other possible visits such as Staffa. Accommodation is £200 per couple per night and already virtually all other accommodation is fully booked and more expensive. However, we have a vacancy for one more couple to join this trip. If interested please contact Frannie McNicoll.

**Further Activities for later in 2025 and early 2026**

**Mens Group Meal** The next meal will be at *Namaste* on Carnegie Drive at 1930 on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September preceded by drinks in the Commercial Inn. This is a celebration of significant recent birthdays of at least three members of the group. Tom Scott will email group members.

**Gin Tasting.** Some members of the Women's Group have asked if our group could organise another gin tasting. It was decided that a good date would be Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Lindores Abbey Distillery Tour** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Cost is £26.25 per person including two drams. A meal could also be organised. Tours are available at 1230 and 1430. Tom Scott will email group to ascertain preferred time from those who might like to come.

**Johnnie Walker Experience** in Edinburgh. Decided to postpone until 2026 in view of the Lindores visit.

**Meal with Partners.** In previous years this has been a well-attended highlight. Decided to organise for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October at Garvock House Hotel. Tom Scott will email group with price details and to find out which of these dates is preferred.

**Tom Canning's Exhibition of Paintings** in Oakley, publicised in the parish bulletin, had been seen by various members of the group who thought it was excellent. There was a suggestion that Tom could be asked if he might exhibit for a day at the St Margaret's site e.g. in the crypt.

**Abseiling off Forth Bridge** on 28<sup>th</sup> September is planned by our member, George Connolly, to raise money for charity. All at the meeting contributed to George's collection. He intends to publicise this in the parish to raise more funds.

**Next Meeting** – will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October in St. Margaret's crypt.