



St Mary's LINTON

---

Rooted in God. Rooted in Community



Annual Parish Vestry Meeting  
followed by  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 11.15am  
in the Church

# St Mary the Virgin, Linton

## Contents

1. Agenda.....	3
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting, Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2018.....	4
3. Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 .....	4
4. Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2018 - 2019.....	8
5. Financial Review to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018.....	11
6. Electoral Roll Report.....	20
7. Fabric Report.....	20
8. Deanery Synod Report.....	22
9. Safeguarding Report.....	23
10. Reports from Groups and Activities.....	24
10.1. Beacon Youth Trust Report.....	24
10.2. Bell Ringers .....	24
10.3. Events Committee.....	24
10.4. Linton C E Infant School .....	24
10.5. Church Links with the Infant and Junior Schools .....	25
10.6. Children and Families activities .....	25
10.7. Together with God.....	25
10.8. Space for the Spirit .....	26
10.9. Mothers' Union.....	26
10.10. Music Ministry .....	26
10.11. The Friends of St Mary's .....	26
10.12. The Monday Gang .....	26

# **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

## **1. AGENDA**

### **Part A - Vestry Meeting**

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018
3. Election of Churchwardens

### **Part B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report 2018 - 2019
5. Financial report followed by appointment of Independent Examiner
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Safeguarding Report
10. Election of PCC Members
11. Appointment of Sideswomen and Sidesmen
12. Reports from Groups and Activities
13. Rector's Report
14. Questions from the floor
15. Closing Prayers

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

### **2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH VESTRY MEETING, THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

The meeting, held in the Church, began at 19.30 with prayers. Thirty-one parishioners were present.

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were accepted as a correct record.

#### **Election of Churchwardens**

There were two nominations for Churchwarden: Helene Evans and David Watts. They were unanimously elected. David Watts thanked Molly Warrington for her six years of service and said that he had been greatly encouraged by support from Molly and from former churchwardens. He also thanked John Thorne who had covered for him before his retirement from work in July 2017. David said that he had found Molly to be immensely well organised but also very gentle and kind. Her contribution had been particularly valued during the Interregnum. A gift was presented to Molly on behalf of parishioners.

It was noted that at the PCC meeting in March 2017, members had agreed that the normal term of office for a churchwarden at St Mary's should revert to being 3 years, with the option of extending to a maximum of 6 years if wished; and still to be elected annually in line with the guidelines in the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

#### **Apologies**

L Allison, Y Auckland, Ven A Clarkson, M Clarkson, J Conochie, P Schofield,  
L Watkin, C Watts.

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were accepted as a true record and signed.

#### **Matters arising**

There were none.

**The reports presented to the meeting in April 2018 are summarised below and can be found on the church website [www.stmaryslinton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryslinton.org.uk). Look under resources and APCM reports for more detail.**

#### **Parochial Church Council Report 2017 - 2018**

The PCC had six scheduled meetings during the year. Regular agenda items included the progress of the items in the Mission Action Plan and reports from PCC committees and the Rector. The Finance & Stewardship committee aims to ensure that the church maintains a healthy financial position. The Fabric committee looks after the church buildings, the pavilion and aspects of the churchyard. The Events committee (formed in 2015) organises a range of

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

social functions to enhance the family life of the church and wider community. Reports are also received from the two people who represent St Mary's on the Deanery Synod.

The Rector's report covers spiritual matters, changes to the pattern of regular services and details of the many special services which occur during the church calendar. Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite and Revd Dr Nicola Bown had focussed on the provision of appropriate services and activities for children and families, which was one of the MAP objectives.

Members of the PCC attended a safeguarding training course presented by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. One of our nominated Foundation Governors was invited to give a talk about the Infant school and its Christian distinctiveness to expand PCC members' knowledge of the school.

In addition to the written report from the PCC secretary, Maggie Guite added that the services at Symonds House, Nichols Court and Thursday at 10.00 had seen an increase in numbers. Molly Warrington proposed a vote of thanks to Glynis Younger and Rebecca Rix for their achievements in completing the community Peace Garden, adjacent to the pavilion.

### **Financial Review – to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

Income (giving) had decreased and expenditure had increased from the previous year. However, the cost of developing the Peace Garden had been taken from reserves and when that figure was removed there was only a small deficit of £1,250. Sue Ellis, treasurer, commented that the gas and electricity expenditure was higher than the previous year because it was affected by the actual payment date of bills. Sarah Thorne asked where children's work expenses were shown. Sue Ellis responded that it was under the Education heading. It is a relatively small amount as people often do not submit receipts and therefore choose to pay for things themselves.

Thirty-four people have signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme and half of those agreed to the linked inflation increases. Sue said that this scheme had saved her a considerable amount of time plus the church receives the gift aid component much more promptly.

Sue Ellis thanked Molly Warrington and Michael Younger for helping to prepare the report.

Maggie Guite thanked Sue Ellis for her contribution as treasurer and also Michael Younger who had chaired the Finance & Stewardship committee and was retiring from the PCC.

Sue Ellis proposed that Andrew Cohen should once again be appointed as the independent financial examiner for 2018. This was seconded and agreed.

### **Electoral Roll Report**

There were 147 names on the Electoral Roll. Three new members were added during the year.

### **Fabric Report**

No significant work to the fabric of the church had been carried out. A sample music stand had been used and adjustments were required to suit the needs of the choir and music group. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) had visited the church. Approval was given to pursue building a store cupboard at the rear of the north aisle; advice was offered about replacing worn and broken pammments and the DAC recommended taking a more holistic view of works in the nave, when considering the ideas in the Mission Action Plan.

Andrew Gore, Chair of the Fabric Committee, thanked members of the committee and volunteer helpers. He also appealed for more people to join the committee.

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

Questions were asked about the effectiveness of the sound system and the proposed extra parking area, for those providing lifts to less mobile members. The latter is awaiting the completion of the flint wall repairs as the area has been used for storing materials.

### **Deanery Synod Report**

Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith represent Linton on the Deanery Synod. Their term of office runs from 1 June 2017 to 31 May 2020. There are three meetings per year. In addition to discussions about finance and other deanery matters including vacancies, there were presentations on Safeguarding, the Diocesan Strategy and General Synod. The Youthinc project to fund a Christian youth worker for the smaller parishes was able to appoint a part-time youth worker, Rachel Went, who was due to be commissioned at the Deanery Ascension Day service at Hildersham. Linton Team is well represented on the Deanery Synod with three clergy members plus Andrew Gore as Lay-Chair, Anne Parry-Smith as secretary and Michael Younger as treasurer from July 2017.

