

St. Peter's Church

Worship Committee

Held on Monday 25 October 2021 by Zoom

Present: Gill Heard (Chair), Bill Zarrett, Jenny Park, Jenny Palmer, Richard Stenlake, Kate Henshall, Julian May, Joanna Hall-Tomkin, Anne Searle

Gill did not, on this occasion, open the meeting with a prayer but wanted to thank the following for all their help during the re-ordering and interregnum:

The bell ringers, visiting clergy, sides people, the choir, the organist, sound man, flower arrangers, social organisers, Tim, our P.A., sacristans, church cleaners, readers, prayer leaders, architects and archaeologist, worshippers.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Matters Arising

Gill said that some people from St. Peter's have helped Steph with the Zoom services, for which she is most grateful.

Tim's Concert had gone very well and had been thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. She thanked Tim for organising this. He has said he would be willing to do this again in the future.

3. Review of Services held

Gill confirmed that we had had a variety of Clergy taking the services, especially Bishop Jackie who had taken the Harvest service. Everyone thought that her service had been very good. She is keen to come again, when some of the work has been completed. In answer to a question by Julian, it was confirmed that there had been a lack of Harvest 'decoration' due to the work being carried out.

Arch Deacon Andrew Beane had also attended a service on 17 October. He also attended a service at St. Andrew's beforehand. He will be paramount in helping St Peter's to find a new vicar. He will be attending again on 21 November, taking a service at Chevithorne beforehand.

Baptisms Jenny said that there had been 2 or 3 baptisms and that more were coming up. 2 on 7 November, during the service, and more in December and February. It was explained that they were trying to fit in one per month, two of which have been, or will be, during the service. Gill said that she was most grateful to Jenny and Rosie Longbourne for taking on the Baptism visits. We are keen to keep strong links with the families following Baptism. It was noted that there is still a place for children attending services in the Greenway Chapel under the supervision of Sheila and others. Gill thanked Kate for suggesting this.

4. Future Services

Remembrance service - Unfortunately, the Remembrance Service cannot be held at St. Peter's this year due to the lack of space so it will be held at the Methodist Church. Rev. Jane Wilson will be taking our service on 14 November and it will have a Remembrance theme. The service will commence at 10.50 a.m.

Christmas services - Gill explained that, unfortunately, it was not possible to hold the Christingle service, Carol service or Midnight Mass. Bill said that the work at the back of the church could be completed by the end of November, at which time the work could commence on the front of the church. However, it is not possible to be definite about the timing.

The Christmas Day service will still proceed. Iain Johnson will be taking the service, starting at 11 a.m.

When asked if the Midnight Mass could go ahead, Gill explained that she was very concerned about the poor lighting leading to the portals. It was felt by some of those present that the Midnight service should go ahead – even if it had to be cancelled at the last minute. Although somebody would have to be found to take the service, Julian said her son, Edmund, would play the organ if he was visiting. It was agreed that this should go ahead and would start at 11.30 p.m.

St. Andrew's are holding a 9 Lessons and Carols service on 19 December at 4 p.m. Bill is waiting to find out if they will have enough room for any of the St. Peter's congregation who may wish to attend. They are being very cautious with regard to Covid 19, all are wearing masks and seating is socially distanced.

New Year services – from the New Year our services will return to the previous time of 10.15 a.m. The 8 a.m. service will be in November and from then will be held on the first Sunday of each month in the main body of the church.

5. Choir Items

Graham continues to play for our services and, when he is absent, he pre-records the music. Gill said that Lydia had returned and Izzie has joined the choir. She has been attending all services and choir rehearsals, acting as conductor and is doing a very good job. We are very fortunate to have them. In the new year, given the earlier starting time of services, it is intended to return to singing the Gloria etc.

With regard to the wearing of masks and social distancing, Bill explained that we are following church guidance which means that, at the moment, people are free to wear a mask, or not. Also social distancing is not required but that the congregation are naturally spacing themselves. Kate said that she had visited a church where they had two areas – one for social distancing and one without restrictions. However, it was felt that we would not adopt this method.

6. Any Other Business

Following a question by Joanna, it was confirmed that refreshments would be available on the first Sunday of each month. It was not easy to maintain social distancing. It was decided to follow this until the new year and to re-assess when it is clear how much space would be available. There would then be access to the kitchen and toilets.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.50p.m.

The date of the next Meeting will be Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 7.30 p.m. on Zoom (The date of 3 January which had been set is a Bank Holiday)