

## Minutes from Council Meeting on Tuesday 29 June 2021 at 7:30pm on Zoom

### Present

Lore Chumbley: Priest in Charge (Chair)  
Jude Bishop (Secretary)  
Zoe Bushell  
Rebekah Cunningham  
Mark Elliott  
Virginia Knight (acting Secretary for the meeting)  
Janet Mahto (Churchwarden)  
Sharon Rawlings  
Brenda Wall (Deanery Synod rep)  
Pauline Swaby-Wallace (Deanery Synod rep)  
Malcolm Wall

The meeting opened with a prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian

### 1. Apologies

Richard Gabe, Jane Nicholson (Churchwarden) , Jonathan Stead (Lay chair)

### 2. Minutes of last meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May

Sharon Rawlings proposed acceptance of the minutes, Brenda Wall seconded, approved unanimously.

### 3. Matters Arising

#### ***Book of bequests and donations***

Brenda Wall and Lore introduced a couple of plain books (i.e. not obviously condolence books): Noble Macmillan leather-bound at £160, and Papuro Torcello soft cover at £39.95 (Lore has bought one of the latter). Either of these could have a personalised cover. Lore's suggested location was on the prie-dieu in front of the war memorial. Lore would bring the Papuro Torcello one to church for people to look at.

***Action: Lore***

#### ***West end reorganisation***

There was a discussion of how to estimate the height of the new West end boards; the best suggestion was agreed to be to put a marker at the proposed height on the existing boards.

Lore showed a 90cm high board in a photo. Boards are 90 x 120 cm or 120cm x 120cm or 120 x 180cm. Sadly they did not make long ones. Alex Soboslay had offered to mock some up. Fire retardant boards are more expensive and probably not legally required, but might be a good idea. Rebekah Cunningham reminded us about the fire at St Mary's Catholic Church.

***Action: Alex S***

'Signs for Churches' did eco-friendly boards with wood-effect frames made from recycled wood. Lore said these would need approval of the Archdeacon. Lore wanted 120cm x 180cm at the NW side and a shorter, less high board, on the SW side between the boards listing incumbents. We could get one in a bespoke size, which could be funded by sale of a prie-dieu.

#### ***Decluttering***

We have with Alex Soboslay's help divided the inventory into items to be sold (in some cases requiring a Faculty), items to be retained and others whose fate now needs to be decided. Mark Elliott recommended keeping the piano stool for use in the Mews as we don't have one. Other items on the list should be disposed of. The prie-dieus can be sold (the Diocese knows how to deal with these), pictures could be donated to charity or sold, Rebekah Cunningham suggested the bamboo table could be donated to the Woodworks workshop for restoration. We would need a Faculty for some of this. The 16 chairs for the choir were not needed and had only been in church a little over 10 years. The computer monitor and old Cedar Tree A-board should be disposed of.

Mark Elliott proposed these actions, Malcolm Wall seconded, approved unanimously.

### 4. Election of Officials

### **Lay Chair**

Jonathan Stead agreed to remain in this post.

Mark Elliott proposed, Jude Bishop seconded, re-elected unanimously.

### **Secretary**

Lore could not think of anyone else who could and would take over and continue Judith Bishop's excellent work in this post. Judith is willing to work from a recording; she suggested that Council look for someone to take over in a year's time.

Sharon Rawlings proposed, Janet Mahto seconded, approved unanimously.

### **Archivist**

It was agreed that Georgina be appointed our Archivist; the church archives are moving to her house.

### **Treasurer**

The Trustees would like their treasurer to be a free spirit, but we need a book-keeper in the church. Richard Gabe was willing to be Council Treasurer.

Judith Bishop proposed, Mark Elliott seconded, elected unanimously.

## **5. Trustees approved**

The Trustees' minutes for 17<sup>th</sup> May which have been circulated to Council were noted.

## **6. Work Plan for Council 2021/2**

Lore suggested that Council has an away-day or half-day to plan objectives for the coming year, in line with our mission statement, and that we ought to have a hybrid online/in-person meeting, maybe in September. The following possible venues for the awayday were suggested: St. Michael's Without/Ammerdown/Emmaus (Whitchurch)

## **7. Worship update**

Mark Elliott presented this report. He wished to appoint David Winters as permanent organist/Assistant Director of Music. David is willing, but his medical duties will mean that initially he will just be available about 2/3 of weekends. He would be employed by Trustees and paid using RSCM recommended rates (pro rata) (Mark has increased the weekend rate and we have to pay stand-ins when David is away.) David will need a DBS check - Virginia Knight would arrange this. He is very able as both player and conductor and been a huge help during lockdown.

