

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

Agenda and Reports

23rd April 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Draycott church.

Agenda

Item	Report	Responsible	Page
1. Attendance and apologies			
2. Minutes from meeting on 3 rd April 2016 (confirmation of accuracy)			
3. Vestry Meeting for the Election of two Church Wardens			
4. Statutory Reports			
a) Electoral Roll	A	<i>Richard Dingley</i>	2
b) Report on PCC proceedings	B	<i>Chris Green</i>	2
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e) Deanery Synod Report	E	<i>Thea Oliver</i>	6
5. Other reports			
a) Worship and ministry team	F	<i>Chris Green</i>	7
b) Choir	G	<i>Gill Dury</i>	9
c) Covenants	H	<i>Tricia Heckbert</i>	9
d) School	I	<i>Nikki Devitt</i>	9
e) Supporters of St. Peter's (SoSP)	J	<i>Thea Oliver</i>	9
f) Local Ministry Group	K	<i>Pam Williams</i>	10
g) Study Groups	L	<i>Thea Oliver</i>	11
h) Church Magazine	M	<i>Rob Walker</i>	12
6. Election of Laity to the Parochial Church Council for 2017-18			
7. Appointment of sides men and women			
8. Appointment of independent financial examiner			
9. Remarks from the rector		<i>Stuart Burns</i>	
10. Any other matters of important to the Parish			

To close with The Grace: *May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore, Amen* (after 2 Cor 13:13)

Statutory Reports

A. Electoral Roll

Richard Dingley Electoral Roll Officer

This year there are four changes to report in the Electoral Roll – that of the deaths of Clémence Boyd and Dee Grayling. There are also three additions to the Roll – Glenys Fulton, Sarah Burns and John English. Thus the total number on the Roll is 38.

A copy of the current roll is displayed on the church notice board.

B. Report on PCC proceedings

Chris Green PCC Secretary

This year we welcomed the addition of Pat Mullay to the PCC, as well as our new rector Stuart Burns (who joined us in time for our June meeting). Members and officers were: Stuart Burns (rector), Tricia Heckbert (Lay Chair, covenant secretary, safe-guarding officer), David Cheetham (church warden, treasurer), Thea Oliver (church warden, Lay Worship Assistant), Chris Green (secretary, Reader), Richard Dingley (electoral roll), Alison Jeffries, Janet Jeffries, Colette Jeff, Pat Mullay, Trish Lumley, and Barry Rose. We also have a safety officer- Richard Oliver- who does not attend our regular meetings.

We held meetings on 10th April, 1st June, 6th July, 24th August, 17th October and 23rd November in 2016, and on 11th January, 22nd February and 29th March in 2017. I seen that we have somehow fitted in three more meetings in 2016/17 compared to the previous period. We met at Kundasan and at 9 Barnet's Well, and would like to thank both Richard Dingley and Colette and Gordon Jeff for their hospitality.

Stuart has introduced an amended template for our PCC agendas. There is now rather more preparation ahead of the meeting, and less new business being raised at the meeting itself- probably a good thing, except rather more for your secretary and your rector to do! The secretary aims to get minutes out within a week of the meeting itself (and generally succeeds). Once agreed they are also published on our Website (www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk - go to Draycott, then Reports, where you will also find APCM minutes).

A significant item for the PCC this year was the long-awaited quinquennial survey report. This was dealt with through a fabric sub-committee that reported back to the PCC on the 29th March (covered here in the Fabric Report).

We have been very ably chaired by Tricia Heckbert and all on the PCC would like to thank her for her gentle insistence on timeliness and despatch!

C. Financial Report and Accounts

David Cheetham Treasurer

The PCC has paid the parish share of £9298.40.

The church has made grants to other charities, including special collections, totalling £3094.80. Under the government grant-aid scheme, the church has received £2226.01 in reclaimed tax. In the general fund, the excess of receipts over payments was £3237.13. In the fabric fund, the excess of receipts over payments was £4390.18. To my knowledge, the church has no outstanding debts.

As always, I am most grateful to Mrs Trisha Heckbert, assistant treasurer and to Mr Alan Rowntree, independent examiner of the accounts, for their invaluable help.

