

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Worship Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 5th January, 2023.

Present Gill Heard (Chair), Joanna Hall-Tomkin, Kate Henshall, Julian May, Jennifer Palmer, Jennifer Park, Richard Stenlake, Bill Zarrett.

Absences -

Gill opened with a prayer.

1. Minutes of last Meeting held on Monday, 24th October 2022 were approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising

Gill reported that following a further advertising for the Post of Rector three Applications had been received. Two were unsuitable. The third candidate was liked and probably in his mid to late 50's. He came into the Church from a Business/Management background. Jo asked if it was decided not to appoint him what the procedure would be thereafter. Bill said the Diocese could step in and move someone else into the role, but all three parties would have to agree. This has to be a unilateral decision. The Interview will take next week on Wednesday, 11th January at 12 noon and it was hoped that the matter will then be resolved.

A musician, recently moved to Exeter, has been in contact regarding the Post of Organist/Choir Master. His main interest, it is thought, is as an Organist and we will meet him shortly. Graham has been involved in these discussions as he deals with the Diocese Organist Websites for Vacancies. It is thought that the two roles could be split and a meeting with Lydia will take place to see if she would like to continue with the Choir. The Fitton Family have been involved with the music in Church, which is greatly appreciated.

Organists who play for us are John Fitton; Peter King, who is also happy to fill in when he can. Simon Trott, who is a Bell Ringer, also plays. Although inexperienced, he is very willing and practices a lot. He played for the Christingle and the Midnight Service.

Gill thanked Julian's son Edmund for offering to play the Organ at Christmas. Although he was unable to do so this time, it was hoped that he could in the future. We are most grateful for his offer.

3. Review of Services Held

Remembrance Day on 13th November was very different for us this year with the Service starting at 11.45 am for the first time. It attracted a lot of people into St. Peter's and many more than was expected. This included flag bearers, Parade people and the Public and we were very pleased by this. During 2023 we will contact the Town Council much earlier and liaise with them so we can revert to the original procedure.

The Carol Service led by Keith Gale was held on 18th December with a good attendance. It was lovely and much appreciated by the many visitors. Lydia was instrumental in the organisation of the Service and some of her friends and family took part. The Quartet singing as people were entering

Church was particularly beautiful. She worked very hard and the singing with the enhanced Choir was a lovely addition.

The collection at the Carol Service raised £475 and is to be split between three Charities for the "The Fab Four Rowers".

Jo mentioned that perhaps the serving of the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies could be arranged in a different way next time. The queuing system had caused long waits, which took away the time for socialising in the big new space. This was noted.

Following a tip from Tim, our P.A., the readers were chosen from people fairly new to the Church. Everyone accepted Gill's invitation to read and it is thought that in the future they may be prepared to be added to the Reader's List.

Christingle was very well attended. Ann Thorne, who led the Service, was excellent. She made a great effort beforehand, helping with the making of the Christingles and meeting children involved. £340 was raised for the Children's Society.

Midnight Mass was taken by Andrew Beane and 50 people attended.

On Christmas Day the Service was taken by Mike Clark from Exeter. It was felt to be good and warm and there were families with children attending. Richard felt, however, felt that there was an emptiness on this great Christian Festival, without the Procession with the Cross and the Choir. Gill understood this and explained that you need 6 to 8 people to make a decent choir and this wasn't always possible.

Two Schools had their Christmas Service at St. Peter's. Castle School had their Carol Service and the Church was full. The School has already expressed a wish to return next year. Bolham School's celebration was a pageant with refreshments. It was lovely with parents and grandparents attending.

Bill reported that there were over 1000 people who came into the Church over the Christmas period.

Not really under this heading but Bill told the Meeting of the success of the Concert held at St. Peter's by the Blundell's School Music Department. They brought with them 70 Instrument Players, a 50-strong Choir and a Jazz Band. Performances took place in every corner of the Church. From a retiring collection we were able to cover our own costs and give a donation to CHAT. The staff and performers loved it and wish to return.

Other bookings have been made, namely the East Devon Choral Society who hire the Venue, and The Devon Baroque who get revenue from ticket sales, so we are starting to generate income and cover our costs.

The Sound System has been commented on and Bill has several helpers who can operate the system. It is intended that the operators should be paid in the future like other people officiating in services.

4. Future Services

The Baptism of a little girl named Clara is taking place on 22nd January during Morning Service which is being taken by Andrew Beane. The Family will be having Refreshments at the back of the Church following the Service. The Mum, Victoria, will be bringing these for approximately 30 of their guests.

Another Baptism is booked for March.

5. Choir Items

We wish to thank Graham again for playing the Organ and preparing Recordings when he is unable to be there.

Clare, a student at Exeter University, who was interested in becoming a Choral Scholar, has decided against taking it up. It would be too much with her forthcoming exams and she also has a young family. If we need a singer at any time she would be very willing to come.

Bill reported that they were in the process of replacing the small table used for Communion with a proper Communion Table to have on the Dais. Also high on the agenda are pew cushions and they are in the process of getting bids from two companies.

Bill also asked Gill whether at Easter and Holy Days we could use the High Altar. Help would needed to be given to people getting up the high step, but that can be arranged. Everyone very much agreed and would like to see the Acolytes robed as well.

The Choir was asked to sing Carols, with Readings and Prayers, at Ashdowne and Pinnex Moor House before Christmas. This couldn't take place because of the icy weather. Jean Jenner keeps in touch with these centres and administers Holy Communion there with others and visits people in the Community too. It is hoped to rearrange this on a future occasion. The Choir were invited back to Jean's house afterwards, so it was a pity it couldn't take place.

Tom Mitchell has joined the Choir. As a tenor, he is a very good addition to the Choir. He is also a Verger at the Cathedral, so is not always available.

6. Any other Business

Gill asked those present if they were happy continuing with the Intinction method of taking Communion. This was agreed because of the present resurgence of Flu levels.

Jo asked if there was a chance we could have a Taize Services again as it is so much enjoyed by many people. Gill thought Lydia may be interested in leading this because of her family's close association with Andrew Curtis.

Jo asked if it was possible to open up our Church as a Community space as others are doing for people struggling at this time. It was said that the Library is open every day and often St. George's for just such a purpose. She would like to see a collective response however and would raise the question at the next Deanery Synod Meeting to see if it was possible to do something to organise this.

Jo asked that a special vote of thanks be given to Sally Mundy for all she does in the Church. This was agreed.

Gill was asked if a volunteer had come forward to do the Prayer Chain in the Magazine. She said that Nicky Johnson had offered.

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Monday, 27th February.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.