

Minutes of Church Council Meeting 22 March 2004

Present: Antony Claridge, Nicky Gladstone, David Marles, Mark Elliott, Angela Soboslay, Sylvia Ayers, Frank Twissell, Yvonne Morris, Anne Nickels, Jenny Wright, Matthew Jones, Emma Elliott, Bob Siderfin, Margaret Burrows, David Bishop

Apologies: Bev Pont, Chris Gladstone, Richard Gabe, David Wrigley, Clive Tilling

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed

Matters Arising

- i) Restoring Hope / First To The Lord
The Away Day was a great success, leading to lively discussion. A "debrief" meeting was cancelled due to illness, and so no formal report was given. This will be done at the next meeting.

Following the "Evening with Bishop Peter" a follow-up leaflet was distributed

Staff Appointments

There have been no staff appointments, and no progress has been made with the CRB checks as some of our paperwork has been mislaid at a Diocesan level.

Fabric Report

The clearing of the gallery has been completed. The stair carpet on the south side staircase has been removed, as it was a potential trip hazard. Correct fire exit signage is now in place, meaning that the gallery can now be used for concerts again.

Work has begun on repainting the doors.

Minor repairs have been carried out on the stained glass windows, some more costly repairs are under investigation, but this may prove costly, and would therefore be a matter for the Trustees.

Thanks to Chris, David and Yvonne for their work on these matters.

Finance Report

The 2003 accounts have been audited and will be presented to the Trustees at their next meeting on 29 March.

An enquiry was made concerning a bequest scheme. The Diocese has an appropriate leaflet, and this will be investigated.

Deanery Synod

A meeting was held in February, and a report appears in the March Magazine. We are currently short of one Deanery Synod representative, although one person has tentatively expressed interest in the position.

Churches Together in Bath

CTB met recently, the focus of the meeting was the Cross Walk. Information will be displayed at the back of church, and through the notices and the magazine. There is a vacancy for a Christ Church CTB representative.

On Wednesday 30 June, Christ Church is hosting the joint service for Christian Unity. All are encouraged to support this event.

Role of Church Council

Following thought-provoking discussions on the Away Day, Mark Elliott has produced a discussion paper, which was circulated to the meeting and is attached to these minutes. Antony reminded the meeting that, although acting in the style of a PCC, Christ Church Council has none of the legal responsibilities or standing of a PCC, and exists by the "grace and favour" of the Trustees.

The main point of these suggestions is that only one or two large agenda items should appear on the agenda, for example, patterns of worship or the fabric of the church, and that this should then lead to an in-depth discussion.

Comments were invited...

From a financial point of view, things are now much more positive, leading to forward planning possibilities, both financial and otherwise. The Trustees take financial responsibility, but responsibility for the future of the Church must fall to the Congregation, and therefore to Council as its elected body.

Would these discussion groups result in decisions? Yes in principal, although financial matters remain the Trustees' department. There was general agreement that more clarity is needed regarding exactly how the church is organised, and the roles of the Trustees, Church Council and Standing Committee.

Concern was expressed that the agenda should be fixed by the whole meeting, and not by a smaller group, and that topics for discussion at future meetings should be made public so far in advance that interested members of the congregation would have a chance to comment.

There was agreement that Council should be restructured in this way. This agreement will be put to the Trustees and to the AGM, and it is intended that the first meeting of Council after the AGM will be under the new scheme with a new-style "pared-down" agenda with no routine fabric and finance matters. One of the first tasks will be to define the exact role and responsibilities of Council.

Proposed: Mark Elliott, Seconded Bob Siderfin. Unanimous.

Any Other Business

Nicky requested that any members of Council who would be willing to receive paperwork electronically should give her their e-mail address.

A note and book token have been sent to Margaret Heath a token of our gratitude.

Sarah Sheppard has been awarded her MA with commendation. Best Wishes to be sent to her from the Congregation.

Date of Next Meeting

AGM – Sunday 25 April

The meeting closed with prayers.