

Minutes from Council Meeting on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 7:30pm on Zoom

Present

Lore Chumbley: Priest in Charge
Janet Mahto (Churchwarden)
Jane Nicholson (Churchwarden)
Georgina Bowman (Council Treasurer)
Jonathan Stead (Lay chair)
Brenda Wall (Deanery Synod rep) (from 8:20pm)
Jude Bishop (Secretary)
Zoe Bushell
Rebekah Cunningham
Mark Elliott
Richard Gabe
Virginia Knight
Sharon Rawlings
Alex Soboslay

The meeting started at 19.36 with a prayer led by the Priest in Charge.

1. Apologies

Pauline Swaby-Wallace (Deanery Synod rep)

2. Minutes

A few amendments were made to the minutes of 3 November 2020.
The Council unanimously adopted the minutes.

3. Matters Arising

Item 4 – Georgina asked how we stood with the budget for the technical equipment for the streaming of services. Mark thought we had spent ~£1600 leaving ~£1200 in the pot. This might be needed to cover the cost of additional tripods as the current system of using ‘gorilla pod’ clamps can be a bit unreliable. We might also need to replace the current laptop with a new one or a PC. **ACTION**

Item 7 – Rebekah has kindly offered to make an altar cloth for the new altar in the style of a long runner. She currently has difficulty getting hold of material from Northern Ireland but felt she’d like to confirm details of how the runner will look. She showed 3 images of the Canterbury Cross that she thought appropriate to match the cross carving in the wood of the altar, in the four corners and in the middle. The stitching would involve some crewel and trellis work. The examples are of differing complexity and Rebekah would like to get the feeling from the Council on which one to use.

The cloth would cover the depth of the altar and reach 2/3 down to the floor on either side. It would not be lined but there would be a separate plain cloth underneath it, the size of the table, to provide a good backing.

Georgina suggested #3 and five members of council agreed with her.

Jude suggested #1 and five members of council agreed with her.

Council suggested that Rebekah would have the casting vote once she had investigated how difficult each one is to do. **ACTION**

Item 10 – Rebekah listed all the charities by month:

January – Oasis Hub Bath Community projects
February – USPG Malawi project
March - Revitalise

April – Spafford Children’s Centre
May – USPG Malawi project
June – BEMSCA
July – Christians against Poverty
August – USPG Malawi project
September – Children’s choice (no details as yet)
October – Just Footprints Foundation
November – USPG Malawi project
December – Genesis & Julian House

4. Cedar Tree – Operational Guide

Lore added that a letter had been received following the meeting of the former Cedar Tree Trust. The aim of the meeting was to wind up the former Trust. The letter, looked over by Peter Bowes, a former qualified solicitor, detailed its decisions. Thanks were recorded to Nick Wells, Jane and Janet.

Having read the operational guide written by Nick Wells, Janet and Jane, Alex suggested that ‘House Rules’ be added to Cedar Tree rules in the Operational guide. Janet agreed that would be a good idea. **ACTION**
Money taken at Cedar Tree will, in future, be paid into the Christ Church account and Lore will discuss the paying-in process of Cedar Tree money with the Verger as she does banking for church services and this could be done at the same time. **ACTION**

Rebekah advised that we be careful with heating food in line with food hygiene. The heating rules will be reviewed once Janet has attended her update course.

Janet also confirmed that several volunteers had stepped forward offering to attend a food hygiene course.

Thanks were registered to Nick, Janet & Jane for their hard work in creating this working document.

5. Worship

Lore appreciated the children’s input over Christmas.

Following the meeting on 8th January, services would go on-line on Sundays and Thursdays.

Morning prayer on-line too.

Lore confirmed that Christ Church would continue to be open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 2-4pm from 9th January. This has been encouraged by the Diocese.

Lay worship leader

Lore introduced this item.

Jonathan arrived at Christ Church some four and a half years ago.

He was a lay reader in South Africa and Lore had suggested he look in to transferring the readership here. He consulted the Diocese to get their advice as to what he could or ought to be doing.

Jonathan continued. He was a lay reader in SA for 30 years, in both Grahamstown and Johannesburg. He was licensed by the Bishop and was initially called a sub-deacon then a lay minister and then a parish minister.