FABRIC FUND

RECEIPTS

Covenants	240.00
Fund raising*	2838.88*
Organ fund donation	200.00
Fund raising**	1887.50**
Total	<u>5166.38</u>

Fund raising*

Feb	Curry night & raffle	470.50
May	Jumble sale	370.00
Jun	Music quiz	116.00
Aug	Treasure hunt	152.00
Sep	Skittles	841.88
Sep	Owl talk	112.20
Oct	Michaelmas fair	277.80
Nov	Curry night	498.50
Total		<u>2838.88*</u>

Fund raising for the organ fund**

Jun	Music quiz	100.00
Jul	Concerts	594.60
Oct	Concert	187.90
Dec	CD sales	150.00
Dec	Concert	855.00
Total		<u>1887.50**</u>

PAYMENTS

Plumbing – sink unit	259.00
Steeplejacks – repairs to bells.	517.20
Total	<u>776.20</u>

BALANCE

Bank balance 1 Jan 2016	7528.23
Add receipts	5156.38
Less payments	776.20
Bank balance 31 Dec 2016	<u>11984.41</u>
Excess of receipts over payments	<u>4380.18</u>

Other small amounts held by the church on 31 Dec 2016:

In the rump General Deposit Ac. £27.41; in the rump Fabric Deposit Ac £1.05. In the petty cash tin (mainly small coins from the wall safe) £8.33 plus three assorted foreign coins.

GENERAL FUND

RECEIPTS

Covenants	7817.00
Income tax recovered	2226.01
Collections at services	2070.60
Donations	1576.80
Legacy	1000.00
Fund raising	100.00**
Magazine income	1096.50
Weddings, funerals, memorials,	6187.00
Receipts for INF	410.00
Total	<u>22483.91</u>

PAYMENTS

Grants made	400.00*
Parish share	9298.40
Clergy expenses	116.85
Upkeep of church	1560.14
Upkeep of services	294.08
Gas and electricity	1106.00
Cost of magazine	916.28
Clergy fees	2260.80

Organists, vergers, secretary	1348.65
Admin, insurance, architect	1535.58
Payments to INF	410.00
Total	<u>19246.78</u>

Grants made (*make up the 400.00 from church account: ** fund raising in receipts above refers to the £100 donation to CSC)

Aug. Christian Aid,	1177.05
Sep. Mendip Owls	140.00
July. Friends of Somerset churches	30.00*
Oct. CSC	100.00*
Oct. Axbridge Deanery.	90.00*
Oct. Mendip YMCA for refugees.	100.00*
Nov. British Legion	218.30
Dec. Embrace the Middle East	80.00*
Jun. & Dec. INF	410.00

BALANCE

Bank balance 1 Jan 2016		8910.63
Add receipts	22483.91	31394.54
Less payments	19246.78	12147.76
Less 2015 late cheques	567.80	11579.96
Add 2016 late cheques	1124.00	12703.96
Add transfer	4500.00 ***	17203.96
Bank balance 31 Dec 2016		<u>17203.96</u>
Excess of receipts over payments		<u>3237.13</u>

Compare 2015: General fund receipts £21881.00, payments £18578.41, excess £3302.59

***The £4500 was transferred to the General Fund from the General Deposit Account in order to pay the Parish Share in one lump sum at the beginning of 2016, thus attracting a rebate of 1.5%. The Deposit Account had been paying us interest at only 0.05% pa. At 31 Dec 2016, the balance of the rump General Deposit Account was £27.41 and of the Fabric Deposit Account £1.05.

The finances of the church magazine are a little complicated. The takings, from readers and advertisers, amounted to £1096.50 in 2016. The cost of printing was £660.00.

The cost of the magazine is, however, reported above as £916.28; the extra £256.28 (that is, 916.28 less 660.00) was the amount paid to the PCC of St Leonard's as their share of the profits from the 2015 magazine.

The profit made by the 2016 magazine was actually £436.50 (that is 1096.50 less 660.00).

This must be shared between the two churches, calculated according to the numbers of subscribers in the two villages. Rodney Stoke collected £305.00 and Draycott £431.50, a total of £736.50.

