

Meeting Notes of Christ Church Council

Tuesday September 19th at 7.30 pm in Christ Church Mews

The meeting opened with prayer, and a special prayer for Ian, whose Year's Mind falls this week.

Present: Lore Chumbley (Chair), Jonathan Stead, Judith Bishop, Carol Hussey, Maggie Willans, David Rawlings, Emma Elliott (Clerk), Morny Davison

1. **Apologies:** Pauline Swaby Wallace, Jane Hoe, Lucy Humbert, Brenda Wall, Malcolm Wall, Sarah Jones, Kara Maylor

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

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

3. **Matters Arising**

There were none outside the agenda items.

4. **Minutes from the Trustees**

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

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's was presented as a year-to-date summary and circulated before the meeting. Please see Appendix I.

- Toppings have still not been invoiced but this will happen soon.
- Service fees are fees for weddings and funerals.
- Energy costs were raised as a concern, particularly the gas prices for the next contract.
- Judith confirmed that hire rates are adjusted for energy costs and a lower rate is charged in the summer months when the building doesn't require heating.
- Further funds for Time and Talents were received into September so the final total was £5,300. A further £350 will be sent to Mentoring Plus from cash giving.

There were no outstanding questions to be referred to Zoe.

6. **Festal Eucharist**

Lore expressed her apologies to Morny, who was not invited to the most recent meeting.

- Invitations are being prepared.
- The procession will happen, including the children.
- Narinder is able to attend.
- The food is being organised by Lucy Humbert.
- Carol has offered help from her and other willing students. They may be able to help with catering, or other tasks near or on the day.
- Jude has the cake in-hand.
- Pull-up welcome banners were discussed, and Jude will investigate whether these could be sourced prior to the Festal Eucharist.

7. **West End Reordering**

The planning stage for this work is underway.

The **clergy photos** will come down, and re-sized copies will be made. The west wall, where the pictures currently hang, will be repainted. They will be framed in matching oak frames and re-hung on the wall next to the kitchen (perpendicular to current location). The original photographs will be stored in a Solander box and will be wrapped in acid-free paper. This is a requirement of the faculty.

Notice boards were discussed, and it was agreed that we would opt for the lighter of the two greys for the backing of the board. A requirement of the faculty is that the frames will match the existing woodwork. It has been agreed by both the diocese and our insurers that there is no need to make any special provision for fire retardance. Our builders, Ellis and Co, will be consulted regarding prevention of damp but, as this is an internal wall, this is unlikely to be an issue. When the old boards are removed, exploration will take place below the existing paint, to confirm there is nothing behind the paint of value or interest.

The position of the **streaming desk** was discussed, and a proposal was made to move it. Any plan to move this equipment requires consultation with Mark Elliott and all the people that use the desk to run the live stream. Carol informed the meeting that her home church has a purpose-built box cover for the streaming equipment. This is something that could be explored.

The **pigeonholes** will be removed from the main building and stored in the basement. They may be of use at certain times, for example, at Christmas, for cards, in which case, they can be returned to the church temporarily.

The **bookcases** will be removed to the Mews.

8. Repainting the West Doors

The three wooden west doors are in a poor state of repair and need to be repainted and made good. The red colour that was used previously fades very quickly. A faculty is in-progress to change the colour of the doors to Prussian Blue, which is a colour more in-keeping with the age of the building and the architecture in the local area.

9. Time and Talents

The total funds within our gift to spend now stand at £2,650, which is half the total raised.

It was agreed that £500 would be used for the catering at the Festal Event.

A discussion took place and the ideas put forward at the last meeting were reviewed. The following expenditure was agreed: Proposed: David, Seconded: Jane

- Up to £350 will be spent on a cross for the main space in the Mews. **Action: Jonathan and Lore**
- Up to £700 will be spent on improving the office space for small groups. Carol and Emma agreed to take this on, and will invite Ben Elliott and Tim Jones to be involved, as it is hoped that it can be made into a welcoming space for children and young people. **Action: Carol and Emma**
- Funds will be donated to spend on the Eco Garden – the exact amount to be confirmed. An idea of a bench was suggested. Morny will work on ideas for the garden and come back with a suggested figure. It was noted that what this project also needs is volunteer gardeners. A plea will be made via the notices, to get interest. **Action : Morny**

This still leaves further funds to spend, and more discussions will take place at future meetings.

Maggie reported that the restoration of the handbells will cost considerably more than we have available to spend. It was agreed to park this idea for the present. The choir chairs and desks are also considerably more costly than what we have available to spend.

10. Bath Deanery Plan

A paper was circulated outlining the proposals for the Deanery Plan. Please see Appendix 2. The plan outlines the proposed approach to reduce the number of clergy across the diocese. Although this does not directly affect Christ Church, we have asked to be involve in the consultation. The plan was reviewed. It was agreed that we will respond by saying that we've looked at the plan and want to ensure that Magnificat Parishes are supported in every way possible. We support a full-time pioneering incumbent for St Barnabas Southdown, which was the proposal made in 2023.

11. Charity of the Month

A working group is needed to decide on the charities we will support with our "Charity of the Month" in 2024. Now that we support charities for 2 months at a time, there are only 6 to choose, and three of these are fixed. This leaves three to be decided on. One consideration could be Rose Cottage Hub, which supports projects such as food banks and a community centre. David and Jonathan agreed to be part of this group. **Action: David and Jonathan**

12. Permission to administer Communion

The following names will be submitted to the bishop for permission to administer Communion:

- Graham Reaper Brown
- Rachel Preston
- Pam Hitchens
- Helen Speakman
- Carol Hussey

Proposed: Emma, Seconded: Jonathan

13. AOB

Youth Worker

It was suggested that we consider employing a Youth Worker. This could be discussed at a future meeting and would need to be part of our budgetary discussions for 2024.

