

St Mary the Virgin Linton
Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2016

Present:

The Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite (Chair), The Revd. Dr N Bown, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mr D Lockstone, Dr C Morse, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Mrs J Nightingale, Mr J Organ, Dr D Parry-Smith, Mrs G Powell, Mrs R Read, Mrs L Richardson, Mrs P Richardson, Miss R Richardson, Mr J Thorne (Churchwarden), Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden), Mr M Younger.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs N Blackmore, Mr A Gore, Mr M Holden, Mrs G Fraser Lee.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 12th July 2016 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

Item 7: Sound system – Nicola Bown had discussed the issues with Sam, her husband, who is a music equipment professional. He considered that the system seemed adequate for the size of the church. Molly Warrington reported that Simon Roper expected a mixing desk would cost about £350. It would require a rota of people trained to operate it. Mixing desks are used effectively in other churches and it would mean that clergy and deacons would not have to remember to turn their individual microphones on and off.

David Parry-Smith proposed that Molly should ask Simon to investigate the options for a mixing desk and liaise with a small group who understand the technology; seconded by Gill Powell, and agreed. The sub-group could comprise John Thorne, Rob Bricheno and Sam Bown. It was also agreed that the cost could be taken from the donation of £5000, subject to prior approval from the Standing Committee. Michael Younger requested that the sub-group also make a recommendation about the subwoofers.

Judy Nightingale proposed that a letter of thanks should be sent from the PCC to Dr Simon Roper.

5. People Fully Alive – Diocesan strategy discussion feedback

5.1. Lever 2: Aim to develop healthy churches and leaders

David Parry-Smith presented a paper summarising ideas from the group meeting under the headings of:

We want a healthy church;

What makes our church worth joining?

Use of trained lay ministers;

Identify and use gifts;

Constantly review and improve communication.

Linda Richardson commented that as a relatively new church member, she thought that the current levels of communication could certainly be improved.

5.2. Lever 4: Re-imagine our buildings

Molly Warrington said that the group had met in church to consider this Lever. They had focussed on ‘what does our building say to us and about us: does it speak clearly of what we

are about as people of God?’ and ‘what is re-imagining trying to achieve?’ The report listed a number of suggestions, ranging from low cost notice board revision to major remodelling of the chancel and resurrection chapel.

The Chair said that the next stage of the process would be to consult the church congregations with a manageable set of ideas. The Ministry Team was due to meet and would consider reports for all 4 Levers and prepare a list of priorities. Maggie Guite offered to send the list for Levers 1 and 2 to David Parry-Smith for comments, as he is not part of the Ministry Team.

The congregations will be consulted during October prior to the PCC away-day on 12th November.

6. Rector’s Report

Maggie Guite reported that she hoped a Team Vicar would soon be appointed. She is in the process of talking to other churchwardens about working more closely as a Team.

A Team walk is proposed for Sunday 2nd October starting at 2 p.m. from Bartlow to Shudy Camps and on to Castle Camps for tea and ending with a Taizé service at 5.30.

Judy Nightingale asked whether any resolution had been found regarding communion by extension. Maggie replied that the Archdeacon was unable to change the Bishop’s decision.

Maggie informed the meeting that Cathy Watts was due to be licensed for this Benefice and she commented that it was a challenge to give good ministry without being able to offer communion by extension.

7. Finance and Stewardship committee report

Relevant papers had been circulated. Michael Younger drew PCC members’ attention to the fact that gift aided standing orders had decreased since January. Although partially offset by an increase from gift aided envelopes and loose plate collections, it is likely that the budgeted small surplus will turn into a deficit by the end of the year. It had previously been decided to hold a gift day on 24th September and also to encourage people to undertake regular reviews of their planned giving. There was no major pre-Christmas fund raising event planned. It was acknowledged that perhaps gift days should not be annual events but evidence indicated that one was needed this year.

Balance sheet – a contingency fund has been maintained at £30,000 of which £15,000 is for unexpected fabric repairs. Chris Morse, Chair of The Friends of St Mary’s, had previously queried this, given that The Friends account also has a £15,000 contingency fund. Michael Younger proposed that the fabric element within the church contingency fund should decrease from £15,000 to £7,500 and this was seconded by Judy Nightingale. It was agreed by the meeting with 14 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention. The motion will allow £7,500 to be released into general church expenditure and may help fund some of the Mission Action Plan activities.

