

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Linton

held on 20th November 2024 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion

Chair – Revd Paul Seaton-Burn

Present – Mr A Cornell-Webb (Secretary), Mrs C Dodd (Churchwarden), Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mrs S Thorne (LLM), Mr D Watts (Churchwarden), Mrs J Burge, Mr A Gore, Revd P Seaton-Burn (Rector and Chair), Mrs C Watts (LLM and Safeguarding Officer), Mrs S King, Revd M Wilcockson (Associate Priest), Dr D Parry-Smith (Lay Chair), Dr S Nickolls

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies – Ann Slaymaker, John Organ, John Thorne.

Ministry and outreach

3. Rector's report

A lot has been offered and achieved since PCC last met:

- Sunday morning attendance is back to pre-COVID levels, with several new members of our 10am congregation.
- The Harvest Thanksgiving weekend had been a good balance of fellowship, fund-raising and wider community engagement.
- The recent joint service at Michaelmas for the five churches of the Linton Parishes, held at Bartlow, had been well-attended and was an uplifting experience.
- At a recent meeting with benefice churchwardens and ministry team members, the Rector had emphasised the need to work more closely together to ensure that all five parish churches remain open for years to come. Certain parishes will be invited to share PCC meetings, etc, over the coming year.
- The pilot Healing Service had gone well and will be offered on alternative months.
- The inaugural community event 'Thinking Ahead - End of Life Matters' on 9th October had been well-received and was attended by c40 people. This had involved representatives from the local funeral directors, crematorium, a legal firm and Granta Medical Practice. It was hoped that a similar event be held in 2025, in the evening to provide the same opportunity to parishioners who work during the day.
- There had been a positive meeting between Paul, David Watts, Andrew Gore and Richard Tonry and representatives of the DAC to consider proposals to dispose of the remaining, mostly obsolete pews and frontals. Other proposals - including the creation of a storage space, welcome desk and visitor lighting - were favourably received by the DAC representatives present. A meeting with the fabric committee is coming up regarding this.
- Friday Church is going well and continues to be a busy, happy time with a good number of parents in attendance. Nicola had stepped back and Paul would be joining the team.
- Chalklands Monthly Service – draws c18 people and is helping to make good pastoral connections with residents who don't have any regular contact with St Mary's.
- Light for Loved Ones had around 80 people attend - double that of 2023 - and several funeral families had attended.

- ‘Linton Remembers’ on Remembrance Sunday was well-attended, with both the Infant School and local Junior School contributing, and with numerous community groups represented; good feedback had been received afterwards. There were some practical points to be addressed next year, not least the procession to the war memorial.
- Paul invited Michael, now Chair of Governors, to update the meeting about our Parish Covenant; a two-way process in which church schools and diocese have made a commitment to work together. As a PCC we own our relationship with the Linton Infants CofE School and copies of the Covenant were distributed to PCC at the meeting.
- There was a suggestion for a slot on a Sunday, during the 10am service, to hear about what’s been happening at the school.
- The Care Home and Pastoral Team will give a hamper for the staff at Nichols Court and Symonds House, and a card, to thank them for what they do; this will be done for the Infant School, too.
- David Parry-Smith suggests a rota of prayer topics to help with standardisation and twice a year we could invite the schools into a Sunday service.
- The Rector highlighted a range of Christmas services coming up.
- Granta School have 3 services a year at church and regular meetings with Nannette.
- It was good to advise PCC of a very positive annual report from the external assessor for the Make Lunch Club.
- The Rector proposed that the PCC Meeting commit to meet for a half-day to discuss the next chapter for children and family’s ministry at St Mary’s. Sarah Thorne would be retiring at Easter. Details to follow in the new year.
- On the same subject of succession, Paul reminded PCC that we owe Charlotte and David a duty of care as they would be stepping back at the APCM. It was our shared responsibility to discern candidates for churchwardens in time for that meeting.

4. Updates for the PCC:

4.1 Children and Families Team

- Sarah was disappointed that the chairs and tables the previous Messy Church Sunday were not moved as she was ill that morning.
- Suggestion of Plan going forward in the future for setting up.
- Linton URC had been approached to assume oversight for Make Lunch following Sarah’s retirement, but no decision had been taken yet.

4.2 Deanery Synod update

- Agreed on the default in terms of the rebate, this means the next rebate will be distributed by proportions, Linton is looking hopefully for full payment.
- Agreed a significant proportion of funds will be used for science chaplaincy as well as money for YouthInc.

4.3 Events Committee

- Coffee Morning on 16th November raised £334.50.

4.4 Pastoral Visitors’ Group report

- No additional comments from the report circulated before the meeting.

4.5 Beacon Youth Trust

- Going pretty well, Cynthia had a baby.
- Only issue with a few members of the Parish Council who feel they don't get value for money.

4.6 Linton Infants School Report (Heading Added at Meeting)

- Confidential Report and Discussion by PCC.

5. Deanery and Diocesan Matters

- Covered in Point 4.2

Management and maintenance:

6. Minutes of the PCC Meeting of 9th September 2024

- Two instances in previous minutes of John Organ being put as Jon Organ.
- Jacqui Burge spelt wrong in previous minutes.
- Proposed by David Parry-Smith and Seconded by Andrew Gore, unanimously approved.

7. Matters arising

- 7.9 – We are not in the right social demographic for funding from BHF, some other funding however still about £1000. Anne to speak to the Events Committee and approach other organisations.
- Nicola Collard approached to come on the 15th of December to thank her for her time as Chair of Governors and LLM.

8. Safeguarding report (Cathy Watts)

- Thanks for your support on Safeguarding Sunday
- Latest safeguarding document on the diocesan website.
- 'Let there be Light' - a documentary by Matt Redman about the current upheaval in the church due to sexual abuse - was recommended; it is on Youtube.

9. Churchwardens' report

- The Christmas service leaflet was completed and ready to be printed.

10. Other reports:

10.1 Finance & Stewardship (2025 budget)

- Regular giving up by £415 a month.
- £3,700 gift aid donations throughout the year.
- Budget Discussed by PCC.
- No way to trim deficit without cancelling donations or stopping heating.
- PCC agreed the distribution of money raised at Christmas services. This year donations will be shared between Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, Friends of the Holy Land and keeping St Mary's open. 50% to the Church, 25% to Cambridge Churches Homeless Project and 25% to Friends of the Holy Land.
- Budget Adopted Unanimously. Proposed by Sue Ellis and seconded by Michael Wilcockson.

10.2 Fabric committee

- Agree for Henry Freeland Architects to complete QI next year.
- Resurrection Chapel, no vault under there, the proposal of redoing the floor is excessive however will need hardcore for a level floor. Quote less than originally said. A new ramp would require guard rails. Another solution would be to slope the floor

11. Consideration to recommend to the Diocesan Board of Education the reappointment of Michael Wilcockson (Current Chair of Governors) to carry on as a Linton Infants Foundation Governor.

- Michael Wilcockson has offered to take the role which was left when Nicola departed.
- A proposal to fill the governor's vacancy was brought to PCC, Mr James Lake is recommended to fill the space left when Nicola departed; this is also a DBE appointment requiring board approval but needing PCC recommendation.
- Unanimous Approval of both Candidates. Proposed by David Parry-Smith and Seconded by Sarah King,

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

- Previously certified as Fairtrade Church, ran out last year, need to recertify online. PCC Approved this. The Rector reiterated the importance of purchasing Fairtrade tea, coffee, Communion wine, etc.
- The 2025 APCM Date will be the 11th May 2025

Dates of future meetings for 2024- 2025: January 13th 2025, March 10th 2025

Deanery Synod dates 2024 - 2025: 1st April 2025

The meeting closed with a prayer.