

MINUTES OF THE CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 JULY 2022

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Present:

Lore Chumbley (Priest in charge); Mark Elliott (Reader); Jonathan Stead (Lay Chair); Jane Nicholson (Churchwarden); Brenda Wall (Deanery Synod representative); Zoe Bushell; David Rawlings; Malcolm Wall

1.Apologies

Kara Maylor (Curate); Janet Mahto (Churchwarden); Pauline Swaby (Deanery Synod representative); Lucy Humbert; Zi Ling; Isaac Elliott; Jude Bishop

2.Minutes of the last meeting

Editorial suggestions to the draft minutes were made and accepted. The revised minutes were agreed to unanimously.

3.Matters arising from the minutes

a) Council secretary: the role of council secretary was discussed and in the absence of volunteers from the congregation and the council, Jonathan offered to take the minutes for this meeting. Lore Chumbley suggested that a solution would be for Jonathan, as Lay Chair of council, to chair future meetings and that Lore would take minutes. This was agreed to unanimously.

b) Choral scholarships: Mark will report back on developments at the next meeting. (ME)

c) Use of Lower Mews for Julian House outreach project: Lore reported back that the arrangement was currently working well. Julian House had requested that the day be changed to Thursday from Monday allowing them more time during the week to inform people of the weekly event.

d) Welcome cards: Virginia was away on leave but would attend the next meeting to present ideas. (LC to alert VK to the date)

f) Response to the Deanery finance and strategy report: suggested changes by Mark to the wording in the draft letter were discussed and a final version agreed upon unanimously.

g) Letter of appreciation to Bishop Ruth: the draft letter was agreed upon unanimously.

4. Election of council representation to the standing committee: the matter was thoroughly discussed and it was agreed unanimously that it was appropriate for Jonathan as the current Lay Chair to be a member of the standing committee.

5. Creative response to the council away day in 2021: Jane felt that we were fulfilling many of the elements of our mission statement. However, as the recurring theme had been building bridges within the congregation and with its communities outside, she felt it essential to have a visual symbol to reflect this image. This would in no way replace the existing logo or vision statement, but would enhance our strong feeling of the need to build stronger bridges as “the body of Christ” at Christ Church.

This led to a discussion about marketing our church more vigorously as an inclusive and welcoming community and celebrating its rich history. David mentioned a useful local monthly magazine listing events in Bath and the region. Jonathan raised the fact that the church would be 225 years old in 2023, and this was worthy of celebrating. Brenda supported this suggestion and emphasised that such a project would need to be well-planned in advance. It was agreed that Jonathan, Bren and others interested in such a project should have a brainstorming session to share ideas. (Jonathan)

Mark raised the point that many young people were turning to a form of worship that was aligned to Christ Church with more quiet reflection and traditional music. We should be seeking to attract these young people including students in Bath. The time was appropriate to revisit our video on the Bath Chaplaincy website and to include the voices and thoughts of some of our younger congregation. (Mark/Jonathan)

Zoe felt that the current church website was outdated and need a fresh look. This was fully discussed and it was agreed that we needed this revision but also that there must be more regular and suitable information flowing from the congregation to populate the website. It was agreed that the cost of an upgrade to the website be investigated and a potential costing brought to Council. (Mark/Zoe). It was also agreed that the congregation be reminded of the importance of sending information to Zoe in order to make the website current and appealing. (Lore and all)

6. Worship

a) Windrush service: appreciation was expressed to all those who had organised the service.

b) Kara’s first Eucharist and celebration lunch: these were both wonderful celebrations for Kara, her family, and all of Christ Church. Appreciation was expressed to all those involved in organising the service and the delicious lunch.

c) Plans for a Caribbean celebration service: the local representatives have requested Christ Church to host a service of celebration for the whole Caribbean

community to mark special anniversaries of independence. This will be held on Saturday 24 September in the morning.

d) Harvest festival and apple picking day: this service would take place on Sunday 18 September and be followed by apple picking in Janet Mahto's garden.

e) Consecration of the St Michael Chapel: this would take place at the Sunday Eucharist on 25 September and would coincide with the visitation by our new bishop.

f) Licensing of Jane Hoe to administer the sacrament: the meeting was delighted to learn that Jane had been accepted for ordination training. It was agreed that she would be a wonderful addition to the team of lay people administering the chalice. Lore would apply to the Diocese for permission. (LC)

g) Request from a member of the congregation regarding the use of a sanctuary bell during the Eucharist: this matter was fully discussed with a range of opinions being expressed. In the absence of a common response, it was agreed to maintain the status quo but to discuss the matter informally with members of the congregation and to pray about the issue. Lore would convey the feeling of the meeting to the person who raised the suggestion. (LC)

h) Iona service: Jonathan reported that this had become a blessed time of reflection in words and music, and was attracting an attendance of up to 17 people including newcomers at every service. The sherry and dry snacks afterwards also allowed for fellowship and the welcoming of new people.

7. Any other business

a) Mark reported that the Bristol and District Organists Association, in conjunction with the museum of Bath at Work, would be visiting Christ Church on 13 August and David Bishop would welcome them on our behalf.

b) David Briggs had welcomed an invitation to return to Christ Church for another organ improvisation. This would take place on 5 October and we would need to advertise it widely with a target of 200 seats sold.

c) The RSCM was holding summer schools in Bath later in August and the junior choir would sing at Christ Church on Friday 26 August while the senior and junior combined choir would sing at St Mary's, Bathwick the following day.

d) Jonathan raised the issue of the upcoming Lambeth Conference and its controversial agenda especially on the same sex question. He requested that we and the congregation pray earnestly for discernment and wisdom for the participants and especially Archbishop Justin as chair.

8. Date of next meeting: it was agreed to meet at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 20 September 2022.