

**Church Council Minutes**  
**12 January 2023**  
**7:30 pm Lower Mews**

**Present**

Lore Chumbley, Jonathan Stead, Jane Nicholson, Jude Bishop, Malcolm Wall, Lucy Humbert, David Rawlings, Jane Nicholson, Mark Elliott, Zoe Bushell.

**1) Apologies for absence**

Pauline Swaby-Wallace  
Brenda Wall  
Zi Ling  
Richard Gabe

**2) Minutes of the last meeting** were agreed as correct  
proposed DR  
seconded BW

**3) Matters arising not otherwise covered**

**Blinds for Lower Mews**

JB reported that vertical blinds from *Blinds Direct* would provide insulation, filter light without producing a blackout and be low maintenance. JB suggested a neutral colour. Since Trustees are responsible for Lower Mews LC is to ask whether Trustees would be willing to fund blinds for the main hall & lobby.

**Welcome leaflets**

ME & LC have edited the welcome leaflets which are looking professional. We need to emphasise our particular welcome to children.

Mark offered to design a pull-up welcome banner and email this to council for approval

**Away Day**

It was agreed to postpone this until after the AGM and proceed only if we have sufficient funds.

**Heating Bills**

RG was successful in our application for a rebate. LC is to check that it has been paid into the Council account.

**9) Charity of the month**

Now to be referred to as 'Charitable Giving' since we will be collecting for each charity over two months. The chosen charities for 2023 are:

Jan/Feb Burlington House  
March/April A charity to be chosen by the children  
May/June BEMSCA  
July/August USPG Malawi Project  
Sept/Oct Bath City Farm  
Nov/Dec Julian House and Genesis Trust

**4) Trustees minutes were noted**

**5) Update to West Wall Reorganisation**

We are ready to go out to public consultation

**6) Worship**

This year there were six carol services (Norland College, RUH, LGBTQI affirming, Carols on the Green Advent and Christmas Carol Service). Mark, the choir, the hospitality team the vergers and congregation all demonstrated huge commitment.

The **LGBT Service** at which Jonathan presided and Bishop Paul Bayes, retired bishop of Liverpool preached attracted a congregation of over one hundred people. Afterwards they stayed for over an hour enjoying refreshments and chatting.

### **Carols on St Andrew's Green**

This was felt to have been successful. Thirty-six people attended on a frosty night.

Passers by were caught up in the celebratory atmosphere and shared hot chocolate, hot ribena, mince pies and carols. The licence was unexpectedly expensive at £100 but the expense was accepted in view of the success of the evening. The application form for the event is now on the council system and can be cut and pasted next year. It was suggested we source poles for lanterns next year.

We minuted thanks to Kara, Mark, the catering teams, the choir and the flower arrangers for our Christmas celebrations.

We will try to encourage St Mary's RC congregation to attend our carol service next year.

### **Preview of Lent and Easter services**

We will hold an evening Candlemas service with the choir on January 29

We shall have an Ash Wednesday service at 7.30 on Feb 22.

Lent lunches have been poorly attended. LC to discuss with Father Jeremy whether there is any mileage in trying to keep these going.

It was agreed to hold a Maundy Thursday Agape meal in Christ Church

### **7) 225 Celebrations**

The events currently planned are as follows

#### **a) Time and Talent (JB & JS)**

March 26 Launch of the Time and Talent project

We will aim for 50 people each to take £20.00

April 23 Small "Bring and Buy" sale after morning service

May 21 Mini-fete as major event in Time and Talent in Lower Mews after the morning service

June 11 Announcement of final total raised by the Time and Talent project

#### **2) June 18 (LC and PSW)**

75 anniversary Windrush Service as we recognise the contribution of the Caribbean community to Christ Church, Bath and the country

#### **3) September/October KM & LC**

Ceilidh in St Mary's RC church hall. This will be a celebration rather than a fundraising event. It was suggested that we pay for caterers.

#### **4) November 5th: (ME)**

'Te Deum Festal Eucharist' on the closest Sunday to our founding date of 8

November, followed by a congregational lunch. Bishop Ruth has agreed to attend this. We will sing a Te Deum.

#### **5) Other events to be decided include**

a) An event specially designed by, with and for our **young people** as the future of Christ Church (Emma and Sarah).

b) One or more concerts celebrating our choral and musical history and showcasing our choir and organ. Christ Church choir plus other performers?

LC and ME to discuss

c) A 'Come and sing' from scratch - ME will ask Virginia and Simon for possible clashes. This will take place in the autumn.

d) An **Outdoor Festival** possibly in conjunction with the Museum of Bath at Work and St Mary's RC church to engage with the local Julian Road community. LC to contact Stuart and plan a date. This may be combined with-

e) An **Open Day** to showcase the church building/activities and an exhibition of documents and other archival material reflecting the history of Christ Church. Georgina Bowman to be asked to get involved. This may be combined with the event above. We could showcase our kneelers, banners and vestments.

Flower arrangements Individuals offered to sponsor arrangements. Our organists including David Wrigley to be asked to play.

f) **Wine tasting** (with nibbles) MW to lead on this and investigate costings.

8) It was agreed that Helen Speakman be appointed as Data Protection Officer.

## 9) AoB

### a) Cashless Donations

ME proposed the use of a card reader for cashless donations which would make card contributions to Christ Church easy and accessible. It automatically suggests donations be gift aided. It is also able to link to online donations. There would be an initial cash outlay of £429.00 and a percentage charge (of less than 2% for each transaction). However it was felt essential to attract online donations in what is now a cashless society. It was proposed that provided the treasurers agree we can afford it we should purchase one.

Proposed ME

Seconded JB

All in favour.

LC to check the financial position with RG and DB.

### b) New Projector

Our projector is ten years old & its fan is broken. We need a projector both for church activities such as Bible studies and summer lectures and for Toppings book signings. JB will look into prices and specifications. MW suggested that individuals wishing to donate to Christ church might sponsor the projector or blinds and /or cashless donations system.

## 12) Date and Time of next meeting

February 28 at 7:30 pm Lower Mews