

Minutes of Church Council Meeting, 19th September 2005

Present: Antony Claridge, Nicky Gladstone, David Marles, Angela Soboslay, Sylvia Ayers, Clive Tilling, Dorothy Twissell, Bob Siderfin, Sarah Hiscock, Sarah Jones, Matthew Jones, Jane Fletcher, Margaret Burrows

Apologies: Chris Gladstone, Frank Twissell, David Bishop, Emma Elliott, Mark Elliott, Yvonne Morris

The meeting was chaired by David Marles

Minutes of the last meeting, held on 7th July 2005 were corrected, approved and signed.

Matters Arising

1. **Book of Prayer**
This is now in the chapel area. The congregation is to be reminded of the need to renew prayer requests every 4 weeks.
2. **Greeters**
An article has appeared in the magazine. Further discussion was deferred until later.
3. **Porch Area**
The faculty has been received, subject to one final approval. The original estimate of £10K is likely to increase, but the Trustees have taken this into account in the budget.
4. **Press Officer**
Still no volunteers. The new editor of the Bath Chronicle will welcome church news. Antony may invite him to come and speak at Christ Church.

Remarks from the Officiating Minister / Local Ministry Group News

Antony warned of a potential crisis within Christ Church, because many busy people are stretched to their limit and some events (funerals and weddings) are becoming extremely hard to manage in terms of manpower. This discussion was continued later.

Antony had not yet met with Jonathan LLOYD, but was confident that such a meeting would occur soon.

Antony encouraged everyone to pray for Mark Elliott in the short time remaining before his licensing on 1st October

It was noted that congregational numbers had held up well over the summer period.

Deanery Synod

The next meeting would be held the day after Church Council. A special meeting had been called, as the Diocesan response to the LMG question had not met with approval, and this was to be re-examined. A report will appear in the Magazine.

Churches Together in Bath

Many thanks to Sylvia for representing Christ Church. A report on forthcoming events will appear in the Magazine.

Christmas Fair

Preparations are well underway, with Jane Kirkbride at the helm.

Rotas and Congregational Involvement

Antony introduced this item, remarking that there were a number of "situations vacant" at Church, and that it was hard to see who would fill the following posts:

Press Officer
Coffee Makers after Church
Church Warden (after April 2006)
Greeters for weddings, funerals, etc

Greeters
Concert Co-ordinator
Altar Servers

Church Calendar Co-ordinator
Someone to fill in the Service Register
Junior Church Helpers

It was suggested that a paid verger could be employed to take on the bulk of some of these jobs. This was felt to be a good idea, and will be taken forward to the Trustees' next meeting. This still leaves the question of finding volunteers for the other vacancies.

All agreed that, as long as this was done sensitively by the appropriate person, people should be approached directly and asked to do certain jobs. A list of those considered suitable for the vacancies in question would be co-ordinated by someone (a volunteer needed!) and then that person would liaise with Antony, who would approach people himself. No-one was to feel "press-ganged" and there would be ample time for consideration, and plenty of opportunity to say no.

Before the next meeting, all were asked to provide Matthew Jones with names of those they felt would make suitable greeters.

It was stressed that all must take personal responsibility for the roles taken on, checking rotas and turning up on time.

Christ Church and the Wider Community

Since Genesis Vouchers have been available from Church, there has been an increase in homeless people visiting us during the 10am Communion Service. It was felt that we have a responsibility to these members of our community, but many people feel unsure how to help in the best way.

It was agreed to set up an evening where a helper from Julian House or similar could come and talk to us. The evening would be open to all, and our LMG partners would also be invited.

Any Other Business

Following the success of the trip in July, there will be another picnic followed by Evensong at Orchardleigh on 2nd July 2006.

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Abigail Dudley onto Council until the next AGM to represent the younger members of the congregation.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th November at 7.30 in the Vestry.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

The list of situations vacant will be revisited.

A report on the state of the Church fabric and various repairs in progress will be given by Chris Gladstone. Christ Church's provision for children and young people will be considered.