So calculating $436.50 \times 305.00 / 736.50$ gives £180.76, and this amount is due to be paid by Draycott PCC to Rodney Stoke PCC. It will appear in the 2017 accounts.

The amount reported as "Collections at services" above includes £25.50 from home communions.

The £1000.00 reported as "Legacy" above is a donation to the church made in the will of Mrs Winifred Rowland decd.

The payment to the architectural consultant for the quinquennial report has been included in 2016 accounts, even though we haven't received the report yet.

D. Churchwarden's Fabric Report

David Cheetham Treasurer

The quinquennial (five-yearly) survey was carried out in Nov 2016. After receiving the report, a subgroup of the PCC held two planning meetings, and produced the schedule (below).

Many items on the schedule are regular maintenance, already budgeted for and carried out. Some items- to do with the churchyard and its boundary wall, are the subject of negotiations with Mendip District Council, who will help as much as possible within their financial constraints. Some items are being discussed in PCC, and we will decide whether to go ahead with them during the five year period or not.

The dampness visible in the area beside the safes appears to be improving. A number of solutions have been tried for this problem.

The single largest item on the schedule- painting the ceiling of the whole church apart from the chancel, which has already been done- has been put out to tender, and we await estimates for this work. If they are too large, this task will not be attempted.

The church organ is a valuable piece of equipment, currently insured at £100,000. During the summer it will be out of action for a period of about eight weeks for routine cleaning and maintenance.

The PCC has looked after the church building very carefully, and there are no apparent causes for concern.

Schedule arising from the quinquennial survey, and PCC recommendations

Type of work/ possible contractor	Items (fuller description on schedule)	GC pr.	Fabric Committee recommendation (member responsible)
High level works (Steeplejacks)	2.1.1.replacing slipped tile(s)	B	Needs attention- get quote (DC)
	2.4.2 patch-point gable s. transept	B	Needs attention- get quote (DC)
Lower level building work (local builder- NB. repointing work requires lime mortar)	2.1.2 Replacing roof of WC	C	We are unsure if it is needed- get builder to quote and advise on priority (NB. not damp inside) (TO/ RO)
	2.4.1 Repointing of stonework in WC and chancel	B	Good to do- get quote (TO/ RO)
	2.4.3 replace 'kneeler stone', repointing	B	Re-bedding of kneeler stone and other stones is required, but is replacement? Get advice and quotation (TO/ RO)
	2.4.4 repointing in nave and n. transept	C	Required- get quote (TO/ RO)
	3.2.1 repointing in s. transept/by organ	B	Required- get quote (TO/ RO)
Gutters, downpipes (in-house working party)	2.2.1 test drain to s. transept (damp)	A	Leave- already addressed with several measures- damp may not be from drain and may still dry out (hopper too small?)
	2.2.2 redecorate rainwater goods	C	Some of the guttering does need to be done again- low priority (for in-house working party?)
Ground gutters/ drains	2.6.1 re-set manhole cover (n. transept)	B	Required- check on whose responsibility it is (MDC or PCC?) (TO/ RO)
Woodwork (local carpenter)	2.7.2 weather board to base vestry door	B	Required- get quote (TO/ RO)
	3.2.2 repair panelling in chancel	C	Good to do- get quote (TO/ RO)
	5.1.1 repair and redecorate main gate	B	Required: get advice and quotation- NB. may need a new gate (TO/ RO)
	(ad) External notice board- repair frame	n/a	Required- get quote (TO/ RO) (NB. back board also needs attention- in-house)
	(ad) Replace/repair carvings over altar	n/a	Good to do- get advice and quotation
General simple repairs etc. (to do ourselves with in-house working party)	2.7.1 redecorate both external doors	B	Required- add to list
	3.4.1 redecorate window in WC	B	Good to do- add to list
	3.7.1 redecorate areas damaged by damp	C	Postpone until further dried
	4.1.1 asbestos survey	B	Informal survey done. Still to do- attach warning notices to identified areas (RO to source appropriate notices)