### **Election of Parochial Church Council members**

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

*Elected in 2016:* Mrs Gill Fraser Lee, Dr Chris Morse, Mr John Organ, Mrs Linda Richardson and Miss Rebecca Richardson

*Elected in 2017:* Ms Yannick Auckland, Mrs Sue Ellis, Mrs Colleen Lockstone, Mrs Sue Mudge, Mr John Thorne

Churchwardens (ex-officio): Mr David Watts, Mrs Helene Evans (replacing Dr Molly Warrington).

Mr Michael Younger (elected in 2015) stood down, having completed his three year term of office. Ms Yannick Auckland (elected in 2017) also resigned. Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite thanked them for their service.

The electoral roll number allows for up to 12 elected members. There had been one spare place throughout the year following Dr David Parry-Smith's transition from PCC member to Deanery Synod representative.

One nomination had been received for three places. Mr Richard Tonry was duly elected. There were no further nominations from the meeting. The Church Representation Rules state that the PCC may co-opt up to two members during the year.

### **Appointment of Sideswomen/Sidesmen**

The names of those already appointed were read out.

At 8 am: Margaret Cox, Kate France, Michael Holden, Derek Moss, Judy Nightingale, Keith Nightingale, Linda Richardson, Judith Tonry, Richard Tonry.

At 10 am: Hilary Angetter, Helene Evans, Tricia Lewis, Colleen Lockstone, Di Morse, Linda Read, Rosemary Read, Richard Read, Catherine Richardson, Rebecca Richardson, Tim Richardson.

Helene Evans name was removed as she had become churchwarden. Sally Mitchell had offered to join the list for the 10 am service. This was proposed and agreed by the meeting.

### **Reports from Committees and Organisations**

Reports were included in the 2018 APCM booklet in paper form and also posted on the website. They were received from the following groups:-

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

Beacon Youth Trust, Bell Ringers, Events committee, Linton C E Infant School, Church links with the Infant and Junior Schools, Messy Church, Children and Families activities, Tots in Tow, Mothers' Union, Music Ministry, The Friends of St. Mary's, The Monday Gang.

Some additional comments were made and questions taken from those present at the meeting.

Maggie Guite thanked everyone who contributes in so many ways by using their time, skills and talents for the benefit of the church activities and groups.

### **Rector's report**

Maggie Guite began by paying tribute to those who cared for the church by cleaning brasses, cooking, sewing, sharing the ministry of hospitality. Thanks were due to everyone who contributes, whether up-front or behind the scenes. The reports were impressive and show how much is done from a village church. Communication was important and should be helped by the development of a new website and a new notice board in the churchyard.

Maggie listed some of the ways in which her ministry is supported by congregation members: Cathy Watts was licensed in the autumn and has skills to work with children and families; Nicola Collard works in the infant and junior schools and is the governor representative; Sarah and John Thorne continue to train to expand their ministry with families; Gill Powell has supplemented her ALM training with Baptism ministry; Pam Richardson is enhancing her ALM status with an 'occasional preacher' course; Sue Filby undertakes the safeguarding role and is involved with a girls' group within the Beacon Youth Trust; David Watts chairs the Ministry Team meetings.

Maggie added her personal thanks to the churchwardens; David Watts and especially to Molly Warrington, retiring after 6 years of service.

Maggie was also immensely grateful for the role played by her ordained colleagues: Nicola Bown - Curate, Ian and Catherine Fisher at Castle Camps, Lesley Gore for services at Bartlow and pastoral work in Linton, Alan Clarkson, Alan Cole, David and Sheila Moore who offer prayerful support.

In conclusion, Maggie invited comments and questions.

Nicola Bown said that Maggie had thanked everyone else and that she wished to thank Maggie. John Thorne requested that our appreciation should be passed on to Malcolm Guite who conducted some services. Linda Read said that she was concerned about the cleaning rota as some people had withdrawn and it was difficult to attract younger people. It was suggested that we could afford to pay a cleaner or that a rota of Friday morning parents / carers could be initiated. Michael Younger noted that there were very few people present at the meeting and he wondered how we could encourage contact between congregations from different services. Sometimes a personal approach worked best and people should be invited to help with things.

David Watts thanked people for attending the annual meeting. He extended thanks to Nanette Blackmore, Verger, who does an enormous amount of practical work to help services run smoothly. He attended 8 am, 10 am and Messy Church recently and was impressed by the quality of relationships. He observed that the Clergy, led by Maggie, bring Jesus to us week by week.

The meeting closed in prayer.

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

### 4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2018 - 2019

#### Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Linton. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Bakers Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4NF. The registered charity number is 1138508.

PCC members who have served from the APCM 2018 until this report was approved are:

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite	
	The Revd Dr Nicola Bown, from July 2016 - January 2019	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mrs Helene Evans	
	Mr David Watts	
<i>Representatives to the Deanery Synod</i>	Mr Andrew Gore	from 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017 - 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2020
	Dr David Parry-Smith	from 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017 - 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2020
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs Sue Ellis	from APCM 2017 - Treasurer
	Mrs Gill Fraser Lee	from APCM 2016
	Mrs Colleen Lockstone	from APCM 2017
	Dr Chris Morse	from APCM 2016
	Mrs Sue Mudge	from APCM 2017 - Secretary
	Mr John Organ	from APCM 2016
	Mrs Linda Richardson	from APCM 2016
	Miss Rebecca Richardson	from APCM 2016
	Mr John Thorne	from APCM 2017
	Mr Richard Tonry	from APCM 2018

#### Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

#### Objectives and activities

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and for the Pavilion adjacent to the church.

#### Numerical performance in 2018

Attendances at each service are recorded and annual returns made to the Diocese of Ely. The average Sunday attendance, counted during October 2018, was 74 adults and 14 children, showing an increase in the average number of adults and children from the previous year. At Easter 2018, 197 people attended a service on Easter Day or the Easter eve vigil. 245 people attended a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and the carol service attracted 360. While attendance at Easter services showed a slight growth from the previous year, attendance at Christmas Day services was lower than the year before.

