

Minutes of Church Council Meeting, 18 May 2005

Present: David Marles, Nicky Gladstone, Sarah Jones, Sarah Hiscock, Antony Claridge, Yvonne Morris, Dorothy Twissell, Angela Soboslay, Martin Palmer

Apologies: Chris Gladstone, Emma Elliott, Frank Twissell, Mark Elliott, Matthew Jones, David Bishop, Margaret Burrows, Sylvia Ayers, Bob Siderfin, Jane Fletcher, Clive Tilling

The meeting was chaired by David Marles

Minutes of the last meeting, held on 8 March 2005 were approved and signed.

Membership Issues

1. Election of Secretary
Nicky Gladstone was elected secretary for the next year. She advised that she will not stand for re-election.
2. Student Co-options
It is hoped to co-opt a student representative from the University of Bath and also from Bath Spa University College.

Matters Arising

1. Jobs and Action for the Next 3 Months

Book of Prayer – no progress to report.

Prayer Network

The e-mail part of the prayer network is up and running, the rest will follow shortly.

Greeters

No news.

Porch Area

Apologies were expressed that the Standing Committee had not met recently, it is hoped that some progress will be reported by the next meeting.

External Communications

A draft leaflet for circulation to local hotels has been produced, and the finished item should soon be ready for distribution.

Press Officer

No-one has been forthcoming.

2. Chalice Assistants

Licences have been received for the new Chalice Assistants, who are to receive the appropriate training. In addition, Ann Kemp will be licensed.

3. Christmas Fair

Jane Kirkbride has volunteered to co-ordinate this year's event. Many thanks to Jane.

Remarks from the Officiating Minister

Following the launch at Pentecost of exploration of the Local Ministry Group with St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe, Antony sought the opinion of Council as to the best way in which to proceed. Mark Elliott has offered to put together a précis of his sermon for distribution, and the congregation will be encouraged to respond to this with their ideas and concerns in a number of ways:

- a) By speaking to a member of the Clergy or of Church Council
- b) In writing
- c) By attending an open meeting, held over coffee after the 10am service one Sunday in June (12th)

It may be that people would prefer to comment after observing the LMG "in action".

Deanery Synod

The meeting was pleased to formally welcome Sarah Hiscock, who is Christ Church's third Deanery Synod Representative, and therefore an ex-officio member of Council. The next meeting of Deanery Synod will be held on 7 June. LMGs will be the major topic for discussion.

Churches Together in Bath

The Spring Meeting of CTB was held at Abbey Church House on April 21st. At this meeting, several speakers thought that the worshipper in the pew should be encouraged to take a more active part in the combined events arranged in Bath. For example, the number of people actually walking through the City on the Cross Walk continues to fall year by year. There should be a lot more contact between neighbouring churches, and congregational groups could regularly visit others in their local area. (The existing Christ Church / St Mary's Lent Lunch arrangements, ending with a Holy Week Healing Service conducted by Antony were quoted as a shining example of this.) The profile of the Travelling Light would also be raised, if instead of just sending one or two people from its previous location, a group of worshippers came to present the Light to its new home each month.

A list of forthcoming events will be published in the Magazine, and the next CTB meeting will be held on 21st June.

Agenda Setting Group

Now that the "new-style" Church Council has been working for a year, consideration was given to the success or otherwise of the new arrangements. Sarah Jones advised that the Agenda Setting Group has not been altogether successful, given a lack of forthcoming ideas for inclusion on the agenda and the difficulties involved in meeting at a time suitable to everyone.

It was decided that the Agenda Setting Group will be disbanded, and that time will be set aside at each meeting for the setting of the next agenda. The Any Other Business will be used in the future to include matters which may become important between meetings, so that they can be dealt with as quickly as possible. This arrangement is subject to review in 12 months. (Proposed: Sarah Jones, Seconded, Sarah Hiscock)

Charitable Giving

This is to be given consideration at the next meeting.

Dates of Meetings, 2005 – 2006

Thursday 7th July
Monday 19th September
Tuesday 8th November
Wednesday 11th January
Thursday 9th March

The AGM will be held on Sunday 30th April.

Any Other Business

Genesis have asked if Christ Church could foot the food bill when we help with the Sunday Centre. This will also involve buying and storing the food. We are under no obligation to do this. It was decided to defer this matter to the next Council meeting.

The Local Ministry Group (LMG) will now be a Standing Item at each Council Meeting.

Donald and Yvonne Morris have very kindly agreed to host a Garden Party on 25th June.

There will be a Church Picnic at Orchardleigh followed by Evensong, on 3rd July.

The meeting closed with prayer.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

Charitable Giving Policy – including a report about the Pastoral Fund and its purposes and future applications

Genesis Sunday Centre