

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2018 - St. Peter's Draycott

Agenda and Reports

8th April 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Draycott church.

Agenda

Item	Rpt	Responsible	pg
1. Attendance and apologies			
2. Minutes from meeting on 23 rd April 2017 (confirmation of accuracy)			
3. Vestry Meeting for the Election of two Church Wardens			
4. Statutory Reports			
Electoral Roll	A	<i>Richard Dingley</i>	2
Report on PCC proceedings	B	<i>Chris Green</i>	2
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5. Other reports			
Worship and ministry team	F	<i>Chris Green</i>	4
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Choir	H	<i>Gill Dury</i>	6
Covenants	I	<i>Tricia Heckbert</i>	7
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Study Groups	M	<i>Richard Dingley/ Chris Green</i>	9
Church Magazine	N	<i>Rob Walker</i>	10
6. Election of Laity to the Parochial Church Council for 2018-19			
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			

Statutory Reports

A. Electoral Roll

Richard Dingley Electoral Roll Officer

This year there have been no changes to report in the Electoral Roll. Thus the total number on the Roll remains at 38.

A copy of the current roll will be displayed on the church notice board (NB. names only).

B. Report on PCC proceedings

Chris Green PCC Secretary

This year has seen some changes in the makeup of the PCC. At the previous APCM, Janet Jeffries left the PCC, and Thea Oliver stepped down as churchwarden. Thea's place has been very ably taken by Tricia Heckbert. In September we asked John English to join us, which he did at our meeting of 11th November. So at the end of the year PCC membership was: Stuart Burns (rector), Tricia Heckbert (churchwarden, lay chair, covenant secretary), David Cheetham (churchwarden, treasurer), Chris Green (secretary, data protection officer, Reader), Richard Dingley (electoral roll, Reader), Thea Oliver (lay worship assistant, deanery representative, SoSP committee), Trish Lumley (deanery representative, SoSP committee), Alison Jeffries (safeguarding officer), John English, Colette Jeff and Pat Mullay. Richard Oliver is our safety officer (although he does not attend our regular meetings).

We held meetings on 17th May, 20th July, 12th September, 14th November in 2017, and on 16th January and 13th March in 2018 (two less than in the previous year). We met at Kundasan, and would like to thank Richard Dingley for his hospitality. As in previous years, all PCC minutes - and those for the APCM - are published on our Website (www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk - go to Draycott, then Reports).

Further changes are in hand- Trisha Heckbert is due to leave the village (and the country) in the summer, and is stepping down as churchwarden as from this APCM. She will be greatly missed, for her gentle efficiency, her unassuming readiness to take on unglamorous tasks, and for keeping PCC meetings to order. The church will also lose a superb cake baker. However she has kindly agreed to be nominated to stay on the PCC until her departure.

C. Financial Report and Accounts

David Cheetham Treasurer

(circulated separately on request of the Treasurer)

D. Churchwarden's Fabric Report

David Cheetham Treasurer

Organ

Some work has already been done towards the organ restoration, but the main part of the work will begin after Easter 2018. The organ will be out of use for about three months. The organ fund will not initially be sufficient to cover the cost of this work, so temporarily the organ fund will be supplemented by loans from other funds.

Lighting

The flood lights in the church have been replaced by brighter lamps. Uplighters have been installed in the nave roof, and extra power sockets around the building.

Gates

The wooden and wrought iron gates at the main churchyard entrance have been replaced with new gates, by a kind donation.

Boiler

The central heating boiler, which was very old, has been replaced with a new gas boiler. The listed building authority required that the new boiler and its flue should be in the same position as the old equipment. There were some initial problems with leaks in the pipework, but the central heating is now working well.

Dampness

The church building is generally in good shape, though there are still the results of dampness to be seen in some sections of the masonry. Use of a damp meter shows that this is somewhat less of a problem than it was last year.

E. Deanery Synod Report

Thea Oliver Deanery Synod Representative

May

Axbridge Deanery Synod was held at Wedmore Village Hall on Thursday 4th May. The members present enjoyed a supper prepared by and served by deanery clergy, the after dinner speaker was Rev Tim Gibson, theologian and journalist who talked about the language of Evangelism.

The Preliminary Draft Deanery Plan was presented for further discussion and adoption at Deanery Synod on Tuesday 11th July. A standing item at every meeting is hearing news from the parishes and discussed “what can we take from Deanery Synod back to our PCCs ?”

July

On Tuesday 11th July the Deanery Synod was held at St John the Evangelist, Highbridge and the Deanery Mission Plan was discussed. Draft commitments are:

Our detailed plans are based on their sense of commitment to the following broad goals.

1. As a Deanery we are committed to working together in co-operation wherever possible.
2. As a Deanery we are committed to raising up, training, using and supporting lay ministers whose ministry will be both within their local church setting and across boundaries.
3. As a Deanery we are committed to supporting those churches and communities with significant social needs, either financially or with ministerial support.
4. As a Deanery we are committed to supporting those churches and communities with significant new housing by working together to see how the needs of those new areas can best be served.
5. As a Deanery we are committed to resourcing lay and ordained ministers who will be ‘champions’ for potential areas of need or arenas for outreach. These are yet to be decided but could include farming and agriculture, tourism, lay development, poverty and deprivation, schools.
6. As a Deanery we are committed to ensuring that every Deanery Synod, Deanery Chapter and Mission and Pastoral Group is a Learning Environment/Experience so that the deanery can play its part in nurturing ministers, thus resourcing ministry for effective mission.

Key Points

- Axbridge Deanery seeks to be a supportive community of Christians engaged with our local community and our ecumenical colleagues to ‘Resource Effective Ministry for Effective Mission’
- We are doing this because we acknowledge that it is God’s mission and God’s timing, but we are called to fulfil his call laid upon us.

October

On Thursday 19th October we met at Mark Church, with the theme “this is our story this is our song”. We heard from the Archdeacon Anne Gell about her journey, which has included being a maths teacher, a wife and a mother, studying medicine and working as a GP; then what she called a sideways move to ordination, and eventually becoming our Archdeacon!

Tim Hind gave a report on the work of General Synod. Tim Hind was also elected to Lay Chair at this meeting. The retirement of Alan Rayfield was announced, due to ill health

We also elected some new members to the DMPG (Deanery Mission & Pastoral Group) including Rev Stuart Burns & Mrs Thea Oliver. We were given a preview of the new DMP Leaflet. The Rev Jonathan Philpott launched the new Website (www.axgridedeanery.com).

Other Reports**F. Worship and Ministry Team**

Chris Green Reader

Worship highlights in 2017:

- All Sunday services fielded by members of the Benefice ministry team
- A wide diversity of services, over a range of village groupings
- Frequent use of the church by the school, with an increase over last year
- Regular Sunday attendances up on last year

Services held in St Peter's

The table below summarises the services in St Peter's in the calendar year of 2017 (figures for 2016 are given for comparison). There were two less Sunday services than in the previous year, more School services, though many less funerals/ memorial services. There were the same numbers of other services, including baptisms and marriages.

Services in St Peter's	Services	
	2017	2016
Sunday morning worship (communion) (including one joint benefice service)	46 (36)	48 (36)
Non-Sunday Eucharist services	2	2
Morning/evening worship, not Sunday or Eucharist	3	3
School services	31	25
Baptisms	2	2
Funerals, memorial services	6	26
Marriages	2	2

The Second Sunday Service continues as a monthly feature, whose format is quite familiar and accepted. Most of the attendees stay on for the round table discussion over coffee and cake in the second half. We have continued to enjoy Ian Ames-White's musical and other contributions at these services, and also Ruth's when she can be there.

There has been a change in the pattern of joint benefice services. Three of these were the new format of 'breakfast services' in Cheddar, trialled successfully last year (note that not all of the breakfast services are joint benefice ones). There were three other joint benefice services, in Cheddar, Rodney Stoke and Draycott (the latter being our patronal festival).

Other services include weekly school assemblies in term time, and the special school ones (leaver's assembly, and Christmas, Easter and Harvest). There were once again two Taizé style worship services (Advent and Good Friday), and a Lent group plenary service. Two Christmas services that were as popular as ever this year were the carol service (a Sunday afternoon, with 70 people), and the Christmas morning family service (on a Monday with 30 people). At Christmas we sang carols at The Laurels, the Strawberry Special, and the Cider Barn. Christmas is as ever a major season for outreach to the wider community. The Christmas midnight service is relatively less popular (with a congregation of 19, down on the 22 last year). But taking account of attendances and frequency, the school services attract most people in the year as a whole than any other service grouping.