As in previous years, attendance at weekday services was dominated by the service held weekly in term time for the church infant school, with an average of 51 adults and 180



## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

children present. The Thursday service of Holy Communion, together with regular services held in Symonds House and Nichols Court, continued to draw small congregations.

### **Review of the year**

The PCC had six scheduled meetings during the year. The following text gives some idea of the various topics discussed but is not an exhaustive list of everything on the PCC agendas. The Mission Action Plan was adopted at the 2017 annual meeting and is a five-year working document. There are seven objectives in the MAP, which continue to be developed and consolidated. Many of the discussions and actions taken by the PCC relate to the MAP objectives. De-cluttering the church is ongoing as the long term vision for using the building is explored. Advent and Lent groups were offered to help our spiritual growth. There is prayer time after communion on two Sundays each month. Every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday sees the 'Space for the Spirit' service which aims to be contemplative and peaceful. The planting in the Peace Garden is becoming established. An official opening event was held in March, to which representatives of sponsoring groups were invited.

Nicola Bown made a great contribution to the ministry for children and families during her period as curate. It was disappointing when she moved to another placement six months earlier than expected. Her increasing experience enabled Maggie Guite to take two months sabbatical in autumn 2018 and it also served as useful preparation for Nicola in advance of having her own parish. In September, the schedule of Sunday 10 am services altered for a trial period. There is an all-age Communion service on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays which follows the normal seasonal liturgical pattern but young people play a larger role and have more responsibilities during the service. The Music Group now lead the singing on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at the 'Together with God' service. This is a non-Communion service with extra activities linked to the readings and theme. It is a carefully planned service with messages relevant to both young and not so young people. The other Sundays remain unchanged, with a Communion service and music led by the robed choir. Messy Church on afternoons of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays continues to have a strong place in the ministry for children. Wild Church on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays was not as well supported and is about to cease. A new youth group meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays for young people age 9 - 13 led by Rachel Went, Deanery Youth Worker, and Maggie Guite. The children's area in church was moved nearer to the front with the aim of sending a more welcoming message to families.

A summer activity club was run for children and accompanying adults on the five Wednesdays in August. The first week was held in the pavilion on the recreation ground and others in the Infant School. The numbers varied each week and were highest for the final day when 78 lunches were served to children and adults by the kitchen team. Although initiated by St Mary's, the volunteer helpers were drawn from the URC and Cornerstone churches. Good organisation and planning was required to prepare a choice of indoor and outdoor games and activities to cover various ages, which enabled the children to be engaged and have fun. The success of the scheme resulted in a Christmas activity session at the start of the school holiday in December.

Good communication within the church and the community is essential. A new website became live in the autumn after being developed and tested over several months. Information about many aspects of church life is available and easily accessible. A new visual identity was created. The logo was designed to be able to be used on the website, notice boards and printed material in colour or black and white, and in appropriate size – as on the front of this report.

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

Other items may be regarded as less exciting but are important in terms of carrying out the responsibilities of the PCC. A GDPR policy was written and adopted to ensure that people's personal data is safe while still allowing people to give their consent to be contacted about church activities. David Watts wrote papers to explain what is expected of a Sidesperson and also the role of a PCC member. A Health and Safety policy for church activities is being put together.

There has been no change this year in the nominated Infant School Foundation Governors.

The financial year runs from January to December and the position is reviewed after each quarter. See the Financial Review, section 5. The PCC wishes to thank Sue Ellis (treasurer) for keeping tight control of the church funds. It has not been possible to appoint anyone as Stewardship Officer to fill the gap left by Michael Younger's resignation last year.

Regular reports from the Fabric committee, the Deanery Synod representatives and the Events Committee are discussed at PCC meetings. There has been no major expenditure on church fabric during the year but the PCC wish to thank The Friends of St Mary's committee (section 10.11) who organise events in order to raise funds to contribute to the ongoing costs of maintaining the church building. Thanks are due to Andrew Gore for leading the Fabric Committee – see section 7. The PCC approved the purchase of additional chairs to replace the orange plastic ones. These were paid for by the Friends of St Mary's and a grant from the Parish Council. A report from an organ specialist was commissioned as some repairs are needed. The PCC is considering options relating to the organ and potential future plans for using the church space before making a decision on the best way to proceed.

The Events committee continues to fulfil its brief by offering a variety of social activities and also organising refreshments for a number of specific services and occasions – see Section 10.3. Thanks are due to Pam Richardson (Chair) and other committee members for enriching church life in this way.

There is always an agenda item entitled Rector's report which enables Maggie to speak about spiritual matters, give information about special services such as those in the Advent and Christmas or Lent and Easter periods and generally comment on church matters from her perspective.

PCC members aim to be good stewards of resources and the church building and also to enable the church family to grow to be an enriching, transforming Christian presence in Linton. Discussions often focus on change and the topics described above take place against the backdrop of the ongoing regular services, plus the extra ones determined by the church calendar. Thank you to those people who have given reports from groups and activities which show how much already takes place; but we cannot afford to stand still. There is scope for further growth if more people are able to support and help in practical ways; by prayer, by offering hospitality and much more.

Sue Mudge  
PCC Secretary

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

### 5. FINANCIAL REVIEW TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018

#### **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Linton**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2018, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

#### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

#### **Basis of this report**

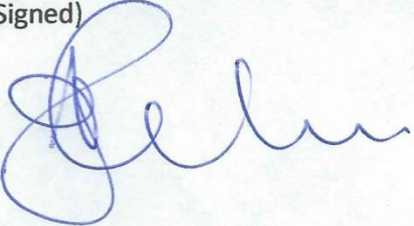
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, SORP 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and – to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)



Andrew Cohen.  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.  
**Andrew Cohen**  
Little Gates Radwinter End  
Saffron Walden Essex CB10 2UD

