

Church Council Update December 2024

At the meeting of the Council, held on 14 December, the following items were among those reported and discussed:

Appointment

Council congratulated Marcus Mathews, who took minutes for the meeting, on his appointment as St Michael's Office Manager on a full-time basis.

Election:

Laura Beckett, the chair, congratulated members of Church Council who were re-elected at the recent meeting of the Congregation. The Council noted with great appreciation the work of our Secretary Maree McDonald who is concluding her time on Council. Maree has been a member of Council for 17 years and served as Secretary since 2017.

Governance and Management

Margaret provided the Council with a resource for reflection on the performance of church councils developed by Smart Church Management. It listed seven things that effective church boards do well:

1. Clarify direction
2. Develop a plan
3. Ensure accountability
4. Provide financial oversight
5. Drive continuous improvement
6. Maintain integrity
7. Support its leadership

The Council also reviewed role descriptions of office bearers and the schedule of delegations. It was agreed that, whilst our performance in 2023 had been satisfactory, we should return to this topic early in 2024.

Finance

The finance report confirmed the expectation that the result for 2023 will be positive, due to not yet appointing a Ministry Assistant as allowed for in the budget.

A draft of the 2024 budget was discussed.

Property

It was reported that the Project Control Group had recently developed concerns over the lead architect's interpretation of the brief for the project to revitalise the church building to ensure accessibility. A meeting had been held with the lead architect which led to a satisfactory resolution of the concerns and agreement that a consultant heritage builder would be appointed. This is in accordance with the brief's requirement for 'Early Contractor Involvement.'

Church Services

There was a particularly good response to the call for donations to the Church of All Nations (CAN Community Support) and, when these were delivered, CAN was delighted.

The church decorations for Advent and Christmas were the result of work by committee members, administration and congregation members. Committee members worked with Margaret on 'brainstorming' the liturgy for Christmas Day and developed the theme "Imagine Peace on Earth and Act for Peace"

Contact and Care

The Contact and Care Committee proposed to appoint Irene Renzenbrink as committee member. Irene's membership was warmly supported by the Council.