

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2021 – St Peter's, Draycott

26/05/2021 – in church

Minutes

1. Welcome

Stuart Burns, Rector; John English, lay chair

Stuart started the meeting with a reading and a prayer. John took the chair.

2. Attendance, apologies

Attending: Stuart Burns, David Cheetham, Nikki Devitt, Gill Dury, John English, Chris Fulton, Chris Green, Tricia Lumley, Pat Mullan, Thea Oliver.

Apologies: Sarah Burns, Audrey Morgan, Barry and Buffy Rose, Lynda Whittle (Lynda had sent us all a message of support, thanks and encouragement).

3. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 14/10/20 were voted to be an accurate record (proposed John English, seconded Thea Oliver, all in favour).

4. Vestry meeting for churchwardens

There has been only one nomination for the post of churchwarden, Chris Green. Stuart asked if he was prepared to carry on as sole churchwarden. Chris said he felt well supported and was willing to do this for the time being, delegating to others where appropriate. We should look for other candidates during the year ahead.

Chris was therefore declared as the churchwarden for 2021/22.

5. Statutory Reports

Electoral Roll (report A)

Chris Green (standing in for Richard Dingley)

This was accepted. John English said he was ready to step in as the new electoral roll officer.

Report on PCC proceedings (report B)

Chris Green (PCC Secretary)

NB. The report has a typo – we have a vacancy for an electoral roll officer, not covenant secretary (corrected in version 3 of the reports).

Financial report (report C)

David Cheetham (PCC Treasurer)

David pointed out that we are still losing money, at a rate of £500 per month.

The current account recently stood at £12,014. There are two weddings coming up, which will add slightly to our reserves.

We have paid the parish share in full. NB. The share is the equivalent of £10 per person who is recorded as attending church. This year the Diocesan Board of Finance will use the previous year's attendance figures to calculate our parish share for the following year.

Stuart thanked David for his work, and reported that St Andrew's have paid all the benefice expenses for last year (normally St Peter's contributes 15%). In the coming year we will be asked to pay half of the normal contribution (i.e. 7.5%).

We were very grateful for this subsidy. Chris Green to write a letter of thanks to the Cheddar churchwardens.

Thea Oliver proposed accepting the accounts and report, Chris Green seconded; all in favour.

Churchwarden's fabric report (report D)

Chris Green (churchwarden)

A question was asked about the safety of the large beech tree in the old churchyard.

CG responded that this is awaiting a tree inspection by Mendip District Council – one was requested in February this year but we have heard nothing. CG thought that the more urgent concerns are probably with the lime tree avenue (which are in need of pollarding, and shed a lot of debris), and also with the yew tree by the car park, which also sheds dead wood. Both limes and the yew overhang paths taken regularly by school parents and children.

Deanery synod report (report E)

Tricia Lumley (synod representative)

Tricia encouraged all to attend, as these were interesting meetings.

We noted the presence of our Member of Parliament, James Heapey, on one of these meetings, when a motion was presented regarding the forthcoming Climate and Ecological Emergency bill. We had not found his approach supportive.

6. Other Reports

Worship report (report F)

Chris Green (lay reader)

Stuart acknowledged that our ZOOM worship had been a successful development for the time of the pandemic, but we would aim to phase it out as lockdown eased. Sunday ZOOM services would continue during July and probably August (NB. there are currently about 20 attending, but most would be willing to return to church once lockdown is fully lifted). The evening prayer services have also fewer attending (sometimes only four) and these services would also be reviewed in the coming weeks.

Appreciation was expressed for the music we were enjoying on Sunday services (we are more fortunate than many - Rodney Stoke, for example). However we were sad not to have congregational participation. At the current time we cannot be sure when this will change.

The wish was expressed for the hymns recorded by Barry and David to be released on a CD.

Covenant report (report G)

John English (covenant secretary)

(report delivered verbally at the meeting). John has just completed gift aid claims totalling £1,600. There are currently 22 covenanters. John was thanked for his work.

Safeguarding report (report H)

Thea Oliver (parish safeguarding officer)

There are some resolutions we need to pass – to be deferred to the next PCC.

