

Christ Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 14th January 2020, 7:30pm in Lower Mews

Present:

Lore Chumbley (Chair)	Matthew Jones	Sharon Rawlings
Jude Bishop	Sarah Kerr	Alex Soboslay
Georgina Bowman	Virginia Knight	Jonathan Stead
Zoe Bushell	Janet Mahto	Brenda Wall
Mark Elliott	Jane Nicholson	

Attending: David Bishop (Treasurer of Trustees)

Opening Prayers

1. **Apologies** were received from Lewis Boyd, Penny Edwards, Jonathan Stead, Will Willans and Tosin Onile-Ere Rotimi.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from 26th November were read, corrected and unanimously approved.

3. Matters arising not already on the agenda

- a. **Cedar Tree** – Alex has tried to investigate the legal standing of Cedar Tree but the trust deed is not at church. Nicky Gladstone has sent documents to Lewis, so this will be followed up at the next meeting. If it turns out that the legal status of Cedar Tree means that it was incorrect for it to have made the donation to the East End Reordering Appeal, this will be paid back.
- b. **Headsets and handheld mics** – these have been purchased and are working well, although may need some further adjustments to optimise.
- c. **Dr Bannatyne** – Georgina is continuing to research descendants of William Stirling Bannatyne and will follow up with Narinder to see if she is able to contact the Dr Bannatyne who is thought to work at the RUH. Sarah also offered that Robin Kerr can also look into whether he can find any information as Dr Bannatyne is thought to have military connections.
- d. **Permission to Officiate** – this has been granted to Beryl and Peter Bowes, and they are expected to start after Easter.
- e. **Decluttering** – Alex raised a question regarding whether the disposal of some items, including cardboard from the gallery, before Christmas constituted part of the decluttering exercise as the proposed decluttering group have not met. Lore stated that items were removed to ensure space was clear for large events which required use of the gallery and that this did not form part of the decluttering exercise.

4. **To note an objection to the application for faculty** – there has been an objection to the

application. There is a procedure that Trustees will follow to respond to this.

5. **Worship**

- a. **Advent and Christmas carol services** – these were advertised with posters, Facebook adverts and postcards. There was particularly good attendance at the Advent carol service compared to some years. It was noted that some of the congregation's candles burnt down before the end of the Christmas carol service and it is requested that this year we buy new candles for each service. There was also a request for the choir candles to have drip guards instead of the plastic shields which stop the wind but do not protect against dripping wax. There were no particular comments on the content of the services although it was noted that some readers could not be heard clearly. This should be rectified by the new microphones.
- b. **Advent lunches** – there was very poor attendance at the Advent lunches. Ministry team to review whether they are feasible in the current format and also consider the Lent lunches as these suffer a similar problem. Ministry team to ask for numbers interested in Lent lunches further in advance to assess feasibility.
- c. **Christmas Eve crib service** – this was very well attended. Virginia had responded to a question on the Nextdoor website asking about where there were services for children on Christmas Eve so this may have led to greater publicity. We will plan to cater for this level of attendance this year.
- d. **Candlemas carol service** – Mark has suggested the idea of an evening Candlemas carol service, to be confirmed dependent on interest.
- e. **Lent books** – 2 were offered last year for people to take away and read and it was suggested the same is done this year.
- f. **Brother Marc** – will be visiting on 22nd/23rd February and then for Holy Week.
- g. **Holy Week** – the Maundy Thursday evening service will be at Christ Church this year. On Good Friday the outdoor passion play will take place from 11-2 and 3-6. The usual all age service, prayer stations and music/reflections service will be held in church.

6. **Financial Report** – see separate report for previous years' figures and 2020 prediction. As a general point, regular income and expenditure are well matched. The 2020 predicted figures are based on the 3 year average, and in some cases an allowance for inflationary increases in costs. There was discussion of the figures, which raised the following points:

- We need to work on increasing standing orders – people might need a general reminder to consider increasing giving. Zoe suggested the Parish Giving Scheme which facilitates giving by direct debit with the option to increase by inflation each year – Georgina / David to investigate.
- Should someone talk to newcomers after they have been attending for a while to provide information about giving and also other aspects of church life e.g. electoral roll, activities etc.? Janet, Mark, Alex and Sharon to work on a newcomers pack with relevant information.

- Separate to the main council funds, there is a compassion fund which can be used at the discretion of the priest and churchwardens for people in particular need. The intended purpose is capital items e.g. wheelchairs etc.
 - Junior Church has almost no costs and we need to make sure leaders know we will support these activities and that they can claim for items purchased for sessions.
 - A pastoral care amount of £1000 has been included in the budget even though there has not been spending on this in previous years. This is to ensure that people providing pastoral care can claim expenses e.g. parking, flowers etc. and nobody feels that they must bear the costs themselves, as this may prevent some people being able to help.
 - Ecclesiastical Insurance are continuing their offer of giving money to the church if people take out home insurance policies with them – agreed to publicise this to the congregation.
 - Smart meters – would it be worth having these installed to remove need for taking meter readings and ensure bills are always accurate? Council members to have time to research this and discuss at next meeting.
7. **Pilgrim and Discipleship Report** – see separate report. The Exploring Christianity course is going well. Pilgrim group is continuing and we want to ensure it is clear that people can come to sessions any time, as and when they want.
8. **AOB**
- a. **Archive** – some original church documents are thought to be held at Thrings but we do not have access and do not know what condition they may be stored in. It was agreed to ask Trustees to find out what documents are held there and retrieve them so that they can be copied and stored in proper archive conditions. We need to check the options and costs for storing documents elsewhere – Sarah offered to explore with a contact.
 - b. **Hive/Nest heating control** – it was decided that it is not necessary to use these to remotely control heating at the current time.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm.