

# Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> November 2006

**Present:** Sylvia Ayers, Dave Bishop, Judith Bishop, Antony Claridge, Jane Fletcher, Nicky Gladstone, Margaret Heath, David Marles (*Chair*), Yvonne Morris, Andrew Sillett, Margaret Silver, Angela Soboslay, Clive Tilling, Dorothy Twissell.

**Apologies:** Margaret Burrows, Emma Elliott, Mark Elliott, Thomas Hardy, Sarah Hiscock.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006 meeting were approved and signed. (Prop: Clive Tilling, Sec: Margaret Silver)

**Matters Arising**

- *Harvest* – the harvest evensong and supper were not well attended. It was suggested that we revert to a harvest lunch followed by early evensong next year. Nicky Gladstone volunteered to coordinate the catering. Without going to formal motion or vote, there was general agreement to this.
- *Concerts* – there has been no progress in the area of promoting the church as a concert venue.

**Remarks from Officiating Minister & LMG update (AC)**

- Antony Claridge expressed his general thanks for ongoing support for many ventures, singling out Nicky Gladstone for the successful launch of the Cedar Tree project.
- A planned meeting with Jonathan Lloyd on ways to advance the LMG had to be postponed. Two visiting preachers are expected in November/ December.
- We have been approached by the Roman Catholic community about Bath churches advertising some of their regular services as “feature” services to which other denominations would specifically be invited, enabling people to experience how the forms of worship differed. Antony Claridge is to attend a meeting as follow-up to this.
- Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Services were confirmed at 8 and 10am as well as the 11:30pm “Midnight” service. Services on Christmas day will be at 8 & 10am.

**Deanery Synod (MH)**

Margaret Heath reported that little was happening with respect to Deanery Synod. despite a recent enquiry being sent to the Secretary.

*[Note for advice only: Subsequent to the meeting Margaret heard that a Deanery Synod Meeting was being held at the same time as this Council Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November. We had not been advised in time despite the Secretary being told twice of Emma Elliott's new address.]*

## **Churches together in Bath (SA)**

Sylvia Ayers presented a report from the last meeting (see attached).

Margaret Heath commented on the "Open Christmas" tradition at Kingswood; Christmas lunch and companionship aimed particularly at those who would otherwise spend the day alone. We have been asked for a donation, which will be passed on to the congregation for individual donations.

The Chairman suggested a debate be held at a future Council meeting, leading to a Christ Church policy on charitable giving.

## **Accessibility of Services**

The laminated service cards have served us well since the introduction of Common Worship, but in response to demand from the congregation Antony Claridge presented a draft of a possible new annotated service booklet to make the sense of service form more accessible to all. While the format is still open to debate, this is envisaged as an A5 booklet with left-hand pages reserved for annotations and right-hand pages having the service words. Where there are alternative prayers etc., the proposed annotations are written to be generally applicable.

Antony pointed out the following drawbacks;

- Reduced flexibility (e.g. there are 8 Eucharistic prayers, of which we regularly use 3 and have used all 8)
- In one sense, the venture is contrary to the intent of Common Worship, which was to get everyone familiar with "common" words so that congregations could become more wrapped up with the worship itself and be less book-bound.
- The publication will be expensive and would need to be durable, (as the laminated ones have proven to be).
- Different books would be needed for Advent/Lent and Rest-of-the-year

Comments from a general discussion included:

- Introduction of words like "sacrament" create their own difficulties for many.
- The historical basis requires a fairly high level of prior knowledge.
- Clear directions on posture ("stand", "kneel" etc) are essential, particularly to avoid confusion or embarrassment for irregular worshippers such as Baptismal parties. Such directions must be embedded in the service words, not in the annotations.
- Variants of the Eucharistic prayer could be printed in the pew leaflet or as inserts to the booklet, or multiple versions could be included in the book.
- The basic laminated cards should still be made available.
- Judith Bishop and Nicky Gladstone volunteered to proceed with a mock-up exploring fonts and layout.

The principal met with general approval, and Antony was thanked for initiating it. He is happy to continue work on the concept. The following conclusions were drawn:

- Regardless of final format the final product should be as simple and straightforward as possible.
- Three variants of the Eucharistic prayer should be included (possibly using different colours)
- A preliminary cost estimate should be made, and a mock-up put together for testing.

