

## ST PETER'S CHURCH TIVERTON

Minutes of Worship Committee held on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Present:** Gill Heard GH(Chair), Bill Zarrett BZ, The Revd Christian Hill CH, Thomas Mitchell TM, Julian May JM and Joanna Hall-Tomkin, JHT

**Apologies:** Kate Henshall, Jennifer Parks, Jennifer Palmer, Nickie Johnson

1. **Minutes** of meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 were deemed correct and were signed.
2. **Matters arising.**

Welcome Sheet. GH said that no-one had commented on the absence of the Welcome Sheet although BZ countered that by saying that some of the hard-of-hearing were not finding it easy. JM thought that NJ's provision of the page numbers on a small slip of paper was a good idea and that CH could alert the congregation at the start of the service to be prepared and find the pages in good time, because the paper is very thin and hard to handle. CH said that it was a good thing for people to be using the pew Bibles and finding their way around them. GH relayed that NJ had proposed an A5 format sheet with essential notices as well as the details of the readings, BZ agreed that the inclusion of forthcoming events would be useful and JHT thought that a small welcome sheet would be appealing and helpful for visitors. JHT offered to help produce such a sheet.

3. **Review of services held.**

**Parish Giving Scheme (Feb 18th)** – In an informative and sensitive way, Helen and CH gave information about finances, the Parish Giving Scheme and the need for people to think about their giving.

4. **Future Services.**

**Mothering Sunday - 10<sup>th</sup> March.** GH reminded us what normally happens during such a service and said that, as usual, the members of the congregation will be asked to bring posies to be distributed to mothers and other carers. CH proposes to contact the local schools and encourage attendance and JHT suggested advertising it in the schools' news bulletins, mentioning posies, refreshments and other attractions! JM wondered whether a non-eucharistic service would be less daunting for occasional church-goers and young families but GH and JHT remembered that in 2023 Archdeacon Andrew Beane had provided very accessible worship in a HC Mothering Sunday service.

GH mentioned the fact that Baptism follow-up had not brought many young families into church and that if we had a Mother and Toddler group, this could be helpful. JM agreed that churches do often have such a group but that there had to be someone – ideally with links to the church - willing and able to run it. JHT thought that a morning session would be more useful than an afternoon one which might clash with the end of the school day. GH recognised that in St. Peter's there was a need, first of all, to get the Childrens' Area comfortable and equipped and that Sally Mundy was organising a Spring Fair to raise funds for this purpose.

**Bellringers' Service, 17<sup>th</sup> March** This will be a celebration of the successful bell restoration project and the ringers will organise the hymns and readings. There will be a 'bring and share' lunch to follow.

At this point GH said that there was an urgent need to advertise the 'bring and share' lunch, the posies and also the donations for prizes at the Spring Fair. She will ask NJ to put these onto the (A5) Welcome Sheets a.s.a.p.

**Palm Sunday – 24<sup>th</sup> March** Archdeacon Andrew will be taking this service with CH. They will not be using the long reading. The usual procession with palms – which GH has ordered – will be discussed.

**Maundy Thursday – 28<sup>th</sup> March** Services at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's and at St. Andrew's churches.

**Good Friday - 29<sup>th</sup> March** JM felt it a shame that St. Peter's does not hold a service on Good Friday - perhaps the traditional 'One hour before the Cross'. There was general uncertainty about the worship offering in Tiverton. GH thought there might be a Town Service and a procession. BZ mentioned an event at the market. It was felt that there would certainly be a service in one of the churches in town.

**Easter – 31<sup>st</sup> March.**

**5. Choir items.**

Jenny Palmer is leaving the area so will also, of course, be leaving the choir. GH said that the choir had organised a farewell meal for Jenny on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Graham is keen for the choir to sing an anthem at Easter and is starting to hold practices.

Adi Pannifer has given a generous donation to the choir fund, for the purchase of music. GH will write to thank her.

Lena, a choir member, is not currently singing because her father has recently died and she is away from the area.

GH, Graham and Anne Searle have been choosing the weekly hymns – a long job – using the RSCM's guidelines and the 'favourite' hymns listed by members of the congregation. NJ had asked that during Lent we should sing some of the lovely hymns set for this season and GH was pleased to note that all the hymns sung last Sunday (25<sup>th</sup> February) were in fact in the RSCM's suggestions for Lent 2.

JM mentioned that she was aware of many fine hymns which she used to sing and which currently are not sung in St.Peter's, which she regretted; to which CH replied that there is a need to be sensitive to the issues of accessibility for the whole congregation, including visitors. Mention was made of a visitor to the church last

Sunday (25<sup>th</sup>) who was very appreciative of all elements of the service.

6. **AOB**

JHT said that she had noticed with pleasure an increasingly large group of people meeting together before the service, perhaps encouraged by the bright and open feel of the area?

JHT also asked what roles BZ and GH will retain when they step down as church wardens. GH will continue to sing in the choir and to do occasional Sacristan's duties. BZ will continue be involved with the finances. GH thanked us all for being part of the Worship Group, which she will miss. BZ is also leaving this group. JHT commented that many people had 'stepped up to the mark' during the interregnum and GH agreed that when a vacuum is created, people do tend to come forward to fill it!

7. **The date and time of next meeting** to be decided after the APCM

The meeting finished at 8.25 with the Grace.