

Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting 25 February 2014

Present: Judith Bishop, Margaret Burrows, Mark Elliott, Sarah Kerr, Martin Palmer, David Rawlings, Bob Siderfin, Andrew Sillett, Alex Soboslay, Angela Soboslay, Brenda Wall (Secretary), Malcolm Wall.

In the chair: Canon Angela Townshend.

1. The meeting opened with prayer.

2. Apologies were received from Morny Davison and Rebecca Nicholson.

3. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, 7 January 2014, were received.

(1) Gifting. It was agreed that on the second Sunday of the month the loose change on the collection plate will go to the nominated charity of that month; for the rest of the month there will be a plate at the back so that anyone who was absent on the second Sunday, or anyone who wishes, can contribute. Proposed by Judith. Seconded by Andrew. Passed with one vote against.

4. Trustees' report

(1) Faculty procedure. Mark reported that the procedure we'll use for applying for faculties will be set out in writing so everybody is clear. The procedure laid down in the legislation is designed for parish churches, so it is not applicable in every detail to Christ Church as a proprietary chapel. The Trustees will set out a procedure that gives effect to the intention of the legislation even if we can't follow the letter.

(2) Bells. The architect reports that the DAC are minded to recommend our bells restoration. We next need to display a public notice for 28 days, then return the forms to the Chancellor for the final faculty decision, which should take about 14 days, so we could have a faculty within 7 to 8 weeks.

5. Inclusive Church

Should we affiliate with Inclusive Church in order to be listed on its website, making it easier for interested people to find us?

Alex expressed concerns about being affiliated with any pressure groups: although we are in practice "inclusive", he argued that such groups amount to the kind of factionalism that St. Paul forbids in 1 Corinthians. Mark said there was a difference between being factional and stating what we stand for: if we believe this to be true, why not join? How would people know we were "inclusive"? David suggested we could set out our beliefs on our own website. Mark said that, rather than searching the websites of numerous separate churches, the marginalised would be more likely to look on the Inclusive Church website for churches that would welcome them. Andrew said we must be political, and that progress such as the ordination of women would not have come about without pressure groups within the Church. David asked who Inclusive Church are. Who are their trustees? What groups are associated with them in turn? Judith noted the timely example of Theresa May being tainted by association with affiliated groups. Malcolm asked who decides who's included and who's not? David said he wanted to know more about Inclusive Church.

The decision was deferred for more research and reflection. Martin to compile a pros and cons list.

6. Buildings

(1) Entrance and porch. Bob reported that the DAC will be coming for its first Advisory Visit on Thursday 27 February to give initial guidance on our proposals for the entrance, porch and toilets. He said the architect had not found it possible to include three WCs; Alex produced two plans that did and asked that they be passed on to the architect. Bob

tabled the architect's revised plan for disabled access to the main entrance, which was well received.

Bob presented an outline of a proposed open day on Saturday 22 March to display the plans and proposals for the entrance, porch and WCs. He said visits to other churches might be difficult. The architect could make a short presentation in the morning and again in the afternoon. The bells will not be included, because that's already in hand as a separate project with separate fundraising. The Hospitality Committee could organise refreshments. Invitations would be in the form of a slip of paper to be returned, and an e-mail. Canon Angela will greet visitors and invite the archdeacon.

(2) The former Sacristy. What do we want to do with it? Ideas included:
A glazed area for quiet chats? (Privacy an issue? Would need to remain curtained?)
An informal chapel? (Wooden structure echoing the other side, part glazed?)
A soundproofed play room or children's area? (But it's not near the toilets, and could be distracting if in use during services)
Multi-purpose room? ("Every room in a church is a multi-purpose room"?)
Include fitted cupboards around the side?
Organ console should be reorientated?

7. Safeguarding

Canon Angela to compile updated policy statement. Andrew to seek out Diocesan policy.

8. Churches Together in Bath

Central Area group is being disbanded. Andrew proposed and Bob seconded that we should join the Northern Group. Passed nem con.

9. AOB

(1) Events. Judith reported that the dance company is not coming to Christ Church because it found the space too restrictive. Six more Toppings events are booked - five in 2014 and one in 2015 - and a concert on 12 April.

(2) A cleaning day will be held on Saturday 15 March.

(3) Sidesperson's duties. The verger and churchwardens have a draft of this to check over and post at the back of the church.

(4) David asked whether we should get minutes of the Trustees' meetings. Andrew thought this was inappropriate and the present arrangement of reports is adequate. Alex suggested that formal reports from sub-committees were more vital.

(5) Date of AGM. Canon Angela has been invited to a conference on 6 April, so we should move the AGM. After consideration of the possibilities, Sunday 4 May was decided upon (proposed Andrew, seconded Judith. 6 in favour, 2 against).

The next meeting is Tuesday 25 March.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21:00.