

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2015 - St. Peter's Draycott

Agenda and Reports

To be held on 12th April 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

Agenda

Item	Report	Responsible
1. Attendance and apologies		
2. Minutes from meeting on 13 th April 2014 (confirmation of accuracy)		
3. Vestry Meeting for the Election of two Church Wardens		
4. Statutory Reports		
a) Electoral Roll	A	<i>Richard Dingley</i>
b) Report on PCC proceedings	B	<i>Chris Green</i>
c) The financial report and accounts	C	<i>David Cheetham</i>
d) The churchwarden's fabric report	D	<i>David Cheetham</i>
e) Deanery Synod Report	E	<i>Tricia Lumley</i>
5. Other reports		
a) Vacancy News	F	<i>David Cheetham</i>
b) Ministry team	G	<i>Chris Green</i>
c) Worship	H	<i>Chris Green</i>
d) Covenants	I	<i>Tricia Heckbert</i>
e) School	J	<i>Nikki Devitt</i>
f) Supporters of St. Peter's (S.o.S.P.)	K	<i>Thea Oliver</i>
g) Local Ministry Group	L	<i>Ann Wait</i>
h) Lent Groups	M	<i>Thea Oliver</i>
i) Church Magazine	N	<i>Rob Walker</i>
6. Election of Laity to the Parochial Church Council for 2015-16		
7. Appointment of sides men and women		
8. Appointment of independent financial examiner		
9. Remarks from the Church Wardens		<i>Thea Oliver</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

The electoral roll stands at 36, three more than last year. A full list is posted on the notice board in church.

B. Report on PCC proceedings

Chris Green PCC Secretary

Your PCC numbered 12 at the start of the year, consisting of Tricia Heckbert (Lay Chair), Sue Rose (Rector), Chris Butler (curate), David Cheetham (church warden, treasurer), Thea Oliver (church warden), Chris Green (secretary), Richard Dingley, Alison Jeffries, Janet Jeffries, Colette Jeff, Trish Lumley, and Barry Rose. We held meetings on 28th May, 6th August, 8th October, 26th November in 2014, and on the 15th January in 2015. Over this time Chris Butler had to step down due to illness. Sue Rose left the PCC in February, taking up her new diocesan post in March.

On the 10th March we attended a joint meeting of the PCCs in the benefice or Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke at Church House, Cheddar (29 people in all). This was called by the archdeacon of Wells, the Ven. Nicola Sullivan, to discuss the process involved in filling our vacancy. The decisions taken regarding the vacancy are reported elsewhere. In passing, Nicola let it slip that we should consider the eventual uniting of the three parishes under a single PCC- although this interesting line of discussion was not pursued!

Apart from this meeting we have met at the house of Richard Dingley at Kundasan, whom we would like to thank. All minutes of this year's PCCs, and those of previous years back to May 2002, are published on the parish website- where the APCM reports can also be found. Address is www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk (go to Draycott, then Reports).

C. The financial report and accounts

David Cheetham Churchwarden, Treasurer

(distributed separately)

D. The churchwarden's fabric report

David Cheetham Churchwarden

The stonework of the bellcote, which had been split by corroding iron ties, has been mended and replaced where necessary. The stone cross from the apex of the south transept, which was in a dangerous condition, has been taken down and not replaced. The rest of the visible stonework has been inspected by the steeplejacks and found to be in a sound condition.

The tarmac surface of the car park has been re-laid (part paid by the school).

The interior painted stone surfaces, which show evidence of dampness, have been tested. The dampness readings are lower than last year, but this is still an on-going problem.

A new wrought-iron lectern has been bought. The wooden eagle lectern, which had proved too tall for ordinary use, now stands in the south transept. Also in the South transept there is hanging a collage picture of the Draycott Sleights, a kind gift from the children of Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School.

E. Deanery Synod Report

Tricia Lumley Deanery Representative

There are only four Deanery Synod meetings in a year and they are open to anyone to attend; you do not have to be a parish representative. It's a really good opportunity to visit other churches in the area and discover what they are doing.

The first meeting of 2014 was at Mark in May. Among other items we discussed how each parish would be commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of WW1.

July's meeting was in Westbury-sub-Mendip. Archdeacon Nicola gave a talk on how different parishes in our diocese have made use of their church buildings and the clever alterations that have been made to make them for versatile and useful for the communities they serve.

In October we had a gathering in West Huntspill with Bishop Peter and February's meeting was hosted here in Draycott. There was an update on vacancies within the Deanery followed by a presentation on understanding how our parish share is worked out.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15 April in Highbridge and will be looking at the NHS and also the aftermath of the Somerset floods. Do consider attending one of these meetings; they really are very worthwhile.

