

**St Mary the Virgin Linton**  
**Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Present:**

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

**1. Opening Prayer**

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs G Powell, Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden).

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were approved.

**4. Matters Arising**

Item 7 July 2016: Sound system – The sub-group had not yet met. John Thorne said that changing the web site provider had taken priority.

Item 6: Team Vicar – Maggie Guite said that she hoped to hear from the Archdeacon soon.

**5. People Fully Alive – Diocesan strategy: Away-day outcome**

Members of the PCC and the Ministry Team had spent Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at St Mark's College, Audley End. The aim of the day was to consider the list of ideas which arose from the earlier Lever discussions and the consultation with members of the congregations. People were divided into four groups and the various suggestions were assessed against a set of criteria. After feedback to the whole group, priorities were given to the ideas which would be developed and would form the Mission Action Plan. Maggie Guite, Linda Richardson and John Thorne offered to draw everything together and write a draft MAP. This will be presented to the January PCC meeting. Members recorded their thanks to the Ministry Team for providing the framework for the day.

**6. Rector's Report**

Maggie Guite commented that it had become apparent during the away-day discussions that PCC members, and therefore presumably other people, were not aware of all the activities which took place within the church family; e.g. house groups, prayer meetings. Events were perhaps not being advertised and others were seen to be exclusive to a small number of people. Sue Mudge said that having an audit of existing activities had been raised during the Lever 1 and 2 discussions. Sue offered to create a list based on one which John Thorne had submitted following the group discussion. **Action SM**

Maggie Guite reported that Lee Nash, youth worker, had given an oral report to the Beacon Trustees at the last meeting. It was pointed out that Barry Easton, the previous youth worker, had given reports to the PCC and it was suggested that Lee might attend the PCC meeting in January. However, that is scheduled for a Thursday and Lee is not free then. Sue Mudge offered to speak to Lee and circulate a list of his current activities to PCC members to give some idea of the work with which he is involved. **Action SM**

## 7. Finance and Stewardship committee report

Relevant papers had been circulated. Michael Younger was pleased to report that the financial position was fairly robust. The expenditure after 9 months was nearly £24,000 less than expected. Some bills may still be due but expenditure was well contained. Slightly less income had been received in 9 months than budgeted, but this was balanced by lower expenditure. The gift day on 24<sup>th</sup> September had contributed to the current position and had certainly been beneficial with one-off gifts totalling £5671 (including Gift Aid) and an increase in standing orders of £265 each month with gift aid of £65, resulting in £3960 annually. Although a gift day has been held in two consecutive years, it is not intended that it should be an annual event. Michael thanked Sue Ellis, Treasurer, for paying bills promptly, being well organised and supplying appropriate information to inform decisions and actions. Michael was thanked for organising the gift day and writing the leaflets and Linton News articles.

Resolution 1 from the Finance and Stewardship committee *‘The collection at the Carol Service should, following 2015’s precedent, be distributed to charity; 50% to Save the Children and 50% to The Children’s Society’* was deferred until after item 8.

Resolution 2 *‘The PCC recognises that any surplus accruing from the 2016 accounts will be earmarked for church improvements, as defined within the emerging Mission Action Plan’* was proposed by Linda Richardson, seconded by Gill Fraser Lee and agreed by everyone present, with no votes against, no abstentions.

Budget for 2017 – The proposed budget was shown in the final column of the income and expenditure sheets and was basically a break-even budget. Michael explained that expenditure figures had been refined using trends from 2016. The amount for structural repairs had increased while the one for maintenance had correspondingly decreased. Michael reiterated that the contribution from the Friends of St Mary’s is absolutely vital to make the budget work.

Resolution 3 *‘The PCC should adopt the draft budget for 2017, as proposed by the Finance and Stewardship Committee’* was proposed by Michael Younger, seconded by David Parry-Smith and agreed by everyone present, with no votes against, no abstentions.

David Parry-Smith reminded the meeting that applications were invited for grants from The Anderson Trust. The deadline is 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Sue Ellis offered to collate requests and will present them to the January PCC meeting. Sue said that she has prepared the application for a Parish Council grant on the usual basis. **Action SE**

## 8. Consideration of Bishop Stephen’s request – Advent Appeal

The letter from the Bishop had been circulated regarding the Advent appeal for the Friends of the Holy Land, a charity set up in 2009 after people had visited the Holy Land and been shocked at the treatment of the Christian community. Sue Mudge had watched the accompanying DVD and explained more about the work of the charity.

Resolution 1 in item 7 above was *‘The collection at the Carol Service should, following 2015’s precedent, be distributed to charity, 50% to Save the Children and 50% to The Children’s Society.’* After discussion, resolution 1 was changed to read *‘The collection at the Carol Service should, following 2015’s precedent, be distributed to charity, 50% to Save the Children and 50% to The Friends of the Holy Land, as promoted by Bishop Stephen during Advent’*.

There was no Christingle service planned for this year. The Messy Church team were organising a crib service for 24<sup>th</sup> December. The Children’s Society boxes were scheduled to

be collected during the 10 am service on 11<sup>th</sup> December. To offset the potential loss in additional collection for the Children's Society, it was suggested that the loose plate collection from the All-age service on 11<sup>th</sup> December should also be donated to the Society.

Michael Younger proposed the revised resolution for the Carol service collection together with the 11<sup>th</sup> December loose plate collection (above), seconded by Michael Holden. Everyone present was in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

The carol singing on Christmas Eve will also collect for Save the Children. Sue Mudge suggested that there could be an additional retiring collection after the morning service on 18<sup>th</sup> December for those people not attending the carol service who may like to support the Friends of the Holy Land charity. It was decided to show the 20 minute DVD in church during coffee after the morning service and to advertise it in the pewsheet.

## **9. Deanery Synod Report**

The circulated report explained that most parishes had agreed to adopt the revised allocation of ministry shares. Conversations were continuing with Little Shelford to encourage them to fall in line with the rest of the Deanery. Nicola Bown commented that she had met with Jenny Duke (Duxford/Hinxton/Ickleton) to discuss joint youth activities.

## **10. Fabric Committee Report**

A detailed report had been circulated which required a number of decisions from the PCC.

### **10.1. Churchyard wall**

The DAC's advice was to either remove the tree near the collapsed section by the tower or incorporate an arch in the wall to accommodate the tree base. The Parish Council will make the final decision but the PCC agreed to write to the Clerk to express a preference for removing the tree, given it may only last for another 10 years or so, rather than eventually having an arch for no obvious reason. Building an arch would also increase the cost.

**Action AG/SM**

### **10.2. Parking beyond Church Cottage**

The PCC had agreed some years ago that the grass area should only be used for visiting clergy and cars on the church taxi rota. It would be appropriate to remind the congregation of this. More parking area may become available after the collapsed section of wall has been rebuilt when brambles and foliage will be cut back.

### **10.3. Gate between public footpath and the Peace Garden**

It was recommended that a gate should be incorporated in the fence between the public footpath and the Peace Garden, adjacent to the churchyard wall, as shown in the original plans. The PCC agreed to this.

### **10.4. Choir seating**

It was noted that the seating for the choir in the north aisle still required consideration, along with lighting for that area and effective sound.

Maggie Guite thanked Andrew Gore and the fabric committee for their on-going support and work on several different aspects.

## **11. Events committee report**

The report summarised recent events and provided details of those planned for the next few months. In addition, Nanette Blackmore is arranging a raffle for a Christmas Hamper and she requested that PCC members might supply items selected from a list. The carol singing on Christmas Eve was amended to start at 3.15 followed by the Crib service at 4.00. The committee is also considering a church retreat in Yorkshire from 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

## **12. Church web site**

John Thorne and Rob Bricheno had met with ChurchInsight staff. The web site is likely to go live from January. John offered to send a link so that people could see what it would be like.

**Action JT**

## **13. Governor appointments**

Moire Jarritt had confirmed her willingness to become a governor. She had completed the Diocesan form and would replace Chris Kemshell as a PCC Governor. Her appointment was agreed nem. con.

Michael Younger said that Will Bowes from Bartlow was also willing to be nominated and he intended to submit a form to Maggie plus supporting ID documents shortly. The PCC members agreed to nominate Will Bowes as a DBE Governor to replace Lawrence Powell; passed nem. con.

## **14. Any Other Business**

### **14.1. ALM renewal**

Maggie Guite proposed that the PCC should approve renewal of Gill Powell's ALM role, subject to Gill's agreement to continue. The PCC were very pleased to approve the renewal.

### **14.2. Pavilion cleaning**

Nanette Blackmore had given the secretary a letter outlining her reasons for relinquishing cleaning the pavilion; a task which she has done for some time. Nanette said that she usually spent up to 2 hours a week, generally on a Monday or Tuesday. She was willing to continue providing supplies and washing towels. Nanette was thanked for her contribution. It was mentioned that Hilary Angetter had indicated willingness to organise a rota and this would be pursued.

## **15. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 7.45 pm.

The meeting closed with prayers and The Grace.