9. Next Meeting

The date set for the next meeting is Tuesday 14th November. The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.04 pm.

| Glossary | |
|-------------------|--|
| Magnificat Parish | In the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Magnificat Parishes are the most disadvantaged in the diocese. The term refers to rural, urban, town centre and coastal parishes which don't fit into the more common 'Urban Priority Areas'. There are 24 across the diocese and they have been prioritised for additional resources. |

Appendix 1

Income and Expenditure - Council Funds Held in Connection with Christ Church in Bath For the 8 months ended 31 August 2023

| Account | Actual (YTD) | Budget (YTD) | Variance | Budget (Full year) | Notes |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Regular Donations | 28,192 | 24,334 | 3,858 | 36,500 | |
| One Off Donations | 6,295 | 2,334 | 3,961 | 3,500 | 1 |
| Fundraising Donations | 2,658 | 3,082 | (424) | 3,125 | 2 |
| Gift Aid | 5,626 | 6,583 | (957) | 9,875 | |
| Service Fees | 3,815 | 666 | 3,149 | 1,000 | |
| Events & Hires | 2,767 | 4,000 | (1,233) | 6,000 | 3 |
| Total Income | 49,354 | 40,999 | 8,355 | 60,000 | |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | | | | | |
| Diocesan Contributions | 11,015 | 11,000 | 15 | 16,500 | |
| Pastoral Activities | 323 | 334 | (11) | 500 | |
| Choir, Organ & Music | 744 | 2,000 | (1,256) | 3,000 | |
| Junior Church | 10 | 200 | (190) | 300 | |
| Books & Resources | 27 | 0 | 27 | 0 | |
| Church Consumables | 803 | 1,000 | (197) | 1,500 | |
| Catering | 626 | 666 | (40) | 1,000 | |
| Flowers | 909 | 534 | 375 | 800 | |
| Merchant Fees | 41 | 0 | 41 | 0 | |
| Total Charitable Activities | 14,498 | 15,734 | (1,236) | 23,600 | |
| Support Costs | | | | | |
| Wages | 13,917 | 12,266 | 1,651 | 18,400 | |
| DBS & Safeguarding | 45 | 0 | 45 | 0 | |
| Printing, Post & Stationery | 3,895 | 3,666 | 229 | 5,500 | |
| Advertising | 379 | 0 | 379 | 0 | |
| Telephone & Internet | 772 | 666 | 106 | 1,000 | |
| Cleaning | 275 | 334 | (59) | 500 | |
| Equipment | 1,294 | 1,000 | 294 | 1,500 | |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 401 | 200 | 201 | 300 | |
| Electricity | 1,921 | 1,066 | 855 | 1,600 | 4 |
| Gas | 3,985 | 4,400 | (415) | 6,600 | 5 |
| Total Support Costs | 26,882 | 23,598 | 3,284 | 35,400 | |
| Total Expenditure | 41,380 | 39,332 | 2,048 | 59,000 | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) | 7,974 | 1,667 | 6,307 | 1,000 | |

1 One-off donations includes £2000 of donations ring-fenced for specific purposes, and therefore not available to cover general Council costs. These are for the West End noticeboard project and to support Iona bursaries.

2 Fundraising donations includes most of the Time & Talents income. Some final late donations arrived during September, bringing the total up to £3110.

3 Events & Hires includes ticket sales (net of performer fees), bar sales and hire of the church. It does not include any income from Toppings for events held in 2023 as they have not yet been invoiced for these.

4 Since last meeting, have gained access to online account for electricity supplier. This has uncovered that there is a balance of over £1000 owing on the account, as regular direct debits have not been enough to cover actual costs on bills. The actual expenditure reported here includes all charges owing to date. Currently investigating the meter reads and unit rates applied to bills in case there are any errors that can be disputed to reduce. A new electricity contract has been signed to start from November 2023.

New prices: 45p / day standing charge

29.97p / kWh unit rate

Old prices: 25p / day standing charge

17.10p / kWh unit rate

Based on expected usage, annual price increase on new contract estimated to be £1000.

5 Quotes have been obtained for gas prices, as current contract expires in Summer 2024. Best unit rates now are approximately double those on the existing contract. Trustees decided to wait and see how prices move over coming months rather than sign a new deal immediately, as even small unit rate price decreases would have big annual impact.

Appendix 2

Decisions of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group

To consult with relevant PCC's on the following:

- ❖ When the Incumbency of Freshford, Limply Stoke and Hinton Charterhouse falls vacant, the next Incumbent be a House for Duty.
- ❖ When there is a vacancy for an Incumbent in the Bath Abbey with St Michael's Without Group Ministry (apart from Abbey Rector), that the vacancy is not filled until a review is carried out for the DMPG with the 2 PCC's, to enable the Group Ministry to transition from 4 stipendiary incumbents to 3.
- ❖ That the benefice of St Luke's Wellsway be enlarged to include St Barnabas, Southdown, with 1 full-time Incumbent, **with the aspiration to appoint a pioneer minister working with children, young people and families.**
- ❖ That the Marlbrook Team (Ascension Oldfield Park) be dissolved and a benefice of St Michael's Twerton with Ascension Oldfield Park be created under 1 full-time Incumbent.

And recommend:

- That the Diocese be asked to support an application to use Ascension Vicarage for a new missional community house.
- That in preparation for each of the above, the Area Dean and Lay Dean continue to help Incumbents identify partnerships benefices to offer more shared leadership and support.
- The DMPG will identify additional people and resources for the 2 Magnificat parishes of St Barnabas, Southdown* and St Michael's Twerton.
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*** April '23: DMPG recommend to consult on a FT Pioneering Incumbent for St Barnabas Southdown.**

Reduction of OSM's from 22 to 19