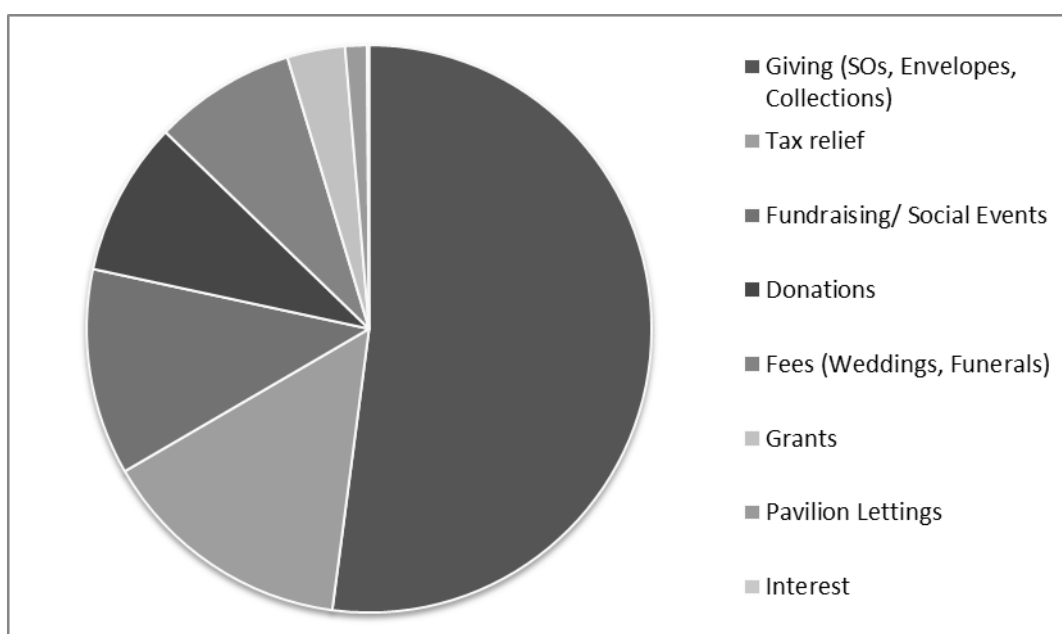
## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

### Where does the money come from?

In 2018 St Mary's received a total of £108,683.70 in income, an increase of £4,576.35 (4%) when compared with 2017; of this total, £1,283.93 came from grants from the Friends of St Mary's, the Anderson Trust, and the Parish Council and the PCC would like to express its gratitude to these organisations for their ongoing support. The PCC also wishes to thank Pam Richardson and her team on the Events Committee for the massive amount of work they do, raising just under £7,000 this year for church expenses.

The chart below shows the main sources of income and highlights the church's crucial dependence on regular giving, and the vital importance of members of the congregation completing gift aid forms wherever possible.

Income: £108,684



### NOTES on Income

- Although the figure for fees appears high, only a proportion of income from each wedding and funeral is retained by the PCC; the rest is sent to the Diocese.

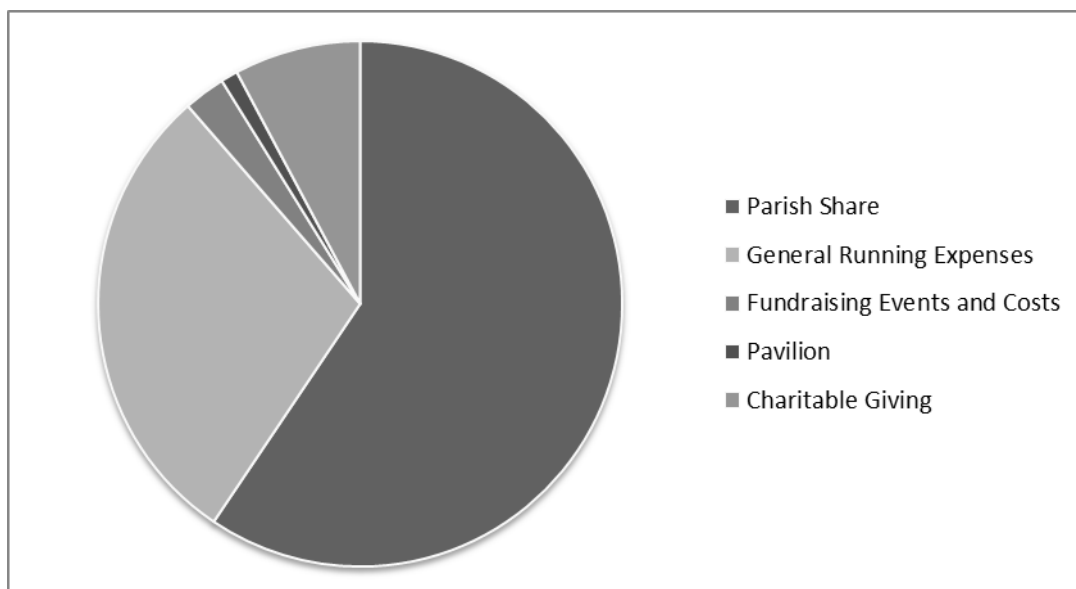
### Where does the money go?

Total expenditure during the year was £101,438.02

As the chart below shows, the most significant part of expenditure goes on the Parish Share, which at £60,292.26 (a 5% increase on 2017), accounts for 60% of regular outgoings. As in previous years, the PCC (in line with virtually all other parishes in the Deanery) is committed to paying the Share in full, principally because otherwise the Diocese would not provide us with a full-time Team Rector and House for Duty Team Vicar. The amount requested by the Diocese continues to increase not only in line with inflation but also by requiring benefices to meet the full cost of their clergy as well as some of the diocesan costs and mission costs.

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Expenditure: £101,438



In budgeting beyond the Ministry Share, the PCC continues to prioritise expenditure on:

- providing a welcoming and well-maintained space for services;
- supporting the valuable work undertaken with Linton's young people, through the Beacon Youth Trust;
- providing administrative support, important to free up time for the incumbent to spend on pastoral activities;
- maintaining the Pavilion as both a meeting space and an asset;
- as a reflection of God's generous giving to us, giving back a proportion of income to those in need;
- developing initiatives related to the Mission Action Plan.

### Summary

The final accounts for 2018 show a small deficit was incurred. However when depreciation is added back in, this shows income exceeded expenditure by £7,245. The balance sheet includes £7,703 as a notional figure for the Pavilion, and if this is ignored, church funds rest at £97,955 an increase on the final figure for 2017 (excluding the Pavilion: £91,622). This is despite the Sterling Bond fund decreasing in value from one year end to another.

### Reserves Policy

In 2018, the PCC continues with a reserves policy, continuing to retain a sum of £22,500 for urgent repairs and as contingency cover; these reserves are currently held in the sterling bond fund. The designated Fabric Fund has been transferred to the General Fund as The Friends of St Mary's provide the funds for maintaining the fabric of the Church.

