

Minutes of Church Council Meeting, 10 January 2005

Present: Mark Elliott, Dorothy Twissell, Margaret Burrows, Yvonne Morris, Angela Soboslay, Clive Tilling, Sarah Jones, Matthew Jones, Jane Fletcher, Sylvia Ayers, Bob Siderfin, David Marles, Emma Elliott, Chris Gladstone, David Bishop, Nicky Gladstone, Antony Claridge

Apologies: Frank Twissell, Richard Gabe and Jenny Wright

The meeting was chaired by David Bishop

Minutes of the last meeting, held on 4 November 2004 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

1. Jobs and Action for the Next 3 Months

Book of Prayer – no progress to report.

Telephone Prayer Network

Following a good response, this will be up and running by the next meeting.

Greeters

After a brief trial period, this needs rethinking.

Porch Area

The architect has reviewed the 2001 scheme of work, and has made various planning applications. Chris G is filling in forms for the Diocese, work is likely to commence in March.

External Communications

(i) Student Leaflet

A leaflet sent to students had been circulated. It was agreed that the leaflet is a valuable resource in passing information to new students in the area.

(ii) Hotel Leaflet

Emma E and David B reported that this is nearly ready for circulation.

Press Officer

No-one has been forthcoming, Council is struggling to think of any more likely candidates.

2. Chalice Assistants

Antony will send the Bishop a signed copy of the minutes of the meeting relating to the proposal of new candidates. The new chalice assistants can then be approved.

3. Use of the Church Building

Feedback has been good so far, David B is still awaiting some paperwork. It is hoped that this matter will feature on the agenda for the next meeting.

Now that contact has been re-established with the architects, they are available to conduct a feasibility study. Furthermore, contact has been made with an architect who would be willing to make some suggestions on a more informal basis.

4. Christmas Appeal

This has raised £750.00, which will buy a tube well for an African Village, and also enable a donation to be made to World Vision Funds.

Remarks from the Officiating Minister

Antony expressed thanks to everyone for their contributions to the Christmas services. He stressed the importance of local ministry group (LMG) discussions, and the importance of the role of Christ Church within the local church community.

Remarks from the Agenda Setting Group

It had originally been intended that the meeting would discuss charitable giving and the Christmas Fair. In the light of the Deanery Conference, the agenda had been altered accordingly.

Deanery Synod

The most recent meeting had taken the theme of prayer, and had paid particular reference to the Deanery Conference. Some discussion was held about the make-up of the Pastoral Committee of Deanery Synod. The meeting felt strongly that Christ Church needs a voice on this committee, although we are already free to make a presentation to this committee should we so wish.

Churches Together in Bath

No meeting had been held since last Church Council meeting, though newsletters are available from church, and more information is available in the magazine

Christmas Fair Feedback

The final takings figure is £2800. This is up about £400 on last year. Many people came through the doors this year, though it is difficult to assess why this should be. A final profit figure will not be forthcoming until later in the year.

A brief discussion of the Fair brought to light the following points:

- **Bottle stall:** prices could go up.
- **Catering:** was busy all day. Worked very well, no major changes are needed.
- **Decorations and Live Music:** were greatly appreciated
- **External Stallholders:** this had worked well, a good balance was achieved with church stalls, and everyone seemed happy. Many would return. Care had been taken that the external stall holders would not conflict with existing stalls
- **Booking very soon for next year is essential.** Sarah Jones to handle this. The Christmas Fair and the Rugby both contributed to a good throughput of people.
- **Organisers for next year:** are not yet known. This needs to be decided before the summer.
- **Items offered for sale:** were generally of a higher quality, which was good for morale and meant that the stalls looked full and attractive.
- **Father Christmas:** although the grotto didn't really work, the presence of Father Christmas worked well.
- **Handing out flyers in the street:** was a big draw. Next year, at least 1000 should be printed.

The Christmas Fair will be kept as a matter arising. This year's organisers are going to put together an information pack to help future organisers

A vote of thanks proposed to the organisers of this year's fair, who were: Sarah Hiscock, Matthew Jones, Sarah Jones, Kate Kemp and Jenny Wright.

Proposed: Emma Elliott, Seconded: Chris Gladstone, all in favour.

Diocesan "Changing Lives" Initiative

Mark Elliott introduced this item. He explained that this matter affects the whole church, as the full-time stipendiary ministry is in decline. Consideration needs to be given to new ways to structure the Church in order to address this, and this has led to the desire to restructure the parochial system through the medium of Local Ministry Groups (LMG).

We are asked to decide what we would like to do and then make a presentation. We are free to ignore it, particularly as we have no stipendiary clergy. If we do this, we will ultimately be ignored.

BUT as a successful church, we have a model to present, precisely because of this. We are offering something spiritually, and we already operate with no full-time staff.

We should be part of the solution, we do not want to throw away a structure which works so well.

Everyone read Appendix C which offers some practical suggestions of how an LMG might work.

Antony has had some informal conversations with St Mary's Charlcombe with St Stephens, Lansdown, who seem keen to move forward with us in this process. These churches feel that Christ Church represents an amalgam of their various traditions.

We do not wish to inadvertently stray into a "Team Ministry" style situation, and Jonathan Lloyd is already familiar with Christ Church and has an understanding of the way in which we work.

St Stephen's has representation on the Diocesan Pastoral Committee.

We already have links with Charlcombe, in that Antony has already officiated there.

This doesn't have to be uniquely C of E. Our relationship with St Mary's RC should be guarded and built upon.

Do we like the idea of doing something and presenting it to the Pastoral Committee?

Proposal: Christ Church will become involved in the Local Ministry Group Initiative, and will make a written and verbal submission to the Pastoral Committee.

Proposed: Chris Gladstone, Seconded: Mark Elliott. All in favour.

The Christ Church Trust remains unaffected. It is possible to proceed without the LMG becoming enshrined in legality. Further down the line, the legal niceties can be explored further. The importance lies in our co-operation.

This presents an opportunity to be enjoyed.

Following this, should Antony explore this further?

Need to move quickly. The Bishop has suspended all appointments until all Deaneries have responded.

Proposal: Antony is to discuss Appendix C of the Diocesan Green Paper with St Stephen's and St Mary's in the person of Jonathan Lloyd.

Proposed: Mark Elliott, Seconded, David Marles. All in favour.

Proposal: Antony is to discuss the ecumenical implications of the Diocesan Changing Lives Initiative with St Mary's RC Church in the person of Fr Brian McEvoy.

Proposed: Chris Gladstone, Seconded, Mark Elliott. All in favour.

Proposal: Nicky Gladstone is to minute the meeting between Antony and Jonathan LLoyd.

Proposed: Emma Elliott, Seconded, Bob Siderfin. All in favour.

Due to the pressing time constraints, the notes from the meeting between Antony and Jonathan will be forwarded to Council for information via post and e-mail. It is hoped that as a result of this meeting, a non-binding statement of intent will be submitted to the Pastoral Committee.

As a side issue, would it be possible to move back into CTB North Zone?

AOB

Next Christmas, would a feature from our stained glass windows be used to produce a Christmas card as a commercial enterprise. Bob Siderfin will talk to Laurie Ferguson.

Junior Church are fundraising for the Tsunami disaster. The meeting voiced its support.

The meeting closed with prayer.