

Church Council Minutes
15 November 7.30 pm Lower Mews

Present

Lore Chumbley, Jonathan Stead, Jane Nicholson, Brenda Wall, Jude Bishop, Malcolm Wall, Lucy Humbert, David Rawlings, Richard Gabe, Jane Nicholson Jane Hoe, Mark Elliott, David Rawlings

1) Apologies for absence

Pauline Swaby-Wallace
Zoe Bushell,
Isaac Elliott

2) Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct
proposed JB
seconded J

3) Matters arising not otherwise covered

a) **Welcome leaflets** JS and DR have met and designed a welcome leaflet. A draft was shared. It was suggested that a matching insert with service times should also be available which would allow flexibility as services alter. JB will let LC have a copy of an appropriate insert. Once we have agreed on the leaflet we will have it published by mailboxes etc with a perforated tear-off page

b) Giving Stewardship Officer

Christ Church hasn't, up to now, had a stewardship officer. There are sensitivities over asking for money and it was agreed that any formal request for an increase in our giving should be from the priest in charge

The duties of a stewardship officer would be to

- Interact with new people and suggest they might like to sign up to planned giving.
- Liaise with the treasurer to be sure they are given the appropriate forms.

J N as church warden was happy to volunteer to do this.

We could also use Link and the website to publicise the advantages of planned giving.

c) Blinds for Lower Mews ongoing

d) Organ/choral scholarships

We have an organ scholar who plays to a high standard and is being used sufficiently frequently that his post should be cost neutral. We have two new sopranos in choir.

e) Away Day

We discussed booking an awayday at Ammerdown for March/April. LC reported that this will be expensive because of catering costs and was asked to see if we can book it without lunch and bring our own.

f) Van hire

Because of potential pitfalls with insurance and liability, Peter Bowes, retired solicitor was asked for his (unofficial) advice. His response was as follows-

'Given the nature of the items contained in the declaration as to the maintenance of the vehicle and the obligations of the driver my advice would be that this ought to be run past the trustees, on whom the legal responsibility will fall, so that they

(a) can be satisfied that either their existing health & safety etc policies cover the use of the minibus and its driving and compliance with the obligations, or if not then amend or create such a policy;

(b) can consider whether a risk assessment is required either generically for a class of activity e.g. Cedar Tree outings or for each individual occasion
and

(c) can be satisfied, if necessary by checking with the insurance company, that the church insurance fully covers any liability that might fall on the church and driver arising from use of the minibus.'

LC to take this up with trustees.

4 Trustees minutes were noted

The current faded red of the doors is not attractive. Trustees have asked Council to review the colour of the external church doors. Jane Nicholson pointed out that when Robin Kerr removed the 'weather board' blue paint was found underneath. JN suggested white to tone with the stone. It was felt this might get dirty. We will ask Robin to remove the weather board and look at the colour. This would require a faculty. J B agreed to take this forward with LC's assistance.

5 Update to West Wall Reorganisation

No change

6 Finance

a) Budget Projection Richard Gabe

Richard shared concerns about our current and projected income and expenditure in the current unfavourable economic climate. The plan to increase our Diocesan share by 10% has not yet been put in place but will start in 2023. Both planned giving and income from events such as Topping book signings have increased in 2022.

Thanks were recorded to Richard Gabe for his work in producing and presenting the budget projection.

b) Charitable donations.

There was concern that there is no clear governance for charitable donations given in cash in association with church services because they cannot go through the Christ Church account as a result of the nature of our foundation document. R G presented a system which would provide appropriate oversight and governance. It was agreed to take it forward with the co operation of the vergers and treasurer.

c) Heating Bills

Christ Church has applied to the Diocese for assistance with our heating bills. We are aware we may not be eligible for these but have nothing to lose.

c) Toppings Events

Income from these events is up, thanks to J B and her team who work hard to facilitate them.

7) Report from Deanery Synod

Brenda shared the news that there is a £1.25 million deficit in Bath Deanery

The proposed Deanery plan is for Bath deanery to lose five stipendiary posts in the next few years. It was made clear that diversity of worship style in churches must be respected and celebrated. Partnership between churches and lay leadership will be encouraged.

Deanery Support is available from Deanery accompanier Claire Horton (claire.horton@bathwells.anglican.org).

J S has attended a Diocesan online meeting on the financial state of the diocese. Many churches have less than ten attending services. There is concern and fear for the future in many churches.

8) Worship

a) Carols on the Green

We have a council licence for this and it will take place on Thursday 15 December at 5.30 pm led by Kara Maylor and supported by some choir members. Flasks of mulled wine will be provided with tables, stewards with hi viz jackets and litter-pickers afterwards. We will advertise locally and in at St Andrew's school.

b) Inclusive carol service

This joint service with St Stephens and Oasis church will take place at Christ Church this year. LH and her team will provide refreshments.

9) Charity of the month

JS suggested that as a change this year we support six charities each for a total of two months. One of these will be USPG, one Julian House and Genesis (combined) and one chosen by the young people. The other three should be local charities and JS and LC have received some suggestions which they will collate and will put to council by email. It was suggested that we should ask the chosen charities for paying-in slips to facilitate bank payments. (see point 6b above)

10) 225 Celebrations

JS has hosted a brainstorming event to discuss next years celebrations. Suggestions included-

- a) a ceilidh for the congregation - for which we should perhaps charge
 - b) a Julian Road Community event
 - c) a Festal Eucharist near to our founding date
 - d) an exhibition of Christ Church history combined with an open day to the church
 - e) 'Time and Talent 2023' with the proceeds split between the church and a chosen charity. This would be designed to encourage fellowship and celebrate the skills and interests of the church community. It is hoped 50 people will take £20 and multiply it. Confidentiality will be maintained. It will not, this year, be tied to Lent. The first announcement will be on Advent Sunday followed by a grand launch on March 26.
 - f) a recognition of the contribution of the Windrush generation to the church.
 - g) An event specially designed around our children (a mini-play or fun event).
- The treasurer RG suggested that we would need a budget for these events. It was also suggested that income raised in the Time and Talents challenge be used to fund some of the celebratory events.

We will publish a calendar of events following our 12 January meeting and at that point finalise a committee of those willing to take forward the plans.

11) AoB

none

12) Date and Time of next meeting Thursday 12 January