

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting - St. Peter's Draycott

## Draft Reports and Minutes: 2012/2013

*Held on 14<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the church.*

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## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

### **1. Opening prayer**

The meeting was opened by the Revd. Sue Rose after she had led us in Evening Prayer. Sue took the chair.

### **2. Attendance and apologies for absence**

*Present:* Clé Boyd, Chris Butler, David Cheetham, Trish Corrick, Nikki Devitt, Richard Dingley, Sylvia Dingley, Chris Green, Tricia Heckbert, Colette Jeff, Gordon Jeff, Janet Jeffries, Tricia Lumley, Thea Oliver, Sue Rose, Linda Whittle

*Apologies:* Hewart Jeffries, Audrey Morgan, Barrie and Buffy Rose, Buffy Rose, Sue Walker.

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes from meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012**

The minutes of the APCM of 22<sup>nd</sup> April had been available throughout the year (hard copies and on the Website), so were taken as read. They were agreed as an accurate record (Proposed by Thea Oliver, seconded by Colette Jeff; all in favour).

### **4. Vestry Meeting for the Election of two Church Wardens**

Two nominations had been received for the two posts of churchwarden, David Cheetham and Thea Oliver, and both had agreed to stand. Sue Rose asked if there were any other nominations, and there were none. (David Cheetham proposed by Audrey Morgan and seconded by Nikki Devitt; Thea Oliver propose by Janet Jeffries and seconded by Nikki Devitt. All present agreed, and so they were declared duly elected.

Sue Rose thanked David Cheetham and Thea Oliver for their hard work and continuing commitment over the past year.

### **5. Statutory Reports**

#### **a. Electoral Roll.**

*Richard Dingley*

(See report A)

There had been a marked decline following the drawing up of a fresh roll- Sue remarked that this had been true of all three parishes. One factor was that marriage in a parish was no longer dependent on membership of the roll, as had once been the case.

Richard said that he was hopeful of getting some further names before the list closed finally.

Sue thanked Richard for carrying out this important work

#### **b. Report on PCC proceedings**

*Chris Green*

(See report B).

Sue thanked Chris for his work as PCC secretary.

#### **c. The financial report and accounts**

*David Cheetham*

(See report C)

*Agenda and reports for meeting*

*Notes and clarifications:*

- i. Headline- we have paid the parish share and are breaking even.
- ii. One expense that will not recur next year was for the quinquennial survey.
- iii. The Parish Share will increase next year. The diocese has held it at previous levels for the two previous years, although there has been a drop in church attendances. Our parish share level next year is set on the assumption that our affluence in 'average' (for the last year we were allowed to claim that it was below average due to exceptional expenses of refurbishment).
- iv. Our regular attendance average has declined by 1 (a further factor in the calculation of parish shares).

Sue thanked David for his hard work as treasurer.

**d. The churchwarden's fabric report**

*David Cheetham*

(See report D)

*Notes and clarifications:*

- i. Mendip District Council have finally pollarded the avenue.
- ii. The electricity company has cut the other boundary tree that was in danger of fouling the power line.
- iii. Damp patches are still there on interior plaster- this is preventing us completing painting as planned.

Sue thanked David for his work in this further role, as well as all the helpers who have done all the other jobs such as painting, polishing, cleaning and other tasks over the past year.

**e. Deanery Synod Report**

*Tricia Lumley*

(See report E)

Tricia invited anyone present to accompany her to the Synod meetings if they should care to.

The figure of 92.5% of children having 'no contact' with the church was queried- we have so many church schools in the diocese it seems improbable.

Before hearing the remaining reports, Sue Rose suggested that the meeting vote on adopting the statutory reports. Their adoption was proposed by Richard Dingley and seconded by Janet Jeffries. All were in favour.

**6. Other reports**

**a. Ministry team**

*Chris Butler*

(See report F)

Chris Green presented his supplementary report, showing what a large part Chris had played in leading worship at St. Peter's, celebrating nearly half the Eucharists at our church over the last

year. This puts in perspective the challenges facing the ministry team next year, when Chris Butler would be leaving us.

