

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

Present

Lore Chumbley: Priest in Charge (Chair)
Jude Bishop (Secretary)
Jonathan Stead (Lay chair)
Jane Nicholson (Churchwarden)
Georgina Bowman
Zoe Bushell
Rebekah Cunningham
Mark Elliott
Richard Gabe
Brenda Wall (Deanery Synod rep) from 20:10
Malcolm Wall from 20:10

Kara Maylor (Curate)

The meeting opened with a welcome to Kara and a prayer.

1. Apologies

Virginia Knight, Sharon Rawlings, Janet Mahto (Churchwarden)

2. Minutes of last meeting 29th June

The minutes circulated were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Georgina and seconded by Jonathan Stead.

3. Matters Arising

a. Treasurer's laptop

Mark proposed that we rebuild the laptop currently being used for streaming so that it may be used by the treasurer. It should cope with the applications being used for recording the finances. Software licences are not a problem so there would be no additional cost to doing this.

In previous discussions it was thought that the streaming laptop should at some stage be replaced with a more powerful desktop. The original budget for streaming equipment still had some capacity in it to be able to pay for this this. Mark was asked to look into buying a desktop.

b. West end reorganisation

*Lore had quotes from three suppliers of noticeboards:
Signs for Churches - £498 plus £15 delivery
Display Boards Direct - £543
Creative Solutions - £572 inc VAT and free delivery*

All three companies seemed to offer similar products, but Signs for Churches seemed to offer a more environmentally friendly solution – light oak coloured MDF frame with 100% recycled material surface. It was agreed that we should go with the cheapest option.

c. Leadership Awayday

This will be on November 6th at Ammerdown, 11:00am-3:30pm. Our retired clergy have been invited. Lore suggested that we should buy lunch at £12, and all agreed.

4. Correspondence

Ling Zi gave Christ Church 5 of her paintings for fundraising.

Following an exhibition a dealer bought one of her paintings. There was an anonymous donation of £150 (10%) from the one she sold. Two of our paintings have sold for £3200, making a total of £3350.

All were in favour that we could use some of this money to fund the new desktop for streaming, however it was pointed out that the original budget for streaming equipment hadn't been spent and that we should use the amount already put aside for that.

It was suggested that we should exhibit our other paintings in the church and see if we can sell them.

5. Deanery Synod – a brief report from Brenda and Pauline

Brenda reported that she had attended the latest meeting at St Michael's Without. The meeting began with readings from Psalm 16 and Isaiah 43 which set the tone of the meeting and covered what everyone has been going through. Everyone was asked to encourage daily prayer and reading of scripture. In future there will be deeper cuts in support to parishes with fewer stipendiary clergy being employed by the Diocese.

Other issues included equality and education – where should ministry be focussed. There will also be a new Bishop.

Diverse traditions need to work together. We must be prayerful with one another and we must start to develop 'real' relationships. We must break down barriers and make the effort to work with one another.

Brenda suggested that we should invite individuals to worship together using our evensongs to do this and follow the services with a welcoming cup of tea.

6. Covid Precautions

Lore opened this item. When and how much do we relax restrictions. Some churches had removed restrictions on one side of the church but kept them on the other, some had removed the one-way system and some choirs were now singing without masks.

After some discussion, including reintroducing procession of the Gospel, it was thought prudent that we should stay with our current restrictions and review in a month or two.

All agreed.

7. Eco-church update – Declaration stage – Rebekah Cunningham

Rebekah had produced a paper from the Environment Group.

She reported that the group was very animated including amongst others, Isaac, a teenager, and Morny who had just turned 90.

The group were following 2 streams:

- Eco church – green credentials
- Climate Emergency toolkit – public community action

The group had contacted nearby churches to see what they were doing with varied responses.

As part of the report there was a declaration of 'Climate and Environmental Recognition'.

All agreed that Lore should take this to Trustees and that Lore and Nick Wells should sign this before sending it off to organisations such as, Bath CAN, CAFE (Church Action for Environment) Bath, the Diocese, MP Wera Hobhouse and BANES Council.

We should also include it on our Website, Facebook page and the Link.

Rebekah finished by suggesting we buy some recycling bins for the main kitchen and also accept her donation of plastic stackable bins for the Mews kitchen.

Thanks came from Mark who was very supportive of the group and what it was trying to achieve. He emphasised that Council had been asked to vote on a Climate and Environmental Emergency recognising that these were two different issues.

8. Worship

a. New 5pm Sunday Service – brief report – Rebekah & Jonathan

Jonathan reported that there had been 13 people attending this service of quiet liturgy from Iona. Others came later, a Catholic family who came to light a candle and an Iranian postdoc student. It was led by laity followed by a glass of sherry.

Brenda offered her thanks to Jonathan and Rebekah.

b. 'All Souls' Service

There will be a contemplative service in the afternoon of the Sunday after All Souls day (2/11/21) at 5pm with an emphasis on reflection.

Lore listed some other services to be held at Christ Church together with dates:

Advent Carols – 5th December at 6:30pm

Christmas Carols – 19th December at 6:30pm

Narinder would like to hold the RUH Carol Service in Christ Church and have it streamed – possible dates 9th/13th/14th December

Norland Nannies carol service – 10th December

Christmas Tree and Carols on St Andrew's Green – Weds 15th December at 6:30pm. Mark said he would approach the Council and register this as an 'event' on Council land.

9. Report from the Curate

Kara had two points to make:

- a. St Andrew's Green is a good place for blessing people and suggested she would like to run 'Soup & Sparklers' on 6th November. This would be in the early evening to catch those going to bonfire parties. Council needed to adopt the event so it would be covered by insurance. Kara would serve the soup from flasks into recyclable cups.
- b. Living in Love and Faith update.
Kara reported that the course had attracted a regular group of 22 and had led the charge in Bath. Following this, Kara arranged a celebration evening in a pub to gauge the views of the group as to what they should do next. It was decided that most wanted to carry on with a less formal approach on a Thursday when the Pilgrim group isn't meeting. The group would focus on a book by George Lings called "Seven Sacred Places". George Lings is a theologian who has spent years studying monastic tradition. Council was very supportive of this project

AOB

a. Appreciation for retired clergy

Jonathan suggested that the Council should express its appreciation for retired clergy. All agreed. Jonathan will send a note of thanks to Peter and Beryl Bowes and Simon Tatton-Brown.

b. Bath Museum at Work 2022 event update

Richard reported back that he had contacted his neighbour with regard to Morris Dancing at the next Julian Road Community day on Sunday 21st August 2022. He will go ahead and book a group from Holt if there is one available for that date.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 9th December – mixed media in the Mews

Lore led a prayer for Kara's Aunt who had died that morning.

This was followed by the Grace.

Meeting finished at 21:15