

**St Mary the Virgin Linton**  
**Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**Present:**

The Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite (Chair), Mrs N Blackmore, The Revd. Dr. N Bown, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mr A Gore, Mrs J Nightingale, Mr J Organ, Mrs G Powell, Mrs R Read, Miss R Richardson, Mr J Thorne (Churchwarden), Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden and Acting Secretary), Mr M Younger.

**1. Opening Prayer**

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr M Holden, Mrs G Fraser Lee, Dr C Morse, Mrs S Mudge, Mr D Lockstone, Dr D Parry-Smith, Mrs L Richardson and Mrs P Richardson. The new curate, Nicola Bown, was welcomed as a member of the PCC.

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were approved, subject to the correction of the January 2017 meeting date from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>.

**4. Matters Arising**

Item 7: Molly Warrington reported that Sue Mudge had booked the PCC Away Day for the date previously agreed – **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November** – at the River Barn, St Mark's College, Audley End, 10 am to 5 pm. PCC members agreed to contribute a small sum (less than £5 each) towards the hire cost.

**5. People Fully Alive – Diocesan strategy discussion feedback**

The Chair had requested reports in the form of bullet points, and opened discussion by asking PCC members to ask questions of clarification and to suggest which ideas really stood out for them. She explained that after the next PCC meeting, the Ministry Team would bring the ideas from each of the Levers together to present to the congregations in October.

**5.1. Lever 1: Nurture a confident people of God**

Some of the points contained in this report were very brief and required further elucidation, but unfortunately, none of those who had attended the meeting on which the report was based, was present to answer questions. Nevertheless, there was general support for several of the ideas, particularly reviving Welcome Lunches as a good way to meet other members of the congregation. It was also agreed that training readers and intercessors was worthwhile. Whilst a number of those present welcomed the idea of ecumenical services, some felt that in the past, few people from St Mary's had been willing to attend services at the Free Church, and that if this idea were to be pursued, it was important that people were committed to it. Commitment to Team services was also raised.

**5.2. Lever 3: Serve the community**

Clarification was given with respect to a few points made in the report submitted to the PCC, and the Chair asked PCC members to research websites on Inclusive Church, Fair Trade Church and Christians Against Poverty. Maggie Guite wished to add the theme of engaging with little pockets of deprivation, possibly through the schools and perhaps with a view to providing breakfast clubs or school holiday lunches. Andrew Gore suggested that it might be helpful to liaise with the manager of the Children's Centre at the Cathodeon Centre in this respect. In terms of 'contributing to the Common Good', identified in the Strategy, encouraging church members to join the Parish Council was seen as pertinent, since there

were currently four vacancies, and especially given the sometimes difficult relationship between the PCC and the PC. 'Unlocking assets' was seen not only as identifying what gifts and skills people have, but taking a personalised approach to encouraging volunteers and getting people involved by asking them to do something soon after they joined the congregation.

## **6. Welcoming group**

This item had been raised at the APCM and subsequently discussed with the Ministry Team. The meeting was divided over whether it was desirable to have a separate group of designated welcomers, whether the sidespeople could and should be undertaking this role, or whether providing a welcome to newcomers was something everyone in the congregation should seek to do. It was agreed that Maggie would set up a meeting with Molly Warrington and the sidespeople to discuss their views. It was further agreed that both inner doors should be open each week, but when the heating was on, the outer doors should be shut. Furthermore a frame board will be purchased to highlight the fact that a service was about to take place and encourage people to come in.

## **7. Sound system**

There had been some positive feedback and fewer complaints since changes had been made to the sound system. Maggie's voice was coming over better since she had been wearing her microphone lower down. Some issues remained, however:

- (i) Intercessors did not always realise the need to project their voices and hence could not be heard.
- (ii) The sound in the chancel had been turned down to send more sound into the nave: this could be a problem for the choir at Christmas and Easter.
- (iii) Difficulties were presented by the lectern, which was so high that most readers stood to the side in order to make eye contact with the congregation; this meant that the microphone did not pick up the sound effectively. John Thorne commented that although the microphone could be moved, doing so meant it was easily bent and broken, necessitating expensive replacements. It was agreed, however, that consideration as to how to resolve this issue should be left to discussion over Lever 3 (Re-imagining the church building).
- (iv) Subwoofers: these are needed by the Music Group, though it may be possible to sell the existing ones and buy something smaller. Nicola Bown offered to ask her husband, a music equipment profession, for his opinion; her offer was gratefully accepted.

It was further agreed that Dr Simon Roper's suggestion in his first report, to install a sound desk (using the donation given specifically for the sound system), should be investigated, since this would allow a more tailored and controlled approach to balancing the sound.

## **8. Rector's report**

Maggie Guite began by thanking all who had worked so hard over the Flower Festival weekend, and particularly Nanette Blackmore for organising the event.