Chris Butler expressed her appreciation of being with us as well as her regret that she would need to move on.

Sue expressed her own great appreciation of Chris Butler's part in the ministry of the three parishes.

### **b. Covenants**

*Tricia Heckbert*

(See report G)

There have been reports that small plate contributions can be gift aided 'automatically' (i.e. without the need for form-filling by the donor)- up to the £5,000. Tricia and David were investigating.

### **c. School**

*Nikki Devitt*

(see report H)

### **d. Supporters of St. Peter's (S.o.S.P.)**

*Thea Oliver*

(See Report I)

The fundraising contribution by SoSP for St. Peter's was £1,056 for the year (NB. SoSP events have also benefited other groups such as The Community of the Sisters of the Church).

Thea thanked everyone who had helped make SoSP such a success- and was thanked in her turn by Sue.

### **e. Summer concerts**

*Barie Rose*

(See Report J)

Colette said that this year's summer concert was under control- and more ambitious than last year's. We would hear more nearer the time!

### **f. Local Ministry Group/ Cheddar Valley Churches**

*Sue Rose*

(See report K)

### **g. Lent Groups**

*Chris Green*

(See report L)

Sue Rose said that a follow-up of the Lent groups- 'lessons learned'- should be on our next PCC agenda (*ACTION*- for the next PCC secretary... whoever that may be).

## **h. Cheddar Valley Churches**

*Sue Rose*

(See report M)

(NB. some other business was received here but is reported under item 11 as per the Agenda)

## **7. Election of Laity to the Parochial Church Council for 2013-14**

Revd Sue Rose read out the list of nominations that had been received for the PCC:

Colette Jeff, Barry Rose, Tricia Heckbert, Chris Green and Janet Jeffries.

(NB. Tricia Lumley was also nominated but is automatically on the PCC *ex officio* as our Deanery representative.)

Richard Dingley had not been proposed and this was an oversight. He was asked if he would be willing to stand again and he agreed (proposed- Sue Rose, seconded- Chris Green). All others had been proposed and seconded; all had signed in agreement. No objections were raised.

Sue Rose put it to the meeting that the abovementioned lay members of St. Peter's church should serve in our new Parochial Church Council. All were in agreement. The seven members (above) join the church wardens (2), deanery representative (1), and clergy (2) to make the PCC for 2013-14: 12 people in total, although sadly Chris Bulter will depart during this year.

## **8. Appointment of sides men and women**

Sadly, we have lost Owen Spencer, a previous sides person, who died this year.

Would anyone like to volunteer for this duty? Richard Dingley said that he would.

The proposed roll is thus: Richard Dingley, Janet Jeffries, Colette and Gordon Jeff.

Sue Rose suggested that all these should be appointed, *en bloc*, if they were willing (they were). The meeting agreed, with thanks.

## **9. Appointment of independent financial examiner**

David Cheetham said that the current Independent Financial Examiner, Alan Rowntree, would be willing to do the job again next year, and recommended that we should accept. All agreed.

## **10. Remarks from the Priest in Charge**

Sue gave us an outline of the year. The great disappointment for her had been the vote in Synod that had failed to pass the motion to admit women to the episcopate, despite its widespread support. A high point had been her sabbatical and visit to the Zambian parish of Kafue. It had been a particular joy to be able to welcome Father Bob (Revd. Robert Sihubwa)

back in the UK and introduce him to our parishes. He had made his mark- singing from the pulpit and getting us to dance in the aisles of St. Andrew's. Sue particularly wanted to thank Chris Butler for filling in during her absence, effectively making her sabbatical possible.

Sue would like to be able to send regular reports to Father Bob. (*ACTION*- PCC to look into)

## **11. Any other matters of important to the Parish**

### **a. Church Music.**

We are particularly blessed in our organists in this church. We should have a regular report to cover music. We should organise a music practice session in the 'sermon slot' soon.

*ACTION*: the next ministry team meeting should find a place for this in the rota.

