

## MINUTES OF MEETING - AGM

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 7.00pm

### **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA**

The meeting was opened by Stuart who opened with psalm 47 set for the evening followed by the prayers.

#### **Vestry Meeting:-**

1. The minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 was read. This was agreed and sung by Megan James.
2. Election of churchwardens.  
Megan James was nominated by Josie Symes and seconded by Ann Percival. Megan agreed to stand. All in favour.  
Jane Holmes was nominated by Colin Symes and seconded by Megan James. Jane agreed to stand. All in favour.

Megan and Jane would like to thank everyone for their hard work, PCC and the Friends and all the money that was raised last year. We are very grateful that we have Stuart amongst us. Stuart added another item to occur later in the meeting.

Present:- Stuart Burns, Megan James, Jane Holmes, Joanne Turner, Sue Walker, Josie Symes, Colin Symes, Honor Neave, Ann Percival, Denny Johnson, Mary Banks, Don Banks, Rob Walker, Steve Percival, Alan Newman, Angela Hall.

#### **A.P.C.M**

1. Opening prayers already completed.
2. No apologise.
3. Minutes of the last APCM was read and signed.

#### **Statutory Reports:-**

- a) **Electoral roll** report given by Ann Percival.

At the time of this meeting the number on the electoral roll stands at 57. New members this year are Sandra Williams and Angela Hall. membership forms are with Simon and Yvonne Higgins but have not yet been returned to A Percival. Sadly, this year we lost Chris Kembery.

- b) **Secretary's report** given by Joanne Turner.

The P.C.C met seven times throughout the year including a fundraising meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> and a meeting in March about Open Day. There was also a joint meeting of representatives of the PCC and the FOSL on May 4<sup>th</sup> organising the Queen's tea party. St. Leonards continues to hold services every Sunday with an average of 16 people in attendance. The beginning of the year saw a joint benefice service at Rodney Stoke being well attended. Mothering Sunday once again was hugely successful and thanks goes to Steve Percival in continuing to work closely with Draycott and Rodney Stoke Primary School. The school also continued to visit in June with regards to the monuments work and this was organised by Megan James. Pet service, harvest festival continues to be successful. Once again thanks to Steve for his liaison with the local primary school in the Remembrance Day Service with the Royal British Legion in attendance. The final family service/link with the primary school was on the 11<sup>th</sup> December at the Christingle Service where once it again it was well attended.

2016 saw the successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to preserve our beautiful monuments. Much hard work, time and dedication has been given by Megan and Ken James to achieve this and many thanks go to both of them in this. The pinnacles and parapets have all been made secure and thanks go to the FOSL for their financial support in this. The sound system in the church is work well.

Sue Walker continues to give excellent information on the finance at every P.C.C meeting and all bills are paid on time. Many thanks also goes to Colin Symes for all of his hard work during the year maintaining the church in various ways, electrical, drainage problems, etc.

The ministry team under the leadership of Judith and Hilary continued to organise the services and finally on Saturday 7th May we welcomed our new vicar Rev. Stuart Burns to the benefice.

2016 saw a wide variety of events take place as part of the fundraising schedule which was extremely successful. At every P.C.C meeting the agendas has always where appropriate included a Deanery Synod report, given by Josie Symes and either a report or updates from the FOSL given by Honor Neave. It was also suggested in the April meeting that the Ministry Team report should be on the future agendas.

In June the P.C.C received a letter from Chris Kembery regretting that he was to stand down due to his poor health. This was a very sad moment for the P.C.C. Unfortunately in October saw the sad passing away of Chris. It was also at June's meeting that we had a discussion about the joint benefice services. St. Andrew's at Cheddar suggested a breakfast service in their village hall to attract people who are not used to church services. We thought it was a good idea but to official support one a year and then have family services etc on the other fifth Sunday. Rodney Stoke supported the first one on 30th October. It was also discussed by Stuart that he would like to hold baptisms on the third Sundays at 1.00pm or at any regular Sunday morning services. A few exceptions would be made in certain cases. Full Report in file.

c) **Treasurer's Report.** Once again Sue Walker provided excellent detailed information with regards to the finances of the church. We were in £6,754 in profit. It was a very good year for fundraising but we should not be complacent during this year. Questions – Alan Newman questioned about an old cheque. A visiting clergy did not want to be paid. Full Report in file.

d) **Churchwarden's report** consisted of the fabric report given by Megan James.

