

St Mary the Virgin Linton Parochial Church Council

10th March 2025 at 7.30 in the Pavilion

Minutes

Chair – Paul Seaton-Burn

Present – Mrs C Dodd (CD) (Churchwarden), Mrs S Ellis (SE) (Treasurer), Mrs S Thorne (ST) (LLM), Mr D Watts (DW) (Churchwarden), Mrs J Burge (JB), Revd P Seaton-Burn (PS-B) (Team Rector and Chair), Mrs C Watts (CW) (LLM and Safeguarding Officer), Mrs S King (SK), Revd M Wilcockson (MW) (Associate Priest), Dr D Parry-Smith (DP-S) (Lay Chair), Dr S Nickolls (SN).

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies

Andrew Cornell-Webb, Andrew Gore, Ann Slaymaker, John Thorne, John Organ

Ministry and outreach

3. Rector's report

- PS-B thanked those who support the ministry team. It has been a busy time with important pastoral work – funerals, Symonds house, Nicholls court, and referrals from the health centre. The pastoral group are meeting at the end of the week. PS-B expressed his thanks to Sue Filby who has been chairing this whilst having lots of other things going on including LLM training.
- PS-B thanked JB for standing in as verger when Nannette Blackmore was off.
- PS-B noted high levels of attendance at church.
- He thanked Tom Dodd for the new songs workshop. He noted that the second Sunday is a simpler service but there is a lack of different instrumentalists to make the most of the newer songs.
- PS-B reported good numbers at the well, 20+ in March. There are also good numbers at chalklands, with a few donations having been given by those who can't make it to church.
- PS-B is grateful to the PCC members who came to the children and families vision day, he reported it was a good start to the conversation on children and families post ST's retirement. A working group is meeting to look at feedback from the day and consider how we can apply the feedback and look at how we continue to make our church more welcoming for families and young people. They will report back to PCC in due course.
- PS-B has supported Joan Smith regarding a historic case of chancel repair liability. PS-B believes we do have a case but wants to see it in writing first as it has been investigated before. He would also like to know about the liability of legal fees before we go anywhere with this.
- In recent months a significant number of remains have been found in church cottage garden and are due to be reinterred but we may need carbon dating to find out their

age which has a significant cost. There is a possibility to get heritage lottery funding for this. There is space to inter them in the church yard. Currently they are in a safe place.

- MW reported that the post confirmation group is to resume soon. Three of those who were confirmed are sharing their witness on Sunday 16th March.
- The healing and hope services have been going well, they will be roughly every other month, although Easter means the next one is in May. This service compliments *the well* nicely. Jane Butler is ordained with PTO and will be taking part in some services, particularly the service of hope and healing.
- 11th May is vocation Sunday and we have a lady from Westcott college coming to preach.

4. Updates for the PCC:

Children and Families Team

Written report circulated. ST asked for advice on various issues e.g. what to do with the contact lists she has, her Messy Sarah Facebook profile and associated pages which will disappear, her mailchimp account will end, her tablet, which was bought by the Anderson Trust needs to be passed on and the phone number will disappear. She has 4 boxes of resources at her house that need to be rehomed.. PS-B to discuss this with her outside of the meeting. CD asked whether it is possible to transfer the Facebook pages to someone else, this will need to be looked into. Make Lunch is likely to end as we have been unable to find a new coordinator. SE mentioned the need to contact those who give monthly to this cause, so they are aware it is stopping. PS-B to help with the wording for this. PS-B is due to meet with the tots group and the children and families team.

Deanery Synod update

See item 5

Events Committee

Written report circulated. PS-B noted that the amount raised for the Ukraine tea was very good. The ceilidh band are booked for an early Burns night ceilidh next year. DP-S distributed come and sing fliers and encouraged people to attend the service at 5pm. He asked PS-B to introduce the service.

Pastoral visitors' group report

No report as they have not met since last PCC meeting.

Beacon Youth Trust

Some of the youngsters are going on a trip to Uganda, not organised by the Beacon Youth Trust but they are helping facilitate some fundraising.

MW noted that there are good reports coming back from the 2 youth leaders.

5. Deanery and Diocesan Matters

PS-B was at Diocesan Synod on Saturday. He reported it was helpful to hear good and bad things. The Granta Deanery were well represented. The good news is there is growth in terms of Sunday attendance, which is in line with national levels, and we are back to pre-

covid levels. The bad news is the diocese are having to use their reserves. They acknowledged that increasing parish share is not acceptable.

Northstowe – they are possibly creating a new parish. The church is currently in the middle of the village but as Northstowe grows it may become on the edge.

MW mentioned the school and church covenant. There is a suggestion to present it yearly at the APCM, and the covenant should be renewed at least once a year between the school and the church.

