

## **Minutes of the Christ Church Council meeting**

held on 17th September 2013

### Present.

Malcolm Wall, Martin Palmer, Andrew Sillett, Mark Elliott, Alex Soboslay, Angela Soboslay, Margaret Burrows, Judith Bishop, David Rawlings, Dylan Blackshear, Sarah Kerr, Brenda Wall (secretary).

David Bishop (Treasurer) present by invitation for Trustees discussion.

In the chair: Canon Angela Townshend

1. The meeting opened with the Collect of the day to commemorate the death of 12th century saint Hildegard of Bingen.

2. No apologies received

### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting

A discussion relating to safeguarding, and to whom any suspicions should be reported. DR suggested that our policy and contacts should be put up in a public place. AT to speak to Lewis to get a summary of the policy.

### 4. Trustees

#### a. Budget reorganisation

Council relationship with Trustees was discussed. Mark Elliott (Chair of Trustees) and David Bishop (Trustee Treasurer) explained the idea of splitting the budget is so that Council, as representatives of the congregation, have some control over how money is spent and the congregation can see exactly what money is being spent on. Legally speaking, Trustees retain ultimate responsibility.

Income from congregational giving will go straight to Council. This is around £30,000 a year, and church spending is roughly £75,000, but of this £30,000 goes to the diocese Common Fund. As a proprietary chapel we are not obliged to pay “parish share”, so there should be a conversation with the congregation about how much we wish to be giving as a gift to the diocese in the future.

Council will get a separate account and cheque book, with responsibility for paying ordinary operational costs (gas bill, employees, etc) and any regular charitable giving. Council to decide its budget, which is always going to be a deficit budget; shortfall to be topped up by Trustees. Not the aim to reduce operational expenditure. The Council will not be audited, but will be inspected, so a new double-entry bookkeeping system has been created, and this should be ready for handover by April.

Alex S suggested that a list of responsibilities needs to be drawn up, so that we can see the boundaries between capital and running expenses. Mark explained that e.g., maintenance of organ (£1,200-£1,500 a year) is classed as running

costs, not fabric, because Council could decide we don't want to maintain the organ.

David R asked about cashflow: will Trustees pay money into Council account each month? Amount of initial float TBC. The church has two bank accounts, but only one is used, and standing orders go into that. Trustees will take over the dormant account.

Bequests go to Trustees, and David B said that executors of a will containing a bequest may have to be consulted.

There are reserves held by CCLA, some unit trusts, and some deposit accounts. AT suggested that a detailed list is needed of costs and information. Mark and David to provide that.

It was suggested that Council should appoint a Stewardship officer separate from the Treasurer. The range of giving is enormous, from £5 to £4,000 per annum.

#### b. The Boiler

The boiler is not working. To be fixed, if repairable, or replaced. Advice from the diocese is to be sought about energy saving. Zonal heating is to be considered.

At this point David B and Mark E left the meeting.

#### 5. Harvest Supper

30 people have signed up already and everything is in hand. JB asked if we could get the Mews floor professionally cleaned, but we decided to do it ourselves. Steam cleaning party on Saturday 21 Sept at 10 am.

#### 6. Liturgy

AT has passed on Kingdom season and Advent Liturgy to Sarah Jones to proof read. Canon Melvyn Matthews has agreed to join the rota at CC. Ishmael (a Muslim) is to be baptized on Sunday and MW to make a cake for him.

David R brought up the question of how many sheets we have to juggle in a service. Could hymns and readings be on one sheet, and notices on another? Could hymn sheet be folded vertically down the middle, like the notice sheet? Margaret B asked if an additional week of readers and chalice assistants could be included on the rota, to give people more warning of the first week of the month. This will be done.

Dylan B will send out a list of contacts to all members of the Council.

#### 7. Charities

Collections on the first Sundays of the month are to be for a charity. US (formerly USPG) will be the first.

AT asked Council to bring a list of charities they want to support.

## 8. Update on Buildings

A report was received from Robin Kerr, acting chair of Buildings Working Group. Interesting story was told about the outside lanterns and the bullet holes in them. Repair almost completed.

Reordering: We are going to experiment with a straight platform in place of the half moon at the communion steps, and a temporary rail.

Alex S asked if the Working Group had exceeded its brief, and decisions should be being made by Council, not the Group. Group to be asked to make a detailed report for next Council meeting. Alex suggested we need longer time at the next meeting to discuss recommendations in detail.

It was agreed that the first priority is the boiler and getting the heating sorted out.

It was noted that the archdeacon does not have the power to extend our licence for trial reordering, so we have until July 2014 to finalize plans. Have there been objections? AT to bring a list of comments received. Should there be meeting of the congregation to discuss reordering? Some felt that Council, as representatives of the congregation, are fully capable of deciding.

### b. The Bells restoration

MW expressed concern that outside campanologists seemed to be pressurizing priorities.

We are mounting an exhibition to explain the proposals to the local community and consult them.

## 9. Any Other Business

Chalice assistants need a new licence. All current assistants have said they want to continue. Anthony Ridge-Newman is joining. MW formally proposed acceptance of all people on the list. Seconded by MP.

Volunteers needed to carry the cross. Training needs to be given.

The grand piano is beyond repair and therefore is being got rid of. This may have been a gift, so this needs to go in the notice sheet.

Dylan B offered his resignation from the Council because he is going back to the US. A vote of thanks and good wishes was unanimously offered.

The meeting closed at 21.40.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 12 November.