She informed the PCC that she would be on holiday from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

There had again been no response to the Team Vicar advertisement so far, and Maggie felt that if this continued to be the case, the Diocese would want to rent out the house for six months over the winter. She had set up a meeting with Team churchwardens to discuss how to manage the situation, and also asked PCC members to pray about what God is saying to the congregations about the way forward. Team evensongs were being planned on fifth Sunday evenings, and a team walk, ending with a Taizé service, would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Maggie had attended a helpful briefing on Ely 2025 Mission Funding, and reported back on two funds: the Local Mission Project Fund offering grants of up to £3000, and the Growth Fund aimed at increasing the numbers of people coming to church and providing £20,000 a year of matched funding for each of three years. The latter had several criteria, including providing evidence of sustainability and partnership with other organisations. While funding for a Children's Worker could be sought, the Diocese would welcome other imaginative ideas.

Since both Churchwardens and the Chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee were away on the planned date for the Open Day and Gift Day, the Committee was asked to put forward an alternative date and to plan the day.

## **9. Deanery Synod report**

A report had been circulated and was noted. Andrew Gore reminded the meeting that there would be a 3% general increase in the Share this year and next. Decisions taken by the Synod benefited larger parishes at the expense of smaller ones, which will impact upon the allocation of the Share across the Linton Team. Team wardens and treasurers would need to engage with how to divide the Share equitably. It was unclear as to whether any decision to relinquish the House For Duty post would result in a smaller Team Share, though Andrew's expectation was that it would.

## **10. Fabric Committee Report**

A written Report was received. Andrew Gore reported that Henry Freeland would send out tender documents for the QI works the following week. He expressed concern that, several months after the work had been carried out, an electrical certificate had not been issued. The following were agreed:

- (i) John Thorne to give a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July for the electrical certificate to be issued; otherwise payment would be withheld and another electrician sought.
- (ii) The boiler maintenance contract should be renewed.
- (iii) Decisions concerning the incumbents' board should be deferred to the next meeting.
- (iv) Andrew and Brian Cox would work up a joint PC/PCC proposal to obtain funding from the Community Chest for the paths to the church and tower and cycle parking.
- (v) A new noticeboard as per the quotation from Green Barns (£2029 + VAT) be accepted (proposed by Michael Younger, seconded by Gill Powell and agreed with one against and one abstention); cost would be met from reserves. Andrew would obtain drawings from Green Barns for consultation with the Rector and Churchwardens, and then seek consent from the District Council.
- (vi) Fencing for installation between the Peace Garden and the Grip Meadow path could be purchased at a cost of £15.
- (vii) Repairs would be made to the pavilion ramp as a matter of urgency, with the Standing Committee delegated to approve costs.

## **11. Events committee report**

Pam Richardson had circulated the most recent committee meeting minutes to inform the PCC of future plans and many thanks were expressed for the hard work, the wonderful events put on by the committee in recent months and the great sense of hospitality generated. As well as various social events, two fundraising events were planned: the Christmas meal and the Pantomime. Nanette Blackmore's offer to organise a Christmas hamper as well was gratefully received.

After discussion the previous decision to hold the Flower Festival on 7/8/9 July 2017 was confirmed. Nanette offered to lead the organisation of this event, but with the support of a

committee. It was particularly important there were enough people willing to move heavy items around at the beginning and end of each day.

If possible, St Mary's would like to liaise with the Gardening Club to hold an Open Gardens event, perhaps in early June, depending on other community events at that time.

## **12. Governor appointment**

A new governor is being sought to replace Lawrence Powell, who stands down in September. This is a Diocesan Board of Education appointment, acting on the recommendation of the PCC. Lawrence had suggested that desirable attributes would include someone to strengthen the financial capability of the governing body and able to contribute to the making of important strategic decisions, as well as being available during the day with a willingness to get involved in the school. Parents and school employees are already well represented. PCC members were urged to forward possible names of those willing to stand to the Churchwardens, for discussion with the Lay Chair of the PCC. It was agreed to write to Lawrence to express the PCC's gratitude for the enormous amount of work he has done as governor and chair.

## **13. Any Other Business**

### **13.1. Gift to Louise Clark**

It was agreed to donate £50 as a leaving present to Louise, as outgoing Headteacher at Linton Infant School (proposed Michael Younger, seconded John Organ, unanimously agreed).

### **13.2. Parish Administrator**

The meeting received a letter from Sue Filby, who, following her recent appraisal, and having been in her post for three years without a pay increase, requested an additional week's holiday in lieu of a pay rise. The PCC noted that this was, in effect, a 2.1% pay increase. Sue's request was agreed unanimously.

## **14. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 7.45 pm.

The meeting closed with prayers and The Grace.