

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

Held on 03/08/2021 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	Gill Dury	GD
David Cheetham	DC		
John English	JE		
Chris Green	CG		
Tricia Lumley	TL		
Pat Mullay	PM		
Thea Oliver	TO		

3. Additions or amendments to agenda

CG requested new items- church hire (6d) and sound system (6e). SB and JE agreed.

4. PCC minutes from 24/06/21- 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

(all items covered in agenda)

6. New matters

6a. Church opening, services: new rules

This item results from Covid national rule changes on 19th July and new guidance from the Church of England. SB briefed the meeting on changes already decided by Cheddar PCC.

Decisions arising from the present meeting have been issued in a separate document, circulated to the benefice by SB on 5th August (see appendix).

Ideally we would like to open every day of the week now– however only CG and TO could take on extra days. CG will do Tuesdays and Sundays, TO Thursdays and Saturdays.

NB. In 'Life event services', we should have a 'mask wearing zone' where possible. NB. Each event needs to have a risk assessment – simple tick-box one available.

We shall review all measures at the next PCC meeting (if necessary possibly before), in the light of experience in all three parishes and any changes in the national situation.

6b. Environmental survey (Eco church)

Discussions were based on the 'ECO-CHURCH questionnaire' previously discussed. Responses for each section were presented by leaders designated at the last PCC.

(i) WORSHIP (SB, CG)

We are not doing too badly on the listing under this section.

Recommendations:

- (#1). Can we do a special service for Creation ('Creation Sunday'), timed to be before the COP26 summit (starting in Glasgow on 1st November)? *ACTION:* Stuart will plan this for 31st October. This will either be a benefice 'Breakfast Service' (under review), or a standard benefice service. Either way it will make a good theme.

(ii) BUILDINGS (DC, CG, JE)

Many of the items are not applicable to us. For an old church building in particular, it is not obvious that insulation is a cost-effective way of saving energy.

Recommendations:

- (#13) We look into installing a rainwater butt. *ACTION:* JE to alert us when they are back in stock at Hillier's garden centre

- (#16, #20) Use recycled paper where we can. *ACTION:* CG – can use for PCC business

- (#23) We provide a bin for dry mixed recycling (in vestry? NB. One of us will have to take it away and add to our domestic recycling) *ACTION:* CG

- (#11) Cut down on lighting (not all lights need to be on for a given service) *ACTION:* All

- (#8) We get an energy survey done by an independent expert, to help us choose best measures for our own building. *ACTION:* DC to contact the diocese for advice

(iii) LAND (CG, JE, DC)

We do not do very well on this. Also not everything is under our control.

Recommendations:

(#11) Wildlife surveys *ACTION:* CG. Botanical survey already commissioned from the Somerset Botany Group, but they are busy so will be late this year or early next.

(#15, #16) Encouraging recreation/ contemplation. This can be done with signage, local magazines (e.g. church magazine), but it would be good to have more benches.

ACTIONS:

1. All– Any ways to get more benches without spending our money? NB. £300+ each.
2. TO – looking into putting signage on Glebe Field. No one knows we are there!

(#8) Mowing regimes. Mowing done by contractor for MDC. *ACTION:* CG has spoken to MDC – they advised roping an area off with signage, and letting them know.

(#12) Join 'Caring for God's Acre'; they have many resources, including for schools. Annual group subscription is £40. *ACTION:* CG

(iv) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (TL, GD, PM)

Some negatives. A positive – church members already involved in community in many ways.

Recommendations:

- Arrange for a representative of an environmental agency to have an information stall at one of our coffee and cake events, when they resume. *ACTION:* TL
- Can we use local flowers at least sometimes? *ACTION:* TL will speak to flower ladies.

(v) LIFESTYLE (TO, GD)

A lot of scope in this one.

Recommendations:

- Communal Christmas/ Easter card (so we aren't all sending our own to each other). Needs thought as some might do both! *ACTION:* TO
- Advertise local businesses more in the magazine – Warrens, Seagers have agreed. NB. Draycott Community Shop have cancelled – find out why.
- Can we make sure funds are ethically invested? (DC: we don't really have 'funds'!)

6c. Church hire

The WI has approached us for hire of the church on Thursday 3rd February, as the Memorial Hall is busy. *ACTION:* ask for donation of £30 towards heating and lighting.

