**st mary the virgin, linton**

**minutes of PCC meeting held on Monday 14th MARCH 2019**

**Present**

The Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite (Chair), Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mr A Gore, Dr C Morse, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Mr J Organ, Dr D Parry-Smith, Mr R Tonry and Mr D Watts (Churchwarden).

# Opening Prayer

Maggie Guite informed the meeting that the funeral for Chummy Sinnatamby, a former churchwarden, would be on 21st March at 12.30 in the church.

# Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs H Evans (Churchwarden), Mrs G Fraser Lee, Mrs C Lockstone, Mrs L Richardson, Miss R Richardson and Mr J Thorne.

# minutes of 14th January 2019

The minutes of 14th January 2019 were approved.

# matters arising

## peace garden

Ref 4.4 - An official opening event had been arranged for Saturday 23rd March.

## screen repair

Ref 4.3 - David Watts reported that the second replacement motor was supposed to be fitted next week but had been re-scheduled for the following week.

## admin computer

Ref 5e - The new laptop for the Rector’s Administrator had been purchased.

## h&s - first aid

Ref 5f - Two places had been booked on a First Aid course.

## safeguarding

Ref 5h - Maggie Guite reported that Cathy Watts had agreed to be the Safeguarding Officer and Mel Symonds would undertake the DBS checks. Safeguarding should be a standing item on future PCC agendas. The policy should be reviewed and it was suggested that Cathy Watts should be invited to the next PCC meeting to talk about the role. The awareness must be part of the wider culture so that anyone with concerns will know who to approach. Sue Filby, outgoing Safeguarding Officer, has submitted a report for the APCM.

## beacon youth trust

Ref 7 - a full-time youth worker had not yet been appointed.

## deanery synod

Ref 16 - The Deanery fair will be on 30th March in Great Shelford Memorial Hall. David Parry-Smith said that he was one of two speakers due to give a presentation about mental health in the workplace at the next meeting on 4th April. Dates for future meetings are 3rd July at Whittlesford and 7th November at Little Shelford.

## deacons

Ref 17 - Maggie reported that Yannick Auckland had agreed to undertake the role of Deacon. Yannick and Michael Wilcockson are both on the rota for 7th April and Michael again on 14th April, ahead of his ordination.

# Finance and Stewardship report

Sue Ellis presented the accounts for 2018, checked and signed by Andrew Cohen, the Independent Examiner. Andrew is due to retire and has said that he wishes to give up this voluntary work. Sue suggested that he should be given a gift in recognition of his contribution as he has been our independent examiner for more than 10 years. It was agreed that Sue should buy garden tokens worth £50: proposed David Parry-Smith, seconded Chris Morse.

Maggie Guite said that she and churchwardens had been discussing the options for spending some of the reserve funds. They had considered the possibility of installing Wi-Fi in church. It would enable video clips to be legally embedded in service formats. A landline would be useful for ‘lone workers’ in church. The PCC agreed that David Watts would investigate the costs involved. It was acknowledged that Wi-Fi comes with risks as well as benefits and appropriate protection would need to be in place.

Maggie also said that it was likely that there would be a request from the Deanery for a regular contribution of £300 pa for the Youthinc scheme. As Linton now has a monthly session with Rachael Went, the part time youth worker, Maggie hoped that we would agree to this.

David Parry-Smith proposed that the meeting should accept the accounts and present them to the annual meeting, seconded by Richard Tonry and agreed.

# Rector’s report

1. Maggie reported that the new youth group began on 3rd March with 7 young people present. It will be known as SMYG – St Mary’s Youth Group. Maggie is currently acting as co-leader.
2. After discussion with Linda Richardson, Maggie had concluded that Wild Church would cease after Easter. It has only attracted a few families with young children and most of the proposed activities are more suited to an older age group, including adults.
3. It is widely observed that church growth occurs when there is a) intentional engagement with making new disciples; b) growing depth of discipleship; c) social concern. The current Lent groups are addressing intentional engagement and sharing faith. It is hoped that these will lead to a parish workshop day on being a welcoming church using a course called Everybody Welcome. Beyond that we might offer an introduction to the Christian faith course which would very much depend on church members inviting other people. Maggie feels that it is important for us to keep focussed on being more intentionally engaged.
4. It was encouraging that the 100 donated Lent booklets on the Beatitudes were taken. It would be helpful if someone could be found who would steer others onto appropriate training and discipleship courses, of which there are plenty offered by the Diocese. Something from the MAP not yet actioned.
5. Maggie also hopes to see a social action group formed, as in the MAP, The Church Action on Poverty Sunday raised a lot of money but such issues need to be kept in people’s minds: issues both at home and abroad.
6. Maggie is impatient to see more of the actions in the MAP initiated but she is aware that we are a relatively small church. The Map will be reviewed in May and hopefully the new PCC will be able to re-assess the priorities.