### **b. Church Magazine.**

Chris Green had received some notes for this meeting from the editor, Rob Walker.

Rob expressed himself fortunate to receive the magazine in very good order from the previous editor, Alison.

His editorial aim is to 'inform, inspire and amuse the readership in roughly equal measure'. To do this he relies entirely on the quality of contributions.

He is very keen to increase the Draycott content of the magazine- in the past, the contribution has sometimes been biased to Rodney Stoke. His advice to us was- give more feedback on events that have happened, don't just use the magazine to announce future events. Pictures are often a good idea. And although he has to run a tight ship in terms of length of articles, contributors should not be put off from submitting their best shot. The editor will do what is necessary to produce his 24 A5 pages, and wield his blue pencil without fear or favour!

The meeting discussed the magazine and put forward different ideas. How about a large print version (or even a talking one) for those who could not read the current one? Probably this is for us to organise!

Sue said that our magazine was the envy of Cheddar- whose own one had a much smaller circulation.

We thanked Rob for doing an excellent job as editor. And we would like to thank Alison, too.

*ACTION*: Chris Green to pass our thanks to both Alison and Rob

## **12. Closing prayer**

Sue thanked all for attending, and closed the meeting with the Grace

## **APPENDIX: REPORTS**

### ***Statutory reports***

#### **A. Electoral Roll**

*Richard Dingley* Electoral Roll Officer

This year there had to be a new Electoral Roll created for the years 2013-2019.

All the people on the old roll were given a copy of the new application form and the attached list gives the names of those who have currently (14th April) applied. There have been a number of anticipated changes with some members moving away and the recent death of Owen Spencer.

The present number registered is 33 – a reduction of 11 from the previous roll.

The Roll remains open for others to join and take a more active part in the running of the church.

#### **B. Report on PCC proceedings**

*Chris Green* PCC Secretary

Your PCC consisted of the same 11 members as the previous year. We had 5 meetings- on 31st May, 3rd July, 29th August, 6th November in 2012, and 12th March in 2013. The low meeting count this year was partly policy- we had aimed to have about one every 2 months- and partly due to cancellations.

This year we have met at the home of Richard and Sylvia Dingley, whom we would like to thank for their hospitality. We would also like to thank Tricia Heckbert for continuing to be our lay chair in spite of having a busy year herself- we value her calm efficiency.

On 6th November we had Jackie Smith, the ‘village agent’, as a special guest to address the PCC. This is an initiative which you may have read about in the Church magazine, and which the church supports. On the 12th March this year we met the Revd. Robert Sihubwa (aka Father Bob) from Kafue in Zambia. He sat in on a brief PCC meeting, heard us on the nature of our villages and the place of the church in the community, then talked about his own situation in Kafue. It has to be admitted that his account was rather more exciting and inspiring than our own. Like all who have heard him we came away most impressed with Father Bob’s qualities as a leader and communicator, and also with the depth of need he and the church are addressing in Zambia.

For two of our meetings we recorded Sue’s apologies, due to her sabbatical in Zambia. We were most grateful for Chris Butler’s steady hand on the tiller over this period.

Minutes of all PCC meetings- as well as of APCMs- are available on the website: [www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk](http://www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk) (go to Draycott, then Reports).

#### **C. The financial report and accounts**

*David Cheetham* Churchwarden, Treasurer

1. We have carried out three major works this year, and coincidentally the income to the Fabric Fund has almost exactly paid for them. The excess of payments over income was

£38.54. The expenditure on the fabric is of course kept down by the use of voluntary labour, for which we are most grateful.

