

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2014 - St. Peter's Draycott

Minutes

Held on 13th April 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

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Notes

1. Opening prayer

The meeting was preceded by a said service of evening prayer led by the rector Sue Rose. Sue then opened the meeting and took the chair.

2. Attendance and apologies

Fifteen people were in attendance, and apologies were taken for a further five people.

3. Minutes from meeting on 14th April 2013

Minutes from the meeting on 14th April 2013 had previously been circulated and were accepted as an accurate record.

4. 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 2014/15.

5. Statutory Reports

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

Sue Rose proposed that they be accepted together *en bloc*, and this was endorsed by the meeting.

6. Other reports

Other reports were also circulated in written form. Sue thanked all the PCC officers for their support and their hard work.

7. Election of Laity to the Parochial Church Council for 2014-15

The following had been proposed and seconded for election to the Parochial Church Council for 2014-2015: Richard Dingley, Chris Green, Tricia Heckbert, Alison Jeffries, Janet Jeffries, Colette Jeff and Barry Rose. All had indicated that they were willing to stand. They were declared duly elected. They will join Sue Rose (rector), Chris Butler (curate), David Cheetham (church warden), Thea Oliver (church warden) and Tricia Lumley (Deanery representative) who are on the PCC *ex officio*.

8. Appointment of sides men and women

The current sides men and women would continue in their role for another year. Colette Jeff appealed for any others who might be willing to do this important job to step forward. Alison Jeffries volunteered.

9. Appointment of independent financial examiner

Alan Rowntree was happy to act as our independent financial examiner for a further year. This was accepted by the meeting.

10. Remarks from the Priest in Charge

Sue Rose delivered her assessment of the year as priest in charge.

11. Any other matters of important to the Parish

Further discussion took place on the Parish Away Day (when we were assisted by Andrew Hemming). We would try to follow this up.

12. Closing prayer

The meeting was closed by Sue Rose, who led us in saying the Grace.

APPENDIX- REPORTS

Statutory Reports

A. Electoral Roll

Richard Dingley Electoral Roll Officer

The electoral roll stands at 33, unchanged from last year. A full list is posted on the notice board in church.

B. Report on PCC proceedings

Chris Green PCC Secretary

Your PCC was unchanged from the previous year- Tricia Heckbert (Lay Chair), Sue Rose (Rector), Chris Butler (curate), David Cheetham (church warden, treasurer), Thea Oliver (church warden), Chris Green (secretary), Richard Dingley, Janet Jeffries, Colette Jeff, Trish Lumley, and Barie Rose. We had 5 meetings this year as last year- on 8th May, 3rd July, 4th September, 6th November in 2013, and 12th March in 2014. As in the previous year we have met at Richard Dingley's house, and would like to thank him for the warm welcome he always extends. And as last year, we have appreciated Tricia Heckbert chairmanship, which seems to be able to keep us to time, however long the agenda. Our agendas have been refined still further by having points for information added to the points for decision, discussion, new business and dates.

The secretary aims to circulate minutes within one week of the meeting- and succeeds more often than not! Minutes of all PCC meetings- as well as of APCMs- are published on the Rodney Stoke and Draycott website: www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk (go to Draycott, then Reports) (where you will also find a copy of the present reports).

We especially appreciated Sue and Piers' hospitality at their PCC meal on the 8th January, a chance to be sociable and convivial rather than efficient and businesslike (well that's what we normally try to be anyway!).

C. The financial report and accounts

David Cheetham Churchwarden, Treasurer

1. The Parish Share, £12157.92, has been paid in full. It amounts to 53% of our total income.
2. The General Fund made a deficit of £248.62, but we have outstanding bills to pay for the new hymnbooks and for the new lectern.
3. The Fabric Fund has not been used for many large payments this year and has made a surplus of £2490.88. However we must expect a large bill in 2014 for repairs to the stonework of the bell turret.
4. I am very grateful to Trisha Heckbert for her help with the accounts and to Alan Rowntree for acting as independent inspector of the accounts. His report is available.

