

**CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2016**

**VENUE: THE MEWS AT CHRIST CHURCH – TIME: 19:40**

**ACTION MINUTES**

Rev Lore Chumbley            **Chairperson**

Sharon Rawlings            **Secretary**

**Present:**

Georgina Bowman

Virginia Knight

Judith Anderson

Rowena Hall

Brenda Wall

**Deanery Synod**

Penny Edwards

Janet Mahto

Alex Soboslay

**Church Warden**

Ian Hay Davison

**Co-opted**

Matthew Jones

Mark Elliott

Sarah Kerr

Apologies: Malcolm Wall, Judith Bishop, Morny Davison

Rev Lore led an opening prayer.

**1. Minutes of the Last Minutes – 5<sup>TH</sup> April**

The minutes was discussed and agreed. Proposed by Penny Edwards and seconded by Janet Mahto.

**2. Matters Arising**

The twinning of toilets was discussed. Judith Anderson will provide information and email to the Secretary.

**Action:** Judith Anderson

A discussion took place about a possible 50<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Celebration and Art Exhibition to take place at Christ Church. Penny Edwards suggested talking to Neil Alleyne, Lionel and Idahlia Sobers about this & for information on Caribbean History.

**Action:** Rev Lore Chumbley

### **3. Appointment of Officers – Secretary, Lay Chair and Hospitality**

There were 3 vacant positions:

Judith Bishop stepped down from being secretary for Church Council.  
Sharon Rawlings was nominated by Brenda Wall and seconded by Judith Anderson  
Alex Soboslay was proposed by Sarah Kerr and seconded by Penny Edwards.  
Sharon Rawlings was elected.

Malcolm Wall to be Lay Chair was proposed by Rowena Hall and seconded by Georgina Bowman. The vote was carried.

Angela Soboslay had previously been head of hospitality but had stepped down from council. There was a discussion as to whether Angela could therefore remain as head of hospitality. It was agreed she could be proposed as head of hospitality and if elected, co-opted onto council. Angela was proposed by Alex Soboslay and seconded by Penny Edwards.

Judith Bishop to be Head of Hospitality was nominated by Brenda Wall and seconded by Georgina Bowman. Judith Bishop was elected.

### **4. Financial Report**

No report. In the absence of the treasurer, Rev Lore passed on from David Bishop a message that HMRC has approved the first of two claims for gift aid (£8,021) and the second claim for £19,000 is likely to go ahead.

### **5. Most Recently Ratified Trustees Minutes to be noted**

There were no Trustees minutes.

### **6. Proposed Works is Refurbish Lavatories within the Church Building. – Formal Approval**

Plans for the new toilets were produced and discussed. It was brought to the council's attention about having a raised toilet and handrails. The flooring should be wheel chair friendly. Ideally, baby changing facilities should not be within a toilet. It was also suggested to have low energy lighting installed.

Having made these comments, council proposed the following statement:

**This Council approves the planned toilet refurbishment, as detailed in document number 1126 57 from Chedburn Dudley, and recommends it to the Trustees.**

Proposed by Mark Elliott and seconded by Brenda Wall. The vote was passed unanimously.

**Action:** Trustees

## **7. Worship**

The subject of microphones was raised by Brenda Wall. Some members of the congregation were having difficulty in hearing the service. Georgina Bowman mentioned that probably we should look at the amplification around the church especially the East End and the lighting in the Apse. Mark Elliott thought the amplification was generally quite good and it's not about microphones, it's about being tolerant with 4, 5 and 6 year olds. Small children are never great over microphone technique; the important thing was that they were included. It was agreed to put forward to Trustees.

**Action:** Trustees

The problem of engaging children purposefully in worship without detracting from the experience of others was discussed. It was decided that a sub group would meet to discuss this comprising Lore, Mark, Penny and Rowena.

## **8. Charities – Report from Subgroup**

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 Rev Lore, Rowena Hall and Rebecca Cunningham met to discuss how to proceed on charities. This was put to the council for their recommendations. In the discussions a number of charities were mentioned:

Bath and Wells Zambia – Jeremy Key Pugh  
Children by Choice – Judith Bishop

For the next 2 months there will be collection for Whizzy Bugs for Children – Hazel Boyd will provide more information and hopefully bring in collection boxes specifically for Whizzy Bugs. £80 has already been collected.

