



Christ Church Bath

Minutes of the Meeting of Christ Church Council Tuesday, 20 November 2012

Chair: Lewis Boyd
Secretary: Brenda Wall
Members present: Margaret Silver, Keri Chivers, Judith Bishop, Angela Townshend, Margaret Burrows, Sylvia Ayers, Martin Palmer, Judith Bishop, Andrew Sillett, Sarah Kerr, Brenda Wall.

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
1.	Canon Angela led an opening prayer	
2.	Apologies Bob Siderfin, Malcolm Wall, Rebecca Nicholson, Tony Buss, Angela Soboslay, Mark Elliott, Janet Mahto, Morny Davison, Richard Gabe.	
3.	Approval of minutes ([date of previous meeting]) The proposal that the minutes then be accepted came from Sarah Kerr, seconded Margaret Silver. Minutes accepted.	
4.	Matters arising Arising from the previous minutes: Andrew Sillett asked if the council was content that he should send a letter to the Abbey expressing our empathy with their building plans. He will draft and circulate this letter.	

5. **Main agenda item – The re-organisation of the Council**

The Trustees have proposed that the council be responsible for part of the church funds. Plans have not yet been finalised. Andrew Sillett made the point that as we are a trust, the altering of objectives can be difficult. Canon Angela replied that there is no change, just an internal reorganisation, which can be over-ruled in the future if ever this is necessary. This is basically a move to empower the Council as the elected representatives of the congregation. The idea is to give the council more gravitas and be responsible for the payment of essential services.

Margaret Burrows made the point that the congregation need to be more informed about the changes.

Canon Angela explained that the changes to the council might be to reduce the size to a smaller number of people, wholly elected (there are 21 members at present). Perhaps nine would be an easier number & would help communication.

Sarah Kerr though this may mean even more work for the same people.

Lewis Boyd expressed a hope that it would spread the load & broaden responsibilities. There followed a discussion of how this would work: a more specialist council, people who will lead the various groups drawn from the congregation but not necessarily those currently heading up the individual groups. Some extra members may have to be voted on or co-opted for specific tasks or projects.

A board of names and photographs of council members at the back of the church was thought to be a good idea.

Judith Bishop said that if the plan was to disband Council as we know it at the next AGM then this decision should be made by the congregation as a whole, perhaps at an extraordinary meeting in the New Year.

The next AGM is billed for April 21 2013.

Judith proposed an extraordinary meeting in February or March.

The proposal for a smaller council was proposed by Lewis Boyd and seconded by Judith Bishop.

Passed unanimously.

Lewis proposed the individual roles of the council should be: a chair, a book-keeper and a secretary. Other roles would include representatives from the groups for buildings, liturgy, publicity, outreach, Deanery Synod, hospitality/FOH, children/youth. This would be the minimum number of members for Council.

It was agreed that this plan for council will be reported back to the Trustees as a courtesy.

Judith Bishop reported that she has taken over the production of the "book of roles" from Lewis Boyd. There are still a few paragraphs to come in. The first draft would be presented at the next Council meeting.

Margaret Silver asked if the role of the Verger will include cleaning the church or should we again have a cleaner? Canon Angela suggested this be left until council has been re-organised.

6. **(a) Sub-committees**

Hospitality: Our patronal festival, Christ the King, is on the 25th November and it is usual to have a celebration with cake and wine. Judith Bishop has made a large fruit cake and Jo Palmer is icing it, another cake is coming from Sharon and Sarah Jones is making fairy cakes.

Judith Bishop reported that Toppings, the Bath book shop, is coming in on Monday to look at the space for a book reading on Monday 26th. 180 tickets have been sold. We hope they will use CC regularly!

Judith proposed a cleaning party in the balcony on Saturday at 10.00am.

Publicity: Margaret Burrows reported that Matthew & Sarah Jones wish to find somebody else to take over the production of the church magazine. Judith Bishop agreed to advertise for new editors in the weekly leaflet.

The buildings sub-committee has met three times and has a meeting planned with the church architect, to discuss the church bells. A bell is now being tolled five minutes before a service in church. Plans include new toilets, the entrance hall, new glass doors inside, a new meeting room created, taking away the choir stalls, bring the altar forward, etc. No decisions have been made about plans, and these ideas have to go forward to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). This could take up to two years. A report and drawings will be produced.

There was no report from the **Outreach sub-committee** but another meeting is planned.

