

Minutes of Christ Church Council Meeting

Tuesday 12th November 2013

Present: Judith Bishop, Margaret Burrows, Morny Davison, Sarah Kerr, Rebecca Nicholson, Martin Palmer, Bob Siderfin, Andrew Sillett, Angela Soboslay, Alex Soboslay, Brenda Wall (secretary), Malcolm Wall.

In the chair, Canon Angela Townshend

1. The meeting opened with prayer, and happy birthday wishes to Margaret Burrows.

2. **Apologies** were received from David Rawlings.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, 17th September, were accepted with minor corrections.

4. Trustees

The Trustees have not met since the last Council meeting, so there were no matters referred from them.

5. Charities

a. Christ Church has collected over £130 to be sent to Pakistan to help a Christian community which was recently attacked. We received a thank you.

b. There will be a collection for the disaster in the Philippines on the next 2 Sundays. Andrew Sillett to check if we can Gift Aid this money.

c. Foodbank. We agreed to support the local Foodbank and a basket will be put at the back of the church.

d. Next year we agreed to support 4 International charities, 4 national charities, and 4 local charities, including Foodbank, Mothers' Union Seeds Appeal, Water Aid, Us, Help for Heroes, Dorothy House and South West Children's Hospice, UNICEF, Julian House, Save the Children, Church Army, Mentoring Plus, Women's Refuge, Prince's Trust, and Open Christmas.

All cash on the collection plate until Christmas will be going to Open Christmas. Malcolm to coordinate.

6. Licensing of chalice assistants etc.

The proposed list of chalice assistants to be re-licensed was proposed by Andrew Sillett and seconded by Angela Soboslay. Iain Barrowman to be added to the list of sidespersons. Judith B asked for a list of sidesperson duties.

7. Buildings and reordering

a. Bob Siderfin proposed a vote of thanks to Martin and Robin for all their work during his absence. He presented an update on the re-ordering pilot scheme. Canon Angela wants to take away the clergy prayer stools. This will be done to see if it opens up the space even more. There was some discussion about what should follow: moving the pulpit? Removing the front pews? A “high altar” in addition to a smaller altar at the front?

Margaret Burrows asked if it was time to speak to the congregation again to get their views, and this was accepted and planned for one Sunday in January.

Judith B asked whether the Lady Chapel curtain shouldn't be blue.

b. Bells. The analysis of the bells exhibition questionnaires was received. Of the 35 questionnaires received, 33 are in favour. In discussion a number of questions were raised. Is restoring the bells a priority? Martin P proposed floodlights as a better way to publicise the church. Canon Angela argued that it isn't an either/or choice. The proponents are confident that the money can be raised from outside sources at no net cost to Christ Church. Would fundraising clash with appeals for other works? Should there be a written document of understanding between the bell ringers and the church? Not “us and them” - the bell ringers are led by an active member of the Christ Church congregation, not outsiders and not separate from the church; bells to be rung for church purposes, as a call to worship, weddings and funerals.

After discussion Judith B proposed that we recommend the bells in principle to the Trustees. Margaret B seconded. No votes against, 4 abstentions.

c. Lanterns. The refurbished lanterns are being put in place in the week of the 18th of November. They will be blessed by the Bishop of Taunton when he visits for the feast of Christ the King on 24th November. Angela T to ask Matthew and Sarah Jones to publicise appropriately.

d. Entrance works. Alex S asked whether we should apply for a single faculty covering the bells restoration and other works at the west end and tower. The consensus was that the time-scales will be different, and the DAC has already been approached informally about the bells, so they are separate works.

8. AOB

a. It is possible that Churches Together in Bath is to cease. Should we therefore join the Northern Group?

b. Canon Angela asked whether Christ Church wishes to be registered as a church that accepts all types of people. If so, we would be on the Inclusive Church website. Do we want to do that?

c. Liturgy. Comments were raised about the Remembrance Sunday service. Some thought that it was more of a concert than a service without any congregational singing. There were some strong feelings about overrunning the time, meaning the

Silence was not at 11 o'clock. Regret was expressed that some members of the congregation had felt so strongly as to walk out. Feedback will be conveyed to Mark.

d. Deanery Synod. Alex S asked whether there had been a meeting of Deanery Synod, and would our reps report back. Andrew S undertook to do so.

The next meeting of Christ Church Council will be on 7th January 2014.

The meeting closed with prayer at 21.10.