

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Worship Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 24th October, 2022

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

Apologies for Absence Joanna Hall-Tomkin, Jennifer Palmer, Richard Stenlake.

Gill opened with a Prayer.

1. Minutes of last Meeting held on Monday, 22nd August, 2022 were approved and signed.
2. Matters Arising The postponed Mayor's Sunday was cancelled because of the death of The Queen.

Gill reported that it was with deep regret that they had been unable to appoint a new Rector at the recent Interviews. Three Candidates were interviewed and the one that was offered the post sadly declined for various reasons. Advertising will take place again shortly.

Graham has been a phenomenal help playing the Organ most Sundays. In future he has asked if he can play for one Sunday in three. It was proposed to publish the Vacancy again and Bill told those present that he had noticed that other Churches are also seeking organists at present. We have been lucky that John Fitton from St. Andrew's has played for us and also Peter King from Bath Abbey on two occasions.

Julian's son will be home for Christmas and is happy to play the Organ when he can.

3. Services Held Two Baptisms have taken place recently at Morning Prayer with Mike Clark officiating and one in the afternoon when Jane Wilson took the Service.

We held the Harvest Festival with St. Andrew's and St. Thomas's, but Bishop Robert sadly had to cancel, due to needing surgery. It was held later and we combined this with a Bring and Share Lunch which was much enjoyed. Donations for CHAT were brought to the Service.

4. Future Services

Remembrance Day Service will be very different this year as it is being organised by the Town Council and will take place outside the Town Hall. The Mayor's Chaplain, The Reverend Andy Humm will lead the proceedings and give a short Sermon, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The two Minute Silence will be observed at 11am followed by the Wreath Laying Ceremony. The Mayoral Party and Organisations will then process to St. Peter's Church at 11.15 for a short Service starting at 11.45 am and ending at 12.30 pm. There will be no Service of Holy Communion at St. Peter's on that day. At present we are awaiting the Order of Service from Andy Humm to let us know what is involved. Great sadness is felt about this change. St. Peter's is the Civic Church of the Town. Bill told us the background to the organisation of the event which included the fact that road closures have to be applied for three months in advance. It is hoped and expected to revert to the usual Remembrance Day Service next year.

Advent Sunday The Service will take place on Sunday, 27th November. The Choir are getting ready to sing something special that day.

Carol Service to be held on Sunday, 18th December at 6.30 pm. Keith Gale will officiate. Julian asked if there would be special Readers for that Service and Gill said she was intending to get in touch with Robert to see if he has a format that we can follow. Julian said she was sure they had one at home and she would look it out for Gill, who thanked her.

Christingle will be at 4 pm on 24th December and the Service will be taken by Ann Thorne. Jean Vickery is organising the making of the Christingles and is requesting offers of help. Bill will look out a poster and we can display it on the Gate. It will be nice to have the Church full again for that.

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will be held at 11.30 pm. It is to be led by Andrew Beane.

Christmas Morning at 10.15 am there will be a short Family Service with Holy Communion led by Mike Clark.

5. Choir Items Again, our thanks must go to Graham for his dedicated playing of the Organ over such a long period. We are also very grateful to Lydia Fitton, the Leader and Conductor of the Choir. Lydia has offered to rehearse and lead the Choir up until Christmas for us. Afterwards she will review her position because of other commitments. She is enjoying the experience very much as she hasn't done this before. Julian hoped this didn't mean she wouldn't sing a solo at the Carol Service as she has a beautiful voice.

Tom Mitchell, one of our Bell Ringers, has joined the Choir. We are very pleased about this, as it adds support to the male voices. He is a Verger at the Cathedral so is not able to be with us every Sunday.

Next Sunday we have a Student named Claire from Exeter University coming to see us, who is interested in becoming a Choral Scholar.

You will have noticed that the Choir moved to sing by the Organ last Sunday for Communion. Graham and Lydia requested this because it is easier to hear the Organ.

Gill thanked Kate for her suggestion regarding the way the Congregation approach the Altar for Communion, which she experienced in another Church. This means the Communicants move from the sides and back of the Church first and return to their seats via the side aisles thus avoiding a crush in the Nave. It is proving most successful.

On the 25th September, eight members of the Choir sang at St. Andrew's for their Songs of Praise afternoon Service. They were entertained to a delicious tea afterwards which was much enjoyed.

6. Any other Business Julian asked Gill about Readers at the Carol Service. Usually this would be selected members of the Church and Community who are named on the Order of Service, not the regular Readers. Gill will look into that.

Gill will ask Robert Gordon about the Order of Service for Christingle.

At present Holy Communion is distributed by Intinction. This will continue because of cases of Covid.

A Volunteer is needed to take over the Prayer Diary for the Magazine. Adi has done it for so long now she would really like to hand it over to someone else.

Jean Jenner has asked Gill to let us know that she is now making contact with the Residential Homes where Communion or short Services are needed. Also she is already giving Communion to people in their own homes who are housebound. She is aided by Helen Fensome and Sue Beale.

Date of next Meeting was arranged for 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 3rd January, 2023 on Zoom.

The Grace was said in conclusion.