Ministry Team

As in previous years, Stuart works through the ministry team in organising services across the benefice. Meetings are held about every two months (Chris and Thea representing Draycott). Judith and Stuart draw up rotas for the three parishes, and the meetings are an important forum for discussing many aspects of worship. Richard Dingley came out of retirement last year, and is now back on the Ministry team as Reader.

Leaders and preachers

The table below gives a list of officiants and preachers at our Sunday morning services in St Peter's church. Stuart has led and preached on the most occasions during the year, and he and Hilary relieved Judith of some of her duties whilst she was undergoing medical treatment earlier in the year. At our communion services Thea, Richard or Chris usually assist the celebrant by leading the first part of the service. Alistair Glanvile (a reader at St Cuthbert's Wells, and an old friend and associate of the benefice) has both assisted and preached.

Officiant	Lead	Preach
Stuart Burns	17	14
Hilary Thomas	9	6
Judith Rose	8	6
Chris Green	6*	9
Thea Oliver	5*	8
Richard Dingley	1	0
Alistair Glanvile	1	2
Jacob Ng	0	1

* *Second Sunday Services*

We continue to take communion to The Laurels residential home and the Sealey Close sheltered housing estate. Most usually this is done by Richard Dingley, who uses sacrament reserved from the previous Sunday morning communion service for the purpose. Stuart also led the Remembrance Service at Draycott Memorial Hall.

Attendances

Average congregations for Sunday morning services (excluding the joint benefice and Easter services, and one with a baptism party) was over 21, slightly up on last year, when it was just over 20. The Second Sunday Service attendance was a little behind this at just under 20. Numbers of school services were up again, a fruit of effective collaboration between school and church. It would be good if those filling in the service book for school services could note numbers, as these figures would be instructive for the rest of us.

G. Health and Safety

Richard Oliver Health and Safety Officer

Issues raised in the previous year:

1. Footpath (in Mendip responsible area of churchyard) there was a collapsed area that would have caused problems to undertakers moving coffins towards the open area of the churchyard. This area has now been resurfaced by Mendip District Council.
2. Footpath (Parish Council responsibility) There was / is an issue going from the closed to open areas of the churchyard in that there is a small trip hazard between the two this was partially resolved but a small height change is still present. Option: Fill in or clearly mark.
3. Drain cover (to the left of the vestry door) has a badly damaged surround. The recommendation was that this be repaired to avoid collapse. Option: Repair / Fence off area to prevent pedestrian access.
4. Further to this I would recommend that the practice of 'cutting across' the churchyard between the vestry door and the footpath into the car park cease as it is cause wear to the area. As an alternative, install a path.
5. During the year there has been a small amount of damage caused in the porch area where a plastic poster has been pushed between the window frame and the stonework. Also in the same area a small plastic bag a small amount of white powder was found this was taken to the police for destruction. Note they will monitor the area when they can.
6. There was an issue during the bad weather that meant that a pipe had burst within the church causing water to cover the floor area near to the kitchen.

My recommendation, when asked, was to cancel the Coffee and Cake for the Saturday morning and the Service on the Sunday morning. The reasons for this under health and safety grounds were A. There was no heating and the elderly age of the congregation. B. There was water on the floor and there was a temptation to bring electric fires into the church for heating (electricity and water do not mix well). C. Because of the prevailing wind a large snowdrift had formed outside the main door making access difficult.

Up and coming issues:

1. A number of trees in the churchyard will need to be monitored especially the fir tree next to the car park gate (low hanging branches).
2. Consideration will have to be given to cordoning off areas of the church whilst the organ renovation is carried out. I would also recommend that whilst this work is being done then the church be kept locked when not in use.

H. Choir

Gill Dury Choir member

Yet again, it has been an enjoyable year for the choir, singing both old favourites and new anthems at the Sunday 9.30am services. Judging by comments from members of the congregation, the choice of anthems has been much loved and appreciated.

The choir comprises ten members and meets every Tuesday evening at 7.45pm for one hour, at the home of Gordon and Colette. Under the auspices of David, the hour passes quickly with his lively ways of teaching, and there is plenty of good fellowship and fun!

In 2017, much of the new music taught was taken from the Diocesan Festival Service Book which the choir performed in Wells Cathedral in June and in the church of St John the Baptist,

Axbridge in July. Probably, the favourite was “Blessed are the pure in heart” by Walford Davies.