The fabric committee's main activity during 2016 was the conservation of the Rodney family memorials in the church and the two listed churchyard monuments. The conservation work was completed during the year, leaving just the visitor information boards and better lighting of the monuments to be completed.

With the exception of the knight in armour, all the Rodney memorials have been repaired. The upper part of the wall memorial to Sir Edward and Lady Frances Rodney required removal, repair and replacement. The 15th century chest tomb in the churchyard has been cleaned, repaired and completely rebuilt. The other churchyard tombstone believed to date back to the 12th or 13th century has been retrieve and cleaned and is now mounted on the wall of the church adjacent to the font. During the conservation work, the conservators found that there was considerable damp in and around the Rodney Chapel. Much new lime plaster has been put in the place and what with better ventilation in the chapel, the situation seems to be improving but is still being monitored.

The entire conservation project has been funded by grants from various organisations totalling over \$42,000.

Numerous other smaller tasks have been undertaken by or under the supervision of Colin Symes.

The last quinquennial inspection report was issued in the autumn of 2015The parapets were deemed to be unsafe. Thanks goes to the FOSL who funded the £250 to pay for the temporary repairs. The next major task is to raise £45,000 to carry out the reconstruction.

Other matters for the future are the installation of a combined fire alarm and emergency lighting system for the hall, illuminated escape route signs in the church, fixing the leaking porch roof. Most new fabric activities require permission from the diocese. The old faculty application has now been replaced by an online system, which should speed things up. The PCC needs to nominate a representative to deal with such matters. Full report in file.

e) **Deanery Synod Report** was given by Jo Symes.

Josie attended all 4 meetings this past year and Colin on 3 occasions. 26th April at St. Mary's, Berrow. The main theme being Baptism. 1 in 6 children are baptised = 22,000 every week. 38% of these are as part of a general service and these are most likely to continue with the Church.

19th July on the farm at Wedmore. Started with a tour of a very modern dairy unit and calf sheds and then a herd of some 200 British Friesian cows who had been milked that day and sampled the fresh milk. They made an altar of hay bales and held an Act of Worship for Lammas tide. A short business meeting followed and the demads for funds for the new post of Deanery Lay ministry co-ordinator were handed out. 0.5% of our Parish share had been agreed and our bill was for £35.

6th October at St. Peters, Draycott. Bishop of Taunton, Ruth quoted from Book of Kings, Chapter 7, v5 regarding war in Samaria when they were besieged by famine exactly as it is today. They were asked to grow the church as we have lost half of our members over the past 40 years.

4th February 2017 at St. Paul's, Easton. The meeting started at 2.15 and commenced with a short service. The new Archdeacon the Rev. Canon Anne Gell will be installed at Wells Cathedra on 20th May at 3.00pm and the Archdeacon's visitation will be on Thursday 15th June. The main topic was the Inclusive Church which was formed in 2003 to see a more accepting and open church that does not discriminated in any way. Full report in file.

