



## Draft Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Augustine United Church

<b>Present</b>	Convener	Andrew McLellan	
	Vice-Convener	Jamie Erskine	
	Secretary	Carol Miller	
	Minutes Secretary	Jacky Harkness	
	Members	Maureen Jack	Tom Watson
<b>Online</b>	Members	Carol Morton	Calum MacSween
		Douglas Simpson	Trish Archibald
	Minister	Rev Dr Stewart Gillan	

	Item	Comments	Action
1	<b>Opening</b>	Andrew welcomed everyone present and started the meeting with a lesson and a prayer.  This is the last Committee Meeting for Carol Morton. Andrew thanked her for all her support and work for The Friends.	
2	<b>Apologies</b>	Apologies were received from Kenny Roger, Alison Jack, Ian Alexander, Rebecca McGonigle, Muriel Pearson, David Coulter, and Elaine Macadie.	
3	<b>Minutes</b>	The Minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 had been pre-circulated and were agreed by the Committee.  There were no matters arising from the Minutes.	
4	<b>Convener's Update</b>	i) Andrew has been invited by the Royal Scots Club to give an evening talk on Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June. The Royal Scots Club and St Andrew's Church were both built as memorials after WWI. The talk is a public event and all are invited. Carol will send out the details once known.  Stewart has archive documents which were produced for the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Andrew's Church. He will send them to Andrew.  Tom requested details of the chair plaques in St Andrew's church. Carol agreed to send the list to all committee members.  ii) As a second joint event, Christian Aid have proposed to share the presentation of The Tinderbox film, where Gillian Mosely, the director will be present. There will be little cost to The Friends. This was agreed. The evening event is on Monday	All Secretary  Stewart  Secretary  Secretary

		<p>24<sup>th</sup> June at Augustine United Church, further details will be confirmed by Carol following discussion, relating to details, with Christian Aid.</p> <p>iii) Andrew and Carol met with the Glasgow Society of Sons and Daughters of Ministers of the Church of Scotland. The Society has offered to support The Friend's scholarship programme once that starts again, with a sum of up to £2000 a year. The scholar would need to send a report on their return and the Society might expect to be part of the selection process.</p> <p>Maureen has been in correspondence with Christian Aid and was invited to a briefing on the current situation in Israel/OPT. She also joined a lobby of Westminster and was the only Scot there.</p>	
5	<b>AGM</b>	<p>The AGM is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May in St Cuthbert's Church. The format is:  11am Coffee/tea  11.30 Meeting starts. Links will be sent out for the hybrid event  Lunch  1.30pm Speaker: Rev Muriel Pearson*  <i>Update : Rev Stewart Gillan will be our speaker, as Muriel no longer attending the GA.</i></p> <p>Joe Nockels will give a summary of his scholarship report online.</p> <p>The notice and agenda have been circulated and the Annual Report and Accounts will be emailed in early May. Carol will send a reminder to committee members required to submit reports.</p> <p>Hadeel will have a stall. It was agreed they should be automatically invited to all of The Friends' events, where appropriate.</p> <p>Committee Members selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamie is retiring as Vice-Convener but will remain on the committee.</li> <li>• Ian Alexander has agreed to be elected to the committee and selected as Vice-Convener.</li> <li>• Carol Morton is retiring from the Committee.</li> </ul>	<p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p>

		<p>The election of Committee Members will be raised at the AGM. It was suggested that Val Brown might be interested in joining as she has a particular interest in I/OPT. Maureen offered to approach Val.</p> <p>Stewart agreed to ask Jim Francis if he is still interested in remaining a Committee Member.</p>	<p>Maureen</p> <p>Stewart</p>
6	<b>Minister's Update</b>	<p>Stewart gave a very comprehensive update on the situation in Israel/OPT, the main points of which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He has moved to St George's College Compound in East Jerusalem</li> <li>• Wendy (from The Maltinghouse) is designing the new website and is making good progress</li> <li>• Concerts at St Andrew's Jerusalem have returned and are filling up</li> <li>• The hybrid service is averaging 15/20 people</li> <li>• A grant from PCUSA for the new sound system in St Andrew's Jerusalem has been made. Stewart is also applying to the Salveson Fund.</li> <li>• The £5,100 from The Friends has been spent (<i>update – this has not all been spent</i>). Stewart will ask the accountant to send the details asap to Carol and Tom.</li> </ul> <p>Andrew thanked Stewart for his detailed and insightful update.</p>	<p>Stewart</p>
7	<b>Finance</b>	<p>The statement of accounts was circulated before the meeting. The budget has been underspent because of the current circumstances in Israel/OPT and as a consequence the financial situation for this year to March 2024 is stable.</p> <p>However, the overall position is that not enough income is being generated. Some Life Members have made additional contributions, either by one-off donations or through standing orders and the Committee needs to look for opportunities to encourage more members to do the same.</p> <p>The cost of postage has been very high, but that is explained by the purchase of stamps in advance of the price increases.</p> <p>It was agreed that the budget to April 2025 should be the same as 2024.</p> <p>The £2000 contribution from the Glasgow Sons and Daughters to the scholarship programme should be treated as a bonus rather than including it in the budget. It was therefore agreed that the budget for the scholarship programme should remain at £4,000.</p>	

		Alison continues to chase up Clarke Muir for the remaining funds he owes.	
8	<b>St Andrew's Day</b>	<p>Rt. Rev Sally Foster-Fulton has agreed to preach at the Edinburgh St Andrew's Day service. She will shortly return as Head of Christian Aid Scotland, following her year as Moderator. Andrew will discuss the service with her.</p> <p>Andrew will follow up the request for the choir of St Augustine's RC to sing at the service.</p> <p>Stewart and Muriel are asked to submit ideas for the retiring offering to Carol.</p>	<p>Andrew</p> <p>Andrew</p> <p>Stewart Muriel</p>
9	<b>Newsletter</b>	Calum is waiting for a couple of articles and will then publish the newsletter in May.	
10	<b>AOB</b>	Trish has given two talks recently in Dunblane and Linlithgow and has promoted The Friends at both. Andrew thanked her for this.	
11	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>	<p><b>AGM: 17<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p>Next Meeting: last week in September. Carol will send a doodle poll to Committee Members to ascertain the most convenient date.</p>	All