

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

Held on 15/02/2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Benefice Office, Cheddar

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1. Opening prayers

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

2. Apologies, welcome

Present:

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

Apologies:

3. Additions or amendments to agenda

Barry had raised a query as to why our parish share contribution had not been discussed in open PCC. We have been in agreement that this is paid in full whilst we have the funds for a number of years now. All agreed with this position in the current meeting. However Barry is not alone in having misgivings on this— it probably does need to be discussed more generally next year. SB said that we were the only church in the benefice to be paying the full share.

4. PCC minutes from 10/01/23

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) Nest boxes are now up.

10/01/23 #6d. Cleaning altar frontals. Heather Robinson has inspected the red altar frontal and says it is impractical to mend it. We will continue to use it, sparingly. The others do not need cleaning. It would be better to move them away from an outside wall where they get damp.

ACTION: some of us will get together after a Sunday service and think about where they might go.

10/01/23 #e. St Peter's Day service and Deanery Choral service. Organisation of the service on 11th June is in hand. This would be the only service at St Peter's on this day- 6 pm start time.

10/01/23 #f. Parish awayday. Nothing further for the moment - defer.

10/01/23 #g. Raffles in church (defer in BR's absence)

6. New matters

6a. Re-imagining Axbridge Deanery

Thea presented a paper that had been circulated earlier, from the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG). These were proposals for meeting requirement to cut the numbers of stipendiary clergy in the deanery from nine to seven over the next five years.

After a lively discussion we were encouraged to take a positive view of these proposals, and to share our responses with TO for her to feed back.

6b. Contribution to Benefice expenses

Stuart had explained the position by email, that all of the expenses have been met by Cheddar over the last three years but now we were being asked to pay a contribution again (NB. Cheddar accounts are now showing a deficit on the year). Cheddar was asking for 50% of our 'regular' proportionate contribution in 2023, rising to 100% in 2024. The meeting agreed to this, thanking Cheddar for their generous support over the last years.

ACTION: CG to write a note to the Cheddar PCC (via Sylvia Hall, the secretary)

6c. Planning to fill vacancies for Churchwarden and Secretary

Enquiries had been made by some of us, and no-one was currently willing to undertake the churchwarden role vacated by CG. DC proposed that until someone came forward, the role would be filled by a standing committee. After discussion we agreed this would be DC, GD, JE, TL and Richard Oliver (if he agreed – TO would ask him).

The main recurrent task of the secretary is to take minutes at the PCC and APCM.

ACTION: CG to list the activities that had formed his role since taking this on, and circulate to the standing committee – no doubt this would be expanded by others (DC, JE) that had churchwarden experience. GD would act as minutes secretary for the moment, and all members of the PCC would write letters as appropriate on behalf of the PCC. CG would help as long as he was able.

6d. Planning for Lent and Easter

There will be an Ash Wednesday service at St Peter's at 6pm. DC will see to hymns and heating.

Lent study groups are going ahead – details have been given out in the churches. During Lent sermons will follow a theme, mirrored in the Lent groups.

Holy Week will follow the same pattern as last year – a Passover service and supper at Cheddar, a Good Friday service of reflection and communion in Cheddar from 12 to 2, and a Taizé service at Draycott in the evening.

ACTION: Details to be finalised in the clergy meeting tomorrow. CG will organise the Taizé service, which will include readings from the Passion according to St Matthew

7. Continuing matters

7a. Worship

Thea has been signed off as a curate, and will be licensed and commissioned later this year – Stuart will contact the diocese to set this in motion.

7b. Synod

There was a good session in the last synod on caring for the environment, the fifth mark of mission.

7c. Finance update

David had circulated the audited accounts. Thea proposed we accept them, and Gill seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.

Accounts are looking quite healthy, but we have not yet been charged for gas following our switch. On 15th Feb there was £21,677.79 in the General Fund and £14,378.15 in the Fabric Fund.

Gill is being added to our bank account signatories. We are looking into getting a deposit account as this will pay us some interest. We shall probably put £20,000 into this from our other accounts.

7d. Fabric update

Nothing further

7e. School

The Draycott governing body is shared with Shipham. Current foundation governors are the Vicar of Axbridge and Shipham, and Thea. The PCC have been asked if they support these appointments. Draycott PCC does support them.

7f. Supporters of St Peter's

Some dates have now been agreed:

- Soup Lunch on 4th March, after coffee and cakes
- Curry night now planned to be on March 24th
- Jumble sale 29th April
- 1st Saturday in May – Big Breakfast
- An event to mark the coronation on May 6th is being planned

7g. Other business

- i. The Thomas family are leaving on Monday so Sunday would be their last with us in Draycott until their return, if they attend. Can we do something special for coffee after the service
ACTION: SB will find out if they plan to be in church, TL will get cakes etc. if they are.
- ii. Pat Mullay said she could not continue to be in the PCC, due to ongoing health reasons.

8. Dates

Next PCC is 27th March at 7 pm in the church office.

The APCM will be on April 27th (Thursday) at 7:30pm, with Compline beforehand at 7:15.

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