

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council, St. Peter's Draycott

Held on 01/12/2020 at 7:30 p.m. on ZOOM

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1. Opening prayers

Stuart opened the meeting with a psalm and prayer, and Thea took the chair.

2. Attendance and apologies

<i>Present</i>		<i>Apologies</i>	
Stuart Burns	SB	Gill Dury	GD
David Cheetham	DC	John English	JE
Chris Green	CG	Pat Mullay	PM
Tricia Lumley	TL		
Thea Oliver	TO		

3. Any amendments of minutes from 10/09/20

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record; Thea will sign them.

4. Additions or amendments to the agenda

(none received)

5. Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes

Meeting of 10/09/20:

#4c. (Thea's ordination). Went ahead as announced. NB. Thea's hours minuted, for reference

#4e. (Card Trust). Further rep needed. Tricia Lumley volunteered- TO will send information

#4h. (Thomas family for PCC). Shaji & Jinci accepted in principle but could not be informed in time about the current meeting, arranged at short notice (we need their email address).

#4i. (Lay chair of PCC). JE had told Stuart that he would be willing to chair future meetings.

6. Items of business

5a. Upcoming services in church

- (i) From Sunday 6th December we will revert to the service rota drawn up before lockdown. One change is that Thea will preach on 6th December, having swapped with Stuart on the previous Sunday. Stuart confirmed that the 6th would be a communion service.
- (ii) From the 6th, DC confirmed we would resume music as before, including a small choir. DC and Barry Rose have recorded some Advent hymns, to be delivered to Stuart by Saturday.
- (iii) We still have a morning service scheduled on Sunday 20th although this is the day of the carol service. Stuart suggested the morning service should be dropped, and we all agreed.
- (iv) Arrangements for the carol service were laid out by CG. Richard Oliver had agreed to act as a chief steward, with perhaps 3 helpers recruited. Seating would be set out in church provisionally. A few seats would be reserved, for readers, stewards etc. People arriving would be asked to queue outside the church, and would be seated in family groups ('bubbles') by the stewards, who would rearrange chairs as required to put members of a group together, whilst spacing everyone else apart. When the church was full (Richard's judgement), any arrivals would have to be turned away. (Thea suggested putting a speaker outside to relay the service to anyone keen enough to stay). Stewards would also need to manage safe exiting from the building (to be worked out).
- (v) Some stewarding might also be needed on the 10 am Christmas family service. CG would help if he could.
- (vi) Although putting on all these services (as well as maintaining ZOOM ones) is a lot of trouble, we do rejoice that this is possible again.

5b. Other worship matters

Barry and DC had recorded a carol service, with some help from choir members, Stuart and several readers. This is complete. DC has drafted an order of service.

ACTIONS:

CG: would pass on the order of service to Samm, with a front cover. Sam would arrange it in print form (A5 booklet) in the parish office. A print run of 10 is suggested at first. (NB. Another order of service will be needed for the carol service on the 20th December- CG to arrange.)

DC: will ask Barry to record a few CDs (at least 6), to distribute to those who haven't got access to the electronic form (see below). SB would like 3. The CDs will be accompanied by the printed order of service (above).

SB: will publish a link to the electronic version of the recording by passing it on to Webmasters, those who maintain church Facebook pages, and disseminating it with his regular email bulletin. There would also be an electronic version of the order of service.

5c. Confirmation of officers

- (i) SB reported that JE had requested a break from being a churchwarden, reviewing at the next APCM. In the meantime he was willing to serve on the PCC including as lay chair. *ACTION:* CG will communicate this to the archdeacon; he will fill the churchwarden role on his own for the moment, with help from others on the PCC.

- (ii) Would JE still be willing to be covenant secretary? *ACTION*: CG to ask John.
- (iii) Replacement electoral roll officer. Might PM be willing? *ACTION*: CG to ask Pat.
- (iv) Deanery Synod reps. We should appoint new ones this year. Thea will be on *ex officio*, and suggested that TL continue. TL was willing; proposed TO, seconded CG, all agreed.

