



Christ Church Bath

**Minutes of the Meeting
of Christ Church Council
Wednesday, 12 September 2012**

Chair: Lewis Boyd
Secretary: Judith Bishop
Members present: Sarah Kerr, Janet Mahto, Judith Bishop, Lewis Boyd, Angela Soboslay, Margaret Silver, Bob Siderfin, Clive Tilling, Margaret Burrows

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
1.	Lewis led an opening prayer	
2.	Apologies Brenda Wall, Malcolm Wall, Canon Angela Townshend, Andrew Sillett, Mark Elliott, Keri Chivers, Morny Davison, Tony Buss, Martin Palmer Absent Sylvia Ayers	
3.	Approval of minutes (10 July 2012) Margaret Silver proposed that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Janet Mahto	
4.	Matters arising The corrections to the previous Minutes needed to be adjusted Martin Palmer and David Bishop to be added to the Space group David Bishop to be added to the Stewardship group Malcolm Wall to be added to the Hospitality group	

5. **Main agenda item – Stewardship**

As a precursor to the planned item of Stewardship, Lewis outlined the proposed changes in 'management' of church funds.

At the most recent Trustees meeting it was proposed that a plan be put forward for the Council, who represent the congregation, to take on some financial responsibility. To be accountable for 'running' the church. This would lead to discussions with feedback and questions for the Trustees. This proposed change would make Christ Church operate more like a regular church.

David Bishop presented a change in the constitution dividing the financial responsibility between the Trustees and the Council. The Trustees would look and provide the Council with a fully maintained building but would leave the practical every day running of it to the Council who would manage the operation of the Church including the use of the church, stewardship and the paying of the contribution to the Diocese. The new set up, in the long term, would require the appointment of officers and would have to present an annual budget to the Trustees.

After some lengthy discussions, Lewis summarised,

1. Agreement in principal to the proposed changes
2. Council members to think about the changes and discuss with absent members
3. Appointment of Officers - Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
4. Clear terms of reference to be developed

and encouraged Council members to think about the proposals. Would the changes encourage other members of the congregation to get more involved in Council? Should there be a more formal voting system to appoint members of Council? Does the Council need to run with fewer ex-officio members in order to be more focussed?

Assuming that the changes are approved, they would, ideally, begin as a trial at the start of the calendar year 2013

Further discussions at the November meeting.

Stewardship

Lewis produced a leaflet that Canon Angela had designed for handing out alongside a letter on Harvest and Stewardship Sunday (30th September). Both documents are an encouragement to members of the congregation to review and hopefully increase their giving. Council members should give their feedback to Lewis

6. **Regular reports**

(a) Sub-committees

Hospitality – Angela Soboslay reported that the group had had a meeting where the Harvest lunch was discussed. It was decided that the following would be served – cold meat and salad and jacket potatoes followed by fruit crumbles and pies. Drinks to be served, cider and elderflower cordial.

Judith Bishop added that the Festival of Christ the King (25th November) would also be catered for with fruit cake iced by Angela Morris and a sponge cake alternative. Malcolm will get some wine.

Space – this group is due to meet at Angela Townshend's house on 25th September and would build on the work of the previous report collated by Bob Siderfin plus any other ideas that had come up since then.

Other sub-committee reports were not available.

(b) LMG

There was no report for this

(c) Trustees

Lewis reported that the School buildings were now called Christ Church Mews (Upper and Lower).

All debts with the local Council have been settled.

The upper floor has been let to the Bath Make-up School who are decorating it ready for the start of business. They are also tidying up the garden. In addition they have taken on cottage #1 which will be used to accommodate teachers and visitors. No parking is required.

No decision has been made with regard to the ground floor. Repairs and refurbishment needs to be addressed. Suggestions have been discussed to perhaps let it out with the option for the church to use it as well.

(d) Churches Together in Bath

Although Sylvia Ayers was not present, a report has been appended to these minutes

(e) Deanery Synod

Andrew Sillett had sent in a report and a proposal that Church Council write a letter of support to BANES for the changes Bath Abbey were intending to implement and had planning permission to do.

*Andrew
Sillett*

After much discussion, it was agreed that Church Council send a letter voicing empathy with the Abbey plans. Andrew would be asked to draft this.

7. **AOB**

There was no other business

8. The date of the next meeting will be **Thursday 15 November**.

The meeting finished with the grace at 21:05

Notes from the meeting of Churches Together in Bath on Tuesday 19th June at Nexus Church,
Walcot, chaired by Mr Colin Hunt.

The Service Listing leaflet has now been completed, and when the finance is settled, it will be printed and circulated. Rev. Kieran Bourne has worked very hard on this project, and we look forward to seeing it in due course. Owing to the absence of the relevant Officers, there were no reports from the Treasurer or the CTB Executive Committee Secretary.

The Chairman's Report covered the following subjects:

- a. The Executive have decided that because attendances are falling, there will be no 2013 Women's World Day of Prayer Service in Central Bath, as many Churches now organise one in their own area.
- b. The original glass cross in the window at Haycombe Cemetery has now gone, and has been replaced, (we hope on a temporary basis,) with masking tape. It has been suggested that a "Bethlehem Wood" Cross be hung on piano wires in front of the plain glass window, although if mourners desired its removal, it would require a long ladder to get it down!
- c. Reverend David Prothero has taken up a new post as Chaplain of St. Mary Magdalene, in Holloway. A Bible was presented to him at his retirement service, and as the Chapel is still in the Central Zone, he may well feel he can continue to attend our meetings.
- d. A merger of Age Concern and Help the Aged was launched at St. Michael's Without on April 25th. The new organisation is proving a most dynamic force with many events planned.
- e. The Night Shelter in Manvers Street is to be renovated, giving them separate male and female accommodation. While this is being carried out, the visitors will be housed in the church basement for about a year.
- f. The Salvation Army Citadel will open again in September, when all their renovations will be complete. However, owing to Health and Safety concerns, their distinctive "Blood and Thunder" sign has had to be moved inside the building.

It was with sadness that the meeting said "goodbye" to Fred and Caroline Bovett, from the now closed Holy Trinity, Queen Square, who have recently moved to worship at Corston Village Church. Therefore they will no longer attend the Central Zone meetings, but they are getting very involved with their new Area, still giving their services as before.

The next meeting of this Committee will be on Thursday October 11th, at St. Mary's, Bathwick, and will take the form of a Chairman's Evening. The "Business" will be carried out as briefly as possible, and the meeting will then be addressed by Gabrielle Grace, the County Ecumenical Officer. The idea behind this departure from the normal programme, is to highlight and address the problem of the poor interest and support of CTB shown by Central Area Churches, including the lack of clergy attendance at most meetings.

Sylvia M. Ayers. CT B Representative.