6e. PA System

TO met Tim Shaban in church who kindly agreed to give his opinion on our system. He thought the boxes were OK and tightened some connections – but the headsets might be faulty.

ACTION: CG has already been in touch with Intek, who supplied the Rodney Stoke system. They have promised a site visit (a date not yet arranged as their engineer was on holiday)

7. Continuing matters

7a. Worship

The September/October rota is nearly ready. SB asked our views on Morning Prayer on the 4th Sunday, as the rota can accommodate us having Holy Communion if we wanted. We preferred to go with Morning Prayer (the current 'Outstretched Hands' order), which would be in addition to the second Sunday morning prayer (a shorter order, to allow a discussion afterwards).

7b. Synod

The deanery synod was at Highbridge. Numbers were low due to Covid anxieties. NB. There are currently vacancies on both synods.

7c. Finance update

Bank balances: general fund £13,599 and fabric fund £14,341. Monthly income has not substantially improved, although we have three weddings coming up.

7d. Fabric update

(Brief report due to time constraints)

- (i) CG has written to Dawsons (PCC of 24/06/21 – action under 8d (iii)).
- (ii) Following previous approaches, CG was telephoned by Sue Churches of MDC. A tree inspection had been carried out (forwarded, shared with PCC). Issue of pollarding not addressed. Crown raising proposed on three of the limes. Action proposed on three yews, but not on the tree by the entrance to the car park (DC says it not a yew, but we think it is dangerous). CG also raised the issue of mowing (see 6b (iii), above).

7e. Supporters of St Peter's

- (i) A sum of £166.50 was raised at the stall at the Strawberry Fayre
- (ii) Coffee and cake is planned for Oct 2nd, then Nov 6th. For Dec 4th, a theme of 'Animals of the nativity' is proposed (spoiler alert – this may include a peacock...?)
- (iii) SoSP is negotiating with the PTA to join their Christmas Fayre.

8. Dates

Next PCC – Tuesday 7th. Time 7:30 pm, venue church.

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

Appendix - Changes to Covid precautions at St Peter's church

Proposals following review of church anti-Covid measures by PCC- August 2021

The PCC of St Peter's has reviewed the anti-Covid measures taken in our church, following the easing of government restrictions on July 19th 2021. The review took account of the Church of England document 'COVID 19 Guidance from the 19th July 2021 v1.0.pdf', and of measures agreed by the PCC of St Andrew's, Cheddar. The principle behind our policy is to free us to do the things most important to us as churchgoers, whilst keeping us all as safe as possible in a potentially dangerous and changing situation. We propose making changes gradually, and reviewing them frequently.

The following changes were proposed:

1. Face mask wearing and singing at church services.

During services, the nave of the church will be divided into a 'mask optional' zone (the front of the church, nearer the altar), and a 'mask mandatory' zone (the back of the church, nearer the entrance). Those wishing to remove their masks during the service (such as for singing) will be asked to sit at the front, and those wishing to keep masks on throughout will be asked to sit at the back. Zones will be clearly marked by signage.

Whilst moving around in the church we are all encouraged to wear face masks.

2. Seating.

We will continue to use the black plastic chairs as at present, but these will all be turned to face the front. Seats will be placed at a 2m distance from each other where possible (those from the same household are still free to rearrange them to sit closer to each other).

3. Communion.

For the moment, communion will continue to be in one kind only (i.e. bread), and the congregation will be communicated where they sit. The celebrant will first communicate the choir and organist, then come into the nave as at present, and communicate those at the back of the church first, working towards the front. The celebrant will take the same precautions as at present (i.e. mask wearing, hand gelling, covering the elements during consecration).

4. Passing of the peace.

The congregation will be asked to remain in their places during the passing of the peace, and be sensitive to the wishes of those around them.

5. Socialising after the service.

For the moment, we will not serve refreshments after the service. The congregation will be encouraged to socialise outside where the weather permits, and at all times to be sensitive to the wishes of those around them (such as the preserving of social distancing).

6. Church opening.

We hope to increase the days we open the church during the week, perhaps to 6 days a week.

All other measures will remain the same as at present. We request all those with possible Covid symptoms to stay away and not to attend church again until testing negative for Covid. We will continue to display the QR code, and take a register of those attending, for contact tracing purposes. Doors will continue to be propped open during services for ventilation. Cleaning will continue as at present.

These measures will all be reviewed regularly by the PCC and may be changed at short notice. Every effort will be made to communicate any changes to those who might be affected.