**st mary the virgin, linton**

**minutes of PCC meeting held on Thursday 12th july 2018**

**Present**

The Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite (Chair), The Revd. Dr N Bown, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mrs H Evans (Churchwarden), Mr A Gore, Mrs G Fraser Lee (left early), Mrs C Lockstone, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Mr J Organ (arrived late), Dr D Parry-Smith, Miss R Richardson, Mr J Thorne (left early) and Mr D Watts (Churchwarden).

# Opening Prayer

# Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr C Morse, Mrs L Richardson and Mr R Tonry.

# minutes of 14th may 2018

The minutes of 14th May 2018 were approved.

The following items differ substantially from the order on the agenda.

# Church logo

This item was brought forward at the request of Gill Fraser Lee. Simon Lee had taken the artwork designed by Linda Richardson and developed two versions of a logo which had been circulated. Image - the tree incorporating a cross was generally approved and took account of people’s previous views. The words ‘Rooted in God. Rooted in Community’ provoked discussion but no better phrase was found and the impact of three words was explained. A full stop was seen as better than joining the phrases with and/for as that appeared to separate the church from the community which was not the intention. The blue line represents water and the physical proximity to the river. It was agreed that there was a better balance of colour in the first version with St Mary’s in blue as well. Font – nine people preferred the first serif font. However, there was a question over whether the word Linton would be strong enough when shrunk to business card size. Gill Fraser Lee will liaise with Simon and ask him to produce the logo in various sizes to check that it will work for stationery and cards, as well as the new web site and notice board and also copy in black and white successfully. Gill was thanked for making progress with this venture and she then left the meeting (due to work pressures).

# matters arising

## LLM training: Sarah and John Thorne

Maggie Guite reminded members that at the January 2018 meeting, the PCC had endorsed applications from Sarah and John for LLM training in children and family ministry and pioneer training respectively. John’s application was not successful but he has since been offered a theology course at the Westminster Theological Centre, validated by the University of Chester. Sarah has been accepted for the LLM course. Additional costs of Sarah’s course, not covered by the Diocese, have now been estimated at about £500 per year for two years. This would include £150 per year for books, £120 for travel to Ely and Ridley Hall in Cambridge, £100 for placement training materials and possibly £120 for meetings with a spiritual director. David Parry-Smith proposed that the PCC should cover these costs, seconded by David Watts and agreed by the meeting.

John Thorne said that in view of his proposed course commitments, he would not be able to attend the next three PCC meetings as they fall in term time and therefore perhaps he should stand down. It was suggested that John should continue to receive the agenda and minutes and send apologies, given that there appears to be a shortage of people willing to be on the PCC. John then left the meeting.

## Sidesperson paper

David Watts had written this paper with a view to offering it to someone who was considering being a sidesperson and it could also be put on the web site as an aide memoire to current people. Other members of the congregation should also become used to looking out for newcomers and chatting afterwards, taking them for coffee etc. Maggie Guite said that she was considering a series of Advent meetings on being a welcoming church. (John Organ joined the meeting.) It was suggested that the inner doors should always be kept open during services and the outer ones closed in poor weather. David Parry-Smith commented that he would prefer to see Churchwardens written in full, rather than wardens which can have many different meanings. It was also suggested that the paper could remind sidespeople of the quiet prayerful time before the service starts. The welcoming should continue but using quieter voices. This paper is to be read in conjunction with an annual meeting for all Sidespeople when particular details of services would be looked at.

## Stewardship paper

Everyone agreed that David Watts had produced a thorough description of the role of a Stewardship officer. The secretary was asked to write to Michael Younger to thank him for the commitment which he had shown to the role and the success of his tenure.

# Rector’s report

## Holiday club

People had been asking whether any activities would be arranged during the school holiday, following the success of the art club last summer. A holiday club is being offered on the five Wednesdays in August. There will be indoor and outdoor activities from 10.30 - 12 followed by a free lunch for each child. Parents who stay will be asked for a donation. Maggie Guite said that people from the other Linton churches were helping to run the sessions; Tina Rice from REACH had been consulted about targeting appropriate families; the Children and Families working group had been involved in planning and also Molly Warrington, Glynis and Michael Younger from the social justice group. The first week will be held in the football pavilion on the recreation ground (at a cost of £25) and subsequent weeks will be in the Infant School (no charge for the premises). Maggie requested that the PCC might agree to cover other costs, especially the catering. The planning group meets again on 20th July. David Parry-Smith recommended that a budget should be sent to Standing Committee members after that meeting. PCC members were in general agreement that up to £500 could be allocated. Maggie said that extra helpers were still needed especially for 15th August.

## Harvest festival

Maggie reminded people that there will be two all-age services per month from September. It had been decided to celebrate Harvest with the 4th Sunday non-Eucharistic service on 23rd September, followed by a bring and share lunch.

## Prayers for healing and wholeness

This initiative is currently on the 4th Sunday but fits less well in future with a non-Eucharistic service. A 2nd Sunday was considered but Maggie said that the group involved would prefer to offer the prayers on 1st and 2nd Sundays and therefore choir members would be free to take part on a 2nd Sunday. David Parry-Smith commented that given the prayer time might continue beyond the end of the services, it would limit the type of organ music played after the service as a rousing voluntary may not be appropriate.