Gift day arrangements – Sue Ellis and Michael Younger will be in church on Saturday 24th September from 10.30 to 16.30. Michael asked other PCC members to be present for an hour or more to greet and welcome people. It was suggested that it would be a good time to start a skills audit as proposed in the People Fully Alive discussions. Individuals should be assured that their information will be kept secure. This aspect will be considered at the Ministry Team meeting.

8. Deanery Synod – Ministry share allocation consultation

Since the July PCC meeting a sub-group had met to consider the Deanery proposals in more detail. The group had circulated a report to discuss options for the Ministry Share 2017-2021. The group agreed that Linton ought to meet the Benefice share in full and secondly that the

level of increase is unfair for the four smaller parishes. The recommendation for the PCC was that Linton should commit to paying the current 74% allocation of the Benefice share. It would then be the responsibility of the other four parishes to determine how to manage the division of the remaining 26%. Michael Younger proposed the motion, seconded by David Parry-Smith. It was agreed by the meeting with 15 in favour, 1 against and no abstentions.

David Parry-Smith suggested that the Deanery should continue to put pressure on the Diocese to be more transparent, in light of the current Diocesan underspend, in the hope that surplus funds could be directed to help parishes.

9. Fabric Committee Report

The secretary reported that Andrew Gore had not had chance to see the report containing quotations from Henry Freeland for QI works before going on holiday. The report had been sent to John Thorne and Chris Morse just days before the PCC meeting. Given that the quotations were more than expected and ranged from £19,000 to £31,000, the PCC were unable to progress the work. The Fabric Committee was asked to meet to discuss the issues. A request to The Friends for further funds may be necessary and, if required, should be made via the Standing Committee.

The secretary had reminded Chris Markham that a quotation was outstanding for repairs to the pavilion ramp and rear steps. Chris had responded with a price of £615.00 to replace the front access ramp and to replace the rear steps. Additionally the cost of supplying metal posts and erecting metal fencing along the east side of the Peace Garden by the public footpath would be £330.00. Michael Younger proposed that these costs be approved, seconded by John Thorne and agreed by the meeting.

Andrew Gore also wished to advise the meeting that he would be organising a pavilion working party for Saturday 1st October.

10. Events committee report

Pam Richardson had circulated the most recent committee meeting minutes to inform the PCC of future plans. It was noted that the proposed pantomime would not go ahead as too few people were able to commit to taking part and helping produce it. There was some discussion by PCC members as to whether a Christmas Tree festival or bazaar could be arranged but no one felt able to organise something in the time available.

A potential clash of dates was identified with both the church choir and The Friends proposing concerts in February. Further discussion was needed to agree a suitable schedule.

11. Church web site

John Thorne reported that it was not straight forward to update the existing web site or even add a simple statement. John had been investigating alternative providers such as a Cambridge company called ChurchInsight. See www.churchinsight.com – further information to follow.

12. Governor appointment

The secretary reported that Dr Stewart Adcock's term of office as a PCC appointed Infant School governor was due to end and that he was willing to stand again. Michael Younger proposed that Stewart be appointed, seconded by Gill Powell and agreed by the meeting.

The vacancy created by Lawrence Powell's resignation still remains. Michael Younger said that he had spoken with four possible candidates but none currently felt able to commit to the

role. He reiterated that someone with legal and/or financial skills plus time during the working day would be ideal. A full complement of Foundation Governors is essential to support a new headteacher and senior leadership team together with forthcoming debate about Academy status. Michael said that he would submit an appeal in the pewsheet.

13. Correspondence

The secretary read out a letter received from Jon Green on behalf of the Diocese to inform PCC members that an archaeological investigation was scheduled on the glebe field earmarked for development off Horseheath Road. Planning permission had been refused in May due to lack of archaeological information and concern about the visual impact of the proposal.

14. Any Other Business

There was none.

15. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 15th November, 7.45 pm.

The meeting closed with prayers and The Grace.