

St Mary the Virgin Linton
Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Thursday 3rd March 2016

Present:

The Revd. Dr Maggie Guite (Chair), Mrs N Blackmore, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mrs H Foote, Mr A Gore, Mr M Holden, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Dr D Parry-Smith, Mrs G Powell, Mrs R Read, Mrs J Smith, Mr J Thorne (Churchwarden), Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden), Mr M Younger.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr D Lockstone, Mrs L Mordue and Mrs J Nightingale. It was noted that Mrs N Collard and Mr D Keys had previously tendered their resignation.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of January 12th 2016 was proposed by Joan Smith, seconded by John Thorne and agreed by the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

All matters arising were covered elsewhere in the agenda.

5. People Fully Alive – Diocesan strategy

Those people who were on the PCC in February last year had the opportunity to attend one of the Deanery open meetings to discuss the draft strategy and the PCC held an additional meeting to formulate the response to the Diocesan consultation. Maggie Guite introduced this item and quoted the five levers for change from the final report:

1. Nurture a confident people of God
2. Develop healthy churches and leaders
3. Serve the community
4. Re-imagine our buildings
5. Target support to key areas.

Some aspects apply more to parishes, others perhaps more at Diocesan level. The Diocesan workbook recommends identifying what currently works well and considering how to change and adapt to suit the circumstances. Maggie suggested that one or two people might take one of the levers, research options and present them to a PCC meeting. The wider community could be involved at a later stage. The strategy should tie in with the mission action plan and the need to update the St Mary's MAP has already been identified. Timescale – Maggie said that she hoped the MAP would be ready by January 2017. Joan Smith commented that she thought that it was important to bring the other parishes together and create a healthy team. Maggie said that Bartlow had already started work on the strategy and she has recommended that Castle Camps do a similar task.

It was suggested that a different aspect is considered at the PCC meetings in May, July and September followed by an away day which would be open to other congregation members.

It was noted that levers 1 and 2 fit together as community in church and levers 3 and 4 can be seen as church in the community. Lever 5 – target key areas – flows from the other levers to some extent and looks at resources of people, skills and funding.

PCC members volunteered for the following groups:

Levers 1 and 2 – David Parry-Smith, Joan Smith, Andrew Gore, John Thorne and Sue Mudge.

Levers 3 and 4 – Molly Warrington, Gill Powell, Nanette Blackmore, Rosemary Read, Sue Ellis and Michael Younger.

It was agreed that other congregation members should be invited to join the groups from the beginning. David and Molly offered to be the contacts for the two groups and will explain the initiative to others via the pewsheet and also speak at the end of services. David's group will present ideas at the May PCC meeting and Molly's group in July.

6. Beacon Trust Developments

Maggie Guite reported that she had attended a meeting to progress winding up the current Beacon Community Trust and forming a new charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). Stephen Munday and Al Woods will be Trustees from Linton Free Church along with Maggie and one other person from St Mary's. Hannah Foote had been suggested for this role. Hannah had also attended the meeting with a view to assessing the amount of work required, before confirming her willingness to become a trustee. However, it has not been decided whether to continue with a management committee so the role of a trustee is not yet defined. Maggie is due to talk to Neil Perry, CEO at Romsey Mill, about advice on recruitment, payroll services and management. Maggie has worked on a new vision statement which will be circulated to the PCC. Around £17,000 will be carried forward to the new trust. Maggie has been asked to complete a form in order to set up the CIO and it would help if a fourth trustee's name can be given. Michael Younger proposed that firstly Hannah Foote is nominated as the second Trustee from St Mary's and that secondly the PCC agrees to commit £5000 per calendar year for three years, starting in either 2016 or 2017, subject to a faith based youth worker being appointed. This was seconded by Joan Smith and both proposals were agreed by the meeting. Hannah said that she would accept the nomination in order to allow the trust to be set up but ultimately she wanted to be sure that she was the right person with the right skills and that she would be able to give the time to make an effective contribution while balancing her existing commitments.

7. Finance and Stewardship report

The 2015 accounts had been checked and signed off by Andrew Cohen, independent examiner. Joan Smith proposed that the accounts should be accepted. This was seconded by Gill Powell and agreed by the meeting. Molly Warrington said that the accounts showed that the financial situation since the last APCM had improved enormously, thanks to the stewardship initiatives by Michael Younger and Sue Ellis.

8. Fabric Committee Report

Discussion was based on the report from Andrew Gore.

Faculty for QI works – David Parry-Smith proposed that a faculty should be sought to carry out the works recommended by Henry Freeland in the September 2015 report. This was seconded by Hannah Foote and agreed by the meeting.

Children's Corner – agreed to include a request in the faculty to site it permanently in the south aisle and to reposition the incumbents' board on the south wall.

Pamments – it was agreed that Les Redhead of ProClean be asked to clean the area at the rear of the church.

Trees – Andrew had met a representative from Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants to discuss possible planting programmes for the area alongside the church wall and near to the memorial garden. Hayden's offered a quote of £540.50 to produce a planting scheme to protect the wall and afford a good degree of privacy. Andrew proposed that the PCC should offer to split the cost with the Parish Council in order to progress the matter satisfactorily. This approach was seconded by Rosemary Read and agreed. **Action AG / SM**

Cycle rack – Andrew circulated a photo of a possible style and will investigate further.

Trellis – Andrew’s proposal of some trellis at the side of the Monday Gang’s shed in order to grow some climbing plants was seconded by Gill Powell and agreed.

Sound system – Smart Audio have not yet done a review of the system. They have been notified that access to the cabinet is now possible.

9. Events committee report

Pam Richardson had circulated the recent committee meeting minutes to inform the PCC of future plans.

10. Rector’s report

The Easter vigil service on Saturday 26th March will begin at 21.00.

The position of Team Vicar is currently advertised in The Church Times and Maggie fervently hopes that someone suitable will be available and able to share the workload.

Mini market – given that the music group will move to a 2nd Sunday from March and accompany the all-age service, Sue Mudge suggested that perhaps the mini market should also move to a second Sunday. Sales at the last market were particularly slow. The meeting agreed. There will be no mini market on 27th March, Easter Day, and the next one will be 10th April.

11. Deanery report

Andrew Gore said that there had not been a Deanery meeting. The standing committee has met, although Andrew could not attend, and there was still considerable debate about the deanery / parish share.

12. Review of church fees

Maggie Guite said that she would like to have the fees all listed together. David Parry-Smith offered to send the music fees to the secretary. Nanette Blackmore said that the Verger fees were adequate and had been reviewed last year. A heating charge was levied for funerals (increased in 2015) and an amount should be similarly set for weddings. Two ceremonies had been conducted in November and February and obviously required the church to be heated. The Finance and Stewardship committee were asked to calculate a suitable figure.

13. Correspondence

Two items were covered earlier in the meeting.

14. APCM – 24th April

Hannah Foote, Sue Mudge and Joan Smith have served three years and are due to step down. There is already one space which means that four new PCC members may be sought.

15. Any other business

Sue Ellis had a request from Lian Watkin to authorise expenditure to buy a roll of blue lining material in order to repair some of the choir robes – agreed with thanks to Lian for doing this role.

16. Date of next meeting

Date to be set after the APCM to include new PCC members.

The meeting closed with The Grace.