Other reports

F. Vacancy News

David Cheetham Churchwarden

Revd Sue Rose resigned from her position as Rector of the Benefice of Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke on 1st March 2015. A great crowd came to her final service in St Andrew's Church to thank her for the far-reaching changes she has seen through in the last six years and to wish her well in her new post.

The three PCCs met the archdeacon and agreed that the post should be advertised, and that a group of two people from each parish, together with representatives of the Bishop and of the Chapter of Wells Cathedral (the patrons of the livings), should form the committee to elect a new Rector. The reps for this parish will be Alison Jeffries and David Cheetham.

We are in what may be termed a "buyers' market": there are more benefices in vacancy than there are priests available. Therefore it is vital that the position should be presented in the best possible – but truthful – light. Parish Profiles and a Person Profile have been prepared and the committee is to meet with the School of Formation this week to put them together.

The post will be advertised in the next few weeks and interviews held. It is hoped that the successful candidate will be announced by October and be in place in the benefice by the end of the year.

G. Ministry team

Chris Green Reader

1. Purpose: the Ministry Team was formed by our rector Sue Rose shortly after her appointment, to bring together those in the benefice who had an official role in ministry, especially worship. Under her leadership, it met about every two months, with its core business being to discuss and agree the services rota (compiled by Sue).
2. Membership – this turns out to have been a year of great change!

- a. The five new Lay Worship Assistants completed their training and accreditation, and were officially welcomed to the ministry team. They are: Mike Brownbill, Rod Walsh, Julie Hope, Brian Halliday and Thea Oliver. Thea has of course been leading worship for some time in Draycott.
 - b. Chris Butler was absent from the team for a while due to illness. Having made a full recovery, Chris returned to her previous duties as curate, until she secured a job as Priest in Charge of Pilton Parish with Croscombe, North Wootton and Dinder. She left us at the end of September, and was licensed in October.
 - c. Julie Simms was appointed Associate Priest of the Benefice of Banwell in February, and so also left our benefice.
 - d. Hilary Thomas' role as priest at Allerton has come to an end, as Allerton is now joined with Wedmore, Blackford and Theale, and has returned to our ministry team.
 - e. Our biggest change came at the end of the year, when our rector Sue Rose announced that she had been appointed as 'Director of Vocations and IME 4-7' at the Diocese of Bath and Wells. She officially took up her post at the start of March, but after using leave owing to her, finished at the end of February.
 - f. Before Sue departed, she made sure that the Team had representation from Rodney Stoke (Steve Percival and Joanne Turner). Sue chose Judith Rose to chair the new team, and Chris Green as its secretary. The full team comprises: Mike Brownbill , Brian Halliday, Julie Hope , Alistair Glanville, Chris Green, Thea Oliver, Steve Percival, Judith Rose, Sue Rose, Hilary Thomas, Jo Turner and Rod Walsh.
3. Activities: on the 18th November, Sue Rose invited Gordon Jeff to give a brief revision course on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, which was as ever highly instructive- and showed us that we comprised a very broad spectrum of personality types!
 4. Full ministry team meetings. The expanded team has met three times, in January with Sue present, and in February and March without her. It will meet next on 22nd April. It will play a key role in the organisation of the benefice during the vacancy. Judith draws up a draft rota and we all work to finalise it in good time.
 5. The ministry team at Draycott. The table below shows the number of times that members of the team have a). led, and b). preached, at Draycott over the last year. (Also shown are combined figures for those not in the team- five separate people). Next year we expect Hilary will split the load more or less evenly with Judith, until we have a new rector. When neither of them can manage it (such as fourth Sundays) we will need to make other arrangements.

Member	Main leader	(%)	Preacher	(%)
Sue Rose	10	20.8%	9	20.0%
Judith Rose	8	16.7%	6	13.3%
Chris Butler	6	12.5%	4	8.9%
Julie Simms	5	10.4%	5	11.1%
Hilary Thomas	5	10.4%	5	11.1%
Thea Oliver	5	10.4%	4	8.9%
Chris Green	4	8.3%	7	15.6%
Other	5	10.4%	5	11.1%
TOTAL	48	100.0%	45	100.0%

Table: Main Sunday service at Draycott in the last year, showing the numbers of times ministry team members were the main leader, and how many times they preached.

