

**St Mary the Virgin Linton**  
**Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Present:**

Mrs J Nightingale (Chair), Mrs N Collard, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mrs S Filby, Mrs H Foote, Mr A Gore, Mrs S King, Mr D Lockstone, Mrs L Mordue, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Mr J Organ, Mrs G Powell, Mrs L Read, Mrs R Read, Mrs P Richardson, Mrs J Smith, Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden).

**1. Opening Prayer**

**2. Apologies**

Mrs N Blackmore, Mr M Holden, Mr J Thorne (Churchwarden).

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were accepted and signed.

**4. Matters Arising**

5.2. (May 2014) Chancel repair liability – John Thorne was not available to say whether the article for the Linton News was ready. **Action: John Thorne**

5. Online shopping – Hannah Foote agreed to find out how this works for the Infant School and what benefits accrue. **Action: Hannah Foote**

6. Access to water meter – information is not yet available. **Action: Andrew Gore**

8. Safeguarding – Sue Filby reported that she has issued 17 sets of DBS Forms and Declarations and also issued 4 Declarations only to those people with a current check on file. Few forms have been returned, partly due to difficulties in finding clergy to check documents and sign the forms. Sue asked the PCC for permission to contact Sarah King, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, to see whether Sue could be authorised to sign the forms during the vacancy. The PCC agreed. Sue said that she is focusing initially on adults working on their own with children or vulnerable adults. **Action Sue Filby**

9. Mark 5 group – Sarah King had volunteered to join the group but unfortunately has had to withdraw as she is not available for daytime meetings.

12.2. Word and Worship services – John Thorne is still trying to organise the leadership and hopes that the services will be once per month.

**5. Finance Committee Report**

Molly Warrington presented the report from the finance committee with reference to the page of notes. After six months of the current year, the balance sheet shows almost £105,000 including a sum for the pavilion as a fixed asset and a small number of restricted funds. The income / expenditure position appears better than at the end of the first quarter as expenditure has been held down but the decrease in giving by standing order needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency by the Stewardship group.

At the May meeting, the PCC agreed to consider in September whether the Parish Share could continue to be paid for the remainder of the year. Molly said that the Finance Committee had only considered 6 months of accounts, and the financial position was not as dire as had been anticipated earlier in the year. Furthermore, as a team, we are receiving good support from the

Diocese during the vacancy and she would be wary of withholding payments. In addition, it would not present an encouraging picture to prospective Rectors, especially given that the other smaller parishes in the Team were paying their shares.

After discussion, Joan Smith proposed that we meet our Parish Share payments, seconded by Hannah Foote. The proposal was carried with 16 members for, none against and no abstentions.

The Stewardship group has not met due to individual personal circumstances. It was agreed to set a date after the PCC meeting.

Molly Warrington had been chairing the finance committee since May, but she was pleased to report that Michael Holden had agreed to take the role of chair. Michael Holden was proposed by Molly, seconded by John Organ and the meeting agreed his appointment unanimously.

Molly also informed the PCC that Mark Thackstone had resigned from the finance committee.

## **6. Fabric Committee Report**

### **6.1. The Church**

Andrew Gore apologised for the lateness of his written report. The QI works will start on 10<sup>th</sup> November and last for 2 -3 weeks. It has now been agreed that detailed bat surveys will not be required.

Andrew reported that it would be helpful to several members of the congregation if the north porch access work were to be done soon. The architect, Henry Freeland, intends to visit Castle Camps Church to look at some work done by a local builder, and if satisfactory, he can be invited to tender.

Sue Mudge was asked to write to The Friends of St Mary's to request an additional £4000 towards this project. This is the value of a legacy which was put into general funds and it has subsequently been found that the family wishes it to be used for a specific project. (It is recommended that in future, if not clear, a letter should be sent to executors to ascertain the family's intentions and to say that if nothing is heard within 28 days, the money will be put towards general expenses).

**Action Sue Mudge**

Andrew reported that the plan for part of the Remembrance Garden in the churchyard has been mislaid. It is hoped that a new plan will be created as far as possible. Sue Filby said that she would ask H J Paintin for a copy of the leaflet which is given to relatives in order for this to be considered by the PCC at its next meeting.

