

Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting 20th November 2008

Present: Sylvia Ayers, David Bishop, Judith Bishop, Lewis Boyd, Margaret Burrows, Antony Claridge, Mark Elliott (chair), Margaret Heath, Yvonne Morris, Martin Palmer, Angela Soberslay, Clive Tilling, Andrew Sillett, Bob Siderfin

2 Apologies: Janet Mahto, Margaret Silver, Alice Pont, Chris Gladstone, Sarah Hiscock, David Marles

3 Minutes

The minutes of the 9th July and 16th September meetings were approved. (July Proposed: Andrew Sillett, Seconded: Margaret Silver, and September Proposed: Clive Tiling, Seconded: Yvonne Morris. Margaret Burrows apologies for absence should have been noted on 16/09

4 Matters Arising

No matters were noted others than those already on the agenda.

5 Minister's Remarks

Antony identified the Vaughan Williams concert, Christ the King services and the Advent Carol Service as ongoing examples of LMG activity, as well as regular pulpit swaps. He is keen to arrange a joint planning session for the New Year to arrange other joint ventures.

Antony dwelt again on the fact that too many tasks are left to too few people.

There is a need to encourage "outsiders" (ie non-congregation) to take part in Christ Church activities. This is best done by word of mouth, but we need to think more clearly about advertising Christ Church's presence to the community.

6 Churches Together in Bath

The Travelling Light has moved to Holy Trinity. Sylvia Ayers reported that the service was poorly attended.

A new Church Listings leaflet was explained – this covers Bath and the region. It will be available in public places including hotels.

We have been asked to host the Central Zone AGM at 19:30 on Wed 4th February.

This was approved, although Antony will not be able to attend in person.

Lewis Boyd is the new Christian Aid representative, replacing John James who has retired.

7 Local Ministry Group

This was covered in the Minister's remarks, other than to note that Caroline O'Neil is moving on to be chaplain of Partis College and at King Edwards School.

8 Deanery Synod

Lewis Boyd reported on the previous week's meeting and will write it up for the next Magazine. The meeting was held at St Luke's, where the new incumbent explained his plans for the future.

9 Junior Church

There was no representation to make a direct report, and it was agreed that this should become a quarterly agenda item. A risk assessment was carried out on their use of the ringing chamber, and will be reported back to Junior Church. Yvonne Morris had some safety reservations.

10 Study/prayer groups and Spirituality

Andrew Sillett believed he was not alone in feeling that Christ church was a Sundays-only church, lacking real engagement between members of the congregation. Prayer Groups could provide the missing commitment. He also believed that services should be framed more clearly around a theme, understood by all in advance so that all aspects of the liturgy could be correctly focussed. Could the pew leaflet be used to announce the themes? This theme might then become the focus of a midweek group discussion. Lewis Boyd volunteered to investigate these ideas. We might lean on other churches that already operate successful house groups. Antony will investigate the theming idea and would aim to provide a note for the pew leaflet, although the interpretation of the Sunday's readings should remain the preacher's prerogative. Links to the World Cycle of Prayer might also be useful.

Margaret Heath suggested that we might organise an occasional away-day of prayer, possibly in the years we do not go to Brunel Manor.

Martin Palmer remarked that a sense of ceremony is lacking from the services. The difficulty of achieving formality without stuffiness was noted, but most agreed that these aspects of our services had become somewhat slack. MP will do an article for the magazine that might spawn a topic for another meeting?

11 AOB

Margaret Burrows requested an update on planning for the next social event. This will be a Barn Dance and Ali Dudley-Norse is booked to play for it and provide the caller.

Slackness in production and distribution of the Council Meeting minutes was noted.

Following the success of last year's Bath Festival "Party In The City", all Bath Festival venues, including Christ Church, are asked to open their premises for a similar event next year on 22nd May. This was generally agreed to and a choral concert and/or other events suggested as a means of putting ourselves more firmly on the map.

Our response to last year's Open Christmas was embarrassingly poor and a request was made by Margaret Silver, via Margaret Heath, for this to be better supported. It will be brought to people's attention in services and via the pew leaflet, and a series of extraordinary collections will be started. It was noted that as a charity we cannot give corporately to another charity. It was suggested that Cedar tree people may also be keen to be involved.

Date of next Council meeting

The next council meeting will be on 12th January at 19h30.