

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

Held on 16/02/2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the church

1. Opening prayers	1
2. Apologies, welcome	1
3. Additions or amendments to agenda	1
4. PCC minutes from 04/01/22- confirmation of accuracy	1
5. Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes	1
6. New matters	2
6a. Review of Covid precautions in church	2
6b. Diocesan financial crisis	2
6c. Rearrangement of seating in services	2
6d. Rewilding the churchyard in 2022	2
6e. Use of building by SoSP	3
7. Continuing matters	3
7a. Worship	3
7b. Synod	4
7c. Finance update	4
7d. Fabric update	4
7e. School	4
7f. Supporters of St Peter's	4
8. Dates	4

1. Opening prayers

Thea opened the meeting with a reading and prayers. John took the chair.

2. Apologies, welcome

Present

David Cheetham	DC	Tricia Lumley	TL
John English	JE	Thea Oliver	TO
Chris Green	CG		

Apologies

Stuart Burns	SB
Gill Dury	GD
Pat Mullay	PM

3. Additions or amendments to agenda

Added: 6e- Use of building by SoSP.

4. PCC minutes from 04/01/22- 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

03/08/21 #6e (PA system). Now installed and working satisfactorily. We were previously advised to use dry cell batteries (AA)- we will carry on doing this for the time being, and review. An issue is the sensitivity of the wired (lectern) microphone, picking up unintended signal (and no off switch).

The accidental loss of Barry Rose's microphones was previously discussed by email. The PCC confirmed the decision to pay for a replacement pair for £200 from Nicolas Ware (cheaper than doing it through insurance). We will reimburse Barry from church funds when requested.

07/09/21 #6b (Eco Church)

TO and GD have not yet had a chance to follow up on their section ('Lifestyle'); carry over

07/09/21 #7d (Quinquennial survey)

No further response from the architect – CG to try phoning.

22/11/21 #6a (Benches)

- (i) By the time the 'list B' approval came from the archdeacon the chosen bench had gone out of stock, but it is now back in. Normal Brade is ordering it and we will then look at installing it. This includes creating a base and securing the bench to it.
- (ii) Sarah Burn's choice of bench (two alternatives) had been circulated to the PCC and was approved (proposed: CG; seconded: TL, all were in favour).
ACTION: CG to make a list B application to the archdeacon.

22/11/21 #6c (Repair café)

(Nothing new. Carry over).

04/01/22 #6b (Safeguarding)

The Cheddar session proposed has been postponed as Jim Reeve is unwell. To be recheduled.

04/01/22 #6f (Organist remuneration)

DC has agreed to write Barry a cheque at Easter to cover Sundays up to then.

04/01/22 #6g (Key safe)

Possible locations were discussed but not decided. The key is currently in its usual place.

04/01/22 #6h (Introductory leaflet from Alan Rowntree for St Peter's)

Thea had not yet received any comments. *ACTION*: CG will start the ball rolling

6. New matters

6a. Review of Covid precautions in church

We discussed reintroducing refreshments, but decided the time is not yet right (cases being still very high). We will continue with all measures currently in place.

6b. Diocesan financial crisis

We noted Stuart's forwarded report and his comments. DC commented that the diocese had put many cost-saving measures in place. We were supportive of them and await further news.

6c. Rearrangement of seating in services

The seating of the choir in the crossing makes this area rather crowded – it is also draughty. We suggest the choir is moved back to its former position, in the north nave facing the rest of the congregation. We agreed to give it a try – and perhaps other arrangements on different Sundays.

6d. Rewilding the churchyard in 2022

CG and Nikki Devitt had been invited to present ideas for churchyard rewilding to the school on 8th February, as previously discussed with the PCC (22/11/21, 6e). The head teacher (Will Ewens) was present and is motivated and knowledgeable, and the children were engaged with the subject and answered questions very well. The school are keen for further involvement .

To carry this forward, CG circulated a provisional maintenance plan and map of the churchyard, suggesting the formation of a Draycott Churchyard Management Group (DCMG) reporting back to the PCC. The PCC agreed, and expenditure of about £60 on bird boxes, bug boxes and other kit. (Prop: TO, sec. DC, all in favour). The DCMG would consist of CG, TL and JE, and Richard Oliver and Nikki Devitt would be asked if they were willing to be on the group as well.

