

## **Minutes of Church Council Meeting, 7 July 2005**

**Present:** David Marles, Angela Soboslay, Martin Palmer, Sylvia Ayers, Dorothy Twissell, Mark Elliott, Yvonne Morris, Sarah Hiscock, Sarah Jones, Matthew Jones, Margaret Burrows, Antony Claridge

**Apologies:** Nicky Gladstone, Chris Gladstone, Frank Twissell, Richard Gabe, Bob Siderfin, Jane Fletcher

The meeting was chaired by Mark Elliott

**Minutes of the last meeting**, held on 18 May 2005 were approved and signed.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **1. Election of Chairman**

Five people were standing for the post of chairman: David Bishop, Mark Elliott, Chris Gladstone, David Marles and Martin Palmer. Under Council rules, three will be elected and election forms had been distributed.

#### **2. Jobs and Action for the Next 3 Months**

Book of Prayer – the book was being prepared. It had been decided that people requesting prayers for someone would be asked every four weeks if the name should remain on the list.

Greeters

An article would shortly be appearing in the magazine.

Porch Area

The repairs to the roof had been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and no objections had been made to the faculty, which was no with the Diocese. It was expected that final approval would be given shortly and the architect was arranging a time with the builders for the work to be carried out.

External Communications

The leaflet was due for launch in mid September.

Press Officer

No-one has been forthcoming. The possibility of sharing this post with St Stephen's and St Mary's was raised.

### **Remarks from the Officiating Minister**

Antony noted with sadness that five long-standing and active members of the congregation had died recently.

Antony had become concerned that for a range of jobs, few volunteers had come forward, and cited the coffee rota as an example of this. He felt that some members of the congregation were extremely busy with Church activities, but that many were reluctant, for whatever reason, to put themselves forward. He wondered how we could persuade new people to take on responsibilities. As Chris Gladstone's time as church warden would be ending next year, a volunteer for this post was also required.

Antony had recently attended a course on New Age and Spirituality. This had raised the problem of how churches can address the spiritual needs of the wider community.

### **Local Ministry Groups**

Antony and Jonathan Lloyd would soon be meeting to discuss joint events and what church activities could be combined. Roger Sansbury, a reader at St Stephen's and St Mary's, had called Yvonne to discuss our pastoral visiting scheme, and it was hoped that we would be able to start to work together in this area.

Our links with St Stephen's School had been strengthened with the appointment of Nicky as a foundation governor. Antony had attended the inauguration service for the new Headmaster, Pete Mountstephen, and had presented him with a Bible.

### **Deanery Synod**

The previous Deanery Synod meeting had been mostly taken up with LMG matters. The Deanery Plan, to be submitted to the Bishop, is now available. Most Parishes had decided to form themselves into looser associations, known as ACES. Emma Elliott has been re-elected to the Standing Committee.

## **Churches Together in Bath**

A meeting had taken place on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

There had been good attendance for the Flower Show Service, the Service of Remembrance at Haycombe Cemetery and the election hustings at URC, where many local concerns had been raised. The "Praise in the Park" Service had been cancelled due to illness. The plans for next year's event are for a longer ceremony with more Church congregation participation. Posters advertising Jonathan Aitkin's lecture series at the Guildhall, starting on September 26<sup>th</sup>, were now available.

It was decided that the Travelling Light ceremony be amended to include a couple of sentences from the visitors about their own church and a short ceremony added to mark its departure.

The CTB Executive were to investigate closer links with churches in our twin towns of Aix, Brunswick and Alkmaar.

The next meeting will take place on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Charitable Giving**

Antony explained that the Pastoral Fund, into which the Easter Offerings are paid, had stood at £750 at the end of last year and was rarely used. The aim of the fund was to relieve hardship within the congregation and community. It was not right for the church to hold over such a sum; their was both a legal and moral duty to use the money in a timely fashion. As the yearly income for the fund is rather modest, it would not be worthwhile to advertise the fund more widely.

It was agreed that each Holy Week, any amount in the fund over £50 would be donated to Genesis, as their aims are in line with the aims of the fund and this would prevent an accumulation of money. As the yearly surplus would be variable, and may be zero, this gift to Genesis would be over and above any other giving to them.

David Marles explained that other giving by the church fell into two categories, subscriptions (ie, where an agreed amount is paid for affiliation with an organisation) and other grants. The list of organisations to which we subscribed had evolved over time and may not reflect the interests and wishes of the current congregation. Grants were made either as the result of fund raising activity from a member of the congregation (such as the recent World Vision appeal or the Lent Lunches) or by giving the loose plate from one week to a chosen charity (such as the Royal British Legion and Combat Stress on Remembrance Sunday). Of these two methods, the former was by far the more successful. Indeed, the loose plate is often 'topped up' from church funds to make a reasonable donation. One reason for this is the growth of planned giving by the congregation.

It was agreed that the organisations to which Christ Church subscribes would be reviewed each January. As subscriptions are by their nature intended to represent a longer term commitment, it is expected that any decisions to take up subscriptions or to allow existing ones to lapse would be similarly long term.

It was agreed that the practice of simply giving the loose plate from the collection to a charity would end. Instead, any giving by the church would be as a result of a member of the congregation instigating an appeal. In this way, the giving of the church would be directed and driven by the wishes of the congregation.

## **Genesis Sunday Centre**

The Genesis Sunday Centre had asked if we would be willing to buy the food when we were manning the centre. This would involve being given a shopping list, paying for and purchasing the food and delivering it to Nexus. The cost would be between £30 and £60 a week, six times a year, giving an annual cost of between £180 and £360. Yvonne and Donald's recent Garden Party had raised £300 for this purpose.

Mark proposed, and Martin seconded, that we agree to commit up to £360 a year to this purpose. This was agreed unanimously.

## **Dates of Meetings, 2005 – 2006**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March

The AGM will be held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Any Other Business**

Emmie Broakes' funeral collection was to be spent on a Paschal Candle stand. Antony had commissioned a 4' stand in light oak to match the lectern.

Due to falling numbers, the Mothers' Union is to disband. It was hoped that people would come forward so that Christ Church might continue to support the Mother's Union Overseas and the local Women's Refuge project.

The meeting closed with prayer.

### **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:**

Three items were suggested for discussion; rotas and encouraging involvement from as wide a cross section of the congregation as possible, discussion of the Christmas Fair and the ways in which the church addresses the needs of the wider community.

The first two items were selected and Jane Kirkbride, who is organising the Fair, will be invited to attend.