GENERAL FUND**Receipts**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Covenants and Gift Aid	8514.50
Income tax recovered	1673.39
Collections at services	1335.05
Sundry donations	1359.23
Fund raising	88.50
Investment income	1.18
Magazine	1593.00
Weddings & funerals	4028.50
Restricted – INF	480.00
Restricted – Festival	678.46
Total	19751.81

Payments

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Grants	170.00*
Parish share	12157.92
Clergy fees	1775.00
Clergy expenses	423.19
Upkeep of church	1138.87
Upkeep of services	234.36
Gas & electricity	1043.18
Magazine	539.01
Organists' and vergers' fees	865.00
Admin and insurance	825.70
Restricted – INF	606.25*
Festival costs	124.45
Total	19902.93

Balance

<i>Item</i>	<i>Transaction £</i>	<i>A/C total £</i>
Bank balance at 01.01.13		7923.07
Add receipts	19751.81	27674.88
Less payments	19902.93	7771.95
Less transfer	97.50	7674.45
Less late cheques (drawn 2012, not presented till 2013)	566.00	7108.45
Add late cheques (drawn 2013, not yet presented)	949.00	8057.45
Bank balance at 31.12.13	8057.45	

Excess of Payments and transfers over receipts, £248.62

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Bank balance at 01.12.12	4521.44
Add interest	1.88
Balance at 30.11.13	4523.32

FABRIC FUND**Receipts**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Covenants	390.00
Fund Raising (see below)	2689.71
Donation	267.09
Total	3346.80

Payments

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Floor repairs and carpet	166.22
Lightning conductor	787.20
Total	953.42

Balance

<i>Item</i>	<i>Transaction £</i>	<i>A/C total £</i>
Bank balance 01.01.2013		3450.21
Add receipts	3346.80	6797.01
Less payments	953.42	5843.59
Less one late cheque (drawn in 2012, presented in 2013)	936.00	4907.59
Bank balance 31.12.2013		4907.59

Fund raising

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Valentines concert	310.00
Curry night (March)	517.00
Soup lunch (half)	83.00
Easter quiz	95.00
Jumble sale	308.74
Quiz night	57.50
Curry night (October)	270.00
Raffle	130.00
Roses concert	918.47
Total	2689.71

Excess of receipts over payments (adding £97.50 transfer not yet paid in), £2490.88

GRANTS MADE

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
Christian Aid	
Soup Lunch (half) 10.03.13	83.00
Philippines collection, 17.11.13.	135.00
Collection boxes	1156.87
Children's Society	
Boxes	727.06
Carols	121.00
Bishop's retirement, 20.5.13	50.00*
Somerset Churches Trust.	30.00*
Community of Sisters of the Church, 27.10.13	90.00*
British Legion collection, 10.11.13.	300.00
International Nepal Fellowship	606,25*
Total	£3299.18

(starred items came through the church accounts, see above)

D. The churchwarden's fabric report

David Cheetham Churchwarden

Fabric Report 2013.

1. An area of the church floor, just inside the main door, was found to have disintegrated. The carpet was removed and the floor dug out, in some places to a depth of over 6 inches. The area was then concreted, levelled, damp-proofed and recarpeted. This work was carried out by Carpets and Flooring of Cheddar, and paid for from the Fabric Fund.
2. The porch was partially repainted in spring 2013, and has stood up pretty well to the weather. The damp area in the weekday chapel was also repainted and is better, but will need to be redone later in 2014
3. A wrought iron lectern has been commissioned and made by Forgecraft Ltd. It was paid for from donations given in memory of Rev Anthony Cardale.
4. Two large tables and eight metal and fabric chairs have been given to the church. Also a wooden reading desk for the rector.
5. Some damaged, unsafe stonework has been found in the bell-cote. We have obtained the necessary permissions, specifications and quotation for this to be remedied. It will require scaffolding, and will be carried out during spring 2014, all being well.
6. The warped wooden panels in the sanctuary have not been touched. Perhaps they should be regarded as "history".

E. Deanery Synod Report

Tricia Heckbert and Thea Oliver Deanery Representatives

We met 4 times in the past year.

We met in Christchurch Theale in May 2013. Rev Richard presented his report on “The future ministry of the Axbridge Deanery. This was followed by questions, a plenary session & some lively discussions!!

In July there was a meal & entertainment provided by the Clergy chapter at West Huntspill: a great time was had by all!

October saw the most well attended and contentions evening as the subject was Human sexuality and the Dean of Wells led us in some very heated discussions on “Same–sex marriage- what are the issues?”

In January 2014, we met at St Christopher’s Church, Lympsham, where Caroline Bruce talked about the ‘Parish Consultancy’ service offered by the Diocese and incorporated information about all the services that the School of Formation provides.

There also was a report from the Diocesan Gathering at Swanwick in November.

The synod lamented the negative publicity surrounding the issue Bishop’s residence and how this is detracting from what should be a very positive experience at the start of his ministry with us.

Future Synod Dates for 2014:

Thursday 8th May.

