

Minutes from Council Meeting on Tuesday 1st September 2021 at 7:30pm on Zoom

Present

Lore Chumbley: Priest in Charge (Chair)
Jude Bishop (Secretary)
Jonathan Stead (Lay chair)
Janet Mahto (Churchwarden)
Georgina Bowman
Zoe Bushell
Mark Elliott
Richard Gabe
Virginia Knight
Sharon Rawlings
Brenda Wall (Deanery Synod rep)
Malcolm Wall

The meeting opened with a prayer by Basil Naylor

1. Apologies

Pauline Swaby-Wallace (Deanery Synod rep), Jane Nicholson (Churchwarden), Rebekah Cunningham

2. Minutes of last meeting 29th June

There were two amendments to the minutes:

Item 4 – Richard Gabe is willing to be **Council** Treasurer

Item 7 – sentence 4 - text to be changed to **He would be employed by Trustees and paid using RSCM recommended rates (pro rata)**

Mark Elliott proposed acceptance of the minutes, Sharon Rawlings seconded, approved unanimously.

Lore welcomed Richard as Council Treasurer. Richard reported that he had some sessions with David Bishop (Trustees Treasurer) and would be in a position to present an update of the accounts at the next meeting.

3. Matters Arising

a. *Book of bequests and donations*

Lore reported that during a tidy up in the vestry she had found a book of registered donations/bequests. This book is some 15 years old. It is not in great condition but suggested that we continue to use this book and add the more recent bequests. At some point we might decide to transpose information into a new book when necessary.

It was suggested that we ask the congregation to identify donations that they were aware of that were not included in the book. Do we include any fundraising? We need to be careful with such sensitive information.

It was decided that Lore, Jonathan and Georgina should collect together a list of what has been given and bring it before Council.

Action: Lore, Jonathan, Georgina

b. *West end reorganisation*

There had been no further advance with this as it had been difficult for Virginia, Sharon, Alex and Rebekah to meet in church. Lore has spoken with the Rural dean and the Archdeacon who confirmed that fire-retardant material for noticeboards was not necessary as the boards would be fixed on an internal wall. David Bishop had also checked with the church insurers who were also not bothered about the material.

However, it was decided that we look at eco-friendly material, such as recycled wood. Council was reminded that the height markers were still on the west wall. Alex is looking at sizes and prices and will come back to Council once he has these figures.

Action: Alex S

c. Decluttering

Alex is in the process of putting in a faculty to discard the items decided at the last couple of meetings. Lore will make sure Alex has the declaration from a previous meeting to enable him to continue with this.

d. Living in Love and Faith update

Jonathan – thought them a remarkable set of meetings, extremely good material, well-presented. We had very good facilitators, one of whom was Carol, one of our congregation and Nigel Rawlinson, University Chaplain. The group through the six weeks developed a real momentum. Jonathan reminded Council that four or five attendees were not Christ Church members.

Brenda – was very sad that the Communications department of the Anglican Church didn't use its huge resources of professional presenters, professional producers and professional writers.

Lore – by the end of the six weeks, the group of around 20 had grown into a group discussing things well together. Lore fed back from that group to Christ Church and what the church wanted to do next. There will be a discussion at National Synod. Lore encouraged all members of the group, who haven't already done so, to feedback to the Diocese. As part of what we were doing we needed to have a voice.

She also shared with Council that our Pilgrim Group is amazing and can pull people in and can expand and contract, change and morph. Hopefully the group can take more people with them for the next 3 terms. There will be a Deanery-wide Living in Love and Faith group so if anyone missed the Christ Church course it would be well worth going to if only to give a liberal voice from Christ Church.

Virginia – are all the feedback comments going to be attributed to Christ Church or representative of other churches from where other people in the group came from.

Lore – confirmed that during feedback you are asked what church you come from and she couldn't think that anyone in the group came from any other church, so yes, all feedback would be attributed to Christ Church. All meetings were held in the church with masks on and attracted a number of visitors curious to know what was going on.

e. Council Away Day update

As Richard and Georgina were not at the last meeting Lore gave a brief explanation about this.

- to plan objectives for the coming year in line with our mission statement.
- Council have looked briefly at,

Our beauty in Worship

Honesty in our faith and doubt

Service in our community

This is our 'strapline' and certainly what attracted Lore to Christ Church five years ago.

It's worthwhile looking at this again to check that we're living up to it, how we can look at ourselves to see if we're living up to it. To see where we need to grow, does it encompass all we want to do and be or does it need tweaking?

The day would include our retired clergy and Kara our new curate. A chance to look at how we are as a church and where we want to be as a church.

Jude – will be have a facilitator?

Lore – it will be just us as Council

Jonathan – there would be opportunities for people to facilitate different sections

Lore – has looked into venues, St Swithins and Ammerdown. The more suitable place would be Ammerdown who will offer us a light and airy room.

The dates of 2nd October and 23rd October were offered as possible dates. Lore will look into booking Saturday 2nd October.

f. Installation of harpsichord

Lore – a foster home has been found for the harpsichord for 2 years. If for any reason this doesn't work out then Lore will let us know.

g. Dedication of St Michael Chapel

The Bishop has been invited to come on either 25th September 2022 or Christ the King 2022 or indeed any other date they can manage.

h. Monitoring of on-line presence

Mark – Nothing in particular to report. Thomas Wölker-Darley has taken on managing the streaming to Facebook and emailing the congregation. He's also getting his head around other things to do with the streaming.

i. Additional item - Worship

Lore – Coming back out of restrictions we tried coffee in the Lower Mews. We have now moved to the back of church where there is more space and better ventilation.

Mark – choir is returning from Sunday 5th September. Having taken into account views of all members, the choir will be spaced and masked with a review in a few weeks. Congregation will be masked and singing hymns.