### Financial Statements

The financial statements which follow comprise:

- A statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year, showing all resources made available to the PCC and all expenditure incurred by it, and reconciling changes to funds.

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

- A return of Parish Finance which shows the same information but gives a breakdown of income and expenditure.
- A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds

### Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (2005) and applicable standards. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Diocese of Ely, charity registration number 1138508.

St Mary's Linton					
Statement of Financial Activities					
For the period from 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	83,942	500	—	84,442	84,770
Activities for generating funds	13,313	110	—	13,423	7,349
Investment income	112	5	—	118	58
Incoming resources from charitable activities	10,700	—	—	10,700	11,928
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>108,068</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>108,683</b>	<b>104,107</b>
<b>Resources used</b>					
Cost of generating funds	1,153	—	—	1,153	93
Cost of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	1,451	—	—	1,451	1,063
Charitable activities	106,182	353	—	106,536	116,747
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total resources used</b>	<b>108,787</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>109,141</b>	<b>117,904</b>
<b>Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer</b>	<b>( 719)</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>( 457)</b>	<b>( 13,796)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	6,890	1,473	—	8,363	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	( 5,604)	( 2,759)	—	( 8,363)	—
<b>Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>( 1,024)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>( 457)</b>	<b>( 13,796)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>					
Gains / losses on investment assets	( 911)	—	—	( 911)	1,425
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>( 344)</b>	<b>( 1,024)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>( 1,369)</b>	<b>( 12,371)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>100,833</b>	<b>6,194</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>107,028</b>	<b>119,399</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>100,489</b>	<b>5,169</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>105,658</b>	<b>107,028</b>

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

<b>Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2018</b>	<b>2017 £</b>	<b>2018 £</b>
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		
Tax efficient planned giving		
Gift Aid - Bank	43,337.00	45,513.60
Gift Aid - Envelopes	6,626.00	5,968.10
Total tax efficient planned giving	49,963.00	51,481.70
Other planned giving	3,661.50	2,458.50
Loose plate collections	4,645.80	5,555.12
Regular Gift Days	0.00	0.00
Giving through church boxes	281.29	441.88
One off Gift Aid gifts	2,567.35	2,879.02
Donations, appeals, etc (note 1)	3,030.00	1,283.93
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	15,472.24	16,574.86
Legacies		
Non-recurring one off grants (note 2)	5,148.99	3,767.20
<b>Total for voluntary income</b>	<b>84,770.17</b>	<b>84,442.21</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>		
Other funds generated (note 3)	1,054.63	3,372.62
Summer Event	3,650.51	5,778.03
Christmas Event	0.00	1,112.01
Social Events (note 4)	2,644.81	3,160.36
<b>Total for Activities for Generating Funds</b>	<b>7,349.95</b>	<b>13,423.02</b>
Bank and building society interest	58.83	118.47
<b>Church Activities</b>		
Fees for weddings and funerals	10,438.00	9,266.00
Pavilion lettings	1,490.40	1,434.00
<b>Total for Church Activities</b>	<b>11,928.40</b>	<b>10,700.00</b>
<b>Total for Incoming Resources</b>	<b>104,107.35</b>	<b>108,683.70</b>

# St Mary the Virgin, Linton

<b>Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2018</b>	<b>2017 £</b>	<b>2018 £</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>		
Summer Event Costs	93.22	679.29
Christmas Event Costs	0.00	474.05
Costs of Social Events	1,063.19	1,451.70
<b>Total for costs of Generating Funds</b>	<b>1,156.41</b>	<b>2,605.04</b>
<b>All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants &amp; Donations (note 5)</b>		
Giving to missionary societies	1,140.00	776.22
Secular Charities	886.00	1,383.55
Home mission	4,999.92	5,758.05
<b>Total for All Mission Giving etc</b>	<b>7,025.92</b>	<b>7,917.82</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>		
Parish Share	57,189.47	60,292.26
Salaries (note 6)	6,931.96	6,995.96
<b>Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)</b>		
Working expenses of Incumbent	681.64	820.01
Rector's telephone	224.40	224.40
Education	1,351.80	1,358.01
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>2257.84</b>	<b>2,402.42</b>
Parish Training and mission	0.00	98.12
<b>Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)</b>		
Church running - insurance	3,519.27	3,573.11
Organ / piano tuning	356.8	241.20
Church maintenance	2,217.59	4,245.25
Upkeep of services (note 7)	8,600.63	6,390.59
Upkeep of churchyard (note 8)	478.36	108.90
Administration	2,034.46	1,910.47
Flowers (note 9)	187.81	67.62
<b>Total for Regular Church running expenses</b>	<b>17,394.92</b>	<b>16,537.14</b>



## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

<b>Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)</b>		
Church running - electric	602.38	760.90
Church running - gas	3,628.11	2,737.90
Church running - water	37.76	26.05
<b>Total for Church utility bills</b>	<b>4,268.25</b>	<b>3,524.85</b>
<b>Costs of trading - Pavilion</b>		
Pavilion running - electricity	544.48	484.63
Pavilion running - maintenance	1,042.96	541.88
Pavilion running - water	25.5	37.90
<b>Total for Costs of trading</b>	<b>1,612.94</b>	<b>1,064.41</b>
<b>Total for Church Activities</b>	<b>89,655.38</b>	<b>90,915.16</b>
<b>Total for Resources Expended</b>	<b>97,837.71</b>	<b>101,438.02</b>
<b>Major Capital Expenditure</b>		
Church major repairs	1,204.00	0.00
Pavilion Depreciation	7,703.10	7,703.10
Peace Garden	11,159.20	0.00
<b>Total for Major Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>20,066.30</b>	<b>7,703.10</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>117,904.01</b>	<b>109,141.12</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>104,107.35</b>	<b>108,578.70</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>110,200.91</b>	<b>101,438.02</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>7,703.10</b>	<b>7,703.10</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>117,904.01</b>	<b>109,141.12</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-13,796.66</b>	<b>-457.42</b>