This year, the choir has been practising (with other deanery choirs) anthems from the 2018 Service Book “Remembrance” and already a favourite is emerging: “For the fallen” by Douglas Guest.

On Sunday June 3rd, in the afternoon, the choir will be singing at the Bishop’s Palace in Wells. It is hoped that many from Draycott and Rodney Stoke will go along to support and enjoy the music.

Thanks again must go to David for his patience in teaching the choir and also to Barry Rose and Ian Ames-White who ably assist him on many occasions.

I. 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 £2,176.15 from HMR&C.

There has been little change in the contributions - the total number of covenants stands at 22..

J. School

Nikki Devitt School assembly leader

The church continues to play an active part in our First School's life. We have kept the weekly assemblies going in term-time, with Stuart and Nikki alternating on a Wednesday morning to take the school church services. This year we have been considering the school's values, namely success, endurance, compassion, community, justice, equality, respect and hope. We aim to develop the same themes that are being considered in school week by week, with a specifically Christian emphasis. The children behave respectfully in the church and join enthusiastically in the responses, the activities and the singing.

There have been services for special occasions: the Leavers' assembly at the end of the summer term, and harvest, Christmas and Easter services in due season.

Though we rarely see the children in church on a Sunday, the church is packed with them on a Wednesday morning in term-time. It is the best-attended regular service at St. Peter's, perhaps in every respect!.

K. Supporters of St Peters (SoSP)

Tricia Lumley SoSP committee

This has been a successful year for SOSP. Our team has doubled in size and we welcome Alison Jeffries, Chris Fulton, Pat Mullay and Janette Vining onto our committee, along with Mary Watt and Christi Lumley who have also added a younger viewpoint.

Coffee and cake mornings have continued to do well, though March’s was cancelled due to bad weather.

The curry nights at the Strawberry Special went well, though we have decided to restrict number as we became victims of our own success and were packed out, which was rather uncomfortable.

Soup lunches are always popular and the SOSP team are grateful for all the delicious contributions of soups and cakes from congregation members.

Janette Vining kindly allowed us to use her farm as a venue for the village barbeque and we intend that this will become an annual event. Janette is also responsible for organising the jumble sale at the Strawberry Special pub, which is a very useful income for us and a chance to redistribute what we no longer need.

We continue to use St Peters to host talks and last year we continued our series of wildlife talks, with a presentation by June from Prickles Hedgehog Rescue Centre. We also had a most interesting talk from Alan Rowntree on the Strawberry Line, which used to run through the Cheddar Valley.

Karen organised a most successful Michaelmas Fair in October. This sees the church packed out with a variety of stalls – in fact they had to spill out into the churchyard. This is a very popular event.

Christmas is always a busy time and we concentrate on outreach into Draycott with our popular pub carol singing sessions. We have great support from Mick and Lori at the Strawberry Special pub and Jason and Donna at the Cider Barn. These sessions are very popular in the village – standing room only- and we raise a good sum for the Children's Society.

We finished off 2017 with a bang with a fantastic Christmas Tree festival. This took a lot of organising but was a great success; the huge variety of unique designs of a very high standard made it very difficult for the judge to choose a winner.

We look forward to being equally busy in 2018.

L. Local Ministry Group

Pam Williams Secretary

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

2017 has seen a variety of events organised by the Steering Group, which meets bi-monthly:

- In March, Cheddar hosted the Marriage Preparation morning and sixteen couples attended. There has been encouraging feedback and another one is planned for March 2018.
- Six people completed an eight week Lay Pastoral Assistants course in Cheddar. It is hoped that the course will give them confidence when doing pastoral visiting.
- Inspired by the “Thy Kingdom Come” initiative, the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost in May were marked with special prayer stations in the churches and a pilgrimage walk which took place from Cheddar to Wells. It is hoped that the walk will become an annual event.
- The Readers did a pulpit exchange in June.
- Helena McKinnon from the St Monica’s Trust spoke at Shipham church in October on “Dementia – we’re all in it together”. It was very well supported and she gave many practical ideas on how we can support people with dementia and those who care for them.
- The Clergy and some Readers continued to meet on Thursdays for Morning Prayer in Axbridge, Cheddar, Weare and Wedmore.

