

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2016 - St. Peter's Draycott – Minutes

Held on 3rd April 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

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The meeting was preceded by a said service of evening prayer led by Chris Green. Tricia Heckbert opened the meeting and took the chair.

1. Attendance and apologies

The following were in attendance: David Cheetham, Tricia Corrick, Nikki Devitt, Richard Dingley, Chris Green, Tricia Heckbert, Colette Jeff, Gordon Jeff, Alison Jeffries, Janet Jeffries, Thea Oliver, Barry Rose, Buffy Rose, Lynda Whittle. Apologies were taken from Gill Dury, Hewart Jeffries, Audrey Morgan, Pat Mullay, Rob and Sue Walker.

2. Minutes from meeting on 12th April 2015

Minutes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 12th April 2015 have been available for inspection and were provided at the meeting. They were agreed to be an accurate record. The single action (the removal of addresses from the electoral roll) had been actioned.

3. Vestry Meeting for the Election of two Church Wardens

The present churchwardens were prepared to stand again for the following year. No further proposals were received. David Cheetham and Dorothea Oliver were therefore duly declared duly elected for the post of churchwarden for 2016/17.

4. Statutory Reports

Statutory reports were all circulated in written form (see separate document), and discussed.

The following points were raised against specific reports

a. Financial report and accounts.

- i. David Cheetham clarified a point about the apparent discrepancy in the accounts for Weddings. These appear in General Fund receipts as £5007, but some of these monies get paid out again in Clergy Fees and Organist's and Verger's fees (respectively £1986 and 1095 in the payments section, although the former includes some non-wedding items as well). So we get some net income, but not as much as at first appears- we declared it as £1925 elsewhere.

- ii. David also explained the way the Magazine was accounted for- the magazine appears in General fund as £1,235 (receipts), and £943.58 (payments). The latter includes the actual printing costs in 2015, and the Rodney Stoke share of the 2014 income. There seemed no better way to represent this.
- iii. We should not congratulate ourselves on being in credit this year rather than deficit as last year. Firstly, these are small amounts given total income and outgoing. Secondly our parish share is significantly less than last year. Thirdly, we probably owe more money from expenses not claimed this year compared to last year.
- b. All other reports were accepted with thanks to those responsible. Re. Fabric - we would like to reiterate our thanks to Richard Oliver for taking on the role of safety officer.
- c. It was proposed that the statutory reports should be accepted en bloc (proposed- Alison Jeffries, seconded Nikki Devitt). All were in favour, and all reports were accepted.

5. **Other reports**

Other reports were also circulated in written form.

- a. Worship and ministry team report (report E, from Chris). The meeting wished to thank Judith and Hilary for supporting us so brilliantly during the vacancy. Tricia Corrick asked whether we could find a way to thank them more formally.
ACTION: the PCC to decide on some appropriate thanks for Judith and Hilary.
- b. Choir report (report G, from Gill Dury- a new report). Nikki Devitt added that we owe all the musicians a big debt of gratitude, for generously giving their time and talent to the worship at Draycott week after week over the years, and entirely unremunerated. A small gift and a round of applause what then offered to Barry and David in token of our appreciation (a similar presentation will be made next week to Ian and Ruth Ames-White at the Second Sunday service).

Barry added his congratulations to David on the choir, which had greatly enhanced morning worship. Occasionally the seating needs to be re-thought- the congregations was rather squeezed at Easter!

Lynda also said from the point of view of a non-choir member, the choir had enhanced Sunday worship, particularly with the choir anthems.
- c. SoSP report (report J, from Thea Oliver). It would have been nice to know how much SoSP fund raising had contributed to General and Fabric funds, and also how much had come from other fund-raising events (such as Barry Rose's concert). These were provided later by David (see Appendix I).
- d. Magazine (report M, from Rob Walker). The meeting wanted to record its warm thanks to Rob for his hard work and the excellent standard from the previous editor he continued to maintain. We do sometimes need to try harder to make sure items make it into the magazine- it is the responsibility of us all (the same is true for Pew Notes).

6. **Election of Laity to the Parochial Church Council for 2016-17**

The following had been proposed and seconded for election to the Parochial Church Council for 2016-2017: Richard Dingley, Chris Green, Tricia Heckbert, Alison Jeffries, Janet Jeffries, Colette Jeff, Barry Rose, Pat Mullay (a new member). All had indicated that they were willing to stand. They were declared duly elected. They will join David Cheetham (church warden), Thea Oliver (church warden and Deanery representative) and Tricia Lumley (Deanery representative) who are on the PCC *ex officio*.