Tuesday 8th July.

Wednesday 15th October

As always these meetings are open to anyone who would like to come.

Other reports

F. Ministry team

Chris Green Reader

The worship group continued to be the forum for the Cheddar Benefice Ministry Team. It has met regularly throughout the year. This year has seen some important developments - some positive, some challenging.

To start with the challenges- Chris Butler's illness was announced in January. Whilst cancer is always a feared diagnosis, hers was both treatable and at an early stage- so while she has many difficulties ahead of her (not least, radiotherapy which is just starting) we have every reason to hope for an excellent recovery. The prayers of the ministry team and the whole parish are with her.

The burden of her (sudden) absence has fallen most particularly on Sue, and we are not quite sure how she has managed- but with the rest of the team she has kept things to more or less 'business as usual'. Chris's license has been extended to the end of the year, and when she has had full time to recover, we all hope to see a *gradual* return to duties.

On to more cheerful news. We are delighted that the Ministry Team has now been extended to include new Lay Worship Assistants, all duly trained and sanctioned by the Diocese. These LWAs are: Mike Brownbill, Rod Walsh, Julie Hope, Brian Halliday and our own Thea Oliver. Their role is to lead worship, and to preach (under supervision). These have joined the current group of clergy (Sue Rose, Chris Butler, Judith Rose and Julie Sims) and Readers (Ann Wait, Alistair Glanville and Chris Green).

Our new biggest worship initiative at Draycott has been the Second Sunday Service, a service of Morning Prayer in place of the usual 9:30 Eucharist at St. Peter's, once a month. The relatively short formal service is followed by a more informal discussion on the service theme over refreshments- including a cake baked for the occasion (the choice of cake seems to have become almost as important as the choice of theme for the service). The format has been varied to include a hymn practice and (this morning) a joint reading of the Passion according to St. Matthew.

This service was partly introduced in acknowledgment of the reduction in ordained clergy available. However we also see it as a chance for a freer worship format that can be adapted to different needs, and to make better use of lay leadership. We would love to hear other ideas and to receive feedback on any aspect of it, positive or negative. This has been going since January and whilst numbers have been somewhat less than our usual, it seems to be 'bedding in'. We will review it after it has been running for six months.

As Reader Emeritus Richard Dingley now no longer attends the Worship Group. Also, following a time of withdrawal from Readership duties ('Pending Active Service'), Nikki Devitt has decided to step down from the Ministry Team.

G. Covenants

Tricia Heckbert Covenant Secretary

I have completed the twice yearly Income Tax claims for the year ending 5th April 2014. However there has been a delay in receiving the repayments into the Church's bank account because of changes HMR&C have brought in to the claims process. The last of the impediments to receiving the monies claimed is about to be removed and we should received £2,331.51 by my estimates.

There has been little change in the contributions with the total number of covenants standing at 24.

H. School

Nikki Devitt Ex School Governor

The school has undergone a major change in its governance in the past year. After having consulted with all stakeholders, including the diocese of Bath and Wells, our school formed a federation with 3 others, starting on 1st January 2014. The other schools are: Shipham First School (also a church school), and Cheddar First and Fairlands Middle Schools (which are both under the authority of Somerset County Council). The reason for this change is that small schools are increasingly regarded as unviable in terms of management and finances. The only means of ensuring survival is by expansion (unfeasible in our case) or federating with other schools.

The federation agreement allows each school to retain its own distinctive ethos and character, while centralising the management (this is particularly important to us as a church school.). The board of governors for our school was therefore disbanded on 31st December 2013, and there is now one joint governing body with delegates from each member school. The Draycott and Rodney Stoke members of the new governing body are: Cathy Lowe, Jeff Astle, Rev. Sue Rose and Kate Ginger. We still have an 'advisory committee' at Draycott comprising members of the former governing body, to decide on minor matters not needing the fiat of the main governing body, and to delegate our representatives on issues which do require the attention of the federation governing body. It is obviously early days in this new era of federation, but so far things have gone well.

The first big challenge to the Federation has already occurred. The heads of our own school, and of Shipham school have both announced their intention to retire at the end of this summer term. The replacement post has been advertised as a headship shared between the two schools. There were 7 applicants, and 3 were shortlisted. Michael Jory, current deputy head of Cheddar First School has been appointed to the post. This arrangement is again, uncharted waters, deserving of our prayerful support, and we shall be watching keenly to ensure that the character of our church school is preserved.