It was agreed that the Charity subgroup should arrange for speakers to talk about the charities:

Zambia Charity - Jeremy Key Pugh to be invited to give a talk  
Children by Choice - Judith Bishop to give a talk  
Whizzy Bugs – Hazel Boyd

It was also suggested about finding ways of raising money for Christian Aid.

**9. Photography and Security in Church – Report from Subgroup**

Rev Lore, Mark Elliott, Malcolm Wall, Andrew Sillett and Alex Soboslay met and showed council a small friendly sign to be displayed for visitors and printed on the notice service sheets.

**10. Plan for Angela Berners-Wilson's Departure**

Angela Berners-Wilson will be leaving Christ Church and to mark this occasion it was suggested to present her with a gift as a reminder of her time spent at Christ Church. Brenda Wall suggested having a set of book ends made from 'Christ Church Oak....' This was agreed by council.

**Action:** Brenda Wall

Angela's Induction Service will take place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm in Stogumber and transport was discussed. It was agreed that a notice sheet will be put at the back of the church so the congregation can register their interest before arranging transport. Rev Lore will create a form.

**Action:** Rev Lore Chumbley

**11. Administration of Chalice**

Rev Lore presented to the council Notes for Parishes from the Diocese of Bath and Wells on who may assist with the distribution of Holy Communion. The regulations under which this is permitted were changed in 2015 by General Synod and new ones are now in force. There are two main changes:

- In some circumstances, children may now assist in distributing the Sacrament
- Authorisation can now be devolved to the parish or benefice, without the need for the Bishop's direct involvement.

It was agreed that council members should read the leaflet at their leisure for discussion at the next meeting.

**12. Bells**

Sound proofing still ongoing: Ian Hay-Davison said with the shutters closed the sound level falls to 62 decibels on the North side but there is no significant change on the West or South sides. A level of 70dB is not likely to be judged a

nuisance by the local council, but it would be better if the sound level could be reduced, especially where people live close by.

There is a leak and this needs to be airtight. Ian Hay Davison to investigate.

**Action:** Ian Hay-Davidson

There has been no interest from members of the congregation in participating in ringing. Ian Hay Davison will meet up with Sue East Head teacher of St Andrews to discuss getting the children from the school involved.

Rev Lore mentioned that during the Open Church Day on 10<sup>th</sup> September the bell ringers could take the opportunity to demonstrate the techniques of learning to ring. Rev Lore also suggested we open the Church to the community on Saturday mornings in the summer when the bell ringers are already in Church. There would be coffee and cake (not the full Cedar tree menu) from mid-June-mid Aug. It was emphasised they should not compete with the Friday Cedar Tree Cafe.

**Action** Rev Lore Chumbley

**List of Dates when the Bells will be rung**

21<sup>st</sup> May 2016 for Jo and David's wedding

pm for the opening of the Bath Festival

12<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Queens Birthday (from 11:30-12:00)

**13. AOB**

Alex Soboslay produced a database of a list of council members contact details and asked that they check the contents and initial if they were happy for them to be circulated.

The Cedar Tree will be celebrating it's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November Janet Mahto will be inviting Nicky Gladstone and Margaret Silva as they had started the project. The celebration will be held in the Mews.

Rev Lore had a request to perform a gay marriage. She had explained to the couple she was unable to do so as a matter of law, but would like to offer the couple prayers and a celebration of their partnership - to include the choir and bells. Ian Hay-Davidson mentioned that two gay marriages took place at Bath Abbey recently and would enquire as to what Bath Abbey did. Council agreed that we would be in favour of prayers being held in Christ Church for a gay couple. The vote was 13 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

**Action:** Rev Lore Chumbley and Ian Hay Davison

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 19:40.

**Future meeting dates for your diary:**

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Meeting closed at: 21:30

Closing Prayer

Signature: .....Date: .....  
Lore Chumbley (Priest in Charge)