

Meeting Notes of Christ Church Council

Tuesday July 25th at 7.30 pm in Christ Church Mews

The meeting opened with prayer.

Present: Lore Chumbley (Chair), Jonathan Stead, Judith Bishop, Carol Hussey, Maggie Willans, David Rawlings, Emma Elliott (Clerk), Jane Hoe, Lucy Humbert, Jane Nicholson (part), Zoe Bushell (part), Brenda Wall, Malcolm Wall, Morny Davison.

1. **Apologies:** Pauline Swaby Wallace

2. **Meeting Notes from the last meeting**

The meeting notes from the last meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed: David, seconded; Jonathan.
The meeting notes will be posted online and at the back of the church. **Action: David**

3. **Matters Arising**

Council Secretary

Judith has offered to take on all secretarial duties other than taking the meeting notes, which Emma will continue to do. Thanks were expressed to Judith.

West End Reordering

David, Lore and Brenda are still yet to arrange a date for the first meeting of the Working Group.

4. **Minutes from the Trustees**

These were circulated before the meeting and are noted by council.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The budget was presented as a mid-year summary and circulated before the meeting. Please see the Appendix. Zoe was in attendance for this agenda item to answer questions.

- The overspend on equipment is purchases of a new coffee machine, the card reader and a projector.
- The reason for over-spend on wages is not clear. Zoe will investigate this and provide the information in her report to the next council meeting. **Action: Zoe**
- Regular donations are up, which is positive news. It was noted that Christ Church is one of only two churches whose attendance figures are on the increase since Covid.
- Cash donations have also increased compared to last year, and the card donations are in addition to an increase in cash donations.
- The issue of energy costs was raised; the spend on energy costs is not linear over the course of the year. Zoe agreed to investigate our energy usage compared to last year and see if we are on track, or if we might be looking at a deficit, particularly on gas. The energy contract is up for renewal. Zoe agreed to arrange the setting of a new fixed contract with our energy supplier, as this is a good time to do it. She will liaise with David Bishop, who has been involved in this process before. Green tariffs will be a consideration, as far as possible. Thanks were expressed to Zoe for taking this on. **Action: Zoe**
- The cost of training is mostly for the curate. Lore will discuss this with the Trustees, as training for the curate should fall under their remit. **Action: Lore**

Thanks were expressed to Zoe for her very clear report, and to David Bishop, who has been managing the accounts until recently. For the next meeting, Zoe will present a written report.

6. **Worship**

Of particular note over the last few weeks was the excellent sermon by our Ordinand, Jane Hoe.

Our Festal Eucharist will take place on November 5th. Bishop Ruth will preside and preach. The Ministry Team will be responsible for putting the service together, but suggestions are welcome. A discussion took place. Suggestions for the guest list were made:

- Previous incumbents
- Representatives from charities we work with, including BEMSCA
- Our local MP, Wera Hobhouse
- Representative(s) from St Swithin's church
- The Archdeacon of Bath
- Any surviving members of the Daubeney family
- Any descendants of the Wilberforce family

Other suggestions:

- A procession, which could include the children
- Choir to sing a setting of the Te Deum (the words are written around the church under the windows)
- Bells to be rung before and after the service
- Buttonholes
- A group photograph after the service
- The original and current church trustees to be named in the Order of Service

It was agreed that we would have a celebration cake to mark the event.

Action: Judith

The Order of Service will be prepared by the ministry team. Lore, Morny, Jane N, Lucy, Malcolm and Brenda agreed to meet and discuss the other general arrangements. Sarah Sheppard will be a good source of knowledge for who to invite.

Action: Lore, Morny, Jane N, Lucy, Malcolm and Brenda

A Ceilidh is booked for 14th October. The hall and the band have already been booked, costing around £600. This will be a paid, ticketed event and the intention is that it should be self-supporting.

7. Time and Talents

Final Total

The final total was £4,600, of which half will be donated to our chosen charity, which is Mentoring Plus. They are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. They are delighted with the total raised. Ruth Keily, a representative from the charity, will attend on Sunday to receive the donation. This leaves £2,300, to be spent by us, in a way that benefits the congregation. Some of the money will be put towards the Festal Eucharist.

