

Christ Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 9th July 2019, 7:30pm in Lower Mews

Present:

Lore Chumbley (Chair)
Georgina Bowman
Zoe Bushell
Penny Edwards

Mark Elliott
Virginia Knight
Janet Mahto
Jane Nicholson

Sharon Rawlings
Alex Soboslay
Jonathan Stead
Will Willans

Attending: Sarah Jones

Opening Prayers

1. **Apologies** were received from Jude Bishop, Lewis Boyd, Matthew Jones, Sarah Kerr and Tosin Onile-Ere Rotimi.
2. **Minutes of the last two meetings**
 - a. Minutes from 14th May were read, corrected and unanimously approved.
 - b. Minutes from 18th June were discussed and the following points were raised:
 - Alex requested that all the comments / questions that he raised during the meeting were recorded in the minutes. This was declined to avoid writing a verbatim record.
 - Alex requested that it is recorded in the minutes that he was the person to vote against the proposals. It was agreed that this will be added to the minutes
 - It was agreed to change the term 'electrical plans' to 'lighting plans' in the two places where this appears.The minutes were approved subject to the above corrections.
3. **Matters arising not already on the agenda**
 - a. **Minutes of Trustees meeting** – we have received the minutes from the last meeting.
 - b. **Finance report** – this will be presented at the September meeting rather than July so that reports tie in with the financial quarters.
 - c. **Fundraising update** – Jonathan provided an update on events planned by the hands-on fundraising group:
 - All age games afternoon on 22nd September – mainly aimed at the church family
 - Quiz on 16th November – an opportunity for outreach to the wider community
 - Musical evening / supper club early next year
 - Time and Talents during Lent 2020
 - Proposed Bring and Buy during the Ride and Stride on 19th September will not take place for various logistical reasons – will need to find another opportunity to sell Georgina's jewellery.Lore will print the new fundraising slips and put in the vestry.

d. **East End reordering** – the plans were approved by the Trustees and submitted to the DAC before the end of June.

4. **Young people** – see separate report. Sarah Jones presented the report, highlighting the following points:

- Junior Church has continued using the Roots material and found this very useful – requested funding of ~£100 to continue for the next year.
- Sustainability of Junior Church is a worry due to the small number of leaders. It has been great to have help from Isaac recently, but there is a need for more helpers to avoid possibly having to end formal Junior Church sessions – but how to encourage this?
- Safeguarding guidance recommends not running sessions with only one adult present, which is a challenge given the small number of leaders. The current approach is to leave the door between the choir vestry and vicar's vestry open to there is contact between the two sessions, pending further discussion about how to apply the guidelines locally.

The ensuing discussion raised useful questions to consider in supporting and developing work with young people, including:

- Currently families are mainly providing for themselves rather than the church providing for families – how can we change this to support families?
- Could we invest in a youth worker? Noting that we would need to find someone sympathetic with our tradition, perhaps sharing with other similar churches locally, and starting with stand-alone sessions to see if it could develop into a part-time role.
- Should children even be going out of the main service to their own groups? Sarah responded that it is incredibly difficult to balance making services accessible and attractive to all ages, and we would have to change elements of our current services if children were to stay. The Junior Church leaders have considered this carefully and think the current balance of leaving after the Collect and returning at the Peace works well.
- As what age should young people be encouraged to stay in the main service and how can we support that?
- Is it widely known in the congregation that more help is needed?
- Can we run a Messy Church Sunday afternoon once or twice a year to give children space to do something completely different?

The following points of action were agreed:

- To ask people for help with Junior Church in the pre-service announcements and notice sheet so that everyone is aware this is needed.
- Funding was approved to continue the Roots activities for the next year.
- The current pragmatic approach to safeguarding was approved until there can be further discussion about how guidelines can be applied.

The meeting recorded their thanks to Sarah C, Sarah J and Emma for all their hard work.

5. **Minutes of last Trustees meeting** – these have been received.

6. **Worship**

- a. **Organ** – it is great to have the organ back in action, although there are still a few small teething problems to resolve. A series of recitals is planned for the autumn: David Briggs on 8th September, Paul Hale in October and David Bednall in November. The hope is to build up an audience and launch a regular recital series. Major advertising push is needed for the David Briggs recital to make this a successful first event.
- b. **Windrush service** – this was great fun and very much appreciated, with roughly twice the number of people attending compared to last year. It is already booked again for next year, and Sharon to remind us to get started on planning earlier next time. Points to consider for next year include: how to formalise seeking donations to support cost of BBQ, how to advertise and whether the music is too loud for the garden?
- c. **Ability Sunday, 8th September** – it was noted that 8th September is Ability Sunday – an initiative from the Archbishop of Canterbury to focus on accessibility. Lore to consider if this is something to specifically mark in the service, or if we use this as a prompt to ourselves to review accessibility.
- d. **Confirmations** – there are up to 7 people wanting to be confirmed, so Council agreed to support Lore in writing to the Bishop to ask if there could be a service at Christ Church.

7. **Bells** – see separate report. Will presented the report, highlighting the following points:

- have rung for all services and other occasions when requested
- particularly appreciate having access to the church for refreshments after practice, as this is not the case elsewhere
- would be good to have ringing chamber redecorated at some point, as render is falling off the walls – this is now on the Trustees' list.
- the peal in March was well received by neighbours, so now request whether there could be more regular peals (e.g. 2 per year)?
- the procedure for approving visiting bands can be time-consuming – is it possible to make this simpler?

A discussion regarding the request for more regular peals resulted in the following proposal: *“Council acknowledges the success of the March peal and supports allowing scheduling of up to two peals per year, with dates agreed between Will Willans and the standing committee.”*

Proposed by Mark Elliott, seconded by Georgina Bowman, agreed unanimously.

Standing committee resolved to respond more promptly to requests for visiting bands.

8. **AOB**

- a. **Bible Sunday** – there was a question of whether we currently mark this and, if not, would we like to. It was agreed to mark this, using different translations for readings.

- b. **Cleaner** – a part-time cleaner has been interviewed and references seen, and she seems suitable for the role. Council approved her to begin working on a self-employed basis and to hold a key to the church.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm.