



St Mary's, Linton
Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on
Monday, 9th March 2026, at 7.30pm in the Pavilion

Minutes

Lay Chair – David Parry-Smith

1. Opening prayer - Completed

2. Apologies

Sue Mudge and Ann Macer

Ministry and outreach

3. Rector's report

It had been a busy time since the last PCC meeting, despite ongoing issues with the heating. The Rector gave thanks to everyone who had put time into getting the boilers up and running, noting that this had not taken the shine off the events held in the cold, including a successful Mary's Community Kitchen in the church, which received good feedback. Four groups have been meeting weekly through Lent, and Paul has resumed assemblies at Linton Heights, assisted by Sarah Thorne. Coming up, there will be a discussion on a pilot of moving the children's corner to the north aisle. The Easter trail will be planned as it was last year, with tweaks to make it KS2-friendly for the Heights pupils, and special services are under consideration for Holy Week, including a dramatised reading of Mark's Gospel on the Tuesday of Holy Week. Sue Filby is doing well on her LLM placement at St Paul's in Cambridge. In the last week of September, a Festival of Angels is being considered for Michaelmas, featuring art and poetry, with Friday 2nd October the likely date for an associated fundraiser day involving local artists and musicians.

4. Updates for the PCC:

Children and Families Team

SIAMS was completed today at the Infants School, and the school performed outstandingly, with plans to continue extending the showcasing of Christianity as a world/global faith. The inspector gave lots of praise for the Infants School. Messy Church has faced problems, as team members' family commitments make it difficult to meet at the same time, and there are issues with DBS cover if Michael isn't present. Advertising and drawing people in remain a focus, and the team is considering whether the Messy Church name is still relevant.

Events Committee

Report given at PCC

Pastoral visitors' group report

January report given before meeting, thanks to Sue Filby, meeting on 3rd of March no further updated from it

Beacon Youth Trust

Ceilia, the youth worker, has fully resigned, and a new appointment is being looked at. Outreach to secular schools is going well, while outreach to faith-based schools remains mainly with the Free Church, so the hope is for more diversity going forward.

5. Deanery and Diocesan Matters and Deanery Synod update

A vacancy has been advertised for the Science Ministry role, attracting four to five inquiries and one application; it is a non-stipendiary, voluntary role, with a closing date next week. Thanks were given to Michael for his work on this.

The Diocesan Synod takes place on Saturday.

6. Safeguarding report (Cathy Watts)

11 DBS applications are in process.

Management and maintenance:

7. Minutes of the PCC Meeting of the 12th of January 2026

In discussion around Infants school, change "has taken place" to "taken place"

Proposed Sarah Thordne Seconder Paul SB

8. Matters arising

None

9. Churchwardens' report

Now that the heat curtain is in place in the south porch, a notice will be put up to inform people that the door is to remain shut. David Watts thanked all PCC members during his time as churchwarden, and the PCC in turn thanked David Watts for his service

10. Other reports:

Finance & Stewardship

Sue gave an update on the annual accounts, with the main concern being a deficit that is unsustainable given the drain it places on reserves. The accounts had been sent to the PCC prior to the meeting, and Sue felt there was very little that could be trimmed from expenditure. Paul is to talk to sister parishes about parish share contributions from each parish, and the importance of increasing giving from parishioners was highlighted. The

Rector is to have a discussion with John Organ regarding his future in the role of Stewardship Officer. Sarah Thorne mentioned the phrase "Serve, Pray and Give", seen in materials from larger churches, and Jacqui Burge suggested a sign showing how much the church spends per day on average, as seen in some cathedrals. The Good Box has broken down, and the company will not replace it as the software is no longer updated; a new machine is to be bought, with QR codes to be shown in different places around the church for people to donate. This was proposed by Jacqui Burge, seconded by Michael Wilcockson, and approved unanimously, with thanks minuted to Sue.

The Friends are currently unable to access their account. Sue Ellis reported that two parishioners kindly loaned a total of £20,000 to cover the cost of the boiler work until the funds could be accessed from the Friends. Paul SB is to speak to the Diocese regarding support for this, and Michael Wilcockson, in his role as Rural Dean, is also to speak to the Diocese. David Parry-Smith suggested speaking to the contractors about staging the payments, and Sue is to approach the contractors with this in mind, as well as asking the Treasurer of the Friends to provide a letter of intent to pay, or a letter of comfort. It was suggested that investments could be cashed in to cover the boiler costs until the Friends are able to provide the funds. The PCC agreed that the contractors will be asked to accept half payment this month, with £11,000 to be taken from investments. This was proposed by Andrew Gore and seconded by David Watts.

Fabric committee

The committee is looking for PCC support for a faculty application to sell some of the pews, with an article to be placed in the Church Times for this purpose. A resolution was put forward to seek a faculty for the disposal, at the best price available, of all pews received from Great St Mary's, together with the two bucket pews removed from the Resurrection Chapel in the 1960s. This was proposed by Michael Wilcockson and seconded by Jacqui Burge, and passed by unanimous vote. There was also discussion around the bollard and a potential letter to the local council; this was proposed by Andrew Gore, but as no seconder came forward, the motion failed.

11. Any other business (requests are to be sent to the Rector and Secretary before the meeting)

Grant application matters – Sue Ellis

There was discussion around the grants the church applies for to fund certain projects. In order to comply with the requirements of most recent grants, certain documents need to be in place, including a constitution, an equal opportunities policy, a conflict of interest policy, and a safeguarding policy. A vote of thanks was given for the work done on this.

COVID-19 Commemorative Tree – Brian Cox/Rector

South Cambridgeshire District Council wishes to donate a cherry tree to the village to commemorate COVID-19, and the Parish Council would like it planted in the churchyard.

Grave Reservation – Nanette Blackmore

Paul is to meet with Nanette to decide on a plot for her and Edward.

To schedule a PCC discussion on the review of the PCC's policy on Church and Pavilion lettings – David Parry-Smith

A PCC discussion on the lettings policy is to be scheduled. David Parry-Smith would like a time and date set aside to look at this policy, and Paul SB suggested setting up a working group around it.

APCM Date: 17th May

Deanery Synod dates: 24th March 2026, 1st July 2026

Closing prayer