

## **Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting 6 June 2017**

**Present:** Judith Bishop, Georgina Bowman, Revd Lore Chumbley (chair), Penny Edwards, Mark Elliott, Matthew Jones, Sarah Kerr, Janet Mahto, Jane Nicholson, Sharon Rawlings, Alex Soboslay, Will Willans.

**1.** The meeting opened with a prayer. **Apologies** were received from Rowena Hall, Virginia Knight, Brenda Wall and Malcolm Wall.

### **2. Election of Council Officers**

Will Willans was co-opted onto the Council (prop Alex, sec Matthew, passed by acclamation). Matthew was elected Lay Chair (prop Judith, sec Georgina, passed without dissent). Alex was elected Secretary (prop Jane, sec Sarah, passed without dissent). Georgina was elected Treasurer (prop Alex, sec Janet, passed without dissent).

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting (25 April 2017) were accepted with some amendments as a true record and signed by the Chair. Sharon was thanked for her sterling work as Secretary.

The minutes of the most recent Trustees meeting were noted; others will be circulated for us to catch up with.

### **4. Matters arising**

(1) Length of the agenda. Noting that there are often lots of reports from various committees and working groups, Lore suggested we shouldn't have everything every meeting but possibly only two or three each time unless there was something specific to report. She also suggested fewer meetings. Lore and Matthew will meet to talk about a future structure.

### **5. Worship**

(1) Joint LMG services with St Stephen's. After talking with Philip Hawthorn, Lore thinks our two churches are moving in different directions, and the challenge with joint services is that our congregations don't want to worship in the same way. Instead, we considered alternative ways of working together, which could include exchanging weekly notice sheets; a card with both churches' services, so we're offering more of a choice of churchmanship; co-operating on talks and courses; an agapé meal one year here, the next year there? Georgina proposed we have Maundy Thursday supper here in 2018, and invite St Stephen's.

(2) Lore proposed that we invite a "Visitor" for Holy Week, perhaps a monk, who could become a visible presence around Julian Road, present talks, lead discussion groups, prayer groups, etc. and present a different aspect. Alex was sceptical about doing this just at the time of year when more people come to church anyway – would we be ourselves or something else? Others suggested this would add depth and a fresh

approach to what we're doing, at a time when there's an expectation we'd be doing things. We'd want to make sure the Christ Church family was not diluted by it. Some potential Visitors were mentioned; Jane suggested doing a bit of a recce on the suggestions; Jude proposed going to them and asking what sort of programme they might offer.

(3) Lore thanked the choir for Pentecost, Ascension Day etc.

## **6. Reordering**

There will be a meeting after the 10am service on Sunday 2 July to come together and talk about configurations. Matthew to look through responses received over the period of experimentation and boil them down. We will discuss: two altars or one? At the east or nearer the congregation? The pulpit? Different floor levels? Lighting? There was consensus that we'll restore the floodlights in the apse to light the tiles and reredos.

## **7. Buildings**

It was reported that the entrance, lobby and toilets were for all practical purposes complete, and the hot water heater in the choir vestry lavatory will be done as soon as the electrician is available to wire it in. Sharon asked about loo roll holders. Alex presented some options, but there was no conclusion. The meeting agreed that we'd like the paper towel dispensers put up, and lower mirrors so shorter people (not to mention wheelchair users) could use them too. There was discussion about bigger bins for used paper towels, restoring the white lines on the steps, and agreement to get step stools and potties for children to use.

## **8. Hospitality**

Best of British fundraiser 24 June. £15 a head suggested. Should we hold a raffle? Need to check legalities, and would need someone to administer.

## **9. Sound system upgrade**

We've received a revised quotation from Expression Media for the proposed upgrade: £3,500 + VAT. Jane proposed and Sarah seconded that we accept the quote and do the work. Passed unanimously. Alex will submit an application for the required permission through the online faculty system, and Jude will find out when Expression Media can do the work.

## **10. Organ repair**

The insurance loss adjuster has visited to inspect the damage caused by falling plaster. Nicholson's, the organ builders, can start removing the damaged organ pipes over August-September-October. An initial meeting for those willing to join a fundraising working group will be held on 21 June. The Trustees will need to formally decide on the programme of work, and we will need to apply for a faculty once the scope of the work is decided.

## **11. Pastoral Care**

Georgina has proof-read the draft "Where to Turn" document prepared by Margaret Heath and Penny. She suggested some additions for those who

don't live in Bath, and advocated a serif font at 14pt size for legibility. The consensus was that the document is aimed at the congregation in the first instance and we should issue a first edition, then work towards a revision. A digital copy will be sent to Matthew for the website. Jude suggested we could distribute it more widely, for example to hotels etc and other churches in Bath.

## **12. Charities**

There was some discussion about choosing a particular USPG project. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting when members of the charities committee are present. Can we publicise the amount raised for each Charity of the Month on a noticeboard, not just the annual report?

## **13. Any other business**

(1) Mark mentioned that Judith Anderson had got married last Friday. Congratulations and best wishes to be sent to her.

(2) Will noted that 19 July is the bicentenary of the death of John Palmer, the Georgian architect who designed Christ Church. Perhaps we could have a caption competition or similar in the magazine?

(3) Bell ringing. Will reported that a visiting band rang yesterday, and ringing on Ascension Day had gone off well. Young ringers from Gloucester and Bristol had rung on the May Bank Holiday. A sponsored ring is proposed for the last Saturday in July in aid of Strike Back Against Blood Cancer. Visiting ringers will be coming to Bath on a chartered train from Hastings. Will and Lore will talk about a "ringers' service", possibly an Evensong followed by tea. On Saturday 9 September, when Christ Church is open for Ride & Stride and an Open Day, the ringers will open the tower to visitors.

(4) Sarah expressed disappointment that the London stabbings had not been mentioned in the intercessions on Sunday. Lore said "Don't assume people know or have seen the news; if there's anything you think should be included, do mention it." The prayer list is on the table at the back of the church before the service, and usually right up until the intercessions.

(5) Walsingham pilgrimage. Ten are going. Lore asked whether the church could pay the petrol costs of those driving. This was agreed without dissent.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21:28. Next meeting Thursday 3 August 2017.