

Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting

11th January 2007

Present: Sylvia Ayers, Judith Bishop, Margaret Burrows, Antony Claridge, Jane Fletcher, Sarah Hiscock, David Marles (*Chair*), John Metcalf, Yvonne Morris, Martin Palmer, Margaret Silver, Angela Soboslay, Clive Tilling, Dorothy Twissell.

Apologies: Emma Elliott, Mark Elliott, Thomas Hardy, Margaret Heath, Bob Siderfin, Andrew Sillett.

Minutes of the previous meeting

There were two amendments to the minutes - under Accessibility of Services (third paragraph) should read "Judith Bishop volunteered....." and (fourth paragraph) should read "The principle...."

The minutes of the 8th November 2006 meeting were then approved and signed.
(Proposed: Sylvia Ayers, Seconded: Clive Tilling)

Matters Arising

- *Christmas Fair* – It was agreed that any discussion regarding this should be put off to the next meeting and Jane Kirkbride should be invited to attend (David Bishop to ask her).
- Following on from **Remarks from Officiating Minister & LMG update (AC)** Antony Claridge reported he had attended a meeting and was waiting for Brian McEvoy to get back to him. Antony added that St Mary's was well represented at our Christmas services.
- *Concerts* – Judith Bishop reported that the Christ Church has been approached by the Bath Festival to hold two concerts. It was agreed that a working party should be appointed to clear and clean the gallery. This, however, cannot be done until there has been a discussion regarding the Christmas Fair. David Marles will take this to the Standing Committee which is due to meet on 15th January. Judith also reported that a link has now been set up through the website for other musical groups wanting to contact with regard to holding concerts. She is also in the process of producing a booking form.

Remarks from Officiating Minister & LMG update (AC)

- Antony Claridge suggested a note of thanks should be put in the next Challenge Magazine to all who contributed during Christmas. There were well above average numbers in the congregations.
- The Nativity Play was very much enjoyed and Sarah Hiscock was congratulated for her efforts.
- The Diocese has changed its mind regarding admittance of youth to the sacrament before confirmation. The incumbent has to be satisfied that the candidate does understand what he/she is entering into. There will be a

ceremony of initial taking of sacrament. The current group of candidates will be confirmed in May 2007 at Bath Abbey.

- Lent Groups will be shared with St Stephen's
- There is a new rector of Walcot to be appointed very soon and there is hope for more cooperation with the Parish of Walcot than before.

Churches together in Bath (SA)

Sylvia Ayers presented a report from the most recent newsletter (see attachment 1).

Deanery Synod (SH)

It was confirmed that a meeting had been held on 8th November but no prior notice had been given. Changes of address and personnel have now been given to the Secretary so future meetings should be advised.

Accessibility of Services (JB)

Judith Bishop presented a page in the suggested new style of service sheet. The general layout of comments, instructions and liturgy was thought to be very pleasing. It was agreed that an A5 booklet was the most useful size to work towards. Martin Palmer offered to design suitable cover. It was further agreed that we need to get on with this and produce a draft soon to offer to members of the congregation for their feedback.

Social Outreach Programme (NG)

David Marles read a report in Nicky Gladstone's absence (see attachment 2). This report also confirmed an additional opening of the Cedar Tree to give everyone a chance to see how it works on Saturday 20th January.

Any Other Business

Charitable giving

As the meeting was comparatively short David Marles suggested that Council look at the subject of Charitable Giving. David explained that there had been several charitable collections, such as Christian Aid, that should not be showing on Christ Church accounts. It was clarified that as Christ Church is a charity it cannot give its money away to charity. The only way we can give anything to charity is by arranging to donate coin collections to charities nominated and declared in advance. This gives members of the congregation the choice to giving in addition to what they pledge to the church. Agreement was reached to explain all of this to the congregation and ask for suggestions as to which charities should be nominated for such donations. It was thought that David Marles was the best person to present this. (Proposed: Martin Palmer, seconded: Sarah Hiscock).

No other items of business were brought up.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is in the week commencing 12th February 2007, dependant on availability of Jane Kirkbride.