It was proposed by the chair that these be elected *en bloc* – all were in favour.

7. Appointment of sides men and women

All the current ones were carried over, and Lynda Whittle had agreed to join them- so we have enough. Thank you to all of them!

8. Appointment of independent financial examiner

Alan Rowntree would be approached to act as our independent financial examiner for a further year, if we wanted. (David proposed, Nikki seconded- all were in favour).

9. Closing Remarks from the Church Wardens

David Cheetham

(see Appendix II)

10. Any other matters of important to the Parish

Tricia Corrick asked if special appreciation could be shown to Judith and Hilary. We all agreed. *ACTION*: the PCC will take this up.

11. Closing prayer

The meeting was closed by saying the Grace together.

APPENDIX I**St Peter's Church Draycott Fundraising in 2015****Into the fabric fund**

<i>Month</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i> (£)	<i>Note</i>
March	Curry night and Raffle	511.00	
April	Quiz	43.00	
June	Jumble sale	290.00	
June	Roses' concert	684.70	
July	Ditto	30.00	
Sept	Treasure Hunt	200.00	
Oct	Harvest curry night	200.00	
Subtotal		1958.70	

Into the general fund

<i>Month</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i> (£)	<i>Note</i>
March	Christian Aid Lunch	171.60	(£175 paid to Christian Aid)
July	Cake sale	75.55	
Oct	Michaelmas Fare	470.20	
Oct	Harvest supper for CSC	300.00	(£300.00 paid to CSC)
Subtotal		1017.35	

Total fundraising proceeds **2976.05**

APPENDIX II

Closing remarks from the churchwarden

It's my job at the end of this meeting to say a few words to draw to a close this evening, and also as it happens this chapter in our 155 years history. I used to be able to speak extemporaneous, but nowadays I find it more comfortable to write down my thoughts. But it doesn't mean that I'm any less sincere in what I say.

This time last year, Sue's ministry among us had ended a few weeks earlier and we confidently expected that a new priest would be in place shortly. One instruction that Alison and I were given by the congregation was that "If we can't get the right person, we'd rather have nobody", and I think we have fulfilled that instruction to the letter. Stuart's job in N Ireland ends next Sunday, and then he'll be hot-foot across to Somerset to begin his – and our – new life here.

It sometimes happens that when incumbents leave their parishes they feel that they don't want to "tread on their successor's toes", and the people never see them again. We are very fortunate in having Sue still not too far away, and visiting us here often, and the same can be said of John Hall, whose ministry we are still enjoying.

This 15 month vacancy has been made very much easier to manage by the presence in this benefice of two remarkable women. Without Judith's and Hilary's tireless enthusiasm and cheerfulness we should have had a very different time of it, and I'd like it to be minuted that we owe the two of them a great debt of gratitude. If David Cameron were giving this talk, he'd have it written on his autocue at this point "Pause for applause".

We are very fortunate in this parish to have people who have the ability to preach the word to the congregation. It's not an ability that I have myself. I'm far too outspoken to know how to speak meaningfully to such a disparate group of people. We are all on our journey towards the "celestial city", but those who are preachers seem to be making their journey on a tight-rope. I'd like it to be minuted how very fortunate we have been to have the kindly, wise words of Chris, Thea, Richard and Gordon who have stepped forward from their seats in the congregation and encouraged us, amused us and enlightened us so memorably. "Pause for applause".

Every so often, the Archdeacon asks Thea and me what "new expressions of church" there have been in Draycott. In 2014 we had "First Saturday Coffee and Cakes". In 2015 we have had "choir". Very few churches that I know have a choir that does anything more than lead the congregational singing – though that is a very useful attribute in itself. At St Peter's I've been extraordinarily fortunate to find a group of keen, hard-working people who are willing and able to fashion their voices into a blended whole, and provide an extra dimension for the worship. "Applause?".

I've said it already, and I'll say it again – we are very fortunate in this church. To quote Shakespeare "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers" [If he'd been writing in the 21st century, he would have said "band of siblings"] We band of brothers cover a huge spread of opinions, of abilities and of interests, but we work and worship happily together and we are unstinting in our giving of our goods and our talents in the service of God, of the community and of each other. If I may speak as the Treasurer for a moment, there are some remarkably generous people here. We have a strong church to hand over to Stuart next month. We can be proud of ourselves.

David Cheetham