

ST PETER'S CHURCH TIVERTON

Minutes of Worship Committee held on June 19th 2024

Present: Nickie Johnson NJ (Chair), The Revd.Christian Hill CH, Thomas Mitchell TM, Julian May JM, Kate Henshall KH, Rosie Longbourne RL, Stephen Lamdin SL

1. NJ opened the meeting with two prayers.
2. **Apologies:** Emma Cobbledick
3. **Minutes** of meeting held on 26th February 2024 were deemed correct and were signed.

4. **Matters arising**

No matters arising

5. **Welcome sheet**

NJ relayed that Tim Bayton (St Peter's office) was wondering what his role now was in the production of the Welcome sheet. As Tim produces an A4 sheet for Chevithorne it should not be too onerous to modify it for St Peter's (for online access). TM and JM thought that the black and white A5 version was sufficient in the pews and CH wondered whether any printed version was needed at all. NJ pointed out that some people cannot see the hymn boards and that others like to follow the readings (details that have been included on the Welcome sheet). CH and KH responded that people can sit closer to the front and in the correct position to access the loop system. SL said that he did not receive the email with the digital news sheet on and it was agreed that people need to be told / reminded of the office email address so that they can request to be added to the mailing list. NJ said that it was too late to include this information on this week's A5 news sheet produced by Ian which, further to this discussion, may well be the last one. KH said that she has been working on a welcome sheet for newcomers, which would include the office email address but had been held up by technical difficulties. When it is ready, it will be a useful reminder for regular church members as well. NJ agreed to mention these decisions to Tim.

RL said that we must be careful not to exclude people who cannot / do not use the internet.

NJ asked RL to ensure the hymn numbers were put on all the appropriate boards before the service.

6. **Choir and new song books**

NJ approved of the new song / hymn booklet and wanted to thank Graham formally for putting it together. CH will write to him. RL pointed out that the booklet is called 'Songs of Thankfulness and Worship' and that songs to be sung

from the booklet will be denoted by a red 'S' before the number on the hymn boards.

RL talked about the choir's recent change to their procession up the aisle: in order to avoid the steps they will all, except the crucifer, peel off to left and right after the front pew and access the chancel via the side chapels.

CH asked if the choir could, perhaps, sit in a different place altogether, next to the organ and facing the nave in order that they can be more clearly heard and also so that they are closer to the organist / choir leader. RL objected that the choir have just made one change (to their procession). NJ thought it better to talk to the choir and to Graham before any decision was taken about this, and she and RL will do this asap.

7a. Review of services held.

Palm Sunday – KH commented on Palm Sunday's service with Andrew Bean, which had been innovative and well received. JM thought that it had been 'well orchestrated' and NJ agreed that a Church service often feels like 'theatre'. SL commented that one might wish for a bit more 'theatre' occasionally!

Good Friday – NJ felt it a shame that there had been no Good Friday service in St Peter's, since it arguably the most 'important' (civic) church in Tiverton. CH responded that he had received the impression that the Worship group, which included the churchwardens at that time, would have discussed this and decided not to have a service. *(See minutes for 26/02/24: '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.'* No decision was taken by the Worship group and there was perhaps no clear indication given about what Good Friday services had been held in St Peter's in recent years. Certainly no suggestion for or against – just the regret that there wasn't one!) KH said that there had been Holy Week services – often Compline – in recent years and TM agreed that such services, even if poorly attended, are very special. JM thought there had been a service on Good Friday in St Peter's before Covid. NJ said that they would need to be well advertised and regretted that Roy (and his posters!) were no longer with us. CH said that, being the civic church, we really need churchwardens. To which KH replied that the PCC was collectively taking on the duties of the churchwardens.

7b. Future Services

30th June St Peter's Patronal Festival, 10.15 a.m.

7th July Chevithorne Patronal Festival, 10 a.m. No service at St Peter's

10th November Remembrance Sunday. The need was highlighted to avoid St Peter's again being 'sidelined' by the Council during this celebration. CH is

trying to rebuild the relationship and is in talks with the Mayor, who will be attending the 10.15 service on 28th July, which will involve a Q and A session during the sermon slot.

13th October (to be confirmed) The choir of St James, Exeter is to come to St Peter's to sing Choral Evensong. NJ asked if we could combine the 2 choirs and practise the music beforehand. It was assumed that Tim Bayton would be in charge. RL commented that St Peter's was at a disadvantage, having no Director of Music.

7. Advice for readers and intercessors

NJ mentioned the need for the readings to be introduced in the correct way. Although other people were less worried about this, NJ and JM will prepare an addendum to the Readers' rota which could help the readers when they are preparing their readings.

NJ was concerned that one reader did not use the version recommended in Common Worship. However, CH and KH thought that the important thing is for the readings to be comprehensible.

NJ commented that she would like the intercessors to reflect, in some way, the theme of the readings in their prayers.

8. AOB

a. Holy Communion and alternative services (*this was discussed earlier but was not on the agenda*)

SL said that his wife felt that Holy Communion (HC) is exclusive and would like Morning Prayer occasionally. This could be on the first Sunday of the month when there is an 8 a.m. HC. A lively debate ensued:

KH: Large numbers of people want a weekly HC

CH: People also want what they know, however, change is a good thing.

RL: A baptism could be a non HC service.

JM: Is there a more modern form of Morning Prayer?

NJ: HC is incomprehensible to most baptism groups, who should not be expected to sit through such a service.

CH: The last baptism with HC was well received by the family, who subsequently wanted to make donations.

NJ: Does CH go through the HC element of the service with the family before the day?

CH: Up to a point, the relevant bits. He tries to dovetail the Baptism element with the HC.

TM: It would be better to have a single booklet for 'Baptism with HC' which would make it simpler for everyone.

CH: This will happen in time. The most important thing is for the family to feel welcome.

NJ: The congregation often feels excluded. It would be good to encourage them to stand and face the font, etc.

JM: Perhaps a 'Morning Praise', non HC, would be suitable, on the 1st Sunday, and use that Sunday for any baptisms.

RL: A fixed day is difficult because families have to fit a baptism into their busy lives and get other family members together.

CH: Yes, a family has just asked to rearrange a baptism date, at short notice.

NJ: Having a non HC service on variable Sundays would cause confusion for the regular congregation.

RL: Would this matter? We should not 'spoon feed' people.

TM: How to keep in touch with baptism families after the event?

RL: There are no follow-up visits. They are invited to Christingle and Mothering Sunday services but often these young families have moved on to new addresses.

JM, CH, NJ: There are many difficulties integrating the families into the Church.

CH: Need to pray; need to be flexible – it's not going to be straightforward. We need to look out for opportunities to move forward.

KH: Has Shelia Richardson been approached about the possible toddler group? She will talk to Shelia. (*cf: Minutes, 26/02/24. '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.'*)

NJ: There are many roles to be filled and people need to be made aware of them and encouraged to sign up.

b. SL asked CH how he would like services to change.

CH replied that for him, to glorify God was primordial, especially via music, which lifts the congregation. He wants the congregation to know the hymns and to sing them with fervour.

There is room, he said, for other services but he would need help to organise these. He is happy to set things up, with help, if there is a requirement or request. His other main aim is to bring new people in, at the same time nourishing the current members of St Peter's with a range of services. If we don't bring in new members the church will die; music is one way forward.

More people need to come forward to help.

We need to pray about the way ahead.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 16th October at 7.30 in church.

The meeting finished at 9 p.m. with the Grace.