Suggestions for how we spend the funds

Decisions on how the money is spent will be made by a working group. This group is yet to be agreed. Suggestions were invited.

- A social pilgrimage, with funds raised to be put towards supporting those who would otherwise not be able to afford such a trip
- Something for the children, including teenage groups
- Refurbishing the handbells
- More chairs and music stands for the choir
- A cross and artwork for the Mews
- An offer of training for churchwardens, worship leaders and those working with the children
- Improving our Eco sustainability
- Funds to support further work in our Eco garden

Lore requested that all those who had made suggestions should follow them up with costs and more details on the practicalities of the suggestion, for the next meeting.

Action: all who made suggestions

Provision of hymn books with music was suggested. This can be provided from our existing hymn book supplies to those who would like music copies. Aside from the administrative impracticalities of doing so, our copyright license prevents us from printing the music in the hymn sheets and orders of service.

8. AOB

Julian Road Community Event

Jonathan proposed thanks to all who were involved in the Julian Road community event. It was a wonderful opportunity to build bridges with our neighbours. Over £1,700 was raised for our chosen charities (ours is BEMSCA). It was felt that holding the event in the future was worth considering, but it is probably too big in terms of organisation, to be an annual event.

Extending a welcome to Newcomers

Carol asked whether it would be possible to host an event, perhaps a lunch, for newcomers to Christ Church in the autumn term, when the students are back. All agreed that this was a good idea. She and Kara will attend the 'Church Search' event, aimed at helping new students to find a church.

Freezer

Lucy has kindly offered a small freezer for the Lower Mews.

9. Next Meeting

The date set for the next meeting is Tuesday 19th September.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.40 pm.

Glossary

BEMSCA	Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association
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Appendix

Income and Expenditure - Council

Funds Held in Connection with Christ Church in Bath
For the 6 months ended 30 June 2023

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Variance	Budget (Full year)	Notes
Income					
Regular Donations	20,822	18,250	2,572	36,500	
One Off Donations	3,704	1,750	1,954	3,500	
Fundraising Donations	250	62	188	3,125	
Gift Aid	0	4,937	(4,937)	9,875	1
Service Fees	2,153	500	1,653	1,000	
Venue Hire	167	3,000	(2,833)	6,000	2
Ticket Sales (net of performer fees)	209	0	209	0	
Bar Sales	189	0	189	0	
Total Income	27,493	28,499	(1,006)	60,000	
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities					
Diocesan Contributions	8,265	8,250	15	16,500	
Pastoral Activities	323	250	73	500	
Choir, Organ & Music	744	1,500	(756)	3,000	
Junior Church	10	150	(140)	300	
Church Consumables	803	750	53	1,500	
Catering	314	500	(186)	1,000	
Flowers	732	400	332	800	
Merchant Fees	30	0	30	0	
Total Charitable Activities	11,220	11,800	(580)	23,600	
Support Costs					
Wages	10,558	9,200	1,358	18,400	
DBS & Safeguarding	45	0	45	0	
Training	210	0	210	0	
Travel	32	0	32	0	
Printing, Post & Stationery	2,771	2,750	21	5,500	
Advertising	78	0	78	0	
Telephone & Internet	509	500	9	1,000	
Cleaning	206	250	(44)	500	
Equipment	1,294	750	544	1,500	
Repairs & Maintenance	401	150	251	300	
Electricity	557	800	(243)	1,600	
Gas	3,936	3,300	636	6,600	
Total Support Costs	20,596	17,700	2,896	35,400	
Total Expenditure	31,817	29,500	2,317	59,000	
Surplus / (Deficit)	(4,323)	(1,001)	(3,322)	1,000	

1 No Gift Aid has been claimed yet for 2023. Gift Aid is claimable on virtually all donations so ~£6k due once claim is completed.

2 No income from Toppings events in 2023 recognised yet. Estimate there to be ~£2k due from Jude's records.