More special services are planned by the **Liturgy group**. Judith Bishop asked if the colour in the Lady Chapel and the hanging of the curtains there could be changed seasonally.

The most recent special service, Remembrance Sunday, was thought to have been a very moving occasion. Also the bringing down of the Gospel has been appreciated. Margaret Burrows mentioned the Jamaican service: only four people from CC came to it this year. It needs to be better publicised.

(b) LMG

Local Ministry Group: the priests meet regularly. Invitations have been sent out for Christ the King.

(c) Trustees

As Mark Elliott was not present there was no Trustees report

(d) Churches Together in Bath

See appendices

(e) Deanery Synod

Andrew Sillett is producing minutes for circulation

7. **AOB**

Margaret Burrows extended thanks for all the flapjacks made for the Fresher's Fair at the University.

Help was requested by the Mothers Union, pouring tea and coffee for stallholders in the Bath Christmas market.

Sarah Kerr mentioned the "Charity Funding Solutions" material on utilities, etc., which has been passed for consideration to the Trustees.

8. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 19.30.

The meeting ended with the grace at 21.20

Appendix A - Christ Church Mothers Union

We would both like to thank the Christ Church Congregation very much indeed for your extremely generous response to our annual appeal for gifts for the Bath Women's Refuge. As you will be aware, most of these ladies arrive at the Refuge House with their children, bringing only what they could quickly pick up from their homes during their often hurried departures. They are all very grateful for anything that we can give them, and the realisation that we do care, gives them the confidence to carry on, to try to make the best of things, and to regain their self-respect. So, once again, thank you, everyone for your help.

It was wonderful to get such a splendid response from those who have plenty; so from that abundance, we can give to those who have very little, you can be sure that the Hostesses are very appreciative of the little we can do for them, and a list of your 90 donations is on the MU Notice Board for all to read. Further donations are always welcome, especially in the Toiletries and Food lines, but some advance notification will be needed, as, owing to the secrecy surrounding the location of the Refuge, an appointment is always required before any gifts can be delivered.

Margaret Burrows and Sylvia Ayers. (Christ Church MU)

Appendix B - Notes from the meeting of Churches Together in Bath

Thursday 11th June at St. Mary's Church, Bathwick, chaired by Mr. Colin Hunt.

After an opening prayer, the following news items were announced:

- a) The Service Listing leaflet has now been completed, and was brought to the meeting by Rev. Kieran Bourne, who has worked very hard on this project. The 1,000 copies were given to members for display in their various Churches and also for distributing to local Bath Hotels. Once again there was no report from the CTB Executive Committee Secretary.
- b) The Service for the Women's' World Day of Prayer Service, will be written by women in France. The WWDP Committee has appealed for a male or female native speaker.
- c) The original glass cross in the window at Haycombe Cemetery has now gone, and has been replaced by a "Bethlehem Wood" Cross hung in front of the plain glass window.
- d) The Salvation Army Church is now open again for normal Services. In addition, a splendid café, highly recommended and available to all, has opened in the building.

After the "business" of the meeting was completed, we were addressed by Gabrielle Grace, the County Ecumenical Officer. The idea behind this departure from our normal programme was to work out ways in which the CTB can broaden its activities in service to the community. Gaby worked for some years for the USPG, then for the Methodist Mission, both in London, recruiting and training volunteers to work overseas. She then moved to Wellington in Somerset, where she serves on their Churches Together Group, while continuing with her Missionary work.

She then gave us her own "take" on our mission work, saying that we should try to look forward and not back. We should involve ourselves in all aspects of mission in the City, and move outside our own "comfort zones" and our individual Churches, as renewal brings unity. We are channels of God's mission to each other, and if this involves change, then we must still keep faith with each other. After the talk, members formed small discussion groups, and they reported back that several Churches already co-operate in running the Drop in Centre, the nightly Soup Run, and Genesis, the Manvers Street Night Shelter, and Open Christmas among other projects. We are therefore on the right track, but support from more Church members would definitely be welcome.

It was with sadness that the meeting then said "goodbye" to our Chairman, Colin Hunt, whose last meeting this was, as he is shortly moving to live in France. Our next meeting will be taken by Rev. Kieran Bourne, a previous Chairman, but he assures us this is strictly a "One-Off", and that we should elect a new Chairman for the following season of meetings.

The next meeting of this Committee will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday February 6th, 2013 at St. Mary's, Julian Road, and will take the form of an AGM, to be followed by an ordinary Committee Meeting.

Sylvia M. Ayers, CTB Representative