Type of work/ possible contractor	Items (fuller description on schedule)	GC pr.	Fabric Committee recommendation (member responsible)
	4.3.1 fire precautions 4.5.1 undertake in-house audit 5,1,1 redecorate overmantle to gate 5.1.1 investigate renewal of light fitting over gate (ad) Gate to car park needs attention (worn loose hinge)	A D B B n/a	We already have a CO ₂ extinguisher- recommendation will be removed Renew yellow tape on steps (DC) (other items have been done e.g. ramp) Good to do- add to list Not cost effective unless we can find an old one- look out for one. Clean bulb cover (find better bulb?) (add to list) Good to do- needs sleeve or washer (add to list)
Plasterwork (local plasterer)	3.1.1 repairs to ceiling above boiler	B	Low priority, cosmetic, hidden from public view- no action unless we proceed on ceiling redecoration (3.1.2)
Ceilings (Corbel or other specialist)	3.1.2 redecorate ceilings of nave, vestry, transepts, organ chamber	C	May be very costly, and is cosmetic- get quote and decide (DC)
Lightning conductor	4.4.1 test 4.4.2 sheath bottom sections of conductor down tapes	B B	Already being done- no action Ask steeplejack to advise (DC)
Boundary walls, gates	5.1.2 cut back ivy, patch point wall	C	Whose responsibility? (TO)
Health & safety (raised by RO)	(ad) Subsidence to path near s. transept (next to Shingleton grave) (ad) Trip hazard on path inside new cemetery		(Both items). Add to risk register (RO). Raise with MDC (TO)

E. Deanery Synod Report

Thea Oliver Deanery Synod Representative

Background

The main functions of deanery synod are to discuss and reflect on matters of the Church of England as they affect the deanery, and generally ‘to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical’. Deanery synod acts as a forum for the airing of parish views on any common problems, the communication of diocesan synod decisions, the consideration of relevant business and the referral to diocesan synod of matters of concern. Deanery synod meets three times a year

Recent meetings of Axbridge deanery synod have included a summer evening visit to a dairy farm in Wedmore and supper afterwards during which we had a talk from Tom Tincknell the farmer & a representative from Farm Community Network.

St Peter’s Church hosted the October meeting when Rt.Rev Ruth Worsley Bishop of Taunton talked about “Shaping our Future”, where we met our new Lay Ministry Coordinator. Rev. Jonathan Phillpott. Then followed a brief discussion on: How we can best share news from the parishes; Dates and themes for future Synods; Key items you will share at your PCCs; What from this meeting has resourced us for effective ministry for effective mission?

In an attempt to see if more people would attend a day time/weekend meeting the February meeting was held on a Saturday afternoon at Easton Church, but was reported to be quite poorly attended, unfortunately neither of the deanery synod reps from St Peter’s had been

informed of the date. There was a presentation on 'inclusive church' by clergy. While the church often focuses on LGBT issues, there is a concern that learning disability (and other mental health issues) might lead to other forms of discrimination by churches.

Date & venue for next deanery synod will be at Wedmore Village Hall On Thursday 4th May at 7pm. This meeting will include supper served by the clergy, the after dinner speaker will be Rev Tim Gibson, theologian & journalist who will talk about "The language of evangelism". We will then hear a presentation of the preliminary draft deanery plan, which will be discussed and adopted at our meeting on July 11th at Highbridge.

Other Reports

F. Worship and Ministry Team

Chris Green Reader

Worship highlights in 2016:

- Welcoming Stuart Burns as our new rector, taking his first service at St Peter's on 15th May
- Continued coverage of all our expected services
- Continued success of the Second Sunday Service
- Continued contribution of the choir to our Sunday services
- Higher attendances than last year
- Start of new Breakfast Service at Cheddar, supported by St Peter's

Services held in St Peter's

The table below summarises the services in St Peter's in 2016 (figures for 2015 are given for comparison). There were a few more Sunday services than in the previous year, a lot more School services (10 more), and 18 more funerals or memorial services. There were less other services, including baptisms and marriages (although these are small categories).

We continue to have communion services most Sundays- and held two on weekdays (Maundy Thursday, Christmas midnight service).