2. We received a testamentary bequest of £3,000. With the help of this bequest, the General Fund is in surplus of £2,606.80 for the year.
3. The General Fund “turnover” for the year appears to be over £20,000, but this is an unrealistically high figure, since it includes money which went through the books but never in fact belonged to the church, such as fees for weddings and funerals and charity collections.
4. We paid £1,024.68 for the quinquennial survey and report on the state of the fabric, and for other accumulated architect’s charges, for visits and advice, from the last five years. This won’t happen again until 2017. I would say that this amount represents very good value for money.
5. By “transfers” is meant cheques which were paid into the General Fund, but then had to be divided up and partly transferred to the Fabric Fund. We can’t count this as new money, since it has already been counted as receipts.
2. The cost of printing the magazine is not the complete amount – part of the cost may well be hidden in Administration (other). The magazine is printed sometimes at Kings of Wessex Academy and sometimes on the church office copier.
3. You will have noticed that there are always uncleared cheques carried over from one year to the next. It’s because I’m in a hurry to pay off all the debts I can manage in the last few days of the year. I have to wait till the end of December to know how much they will be!
4. Cost of gas and electricity appears as £1,369.00, but this amount should be decreased by the £232.46 rebate.
5. The Parish Share, at £10,571.88, accounts for just about half of our income. For 2013, for various reasons, the Parish Share will jump up to £12,219.
6. The heading *Clergy expenses in General Fund Payments* is an umbrella term. In addition to expenses paid to our clergy for use of their cars and so on it also includes readers' expenses, payments to visiting clergy and quarterly returns to the DBF in respect of funeral and wedding fees.
7. The interest paid by Lloyds Bank TSB is negligible but on the other hand they do all our accounting for us without charge, so they are very good value.
8. I am very grateful for all the help given by Trisha Heckbert and Alan Rowntree in keeping the accounts in order.

## GENERAL FUND

### Receipts.

Covenants and gift-aid donations	7642.50
Income tax recovered	2161.44
Collections at services	1853.58
Sundry donations	799.70
Grants and legacies	3000.00
Fund-raising	450.00
Investment income	1.18
Trading	



Weddings and funerals	2698.00
Magazine	1198.50
Gas bill refund	232.46
INF donations	460.00
Festival income	941.97
Total	<u>21439.33</u>

Payments

Grants	255.00
Parish Share	10571.88
Clergy expenses	1975.74
Upkeep of Church	
Gas and electricity	1369.00
Other	379.73
Upkeep of services	209.19
Magazine printing	538.50
Organists and vergers	410.00
Administration	
Insurance	515.68
Architectural services	1024.68
Other	382.13
Festival costs	270.00
INF	552.00
Total	<u>18453.53</u>

Balance in bank at 1 Jan 2012	5165.92
Add receipts	21439.33
Less transfers	379.00
Less 3 cheques drawn in 2011, but not cleared until 2012	415.65
Add 3 cheques drawn in 2012, but not yet cleared	566.00
Less payments	18453.53
Balance in bank at 31 Dec 2012	<u>7923.07</u>

Excess of receipts over payments and transfers	<u>2606.80</u>
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Deposit account

Balance at 1 Jan 2012	4519.73
Interest added	1.71
Balance at 31 Dec 2012	<u>4521.44</u>

## FABRIC FUND

Receipts.

Covenants and gift-aid donations	540.00
Non-gift-aid donations	575.00
Fund raising	1456.70
Total	<u>2571.70</u>

*Agenda and reports for meeting*

Payments.

Crypt gate and installation		450.00
Vestry plastering and decoration		1602.54
Repairs to chandelier and hanging		936.00
Total		<u>2988.54</u>
Balance in bank at 1 Jan. 2012		<u>2552.05</u>
Add receipts,	2571.70	5123.75
Add transfers,	379.00	5502.75
Less payments,	2988.54	2514.21
Add one uncleared cheque,	936.00	3450.21
Balance in bank at 31 Dec 2012		<u>3450.21</u>

Excess of expenditure  
over receipts and transfers, £38.54

Collections at home communions

(These amounts are included in collections at services above.)

The Laurels: £25.00

Sealey Close: £32.00

Grants made to other charities

The Children's Society		
Boxes:		795.95
Carols at the Str. Special:		122.16.
Christian Aid envelopes		1133.45
Sisters of the Church		225.00
Int. Nepal Fellowship		552.00
Friends of Somerset Churches and Chapels		30.00
Total		<u>2858.56</u>

The independent examiner's report.

