

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

Held on 24/06/2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the church

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1. Opening prayers

Stuart opened the meeting with a prayer, and John English took the chair.

2. Apologies, welcome

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

JE welcomed Nikki as a guest to our meeting.

3. Additions or amendments to agenda

CG had been requested to include a new item: (7c) remuneration of organists. SB and JE agreed.

4. PCC minutes from 03/03/21- confirmation of accuracy

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record and signed by JE.

5. Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes

#5a (ii). (Easter service at Draycott). We agreed that the Easter service had been very moving and uplifting- especially as this had been our first service after lockdown. NB. This had been the inspiration for CG's pastoral letter for the magazine!

6. Items with Nikki Devitt present

6a. Environmental issues

- (i) Introduced by Nikki with suggestion that we start by looking at the A Rocha 'Eco Church' questionnaire (she had contributed a report to the APCM with a link to this: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>). If we want, we can fill it in online and have our church assessed according to the Ecochurch awards – bronze, silver or gold, at no cost (we only need to pay if we want a plaque). Paper copies of the questionnaire were distributed.
- (ii) The questionnaire has five sections: Worship and Teaching (10 questions), Buildings (25), Land (17), Community and Global Engagement (27), and Lifestyle (15 questions).
- (iii) *ACTIONS*: After discussion on some of the issues raised, we decided the following:
 - We will start by filling in the questionnaire off-line- much is fact-finding at this stage. One person will take a lead for each section, assisted by at least one other. The following volunteered/ were suggested: *Worship and Teaching*: SB (lead), CG (assist); *Buildings*: DC (lead), CG & JE (assist); *Land*: CG (lead), JE & DC (assist); *Community and Global Engagement*: TL (lead), GD and PM (assist); *Lifestyle*: TO (lead) and GD (assist).
 - The initial aim is for each group to confer, fill in the questions on their section as much as they can, then come up with two costed proposals for ways we could improve our 'score' in the section they were allocated. These would be presented to the next PCC for discussion and decision. NB. It is recommended that we all read the whole questionnaire and consider how we might improve our ecological standing across all sections, so we are ready to participate in the group discussion on the other sections not allocated to us.
 - CG will send out a PDF version of the questionnaire, with the minutes

6b. School update

(NB. Standing item brought forward to allow ND to contribute).

School had met in church today, for the first time since Covid restrictions had been introduced. Stuart attended. They had a highly successful (and loud) 'Samba' music workshop, and then greeted the parents arriving to collect them with a further performance in the car park.

School is still meeting for collective worship in the school building most weeks, and don't plan to return to church this term (although we have agreed they can - they may return next term).

Either SB, TO and ND are taking assembly most weeks, in person but in the school.

The leavers' assembly will take place in school probably on 22nd or 23rd (ND can't attend if it is the 23rd as she is on holiday).

7. New matters

(ND stayed to contribute to 7a as well, as she might be involved).

7a. Thea's ordination celebrations

- (i) Benefice social event on 27th was postponed - another date to be set as soon as possible. We can't rearrange until national rules permit. The date needs to be agreed with SB, TO and TL, as well as the Memorial Hall. NB. SB not available for a week from 9th July.

(ii) Thea's first Eucharist at St Peter's will be on the 4th July (we will also make it our patronal festival). Could we have refreshments outside the church, weather permitting? After discussion this was agreed on the following conditions:

- Designated people to serve everyone with tea/ coffee and cake, after taking suitable hygiene measures (hand washing etc.). (Would Chris Fulton and Pat assist ND & CG?)
- People attending to be seated at tables outside the church.

7b. Appointment/ confirmation of church officers

This had been largely agreed at the APCM, but for a matter of record the officers are as follows: Chris Green (sole churchwarden, secretary), David Cheetham (treasurer), John English (lay chair, covenant secretary, electoral roll officer), Thea Oliver (parish safeguarding officer). We also hoped Richard Oliver would agree to be our health and safety officer again (CG to ask).

7c. Remuneration of organists

GD had been surprised to learn that we do not remunerate our organists, although we are exceptionally well served by Barry and David. All agreed that it would be desirable to do so; issues raised were discussed. No firm decision was made, but it would be revisited outside PCC.

8. Continuing matters

8a. Worship

- (i) The worship rota for July and August is in the same pattern as previous ones, including ZOOM Sunday worship and (usually) alternation of Communion and Morning Prayer.
- (ii) Following this, SB wondered if we would aim to return to the pre-Covid regime, or take the opportunity to try something else? NB. We need to be ready with any alternatives by early August for planning purposes.
- (iii) After discussion, the following proposal found favour:

- First Sunday: Holy Communion
- Second Sunday: short form Morning Prayer, followed by discussion
- Third Sunday: Holy Communion
- Fourth Sunday: longer form Morning Prayer, based on that currently used
- Fifth Sunday (where applicable): joint benefice service.

There was also a suggestion that we 'build in' more silences to our services. We would all think about these proposals, and bring it up again at the next PCC.

8b. Synod

There had been no meetings since the previous report- next (deanery) is on 7th July.

8c. Finance update

Bank balances: general fund £13,314 and fabric fund £14,146. We may expect some improvement to our income as the magazine revenues come in; also there are some weddings, which will further help.

Approval has been received for Internet banking.

8d. Fabric update

This is a brief report, centred on issues raised at the APCM (under fabric, and health & safety).

- (i) The date of our quinquennial survey has been fixed with the church architect, George Chedburn, as 14th October 2021.
- (ii) Rob Millard is inspecting guttering and downpipes. He has recently removed two bird's nests from the hoppers at the top of drainpipes. The service he provides is much better than the one we had from Dawson's steeplejacks- he checks the church regularly.
- (iii) We have all noted the broken roof tiles following winter gales. Rob is also looking out for these but cannot replace any that are high up on the roof. We don't really have any alternative but Dawson's if we want these to be surveyed and replaced annually, as they can be part of their continuing annual survey of the lightning conductors (a statutory requirement). CG proposed that we reinstate this part of their inspection and maintenance contract. All agreed. *ACTION*: CG to contact Dawson's.
- (iv) Trees are a continuing issue. CG had rung Mendip District Council earlier today to chase them on this (they were last asked to provide a tree inspection for health and safety in February). NB. The trees that especially concern us are limes in the avenue (well overdue for pollarding, and shedding debris), and the yew tree at the gate to the car park. It was suggested that we approach our local councillor. *ACTION*: CG to write to Ros Wyke.
- (v) CG brought some other health and safety matters to the PCC's attention – avoiding obstruction to the back door, unplugging all electric heaters, and not overloading sockets.

8e. Supporters of St Peter's

Still not much to report, although a lot is in the planning stage.

9. Dates

Next PCC – either 2nd or 3rd August is possible for Stuart and most of the PCC present. *ACTION*: CG will ask TO which is best for her – NB. SB prefers the 3rd. Time 7:30 pm, venue church.

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