



Christ Church Bath

Minutes of the Meeting of Christ Church Council Tuesday, 05 April 2016

Chair: David Rawlings
Secretary: Judith Bishop (Acting)
Members present: Judith Anderson, Rowena Hall, Matthew Jones, Sarah Kerr, Janet Mahto, Sharon Rawlings, Andrew Sillett, Alex Soboslay, Angela Soboslay, Brenda Wall
In attendance: David Bishop (Trustees' Treasurer)

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Chairman's remarks	<p>Rev'd Lore Chumbley led an opening prayer followed by her remarks.</p> <p>Lore had read Christ Church's Mission Statement and had seen several examples of it since her arrival. She is looking forward to growing with us.</p> <p>Lore announced that Brenda is going to a selection committee for Lay Reader and Brenda asked for our prayers.</p> <p>Lore asked that Worship be added as an agenda item.</p> <p>She is also looking at ways to advertise and get Christ Church out in to the community. She would like to use visiting preachers that might attract additional interest. We could advertise in the Church Times (£187 for a year) and maybe other more local magazines such as Bath Life.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Margaret Burrows, Morny Davison, Ian Hay Davison, Mark Elliott, Malcolm Wall</p>	
1.	<p>Approval of the Minutes Tuesday 23rd February 2016</p> <p>All changes to the minutes had previously been notified by Alex Soboslay to the Secretary and included in the final version of the Minutes to be signed off by the Chair.</p> <p>There being no further amendments, it was proposed that the Minutes be accepted. Proposed Alex Soboslay, seconded Brenda Wall, Motion carried</p>	
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Installation of Rev'd Lore Chumbley. Lore thanked council for the welcome she received at her installation.</p>	
3.	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>In Malcolm's absence a substantial financial report was given by David Bishop (Treasurer Trustees).</p>	

The accounting system gets better year on year.

We're waiting for the auditor to audit the books

Income of £4100. We have just applied to recover accrued Gift Aid of £8000.

The Council budget is £50000 made up from the following:

Fees and Salaries - £13000 for the vergers/organist/visiting priests

Utilities - ~£5000

Wine, wafers & candles - £1200

Maintenance, e.g. light bulbs, etc - £300

Operating costs of organ –

Administration - £5-6000 – includes service booklets etc

A discussion ensued as to whether Christ Church should look to doing more of the printing. Judith Bishop offered to look in to the cost of getting a printer.

Janet Mahto thought the money we pay to the professional printer was money well spent.

Matthew Jones suggested we weigh up the labour costs against money.

Junior Church - ~£200. The previous meeting indicated that there were things bought for Junior Church that were never claimed. It was suggested that all expenses should be claimed for.

Last year's contribution to the Diocese was £15000 – the most recent part of that was £5000, £250 short of the requested amount. There are forms to be filled in which indicates that we are a category B parish. A Diocesan letter then gets sent to us to say how much they would like us to pay. It was suggested that Malcolm Wall might have that letter.

Genesis vouchers - £500

Fellowship, cakes and wine etc. - £800

This totals approx. 4600 which gives us a shortfall of approx. £5000 (without the Gift Aid)

The first quarter of this year is on the same track. We will continue to claim Gift Aid and in addition GASDS (which covers small donations in envelopes) but this works on the fiscal year whereas the Church accounts work on the calendar year.

New legislation requires a new declaration form to be completed for those eligible for Gift Aid that indicates that all donations now, in the future or in the past four years can be claimed.

Of donations of £35000, £2700 are on standing order, £5000 on weekly envelopes and the rest of Gift Aid envelopes.

Matthew Jones requested a copy of the declaration for the website.

David Rawlings asked if there were two operating bank accounts. David Bishop said no but the accounts are separated on paper accounts all within the same bank account.

Lore asked about charitable giving. It was confirmed that this is the second Sunday of the month where all the loose change and any retiring cash collection is paid to a nominated charity.

Council thanked David Bishop for providing his report.

4. Most recent ratified Trustees Minutes

These were available for information and not for discussion.

However discussions followed on some points:
Sarah Jones's paragraph regarding safeguarding policy fit for purpose.
Council and Trustees will have joint discussions.
With regard to the Quinquennial plan, there is very little work outstanding.
The stonework on the gallery windows and external security lights being the most necessary to address.

There was a report from Charles Rice giving an update on the Buildings Group progress. This is attached to these Minutes for easy reference.

Sarah Kerr presented a report from Robin Kerr, Project Manager of current projects. The most significant item to note was the fact that the refurbishment of the vestry and Lower Mews toilets did not require planning permission for work to start.

We do need to apply for an extension to the licence we have for the re-ordering.

5. Publicity

Janet Mahto confirmed that the publicity was being organised between her, Hazel Boyd (computery) and Lewis Boyd.

Virginia Knight looks after twitter and facebook while Mark Elliott and Matthews Jones look after the website.

There are approximately 40 members on Facebook. There are 90 on Twitter although these are mostly not congregation. The website is good for attracting new people, Rowena Hall being a good example of finding Christ Church through the website.

It was thought it would be useful if we had a list of contacts in local media organisations.

We could use the A-frame to advertise services.

The priest name needs to be added to the board.

Lore suggested a door-shaped notice on the South door might draw attention.

6. Charities – Rowena Hall.

Rowena reported that she and Rebekah Cunningham were due to have a meeting with Lore. The meeting will cover mission & giving and how to put it all together. There would be an emphasis on 'long-term' commitment. Lore suggested that discussions should include the congregation with perhaps a lunch.

It was proposed by David Rawlings, seconded by Andrew Sillett, that the following be included for the next couple of months:

Send a Cow - April

Whizzybugs – May – Rowena will talk to Hazel Boyd to see if there is any publicity she can put up at the back of church.

There was a suggestion that our toilets could be 'twinned' and Judith Anderson offered to find out information regarding how it was done in Frome.

7. Photography and Security in Church

Andrew Sillett gave a bit of background for Lore so that she would know why we thought it necessary to address this problem. Andrew had made an attempt at a permit but at the last discussion Mark had voiced his concerns as a parent.

There is a group that hasn't yet met and it was agreed that any signage or

permit wording should be left with the appointed group who will then come back to Council.

Security notices for Cedar Tree have been done and Janet confirmed that she was still trying to get hold of Paul Solley to come and give us the benefit of his advice and experience.

8. Bells

Alex Soboslay reported that fundraising for the bells project was £1700 short which is the cost of the opening windows. There is work still to be done on soundproofing that involves the floor of the bell chamber and the sealing of the clock tower. Trustees will need to look at how this is to be funded. Normal practise and ringing continues. The Queen's birthday is this month but this may be too early for the works recommended by the sound engineer to have been completed.

9. AGM reports

Alex Soboslay reported that there were still some of these to be submitted. The agenda is to be agreed by the Standing Committee.

10. AOB

- a) Ride and Stride – A letter from Diocese was read encouraging Christ Church to participate in this event for the benefit of the upkeep of Somerset churches through the Somerset Churches Trust. Through discussion it was suggested that we might open the church not only to Ride and Stride but to everyone. Perhaps we should have a banner. It was suggested that Virginia Knight should be asked to lead this.
- b) Janet Mahto announced that her 'Open Gardens' event would be on Sunday 4 September
- c) Lore announced that there would be a Eucharist service on Ascension Day on Thursday 5 May 6pm followed by Evensong and that she and Colin would host a 'thank you' party in the Lower Mews afterwards.

Meeting closed at 21:30

Next meeting Tuesday 17 May at 19:40

Signed

Dated