

St. Peter's Church

Worship Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 22 August, 2022

Present: Gill Heard (Chair), Kate Henshall, Julian May, Jennifer Palmer, Jennifer Park, Richard Stenlake, Bill Zarrett.

Apologies: Joanna Hall-Tomkin

Gill opened with a prayer.

1. Minutes of last meeting were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

18 September. The Mayor's Sunday and Parade will now take place on this date following the postponement on 24 July.

Director of Music. Interest was shown by a Musician and Choir Master named James Thomas from Weymouth who was due to visit St Peter's. He had to withdraw following a move to the North. There have been no prospective applicants since.

The reordering is not yet complete but the present phase will possibly take place at the end of August. Because of structural problems there has had to be a new design for the mezzanine flooring. The Contractors will return at a later date and hopefully everything will be finished by the end of the year. They will enter through the North Door. Eventually professional Cleaners will be employed to go through the whole Church.

Following Richard's request Bill told the Meeting that the words of the Gloria had been reprinted and were available from the Vestry for anyone who would like them.

Bill told us that the advertisement for the post of Rector was advertised in August. Good interest has been shown, but it is not known if applications have been received.

3. Review of services

The Choir sang at the Patronal Service of St Thomas's, Chevithorne in July. The Choir held its annual Lunch in the Village Hall after the Service.

The Wedding of Alicia Parr took place at St Peter's on 23 August and Dr Rachel Bundy in the Greenway Chapel on 9 August. Both families were delighted with their days.

The Baptism of Georgia Smejkal took place during Morning Service on 21 August. Jenny Palmer and the Reverend Christopher Rowley had visited the family beforehand. This went very well and members of the congregation was pleased to be involved.

21 August was also Bell Ringers' Sunday. They took part in the readings and the prayers, and provided coffee and refreshments after the service.

4. Future services

Two baptisms are taking place on 4 September, one during the morning service and one at 3 pm (no sound needed at 3 pm). The services will be taken by Mike Clark and Jane Taylor.

Mayor's Sunday on 18 September. Same procedure as before with a rehearsal on Friday 16 September at 6 pm. Jenny Palmer offered her assistance that evening. Interviews are taking place that day but will be finished by then. Kate and Julian sent their apologies as they will be unable to attend the service.

Visiting Clergy: Over the time of the Interregnum St Peter's has had the assistance of many visiting clergy, which has been most welcome and appreciated. Jane Taylor has been a regular celebrant and likes to do as many services as she can and is getting to know the congregation. Gill wanted to share this with us, as Jane feels it is a special place for her where she is called to help particularly with baptisms and funerals. She considers it her outreach. Also she has been very welcoming and has made an effort to get to know people who have been to Church and who are new to Tiverton.

9 October: There will be a celebration of the completion of the reordering at Morning Service. Bishop Robert will preside and it will be our Harvest Festival as well. We have so much to be thankful for, and he will help us celebrate that date. We discussed having a Bring and Share Lunch after the Service in our new space instead of a separate Harvest Supper and it was felt that this was an excellent idea. Gill's daughter Sarah has recently been appointed Head at Bolham School and it is hoped that she may be able to get a junior choir together to sing at the service.

Julian is in the process of preparing the readers' list from September to December. Because of the way the dates fall this year in Trinity, it was decided that All Saints' Day and Bible Sunday will be recognised. The service that Sunday is being taken by Archdeacon Andrew Beane.

5. Six members of the Choir went to sing at the wedding of our archivist, Emma Down. It was a really lovely occasion with refreshments in the churchyard afterwards.

Thanks must be given to the choir for continuing without a Director of Music.

An enquiry has been received about the availability of a scholarship in the Autumn of 2023 for a prospective Student at Exeter University.

Bill and Gill will liaise over a letter of thanks to the Amory family for their continued support and give them an update on the programme.

Graham again deserves our thanks for his continuing support in helping us. At present he is sorting out the hymns for the next two months. He is so good.

The choir is back in the choir stalls. This is where they would like to stay while receiving Communion and not move down to the pews by the organ. Everyone agreed wholeheartedly.

Discussion took place on the best way to approach the altar from the nave for taking Communion. We are still trying to perfect the system to avoid overcrowding. Kate told us of her experience of other Churches. We will continue to experiment to find the perfect system.

It was a matter of regret that we do not use the High Altar but it was the intention to do so at Christmas and Easter.

A new, moveable Communion table is being designed to accommodate concerts etc. We will refer to the High Altar as The Altar and on the dais as the Communion table, to distinguish between the two. The cross will stay on the altar at all times.

6. Any other business

Kneelers: We are oversupplied with kneelers now due to the reduction in the number of pews, and some feel the Church looks very cluttered when they are all out on the ledges. They are very important to some people, as they are stitched in memory of loved ones. Different ideas are still being considered. The Memorial and Greenway Chapels have their own sets. Please give this some thought.

Gill praised the work of the DIY team during all the upheaval. They have been incredible.

Prayer diary. A volunteer is needed for the prayer diary in the monthly magazine. Please give this some thought.

Date of next meeting. This was fixed for Monday 24 October at 7.30 pm on Zoom.

The Grace was said together.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.