The report, signed on 05 02 13 by Mr Alan B Rowntree of Westfield Barn, is available for inspection.

**D. The churchwarden's fabric report**

*David Cheetham* Churchwarden

The following works have been carried out during the year:

1. A wrought-iron gate has been made and fitted to the entrance to the crypt by Forgecraft Ltd. This was paid for by existing funds in the Fabric Fund.

*Agenda and reports for meeting*

2. In the old vestry (now the unisex lavatory) the dividing wall has been demolished and the whole area of the new vestry and the lavatory has been plastered and decorated in the same way as the rest of the church building. Demolition by voluntary labour, plastering and decoration by Corbel Conservation, financed by the Fabric Fund.
3. The old washbasin in the lavatory has been replaced with a new one, paid for by an individual donor.
4. The Twelve Apostles Chandelier has been stabilized and fitted with an electric hoist allowing it to be set at various heights. Work done by Forgecraft Ltd, paid for partly from the Fabric Fund and partly from an individual donation.
5. The trees in the lime avenue have all been inspected and pollarded by Mendip District Council. The trees have been pollarded at least three times in the past and the present height is the midpoint of those earlier pollards. They are expected to bear a green head of leaves during summer 2013. They should not need any further attention for at least twenty years.

During the exceptionally wet weather this year, the crypt has flooded from time to time, to a depth of up to five feet (1.5 m). Use of an electric pump has lowered the level temporarily, but it seems sensible simply to allow the water to rise and fall through the drain, keeping pace with the water-table level in the churchyard. (*Question: Has it always done this, even when the coke boiler was in the crypt?*)

The damp patches in the transepts are still too wet to allow for redecoration, though they have improved during the year, particularly that in the north transept.

The decoration of the walls in the porch has not lasted well. This is, after all, an exterior area, and the interior distemper paint used has worn off in places. It should be repainted this spring, and is expected gradually to build up a strong enough surface.

The warped panels in the sanctuary have not yet been touched. There is no particular urgency in this repair, though the panels are rather unsightly.

## **E. Deanery Synod Report**

*Tricia Lumley* Deanery Representative

The first meeting of the Deanery Synod for the year was held in June. We were given feedback on the visit of the Bishops Peter round the Deanery. This was felt to be very successful, they took in a number of businesses, as well as schools.

We also had speakers from several areas of vocation and training, both clergy and lay.

The Deanery Synod meeting for November was held at St Andrews Church, Burnham on Sea. The main part of the evening was given to learning about what is going on in some of our parishes and celebrating stories of good news that are quietly happening. I won't give an exhaustive report but a selection; Highbridge have 35-40 children attending an after-school club. A food bank has been opened. Allerton is vibrant, with teenagers starting to take part. Wedmore has established a bereavement group and they also hold a monthly coffee shop which has resulted in some people attending church as a result. Blackford holds a men's breakfast once a month and about 25-30 men attend. Axbridge, Rowberrow and Shipham are thinking of establishing a messy church for adults as the children's events are so successful! They also have a meditation group. At this meeting I was struck at how many of the successful initiatives are centred around food. It's not only an army that marches on its stomach. Many

churches have regular lunches or suppers and we also know how good a response we get from the meals we host.

In December there was an open meeting held in Shipham to discuss the result of the General Synod vote on Women Bishops and where we go from here (which I was not able to attend).

We in Draycott hosted the February meeting at which Roger Medley spoke about the Diocesan Mission. Only 7-8% of adults attend church and 92.5% of children have no contact with the church. We need to reach out to those within our own communities. He assigned the blame for this lack of engagement on cultural shifts which have taken place over the past generation. I liked his definition of mission as one beggar giving another beggar bread. On that note – the meeting noted that they approved the quality of biscuits served in Draycott!

If anyone would like to attend the next meeting it will be on the 15th May in Theale.