## Other parish reports:-

1. **Mendip Local Ministry Group**:- It meets every Thursday morning for prayer, and also in the Den at Cheddar once every second month. The Mendip Local Ministry Group is one of the more successful local ministry groups in the diocese. Stuart read out the report. Full report in file.
2. **School Report** given by Steve Percival. Steve asked Mike Jory if he would write the report which he very kindly has. The report was extensive and detailed. It covers the school mission statement and values, the Mendip Edge Federation the opportunities it brings, about the finance of the school, school performance, detail of the progress expectations at the end of key stage 1 in core subjects and also at the end of year 4. The report also gives information on school numbers and the partnerships within the wider community and ended with the numerous highlights/developments and the experiences that the pupils have encountered. Full report in file.
3. **FOSL report** given by Honor Neave. The FOSL were very successful last year and hosted 10 events which raised a balance of £13,624. £5,000 was ring fenced for emergencies. Two events have already been held so far and lots more to come in 2017. Full report in file.
4. **Magazine Report** given by Rod Walker. The big news is that it is on the British Library's radar as a 'periodical publication'. There are 10 editions per year and the print run is 200 copies. There are 170 regular subscribers at £5 per year. The www version posted on the [rodneystokeanddraycott.org.uk](http://rodneystokeanddraycott.org.uk) website attracts a similar and growing number of downloads. The editorial policy was explained and there were five discussion points. Full report in file.
5. **Vicar's Comments** – thanks go to Megan and Jane for doing everything and being very supportive and giving their friendship. Particular thanks for the fabric committee. Thanks to Ann and Joanne (past and present secretary) and Sue as the treasurer. Generally to the PCC and Stuart looks forward to their meetings. Megan continues to lead them, very informal which is welcomed. Also want to say especially to Colin – thanks for the sound system and looking after it and the care towards the vicar in ensuring that everything is ok. Many thanks goes to Steve in liaising with the primary school in the family services. It is crucial that the liaisons happen through the magazine, the events and the link with the primary school. Thanks also goes to the many people who read, ring the bells, the music, the organists and the choir. Also thanks goes to Rob for the magazine – doing an excellent job. It is very much appreciated that everything is catered for. A general thank you to the church family for generosity and giving, which is reflected in Sue's report also the warmth that was given to Stuart on arriving. Stuart says that he regrets not spending more time in St. Leonards and St. Peter's, but obviously Cheddar is a bigger church. Also a thanks for the FOSL for their great events and they are always so well planned.
6. **Elections**:- nominations – Josie Symes to nominate Angela Hall and seconded by Mary Banks. Everyone in favour. Don Banks to nominate en bloc the whole of the PCC and Alan Newman to second. Ann Percival is happy to continue as electoral roll officer Joanne Turner nominated and Mary Banks seconded. Two Deanery Synod members - Jo and Colin Symes – nominated by Ann Percival and seconded by Honor Neave. Sidespersons – possible new member Ben Buse - Jane Homes to ask Ben if he would like to join. Current members - Alan Newman, Jenny Newman, Steve Percival, Ann Percival, Chris Neave, Tony Symes, Don Banks. Megan James to nominate Sue Walker as a sidesperson and Jo Symes seconded. Jane Homes nominated all those en bloc and Colin Symes seconded. Appointment of independent examiner – Sue Walker nominated Piers Rose and Megan James seconded. All in favour.

Thanks to Megan to leading the meeting.

Very short meeting of the PCC.

Date of the next PCC meeting – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm at church hall.

The APCM ended with The Grace

Note to self:- Put up full minutes of last years in a pile for people to pick up - suggestion for next year which was discussed by Stuart and Joanne.

Short PCC Meeting:-

Treasurer Sue Walker to continue proposed by Ann Percival and seconded by Jo Symes.  
Joanne Turner nominated Ann Percival to continue as secretary and seconded by Jane Holmes.

Stuart has asked Megan James to continue as Lay Chair.

Three Acres and a Cow – have we got permission for parking? Jane Holmes to organise this. Can't get hold of John Counsell as yet. Requests from Honor for raffle prizes – Megan to give Easter Egg. Me – bottle of prosecco. Judy to give vegetables. To be handed in by Wednesday evening. Refreshments – bottle of wine and soft drinks. Savoury nibbles.

Raised blocks from the primary school, the front pew has been taken out. Megan to help set up on Friday. Tickets have been sold – 80 so far.

Events/activities that is not a normal service that happen need to be passed at the PCC meeting – which really happens anyone.

Michael Taylor Concert – 3.00pm – cake to be provided. Tea etc will also be provided.

Open Gardens – 20<sup>th</sup> May – Ann P – coffee morning with a plant sale. 10-12. JLT to do 15 a posters and then give to Megan to laminate. June 3<sup>rd</sup> Megan – afternoon tea, 3-5pm. PCC to provide cakes etc for all of the open gardens. July 1<sup>st</sup> – afternoon tea 3-5pm at Jo and Colin's.

Alan Rowntree Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> Memories of the Cheddar Valley Branch at 7.30pm held in the church. Nibbles afterwards.

We now require permission to do the faculty online. Ken has spoke to Sarah Davis about this. Are we happy that the PCC will give their permission for him to be the link even though he is not on the PCC. This was agreed.

May – fifth Sunday – a service of thanks.

Stuart discussed the services for the rest of the year.

JLT need to amend my service list.

JLT to send/invite the primary school about the Remembrance Day service, which day do they prefer Thursday of Friday and then also the Christingle - 10 or 17<sup>th</sup> December????

On Thursday moving the handrail on the other side in the village hall it is part of the fire risk assessment.

Meeting finished at 9.00pm.