H. Worship

Chris Green Reader

Variety of worship activity at St. Peter's

Reviewing church services/ worship events at St. Peter's church in the service register, there were 106 separate events over the 52 weeks since the previous APCM. This does not include services connected with Draycott but not at church, such as communion at The Laurels and at Sealey Close, which take place most weeks, plus a few special ones (such as carol singing at the Strawberry Special pub, and at The Laurels residential home, and the remembrance day service at the Memorial Hall). A count of the church-based services is given in the table (below).

Category	Services (of which, communion)
Sunday morning worship (including two joint benefice services)	44 (33)
Christmas services- church (midnight communion, Christmas morning)	2 (1)
Evening prayer, meditation (includes 6:30 evening prayer (11), Good Friday meditation, St. Peter's day compline)	14
Evening other (Rural deanery, Lent group plenary)	3
School services (school assembly, leaver's day, harvest, Christmas)	32
Baptisms	2
Funerals, memorial services	3
Marriages	2

Second Sunday Service

This is our monthly lay-led service, jointly organised and led by Chris Green and Thea Oliver. Since starting in January 2014 it has continued with only one interruption (the Remembrance Day service), using the same basic format of Morning Prayer followed by a more informal (but structured) discussion on the theme of the service, over refreshments. It was reviewed at the end of last year by Draycott PCC. They decided that it was well received and should continue.

Joint Benefice services

We have hosted two United Benefice services this year. One was for St. Peter's day, which seems a very good way of celebrating it. We have particularly appreciated rehearsing joint choral events with Cheddar and Rodney Stoke, which we did for Sue's leaving service (at Cheddar) and for Palm Sunday (at Rodney Stoke).

Attendance

Counts are only available for the Sunday morning services on a regular basis.

It is sometimes remarked that the main church festivals are an important index of general community support of church worship. Easter attendance was down this year from last year, at 31 compared with 46 in 2014. However this was up from only 25 the previous year in 2013. Christmas midnight communion was 29 in 2014 compared with 27 in 2013 and 40 in 2012. Such large fluctuations probably make any general conclusions impossible.

United Benefice services have an attendance of about 70. For morning services that are not special festivals or united benefice services, average attendance is between 18 and 19 (with no real difference between Holy Communion and the Second Sunday Service).

School assembly services number about 40, and special school services (harvest, leavers, Christmas) significantly more. Since the school is a regular user, school is likely to represent the biggest category in terms of attendance throughout the year, and certainly overtops the regular Sunday worship in terms of numbers.

Two reflections follow from this. Firstly, in terms of the 'church experience' (person hours) at St. Peters in the year, the largest category represented is the school children. Secondly, in terms of cost-effectiveness of our overheads (heating, lighting, cleaning etc.), the school usage possibly represents the best value for money- so long as we think in terms of the community as a whole, which we surely should.

I. Covenants

Tricia Heckbert Covenant Secretary

I have completed the twice yearly Gift Aid claims for the year ending 5th April 2015, the Church has been able to reclaim from HMR&C £2350.57.

There has been little change in the contributions with the total number of covenants standing at 21.

J. School

Nikki Devitt Ex School Governor

This year has seen major changes in the management and governance of Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School. It is now a federated member of the Mendip Edge group of schools, which also includes Shipham and Cheddar First schools, along with Fairlands Middle School. The individual schools no longer have their own governing bodies, and our school sends two governors to the Federation Governors' Meeting based in Cheddar instead. The proportion of Foundation Governors (appointed by the church) in this new enlarged governing body is much smaller than that which we used to enjoy under the old system. However each member school does have an 'Advisory Committee' which meets twice per term. This committee has no statutory responsibilities, but it allows the interested parties with knowledge of the day-to-day running of the school still to contribute to school life. This committee may delegate our two governors to raise issues at the Federation Governing Body meetings, if required, and otherwise it provides a forum for discussing such local issues, without statutory significance, as for example involvement of our school with the church. Nikki Devitt and Steve Percival, from the church electoral rolls, are members of the current advisory committee at Draycott.

The second major change is the appointment of our new head teacher, Mike Jory. Mike is a shared head, between Shipham and Draycott schools. He started his post in September 2014. He is very keen for the school still to be actively involved with the church. When Rev Sue Rose was still in post, we continued with the weekly school services in church on a Wednesday morning. Since Sue's departure these have now been reduced to once per

fortnight, with the service being led by Nikki Devitt. We had a special school service for Christmas and one for Easter in St. Peter's. However, in a new departure, the school Mothering Sunday Service was actually held at St. Leonard's church this year. The children are enthusiastic participants in these services, enjoying the activities, the prayers and the singing. The shape of the future connections between our church and the school will partly depend on the wishes of our new priest in charge, but in the meantime we are maintaining a healthy relationship.