## **Other reports**

### **F. Ministry team**

*Chris Butler Curate*

The Ministry Team meet on a regular basis through the year to discuss a number of issues including major festival services, Lent groups and Sunday rotas (although we did not meet during Sue's sabbatical). Once more it was decided to introduce a sermon series during Trinity Season. This year we chose to look at the different elements of the Communion Service, this proved to be rather challenging to prepare but was hopefully valued by the different congregations.

During the past year there have been various changes to the makeup of the Ministry Team. Gordon, Hilary and Richard have all left the team (due to retirement and 'un-retirement'!) and Julie Sims has now joined us. At the end of the year our ministry team in the Benefice was: Sue Rose, Chris Butler, Judith Rose and Julie Sims (priests); and Chris Green, Nikki Devitt and Ann Wait (Readers). Thea Oliver also has a license to preach.

In spite of the various changes- and Sue's sabbatical- we have maintained the morning Eucharist at St. Peter's throughout the year, apart from Remembrance Day (at Draycott Memorial Hall) and those fifth Sundays of the month when we are at our sister churches in the Benefice. On most Sundays the celebrant is assisted by a Reader, and we regularly hear sermons from a wide field of preachers.

Our most recent team meeting was with Father Bob when we had an inspirational account of Church of England ministry in Kafue.

*Supplementary- statistics prepared by Chris Green*

#### 1. Celebrating communion at St. Peter's (Sundays 29/04/12 – 14/04/13)

<b>Person</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>percent</b>
Chris Butler	21	45.7%
Sue Rose	9	19.6%
Judith Rose	6	13.0%
Other	5	10.9%
Hilary Thomas	3	6.5%
Julie Sims	2	4.3%
Totals	46	100.0%

## 2. Preaching at St. Peter's (Sundays 29/04/12 – 14/04/13)

<b>Person</b>	<b>Preaching</b>	<b>percent</b>
Chris Butler	11	23.9%
Chris Green	9	19.6%
Sue Rose	7	15.2%
Nikki Devitt	5	10.9%
Richard Dingley	5	10.9%
Judith Rose	3	6.5%
Other	3	6.5%
Thea Oliver	2	4.3%
Julie Sims	1	2.2%
Totals	46	100.0%

**G. Covenants**

*Tricia Heckbert* Covenant Secretary

Over the past year I have completed the twice yearly Income Tax claim for the year ending 5th April 2012, with a total of £2,295.52 being reclaimed from Gift Aided contributions.

There is little change in covenant contributions from last year, with the number now standing at 28.

**H. School**

*Nikki Devitt* School Governor, Reader

The school has just completed its first year with Jeff Astle as Chairman of Governors. Three governors have stood down in the past year, and have been replaced on the governing body. Two of these were Foundation Governors, and one these was proposed by the PCC of St Peter's (David Rowe). We have also welcomed Rev Chris Butler as an extra co-opted governor, without voting rights. All the new governors have adapted quickly to the role and are already contributing positively to the life of the school.

The church continues to play an active part in school life. We have kept the weekly assemblies going on a Wednesday morning in term-time, with Sue or Chris officiating one week and Nikki the next. The children behave respectfully in the church and join enthusiastically in the responses, the activities and the singing. As a 'Foundation' Governor I have a legal duty to monitor RE and collective worship, but quite apart from these duties, it's very encouraging to see the children participating in the life of the church.

Special church services in the past year have included the Leavers' Assembly in July, Harvest in October, and a Christmas service at the end of term led by Sue. 'Mothering Friday' led by Sue was also well attended, and there was an Easter service at the end of term.

We look forward to the school's involvement in our St Peter's patronal festival in June.

**I. Supporters of St. Peter's (S.o.S.P.)**

*Thea Oliver* Churchwarden

The three original committee members of SOS: Thea Oliver, Tricia Lumley & Maria Millard have this year been helped greatly by the co-opting of Rev Chris, Janette Vining, Mary Anniuk and Karen Percival to our group, we continue to organise fundraising events throughout 2012/13 with the unstinting help and support of our spouses, families and friends!

Please see the treasurer's report for details of amounts raised at each event & in total.

