

Minutes of Church Council Meeting, 29th November 2005

Present: Yvonne Morris, Mike Rule, Sarah Jones, Matthew Jones, Jane Fletcher, Antony Claridge, Dorothy Twissell, Sarah Hiscock, David Marles, Emma Elliott, Clive Tilling

Apologies: Nicky Gladstone, Chris Gladstone, Martin Palmer, Sylvia Ayers, Mark Elliott, Abi Dudley, Angela Soboslay, Bob Siderfin

The meeting was chaired by David Marles

Minutes of the last meeting

Sylvia Ayers had volunteered at the meeting to be the Church calendar coordinator. With this addition, the minutes were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

1. **Congregational involvement**
5 people have come forward and offered to be greeters.
2. **Christmas Fair**
Plans are progressing well.

Remarks from the Officiating minister

There was a disappointing turnout at the Advent Carol service. Nevertheless it was a highly successful service and enjoyed by those who did attend.

On 7th May 2006 there will be a Confirmation service at St Stephens. The Bishop of Bath and Wells will confirm the candidates.

Antony has met with Jonathan Lloyd. It is proposed that a clergy swap takes place every two months.

There is to be an away weekend at Brunel Manor on 9th -11th June 2006. Archdeacon Peter Harrison, who is an expert on the formation of church groups will lead the weekend. There will be 2 sessions. The focus of the weekend will be to get to know each other. Letters to the congregation will be distributed this Sunday. It is anticipated that the weekend will be very suitable for children. The Trustees have allocated funds to subsidise the weekend.

Deanery Synod

The last meeting took place at the RUH. It was Informative and enlightening. A full report will appear in the January magazine. The Pastoral committee has been filled.

CTB

Sylvia was not present at the meeting, but keeps us up to date on CTB activities in her magazine articles.

Bath Abbey has commissioned a report on homelessness in Bath. Copies will be available in this month's magazine.

Jan 18th – 25th 2006 is the Week of prayer for Christian Unity. On the Thursday, the RC archbishop of Westminster will be speaking at Bath Abbey.

Church Fabric

A report from Chris Gladstone was presented to the meeting. Although the radiator valves had been replaced, it was noted that the radiator in the Vicar's Vestry needs further attention. The fabric report is attached.

Provision for children and young people

Junior Church

Council were asked to consider what happens in Junior Church. There is only a short time available and currently the material used follows the lectionary. The leaders of Junior church seek approval from council to try some new ideas.

One idea is to go back to basics – for example, deviating from the lectionary, and looking at Bible stories. This would encourage leaders to spend more time planning Junior Church together.

The meeting was asked to consider whether more time is needed for Junior church sessions. This may necessitate compromise over when children leave the main service and will be discussed between the leaders as appropriate.

All Age services

Approval from council was sought to make some changes to these services. It was agreed that the service should remain a Holy Communion service, but that more adventurous ways of making the service truly all-age could be sought. Feedback from the congregation would be needed to establish whether changes made are successful.

It was noted that very young children are usually unaffected by “all-age” services, but this is not a great problem. When the children remain in the main service, it gives leaders a break

Holiday Clubs

Sarah H brought up the idea of holiday clubs. These would need to start small, and would require LMG involvement. This would be a major commitment, and is something to be investigated in the future.

AOB

Frank Twissell has stood-down from church council after many long years of service. Council expressed grateful thanks for the time that Frank has put in both on council and in many other ways.

A letter has been received from Emmie Brookes’s solicitors seeking approval from the Church Council for the Trustees of the church to receive a bequest. This was proposed by Emma Elliott, seconded by Matthew Jones. All were in favour.

Possible Topics for Next Meeting

How accessible are our services to an un-churched person? What can we do to help people understand more about the service?

A reminder to congregation that they can suggest items for discussion on church council will be placed in the notices.

Fabric Report to Church Council

SW Roof:

DAC approval is almost there for the roof above the toilets and kitchen. The DAC have sent their assessor to NVB Architects to get the final piece of info and have sent a letter apologising for the delay. We have instructed NVB to get the quote revised and get Mannings to book us in for early spring when the weather is better to do roof work.

Cottage No.1:

NVB Architects have been in to look at the cottage and then sent back a team to do a detailed survey. They are looking into their archives to see what was done on Cottage No.2 so they can do the work to a similar standard. They are concentrating on this project as a priority as this will be a source of income.

School:

Internal / External

The school have made a number of improvements. They have finished the alterations downstairs, making a new toilet and room. They have made an entrance lobby to the downstairs room. They have had the main path to the front door re-paved. They have had 2 external security cameras fitted (one covering the front corner and one the playground)

Heating System:

The radiators have had their thermostatic valves replaced with normal ones and are now working. The boiler has had a new time clock fitted.

Clock:

The clock has had the new spring made and fitted (after delay due to staff injury). The clock is working fine again.

Car Park:

The car park chain has been mended after a few vandalism problems and will be repainted in the spring.

Reordering :

NVB Architects have been taken around the church to look at the re-ordering scheme. We have shown them around the whole church and told them about all the things we currently do and want to do. They will undertake a feasibility study for us giving us ideas about what to do with the space we have and taking into account regulations and thoughts about facilities we need. (eg: how many toilets do we need for concerts, what regulations do we need to conform with for the kitchen....)

Lighting:

The rear lights of the church have been inspected by an electrician and cannot be mended. There is a problem with the wiring to these lamps and the case is the same for all of the lights in the church and the electrical sockets.

We were going to be looking at the lighting when we reorder the church, so we have commissioned Martin Palmer to come up with some designs (with consultation from some people he has worked with who have lit a number of churches in Bath). In the mean time we have purchased some temporary lighting to use at the back of church.

Stained Glass:

The remaining broken stained glass will be repaired in the near future.

We are to look at gratings to cover the windows and see how much they cost.

Chris Gladstone, November 2005