**Action: Mark, Virginia**

A group of 6 singing 'live' in church had worked well for the last 2 weeks. It is unclear what the guidance will be in future weeks, so this arrangement may have to continue. Mark proposed to have parents/children stand side by side for the 6(+) choir on Sunday so juniors can sing, and hoped for something like normality in September.

Rebekah Cunningham, Jonathan Stead & Brenda Wall were hoping to organise informal 4 pm Sunday services.

**Action: Rebekah, Jonathan, Brenda**

Judith Bishop raised the matter of the dedication of St Michael's chapel. This doesn't have to be done but it would need a Bishop, and there is a one-year wait to get hold of one. Lore will ask for one.

**Action: Lore**

8 a.m. Book of Common Prayer services to restart on 11 July.

## **8. Donor board/Cliff and Margaret Burrows' inscription tablet**

The donor board would need a full faculty. Cliff and Margaret should also have a tablet to acknowledge their donation to fund St Michael's chapel screen. The Trustees believed Council is arranging this and applying for a faculty retrospectively.

Brass or oak for the tablet? This was put to a vote with the following outcome: 7 brass, 2 oak, 1 abstention.

## **9. 'Honesty in our Faith and Doubt' update**

The Living in Love and Faith course was to start on 15 July or 22 July in the Thursday Pilgrim slot.

Some new members of the congregation had requested a house group and one was being set up, to meet probably fortnightly for Bible study, prayer and getting to know one another. There was already a core of 4 people and room for others, or for a second group!

Lore had been talking to Oasis about joining forces for an inter-church gay support group.

Lore hoped to arrange some lectures/talks next year.

## **10. Service and outreach update**

### ***Cedar Tree***

Friday 23rd July was a proposed dry run, and then Cedar Tree would start properly on Friday 30th. Janet Mahto and Nick Wells had looked at procedures, risk, DBS checking etc.

### ***Church opening***

Saturday church opening was not possible this summer, but Wednesday opening had continued and brought people in.

The Julian Road celebration was now on August 22nd. Burlington House would be involved. It was intended to have a Christ Church table.

### ***Fellowship.***

How do we get people back? Judith Bishop suggested we could do something after church as we had done on the previous Sunday, perhaps at harvest festival (September 5th, combining with Climate Awareness Sunday). Or a bring-and-share lunch on that date. Apple picking has been provisionally set for September 19th. Brenda Wall wondered about another wine tasting. The Lamentation service, originally intended to follow the Julian Road celebration, could be later on September 5th if the choir stayed.

## **11. Gift and possible loan**

### ***Gift of Candlesticks***

Council retrospectively accepted with gratitude the gift of a pair of silver candlesticks from Brenda and Malcolm, presented for use in the St Michael Chapel.

### ***Prospective loan of Harpsichord***

Christ Church has been asked whether we could house an 8 foot long harpsichord temporarily. It would have to go where the bookcases are, with the bookcases going to Lower Mews. Mark Elliott was in favour, saying it as a very good single-manual continuo instrument. Jude Bishop asked how we would protect it. We would have to insure it. Sharon Rawlings asked whether it would have a cover. Malcolm and Brenda Wall were keen to hear it in recital while it is in the church.

8 were in favour, 3 abstained; Lore will take this to Trustees.

**Action: Lore**

## **12. AOB**

Pauline Swaby-Wallace thanked Christ Church for arranging the Windrush service, which was well attended both in person and online, and for allocating a Charity of the Month collection to BEMSCA, which had been put to good use. Lore said the Windrush service will be June 19th next year.

Thomas Wölker-Darley was hoping to monitor our online presence.

**Action: Thomas W-D**

Future meetings were set every 6 weeks or so on the following proposed dates: Wednesday 1 September, Tuesday October 12th, Thursday December 9th, Tuesday January 11, Wednesday Feb 16, Tuesday May 3rd and the AGM on Sunday 8 May.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m. with the Grace.

**Virginia Knight**