

Christ Church Downend

Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting

23rd November 2009

Present: Rev Jo Vickery (Chair), Stuart Bunting, Rachael D. Hill, Helen Johnson, Adrian Lewis, Mike Parsons, Pauline Pearce, Bill Robbins, Paul Churchill, Richard Harris, Paul Hacker, Ray Hackney, Martin D. Brown, Myra Brown, Andy McNeill, Kate Williams (PCC Clerk).

Opening Worship:

Time of prayer and worship was held.

Apologies of absence

Apologies of absence were received by Geoff Greet and Joyce Bevan.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by Rev Jo Vickery.

Matters Arising:

Environment Sunday

RH spoke of the impact of this day on the church and wider community. The public showing of 'The Age of Stupid' had attracted considerable interest well beyond the usual sphere of Christ Church influence. He highlighted the opportunity to build on this, and asked if there could be greater and perhaps more formal representation of environmental issues on the PCC and the Building Project Team for example. It was agreed that Geoff Payne would be consulted and JV would take further action towards strengthening our commitment to reflect God's care for creation in all we are about as a church.

Global Leadership Summit

The Global Leadership Summit was chaired by Bishop Mike in Bristol and was held 1st/2nd Oct 2009. 25 members of Christ Church had participated, financially supported by CC and the Deanery. It was agreed that at the next Global Leadership Summit the PCC should again be invited and encouraged to attend as place numbers are limited. There had been a follow up meeting with those who had been this year which had identified four key concepts: Mission, Unity, Discipleship and

Renewal. A document summarising the discussions and ideas for action will be circulated to all PCC members. Many sincere thanks for MDB and RDH for organising this event.

Youth Worker

JV explained that Rev Paul Peterson felt he needed to focus on his work at Bradley Stoke and could not give adequate consideration to the development of youth work at Christ Church until he came in January. JV had updated Youth leaders about this and they had agreed to wait for any further action till January. JV confirmed there is a meeting on Sunday 28th November 2009 with all Youth Leaders to discuss the short term needs. The PCC was encouraged to continue to pray for and support our youth work.

Signage

JV confirmed to the PCC that two signs have now been erected, one at the roundabout in Downend, the other at the junction of Church Lane with North Street.

Safe from Harm

BR informed the PCC that we have received confirmation that key holders are not required to have CRB checks completed. It was agreed not to ask them and a letter of explanation would be sent by the Office.

Building Project Report

BR reported back to the PCC from the last Steering Group meeting with recommendations regarding the North Street Hall refurbishments. BR circulated the Buildings Project Report from the last meeting. Hall Committee recommended for PCC to choose option 3 from the handout.

Feedback from the three presentations to Home Groups (and any others who wanted to come) was given to PCC. This represented a significant proportion of the church membership. The response had been very largely positive, though questions had been raised about the number of people the proposed scheme would allow to be seated in the upstairs space. A full discussion took place regarding the vision of the two tier development of Christ Church and a consensus was reached regarding the way forward.

Sincere thanks given to Bill Robbins and Patrick De- La- Hunty for all their time and hard work preparing and presenting the presentations for 'The Vision' of the building project.

From the Recommendations to PCC from the Building Project Report the following conclusions were reached:

- a) **Unanimously agreed to explore the 'two tiered' vision.**
- b) **Unanimously agreed for the PCC to invite Architects to express interest in project, leading to short listing process.**
- c) **Unanimously agreed to undertake minor refurbishments of North Street Hall.**

New Business

Treasurer's Report

RAH confirmed that there is likely to be a shortfall in the General Fund this year.

Parish Share – As part of the Diocesan Strategy 2010-2015 the way the Share is administered will change. Instead of being asked for a specific amount each parish is being asked to make a pledge for the year. The OMG had noted the support the diocese is giving to Christ Church through CAP and the appointment of another stipendiary minister and MDB suggested we should be as generous as we can.

The sum the diocese has suggested is £116,000. The OMG has proposed a figure of £120,000 which was fully accepted by PCC.

Parish Share for 2010 to be a minimum of £120,000

Proposed: RAH

Seconded: BR

Unanimously agreed by the PCC.

Diocesan Strategy

JV commended the vision statement of the Summary Booklet 'Diocesan Strategy 2010-2015'. Each member of PCC was given a copy. PC gave an overview of the strategy including information from Deanery Synod discussions.

Discussion took place and the overall strategy was welcomed.

Operations Management Group

MDB gave an up date from the last meeting. November minutes are not available as yet.

MDB spoke of the fact that Christ Church, as an employer, has a moral and legal obligation to its employees. This was considered in detail at the last OMG meeting and an Employers Handbook was almost completed.

It was reported to the PCC that after the recent vandalism to the Parish Church windows the Church Wardens were investigating the possible use of CCTV and other forms of protection and security. Sincere thanks were given to AM for his time and effort in fixing all the damaged windows.

Communications – Kath Horne hosted a banquet to launch the new Communications Team and share some ideas regarding how to improve the communications through Christ Church. Terms of reference had been agreed and the roles of the 11 people involved had been clarified. The main focus would be to support outreach initiatives so that they made maximum impact. Discussion followed

In view of Paul Peterson's licensing as Associate Minister on 24th January HJ and PP will co ordinate the gift of a hamper to welcome the family as they move to 15 Glendale early in January 2010.

Request from Mothers' Union

Letter received from the Mothers' Union regarding the donation of an Oak bench for the churchyard to mark the 80 years since the organisation was founded. This would be placed at the south west corner of the church overlooking the churchyard.

PCC unanimously agreed this could go ahead.

Safe from Harm Nominations

Safe from Harm nominations were received for:

Roger Lancaster
Beatrice Massey
David Powell
Brenda Greet
Shirley Bignall
Gaynor Powell
Patricia Hocking
Patricia Short
Carol De-La-Hunty
Sharon Albon- Crouch
Norman Low
Joyce Bevan

PCC unanimously agreed these nominations can go ahead.

Any Other Business

JV invited HJ to inform the PCC about her forthcoming visit with a Diocesan team to Uganda led by Revd Chris Dobson in January 2010. This will form part of an exploration of her call to ordination training. HJ asked the PCC for their prayers and JV pointed out that this may be something that members of Christ Church might like to support Helen in financially. HJ spoke of how she has been blessed with financial gifts already and thanked the PCC for their encouragement.

Date and Time of Next PCC Meeting

The next meeting for the Parochial Church Council will take place on Wednesday 13th January 2010 at 7.15pm in the Creche Room in Christ Church.