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

Thea Oliver Churchwarden

This year the work of the SOS P team has continued with great success and fun!

The monthly coffee and cake mornings are going from strength to strength with a regular following of around 50 people joining us for a chat, to play board games, knit, and swap stories and news.

We had a successful jumble sale in May and are planning another on 25th April 2015 at the Strawberry Special.

We ran a book stall at the Strawberry Fayre in June.

The Holy Rollers continued with our traditional skittling prowess... mostly coming second but having great fun nevertheless and raising the profile of St Peter's Church within the village and gratefully received another generous donation from the proceeds of this now annual charity summer skittles league.

Tricia Lumley arranged a first-rate Bat Talk and Walk Led by John Hill (wildlife conservation officer from Cheddar Gorge) on Friday September 19th. Approximately 30 people saw, heard all about (and listened to) these fascinating creatures...!! Everyone had a great time Proceeds of £72 were shared between Somerset Wildlife Trust and SOS P

We lost one of our committee members when our Curate Rev Chris Butler moved on to be Rector of a Benefice of her own in October.

We held another very popular Curry Night at the Strawberry Special in October as our Harvest Supper and were again able to share the profits with The Community of the Sisters of the Church (specifically their "Loaves and Fishes" project) in Bristol.

November saw outlandish 70s costumes and make-up again at the Strawberry Special where we led the dancing at our 70s disco to the music of the DJ "Dr Love" who very kindly reduced his fee when he realised we were raising funds for St Peter's.

On December 7th we held a "complementary Christmas Fayre" with Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School PTAF as their planned Christmas Fayre coincided with our monthly coffee and cake event we also had some stalls and also provided soup lunches in the Church.

On December 8th we sang Carols with the residents at The Laurels and then later with over 100 people crammed into the bar at the Strawberry Special before a number of us entered the Christmas Pub Quiz... history doesn't record if we won... as in previous years the money raised from this village carol singing was given to The Children's Society.

We helped publicise, sell tickets and provided refreshments for the 2014 Christmas Roses concert by Barry and Nicola Rose with their guest of the singing Bishop Martin Shaw.

January and February were quite quiet other than the monthly coffee and Cake.

SoSP (Supporters of St Peter's) have had a very busy March. Friday 6th saw another successful Curry Night: thanks to Mick and Lori at the Strawberry Special for magnificent curries and to everyone who made delicious puddings, and everyone who bought tickets and the raffle in total we raised £511 for St Peter's fabric fund.

Then on Saturday 7th we had our monthly coffee and cake followed by a Lent Soup Lunch again an amazing array of cakes and variety of delicious soups! The £171.60 proceeds have been sent to Christian Aid.

On Sunday 29th we held a pub quiz at the Strawberry Special with Lori Toms as quiz-mistress and raised a further £26 for the fabric fund.

So many people have commented over the years on the deliciousness of the soups and cakes that we are planning to put together a Soup and Cake Recipe book, so if you can bear to share please let us know your secret recipes for inclusion in the book and help us continue to raise much needed funds by enlivening our diets! Please contact any of the SoSP team.

We are planning another book stall at the Strawberry Fayre in June, the Holy Rollers will be in action again this summer and our monthly Coffee and Cake events will continue, please see posters and the magazine for more information.. As always ideas and suggestions for events are gratefully received especially if they come with offers of extra help too! Please join us whenever you can!

Thank you to everyone who supports the events that SOSp put on and my special thanks to all the SOSp committee and all the extra helpers who step up to the mark and join in whenever they can.... this is proving to be a real community effort supporting the continued refurbishment of our village Church and having fun along the way! This is especially important during the vacancy as it keeps the profile of St Peter's as an important and living presence within our village and I hope will help us be attractive to not only any prospective new Rector but to new church members too!

L. Local Ministry Group

Ann Wait co-ordinator, compiled by *Chris Green*

Churches covered

Mendip LMG covers the following parishes: Crook Peak (churches of Badgworth, Biddisham, Christon, Compton Bishop, Loxton and Weare), benefice of Cheddar, Draycott, Rodney Stoke, benefice of Axbridge, Shipham & Rowberrow, benefice of Wedmore, Theale, Blackford & Allerton (who joined the LMG in the previous year).

The LMG continues to pursue its 'better together' policy of conducting events that are best held at a higher level than that of the individual benefices and parishes. It acts as an exchange for news, supports parishes in vacancy, and sponsors 'pulpit swaps' and social events to cross-fertilise the parishes at different levels. It also has a regular rota for Morning Prayer, shared between different LMG churches on Thursdays.

