

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2017 - St. Peter's Draycott – Minutes

*Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the church.*

## **Contents**

1.	Attendance and apologies .....	1
2.	Minutes from meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2016 .....	1
3.	Vestry Meeting for the Election of two Church Wardens .....	1
4.	Statutory Reports.....	1
5.	Other reports .....	2
6.	Election of Laity to the Parochial Church Council for 2017-18.....	3
7.	Appointment of sides men and women.....	3
8.	Appointment of independent financial examiner.....	4
9.	Closing Remarks from the rector .....	4
10.	Any other matters of important to the Parish.....	4
11.	Closing prayer.....	4

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

### **1. Attendance and apologies**

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

### **2. Minutes from meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**

Minutes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 3rd April 2016 have been available and were circulated at the meeting. They were agreed to be an accurate record and signed.

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

Two nominations had been received for the two posts of churchwarden: David Cheetham (proposed Nicola Devitt, seconded Thea Oliver), and Patricia Heckbert (proposed Chris Green, seconded Thea Oliver). They were willing to stand and all were in favour at this meeting (it was noted that Patricia will probably only hold the post for a single year as she may be leaving the village next year). They were duly appointed for 2017/18.

### **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. Electoral roll (report A)- will need to be revised in 2019. Thanks to Richard Dingley.
- b. Report on PCC proceedings (report B). Thanks to Chris Green.
- c. Financial report and accounts (report C). Responding to questions, David clarified several points. Deposit accounts have been closed as they paid practically no interest. However the parish share had been paid in full at the start of the year, which had earned us a significant discount. Some monies (such as clergy fees for weddings) went through our books but were paid out almost immediately on receipt. David is also very averse to carrying debt on the books, and pays all bills promptly. Patricia Heckbert proposed that we accept the accounts, and Colette Jeff seconded. All were in favour.

Stuart thanked David for all his hard work and for presenting the accounts so clearly.

- d. Fabric report (D). Most of this was taken by the quinquennial survey report. David highlighted some points, such as the need for a replacement of the roof over the toilet (not renewed together with the main roof). The most expensive of the recommendations was the painting of the nave ceiling (architect's estimate £8,000). We would paint the ceiling of the organ chamber if we proceeded with the nave (but not otherwise). Scaffolding would be required to reach the apex of the roof, which would add greatly to the cost. We were awaiting the Corbel estimate before we decided whether to proceed.

David also reported on the refurbishment of the organ. This was a valuable church asset (valued at £100,000) and in dire need of overhaul. The most obvious defect is the noisy and leaky organ blower, but there is much leakage from the soundboards and the pipes are very dirty. The organ would be out of action (and the chancel out of bounds) for 7-8 weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> July. There was a wedding in August for which the organ would not be available- the couple had been contacted and had accepted the alternative offered.

Stuart was very grateful to the churchwardens and the rest of the fabric subcommittee for removing much of the burden from the rest of the PCC, and making their decisions easy. Richard Oliver was also thanked for all his work, particularly as our safety officer.

- e. In presenting the Deanery Synod report (E), Thea emphasised that all were welcome to attend these informative and lively events.
- f. It was proposed that all the statutory reports that had not already been accepted should be accepted en bloc (proposed: Barry Rose; seconded Janet Jeffries). All were in favour.

## **5. Other reports**

Other reports were also circulated in written form.

- a. Worship and ministry team report (report F, from Chris Green). Two particular 'good news' stories were that attendances are up, and we have returned to a full coverage of school services in church- thanks to Stuart, and Nikki (who do the regular assemblies between them) and Thea who assists at some of the larger school services.

Stuart was also keen that we acknowledge the importance of the school as part of our congregation. He thanked Chris and Thea for helping to lead services and for preaching (not only at Draycott, but also at St Leonard's and St Andrews). And he thanked Richard for his ministry to Sealey Close and The Laurels. Stuart joined in our heartfelt thanks to Judith and Hilary, for the generous gift of their ministry to us.

- b. Choir report (report G, from Gill Dury). The choir received appreciation from several people at the meeting. Barry Rose congratulated David in particular- as the choir is very much his project- and suggested that for the occasions when the church is fuller (e.g. Easter) we might relocate to the choir stalls in the chancel. David said that where possible we would stay in the nave as the choir could be heard so much better there.

Stuart said that those visiting the church for the first time these days were astonished at the quality of our singing, which rivalled that of many much larger establishments. The anthem was often the high part of the service for him. He expressed his great appreciation for the organists, Barry, David and Ian Ames-White.

- c. Covenant report (H from Patricia Heckbert). Short and to the point! Stuart thanked Patricia as covenant secretary.
- d. School report (I from Nikki Devitt). Stuart thanked Nikki in particular for taking so many of the school assemblies- she was especially good at eliciting lively participation in the bible stories they covered.