Throughout this school year, we have continued to host school assemblies in St Peter's every Wednesday morning, with special services for Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter. Sue, Chris Butler and Nikki have taken these services on a rota basis. So far, since Chris B's illness, we have managed to continue it between Sue and Nikki. It remains to be seen how the new head will wish to work with the church, but we should very much wish to continue the Wednesday assemblies under the new headship, as the interaction of Church and school benefits both communities.

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

Thea Oliver Churchwarden

The three original committee members of SoSP (Thea Oliver, Tricia Lumley, Maria Millard) have been joined by Rev Chris, Janette Vining, Mary Anniuk and Karen Percival. They continue to organise fundraising events throughout 2013/14 with the unstinting help and support of 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
- Jumble sale at the Strawberry Special
- Quiz nights at Strawberry Special on the 5th Sunday in the month
- Carol Singing at The Laurels and in the bar of the Strawberry Special
- Friday Curry Night at the Strawberry on 28th March.

January saw the first of our monthly Coffee and Cake mornings from 10.30 to 12 in St Peter's. These are proving very popular with a whole range of people- not just regular Church goers. This is an "outreach project" and not a fund raiser, so we make no charge; but a donation basket ensures that we are covering our costs. There is plenty of 'real' fair-trade coffee and delicious cakes; tables are set up for dominos, jigsaws, knitting and crafts (or just to have "a good natter and put the world to rights!"). Rev Sue holds her Saturday office here and has met with a number of couples to arrange and book weddings, and has met families to arrange baptisms. These coffee and cake mornings will continue to be a regular occurrence on every first Saturday of the month.

Planned events so far for 2014/15 include:

- Coffee and Cake on the first Saturday of every month from 10.30am to 12 noon
- Nyland talk by Alan Rowntree Friday on 9th May
- Jumble Sale on Saturday 17th May
- Picnic with Cream Teas in Church for St Peter's Festival on 29th June (NB this clashes with Pilton so extra helpers will be needed. Volunteers please!)

- Bat Walk with refreshments in Church in July (date to be confirmed)
- Star Gazing in August....
- Train talk in September...
- Harvest celebration.... (possibly a street party?)
- Plus the usual christmas carols in The Laurels and Strawberry Special- and this year possibly at the Cider Barn
- 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 Strawberry Fayre; "70s night"! in November; involvement in School Christmas Fayre; Carols in the bar on Sunday 14th December before the quiz.

Next committee meeting planned for May- date and venue to be confirmed

As always we are open to suggestions for ideas of things to do- and even more 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. St. Peter's Tide Festival- Arts and Flowers

Barrie Rose Organist

In a desire to keep the impetus of the highly successful 150th Festival programme in 2011 (and its 2012 follow-up), a small and enthusiastic committee masterminded a similar event for June 2013, to take place as before, around Petertide.

The result of more than eight months' planning was four days of celebrations in June 2013, with the blanket title of ARTS & FLOWERS. Yet again, the church proved to be the ideal venue for a wide range of activities, ranging from cream teas to well planned and beautifully laid out exhibitions of art and flowers, informal concerts to structured worship, all culminating in a Churchyard Trail, with its following Teddy Bears' Picnic.

It was always the intention that no-one would be charged for entry to any of the events, but as a result of the retiring collections, our funds benefited by nearly £800. More importantly, the Festival brought people into St.Peter's who we would not normally see at Sunday Worship, and all seemed to be highly appreciative and pleased to be there in 'their' handsome and welcoming church.

The first evening featured David Cheetham interviewing Barry Rose in the style of the 'Desert Island Discs' radio programme, with a wide choice of music - all the way from Petula Clark singing 'Downtown' to arias and songs by Mozart & Benjamin Britten.

Other musical events included the Ames-White and the Coton Family in a delightfully varied concert featuring the musical alphabet, the Draycott and Rodney Stoke School children singing with their usual infectious enthusiasm, and on St.Peter's Day itself, an afternoon choral Evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer, sung by members of the Wells Liberty Consort, with two young and talented guest soloists.

The Festival reached a fitting climax on Sunday morning when the combined choirs of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke led the singing in a celebratory and well-attended

Eucharist, with guest preacher Canon Gordon Jeff, and at which we sang David Thorne's Mass for St. Thomas for the first time.

Then it was into the churchyard to see how many of us could solve the clues in Alan Rowntree's expertly devised Churchyard Trail. This proved to be a popular event with adults and children alike, as did the Teddy Bears' Picnic that followed.

Once again, St. Peter's had opened its arms to the village and beyond, and once again we came away feeling that all that effort was worth it. Special thanks to everyone who contributed, and here's to the next time !