6. Safeguarding report (Cathy Watts)

CW reported that there is still one PCC member who is not up to date, and she is chasing this.

The safeguarding lead at the diocese, Rebecca Boswell, has moved on. The interim team at the diocese have things in hand.

No safeguarding issues have occurred since the last PCC meeting.

Management and maintenance:

7. Minutes of the PCC Meeting of 13th January 2025

Lesley Gore's name to be corrected on page one.

The minutes were accepted as correct with this minor tweak.

8. Matters arising

DP-S raised that it might be easier to have initials after names in the present list, and then to use the initials in the minutes to make it clearer who said what. Agreed to ask Andrew Cornell-Webb to do this in future.

Although we said Barry could attend as chair of fabric at the last meeting, he wasn't added to the distribution list. Agreed for Andrew Cornell-Webb to add him for circulation and to attend as an observer if he so wishes.

9. Churchwardens' report

Nothing to report. PS-B thanked DW that visitor lighting has been put in, it just needs a couple of tweaks to the sensors.

10. Other reports:

Finance & Stewardship

The annual accounts for 2024 have been circulated. They have been approved by the independent examiner. SE highlighted that we continue to be in a deficit each year, she is budgeting for the worst case scenario. SE proposed that accounts be approved by the PCC. The PCC unanimously approved the accounts.

Fabric committee

Several pieces of information about the boilers had been circulated prior to the meeting. DW has alerted the Parish Council that the QI inspection is on 19th March. DW reported there was a very good meeting with Baileys who maintain the boilers. We have three companies giving quotes on new boilers. Andrew Gore provided a report about ground source heating. On consideration it is felt that it would not provide sufficient heat for the building and the school. Water source heating has been looked into and would not provide us with enough heat nor the flexibility we need to heat the church. We have been through

the process showing that gas boilers are our only options. We will need a faculty to change the boilers. ST asked what is the timeframe on changing them. DW reported ideally the work is to be done in August. Therefore, we will need to put in for a faculty as soon as possible. We are looking at roughly £12,000 to change the boilers. The friends of St Mary's have expressed their support for the work.

Peace Garden – Linton roots (new group in the village looking at the environment) are aware of the peace garden and the possibility of helping the Monday gang with looking after the churchyard.

Additional sockets are now in. ST asked if there were sockets behind the coffee bar area as she thought this was part of the electric upgrade. DW reported there should be some sockets there now but since the urn leads are not long enough to use them we may still need some extension leads.

DW reported the white urn is now fixed. The bigger urn needs a new part but DW cannot find instructions on how to use it. We can use bigger urn but it drips so we need to be careful. CD reported we now do too much coffee on a Sunday morning to use the smaller urn.

11. Any other business to the Rector, and Andrew Cornell-Webb (PCC Secretary) before the meeting)

ST thought Will Neville's presentation yesterday was very powerful (Kyangala Trust). She asked if there is any aspiration to support the project. PS-B reported he invited them to speak and will make space in the newsletter to publicise the trust. We agreed there is no formal funding from the church at the moment, but we could review our annual giving. CD reported there is the possibility of one of our regular coffee mornings being for them. JB reported the possibility of an afternoon tea for them. There is also an invite for us to join their visit to Kenya in October.

Request from Pattie Folkson regarding café church refreshments. She has requested we consider instant coffee to be used instead of ground coffee due to the practicalities. She reports keeping up with demand is difficult, and having no kitchen in the church makes it awkward. PS-B said the most important thing is that we have a good welcome. CD highlighted the need for more volunteers to keep up with demand if we stick with ground coffee. SK said ground coffee is not going to meet what everyone wants. MW asked if there is a machine we could use to help. DW felt good instant coffee is the way to go, which needs to be fair trade. DP-S felt there is an industrial machine, and we should have machine coffee or tea. He also noted you will never satisfy everybody. ST agrees with DPS – to have a machine or tea. CW reported her coffee machine at home only does 6 mugs. She has no opinion on type of coffee. JB is a tea drinker. She says it depends how important it is to have ground coffee, but that we can't have the huge queues. SN drinks tea. SE says it is getting the volunteers to make it before the service.

Overall decision was that the shortage of volunteers is the main problem in keeping up with demand. We agreed to look for a better fair trade instant coffee and to use this until we have looked into a commercial machine. CW will look into a machine. It is likely we would need a legacy or specific gift for a machine, and volunteers would need training. We agreed what is important is the quality of the welcome and the PCC will review if there is a better way after further research.

PS-B advised that the next joint team service is on mothering Sunday. He asked us to pray that families will join us. ST is doing the talk.

The next meeting is the APCM, on 11th May.

Deanery Synod dates 2024 - 2025: Tuesday 1st April 2025

Closing prayer