

Church Council Meeting Tuesday 26th November 2019 at 7:30pm Lower Mews

Council members present:

Judith Bishop (JB), Georgina Bowman (GB), Lewis Boyd (LB), Lore Chumbley (LC, Chair), Matthew Jones (MJ Lay chair) Sarah Kerr (SK), Janet Mahto (JM), Alex Soboslay (AS), Jonathan Stead (JS), Will Willans (WW), Sharon Rawlings, (SR), Virginia Knight (VK) & Tosin Onile-Ere Rotimi (Sec)

Apologies: Zoe Bushell (ZB), Penny Edwards (PE), Brenda Wall (BW), Mark Elliott (ME), Jane Nicholson (JN)

Opening Prayers led by LC, priest in charge

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2019 were read and accepted as a true record with the following corrections:

Several instances of the words *formal advice* were replaced with *faculty*.

Two suffixes were added to correct grammatical errors.

Rawlinson was corrected to Rawlings.

Under 4a *rood screens* was corrected to *screens*

In the last paragraph, *lecture* was corrected to *lectern*

The committee thanked MJ for his work in the past updating the website.

3. Matters arising:

Christ Church will not be hosting a confirmation service for the Deanery in 2020, which will be held elsewhere.

JB gave a brief update on the 'hands on' fundraising for the East end re-organisation- Money raised is now £24,891.64.

4 Reports

Cedar Tree Cafe

LB reported that Cedar Tree cafe has over several years been running at a profit. This is because volunteers have not been taking expenses and food is donated by generous church members. The ministry team, LB, JM and LC had decided to use the money to make a donation from Cedar Tree Café of £228.33 to each of Genesis, the Bath Food Bank, and Christ Church East End Reordering Appeal. LB had made these payments through his personal account since Cedar Tree has no bank account. AS queried the legality of deciding on expenditure in this way and of channelling money through a personal account in this way. He understood that the Cedar Tree Café is a distinct charitable body with defined aims, and therefore questioned whether the reordering appeal was a lawful purpose for it to be giving money to. LC asked whether Cedar Tree was a charitable body. AS was asked to look into the legal status of the Cedar Tree Cafe and the existence of a back account.

Charities of The Month:

LC asked if council had had the opportunity to review the list of proposed charities. Council suggested some slight amendments before the new list was adopted by unanimous vote.

The charities will be:

January: Bath City Farm

February: USPG

March: Bath Welcomes Refugees

April: Open Doors

May: USPG

June: Project 28 Bath Children's Initiative

July: Burlington House

August: USPG

September: Unseen, a Bristol based charity working country-wide to help victims of trafficking.

October: Libra Women's Refuge

November: USPG

December: Genesis/Julian House

Inclusivity:

GB reported a suggestion from the Inclusivity group that a second group to be formed to take a special interest in disability and accessibility. The existing group will continue to review LGBTQ+ issues. This was agreed. Discussion ensued about how to support Gay Pride 2020. Council suggested a Gay Pride Flag to be draped at the church entrance during the month of March and LB suggested that the church be opened on the actual day (GB would look at cost of purchase of a flag). There was also a suggestion that the church send representatives to Bristol on the day.

JB suggested a third group be added which would be a Children's group. However it was recognised that there is already a Junior church team.

Three individuals offered to form a new disability access group: LB, AS & GB.

VK will look into the Diocesan Inclusivity Group to see if Christ Church wants to be part of it.

LC suggested annual reports from the two Inclusivity subgroups.

5. Not discussed

6. Purchase of New Headsets and Handheld Microphone

JB suggested that two headsets (£70 each plus VAT) and a handheld microphone (£296 plus VAT) should be purchased from the money raised externally through events such as Toppings. This year Toppings has brought in £5,000. The suggestion was put to a vote. 10 for, 1 against with 1 abstention. The motion was carried.

JB made clear that money from external events was kept separate from money from fundraising. There is clear reporting of these funds available, on request.

7. Faculty Application:

LC explained that the church is applying for a faculty for phases 1 and 2 of the projected building work but not for phase 3 at the moment. Georgina reported a fact of relevance in our efforts to trace descendants of William Stirling Bannatyne and Innes Moore. A Dr Bannatyne has been working at The Royal United Hospital, Bath. GB will contact the RUH Chaplain to see if she has contact details for him. The revised Statement of Need was proposed by JB, seconded by GB and carried by a vote of 11 in favour with one abstention.

8. Review of Inventory of fixtures to be disposed of:

AS presented a detailed list of proposed objects to be disposed of, with photographs to support the list (see attached list). There was discussion as to disposal of the fixtures, including the suggestion that they be sold where appropriate and if we are able to find buyers; or sent to a church which could use them, possibly in Africa. It was acknowledged that transport costs could be a problem. It was suggested an attempt be made to keep them

together and to ensure integrity. The list of objects to be disposed of was proposed by LB, seconded by JS. The motion was put to a vote with 11 in favour and 1 abstention.

AOB

JB enquired about the installation of the Swift box. LB said it would be going up before April 2020.

Trustees have requested that there should be an effort to declutter the church. JB suggested a decluttering group which will consist of JM, JB and SK. Angela Soboslay will also be consulted.

The position of servers when they receive communion has been reviewed. A new liturgical position is being trialled.

The committee thanked VK for overseeing the printing of the Christmas postcards.

Permission to Officiate. LC reported that two retired priests who have recently begun worshipping at Christ Church have requested permission to officiate from the Diocese.

SK would be sorting out Christmas Trees. As before there will be two: 1 x 12ft and 1 x 8 ft. Both will be Nordmann firs at SK's request to reduce needle drop. They will be up in time for the Advent service.

Next year, November 2020 will mark 222 years of CC's consecration. If all goes to plan the building work will be complete and it may be appropriate to have a celebration.

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7.30 pm in Lower Mews.

Closing prayers