### **6.2. The Peace Garden**

A lot of volunteer effort has cleared the area behind the pavilion and Andrew Gore recommended that paving and grass seed or turf is laid as soon as possible so that it is not taken over by weeds again. The quotation from Chris Markham was for £1540 for laying paving and £480 for picket fencing. An additional small length of fence will also be needed at the side of the building. The funds available are £1380, leaving a shortfall of about £1100. Following discussion, a member of the PCC offered a loan to cover the shortfall so that the work could proceed. Further donations from the congregation will be sought. The PCC agreed to proceed on this basis. Andrew offered to contact Chris Markham to accept the quotation and to inform the Mark 5 group of the decision.

**Action Andrew Gore**

## **7. Deanery Synod Report**

Derek Lockstone informed the meeting that the Deanery Synod met on 15<sup>th</sup> July at Hinxton Church. Mr Paul Evans, the Diocesan Secretary, spoke on the diocesan budget for 2015 and the 10 year strategic plan. Andrew Gore said that he had been elected to the Deanery Standing Committee which is due to meet in the next week.

## **8. Flower Festival, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Nanette Blackmore had circulated a progress report. Arrangements are on schedule. More volunteers are needed for stewarding, baking cakes and helping with the refreshments in the pavilion. Judy Nightingale thanked Nanette (in her absence) for rising to the challenge and organising the festival.

## **9. Vacancy**

### **9.1. Update on meeting with Revd Canon Fiona Windsor**

Molly Warrington had circulated notes from the meeting with Fiona Windsor on 1<sup>st</sup> September, rearranged from 13<sup>th</sup> August. Team Churchwardens and PCC members attended. Fiona gave a very interesting insight into the organisation, structure and activities of the Papworth Team. She was accompanied by Mr Tim Burgess, Team Treasurer, who spoke from a lay member's perspective.

### **9.2. Services and dates**

The Revd Canon Linda Church, Diocesan Director of Ministry, is booked to conduct the Harvest service on 28<sup>th</sup> September. During this service, Nicola Collard will be presented with her Reader's stole. The Infant School has already requested that families donate harvest gifts suitable for Haverhill Food Bank.

Nicola Collard's Licensing service is in Ely Cathedral on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October. All are welcome to attend and a crèche will be available.

The Messy Church group has scheduled a Christingle service for 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Linton Music hopes to organise another 'Xmas Factor' on 14<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon.

The PCC agreed that there should be a carol service on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6 p.m. Pam Richardson kindly offered to organise and lead it.

The following dates had previously been agreed:

2<sup>nd</sup> November for a simple All Souls' service, similar to last year,

9<sup>th</sup> November –afternoon Remembrance service conducted by Alan Clarkson.

Frances Armes, Linton News editor, has offered to enclose a leaflet with the December News, giving details of all the Christmas services. This would replace the combined Churches card which is proving more difficult to deliver to every house. Liaison is required with Linda Pearson from Linton Free Church.

**Action Sue Filby**

It was also suggested that these forthcoming dates should be on the St Mary's website and Facebook page.

## **10. Team Profile discussion**

Judy Nightingale said that she wished to record the PCC's thanks to Molly Warrington for having produced the team profile document. The other four parishes have submitted and agreed their pages. Molly held two informal evenings on 14<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August for Linton PCC members to comment and discuss the Linton text. Revisions were made and a selection of photographs added. Gill Powell proposed that the team profile be adopted, seconded by Rosemary Read, and agreed unanimously. Molly said that after proof-reading, it would be

sent to both Archdeacons and a section 12 meeting may be required. Note – the new Archdeacon of Cambridge, the Revd Dr Alex Hughes, was collated on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

**11. Any other business**

Judy Nightingale reminded people about the concert by The Kings Taverners, in the church on Saturday evening, organised by The Friends of St Mary's.

Rosemary Read said that The Friends are also holding a fund-raising quiz in the URC Hall at 7.30 on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October with a fish and chip supper. Teams of up to six are required and participants are invited to bring their own drinks.

**12. Date of next meeting**

Following the electronic poll, PCC meetings will be at 7.45 on

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November,**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January** (not 15<sup>th</sup> as said at the meeting),

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March (to be confirmed).

The meeting closed with The Grace.