This role was to assist the priest with the liturgy and other functions such as marriage preparation and baptism, etc. Jonathan ran the pastoral care committee and various other Parish functions.

He found his involvement with the liturgy particularly rewarding and felt he was called to do that.

Having been here a while he feels called to reconsider the gift he has been given. He doesn’t wish to preach and has no desire to take on two years academic training at this point.

In discussion with Jill Perrett, Diocesan Lay Ministries Enabler, Jonathan has decided to explore being a Lay worship assistant to assist the priest in the liturgy and he is currently exploring an appropriate course to enable this together with someone in the diocese to support him.

He thought he wanted to report all of this to council. Lore confirmed that council would be asked for formal backing at some point.

Jane thought it wonderful news and Lore was grateful to Jonathan for considering this role and hoped it might encourage others to come forward.

6. Pastoral Care

Rebekah confirmed that the pastoral care team has been phoning around the vulnerable and elderly (where known) members of the congregation, reporting back every month or so. All these people had 'goody bags' over Christmas that were much appreciated. She said we must be particularly mindful of these people over the next few weeks during lockdown. We need to quantify how many cannot access on-line services. It was thought to be around three or four.

7. Financial Report

Georgina reported that we were about to change energy contracts.

Our gas contract is up for renewal in July. The offer sourced by the energy broker was lower than the last time we looked at it giving a 9% saving over the year (~£70). This was with British Gas who profess to be 'part green'. Our current supplier is about to increase prices. Council were asked to consider should we go green energy.

Zoe said we should be responsible with our finances.

Mark is interested in price differential.

Georgina was tasked with looking into green supplier prices.

Alex asked if we were only considering gas at the moment.

It was decided that further discussions/decisions should be had via email once Georgina had had a chance to investigate. **ACTION**

8. Decluttering,

As part of the decluttering of the church, Lore had taken several pictures of items in and around the church that could be considered useful or surplus to requirements.

Council looked at the different categories:

• Items to be disposed of

- 20th century print found in the ringing chamber. We could try and sell it
- Liturgical vestments (2 items) – enquire of a liturgical second-hand supplier
- Computer monitor – its old and should be disposed of
- Walker – donate to St Joseph's
- Tapestry pictures - dispose of one but keep the Celtic cross slab as there is a label (Olwen Ballantine)
- Old covered table – used to be in the choir vestry. Needs to be disposed of as we have no further use for it
- Plastic storage box – belongs to Cedar Tree. To be kept as it might be useful for storage for CT or Junior Church
- Cedar Tree sign – to be disposed of as it is very heavy to move about and Cedar Tree already has a suitably weighted one that is used every week

Any of these items that are on the inventory need disposing of using a Faculty

• Items to sell

- Several prayer desks, prie Dieux – two for the South Chapel. We ought to check the others for markings or plaques and then look to sell them
- Table – not used and can be disposed of without a Faculty
- Unknown item – to be disposed of if we don't know what it is
- Chairs – 16 old choir chairs that were bought fairly recently. We need to decide how many we need to keep and sell the surplus

- Candle pedestals – there are two pairs of acolyte candles these not currently in use and should be disposed of
- Piano stool – this came either with the chamber organ or the piano and should be disposed of
- Rattan table – this is in a bad state of repair and should be disposed of

Any of these items that are on the inventory need disposing of using a Faculty

- **Items to remain in use in Christ Church**

- Prie Dieu – has the Canterbury cross and should be back in use
- Table – this has a shelf underneath. This has been used for the Nativity scene and will be kept in the Lower Mews
- Dust cloths – may belong to Georgina
- Set of coat hooks on a board – the hooks will be removed from the piece of wood and can be used elsewhere in the church
- Collage of pictures from around 1988. Angela has offered to remove the pictures and archive them
- Gateleg table – it has replaced the one used at the back of church as it is a much more useful size and shape
- Cedar Tree notice – This is the original one drawn by Martin Palmer. It is quite tatty so needs tidying up. Once this is done we should keep it in the kitchen
- Padded chairs – there are four chairs and 2 carver chairs. A grandfather of a friend of Penny Edwards made these and they should be recovered to prolong their use. We should reupholster them

This is a short precis of decisions made in the meeting and Alex offered to create a detailed list the items, the decision for each item made by council and those items needing a Faculty for removal. **ACTION**

9. West wall reorganisation, and Bells fundraising donor board

West wall reorganisation

One plan was to reorganise the incumbents boards and have the bells donor board in between. Alex reminded council that we have been talking about this for some time and the consensus is that there needs to be a coherent plan for the changes we wish to make. If we are agreed that we don't need the existing pigeonholes and noticeboards, Faculty allowing, but we need a consistent design of noticeboard that would give us flexibility for what goes where. It would make a lot of sense.