Events to date include:

- Two very successful Soup Lunches in Church: profit shared with Christian Aid
- Bric a brac stall at The Laurel's summer Fayre
- Jumble sale at the Strawberry Special
- Quiz nights at Strawberry Special on the 5th Sunday in the month
- Carol Singing at The Laurels & very successfully in the bar of the Strawberry Special (photos on the Church website [www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk](http://www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk) !)
- 16.2.13 Saturday Concert for Valentines at St Peter's Church.
- 1.3.13 Friday Curry Night for St David's day at the Strawberry
- Our annual Lenten quiz this year had a Royal theme!

Planned events so far for 2013/14 include:

- Jumble Sale on Saturday 20/4/13
- Teddy Bears' Picnic with Cream Teas in Church for St Peter's Festival on 30th June (NB this clashes with Pilton so extra helpers will be needed. Volunteers please!)
- Harvest celebration & Christmas Carols outside the Church building
- More evening Quizzes at Strawberry Special (courtesy of Lori & Mick)
- More Soup Lunches!
- Soup recipe book... still a work in progress
- Other ideas in the pipeline.. a stall at The Laurel's Fayre, involvement in School Christmas Fayre, Carols in the bar on Sunday 8th December before the quiz
- Next committee meeting planned for July, date & venue TBC

As always we are open to suggestions for ideas of things to do & even more so for willing volunteers so please let us know your thoughts!

We are very grateful to everyone who continues to support us in whatever way they can we thank you all.

## **J. Summer Concerts**

*Barrie Rose Organist*

When the idea was first raised of a follow-up series of event to the highly successful 2011 Celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of the Consecration. there was some understandable reticence about going ahead. I had much sympathy with that view, since the small group concerned had worked for many months before 2011 to organise the ten day programme.

However, another part of me thought that we needed to keep the impetus amongst the locals, and further afield, and show that something special was happening at St. Peter's around our Patronal Festival. So at relatively short notice, I managed to organise three events over four days, culminating in a full Choral Evensong on St. Peter's Day itself.

We were extremely fortunate that, at the time, Nicola (our younger daughter) was working closely with Craig Yates, the leading baritone soloist in Only Men Aloud, and somehow we managed to persuade both Craig and Nicola to come to St. Peter's where they delighted a full house with a wide range of songs - ranging from classical to pop.

The following lunchtime, the children from our own school gave us one of their exciting and irrepressible presentations - ably guided and encouraged by their singing teacher and animateur, Kate Lynch.

On St. Peter's day itself (Friday, 29th June), it seemed right and proper to have a sung Service, rather than a concert. To make this possible, I was able to bring boys and girls from the school choir I train in Exeter, and we were joined by guest men's voices associated with Wells Cathedral choir. Again, this was well attended, and those who were there commented very favourably not just on the musical content of the Service but also on the dignity of this traditional form of Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer.

As before, a vital element at these events was free admission and our hospitality - ranging from tea, coffee etc. during the day, to wine and nibbles at the evening concert. Thanks to everyone who helped with that and other aspects of organisation, chair moving, etc.

As this is being written, we are on the count-down to this year's celebrations, and hope that publicity leaflets will soon be available. Please help us to distribute these as widely as possible.

## **K. Local Ministry Group**

*Sue Rose Rector*

The events organised in 2012 by the Steering Group, which meets bi-monthly, were:

- In January a taster session for Guided Prayer by the Rev Jane Eastell, the Diocesan Advisor in Prayer and Spirituality, which led to a week of Guided Prayer in October. This was attended, and much appreciated by 10 people, despite some initial nervousness and misgivings. Another week is already planned for 13th – 19th October 2013.
- The Marriage Preparation morning was held on 18th February in Cheddar. Those attending found it very worthwhile and it is a helpful start for the clergy's preparation with the couples. Crook Peak members provided coffee and delicious home-made cakes and Cheddar Mother's Union served the lunch.
- There were pulpit exchanges in March and October, keeping the congregations aware of the links between our churches.
- A training course for Lay Pastoral Assistants was held in the Spring which has resulted in a visiting team being set up in the Crook Peak Parish.
- The churches in the LMG helped at the annual ecumenical Father's Day event at the Kings of Wessex, running the Children's Craft tent.
- There was a much enjoyed, and well contested, Skittles Evening at Weare in November.
- The Clergy and some Readers continued to meet on Thursdays for Morning Prayer in Axbridge, Cheddar or Weare.