5d. Other matters arising from APCM

CG reminded the meeting that the APCM had agreed the church should be taking more action on matters of environmental concern (as discussed at an online meeting of the benefice on 6th October). SB said we should consider Nikki's email to Start and the PCC secretaries on 14th October as a starting point. *ACTION*: CG to table this for our first PCC meeting next year.

5e. Finance update, including parish share

- (i) DC had previously circulated these figures:
Today's bank balance for the Fabric Fund: £13,911.00
Today's bank balance for the General Fund, £14,442.38.

The Parish Share for next year will be £14,406.00, and we shall pay £1,196.90 each calendar month. This works out as £576.24 for each regular worshipper, and we have 25 RWs. It is the equivalent of £11.08 per RW per week. It compares with payments of £1,050.92 per month in 2020, an increase of 13.9%.

- (ii) There was a lengthy discussion on whether we should pay the full parish share next year. Neither Rodney Stoke nor Cheddar had agreed to pay the full increase last year. Draycott were already losing money due to reduced income because of Covid restrictions. An increase in our outgoings would mean that we would run down our bank balance before the end of the year, if nothing else changed. However we were uncomfortable simply refusing the increase, as other parishes would then have to pay more. NB. Most of our increase is probably due to the increase in the regular worshippers, as declared in our Parish Survey.
- (iii) The PCC agreed to pay the parish share at the new monthly rate, but keep this under review and reduce or cease payments if they became unaffordable. David will write to Jessica Cook to set out our position.
- (iv) SB had been asked by the diocese to take on Ruth Motion, Kings of Wessex chaplain, as a self-supporting curate next year, in an arrangement similar to Thea's. Her work would extend to Draycott School. We would pay a share of her expenses, which should be small. The meeting agreed, noting that this was an important investment for the benefice.

5f. Fabric update

- (i) The quinquennial survey was due in 2021. The architect George Chedburn will be booked next year. The process can be slow so we should request this earlier rather than later.
- (ii) The ongoing damp in the north nave/ transept continues- perhaps to be expected in the winter with little usage of the church. CG suggests it is just left for the present.
- (iii) Tree safety in the churchyard is an ongoing issue. Pollarding of the limes is well overdue – it was last done in 2012. *ACTION*: CG to write to Mendip.
- (iv) CG thanked Richard and Thea for doing the Christmas lights again, and also Tricia for working on the garden of remembrance to make it look beautiful. Thea and Chris have also been keeping the paths clear of leaves and debris.

- (v) There would be figures in the nativity tableau in the glebe field soon- Thea and Richard have installed a spotlight to illuminate them.

5g. Synod feedback

The previous deanery synod was on Zoom. TO and TL could not attend, but SB did. Discussion was on what we lost, and what we learned, during the covid emergency.

At the diocesan synod bishop Ruth spoke about the environment crisis, and what the church was doing. There was a presentation on 'pioneer projects' to marginalised communities.

5h. School update

Stuart, Thea and Nikki Devitt have all been leading ZOOM assemblies.

Signage in the car park reserving spaces for school and School House applies to weekdays only.

5i. SoSP news

- (i) Advent wreaths will be put out in church this week- we hope to keep most until Christmas.
- (ii) A gift weekend is planned (collecting box in church). The shop also has a collecting jar.
- (iii) The shop is planning a 'nativity trail' to support the churches (one each for Draycott and Rodney Stoke). Participants buy a sheet for £1. The Draycott collection will go to the Children's Society.
- (iv) We are sad to be giving less support to charities; though, Draycott and Rodney Stoke are making a Christmas contribution to the Sisters of the Church (to be delivered on Monday or Tuesday next week by Sue Walker).
- (v) We all hope and trust that SoSP will be properly back in business in 2021.

7. Dates

PCC: On Tuesday 26th January at 7:00 pm on ZOOM (time to be reviewed nearer the date)

The meeting closed with the Grace, which we said together.