

Christ Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 14th May 2019, 7.30 pm in Lower Mews

Present

Lore Chumbley (Chair)
Jude Bishop
Georgina Bowman
Zoe Bushell
Mark Elliott
Matthew Jones
Sarah Kerr
Virginia Knight
Sharon Rawlings
Alex Soboslay
Will Willans

Opening Prayers

1. **Apologies** were received from Lewis Boyd, Penny Edwards, Janet Mahto, Jane Nicholson, Jonathan Stead and Brenda Wall.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (17th March 2019) were read, corrected and unanimously approved.
3. **Matters arising not already on the agenda**
 - a. **Pastoral care** – Jane Nicholson as a member of the pastoral care team was asked to look into the suggestions raised at the March meeting.
 - b. **East End plans** – Council will meet on Tuesday 28th May at 7.30pm in Lower Mews to approve the definitive East End plans, subject to Trustees making a decision on the plans at their meeting the previous week.
4. **Co-options** – co-option of Will Willans to Council was proposed by Mark Elliott, seconded by Georgina Bowman and agreed unanimously.
5. **Election of officers**
 - a. Lay Chair – Matthew Jones was proposed by Jude Bishop, seconded by Georgina Bowman and unanimously appointed.
 - b. Secretary – Toisin Onile-Ere Rotimi was proposed by Jude Bishop, seconded by Sharon Rawlings and unanimously appointed.
 - c. Standing committee member – Georgina Bowman was proposed by Virginia Knight, seconded by Mark Elliott and unanimously appointed.
6. **Minutes of last Trustees meeting** – Trustees have not met since the last Council meeting. **Action** – *secretary to obtain the minutes of the Trustees meeting for next*

Council meeting.

7. Worship

- a. **Music report** – see separate report on Choir and Music. Mark highlighted successes during the past year, but also noted that recruitment to the choir is a constant concern. Council was asked to consider the idea of music scholarships for pupils from St Andrew's School as a way to strengthen links and bring children into the choir. The discussion was generally positive and raised useful questions to be considered in developing the idea further, including:

- Are there examples of similar schemes elsewhere?
- How many scholarships should be offered?
- How long should the scholarships last for?
- How would the scheme be funded?

It was felt that the scheme could help to improve the connection with the school as well as potentially bringing wider benefits such as raising the profile of music at the church which may also attract adults to the choir.

Action – Mark to develop this into a full proposal to present at a future meeting.

The meeting recorded their thanks to Mark and the choir for coping so well without the organ over the past 15 months.

- b. **Deanery 'Thy Kingdom come' initiative and 24/7 prayer house** – Lore shared details of these initiatives for the period from Ascension to Pentecost. These will be shared with the congregation, who will be invited to get involved if they would like to. **Action – details with be included in the notice sheet. Alex to include in the magazine.**
- c. **National weekend of invitation, 21st - 23rd June** – it was noted that Invitation Sunday (previously called 'Back to Church' Sunday) falls on the day that we are holding the Windrush service. This provides an excellent opportunity to invite members of the local community into church.
- d. **Windrush service, 23rd June** – a similar service to last year is being planned. It has not yet been decided whether this will also be followed by a BBQ as last year. **Action – Lore and Sharon to discuss with Pauline and then make plans regarding BBQ.**

8. **Work plan for 2019/20** – a discussion took place about whether the use of the work plan during 2018/19 had been useful and should be continue. On balance it was decided that it is a good way to ensure all areas of church life are considered during the year, and also helps those leading activities to reflect on them as they write their report. It was suggested that the person who writes the report on each area should be invited to the meeting to present if they wish, and this was supported. The proposed work plan for 2019/20 was agreed – see separate report. **Action- work plan to be updated and circulated.** As a separate item, a report on Council's finances – prepared by the treasurers for Council and Trustees – will also be included on the agenda at alternate meetings although this will not form part of the work plan. **Action – Georgina to prepare report on Council finances for July meeting.**

9. **Fundraising update** – Jude reported that just under £25,000 has been raised so far, including £4,000 from the Christ Church Hall trust and £1,000 from the Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust. The meeting recorded congratulations to Malcolm Wall on securing the £1,000 grant.

Jude noted that it is very difficult to obtain accurate figures on the amounts donated on a week by week basis. She requested that anyone receiving or banking donations provides her with clear information on how much was given, for what and by whom. There is a plan to pilot use of donations slips produced by David Bishop to record fundraising.

10. **Dates of meetings for 2019/20** – as per the separate work plan report, these will be as follows:

- Tuesday 28th May 2019 (re. East End plans)
- Tuesday 9th July 2019
- Wednesday 4th September 2019
- Tuesday 12th November 2019
- Tuesday 14th January 2020
- Tuesday 3rd March 2020

11. **AOB**

- a. **Licensing of Debbie Pow** – we will send our best wishes to Debbie for her licensing as Associate Minister at St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe. **Action – A card and pen to be sent on behalf of Christ Church.**
- b. **Ride and Stride, 14th September** – there was a discussion about whether to hold an open day / other event on the day of the Ride and Stride. It was noted that it is generally not very well attended with a relatively small number of participants in Bath. Jude noted that the Fundraising committee had been considering an autumn bring and buy sale, so we will hold it on Saturday 14th to co-ordinate with the Ride and Stride. **Action – Jude to inform Fundraising committee.**

The meeting closed with the Grace.