A discussion continued where council thought we should have a general-purpose noticeboard and a welcome board with pictures of personnel. Past clergy pictures should be remastered to be of similar size and be mounted on the north wall.

Brenda thought we should be redecorating the wall but Alex confirmed that the wall under the incumbents pictures is not painted but was a floral stencil pattern on bare wall. Trustees are not keen on 'project creep'.

Alex said he was happy to look into raising a Faculty to cover the changes in the West wall. **ACTION**

The donor board for the Bells fundraising

Maggie Willans has a design for a board. This is her expertise and now has time to devote to making it as she is retiring in March. Trustees agreed the wording and the design in 2019 for a board measuring 24" x 36", and at a cost of £550. It was thought we might use the Christ Church oak but Maggie had advised that this would probably be difficult to work and would be prohibitively expensive.

Georgina proposed, seconded Brenda, that Lore should talk to Maggie about wood and price to get the job done up to a limit of £600. **ACTION** Georgina proposed, seconded Brenda. There was unanimous agreement.

Jonathan suggested that Lore should speak to Ian Hay-Davison to advise him of our progress with the Donor board. **ACTION**

Sharon, Virginia and Alex were asked to look further into this to take the West end wall project forward

ACTION

It was a suitable time to mention other donations:

- The tenth anniversary of Frank Twissell's passing had recently been reached and Council were reminded that Dorothy, his wife, had donated £500 or £600 in his memory. In his time in Christ Church he had been a great gardener and had always prepared the pedestal flowers for the front porch for special occasions. The two planters and Portuguese laurels outside the West door were purchased with some of this money and Jane asked that we confirm how much money was left in order to purchase something else in his memory. Council thought the most suitable item would be an elegant wooden flower pedestal.
Jude should ask David Bishop how much money is left. **ACTION**
Jane together with the other flower arrangers will look into what pedestals are available. **ACTION**
- The two lanterns outside the West door were refurbished in memory of Audrey Sheppard

A discussion ensued as to how we could record bequests and donations. The DAC will not allow labelling things with plaques around the church, unless they are moveable. Brenda will look into a memorial book where we could list the items. **ACTION**

10. Safeguarding Officer

Virginia has agreed to take over as Safeguarding Officer from Lewis Boyd.

She has to obtain an full DBS certificate, an enhanced version of the basic one she has already.

Additional need to understand vulnerable people

This is in process.

Virginia is working her way through some of the training materials on the Diocesan website. She has done the basic course and will progress to the foundation course. A need to know what will replace the in-person training in Wells

There is paperwork to be done before an official handover can happen.

The role has a more holistic remit which deals with vulnerable people and detecting and dealing with such instances and making the church a place where people feel safe.

She has already had a preliminary chat with Lewis.

There will be a need to contact those people whose certs have lapsed and get them recertified, and to encourage more people to have the DBS check so we can offer DBS checked people when we host external events. **ACTION**

Virginia spoke of including Cedar Tree and safeguarding.

This will be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Lore asked for a vote of thanks to Virginia and that we should minute our thanks to Lewis.

11. AOB

a. Virginia – AGM on April 25th

We should be thinking about who should be standing for council

Those up for re-election – Jude, Jonathan, Alex – all indicated their intention to stand again

b. Alex – he put the deed box, that was in Yvonne Morris's possession when she stood down from being chair of Trustees, in the archive cabinet. He will check when she stood down from Trustees **ACTION**

c. Cedar Tree needs a new fridge. We need to check if there is sufficient money in the CT funds

d. Virginia – swift box needs to be installed very soon. Alex and Robin Kerr to install the box. **ACTION**

e. Alex – request to get the minutes and papers for future council meeting at least 7 days before the next meeting

f. Lore – Penny Edwards left a bequest for £500 towards the maintenance of the Christ Church building

The meeting ended with the grace at 21:28

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 9 March at 7:30pm