- e. SoSP report (report J, from Tricia Lumley and Thea Oliver). We are pleased we can support several outside charities as well as church fundraising. Over the years SoSP has funded or part funded a number of purchases that have contributed to the functioning of the church, the latest being the folding screen. A summary of the monies raised was provided at the meeting. Since the previous APCM SoSP had raised £1,538 and spent £1,608. Fund raising was from different sources, including the first Saturday events (especially when accompanied by stalls).  
Stuart commended the members of SoSP for their enthusiasm as well as the money they raised. He particularly appreciated how SoSP included some at the margins of the church congregation, helping to broaden participation in the life of the church beyond the body of regular churchgoers.
- f. LMG report (report K). Stuart commented on how Pam Williams (secretary to the LMG) had been a driving force and had made sure they generally came out of a meeting with some new initiative. The Lay Pastoral Assistant course had been a particularly important development in the Deanery, and had been backed by the LMG- and by the benefice.
- g. Study groups (report L, from Chris Green and Thea Oliver). We had conducted two very successful series of discussion groups- Stuart encouraged us all to join in the next ones.
- h. Magazine (report M, from Rob Walker). Rob Walker emphasised that this was very much a joint venture between Rodney Stoke and Draycott. It was often hard for him to connect with the readership and we discussed ways in which this might be facilitated (possibly by inviting and then selectively printing feedback in the magazine).  
Discussion at the meeting brought out the dual role for the magazine as interesting and entertaining for a non-church audience (surely the majority of the readership), and being a window into the life of the church, as a church magazine. To do both we must endeavour to make our 'churchy' pieces as accessible as possible to a wider audience.  
The suggestion that the cover price be raised would be considered at the next PCC meeting. Stuart thanked Rob for a high-quality and very successful church magazine.

## **6. Election of Laity to the Parochial Church Council for 2017-18**

The new churchwardens (David Cheetham and Patricia Heckbert) were *ex officio* members of the PCC. This also applied to the deanery representatives- Thea Oliver and Tricia Lumley were both willing to continue (and had been elected at a previous meeting).

The following had been proposed as additional members for 2017-2018: Chris Green, Richard Dingley, Tricia Heckbert, Alison Jeffries, Colette Jeff and Pat Mullay (all were current members). It was suggested that they be re-elected *en bloc* (proposed Tricia Corrick, seconded Richard Dingley). An additional member, Gill Dury, was proposed by David Cheetham and seconded by Thea Oliver. All were in favour of both sets of proposals, which were duly carried. A list of the PCC membership would be posted on the church notice board.

Two previous members were stepping down due to the pressures of other commitments: Barry Rose and Janet Jeffries. We all appreciated the service they had given.

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

The current list is: Lynda Whittle, Gordon and Colette Jeff, Richard Dingley, Nikki Devitt and Alison Jeffries, but Alison requested to step down. The remaining members agreed to stay on- all were in favour. Thank you!

**8. Appointment of independent financial examiner**

David proposed Alan Rowntree as our independent financial examiner for a further year. This was seconded by Lynda Whittle- all were in favour.

**9. Closing Remarks from the rector**

In his closing remarks, Stuart thanked a number of those present, and some others who were not. Patricia Heckbert was thanked for chairing the PCC meetings, and also Gordon, Colette and Richard for hosting the meetings in great comfort in their homes. He thanked those who did coffee, cleaning and flowers, which each contributed so much to making the church a welcoming place. And he thanked the church of St Peter's for giving him such a warm welcome since his arrival.

Stuart singled out music as one of our great strengths. He also mentioned our outreach activities- particularly the first Saturday coffee and cakes, which was now regularly attracting a group of 40 or 50 people. The connection with the school was another strength. The challenge here was relatively weak link with the children's families.

A further strength Stuart perceived in St Peter's in particular was our intelligent and questioning approach to faith, fulfilling St Anselm of Canterbury's definition of theology, 'Faith seeking understanding'. This is seen in various spheres, including study groups, discussion after second Sunday services, and comments that Stuart often receives on his sermons both after the service and later during the week. This in turn makes the experience of sermon preparation and preaching a more positive one for Stuart.

A further challenge to all the parishes is in coming together to make a more united benefice.

For the future, Stuart perceives a hunger in this as well as in the other churches for social justice, and thinks we need a focus for this. This is something we will discuss in our PCCs.

**10. Any other matters of important to the Parish**

We took this opportunity to express our especial appreciation for the many contributions of Thea Oliver to church (and village) life, as she steps down from her nearly 20 years of service as a churchwarden at St Peter's. Following remarks by Stuart, several others singled out some of the gifts and qualities that had made her such an effective leader of our church community. We are sure she will find many other ways to serve. In the meantime, we gave her a rousing three cheers!

**11. Closing prayer**

The meeting was closed by saying the Grace together.