K. Local Ministry Group

Sue Rose Rector

Mendip Local Ministry Group includes Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow, Cheddar, Draycott & Rodney Stoke and Crook Peak- and now Wedmore, Theale, Blackford and Allerton

The events organised in 2013 by the Steering Group, which meets bi-monthly, were:

- The Marriage Preparation morning in February with 13 couples in Shipham Village Hall. It was much appreciated by those attending and it is a helpful start for the clergy's preparation with the couples.
- There were pulpit exchanges in April and October, keeping the congregations aware of the links between our churches.
- May saw us gathering at Flagstaff Farm for another Pentecost Praise when, yet again, we were welcomed with wonderful hospitality by Mary and Simon Counsell. Surprisingly for these visits, the weather was beautiful which certainly helped us to enjoy the farm walks and wonderful views.
- The churches in the LMG helped at the annual ecumenical Father's Day event at the Kings of Wessex, running a 'Messy Church' style craft tent.
- A second Guided Prayer Week was held in October, led by the Revd Jane Eastell and her team, with 23 participants who found it a very helpful experience.
- October also saw the start of an eight week Lay Worship Assistants' Course led by the Revd Ken Brown. This was attended by 12 participants from Crook Peak, Cheddar and Draycott who are now trained to help lead worship in their churches.
- In November we welcomed the Revd Richard Neill from Wedmore, Theale and Blackford, and Revd Hilary Thomas from Allerton to their first meeting as they joined the Mendip LMG.
- The Clergy and some Readers continued to meet on Thursdays for Morning Prayer in Axbridge, Cheddar or Weare.

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 2014 and will include, for the first time, a United Sunday morning Service at Axbridge on 23rd March. Sadly, we will also be saying goodbye to the Revd Ken Brown, who retires on Easter Sunday. Ken and the Crook Peak parish have been enthusiastic supporters of the LMG, and we wish him and Yvonne a long and happy retirement.

L. Lent Groups

Chris Green Reader

This year we have followed a Lent course within the benefice, entitled 'Another Story Must Begin', based on the musical 'Les Misérables'. The course is by Jonathan Meyer, priest of St. Mary the Virgin at Ewelme in Oxfordshire. Parts of the recent film version of the musical used his church as a location. The heightened local interest in the (highly religious) themes of the book and film inspired Meyer to create the course

There have been four groups, led by Piers Rose, Judith Rose, Chris Green and Thea Oliver. The course was introduced with a 'screening' (at St. Peter's) at the start of Lent- an enjoyable experience in itself! The course is structured around four characters from the book/film, whose fates each have something to teach us about salvation and redemption.

It has been an effective course from some points of view- it introduces powerful images which help initiate discussion. Sometimes it has felt that Meyer stretches the themes too far to find biblical parallels, and we could not always follow his questions. However it has been original and stimulating. The uptake was somewhat limited by its overlap with a different course taking place (on biblical exegesis), and the lack of involvement of other churches in the Cheddar valley. However I think it was a very positive experience for those taking part. We are having the final session as a combined group this Wednesday, all together at Draycott (7:30 pm). It will feature a bring-and-share supper (French theme, bread and wine provided). Previous attendance of the course is not a requirement- all are welcome!

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.

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.

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.

Jo Slade's departure as Schools worker last September to train as an Anglican priest made us realise afresh how effective she had been in her role. The search for replacement took time with Simeon Stoodly only taking up the post in January of 2014. In the meantime our thanks go to Julian Richards who took on the CU and to Sue Rose who has organised the school service at the Kings of Wessex Academy.

The churches support the new food bank which has been established in the area through a separate charity – ‘Cheddar Valley Plus’. Early signs are that it is serving a need in the community.

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

N. Church Magazine

Rob Walker Editor

The magazine has a straightforward editorial policy - to inform, inspire, intrigue and amuse the readership; to aspire to be more than just a glorified bulletin board but to reflect the interests and concerns of the Parish; and to give a platform for the views of the readership.

The magazine relies heavily on the efforts of its regular contributors and they deserve a vote of thanks. It is important however for the magazine to have as wide a circle of contributors as possible to keep it vital. Finding and using new contributors is an important part of the editorial challenge.

New and one-off contributors are always welcome and the magazine bends over backwards to make sure that their material is used.

Advertising in the magazine is currently generating £720 a year. This is probably about right for the 24 page format, with 4.5 pages is taken with advertising.

Feedback is always really welcome!