

DRAFT Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting

23 January 2018

Present: Judith Bishop, Georgina Bowman, Revd Lore Chumbley (chair), Penny Edwards, Mark Elliott, Rowena Hall, Matthew Jones, Virginia Knight, Jane Nicholson, Alex Soboslay (secretary), Brenda Wall, Malcolm Wall.

In attendance: David Bishop

- 1.** The meeting opened with a prayer. **Apologies** were received from Sarah Kerr, Janet Mahto, Sharon Rawlings and Will Willans.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (14 November 2017) were accepted with some amendments as a true record (proposed Judith, seconded Matthew).

3. Matters arising

(1) Charities. Lore provided information about Bath Welcomes Refugees and said she can vouch for them. She suggested we could invite any of the charities to talk to us and then ratify support if we agree. Rowena proposed and Mark seconded that Council accept the list of suggested charities en bloc; this was passed (10 in favour, 2 abstentions). Brenda proposed and Malcolm seconded that the Charities Committee decide the running order of the approved charities; passed (9 in favour, 1 against).

(2) Traidcraft. Remaining stock to be offered for Fairtrade fortnight (26 Feb to 11 March), then catalogue to be made available for people to order from.

(3) Dishwasher. Alex has produced instructions for the dishwashers and coffee machines, which will be laminated and displayed. It was reported that the Lower Mews dishwasher was not working and needed to be checked.

(4) Security. Matthew will circulate the advice and information he has found from National Churchwatch and the government.

(5) Review of rates for external events. Judith said she has revised the rates and sent details to Toppings.

(6) A-board. Judith presented some costs and options. After discussion, Council agreed £186 for an A-board including two generic laminated posters, plus an allowance of about £24 for extra laminates (proposed Brenda, seconded Georgina, passed without dissent).

4. Worship

(1) Lent and Holy Week. Lore confirmed that she has invited David Bruno for Holy Week and Easter. He will lead activities on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week and otherwise will just be there. The crucifixion and resurrection don't take place in church but out in the world, and in addition to wonderful services we're also looking out to the community. As

part of this outreach he will speak about his work, and his wife will speak about refugee work. We hope the community will be interested.

(2) Kingdom Time. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite the church to mark "Kingdom Time" between Ascension and Pentecost. What are we going to do? Is there something people want to get involved in? Last year we had a booklet of prayers. Brenda suggested a 24-hour vigil ending with a prayer breakfast. Lore asked whether we could involve St Stephen's.

(3) Jonah-Man Jazz. St Andrew's School are going to perform this in Christ Church just before Easter (date to be confirmed).

5. Pilgrim Group

Brenda reported that we have a regular group of 10-12 people meeting every other week. It was constructive and prayerful, and she said they all get a lot out of it (and also throw extremely good parties). After they finish study of Acts, the next topic will be a theology series starting at the end of May or beginning of June. Speakers are to be confirmed but will include Prof. David Catchpole, once a schoolboy at Christ Church, on "Theology and the Bible: is there a connection?" and finish on 19 July with Canon Michael Burgess on "Does God laugh?"

6. Mission Plan

There was brief discussion of the draft Mission Plan, which Lore explained set out what we are doing in a format requested by the Deanery. This was approved (8 in favour, 1 against).

7. Finance

(1) Diocesan Contribution. David Bishop (Trustees Treasurer) briefly verified that Christ Church is financially sound and noted that we have not paid a "Parish Share" to the Diocese for 2017. After some discussion, Council agreed to send the Diocese £15,000 for 2017 (proposed Mark, seconded Malcolm, passed with 1 abstention). David/Georgina to arrange payment and ask the Diocese what they are requesting from us for 2018. If it is about the same, Council agreed to paying by monthly Standing Order (about £1,250 a month).

(2) Fundraising. David gave a detailed presentation raising some questions:

1. Where does it end? What's the target? Current specific projects such as the east end reordering and organ restoration, things we've talked about such as a ramp to the main door, or open-ended?
2. What is each element for? Funds in a general pot vs those reserved for a specific project.
3. Who are we targetting? Where's it going to come from? Grant-awarding bodies, outside donors or ourselves?
4. When did it begin? We've spent at least a quarter of a million pounds on various projects over the last few years. The current "projects fund", counting from July 2017, has something over £2,000 in it.

David identified some of the strengths of the fundraising for our bell

restoration: one committed person drove it; it had a clearly defined goal and budget; there was broad involvement outside the church, and good publicity. There was also some controversy, which we should be ready for.

David emphasised the need for proper paperwork, recording how much was received, from whom, for which “venture”, and any restrictions. He outlined the rules for Gift Aid, which could potentially add 25% to the value of any income: Gift Aid cannot be claimed if we sell something (jam, jewellery, etc).

Each fundraising project or “venture” will require a designated leader, who takes responsibility for the paperwork and accounting (with help from David and Georgina). There was some further discussion of practicalities such as the handling of quantities of cash, who cheques should be made out to, etc.

David will send a copy of his PowerPoint to the fundraising committee. Lore mentioned that the “hands-on fundraising group” had arranged a “Lent Challenge”, in which participants will be given £20 seed money and challenged to increase it. Details to be announced for Lent.

8. Works and projects

(1) Organ repair. Council formally approved the draft Statement of Significance and Statement of Needs (proposed Mark, seconded Brenda, passed unanimously). Alex noted that the Registrar has indicated that a faculty will be issued, assuming no objections are received.

The Trustees have received a “second opinion” from Paul Hale, which is not only favourable about the proposed organ repair but goes on to recommend further work while the organ is dismantled. This would total about £23,000 extra (in a number of separate jobs, each perhaps £3,000). The result would be to create an asset, a decent recital instrument.

(2) East end reordering. Ellis & Co., the building contractors, have lifted some floorboards to inspect the structure under the apse, and their view is that lowering the floor would be a major structural job and hence prohibitively expensive. The Trustees have passed this on to the architects to take into account in their sketch plans and ideas.

9. Hospitality and social events

Judith said the fact that a Harvest Lunch did not happen this year suggests that long-range planning for key events is needed, that we need more volunteers involved, and perhaps we are trying to do too many things. She suggested a rolling ideas forum, open to all and meeting twice a year, to discuss what events we could hold over the coming six to twelve months. She said a Harvest Lunch will happen this year, and there will be a Caribbean Event. There was consensus that we need to look outward, and that not all social events should be money-making. The next meeting will discuss ideas about how to get more people on board, and how to support and help those organising and running events.

10. Affiliated Minister

Revd Narinder Tegally, the new senior chaplain at the RUH, and her husband Oosman are regular worshippers at Christ Church, and she has expressed the wish to be affiliated with Christ Church in some way, presiding and preaching, taking part in children's work, etc. Lore suggested that making her an official Associate Minister, licensed by the Bishop, was perhaps too formal. Council resolved without dissent to invite Narinder to lead services and take part in the activities of the church, and expressed its delight that she and Oosman have chosen to make Christ Church their home church. Lore will write to her to pass this on.

11. Any other business

(1) Burlington House. This local charity, which we support, have invited us to send four volunteers to help. Lore will publicise.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 22:20. **Next meeting** Tuesday 20 March 2018 in the Lower Mews at 7:30pm.