### **Christmas Fair**

A verbal report from Jane Kirkbride was passed on by the Secretary. Key messages were:

- The event is earlier than usual because the Guildhall will no longer offer us a reduced rate in December.
- There has been a lack of commitment to help Jane; both with the general organisation and with firm offers of help on the day
- Cakes are needed for the cake stall – revenue was lost unnecessarily last year as the stall ran out of goods.
- There is a serious lack of prizes for the raffle – hampers are to be made up, but the individual luxury goods items for these are still required.
- Many more bottles are needed for the bottle stall.
- Firm offers of help with the catering are still needed.

A post-mortem on the Christmas Fair has been suggested for the January Council meeting.

### **Social Outreach Programme (NG)**

Nicky Gladstone reported on progress with the Cedar Tree initiative.

- The launch went well, with around 12 people attending, including some church members.
- The reorganisation of the back of the church and use of some borrowed items of furniture helped to provide an appropriate setting pending delivery of the church's new furniture.
- The venture undoubtedly attracted people that would not otherwise have been at Christ Church. A representative from a Weston hostel advised that she would hope to bring clients to it in future.
- The venture still needs support and commitment, including provision of food, money and people's time.
- The concern is now to ensure that the venture does not collapse once the excitement of its newness wears off.
- A Cedar Tree morning will be tried on a Saturday in the New Year to enable those usually working in the week to experience it.

### **Any Other Business**

No other items of business were brought up.

### **Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 11<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BATH

*For the PCC:*

1. On Thursday November 30th, there will be a *World Aids Vigil* at 7pm at Holy Trinity, Queen Square. This will be followed by a musical torch-light Procession through the streets of Bath, before returning to Holy Trinity for "nibbles".

A Poster about this is on the Church Notice board.

2. *Open Christmas* this year will take place as usual at Kingswood School. The Central Zone Committee of Churches Together in Bath, is very keen that all congregations should have the opportunity to get involved. Two Posters have been produced which are on our Notice Board, one listing all the ways in which help is needed. These include:

1. Preparing the Hail on Christmas Eve.
2. Transporting the Guests to and from their homes on the Day.
3. Serving Meals and Kitchen Duties.
4. Cleaning and Tidying up on 27th December.

Helpers are first asked to contact ANNE on 01225 316360; and then to attend the Helpers Information Meeting at the URC on Thursday December 14th at 8pm.

Donations towards the cost of the event can be sent to their Treasurer,  
Terry Poll, at 13, Stoneleigh Court, Lansdown Road, Bath.

Application forms for Helpers and Guests are available from Margaret Heath.

3. *The CTB Epiphany Service* will be at Nexus Church, Walcot, at 6.30pm on 7th January. The united Choir will be led by Colin Hunt (Tel: 01225 315512), and Mark has a letter asking if any members of Christ Church would like to be part of this. Interested people should telephone Colin by *December 11th*. Copies of the relevant music will then be sent out, to be learned before singers attend the late afternoon Practice on January 7th.

4. *The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* will open with a Service at Nexus Church, Walcot, on 21st January. A Resource Book and copies of the Service were given out at the meeting for Clergy to use in their own Churches.

#### 5. *Proposed Bath Casino.*

The City's Clergy were recently invited to a meeting on this subject, but the impression gained by those who attended, was that it was already a *fait accomplis*, and nothing the attenders said would make any difference. They did feel that they should have been consulted much earlier and before any decision was made. Concern was expressed about the impact such a facility would have on the poorer members of the community, but it was pointed out that access would be strictly limited and there would be no slot machines available, only tables to play Roulette, Black Jack etc. It was hoped that this new facility would bring Business People back to the City.

In order to hold 40 tables, an area of 700 square metres would be required. Six sites have been earmarked as possible locations for the building: Green Park, Western Riverside (2), Manvers Street Police Station site, Sawclose and the Podium. Bath is second on a short list of eight to get the small sized casino.

At the last meeting, your prayers were asked for Rev. Katie Windle, the new Vicar of Widcombe, who was expecting twins at the end of October.

The good news is that she has now presented Widcombe Benefice with one of each and will be returning to work shortly, after her Maternity Leave.

Sylvia Ayers, Joint CTB Representative.