

# **Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2022 – St Peter's, Draycott**

## **Minutes**

24/04/2022 at 11 am – in church

### **1. Welcome**

*Stuart Burns, Rector; John English, lay chair*

### **2. Attendance, apologies**

*Attending:* Stuart Burns, David Cheetham, Nikki Devitt, Gill Dury, John English, Chris Fulton, Chris Green, Gordon and Colette Jeff, Pat Mullay, Barry and Buffy Rose, Rob Walker, Lynda Whittle. *Apologies:* Sarah Burns, Tricia Lumley, Thea Oliver

### **3. Minutes from last meeting**

Minutes from 26/05/21 were voted to be an accurate record (proposed Gill Dury, seconded David Cheetham, 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, and Chris replied that he was.

A motion to accept Chris Green as churchwarden was proposed by Buffy Rose, and seconded by Colette Jeff. All were in favour. Chris was therefore declared as the churchwarden for 2022/23.

### **5. Statutory Reports**

#### **Electoral Roll (report A)**

*John English*

(Verbal): "Although there have been some changes in the last year, the electoral roll remains at 35".

### **6. Report on PCC proceedings (report B)**

*Chris Green (PCC Secretary)*

Stuart thanked Nikki for her input into the PCC, raising the priority of the environmental agenda in both Draycott and the wider benefice. Thanks also to John as lay chair, and secretary Chris.

### **7. Financial report (report C)**

*David Cheetham (PCC Treasurer)*

There was disquiet at the further increase in the parish share, and the large expenditure of the diocese. In the face of increasing defaults on payment in many parishes, is there a long term plan? David responded that cost-cutting measures have been put in place, but the future looks difficult.

David explained the basis of the parish share, with reasons for the increases. Stuart commended us for paying our share in full, and commented that the other churches in the benefice had capped their increases year on year to 4% until now (which had been less than the amount requested).

We thanked David, and also Alan Rowntree, the independent financial examiner.

Barry proposed acceptance of the accounts and Colette seconded. All were in favour.

### **8. Churchwarden's fabric report (report D)**

*Chris Green (churchwarden)*

Chris gave further details of the quinquennial survey findings.

It was asked whether rats would be encouraged by our rewilding efforts in the churchyard. This seems unlikely, if we confine ourselves to creating or enhancing the habitats mentioned (i.e. grass meadow, bird boxes, insect houses, log piles, compost heaps- NB. no food waste, only garden waste). We should probably not have bird feeders for this reason, however.

### **9. Deanery synod report (report E)**

*Tricia Lumley (synod representative) – NB. Tricia was not present*

(no comments).

### **10. Other Reports**

#### **Worship report (report F)**

*Chris Green (lay reader)*

Stuart remarked that ZOOM services were still in regular use in the benefice – three evening services in the week, and once a month on Sundays. He repeated the thanks to Barry and David for the music they had recorded – this has proved an invaluable 'bank', which is still in use for some ZOOM services.

#### **Covenant report (report G)**

*John English (covenant secretary)*

Verbal report. "Gift aid claims totalling £2,452.34 have been received. As of the end of December we had 20 covenanters, two less than the previous year". John clarified the covenant arrangements. NB. Individual covenanters are identified to HMRC.

The meeting thanked John for negotiating all this for us.

#### **Safeguarding report (report H)**

*Thea Oliver (parish safeguarding officer)*

In response to a question, Stuart added some remarks about training. The basic training is about 90 min on-line. Jim Reeve is benefice safeguarding administrator- he will tell us who needs training.

#### **School report (report I)**

*Nikki Devitt*

There was a lovely service for Easter this year – Stuart and Thea led it.

#### **Health and safety report (report J)**

*Richard Oliver (health and safety officer)*

There was a question about the key safe. The keys are still available from the previous location.

## **Supporters of St Peter's (report K)**

*Karen Percival (SoSP)*

The jumble sales have been disappointing. Perhaps this form of fundraising is no longer worthwhile? The Lent soup lunch was successful, as have been the coffee and cake mornings.

We thanked the members of SoSP for their many contributions to church and village life.

## **Magazine (report L)**

*Rob Walker (editor)*

Rob pointed out that this was a (rare?) joint enterprise between Draycott and Rodney Stoke. He reminded us that the real cost was going up. If this were passed on, the price would rise to £1 per copy. So far it was being generously subsidised by St Andrew's, as the benefice office does not charge us for the printing. The two PCCs should consider a modest price rise.

Stuart thanked Rob and pointed out that he has to stand over the copier to print out each edition, which takes some time. We were all very appreciative.

## **11. Appointment of laity to the PCC**

The following are on the PCC *ex officio*: Stuart Burns (rector), Thea Oliver and Ruth Motion (curates), Chris Green (churchwarden), Tricia Lumley (deanery synod representative).

The following have indicated their willingness to stand again: John English, Gill Dury, David Cheetham and Pat Mullan. They were accepted *en bloc* by the meeting.

## **12. Appointment of sides men/women**

There are currently three: Gill Dury, Chris Fulton and Pat Mullan. We could do with more!

## **13. Appointment of independent financial examiner**

We would like Alan Rowntree to do this for us again, if he is willing (proposed: David Cheetham, seconded Colette Jeff; all were in favour).

## **14. Remarks from the rector**

*Stuart Burns - see reports*

Chris Green responded with our appreciation – of Stuart's leadership, and the reassurance in a small parish of being part of a larger and well-run benefice. Lynda Whittle added her thanks to the PCC.

## **15. Any other matters of importance to the parish**

Nikki asked if we could have more benefice services next winter to save on heating bills. Gordon said it was important that there was a service at a known time and place in the village, or people would lose the habit of coming (and there are many in all the parishes who do not attend services in the other churches).

Other measures were proposed, but these would need to be discussed by the PCCs.