# St Mary the Virgin, Linton

## Balance sheet (Summary) As of: 31 December 2018

	2017 £	2018 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Pavilion (see note 10)	15,406	7,703
Investments (see note 11)	46,776	45,864
	<u>62,182</u>	<u>53,567</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	44,845	52,091
	<u>44,845</u>	<u>52,091</u>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<u><b>44,845</b></u>	<u><b>52,091</b></u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u><b>107,028</b></u>	<u><b>105,658</b></u>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<u><b>107,028</b></u>	<u><b>105,658</b></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	48,190	59,563
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - Contingency	22,500	22,500
Designated - Fabric Fund (see note 12)	4,013	—
Designated - Mission Action Plan	10,722	10,722
Designated - Pavilion (see note 10)	15,406	7,703
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted - Anderson Trust	1,092	253
Restricted - Bells (see note 13)	902	1,406
Restricted - Churchyard (see note 14)	175	66
Restricted - Music (see note 13)	296	561
Restricted - Sound System	3,727	2,881
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<u><b>107,028</b></u>	<u><b>105,658</b></u>

## Notes to Financial Statements

### Return of Parish Finance

- Donations include £100 from the Fireworks Committee, £500 donation specifically for the bells, and donations towards the summer holiday activities.
- Grants received this year are £1,153 from the Anderson Trust, £1,000 from the Parish Council towards the new additional seating, £1,614.20 from the Friends of St Mary's who

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

financed the remaining cost of the chairs together with our sample music stand and organ report.

3. The income from other funds generated includes £71.67 from 'Give as you Live', £117.72 from the mini market, £200 from Linton Music Society, £329 from Sale of Calendars, £276.22 from Carol singing 2017, £110 from U3A, £130 from Ecclesiastical for home insurance taken out and £668.81 from the collection at the Carol Service for the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project.
4. Social events include coffee after both Friday and Sunday morning services as well events organised by the Events Committee such as the Jonathan Veira concert and the two Come and Sing events organised by David Parry-Smith.
5. Charitable giving this year includes £276.22 to Christian Aid from the 2017 Carol Singing, £376.20 from the 2017 Carol service to Cambridge Cyrenians, £507.35 from the Remembrance Service to the Royal British Legion, £500 to USPG, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank and £300 to Youthinc. In addition £416.66 per month is given to The Beacon Youth Trust to support youth work in Linton.
6. Salaries relates to payments made to our organists and parish administrator.
7. Upkeep of services includes fees paid to Ely and Non Stipendiary priests for taking weddings and funerals. In 2018 this was £4091.00. This means the cost of running our services in Church is £2288.24 (2017 - £2241.84).
8. Upkeep of Churchyard is from money held for the Monday Gang.
9. Once again, the cost of the flowers has also been covered by separate collections at the end of some services and the generosity of the flower arrangers.

### **Balance Sheet**

10. Pavilion at cost £77,031 less depreciation at £7,703.10 per year brings the figure down to £7,703.10.
11. Investments £45,864 is the value of the Sterling Bond Fund held at Barclays. Over the year this has made a loss, however during the year the value of the fund has gone both up and down.
12. The Fabric fund has been transferred to the General Fund. Given that The Friends of St Mary's provide the funds for the fabric of the Church, it was agreed that the Church did not need to set funds aside.
13. The Bells and Music restricted funds have increased due to specific donations during the year.
14. The Churchyard fund represents monies held for the Monday Gang.

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

### **6. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

The Electoral Roll is the Parish Church's register of electors. It is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for membership of the Parochial Church Council and for representation on the Deanery Synod. Your membership therefore has an influence on the work of your church and helps make our voice heard at Deanery and Diocesan level.

The Roll has to be completely revised every 6 years and this has just been done during February and March. There were previously 147 names on the Electoral Roll. The new total is 117. More forms may yet be received but a number of people are known to have moved away or died.

As has been said in previous reports, it should also be noted that support for St Mary's cannot be solely based on the people included on the electoral roll. There are many who regularly attend services and other events at St Mary's who do not wish to be included on the roll. Further, there are many people in the parish who consider St Mary's to be 'their church' but may not regularly attend and who are also not on the roll. However, it is seen by the Diocese as a measure of the 'health' of the Parish when considering whether the Parish warrants a curate or another clergy member.

You can be added to the electoral roll if you have been baptised and are over 16 and either: 'live in the parish', 'live outside the parish and have attended St Mary's for 6 months' or 'are a member in of good standing at another church and have attended St Mary's for 6 months'. If you would like to be added to the electoral roll or have any questions concerning the electoral roll, please feel free to contact me on [justpam1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:justpam1@hotmail.co.uk)

Pam Richardson

### **7. FABRIC REPORT**

The Fabric Committee has met formally on three occasions during the year.

#### **Works to the fabric of the church**

A faculty to carry out the QI repairs, install a new oak screen at the western end of the north aisle where the noticeboards currently stand and provide new music stands to the design of the trial stand as amended has been sought. No opposition is anticipated and the QI contractors have been booked for August.

The PCC accepted the quotation from the conservation specialist recommended by the church architect to carry out trial repairs to the worn pammments.

We carried out a consultation about the possible sale of the brass eagle. The response from members of the congregation and wider community was adverse. As part of the continuing work on re-ordering the church we will consider the possibility of altering its position to improve sightlines.

We have received a quotation to re-stain the north and south porch doors.

#### **Fixed installations and services**

Some minor repairs to the heating system were carried out last summer, but there has been an intermittent problem with the firing of one boiler during the winter. It probably only requires

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

the replacement of a small component which has been previously replaced on the other boiler. In connection with the provision of wi-fi to the church, we are investigating the possibility of the heating control system being set remotely.

Whilst the security system appears to be working properly Westronics, based in Reading and who acquired the local alarm company we had used, sent only a single engineer to carry out the annual maintenance check and he was unable to access the roof. Westronics sent two engineers in March, but they concluded that a cherry picker was needed to access the roof. We are now seeking quotations from local companies for an upgrade to the system and regular maintenance.

David Watts can explain how difficult it proved to identify a contractor to mend the screen motor. He eventually found a contractor willing and able to carry out the work. However, it seems the cost of regular maintenance of the screen and replacement of components will prove to be rather greater than anticipated when it was installed.

### **Church furnishings**

No articles or goods have been permanently removed from the church during the year, and no such items acquired.

### **The pavilion**

A professional heavy clean of the interior has been carried out. The quotation for external redecoration was again not actioned because of other calls on funds, but I hope we will be able to carry it out this year.

The Peace Garden was formally opened in March with members of the Parish Council present. There have been some instances of anti-social behaviour and minor vandalism. Realistically these are difficult to control. We are grateful to Glynis Younger for her work in leading the group of volunteers who care for the garden. More offers of help would be welcome.

### **Other land**

The PCC was concerned by the quotation to renew the parking area beyond Church Cottage with grass and plastic mesh and doubts about its long term wearing. We are awaiting a quotation to lay the area to gravel instead. Planning permission may be required for the work.

### **The churchyard**

The fabric and vegetation of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Parish Council's long term programme to rebuild and repair the flint walls was completed last summer. The Council has received updated quotations for repairs to the paths which are within its budget figure.

After further delay the District Council gave consent to replacement of the noticeboard. It would have been erected by Easter but for some technical issues over the incorporation of the church's logo on the board. It is currently in production.

We are grateful to the Monday Gang for their continuing commitment to, and care of, the churchyard.

In conclusion I would like to mention the problem we face in obtaining quotations, reflecting the order books of local contractors. There have been several occasions when contractors

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

have either simply not turned up for arranged meetings, or have attended but then not provided a quotation.

Andrew Gore

Chair, Fabric Committee, on behalf of the Churchwardens

### 8. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Synod met on three occasions during the year.

On 18 July 2018 the Synod received a presentation about the General Synod from Francis Spufford, one of the Diocesan representatives, who explained how the Synod tries to achieve a balance between legislation, renewal and social concern. In relation to some key contemporary issues, such as the continuing debate about human sexuality and the church, the Synod was still feeling its way. In others such as climate change, the Church's position had become more clearly established. He ended on a positive note: we were being asked to give because there was hope for growth in the church. Martin Kenward, Diocesan Projects and development Officer gave a presentation about the Parish Giving Scheme, in which St Mary's is already participating. The benefits of the scheme were clear, but more parishes were needed to sign up to it.

On 15 November 2018 Sheila Anthony, the Diocesan Evangelism Adviser, spoke about workshops she is running, "Confident in Sharing our Faith". The workshops last 2-2½ hours and can be arranged through all types of groups, from a single large parish, a benefice or a larger group of parishes. I hope we can look to organise one in our part of the Deanery later this year. Jacqueline Campbell, Director of Trust Governance for the Ely Multi-Academy Trust, explained the work of the Trust and the implications of setting up a trust comprising church schools. Please let me know if you would like to see her presentation.

On 4 April 2019, Lisa Tulfer, the Bishop's Officer for Lay Learning and Formation, spoke of the opportunities offered for spiritual development which are more widely available, such as the Way of Life and Growing Disciples courses, as well as new ALM training, such as the ALM in digital management. David Parry-Smith and Sarah West from Whittlesford gave a presentation on Mental Health First Aid. They have both been trained in mental health first aid and offer it at their workplaces. David explained that it was not a counsellor role, but a means of identifying and supporting people who might be in need of help and directing them to other resources. They would like to establish a network of similar first aiders across the church family.

As can be seen, we have been trying to make the business of the Deanery Synod more relevant and I hope we will take greater steps to invite members of all congregations across the deanery to our meetings. We try to hold the presentations in the first part of the meeting, with the formal business for Synod members following.

Michael Younger has continued to manage the Deanery Finances astutely. We now have a simpler and easier to understand picture of how Deanery finance works. In the course of the year one parish which could afford to pay its share in full has declined to do so, and the balance has been met from Deanery funds. This situation should be resolved by 2021. Another parish was unable to meet its share in full and has received a loan from the Deanery. Whether the current method of Diocesan finance for the clergy will be sustainable in the long term is to my mind uncertain. The Deanery has some degree of ultimate responsibility for failures by parishes to pay their shares to the Diocese but insufficient day to day involvement in the appointment of clergy, whose stipends and other associated ministerial costs make up,

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

with mission, the collective share. We have met representatives of the Diocese to discuss these continuing issues over the past year and I am sure we will do so again in the coming year.

I am pleased to report that Olivia Coles was licensed as the House for Duty Priest for Whittlesford in November 2018, a post she combines with Diocesan Baptism Co-Ordinator, and Susan Bowden-Pickstock as House for Duty Priest for Harston, Hauxton and Newton in February 2019. The vacancy for the Granta Vale benefice, centred on Balsham and the Abingtons, was filled by a Family Lay Worker. For the first time in a while the Deanery is currently at full strength.

One thing you become aware of, even at the lowly level of Deanery lay chair, is the Church of England's propensity for committees and meetings.

Andrew Gore  
and on behalf of David Parry-Smith,  
Deanery representatives for Linton

### **9. SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

This will be my final report, as after five and a half years as parish safeguarding officer I am handing the files over and standing down from the role. I started the role in September 2013 when I accepted the post of Rector's Administrator. Following my resignation in May 2017, I offered to remain as safeguarding officer, to provide continuity for the parish and support the transition of the new post holder. Once they had been in post for a year I spoke with Maggie and agreed to continue for a further 3 months to cover her sabbatical.

During this period I am pleased to say that the profile of safeguarding and safer working practices has been raised further by policy amendments, prayer during a service and a parish training event demonstrating that the PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.

The online checking process, which was introduced in January 2015, continues to provide greater efficiency in completing checks; any delays are at points of human intervention!

Each Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check involves a verification of checked identification and confirmation on the online DBS system. I have collected the completed Confidential Declaration Forms and obtained references as appropriate for the St Mary's parish volunteers. I have continued to support the work of the Beacon Youth Trust by checking identification and completing the online DBS check ONLY for their volunteers.

The number of checks completed since April 2018 is 8; 5 for St Mary's and 3 for the Beacon Youth Trust.

I have maintained secure electronic and paper files of the checks completed in Linton.

Sue Filby

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

### **10. REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES**

The following are brief reports from Church activities, including some services, and will be supported by photographs shown during the annual meeting. The named individual can provide further information about any aspect.

#### **10.1. BEACON YOUTH TRUST REPORT**

The young people were very sorry to say goodbye to Lee Nash when he moved to a new job in October, after two and a half years in Linton. A number of part time youth workers are currently covering nearly all of the activities. A full time replacement has not yet been found. The Trustees have entered a partnership with Romsey Mill, who will be the official employer of our youth worker in the future, and are working with Romsey Mill staff to find a full time replacement for Lee. It is hoped that this will lead to a situation where the Beacon youth workers are in less danger of feeling isolated, and there will be better opportunities for ongoing training, mentoring and career progression.

