

Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting 14 November 2017

Present: Judith Bishop, Revd Lore Chumbley (chair), Mark Elliott, Matthew Jones, Sarah Kerr, Virginia Knight, Janet Mahto, Sharon Rawlings, Alex Soboslay (secretary), Brenda Wall, Malcolm Wall.

1. The meeting opened with a prayer. **Apologies** were received from Georgina Bowman, Penny Edwards, Rowena Hall, Jane Nicholson and Will Willans.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (19 September 2017) were accepted with some amendments as a true record (proposed Virginia, seconded Matthew).

3. Matters arising

(1) Buildings. Hand towel dispensers and flip-top bins have been sourced.

(2) Publicity. Jonathan Stead is looking into getting pull-up signs.

(3) Easy music. Mark said he does try to stick to well-known hymns when the choir is not here to lead the singing. The meeting noted its appreciation. Would it be possible to put out the August music list in July? Brenda suggested this could be turned into a fundraiser – “sponsor a hymn”.

(4) Deanery Mission Plan for 2018. To be distributed for next meeting.

4. Inclusivity

The working group offered a form of words for approval. Judith questioned whether a list was appropriate: are we in danger of leaving something out? Alex agreed that it could come across as a kind of checklist. Brenda suggested that what’s important is how we behave, not a statement. Mark said the statement was aimed at those who widely felt excluded by the Church, and affirmation of our welcome for gay people in particular was very important. After discussion, the following statement was agreed (proposed Brenda, seconded Mark, 2 abstentions):

We are an inclusive church

We do not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, age, family configuration, physical ability, race or sexuality. We seek to welcome and serve all people in the name of Jesus Christ; to proclaim the Gospel; and in the power of the Holy Spirit to enable all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of God.

You are welcome here

5. Worship

(1) Outreach to young people. Harvest is a good time to welcome students. Could we offer lunch as well? Publicise this through Nigel Rawlinson, the new

university chaplain? He's preaching at Christ Church on the second Sunday of Advent, and is supportive: he realises that some students are looking for something like Christ Church.

(2) Advent services. The Advent Carol Service will be at 6:30pm on Sunday 10 December. The Christmas Carol Service is on Saturday 23rd. Our Nativity Play is in the service on Sunday 17th, which is Advent 3, not Christmas Eve. On Sunday 24th, the Crib Service is at 4pm and Midnight Eucharist at 11:30.

(3) Signage. Sarah will look into getting a new A-board (A3, with perspex cover). Matthew and Lore are still trying to get the lettering to add Lore's name on the main church noticeboard.

(4) Other. The church will be open to visitors 11am – 1pm on Saturdays in Advent (2nd, 9th, 16th December). Lore will hold a short said service of Compline at 8:30pm on the Sundays of Advent. She proposed some form of Sunday evening worship in the new year, say "Tea and Taize" at 5:30pm once a month (the first Sunday of each month?). Let's publicise this to university students too.

(5) Deanery Youth Initiative. We thought this was a good idea badly executed, but will publicise it to youth group leaders. It's useful to get some new ideas – can we do things differently, or get expert help?

(6) Reordering. The Trustees will invite sketch plans and ideas from Chedburn's and Hugh Conway-Morris.

(Mark left the meeting after discussion of this item.)

6. Finance

Fundraising to date stands at over £1,000. We have a stand at the craft fair at The George in Woolley Street, Bradford-on-Avon, on Saturday.

7. Charitable giving

Virginia noted that we have a rather large rack with charity leaflets etc but no clear display about the charities we support, so our giving was not very visible. It was agreed to designate a noticeboard specifically for information about these. Some general discussion followed about noticeboard needs; Virginia, Rowena, Alex and anyone else who was interested will meet to consider organisation of the west end of the church.

Lore said she'd like to see Christ Church give more to charitable causes. Many churches aim for 10% of their expenditure, she said. Alex argued that Christ Church is itself a charity and had no justification for diverting money to contraception in Kenya or toilets in Malawi, which was a very different thing from the biblical practice of tithing from which the 10% idea derives. Discussion was shelved in recognition that Christ Church cannot legally give funds to other charities anyway; all we do under our Charity of the Month scheme is nominate charities to which the congregation are invited to give.

The meeting considered the list proposed by the Charities Committee and agreed to the following as our Charities of the Month for the first three months of 2018. It was further agreed that should any emergency situations arise between meetings of Council, Standing Committee could agree to put additional appeals to the congregation. (Proposed Judith, seconded Janet, passed without dissent.)

January 2018: Bath Dementia Action Alliance

February: USPG Malawi project (to be repeated quarterly?)

March: Burlington House

There was consensus on the Charities Committee's request that we encourage regular prayer in our intercessions for USPG and our Charity of the Month. Lore will let our intercessors know.

8. Fairtrade

Judith reported on behalf of all involved with the Traidcraft stall that it took up a lot of volunteer time but has not been doing well, largely because the products were now very expensive. Most Fairtrade goods, except possibly the chocolate, were now widely available in supermarkets for much less. Stock is often unsold by its Sell By date. After discussion it was agreed without dissent to sell off the goods we've got and then discontinue the stall; Judith will still order any goods that people might want from the catalogues, which we'll remind the congregation about.

9. Cedar Tree

Janet reported that Cedar Tree is running smoothly; there are no health and safety issues, and clients enjoy and value the café. Warm thanks were expressed to Janet; it all works because she is there. There was some discussion about getting more people involved in the café and "ferrying".

10. Any other business

(1) Hospitality. Malcolm requested that we prepare some instructions on the use of the dishwasher and the coffee machines, so that those helping at events can get to grips with them. Alex undertook to prepare these.

(2) Security. Malcolm and Brenda raised the question of security during services and events. He advocated a rota of sidespeople tasked with keeping an eye on things at the back of the church. After discussion of the general security climate at present, Matthew agreed to circulate the recent National Church Watch report on security issues to those interested.

(3) Brenda raised a question about the cleaning of toilets etc for events. Alex pointed out that the vergers routinely cleans the building and facilities but users do not always leave the facilities in the state in which they find them.

(4) Lore passed on an offer from Ecclesiastical Insurance, who are 130 years old this year: if a member of the congregation takes out home insurance with Ecclesiastical before the end of December, they will give £130 to the church.

(5) The service in memory of Martin Palmer takes place on 19 November. Following the precedent of the wake for Donald Morris, it was agreed to make a contribution of up to £330 to the cost of food and drink as a gesture for a former member of our congregation (proposed Janet, seconded Sarah, passed without dissent).

(6) Events and costings. Sarah asked whether we charge Toppings extra for wear-and-tear or cleaning when they serve food. Alex asked whether we charge them for use of our crockery, cutlery and glassware. Judith said we don't. There was consensus that we should review our charges, particularly now that we have renovated our entrance, toilets and sound system.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21:53. **Next meeting** Tuesday 23 January 2018 in the Lower Mews at 7:30pm.