Environmental report (report I)

Nikki Devitt

There are issues to be addressed by the PCC – for example, there is an 'Ecochurch' self-assessment form that should get us started. This has been delayed by the pandemic but we should tackle these issues as soon as possible.

At Stuart's request Nikki agreed to attend the next PCC to start the ball rolling.

School report (report J)

Nikki Devitt

Stuart thanked Nikki and Thea for helping to maintain this important link. NB. Ruth Motion might be able to join the team in the next year. We have been helped greatly by the positive attitude of both the senior teacher at Draycott and the head teacher of the federation.

Health and safety report (report K)

Richard Oliver (health and safety officer)

We thanked Richard Oliver for filling this important role. His latest report will help to drive our discussions of fabric at the PCC in the coming year.

Supporters of St Peter's (report L)

Karen Percival (SoSP)

The team was commended for the displays on the Glebe field – the camel was a welcome addition to the Christmas tableau! This had been made by Graham Cragg, and SoSP hoped he would create further figures in future.

The Easter display was also original and eye-catching. With the church nearly invisible from the main road, these displays help greatly to give the church a visible presence in the village.

A correction was made to the Christian Aid report – the part on gift aid should read 'of which £327 was gift aided' (corrected in version 3 of reports). NB. The report only applies to the 2021 Christian Aid week.

Magazine (report M)

Rob Walker (editor)

We are very grateful to Rob Walker for keeping this going to such a high standard.

David reported that we now have the monies from advertisers. Printing is currently being done in the church office – unfortunately, Kings of Wessex are not now accepting external print jobs so the current rather more expensive and onerous option will need to continue (each month's run takes Rob and/or Samm about two hours of standing by the printer).

Heather Robinson had stood down as magazine distribution co-ordinator for Draycott, after many years – we thanked her for all the work she had put in to this. Gill Dury had kindly agreed to take over this job. Gill suggested we should collect the annual subscription when we distributed the July edition (this would normally be done at the start of the year, but was deferred due to lockdown restrictions).

7. Appointment of laity to the PCC

The following were appointed *ex officio*: Stuart Burns (rector), Thea Oliver (curate), Chris Green (churchwarden), Tricia Lumley (deanery synod representative).

The following had been duly proposed and have indicated their willingness to stand: John English, Gill Dury, David Cheetham and Pat Mullay. Their appointment was approved by all.

8. Appointment of sides men/women

There are currently only three, Gill Dury, Pat Mullay and Chris Fulton (NB. Lynda has stepped down). They are managing, but would appreciate help!

9. Appointment of independent financial examiner

We would like Alan Rowntree to do this for us again, if he is willing (proposed: Tricia Lumley, seconded Thea Oliver; all were in favour).

10. Remarks from the rector

Stuart Burns - see reports

Stuart added the following to his written report:

Three year groups from school (years 9, 10 and 12) are coming to St Andrew's for the end of year service. This is a significant moment – there have not been school services since Christmas 2019! The Ascension Day video presentation was an innovative contribution to the tradition this year.

The success of the ZOOM services for children is something we should take forward – the Christingle and Easter services were very well attended. We might continue these after the pandemic, as it appears easier to get non-church families to join in.

Stuart also remarked on the growth of the leadership team with the addition of Ruth Motion (added to the rota for all churches from July 4th), and Thea's priesting on the 26th June, with her first celebration of Eucharist at the joint benefice service on the 27th. We hope to follow this by a social event in Draycott Memorial Hall (sign-up sheets will be at the back of all our churches).

11. Any other matters of importance to the parish

- Thea thanked us all for supporting her over the past few years, especially the last one. She also expressed all our gratitude to Stuart for his leadership over a difficult time.
- Chris Fulton expressed the thanks of those from the general congregation to all the PCC for keeping the church going over the past year.
- As a point of information – Richard Dingley's 90th birthday will be on the 6th of June. He will have a ZOOM party, and there will be a parachute jump on the recreation ground. We hope as many as possible of the congregation will be able to support both events.