Services in St Peter's	Services (of which, communion)	
	2016	2015
Sunday morning worship (including one joint benefice service)	48 (36)	46 (35)
Non-Sunday Eucharist services	2	2
Morning/evening worship, not Sunday or Eucharist	3	6
School services	25	15
Baptisms	2	4
Funerals, memorial services	26	8
Marriages	2	3

Who led and preached?

(Please see the summary on the table, below. NB. Numbers include Christmas Midnight and Maundy Thursday as well as Sundays, though not school services).

The 'home team' of Stuart, Judith and Hilary covered most of our communion services- and once again our especial thanks is due to Judith and Hilary for covering the vacancy, during the first part of the year. We are greatly privileged that all three continue to make the journey out to Cheddar to look after their smaller congregations in Draycott and Rodney Stoke- without this we might have to drop some of our communion services. Ken Brown deserves a

special mention too as he has filled in on several important services for us, include Christmas midnight and Maundy Thursday. Stuart, Judith and Hilary have also covered most of the additional services- funerals, marriages and baptisms. Last but not least, school services have been led by Stuart and Nikki- the jump in school services compared to 2015 is mainly due to the extra coverage they have been able to provide between them.

Preaching covered a wider range of people even than leading, and I hope you also agree that this variety is refreshing. It was particularly good to welcome Sister Annaliese from the Community of the Sisters of the Church, whose 'loaves and fishes' project in St Paul's, Bristol which this church has supported over a number of years now. She gave us some excellent illustration of the needs being met.

Officiant	Lead	Preach
Judith Rose-Gwyer	14	7
Stuart Burns	11	9
Hilary Thomas	6	4
Thea Oliver*	6	8
Chris Green*	4	8
John Angle	1	1
Kenneth Brown	5	5
Alistair Glanville*	1	1
John Hall	1	1
Simon Hill	1	1
Mike Brownbill	-	1
Gordon Jeff	-	1
Sr Annaliese (CSC)	-	1
TOTAL	49	48

* *Second Sunday Services*

Attendances

In 2016 numbers increased slightly to over 20 for 'normal' Sunday services (excluding joint benefice) (compared to less than 18 last year). The Second Sunday Service attendance lagged a bit behind this average at about 18 (this still up on last year however when it was about 17).

Numbers in school services, funerals and others not part of our regular Sunday worship are not generally recorded. In fact funerals and memorial services are often the most well-attended events of all- several of these had 'standing room only' last year. School services range from around 50 for a school assembly to perhaps 80 for a leaver's assembly- and given the frequency of these services, we must realise that the children in particular are the largest part of our congregation at St Peter's for the year as a whole (even though we don't see them often during our Sunday worship).

Ministry Team

From his arrival, Stuart welcomed the role of the ministry team in helping to manage services in the benefice. The team is drawn from the three parishes and meets about every two months. Thea and Chris continue to represent Draycott in this group, and we feel that our role as liaison between the benefice and the parish of St Peter's is an important one. It helps keep the issues of most importance for St Peter's at the heart of benefice concerns. It also helps our PCC understand and support initiatives that start elsewhere in the benefice, such as the highly successful Breakfast Service.

G. Choir

Gill Dury Choir member

Again, it has been an exciting year for the choir under the leadership of David Cheetham.

Practices are usually held on Monday evenings from 7.45 until 8.45pm, at the home of Gordon and Colette Jeff. The hour passes quickly, learning new hymns and anthems, in an enjoyable way.

A few new hymns by John Bell have been learnt and these surely will become firm favourites with both choir and congregation.

In June, a group from St Peter's and St Leonard's joined mass choirs in the Diocesan Choral Festival Service at Wells Cathedral. "The Cloud of Witnesses" was a spiritually uplifting choral event, concluding in an anthem "The souls of the righteous" by David Manners, especially commissioned in memory of his father Christopher who died in 2013.

Christmas was again celebrated at both churches with new and old favourites, both lively and contemplative.

Thanks must go to David for his quiet but humorous method of teaching. He is appreciated by all! Thanks also to Ian Ames-White and Barry Rose who step in to assist on many occasions.

