

# **Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting 16th March 2010**

**Present:** Lewis Boyd (chair), Antony Claridge, Mark Elliot, Chris Gladstone, Margaret Heath, Janet Mahto, Martin Palmer, Andrew Sillet, Margaret Silver, Brenda Wall

## **2 Apologies for absence**

David Bishop, Judith Bishop, Robert Siderfin, Margaret Burrows, Clive Tilling

## **3 Approval of minutes of 18th January meeting**

The previous minutes were approved (P:JM, S:ME)

## **4 Matters arising**

Nothing raised.

## **5 Regular reports**

### **a Minister's Report and Local Ministry Group**

Antony reported that the work of the Local Ministry Group was very encouraging, but that there are challenges ahead, and the progress made to date must not be allowed to fall away. The liturgical link is strong as Antony is still going to St. Stephen's and Charlecombe once a month. Both congregations will be joining Christ Church for services during Holy Week and we intend to make them very welcome. This will be a perfect demonstration of a LMG in action.

Antony also reported that the Lent Group meetings have been thoroughly ecumenical, with half of the regular attendees coming from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

Antony noted that there are two or three new families recently coming to Christ Church and he wondered if it would be a good idea to have a "liaison" person to build links with newcomers and keep in touch with families. Margaret Heath asked if pastoral visiting would be acceptable from non-clergy. Mark Elliot made the point that we should all be aware of newcomers and how important a warm welcome is.

There followed a discussion about whether or not attendance at Christ Church should constitute a part of the admission process to St. Stephen's school. The conclusion

was that this should be born in mind but was not likely to be raised again by school governors for the next two years.

Antony reminded us that the Christ Church AGM is on April 25th, and that it has already been advertised in church. He stressed that it is vital that everybody is encouraged to come in order to boost the electoral roll which is being reviewed and is important in the recruitment process we shall eventually be going through.

Antony is waiting to send, for approval by our Bishop, a list of candidates to become chalice assistants. The names are: Lewis Boyd, Jane Nicholson, Jane Kirkbride, Kerry Chivers, David Rawlings, Brenda Wall and Malcom Wall.

Antony reported that the Child Protection Bureau requires that a new "responsible person" is in place. Antony has recommended Lewis Boyd as that person, and together they have attended a course leading to a license which will last for five years.

Antony reported that he and Mark Elliot have been asked to meet candidates for the post of priest of St. Stephen's. They will be coming to Christ Church for supper.

#### **b Churches Together in Bath**

Margaret Heath reported that at the recent meeting of CTB there was much concern about the fact that Bath City Council is going to be introducing parking charges on Sundays. Margaret is going to feed back to the group that there should be a request that "Park and Ride" buses run early enough to get people to church.

#### **c Deanery Synod**

Andrew Sillet drew attention to the aim of "Changing Lives", focusing on "community" rather than just geographical parish boundaries. He reminded us that the Parish Support Vacancy team can be invited to help with putting together of our parish profile. We have submitted a form outlining our links with ecumenical groups. There followed a discussion about how important it is that Christ Church remains part of the Deanery Synod to "add balance, be ourselves, and continue to be outward looking".

#### **d Trustees Report**

Mark Elliot reported that number 2 cottage is vacant and needs work. The Local Authority may also be leaving the school in 18 months. Negotiations are ongoing. A

good outcome may be for offices to be built on the top floor of the school and for Christ Church to keep the ground floor for its own use.

The working group need more investigation about work on the church. It is felt that around £10,000 should be a starting figure for the budget. David Bishop has agreed to coordinate quotes and prices.

The Archdeacon will be attending the next trustees meeting. Mark Elliot has met him and he was very perceptive to hearing how Christ Church works and to talking about the recruitment process.

## **6 Play Day (MWP)**

Martin Palmer reported that the Junior High School had said “no” to us using their hall because of building works. Martin proposed looking forward to a summer event and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **7 Annual Review**

Lewis Boyd has been looking back at previous meeting minutes to see if we have achieved what had been proposed.

- We have established study and prayer groups during the week.
- No junior church report to council has been instigated. This was regarded as a good idea.
- In 2009, a working group was founded to look at the idea of Christ Church hosting the Deanery Synod. There was a general agreement that this would be a good idea, and Andrew Sillet will propose this.
- We need storage solutions, and Chris Gladstone has this in hand.
- There has been real progress on publicity; a logo design is in final preparation and will be used on Easter publicity.
- LMG links have been strengthened.
- We have not instituted a team of “welcomers”, and the issues of parking and getting to church easily need to be addressed.
- CTB is to become a permanent feature.
- The car park chain is being sorted out, maybe to be replaced by a bollard system. Clive Tilling is looking into this.

- David Bishop has stepped down as Secretary to the council and is to become treasurer instead.
- The council needs to check with members who are up for re-election at the AGM.
- A new Churchwarden needs to be found.
- The AGM is on 25th April 2010; election forms will need to be prepared.

**The meeting closed at 9:15pm with the Grace.**

ljb/6/6/2010