The regular steering group meetings are a welcome opportunity for the clergy to share plans, ideas, dreams and concerns. Details of the various events at the churches within the LMG are also shared, along with Cheddar Valley Churches and Deanery events.

The group's policy of Better Together is to organise events, both for social and spiritual growth, which would not be viable in the individual churches. These continue in 2013 and include our biennial Pentecost event on 19th May which will again be in the beautiful setting of Flagstaff Farm – whatever the weather! Please put the date in your diaries.

*Mendip Local Ministry Group comprises Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow, Cheddar, Draycott & Rodney Stoke and Crook Peak.*

## **L. Lent Groups**

*Chris Green* Reader

For Lent 2013 the benefice followed a course entitled 'Fit for Purpose?', put together by the School of Formation at Bath and Wells. It was ecumenical – although we only had Roman Catholics from outside our own churches- and there was a youth group. Four groups met in Cheddar, led by Sue Rose (who led the youth group with the help of Ceri and Rod Walsh), Chris Butler, Mike Brownbill and Alan Rayfield. One met in Draycott led by Chris Green. In all perhaps 30 people attended.

The course examined the purpose of the church in today's world, and asked how well we were fulfilling our role. Four speakers presented different topics. These were: Timothy Radcliffe (Dominican friar) on the priesthood of all believers; Ann Morisy (Community Theologian) on community; John Bell (the Iona Community) on worship, and our own Bishop Peter Price on mission. Groups took place in the daytime or evenings.

Our final session was from Graham Dodds and Simon Hill, from the School of Formation, on 'next steps'. We ran this as a joint session all together in Draycott, where we had a good attendance (25 people) and some lively debate.

Perhaps some of this thinking might be reflected back into the way we understand our mission, and carry it out. If there is one thing to echo back it may be this- 'decide on the two or three things you do really well, and concentrate on them'.

## **M. Cheddar Valley Churches**

*Sue Rose* Rector

The informal Ecumenical group, Cheddar Valley Churches, continues to play a significant role in our mission and outreach. Both Chris and I value the monthly leaders meeting which meets for prayer and planning and the weekly gathering for prayer and Bible study. Out of this prayer and planning has come a number of initiatives, some tried and tested whilst others are new this year:

- We continue to play an active role in the Father's day Family Fun day, conceived as a way of supporting families and particularly fathers, this is now a valued date in the village calendar. This last year with our LMG partners, we took on the craft tent, with many thanks to the Messy Church teams over 75 children came to take part.



- We also continue to support Jo Slade as ecumenical Schools worker in Kings of Wessex, Fairlands and Sexey's schools. Jo has now established Christian clubs at all the schools. She is also a Christian presence in schools and staff rooms.
- The ecumenical Car Boot team are still active each month; their stall is well known and is for many regulars the source of Christian magazines. The offer to pray is increasingly being taken up, whilst the Christmas outreach through 'Meet the cast' continues to capture the imagination of children, encouraging them to engage with the Christmas story in a different way.
- Festive night saw us joining with the Baptists again to 'Get in the Picture', there were fewer takers for photos in biblical costume this year and it may be time for a change. Further thoughts needed closer to the time.
- A range of shared services took place during the year, Christian Aid, Christian Unity, Bible Society, Women's World Day of Prayer, Ecumenical Stations of the Cross.
- Looking ahead, the financial situation has led Church leaders to consider the necessity of a Food Bank for Cheddar and discussions are proceeding to follow this up.

Our ecumenical links are healthy, and the fellowship between the churches is a real asset for the Christian Mission in the Cheddar Valley.