

Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting

13th March 2008

Present:

Emma Elliott, Margaret Heath, Antony Claridge, Janet Mahto, Sylvia Ayers, Andrew Sillett, David Marles (chair), Judith Bishop, Thomas Morley, Angela Soboslay, Yvonne Morris, Jane Fletcher, Margaret Silver.

Apologies (Agenda 2):

Chris Gladstone, David Bishop, Alice Pont, Sarah Hiscock, Margaret Burrows, Mark Elliott, Martin Palmer, Bob Siderfin, Clive Tilling.

Minutes of the previous meeting (Agenda 3)

The Minutes were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising (Agenda 4)

- *Electoral Roll (Agenda 4)* Antony confirmed that there was now a simplified form which was more appropriate to our needs. The information held will include telephone numbers and addresses.
- *Funeral Donations (Agenda 5.4)* Antony confirmed that contributions from Jane Kirkbride and Ann and Chris Kemp were being invested until it was decided how the money should be spent. The Kemps had also donated the 'Gospel Book'. It was suggested that new Altars frontals could be purchased and this will be passed on to the Trustees. Antony confirmed that he had written letters of thanks to both families.
- *Open Christmas donations (Agenda 6)* David Marles confirmed that total donations of £40 had come in for this. It was agreed to ask the congregation for donations earlier next year.

Remarks from Officiating Minister (Agenda 5)

Antony reported that Peter Morris, Suffragan Bishop of Taunton was very appreciative of the efforts being made through the LMG and considered it "a beacon in the Bath Deanery". Due to a mix up with locations for talks, a new set of Holy Week and Easter leaflets had been printed. Antony reminded the Council that the Cross Walk would get to Christ Church at 10 am for the service. A point of information – early Easters occurred 1940 & 2008 and will occur again in 2061.

Churches together in Bath (Agenda 6)

Sylvia Ayers reported:

1. Donations totalling £40 were received from Christ Church congregation towards Open Christmas 2007. Very many thanks to all our generous friends.
2. The leaflets for the Good Friday Cross Walk on March 21st are now available.
3. A major debate on Climate change will take place in Bath Abbey at 7:30pm on Tuesday 29th April 2008. The debate will be chaired by Rev Roger Nunn, and the panel of speakers will include Martin Palmer (BBC). Leaflets and a poster are now in church.
4. The Flower Show Service in Victoria Park will be held on Sunday May 4th, at 6:30pm. There will be free entry for those attending from 6pm.
5. The Christian Aid Week Service will be on Sunday May 11th at 6:30pm at St Michaels by Waitrose.
6. Your prayers are asked for the congregations of Widcombe Benefice, who are again looking for a new Priest-in-Charge. The current incumbent has now resigned as after having twins last year, she feels that she cannot cope with running two churches.
7. Council were asked to make sure that notices submitted for publication in the magazine do actually appear. The CTB notes including several March dates, as well as the article from the Deanery Synod Representative were left out of the March magazine. Both items contained essential information for the congregation, but

without this publicity they cannot be aware of it. Very few people actually look at the notice boards.

Deanery Synod (Agenda 7)

Margaret Heath reported

1. Mission Statement needs to be submitted to Deanery Synod
2. Deanery visit on 12th May
3. Jeremy Key-Pugh has a new secretary
4. Emma Elliott is standing down. It was suggested that Lewis Boyd might become a representative.

Brunel Manor (Agenda 8)

This has been confirmed as weekend of 4/5/6 July. The theme will be "Coming to our Senses" with Friar Kertigen John as the Facilitator. The Trustees are considering subsidising places on this event. There are 100 places with a full cost of £108 a head. Emma asked that we consider suitable child care this year. It was suggested that perhaps we could enquire if one or two girls from Norland Nannies could come with us to cover child care, thus making it possible for parents to attend the sessions. Angela will check numbers with Jonathan.

Lighting Project - update (Agenda 9)

In Martin Palmer's absence the following report was read out:

"I am delighted to say that we are on schedule in spite of a few problems. The Health and Safety work in the roof is complete with new walkways, ladders and lighting making access easy for the contractors and for any general work in the future, lamp maintenance and surveyor's inspections, etc. The main lights for the new system, which are made in New Zealand, arrived by sea at the manufacturer's European office in Holland, only to be rejected by their quality controllers. A completely new set are being made and will be flown here and should arrive on 17th March. The under gallery pilot lights have been working for several weeks. The side aisle, the Lady Chapel and the Sacristy lights are all in position. The Chancel lighting will be completed this week as will the control gear for the entire system and I am still optimistic that we will be up and running for Easter".

List of Topics for discussion throughout the year (Agenda 10)

The following subject headings were suggested for discussion throughout the year:

1. Parking – Margaret Heath
2. Notices and publicity at the back of the church – Margaret Heath
3. Church Seasons – Andrew Sillett
4. Study Groups/Prayer Groups – Margaret Heath
5. LMG
6. Fundraising
7. Fun-raising

AOB (Agenda 11)

Play Day – David Marles reported that this event had more or less broken even. Thanks were due to Martin, Jo, Chris and Nicky and Clive Tilling. The Secretary will write letters of thanks. The event was a good opportunity for people to mix, but under-5s were not catered for. Also it was thought that there could be more audience participation if this kind of event is run again.

Transitional Gift Aid – Antony drew the Council's attention to the Statement issued by The Communications Unit of the Church of England: "The Church of England has welcomed the transitional relief arrangement announced in the Budget for Gift Aid claims by charities over the next three years. In the Budget speech, the Chancellor, Alistair Darling, announced a transitional rate of relief of 22 per cent from 2008/09 to 2010/11. This retains an estimated £8m per year that would otherwise be income lost by Church of England parishes, and means that parishes should continue to claim at the current rate."

Date of next Council Meeting (Agenda 12) – not set until after the AGM 20/04/2008

jab 10/05/08