Virginia – when is the long-term prayer list used in intercessions?

It was confirmed that the long-term prayer list is read out during intercessions on the 4th Sunday of the month. The suggestion to do this is on the top of the printed list.

Jude – the monthly prayer list that Virginia does isn't necessarily known about or used by some intercessors. They need to be made aware that the list exists.

The monthly prayer list is on the website and in the Link. Morning prayer uses it and daily tweets are taken note of.

4. Approved Minutes of the Trustees meeting 17th June

These were noted. Virginia queried which window was being referred to in item 6.2. Lore suggested checking with Nick Wells.

5. Julian Road Celebration

Jude reported back. The event was quite magical. It was a germ of an idea from Stuart Burroughs from the Museum to celebrate the easing of restrictions with the Julian Road community and together with Lore they said "Yes, let's do it". A division of management and labour was decided upon. It didn't set out to be a fundraiser but we thought anything we made out of it we could contribute towards a local charity, e.g. Burlington House. Christ Church made a little short of £600. The museum had costs to cover such as printing. The final total is not known yet but we assume it would be in the region of £600.

We had the Mayor of Bath to open the afternoon by cutting the ribbon at the entrance. She stayed and seemed to enjoy herself.

The weather was good and the Rainbow Steel Band played outside and David Wrigley played fun tunes on the organ inside the church. Alex Soboslay ran history tours of the church and Will Willans showed people around the tower.

Lots of people turned up buying books and bric-a-brac. Teas were served in the Lower Mews and we were able to use tables outside in the carpark and children had games to play outside the museum. Ice creams were also available.

Stuart would like to repeat this next year on the same weekend on 21st August as this coincides with the Vintage Steam Fair.

There are several advantages of sharing the event with the museum; the main ones being it's not all on our shoulders to make it happen and of course Christ Church gets some amazing exposure.

A discussion ensued where Council members suggested things that could be included next year, e.g. Morris dancing or clog dancing, pick 'n mix sweets. Pauline Swaby-Wallace would like to offer jerk chicken.

Jonathan – offered a big thank you and the event showed the diversity of the community Christ Church is trying to represent.

Mark – thought it went very well and suggested that we don't need to throw very much more at it. From experience, don't make it burdensome and anyone who suggests something needs to be responsible for following through with their idea.

6. Eco-church – paper by Rebekah Cunningham update

The report from the Environmental group was concerned with 2 things.

1. Climate emergency toolkit

- a. Preparation stage – prepares the church to get involved in green things and then declares an emergency. We then decide what we're going to do about it. We've been preparing through August with Creation Services – arriving at Climate Change Sunday that was combined with Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 5th September

Then comes,

- b. Our next stage will be to plan our 'Declaration', a public statement that we as a church recognise that we face a climate crisis and are taking action.
- c. Impact stage when we think about how we can affect other people both politically and locally.

2. We are also looking at what we're doing under five headings:

- a. Worship and teaching
- b. Buildings
- c. Land
- d. Community/Global engagement
- e. Lifestyle

We were invited to sign up for a green lifestyle in our church. We have a board full of climate change pictures representing beauty of creation together with apples pledging changes to our lifestyle. On Climate Change Sunday we will be asking the young people what they want us to do about the state the world is in and to listen to their answers.

Some of the things the young people have been doing –

Tim Jones has adopted a snow leopard

Charlie Ross wants to plant a 'Charles Ross' apple tree in the Apse garden

Toby Jones wants to make a bug house, also for the Apse garden

Followed by the Impact stage when we think about how we can affect other people both politically and locally.

Mark has great enthusiasm for a subject that is fundamentally important. Extreme weather conditions are terrifying.

7. Sunday afternoon service update – Jonathan Stead

Jonathan, Rebekah and Brenda are involved in an initiative to do Sunday afternoon services.

Jonathan – this idea is in addition to the other things that we do. This would be a reflective small service with taped music and based on 'The Wee Worship book' and will be led by the laity. This will happen at 5pm once a month initially starting 26th September.

8. Christmas Tree and Carol Singing

Lore is very keen for Christ Church to provide a Christmas Tree for the community and erect it on St Andrew's Green. There will be carol singing around it and perhaps a band.

The date in mind is Wednesday 16th December around 6:30pm

It was important not to clash with the Circus Carols but this is normally on a Friday.

Brenda suggested we could ask the Salvation Army band

Action: Brenda

Richard suggested that we had some really talented musicians around the church and he will research that.

Action: Richard

9. AOB

a. *Toppings events - programme*

The list of Toppings events was included in the combined papers. There is a full programme between now and December. Jude had a meeting with Toppings to make sure we're all in agreement as to how the events should run.

The first three events have audience of ~100 which will fit in Christ Church comfortably.

Toppings are prepared to stagger people in and out and they will spray and clean after each event.

Mark – the biggest risk is aerosol with surface infection being low risk so risk to the congregation is minimal. Masks are not enforceable but we will request masks are worn.

Jude – Wine serving will not happen for the first three events until we know how they work and can observe bottlenecks etc. Book signing at the end will be over by the open Julian Road door where exit is quick and easy afterwards.

b. *Kara's deaconing*

This will happen on Saturday 25th September in Wells Cathedral. No one else is invited except for Lore who is Kara's sponsor. Her first service as Deacon will be on Sunday 26th. Our gift to her will be a book of prayers and a mug, 'Keep calm and serve'. We've already bought her the range of Common Worship books.

At the end of the service, when the procession reaches the West end Kara will turn East and congregation will turn West. Kara will say "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" and the congregation will reply "In the name of Christ, Amen". This works as she is taking the word out into the community.

c. *Bring and share lunch for Harvest*

This is no longer happening.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th October

The meeting finished with the Grace