## Children’s area

Maggie said that she and the churchwardens had been considering the position of the children’s area in the south aisle. The current site at the back does not send out a welcoming message to families. Maggie suggested keeping it in the south aisle but bringing it forward. David Watts has already asked the Archdeacon for approval and he is happy to grant approval for a temporary position. Nicola Bown said that we should embrace children being present – bringing the area nearer to the front shows our priority and should send out a better message.

# Review of scarecrow festival

Pam Richardson, chair of the Events committee joined the meeting for this item.

Maggie Guite thanked Pam, on behalf of the PCC, for having the vision to promote the event and creating such a joyous, fun and successful weekend. The amount raised was just under £5,000 – an exceptional result. Pam asked whether the PCC wanted the scarecrow festival to be the primary role of the events committee and, if so, other events would have to be scaled down as it had taken an immense amount of organisation and time.

David Parry-Smith asked whether we should repeat the festival next year or do it every two years. Nicola Bown said that other big community events do happen annually. Colleen Lockstone commented that we had attracted people from the community in ways not seen recently; and had reached out to more people than in previous years. David Watts was concerned about losing momentum if not repeated next year. Pam and Nicola both felt that there was huge mission potential and maybe we could consider an outdoor morning service next year. It was noted that there is nothing to prevent other people within the church organising specific social events.

The committee had a debriefing meeting and were preparing a letter of thanks and a feedback form to be sent to all the groups and businesses who had participated and to seek their views about how to improve the festival. Pam said that the preferred dates for 2019 would be 28 – 30th June. Maggie suggested that Ian Fisher be consulted so that we might avoid clashing with any large Castle Camps event. David Parry-Smith said that he could check Castle Camps dates at home.

# Events Committee

A report had been circulated showing another five events in September – December, put together before the scarecrow festival took over. Maggie Guite also requested that refreshments be provided after the All Souls’ service on 2nd November. However, this is a Friday and is not such a good evening for people, apart from it clashing with choir practice. It may revert to being on a Sunday evening, 4th November.

John Organ said that the Hadstock Silver Band were keen to offer their October concert 2019 to be in Linton. There is an initial fee of £200.

# Infant School report

Nicola Collard had written this and the PCC welcomed having the summary of the school year to enable members to be more aware of school issues.

# Fabric report

Andrew Gore had circulated a report.

Music desk – the trial version has been re-worked and is back in church. Several people had chance to try it before the meeting. The height is better; weight and stability seem good. Andrew asked for rapid feedback from other members of the choir and music group.

Kitchenette – it was asked whether funding for this might be provided by The Friends of St Mary’s.

Boiler - it was agreed that a new contract should be agreed with Kershaws.

ProClean – it was agreed to accept the quote for cleaning the pavilion.

North clerestory windows – David Parry-Smith asked that the opening mechanism be checked as one set failed to open and the other seemed to go too far.

Screen – David Watts has found a second contractor (after the first withdrew) and a quote is awaited.

Eagle lectern – Andrew Gore had prepared a separate paper showing people’s comments after the article in the Linton news suggested that it may be removed. Inevitably there was a wide range of opinions. Andrew suggested that we should wait until the new music stands were in position and angled differently to assess how the choir sight lines were affected. Several correspondents had said that it was important to see the face of a reader at the lectern – so could the reading position be improved by providing a small flight of steps with a hand rail? Parents who sit in the north aisle at the Friday school service should also be consulted. Andrew said that any faculty request should be linked to other improvements and should explain why changes were desirable. If a faculty is sought, notices would be posted and people would have chance to object. A positive aspect of the debate is that more people have offered to clean the eagle. Andrew said that he would reply to those people who had written to him.

# organ report

David Parry-Smith had circulated the preliminary report prepared by Nicholas Thistlethwaite in June. The report gives a brief history of alterations to date but does not give a detailed review of the current condition e.g. leather cracking and split and leaking wind. It is also extremely heavy to play and particularly difficult to play when sections of the instrument are coupled together. David said that he would prefer the organ to stay as mechanical action rather than converting to electric action. He thinks that it should be repaired and made good for the next 25 years. David will contact some organ builders for advice and quotations to cover the work described in option 1 and also the possible turn through 90 degrees in option 2. David offered to discuss the options presented in the report and the state of the organ with PCC members. He would also update Nicholas Thistlethwaite that the report had been presented to the PCC

# church website

This is progressing but not quite ready to view. David Watts can provide a login for PCC members to see what is proposed.

# Any other business

The Bishop of Huntingdon is retiring and his leaving service will be in the afternoon of 23rd September in Ely. Donations are requested for his leaving gift and it was agreed to send £50.

It was also agreed to give Simon and Gill Fraser Lee a gift for working on the final version of the church logo.

# Dates for future meetings 2018 - 2019

Monday 10th September, Thursday 8th November,

Monday 14th January, Thursday 14th March.

The meeting closed with prayer at 10.30pm.