Highlights

- Marriage Preparation (February): 21 couples attended this event in Wedmore, which was deemed very successful.
- Care of the elderly. A meeting was held with church representatives across the LMG to share their experiences. This gave rise to a planned course on bereavement, to have been held in January. This was unfortunately cancelled as not enough people could attend. Interest continues in this topic, however.

- Beetle Drive. This was the main social event organised, and took place in January in Church House, Cheddar. It was mainly attended by Cheddar folk.

Other news:

- Ann Wait has been the co-ordinator of this LMG since its inception. She gave this up in July however, although she is filling in by doing secretarial duties until someone new can be found.
- The Crook Peak and Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke benefices are both currently in vacancy. On Sue's departure, Mike Brownbill from Cheddar represents our Benefice

Future plans:

- The LMG will be supporting the Father's Day evens in Cheddar, organised by the Churches Together in the Cheddar Valley group.
- There will be a united LMG celebration at Wedmore, starting with a bring-your-own picnic from 6.30pm (inside the church if wet), followed by a service in Church at 7.30pm and ending with the Wedmore tradition of setting off a Trinity of rockets.

M. Lent Groups

Thea Oliver Church warden, Lay Worship Assistant

Lent 2015 saw 40 participants from St Andrew's, St Peter's, St Leonard's and Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church in Cheddar making up 6 ecumenical groups who met in each other's homes to study the 3rd Pilgrim course for the Christian journey based on the Ten Commandments.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York describe this teaching and discipleship resource as 'a journey to the heart of God and to a living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.' Assuming little or no knowledge of the Christian faith it is designed to help enquirers and new Christians explore what it means to be Christian in the 21st Century, being designed to be used at any point on the journey of discipleship and by every tradition by offering an approach of participation, not persuasion. As enquirers we were encouraged to practise the ancient disciplines of biblical reflection and prayer, exploring key texts that have helped people learn and grow in faith since the early Church.

The sessions were entitled: Priorities, Reverence, Rest, Respect, Righteousness, and Reliability

Most of the groups did not complete all 6 sessions so the joint plenary group session, led by Chris Green, in Holy week held at St Peter's was based on the final session during which we started with evening prayer, a hymn and then split into groups to discuss the final two commandments: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour", and "You shall not covet".

The discussions continued over coffee and biscuits at the end of the session.

Overall the impression I got was of a positive reaction to this course, the content and subject matter was quite easy to use and did not overwhelm the leader with too much detail to get through in the time allowed but also at times it seemed quite 'superficial and light' perhaps this was because it was aimed at "new" Christians...? My group stated that although they enjoyed the fellowship and discussion this year they felt they got more out of last year's course which was based on and used clips from the film *Les Misérables*.

N. Church Magazine

Rob Walker Editor

I would like to start by thanking all the contributors to the magazine for their hard work over the past year. A typical edition includes material from at least a dozen individuals so it is very much a group effort. This diversity of input keeps the magazine fresh and worth reading. There is a particular debt of gratitude to be paid to our regular contributors who reliably provide material month in, month out. Regular features make for a loyal readership.

Production and Product Quality

In terms of appearance, the magazine remains largely unchanged from the previous year. The proven 24 page format is retained and the level of advertising remains at around 4 pages per edition. The magazine's production standards have steadily improved thanks to the efforts, and technical capabilities, of the excellent Kings of Wessex print shop. There have been two innovations over the last year, both relating to the cover:

- 'Safe' pastel shades for the cover are now a thing of the past. Bright, eye-catching colours that jump out across a room are now used. Kings of Wessex has a good range in stock.
- The cover is now card rather than paper which adds a lot to the look, feel and perceived value of the magazine at a modest on-cost of £3 per edition.

As we approach the Kings of Wessex summer holidays, we have to seriously consider reverting to the former practice of having a combined August/September edition rather than July/August so that it can be printed by Kings of Wessex; their print shop being closed in August. The alternative is to rely on the Benefice Office.

Content and Editorial Policy

The magazine's editorial policy remains unchanged from last year.

In terms of content, there has been one change of note. The magazine now regularly includes topical pieces based usually on press releases from Lambeth, the Diocesan Press Office or similar sources. A good example would be the 'Who is my neighbour?' piece in the March 2015 edition drawing readers' attention to the House of Bishops letter to the people and parishes regarding the forthcoming General Election.

Contributors

It would be healthy and helpful if the magazine had at least one more regular monthly contributor 'on the books'.