Maggie Guite

#### **10.2. BELL RINGERS**

The bell ringers ring on Sundays before the 10 am service and for several other special services during the year. We also ring for weddings and on other occasions too. Anyone interested in learning to ring is welcome to come up to the tower any Wednesday evening - we practice from 7.30 to 9.00.

Jackie Latham

#### **10.3. EVENTS COMMITTEE**

It has been another very active year for the Events committee and supporters. The committee, led by Pam Richardson, was set up to enhance the social life of the church. Events included concerts, a visit to Ely for a meal and film, bring and share lunches, refreshments after special services, carol singing and Linton's first scarecrow festival which brought together many village groups and businesses. All events aim to cover costs and it was very rewarding to discover that a surplus of nearly £7,000 had been made for church funds, more than half of which was from the scarecrow festival weekend.

Sue Mudge

#### **10.4. LINTON C E INFANT SCHOOL**

School governors are appointed to provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools and Foundation School Governors are appointed through the local church to ensure the distinctive foundation character of Christian ethos is upheld. The Foundation Governors are Stewart Adcock, Nicola Collard, Sue Filby, Hannah Foote, Moire Jarritt, Clare Revans, Cathy Watts and Michael Younger.

I still remain on the governing body as foundation governor, but officially sitting in Maggie's seat since she stepped down. My role there is quite wide ranging. I am Chair of the Personnel Committee, year 1 Link Governor and Foundation Governors Representative. I sit in on the headteacher appraisals with the Vice Chair, help in recruitment selection and exit interviews, monitor the school assembly records and have a keen interest in SIAMS and staff wellbeing. Church links continue to be strong, through Friday church and other involvement.

The governing body is working effectively. We have a good spread of skills and communication and relationships are open and trusted. We all attended a whole Governor day recently which was a chance to observe school life, talk to parents, and get some in depth



## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

information on various topics like teacher training and teaching methods. This was a great opportunity to build on our knowledge of the school, a chance also to give critical feedback, praise and thanks! Also, the experience is positive in enhancing relationships with both the staff and children. Getting to have lunch with the children was a highlight!

Everybody is well supported and well-being is of key concern, Governors go to great effort to ensure that this is the case.

Nicola Collard

### 10.5. CHURCH LINKS WITH THE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

#### Friday Church

The infant school assembly is still running strongly! We said goodbye to Nicola Bown and hello to Sarah Thorne as new team member this year. Maggie, Chris Kemshell and I continue to work on a rota basis. We bring alive various stories from the bible from the OT then NT over the year and include the three major festivals. We are also now mindful of linking to the school value for each week. This is a beautifully alive, fun and accessible service which I continue to enjoy enormously. The children clearly have fun and learn lots.

#### Linton Heights Assemblies

Chris Kemshell and I continue to do a school assembly once a month. We either work in a story / theme of our choice or tie in with the school value or thought for the week. Again, the assemblies are going well and as regular faces, we are building trust and ease of questioning and response.

Nicola Collard

### 10.6. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACTIVITIES

We continue to reach out to families we have contact with through the schools, Tots in Tow and those that come to our all-age worship – both at 10am and 2.30pm.

We were sad to say goodbye to Nicola Bown but trust God has his hand on this ministry and will help us sustain and grow the work we are doing.

**Baby Steps** has been run twice and there are plans for another course after Easter.

**Tots** continues to attract carers and infants/pre-school children from a variety of families.

Last summer's holiday activity club will be repeated, offering a free lunch for children attending.

**Messy Church** attracts regular families.

Sarah Thorne

**Wild Church** continued this year until the beginning of April. Nicola Bown and Linda Richardson worked together last summer to produce an exciting programme of monthly sessions, including den building, a star-trail in Rivey Wood, willow weaving and making the outdoor Christmas Crib which was in the churchyard in December. However, numbers at Wild Church were generally small, and the predominant age of children quite young. In the end, Maggie and Linda decided with regret that it was not sustainable to continue with Wild Church, partly because of lack of leaders, and also because the expertise that Linda has to offer in 'Re-Wilding' etc. is more suitable for use with older children.

Maggie Guite

### 10.7. TOGETHER WITH GOD

Cathy Watts and I help to plan and lead this service on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. It is an exciting service, where you will experience a relaxed approach with interactive fun elements for all the family. We try and strike a difference with the choice of music and structure of prayer, talk and song.

Nicola Collard

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

### **10.8. SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT**

Is life too busy? Do you need some incentive to take time out? 'SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT' is a quiet, reflective service with music, readings, poetry, video and meditation. It's held on the last Tuesday of each month at 8 pm, and lasts around 45 minutes. A recent attendee emailed to say, 'I really loved it last time. I was so relaxed at one point listening to the music I almost drifted off to sleep. The messages were really lovely too'. It would be really good to see more people attending this service.

Molly Warrington

### **10.9. MOTHERS' UNION**

The Linton Branch of the Mothers' Union usually meets on the third Monday of the month, at 7.45 pm in the Church Pavilion. Everyone is welcome to attend. The programme for the year is on the church website. As well as the regular meetings, we offer each other practical support and prayer at difficult times in our lives, and aim to uphold the world wide Mothers' Union purpose and values of Christian family life. If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union please don't hesitate to contact Margaret Smith, Ann King or me, or check out [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org).

Sue Mudge

### **10.10. MUSIC MINISTRY**

I would like to thank all involved in making music, playing, singing, administering and librarianship over the past year – whether for choir, music group or organ only services. As usual, music has been provided to support the worship of God by the congregation at all our Sunday services during the year. Additional music has been provided particularly for Christmas services and holy days leading up to Easter.

David Parry-Smith, Director of Music

### **10.11. THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S**

"The Friends" was formed in 1984 to help with the expenses associated with maintaining St Mary's. Currently there are over 100 members who pay a membership fee each year. This money goes towards the maintenance of the church. The Friends also raise money by holding social events.

New chairs were purchased (in conjunction with the Parish Council) and money has been allocated to cover the costs of the Quinquennial Inspection (building survey every 5 years), new music stands for the choir and music group and a new cupboard at the back of the church.

If you are interested in joining The Friends please contact:

Chris Morse, Chairman – The Friends of St Mary's, Linton.

### **10.12. THE MONDAY GANG**

The Monday Gang continues to work to keep the church yard neat and tidy.

We hope that this year will be better after the shed was broken into twice and the mower and most of the gardening tools stolen. More helpers would be welcome.

Margaret Cox