

Christ Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 2020, 7:30pm in Lower Mews

Present:

Lore Chumbley (Chair)
Jude Bishop
Lewis Boyd
Georgina Bowman
Zoe Bushell

Mark Elliott
Sarah Kerr
Virginia Knight
Jane Nicholson

Sharon Rawlings
Alex Soboslay
Brenda Wall
Will Willans

Opening Prayers

1. **Apologies** were received from Penny Edwards, Matthew Jones, Janet Mahto and Jonathan Stead.

2. **Minutes of the last meetings**

Minutes from 14th January were read, corrected and unanimously approved.

3. **Matters arising not already on the agenda**

- a. **Document archives** – Thrings will give the archived documents to Trustess if they formally request them. They could then go to the Diocesan archive. Sarah to investigate other options.
- b. **Cedar Tree** – the trust deed has been obtained and there are four trustees. It is not currently registered with the Charity Commission. The trustees have been informed of the donations made. A decision on how to progress will be deferred until Janet is at the meeting.
- c. **Dr Bannatyne** – no progress.
- d. **Lent lunches** – more of the congregation said they would come on Sundays so this was suggested to St Marys.
- e. **Inclusivity** – St Stephens has an “Inclusive Church” logo on their website. Georgina reported on key areas where accessibility needs to be improved:
 - Signage for wheelchair users
 - Braille signage and hymn books – Mark to check what hymns are in the hymn book available from RNIB to see if it covers a suitable range of those sung regularly
 - Notice about the hearing loop
 - An informal accessibility audit to be carried out by any members of the congregation who would like to help, referring to the Diocesan checklistAlex and maybe Lewis / Janet to attend course by Through the Roof on 21st March at £10pp
- f. **Parish Giving Scheme** – Jude has information about this. To put on agenda of a future meeting for consideration.

4. **Deanery Synod**

- Emma Brown is the new Diocesan building advisor
- It was agreed to make the contributions for the deanery and college chaplain
- One Good Friday needs volunteers for many jobs and also needs funds. Making a donation of £200 was proposed by Brenda, seconded by Lewis and passed with 12 votes for and one abstention.
- Information presented to Deanery Synod about the Compassionate Community and 3rd Sector Group organisations was shared with the meeting. No action to be taken.
- General Synod has committed to the Church being carbon neutral by 2030
- Christ Church will be entitled to 2 deanery synod reps this year with names to be put forward to the deanery by 5th June for an October start

5. **Worship**

- a. **Music** – we are managing well without a full-time organist.
 - b. **Candlemas carol service** – this was a lovely service and received positive comments and questions as to if it will happen again. Facebook advertising for this service and evensong seems to have been effective, with more people in the congregation.
 - c. **Upcoming services** – there will be a service for Annunciation on 25th March and the Windrush service will be 21st June. The Bishop has been invited to attend next year's Windrush service.
 - d. **Holy Week** – a draft service list for Holy Week was shared. Brother Marc will be visiting for the week.
6. **Worshipping Community Figures** – a letter from the Bishop was shared providing some information about the survey to determine the number of regular worshippers. A draft list had been prepared in advance, and council went through this and agreed on the members who should be included.
7. **Hospitality and Events** – see separate report. It would be good to encourage more people to help with serving coffee and washing up on Sundays. Thanks were noted to all who have been involved in providing hospitality and organising events, and particularly to Jude for the quantity and quality of events. Could do with more help.
8. **Pastoral Care** – see separate report. The pastoral group is meeting more often and they are keen for more people to join. Jane hosted a fabulous afternoon tea with hymn singing. Thanks were noted to the group for their work.
9. **Local Ministry Group** – see separate report. St Stephens will not come to Christ Church for the Maundy Thursday service – there is no particular animosity but they have chosen to hold their own service. Will attempt making contact with their bell ringers again. Joint services with Oasis Church are going well.
10. **AOB**
- a. **Verger's robe** – this is currently borrowed from Wells. Angela to research colours,

fabrics, price etc. and make proposal. Previously this was funded by Christ Church Hall – could split cost between Council and CC Hall this time, to be decided at later date.

- b. **Chalice and paten** – Georgina offered to make a chalice and paten for the new chapel, using a wood-effect design on part of it that people can participate in creating.
- c. **Covid-19** – the current advice from the Diocese is that communion can continue in two kinds but with no intinction, although individuals may choose to take in one kind if concerned. There should be hand washing or use of hand sanitiser.
- d. **Cèilidh** – this is planned for 3rd October.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

The date of the next meeting is the AGM on Sunday 26th April at 11.30am.