

Christ Church Council Meeting: Wednesday 4th September 2019, 7:30pm in Lower Mews

Present:

Lore Chumbley (Chair)
Zoe Bushell
Penny Edwards
Mark Elliott

Sarah Kerr
Virginia Knight
Janet Mahto
Jane Nicholson

Sharon Rawlings
Alex Soboslay
Jonathan Stead
Will Willans

Opening Prayers

1. **Apologies** were received from Jude Bishop, Georgina Bowman, Lewis Boyd, Matthew Jones, Brenda Wall and Tosin Onile-Ere Rotimi.
2. **Minutes of the last meetings**
Minutes from 9th July were read, corrected and unanimously approved.
3. **Matters arising not already on the agenda**
 - a. **Young people** – the harvest service will be used as an opportunity to highlight that help is needed for work with the young people.
4. **Financial report** – see separate summaries of accounts. Lore presented the report, highlighting the following points:
 - Electricity cost has increased significantly recently – Georgina and David Bishop to look into this.
 - The Diocesan share is paid in instalments of £1000 per month with £3000 at the end, hence why the amounts appear as they do.
 - Council agreed to spend ~£160 for Mark to purchase wi-fi repeaters for the church to improve the coverage. **Action:** Mark to purchase wi-fi repeaters.
 - Council recorded our thanks to Georgina and David for producing these accounts. Going forward it would be good to formalise these further, including adding the budget and last year's figures.
 - Should Council be producing a budget for next year?
5. **Worship**
 - a. **Brother Marc** – the Community of the Resurrection have offered that Brother Marc could visit Christ Church for Holy Week during 2020. This would require funding of ~£600, which could be shared by other churches if we & they agree for them to be involved. He would join our services, be able to talk about religious life and generally deepen our experience of Holy Week.

Following discussion, it was agreed that we would invite selected other churches to share Brother Marc's time, as they will have services at times when we do not. The

proposal to invite Brother Marc to join us for Holy Week was made by Mark, seconded by Jane and unanimously agreed.

- b. **Lent course** – Margaret Barker will run a Lent course with dates to be confirmed.
 - c. **Intercessions** – it was clarified that the short term prayer list should be included in the intercessions every week, with the long term list included in addition to the short term list on the fourth Sunday of each month.
6. **Advertising** – see separate report. Virginia and Zoe presented the report, highlighting the following points:
- Social media is attracting engagement, and we are reminded to share Christ Church posts if we use social media.
 - Production of the Christmas and Easter postcards has been handed over from Hazel to Virginia, and Virginia would welcome suggestions for images / designs for these.
 - How effective are printed posters and leaflets for advertising events? It was agreed that having digital copies to share on social media is very helpful, and it can be useful to have a leaflet so that people can take away a physical reminder of the information. We will review how many copies need to be printed to ensure we are not paying for significantly more than are used.

Sharon had visited another church recently and brought back a welcome card to show Council, which lets visitors / new members leave their contact details. It was agreed that we would like to produce something similar, with a section containing details of our services that people can take away and a section where they can fill in contact details and select what they would like to receive communications about. **Action:** Virginia and Zoe to liaise on designs for this.

It was also suggested that upcoming church events should be mentioned in the welcome at Toppings events to let more people know about them.

7. **East End re-organisation**

- a. **Fundraising** – Jonathan updated us on the planned events, which are a games afternoon on 22nd September, quiz night on 16th November, Scottish dancing on 22nd February, Time & Talents in Lent 2020 and a proposed revue / supper club evening in 2020. A member of the congregation has made and donated a beautiful quilt to be used to support the fundraising. It was suggested that rather than a straightforward raffle, we could sell squares on a picture of the quilt & select a winning square. Fundraising group to decide how best to organise a raffle / other method of maximising money raised from the quilt.
- b. **Furniture** – the Trustees submitted an application for formal advice to the DAC and the DAC have advised in favour of the proposed east end re-ordering subject to a couple of provisos. The main change is that all tracery will replicate the Victorian design currently in place, rather than having a mixture of this with a more modern design. Final pictures have now been provided. Trustees and Council will need to agree the changes as

recommended by the DAC.

8. **AOB**

- a. **Confirmation service** – this is normally arranged for the whole deanery, so Lore to contact the Dean about whether Christ Church could host this.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 12th November at 7.30pm.