The choir would welcome new members, especially anyone who can sing alto (*or tenor... sec*). No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm!

H. Covenants

Tricia Heckbert Covenant secretary

I have completed the twice yearly Gift Aid claims and in the last year the Church has been able to reclaim £2,226.01 from HMR&C.

There has been little change in the contributions - the total number of covenants stands at 21.

I. School

Nikki Devitt School assembly leader, School Governor Advisory Committee member

Church activities with Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School have increased since the arrival of Stuart, our new rector last May. We are now able to do a church service every Wednesday morning in term time, with Stuart and Nikki alternating. Mike Jory, the head has been keen to get the church team involved in the planning of these services so that they fit in with the themes that the children are thinking about in religious education in school.

Special services have been held for Harvest, Christmas and Easter, with Thea and Stuart taking the Easter service together.

The children participate enthusiastically in the worship, and are familiar with the Bible Stories we tell.

The school service happens every Wednesday morning in term time at 9.10 in St Peter's, David always has the church nice and warm for us, so the church is a welcoming environment. All are welcome to attend.

J. Supporters of St Peters (SoSP)

Tricia Lumley SoSP committee

SoSP has had another very successful year. Our purpose is to support and further the work of St Peter's Church in the village of Draycott and the wider community and with this in mind

we make sure that many of our activities are not just church based but involving us in the life of the village.

The Strawberry Special is a hub of the village and we make sure St Peter's is a visible presence there. Last year it was the venue for two curry nights, a jumble sale and a music quiz and of course the Carol singing. These all reach different groups within our community. We were also a lively team in the summer skittles league, encouraging everyone from our position at the bottom of the rankings.

We have not established a strong relationship yet with the Cider Barn though they were happy to host carol singing so we hope to build on this.

Outreach was one of the reasons we attended the Wedding Fair held in Draycott memorial Hall in October. We wanted to remind people that the building of St Peters Church is a resource for the village, as is the SoSP team.

Of course the church has been the main focus for the SoSP events of the year. Our very popular coffee and cake mornings continue to thrive and we have expanded their scope, making them the focus of the Christian Aid collection and hosting an infostall for Fairtrade. We regularly have over forty people attending, and not all from Draycott. It has been heartening to receive support from other parishes in the benefice.

We have also had a couple of soup lunches, which are always popular.

Great effort is put into the Michaelmas Fair and everyone who attends enjoys this, though we would like to increase attendance.

Not all events are successful so we have decided to stop organising the Teddy Bears picnic but we held a walking treasure hunt instead which will hopefully become an annual event.

Our annual wildlife event has again been well supported. This time we had a visit from Avon Owls, accompanied by some beautiful birds. The eagle owl in particular seemed to be very interested in the proceedings but the little owl won the most hearts.

Your SoSP team will continue to work hard in the coming year and I am pleased to report that our numbers are growing. There is a strong social aspect to this work and we welcome more people on board; don't think we only want ladies on our team, men could come up with some good new ideas and would be most welcome.

K. Local Ministry Group

Pam Williams Secretary

The Mendip LMG now covers Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow, Cheddar, Draycott & Rodney Stoke, the Crook Peak group, Wedmore, Theale, Blackford & Allerton.

The steering group consists of: Rev Stuart Burns, Rev Tim Hawkings, Rev Judith Jeffery, Rev Richard Neill, Alan Parfitt, Pam Williams, Rev Joy Hawes. It has met five times since last April.

Highlights include:

Marriage preparation. This was a repetition of a previously successful event that took place on 4th March, in Cheddar village hall. Sixteen couples attended.

Messy church workshop. A workshop/ training session was held on 14th June.

Bishop M. Perham talk. This was held on 3rd November at Blackford church, with the title "The Communion Service – how can we understand and celebrate it better"

Pentecost event (15th May)- this had been organised by the ecumenical churches group but was supported by the LMG.

Lay Pastoral Assistant training course. This had been organised following the recent appointment of Jonathan Phillpott as Lay Ministry Co-ordinator. It was started in Lent this year with two training centres, Berrow and Cheddar. It has now finished, and those who attended will be licensed by the diocese as Lay Pastoral Assistants.

