

Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Tuesday 24th March 2015

St Mary the Virgin Linton

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Present:

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

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

Mrs S King, Mr J Organ, Mrs J Smith.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 13th January 2015 were accepted and signed.

4. Matters Arising

July 2014 – item 5. Online shopping – Molly Warrington had registered St Mary's for the Give As You Live scheme, whereby a percentage of people's online spending with various retailers is paid to the church. She said that she was waiting for leaflets and further information. See

<https://workwithus.giveasyoulive.com> for information.

July 2014 – item 6. Access to pavilion water meter – Andrew Gore has put Cambridge Water in touch with Mr Jon Green at the Diocese to resolve the situation.

July 2014 – item 12.2. Word and Worship services – John Thorne reported that Chris Kemshell, Linton Free Church Minister, had not been able to take a service in February. Peter Wood, Diocesan Director of Mission was an excellent speaker in March. Future services are planned for April 19th, May 10th and June 14th.

November 2014 – item 12.2. News Reel – The Ministry Team would like it to continue before 10.00 services. There had been no offers from people to help operate the computer. Molly Warrington said that it could be done on a rota and that volunteers should be encouraged.

January 2015 – item 6. Fabric report – location of the children's corner. Molly Warrington said that she had some reservations, as putting the spare orange chairs and notice boards near the entrance may not appear very welcoming. It was agreed that it could be given a trial to see how the layout would work. Molly offered to mention the proposal to The Archdeacon but she hoped that it would not be a problem.

January 2015 – item 11.3. Christian Aid meeting with Imogen Tate – Pam Richardson said that it had been well attended and she hoped that people had found it worthwhile.

5. Finance Report

The financial statement and breakdown of income and expenditure, compiled by Sue Ellis, had been circulated. Molly Warrington had produced a more visual financial review with pie charts to show from where the money came and how it was spent. The deficit for the year was £15,332 which includes a figure of £7,703 for pavilion depreciation. The reduction in tax efficient planned giving together with tax recovered was £8325 less than in 2013, which obviously contributed to the deficit.

Michael Holden, chair of the finance committee, stated that a continuing loss was not sustainable. In the wider context of stewardship, Michael has been considering how the PCC might resolve the situation. Fundraising is needed for the short term but a strategy is required for a sustainable future.

Michael proposed that the PCC should appoint a 'parish giving officer' who can concentrate on increasing funds linked to areas of the church mission. The appropriate person would be someone who is respected by members of the church as well those in the wider community. Michael wished to propose Michael Younger for such a role. This was seconded by Rosemary Read and agreed unanimously by those present. PCC members felt that stewardship officer would be a better title than parish giving officer. Note that there is a job description on the 'Giving for Life' website – <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/parish-giving-officers/>

Acceptance of the accounts for 2014 was proposed by Gill Powell, seconded by Sue Filby and agreed unanimously. Molly Warrington thanked Sue Ellis for producing the accounts and for the work during the year. Sue Ellis reported that Andrew Cohen, the independent financial examiner, had scrutinised the accounts and signed them off. It was agreed that the financial review produced by Molly would accompany the accounts in the paperwork for the APCM.

6. Fabric Committee Report

A report had been circulated. Andrew Gore commented on the following items.

The QI repairs were almost finished without further problems.

The heating system now seemed to be working satisfactorily.

The project to create step free access into the church has been delayed and will cost more, after a broken pipe was found under the floor. It had been leaking for some time and a void had formed where material had been washed away. Andrew is negotiating with the insurers to fund the extra work but he may not be successful. Andrew proposed making a special appeal via the Linton News for funding for the emergency work.

Churchyard – Andrew was trying to organise a meeting of the joint churchyard committee. He commented that the free-standing church notice board could be made more welcoming when it is next updated.

7. Deanery Synod report

There has been no meeting since November 2014. The series of open Deanery meetings took the place of the spring meeting.

8. Diocesan Strategy consultation: response

There was an extraordinary meeting of the PCC and Ministry team on Tuesday 24th February to discuss the response to the Diocesan consultation, 'People Fully Alive', and to consider the MAP and hence stewardship proposals. Sue Mudge and Molly Warrington took notes which Molly used to create one document which has been circulated. On behalf of the PCC, Sue was asked to use the online questionnaire and send feedback to the diocese regarding the strategy. Molly thanked Nicola Collard for organising the children's response during Junior Church.

9. Mission Action Plan: priorities and resources

The notes from 24th February (in item 8 above) also covered St Mary's MAP. Molly asked whether people were in agreement with the identified challenges of finance and congregation; and also whether the points relating to three foci of community as set out in the notes, reflected the views from the February meeting. There were no additional comments. Molly suggested that the Marks of Mission groups may not be the most appropriate way of addressing current priorities, but that any decisions to change them should be made in consultation with the new Rector. The PCC agreed that the priorities identified at the extraordinary meeting show the current position and broad future direction. It was agreed that the middle section of the notes should be put on the website with a sentence in the pew sheet to direct people to it. Action Molly Warrington / Sue Filby

10. Vacancy update

The PCC was very pleased that an appointment had been confirmed following the interviews on 4th

March. It had certainly been a challenge to schedule interviews and visits to all five churches and the rectory for five candidates. It was announced on the 22nd March that the Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite has been appointed Team Rector of the Linton Team Ministry. Maggie is currently Priest in Charge of St Mark's, Cambridge. The Bishop's office had offered a date in early August for the induction service. Molly Warrington said that she was hoping to bring it forward as it was more than four months away and also many of our families would be on holiday. In the meantime, Molly was still finding replacement priests for services and experiencing difficulties for the end of May.

11. Review of guidance on Garden of Remembrance

Margaret Cox had found a leaflet from 2001 which contained notes and guidance for families. Representatives of H J Paintin used to give these out and for some reason the practice ceased. John Thorne has photographed every stone to avoid any later dispute. It was agreed that an updated leaflet should be produced for future use. Action Churchwardens

12. Flower festival update: 3rd – 5th July

Nanette Blackmore had circulated progress notes. Letters have gone to all flower arrangers. There was an article in the March Linton News. Stalls are planned for Saturday and various events for Sunday. Refreshments will be served from the pavilion only. Nanette had written a letter to the PCC secretary to request the use of the churchyard on the south side between the church and pavilion for stalls sheltered by gazebos. The PCC agreed to the request to site stalls in the churchyard. The school and Camping Close will not be used. All activities will be in a compact area which should create a good atmosphere. Nanette was thanked for her efforts thus far.

13. Correspondence

13.1. Letter from Jon Green, Diocese of Ely

Sue Mudge had received a letter from Jon Green, dated 16th January, in relation to the Glebe field adjacent to Lonsdale at the east of Linton. It also briefly touched on the issue of Chancel Repair Liability. Joan Smith had issued a page of notes giving her view. Unfortunately Joan was ill and had sent her apologies for the meeting. Judy Nightingale suggested that, given the complexities of the issues surrounding Chancel Repair Liability, a sub-group should be formed to take this forwards. The PCC passed a motion in March 2014 that (in brief) the PCC had agreed that householders would not be pursued for the liability and that this decision would be published in the Linton News. Following advice from the Diocese, this did not happen. John Thorne said that he was advised that the PCC had not gone through the due process in respect of The Charity Commission. There is no problem with the factual information produced by Joan since September 2013 but there is a need to show how the financial information for liability was procured.

John said that there were two elements to this issue. The second area is the pursuit of the liability not transferred to householders and held by Pembroke College. He has been told that the Diocese will proceed with Pembroke College and that individual churches should not contact the College. Andrew Gore suggested that a letter might be sent to the Diocesan Secretary to ask for clarity and progress.

A sub-group had been established in November 2013, comprising the Rector, Joan Smith, John Thorne and Sarah King. No meeting had taken place. Judy repeated her belief that a new group was required – of Joan Smith, John Thorne and in the absence of any other volunteers, Judy said she would also be involved.

13.2. Linton C E Infant School

Sue Mudge read out a letter received from the Clerk to the Governors relating to the planning application for a multi games area. Installing the grant-funded games area will result in moving a section of the existing fence out towards the sunken drain by the gate into the churchyard. The main entrance gates to the playground will be positioned nearer to Church Lane and the pinch point by

the school building will be removed. The loss of some parking spaces near to the churchyard gate will be compensated by more spaces becoming available by the school gates being moved.

14. APCM matters including Electoral Roll update

14.1. Electoral Roll

Lucie Mordue reported that when she took over in January, there were 142 people on the roll. Since then 5 people have been removed and 6 people have been put on, making a total of 143.

14.2. Retiring PCC members

Judy Nightingale announced that John Organ, Linda Read and Pam Richardson had each served three years and were due to retire at the APCM. Sarah King had tendered her resignation. Beth Kirkman had also resigned last November. The PCC membership was actually larger than it should be by two places. This meant that there are three positions to be filled at the APCM. Sue Filby and Lucie Mordue were co-opted for one year only and they would be eligible to stand for election if they wished to do so. Judy thanked the retiring members for all that they had contributed to the PCC.

Linda Read reminded the meeting that she is a PCC representative on the Anderson Trust and someone would need to fill that position.

Gill Powell mentioned that the Ministry team planned to organise a 'bring and share' supper before the APCM and everyone on the electoral roll would receive a personal invitation.

15. Any Other Business

Fees – Molly Warrington said that the vergers fees for weddings and funerals had not been increased for some time. It was suggested that the vergers should receive £35 for a wedding and £30 for a funeral. Discussion then moved to include the audio visual equipment. It was suggested that a reasonable contribution would be £35 for use of the sound system and an additional £35 if the screen and projector is required, for both weddings and funerals. These fees were proposed by Linda Read, seconded by John Thorne and agreed. Sue Mudge was asked to notify H J Paintin. Action SM

The meeting closed with The Grace.