



St Mary's, Linton
Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on
Monday, 14th July 2025, at 7.30pm in the Pavilion

Minutes

Lay Chair – David Parry-Smith

Present—Revd Paul Seaton Burn (Team Rector), Revd Michael Wilcockson, Jacqui Burge, Sue Ellis, Sarah King, James Suranga Perera, Ann Macer, Sue Mudge, David Watts, Andrew Gore, Andrew Cornell-Webb, and David Parry-Smith.

Guest – Barry Roberts (Chair of the Fabric Committee)

1. The meeting opened in prayer.
2. Apologies were recorded from Cathy Watts and Sarah Thorne.

I Ministry and outreach

3. Rector's report

- A written report is attached to the Minutes.
- A busy May included a Christian Aid-themed service and Celtic Morning Prayer; both had been well-received.
- The Rector had invited donations from the church family for new Church Bibles. It is hoped that some 25-30 copies will be procured; to be stored on the hymnbook stand, to be available to the congregation and visitors. The version will be NRSV (Anglicised), as per the Common Lectionary.
- Well done and thank you to all those who helped make our Flower Festival a joyful and successful event.
- Friday Church continues to be an important part of our church life; the last one was attended by 65 adults and 150 pupils.
- We wish Tom Dodd the best of luck, applying for his new post at West End Congregational Church.
- Two projects are in the pipeline: i) our review of our welcome and provision for children, young people and their families at St Mary's; and ii) a potential community project, 'Mary's Kitchen', to bring people together to make and eat together homemade bread and soup. Both require further consultation and prayer.
- Root and Branch groups are coming to the end of the term; numbers have been very good, and a fourth one has started in Shudy Camps.
- People have requested that the Service of Hope and Healing service become more regular events. It has been v. good to welcome Revd Jane Butler to the team. The next service will be at St Mary's on 7th September at 6pm.
- The Well continues to enjoy good attendance, including a notable number of non-churchgoers.

4. Updates for the PCC:

Children and Families Team

- Tots in Tow is going well; Sue Ellis is part of the team..
- Messy Church is continuing, the team now led by Michael Wilcockson, Lucy Neville and Ellie Wild following Sarah's retirement. There had been 16 children plus parents last time. It was reported that Messy Church is moving to the fourth Sunday, which will follow Café Church in the morning, and so will reduce the time and effort needed to arrange chairs, tables, etc. This would be reviewed in due course.
- Infants School—There are plans for a 150-year celebration in the Autumn term; the service for this will be held on 24th October at 5.30pm.

Events Committee

- A report was circulated beforehand, and is attached to these Minutes.
- Andrew Gore questioned the burden put on the Events Committee around the flower festival and mentioned a clash with an event on the same day. It was suggested that in the future the flower festival has its own committee.

Pastoral visitors' group report

- A report was circulated beforehand.
- No additional comments

Beacon Youth Trust

- Gareth and Zack are still covering during maternity leave.
- Good financial state—one donor has given a lot of money; the group is considering permission to replace the drop-in centre.

5. Deanery and Diocesan Matters and Deanery Synod update

- The Diocese faces a deficit of £370k, with a greater deficit expected for the next three years. There will be a 4% increase in Parish Share next year, as the budget goes into deficit to help pay for an increased clergy stipend.
- At the recent Diocesan Synod meeting, lots of figures were given out, and a project proposal to invest in nearly flourishing communities. It seemed too much information and not enough time for proper consultation.
- The Deanery Synod was asked to report back to the Diocesan Synod within two days, and the previous meeting had just happened. This concern has been fed back to the Diocese.
- The Chaplaincy to Science Parks project was developing as expected, with encouraging feedback received so far.

6. Safeguarding report (Cathy Watts)

- This was provided by Michael Wilcockson in Cathy's absence.
- Going through the Parish Dashboard to review what needs doing, Cathy will produce a new safeguarding action plan in September. New PCC members must have DBS and

completed safeguarding training modules. There is a need to review all church and non-church activities. All groups must go through the process of safer recruitment. We will need a dedicated PCC meeting for all these matters and more details would follow in the Autumn. Cathy would like to find a replacement for her role by the end of the church year.

II Management and maintenance:

7. Minutes of the PCC Meeting of 11th May 2025

- Michael Wilcockson's name needed to be added to the list of the Standing Committee.
- The Minutes were approved unanimously.

8. Matters arising

- The discussion about the actions related to church coffee will be postponed until the next meeting.

9. Churchwardens' report

- It's the time of year for the annual return for the Charity Commission.
- A review of all PCC policies was needed; a long list of recommended policies had been provided by the Diocese.

10. Other reports:

Finance & Stewardship

- A report was sent round before the meeting.
- Having to dip into reserves even more.

Fabric committee

- A set of reports was distributed before the meeting.
- Faculty for heating was taken to the Diocese on the 10th of July and given to the Net Zero committee.
- Waiting to hear back from the Diocese.
- Barry believes it is unlikely to be rejected and feels it's favourable currently but also feels the Diocese is likely to ask for more information.
- Consideration for a heated air curtain in the south porch to help prevent draughts letting hot air out. It won't work in a gale but would work well other times.
- The QI inspection quoted repairs currently at £9,150. Paul proposed and Andrew C-W seconded a proposal to i) approve the schedule of repairs, and ii) in support of the faculty application. **They were approved unanimously.**
- There was a short discussion around the Parish Council's responsibility for the churchyard (closed for burials for a number of years). The QI does not include the churchyard.
- The organ blower had to be replaced, and we are waiting for likely costs to be confirmed. The piano would be used in the meantime.

- The altar frontals had been moved during the organ repair, and the hinge of the cupboard was found to be unsafe at the top; DIY repair costs £50-£100. It had been made clear that the cupboard should not be accessed until the work had been done. Thanks were expressed to Barry Roberts for his help with this.
- A night vision camera was suggested in case the roof alarm goes off, and it was proposed to abandon the £300 yearly cost for someone to come out when the alarm goes off. Very little effective support seemed to be provided under the current arrangement. Instead, three people would be notified via phone and could look at the camera to see if someone was on the roof.

11. Any other business.

It was noted that all items requested under AOB must be sent to the Rector and Andrew Cornell-Webb (PCC Secretary) before PCC meetings.

- i) Peace garden (note from Anne Parry-Smith, attached)
 - We need to encourage a wider group of people to look after the churchyard. The peace garden, in particular, is our responsibility and needed some work and repairs. The Rector reported that friends from the Chalklands service has made several visits recently, tidying the garden. A community day was planned for the Autumn.
 - Gratitude was expressed for the work of the Monday Gang.
 - We will need a coordinator to organise this work.
 - Andrew Gore suggested that he can use a spare lawnmower in his shed.
- ii) Picture board of members of the Church.

An un-named member of the congregation had asked where the photoboard had gone from the porch. The Rector Paul said it was taken down because it was both out of date and looked dreadful in the porch. A new welcome sign had been put in its place. He was happy that some photographs of officers be on display inside the church, and a volunteer would be needed to do this.
- iii) Infants School Governors

Matt James, who worships at St Mary's with his family, had been proposed as Infants School DBE Governor and **this was approved unanimously.**

PCC Meeting Dates:

8th September, November 10th, January 12th, 2026, March 9th, 2026

Deanery Synod dates: 6th November 2025, 24th March 2026

The meeting closed in prayer.