

Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting

23rd May 2007

Present: Sylvia Ayers, David Bishop (chair), Judith Bishop, Antony Claridge, Jane Fletcher, Margaret Heath, Janet Mahto, Thomas Morley, Martin Palmer, Margaret Silver, Angela Soboslay, Clive Tilling,

Apologies: Margaret Burrows, Emma Elliott, Mark Elliott, Richard Gabe, David Marles, Yvonne Morris, Andrew Sillett.

Minutes of the previous meeting (Agenda 3 & 4)

The minutes of the last Council meeting on 11th January were accepted (Prop: CT, Second JF). The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting on 24th April were accepted (Prop: TM, Second CT)

Matters Arising (Agenda 5)

11th January

- *Confirmation* – there are seven candidates for confirmation.
- *Lent Talks* – Jane Fletcher recorded her thanks for this year's excellent Lent talks by Richard Llewellyn. It was agreed that the text of the talks should be made available to those interested.

24th April

- *Fund raising* – Fundraising alternatives to the Christmas Fair were to be discussed. As the agenda is full for this inaugural meeting of the new council, this should be put on the next agenda.
- *Cleaning* – thanks were offered to Dorothy Twissell, Judith Bishop and Don Morris for cleaning the balcony, which was well used for both the Bath Music Festival concerts. We still have to decide what to do with the book shelves.

Remarks from Officiating Minister (Agenda 6)

- Antony Claridge recorded that the Holy Week services had been particularly impressive this year and thanked those responsible.
- The LMG was now working well together.
- The Civic Service requested by the Mayor for 6th May had had to be cancelled because of elections at that time.
- The restoration of the Christ Church bells is now complete and they were rung to celebrate the opening of this year's Bath Music Festival. The Trustees were to be asked to consider the protocol for regular ringing and a suitable public relations exercise as not all living in the vicinity could be expected to approve.
- Antony has been invited to be a Foundation Governor of St Stephen's School.

Churches together in Bath (Agenda 7)

Sylvia Ayers' report on the AGM is attached. SA remarked that there were no Christian Aid envelopes this year, following Jenny Wright's departure. Antony has found someone to take this on. Margaret Heath sought Christ Church's support for the 8th September Sponsored Bike Ride arranged by Julia and Peter Moss in aid of Friends of Somerset Churches and Chapels. This would entail the church being opened and someone present. This was agreed to, possibly making it a Cedar Tree special opening day. (Prop: MH; Second: MS)

Deanery Synod (Agenda 8)

The three Christ Church representatives attended a talk on "Fresh Expressions", (see Christ Church Challenge). They were not keen on Deanery Synod's proposal to ask the speaker back to address a wider audience. They thought that "Hope08", an ecumenical initiative to bring more people to Christianity, was more in keeping with the Christ Church ethos.

Selection of Council Officials (Agenda 9)

It was agreed that the practice of sharing the role of Chairman between volunteers should continue. David Marles and Mark Elliott's names were suggested and would be asked. Yvonne and David Bishop volunteered and were accepted.

David Bishop volunteered to continue as Secretary and was accepted.

Brunel Manor Away Weekend (Agenda 10)

It was agreed that we would revisit Brunel Manor next year as an LMG activity. This would be on the weekend of 6th – 7th July 2008. Angela Soboslay volunteered to organise the weekend, which was gratefully accepted. The selection of a facilitator would require care. The Trustees are to be approached with respect to financial support where appropriate. Prop: MP; Second MH)

Local Ministry Group joint Mission Statement (Agenda 11)

The three councils are to meet on a Saturday in September to consider this idea. Christ Church will discuss the issue internally at the next Council meeting. (Prop: AC; Second JF)

Access to Information (Agenda 12)

Judith Bishop suggested that Christ Church pull all its information together to be more immediately useable; too much is in the memories of individuals. JB and DB volunteered to provide a computer to create a database, and provide the church with access to its own website. If a screen could be mounted at the back of the church this could also be used for advertising events etc.

As part of building the database MP suggested building a register of talent within the congregation. It was agreed that a form be put out asking people what kinds of task they might be approached for help with.

Angela Soboslay volunteered to control the putting out of hard-copy literature on a table at the back of church.

Any Other Business (Agenda 13)

Antony Claridge mentioned that Child Protection measures were being stepped up and more people, including the church wardens, would be required to have their records checked.

Dates of Council Meetings for 2007/8 (Agenda 14)

Meetings were scheduled for:

Thursday	12th July 07
Monday	17th September 07
Tuesday	20th November 07
Wednesday	16th January 08
Thursday	13th March 08

Churches Together in Bath

CTB AGM: Monday May 21st 2007.
Held at the revamped Weston Methodist Church.

Reports were received from the Zone Committees, Christian Aid, and "Set All Free" which was organised by the One World Week Team. The "Good Friday" Walk, was discussed, and some minor improvements were suggested. *on a hi*

There was no Press coverage for the visit of Cardinal Murphy O'Connor, although Rev Roger Nunn notifies the Chronicle of all CTB events. He produces 1400 copies of the quarterly Newsletter for distribution in all Churches. He will retire at the next AGM, so a new Executive Secretary will then be required. The Secretary of Open Christmas is also retiring, so another will be required for December 2007.

For the past two years, the outgoing Chairman, Rev. Dr. John Emmett, has been working on improving the relations of CTB with the Evangelical Interfaith Group, and with the network of Community Churches. Rev. Angela Berners-Wilson, who will take the Chair for the next two years, will continue the links with the Bath City Church, and agreed that media publicity is essential to the success of our work. A Christian Footprint was needed in the Weston Riverside Development, and this will be investigated.

Future Dates:

At our 10am Service on June 3rd, the Travelling Light will arrive from Nexus Church, Walcot. It will stay at Christ Church until *July 1st*, and will then be taken to Holy Trinity, Queen Square by members of Christ Church congregation.

On 24th June, Haycombe Cemetery will be open from 3.15pm to 4pm, for a Tour of the Grounds, which will be followed by the Annual Service of Remembrance.

CUT THE CARBON is an 11-week, 1,000-mile march from Belfast to the London Stock Exchange, to take the message of Climate Change to Companies and MP's. They will reach Trowbridge *on Monday September 17th*, so *on 16th*, which is Day 65, there will be a special Service at Manvers Street Baptist Church. A Public Debate on the same subject was also suggested, with a possible date in Spring 2008.

One World Week will be *October 21st-28th* with the theme: "All Together Now".

The next meeting of this Committee will be held *on July 19th* at the Central URC.