The regular worship at Morning Prayer, together with the planning meetings, continue to be a support and encouragement for clergy and others in leadership roles giving the opportunity to share plans, ideas, news and concerns. We have found that as a group of local churches, we are better together, and working together!.

M. Study Groups

Richard Dingley, Chris Green (group members, leader)

We report on three study group events this year:

1. Following last years Lent Course (the York course 'Receiving Christ') the group meeting with Hilary Thomas (10 people) decided to continue fortnightly throughout the year. We began with Philippians and Colossians before delving into the Old Testament and looking at Ruth and Habakkuk. We then took a gallop through the Bible looking at the whole as a drama in five acts. Act 1: Genesis with creation the fall and the consequences of human sin. Act 2 (a huge bite, the whole of the rest of the old Testament): the story of Israel and the first covenant and the lead up to the coming Messiah. Act 3: The more familiar ground of the Gospels and the story of Jesus, finishing with the last session before Lent with the story of the Church as told in the Acts and Epistles.

We have yet to look at the final section on Revelation, planned for the next few months, together with a review of the Apocrypha. We want to continue meeting fortnightly after Lent and would recommend that others follow our lead.

2. Early this year, we revived the previous discussion group that met last year, which met in Cheddar. We took some further chapters of the book by Samuel Wells, entitled 'How then shall we live? (see APCM report for last year), and fitted in five sessions before Lent, in January and February. As before we were stimulated by Wells' often unusual insights. For one session we all went to a play at Bagley Baptist church, based on Corrie Ten Boom's book 'The Hiding Place'. It was staged by a Christian drama group called Oddments Theatre Company' (who specialise in taking Christian drama to prisons). We all found the Ten Boom story to be very powerful.
3. Lent course 2018. For this year we chose a book by Patrick Woodhouse (ex canon of Wells Cathedral) entitled 'Life in the Psalms- contemporary meaning in ancient texts', which provided notes for a different psalm on each weekday of Lent after Lent 1, and also chapters suggesting how we use these often difficult texts as part of our own devotional lives. Judith provided some notes for leaders. As usual, we met in people's houses.

There were four groups in Cheddar and one in Draycott. We had representatives from all three churches in the benefice, and also from Cheddar RC and community churches. Many of us we were surprised at how contemporary some of the psalms sounded, especially as interpreted by Patrick Woodhouse. For example, a reading of the many references to 'enemies' (such as 'my enemies mock me, while all day long they say to me "Where is now your God?" ' ; Ps 42) can be to make them internal voices of accusation and doubt. This may not be their original context, but it can help us pray with them.

We finished with a plenary session on Wednesday of Holy Week at St Peter's, with 25 in attendance, which was led by Chris Green.

N. Church Magazine

Rob Walker Editor

The Magazine retains its settled format, price and editorial policy from previous years – twenty four pages A5 sized black-and-white print edition including brightly coloured covers, with a cover price of 50p plus a free access on-line edition for the website. In terms of copy this has proven to be quite sustainable edition by edition. There have been a couple of minor changes and developments over the year:

- There is now a regular ‘Benefice Events’ page in every issue (i.e. Cheddar). Although of arguably of secondary interest in our villages, it seems important to me (as your Editor) to make a statement about the Benefice’s importance to us.
- The ever-popular Parish Portrait centre spread is no longer a fixture and is now appearing less often. Some would say we have picked most of the low-hanging fruit but it is good to go back to old favourites from time to time. In lighter-hearted moments, I have thought that ‘Parish Pets’ might be a good substitute – at least in terms of reader appeal – but are there any volunteers out there to write it?
- Our advertising support has been increased marginally and in 2018 the magazine will have an extra $\frac{3}{4}$ pages of adverts compared with 2017. As we are not seeking to increase the magazine’s page count, this is about right for the magazine and any more would destroy its balance.

More generally, I think it would be sound common sense for the Benefice’s publishing activities – magazines, websites, social media, posters and so forth – to be better co-ordinated with more of a common look and feel. As has been said in the past ‘the medium is the message’ when it comes to improving both the reach and effectiveness of communications.

Writing, editing, printing and distributing the magazine remains a group effort – each edition represents the efforts of a good dozen individuals and I would like to thank everyone involved for their contributions.

Finally I would like to thank Murray Heckbert for his contribution as a columnist over the last five years. It is always good to find someone who can write interestingly and knowledgeably about a favourite subject or two. Our loss will be Nova Scotia’s gain!