L. Study Groups

Discussion group: *Chris Green* Group Leader

Last Autumn a discussion group was started in the benefice, to help us explore a Christian approach to some of the issues that confront us in the world, as well as to help to build a deeper fellowship within our church community. We held two sets of sessions during Autumn last year and before Lent this year.

We used a book by Samuel Wells, vicar of St Martin in the Fields, entitled 'How then shall we live? Christian Engagement with Contemporary Issues'. Each session covered one chapter from the book, and was led by Stuart, Chris, Judith and Thea. We met mostly in the home of Dyllis Andrews in Tweentown, Cheddar (although for the last session we met in the Den). On most evenings we had enough people to split into two groups.

It proved very stimulating and wide-ranging. Participants were often generous in sharing their life experiences. A piece about it was written for the April issue of the church magazine for anyone who would like to know more.

We are hoping to resume the discussion group this autumn. We have not yet decided whether to carry on with the same book (there are plenty of chapters left!) or whether to choose another.

Lent group: *Thea Oliver* Group Leader

This year we followed the York Course: "Receiving Christ in five different ways".

Session titles were

Session 1: Receiving Christ: as children of God

Session 2: Receiving Christ: in the stranger and the needy

Session 3: Receiving Christ: in Holy Communion

Session 4: Receiving Christ: through prayer and fellowship

Session 5: 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Colossians 1.27)

This year, as before, we had mixed groups from our three Churches and some members of the Catholic Church in Cheddar joined us. There were 4 groups in Cheddar that met on a fixed day & time; 2 in the afternoon & 2 in the evening. The Draycott group called ourselves the "Nomad or Roving Group" as we moved around between different hosts' homes & on different evenings to suit the group member's busy lives! Our group was made up of members of all 4 churches and we were discovered that we had a rich variety of backgrounds & influences from our upbringing in Catholic, Anglican & Methodist & Free Church childhoods, this creating an interesting mix of understanding & discussion during each session.

As in previous years Chris Green led members from all the groups in a Plenary session during Holy Week at St Peter's Church.

As always I would encourage anyone and everyone to join us .. please look out for details of next year's course!

M. Church Magazine

Rob Walker Editor

As readers of the April 2017 edition will recall, the big news relating to the magazine is that it is now on the British Library's radar as a 'periodical publication'. Recognition took the form of a rather curt, even officious, letter reminding the publishers of their legal duty to send the Library a copy of each edition within 30 days of publication with warnings of dire legal consequences in the case of default. But it is nice to be noticed and to be included in the United Kingdom's cultural record - at least 'til BREXIT us do part'.

Facts and Figures

Here are the basics of the magazine operation.

- It is printed by the Kings of Wessex print shop. There are 10 editions per year and the print run is 200 copies.
- There are 170 regular subscribers at £5 per year and the additional copies are collected, or rather 'disappear', from St Peter's and St Leonard's. The www version posted on the <http://www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk/> website attracts a similar, and growing, number of downloads for each edition.
- The print readership can be estimated at about 400 out of a population of 1250 or so at the last census. Edition by edition it easily outsells the Fleet Street products and the Cheddar Valley Gazette in Rodney Stoke and Draycott.
- The magazine has a settled format with 24 A5 pages with a brightly coloured card cover with about 4 pages of advertising and 20 pages of editorial.
- Each edition is the work of about twelve people providing not just the copy but also running the back-office functions i.e. distribution, billing advertisers, collecting subscriptions etc.

Editorial Policy

This has been unchanged for some years now. The magazine's purpose is to

1. inform, intrigue, inspire and amuse the readership in roughly equal measure.
2. aspire to be more than a glorified bulletin board while reflecting the interests and concerns of the parishes.
3. provide a platform for the views of the readership.

Discussion points

- Increasing the cover price to, say £1 a copy, while maintaining the annual subscription at £5
- Finding new contributors to come forward (both regular and occasional)
- Encouraging feedback from the readership
- Developing, or forging, a benefice-wide publication of some kind e.g. a Yearbook
- More cross benefice collaboration and co-ordination would make a lot of sense with respect to the magazine at least.