

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

Held on 10/01/2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Benefice Office, Cheddar

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1. *Opening prayers*

Chris opened the meeting with a prayer. Thea took the chair.

2. *Apologies, welcome*

Present:

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-------------|----|---------------|----|
| Stuart Burns | SB | Roger Peel | RP | John English | JE |
| David Cheetham | DC | Thea Oliver | TO | Tricia Lumley | TL |
| Gill Dury | GD | Barry Rose | BR | Pat Mulla | PM |
| Chris Green | CG | | | | |

Apologies:

(NB. Barry Rose was called away early in the meeting, while we were still on item 5, below).

3. *Additions or amendments to agenda*

Two items were added, 6f and 6g.

4. *PCC minutes from 08/11/22- confirmation of accuracy*

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed and signed by TO.

5. *Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes*

16/02/22 #6d (Rewilding the churchyard). CG had bought four nest boxes and will put them up soon. He proposed that we continue the 'no-mow' idea this year, as no-one had voiced any objections. *ACTION:* CG will see to publicity and signage.

01/08/22 #6d (Quinquennial Survey – works progress).

(d. PAT testing). This has been carried out, with a charge of £50. No items tested failed.

09/09/22 #6a Mitigating energy price rises.

We have changed over to Pozitive for our gas supply, not yet for electricity.

Members of Cheddar PCC including Stuart had visited St Matthew's church in Cotham, who have become pioneer installers of a new system of radiant ceramic heaters. The heaters come in two sizes, a large 'chandelier' type at 7 Kw (£7,000 each), and a smaller wall-mounted unit at 3 Kw (£400 each). The former needs a faculty, the latter not. Heating costs have come down dramatically at St Matthews, to about £15 per service compared with £100 for gas.

St Peter's might consider heating a limited space with the wall-mounted heaters to supplement gas, and still save money.

ACTION. We will wait to see whether Cheddar goes ahead with the system before taking this further ourselves. We should also visit St Matthew's ourselves.

6. New matters

6a. Draycott church family with accommodation issues

Stuart gave the PCC a confidential report

6b. For information

CG announced that he and Nikki were looking to move from Rodney Stoke to Exeter this year to be nearer family. Chris greatly regretted that this would be unhelpful to St Peter's, with its currently reduced attendances and income. No timescale can yet be given – their house is just going on sale.

Others in the PCC expressed their sadness, but also support for Chris and Nikki in their move.

6c. Christmas card

This year it had been more successful than last year, although subscribers were mainly existing churchgoers. Gill described a system in operation at Shipham church, which has many more contributors and generates significant income. We considered it too difficult to implement this year at St Peter's, however. We agreed to continue with our current system. Thank you, Gill!

ACTION: We must start thinking of the 2023 launch in August/ September.

d. Cleaning altar frontals

Altar frontals in regular use were getting dirty and some need mending as well. GD consulted the Diocesan office but they could not advise her. DC suggested the Queen Street dry cleaning company in Wells, who had always been careful. Also Heather Robinson could be approached for advice on both cleaning and mending.

ACTION: GD will consult Heather. The PCC also gave its backing for a 'sample' cleaning to be tried with the Queen Street dry cleaner.

e. St Peter's Day service and Deanery Choral service

DC suggested our St Peter's Day service could be combined with this year's Deanery choral service. The latter needs to be an afternoon or evening one, as some choir members would be attending morning worship in their own parishes. After discussion this proved impractical, as July 2nd has already been scheduled for a joint benefice service (which must be in the morning). The PCC would welcome this service on another Sunday however. The 11th June was suggested, which will be a service of Morning Prayer (a more suitable setting for the event than a Eucharist).

ACTION: DC will explore the feasibility of this date for participating choirs and report back.

f. Parish awayday

DC suggested that we needed a forum to discuss the future direction of this parish, such as an awayday.

Stuart shared his experience of many away-days, which was not encouraging – few of the ideas put forward are ever acted on, and the days are difficult to arrange. How could we ensure the time and effort would not be wasted.

Stuart thought that a benefice-wide approach might be needed, with some radical ideas on the table.

ACTION: Keep this on the agenda – we shall return to it.

g. Raffles in church

(requested by BR who was not present – defer)

7. Continuing matters

7a. Worship

Christmas services went well this year – all of them had better attendances than last year (although not yet back to 2019 levels at Draycott).

Could we consider a ‘Songs of Praise’ service with the school children- who would then bring their parents? Singing is often a good draw.

7b. Synod

No further Synods since last PCC.

7c. Finance update

David had circulated the church accounts by email – thank you!

7d. Fabric update

Nothing further.

7e. School

A ‘prayer tree’ has been proposed by the school- in church and hung with prayers composed by school children (accompanied by some explanatory signage). The PCC agreed.

7f. Supporters of St Peter's

The programme for 2023 looks like this so far (dates mostly still to be arranged):

- February – Curry night
- March – Soup Lunch (4th – the first Saturday)
- April – Jumble sale
- May – event to mark the coronation
- June – Big Breakfast (3rd – the first Saturday)
- July – Summer Fayre
- August – Treasure Hunt and Barbecue
- September – Wildlife Talk
- October – Harvest Ploughman’s
- December – Christmas festival

8. *Dates*

Next PCC is 15th February at 7 pm in the church office.

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