6e. Use of building by SoSP

SB has said that he was not happy for church buildings to be used for the selling of goods in church, as a means of raising funds. This had not been allowed in previous parishes where he had been the incumbent, but he did not wish to impose a blanket ban at St Peter's against the wishes of the PCC.

St Peter's has a long history of selling things in church, from before the existence of SoSP - from Fair Trade, to allowing craftspeople to set up stalls on occasion. However SoSP does recognise that the PCC has not always been explicitly consulted about fundraising plans before they have been set in train. After discussion the PCC did not propose a blanket ban on selling things in church (we have no alternative premises to do such things, such as a church hall). However, we suggested the following ground rules:

- a) All plans for fundraising in church or on behalf of the church to be put in advance to the PCC
- b) Any fundraising or stalls must conform to the aims and ethos of the church
- c) No raffles to be held in church (but could be held on behalf of the church elsewhere, such as on the curry nights in the Strawberry Special pub)
- d) The PCC recognises that Stuart has the right as Rector to veto any specific plan or stall

The example was discussed, of artists or other crafts people being invited to the First Saturday coffee and cake events, as an added 'draw'. We thought that this might be acceptable if this were for 'showcasing' and not selling that person's work.

We shall raise this item again at the next PCC before making a decision.

The PCC wishes to express their gratitude to all the members of SoSP, for their hard work and creativity. Not only have SoSP raised much-needed funds, but have done a great deal to raise the profile of the church in the village and school in a positive way.

7. Continuing matters

7a. Worship

- (i) There was only a handful of us in church on Sunday, compared with the week before. Some of it is down to Covid, but we should ask ourselves whether the absence of Holy Communion is a factor, or whether the current second Sunday format itself is unpopular.

ACTION: CG to analyse the figures after a few more Sundays and take them back to the PCC

- (ii) The benefice Lent groups are going ahead as announced, and there is also a ZOOM Deanery Lent Group based on the course 'Living in Love and Faith' (on Monday evenings – Kevin Wright, Benefice of Three Saints, is setting this up).
- (iii) Easter services are planned. We would like a Good Friday Taizé service – we need to make plans for this, and ask if Ian and Ruth are available. *ACTION:* CG to take forward

7b. Synod

TO was able to join the Synod for part of its online meeting. There was a good discussion.

7c. Finance update

- (i) DC had circulated the accounts, but the 'charitable giving' total was not complete, as much of this does not go through our books (even though it is done in the church's name).

ACTION: TO will ask Karen to provide figures for Christian Aid. CG will try to get the most accurate figure he can for CSC cash giving.

- (ii) JE had submitted a gift aid claim.

(iii) Balances were £19,669.90 for the General Fund, and £12,442.55 for the Fabric Fund.

7d. Fabric update

- (i) 'Sticky' doors were still an issue – CG had applied WD40 to the front door, but the ring needs an energetic twist whilst pushing the door.
- (ii) Do we need a door stop to prevent the back door banging into the PA box? CG to investigate
- (iii) There will be a new church notice board in the Glebe field. Together with the school notice board (which also mentions the church) this will help to 'signpost' the church better
- (iv) CG asked if the PCC were happy for another notice to be displayed near the gate to the lime avenue, informing visitors of developments in the churchyard. The PCC agreed.

7e. School

Do school need some encouragement to start using the church again for assemblies?

ACTION: CG to write to school to say they are welcome, but understanding if they preferred to leave it until the weather was a little warmer!

School are keen to exhibit more appropriate displays in church to mark important festivals and other events. Karen Percival had been helping them, and asks whether we are approving for the following events to be so marked: Palm Sunday, Easter, St George's Day, Somerset Day, The Queen's Jubilee. (NB. There is already a poster commemorating St Valentine's day). PCC had already agreed this in principle. We found the above festivals all perfectly appropriate for school displays. We gave the school every encouragement. *ACTION:* TO will pass it on to Karen.

7f. Supporters of St Peter's

See planned programme for 2022 in separate document. There were over 40 people at the February Coffee and Cake.

8. Dates

(Dates were agreed later after consulting those who were absent from the meeting)

PCC – Tuesday 22nd March at 7:30 pm in the church

APCM – Sunday 24th April at 11.00 am in the church

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