# Pattern of services

It was agreed in July 2018 to introduce the Together with God service on 4th Sundays from September and to review the impact of the change after six months. Together with God is a service of the Word aimed at all ages in that the teaching can be applied and appreciated at different levels. The all-age communion service on a 2nd Sunday has adapted to give a greater role to young people. Maggie offered a 5 pm said communion service on 4th Sundays which has attracted 3 people and fewer. The aim is for people to be able to progress from Messy Church into attending 4th Sunday and then 2nd Sunday services. It was agreed to continue for the rest of the academic year with the same pattern of morning services but drop the 5 pm service after March.

# focussed giving by the church

Joan Smith had asked whether St Mary’s would consider supporting a student at Starahe School again which would require someone to be the link and write the letters. Maggie said that the new USPG Chief Executive is keen that churches should foster links with parishes overseas and be able to offer direct support. It was agreed to refer this to the Social justice group to investigate.

# team fund-raising event

The barn dance will take place at Linton on Saturday 20th July. Tasks have been shared as follows: Shudy Camps – food, Castle Camps – drinks, Bartlow – publicity and tickets, Linton – preparation of the church.

# Village hall

Sue Mudge reported on the public meeting held to discuss the future management of the Village Hall. Trustees are nominated from the regular groups and it was noted that there was no one involved from Tots in Tow. It was considered who might fulfil this role – left pending so that individuals might be approached.

# health & safety policy

David Watts had put the draft policy on the website. He appealed for members to go through it and feedback changes and comments to him. There are still areas to complete. It was noted that the electrical testing is out of date. A H&S officer is needed to oversee the tasks. It is hoped that the Fabric committee could address this and also fill in some of the missing information.

# Annual Parochial Church meeting (Apcm)

Sue Mudge reported that people were being slow to complete forms for the complete revision of the electoral roll. The number on the new roll was currently less than 100 which could have an impact on the number of PCC vacancies. Maggie said that Pam Richardson should write letter to those who had not responded inviting them to re-apply – action Sue.

It was stated at the last meeting that there would be 8 PCC vacancies. If there is difficulty in filling the places, it was agreed that a motion could be put to the annual meeting to say that a retiring member does not have to have a year off but could stand for immediate re-election. David Watts had posted the guidance for the role of a PCC member on the church website.

# EVENTS REPORT

The cabaret evening with Jancis Harvey had been successful, both socially and resulting in a small surplus. It was noted that the scarecrow festival and other events during the last year had raised just under £7,000 for church funds. The PCC is very grateful for the efforts of Events committee members. Planning for the next scarecrow festival is underway and a ‘Book Characters’ theme has been chosen for the scarecrows.

There will be a coach trip to a seaside resort on Saturday 31st August.

# Fabric report

1. Floor tiles – the meeting agreed to accept the quotation of £476 + VAT and £288 + VAT from Matthew Beesley to conduct trial works to two areas.
2. Kitchenette drainage – Richard Tonry had met Martin Mead of Mead Construction who recommended a trench arch solution which would be less costly at £2.860 + VAT than mains drainage. Both Geoffrey Hunter from Ely and Henry Freeland support this approach. There are other factors to resolve around building regulation consent but it would appear that this could be a viable project.
3. Andrew Gore said that he is part way through the online faculty application for works previously agreed.
4. Andrew intends to organise a working party for pavilion maintenance in May / June.
5. Peace garden – it was suggested that Glynis Younger be asked to appeal for gardening help via the Linton News. Maggie suggested putting up a ‘no smoking’ notice.
6. Churchyard notice board – under construction but there appears to be a difficulty with incorporating the new St Mary’s logo, designed by Gill Fraser Lee, as well as having the facility to change clergy details. Andrew will investigate further.

# de-cluttering report

Helene Evans had circulated some notes from the de-cluttering group meeting. Some items require further discussion. However, it the following points were accepted.

1. The outer church doors need to be stripped down and re-varnished.
2. The plaster on the walls in both porches has blown and requires attention.
3. The north porch notice board should be replaced and the contents updated.
4. The idea of a storage shed caused some debate in terms of siting and use / function. Chris Morse offered to research prices, size, position etc.

# Any other business

Church cleaning rota – Linda Read has given notice that she wishes to relinquish organising the rota from June.

# Date of future meetings

APCM Sunday 28th April at 11.15

PCC dates 2019-20:

 Monday May 13th

 Thursday July 11th

 Monday September 9th

 Thursday November 14th

 Monday January 13th

Thursday March 12th

The meeting closed with prayer.