

PCC Minutes 27 November 2014

Present:

Mrs J Nightingale (Chair), Mrs N Blackmore, Mrs N Collard, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mr A Gore, Mr M Holden, Mr D Lockstone, Mrs L Mordue, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Mr J Organ, Mrs G Powell, Mrs P Richardson, Mrs J Smith, Mr J Thorne (Churchwarden),

Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden).

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

Mrs S Filby, Mrs H Foote, Mrs S King, Mrs L Read, Mrs R Read.

It was noted that Mrs B Kirkman had resigned.

3. Linton Glebe Field

Mr Jon Green (Diocesan Glebe and Investments Officer) and Mr Andrew Pym (Investments committee member) had earlier written to ask if they might attend part of the PCC meeting. Mr Pym explained that they wished to enter into a dialogue with Linton Parish Council regarding the glebe field on Horseheath Road. As charitable trustees, they sought to obtain the best return on the land whilst also looking at the needs of the village. The field is 10 acres in total, of which the glebe area is 7.5 acres. Mr Green and Mr Pym then left the meeting.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 17th September 2014 were accepted and signed.

5. Matters Arising

5.2. (May 2014) Chancel repair liability – John Thorne had been advised by the Diocese that nothing should be published in the Linton News yet and that the PCC should check with The Charity Commission that the due process had been followed. John has asked for someone from the Diocese to talk to the PCC about the process. Joan Smith expressed dismay that the matter could not be completed. It is recommended that resolving the Pembroke College holding is deferred until a Rector is in position.

5. (July 2014) Online shopping – Hannah Foote was not available to give further information.

6. (July 2014) Access to water meter – Andrew Gore has asked for further information from Jon Green at the Diocese and would hope to include it in the fabric report for the next meeting. Action: Andrew Gore

12.2. (July 2014) Word and Worship services – John Thorne hopes that the services will be monthly. Peter Wood, the Diocesan Director of Mission, has offered to speak at one. Barry Easton and Chris Kemshell, Linton Free Church Minister, have also offered to be involved.

6.2 Peace garden – an anonymous donation of £1500 was received following the appeal in the pew sheet, which will allow the next stage of the work to proceed.

11 Friends of St. Mary's – Judy Nightingale thanked those who had supported the concert and quiz.

## 6. Finance Committee Report

Michael Holden presented the report from the finance committee. The balance sheet, income and expenditure, proposed budget and accompanying notes had previously been circulated. The general running costs are still exceeding income which indicates the need for a stewardship campaign to encourage people to examine their monetary giving and to look to the wider village for ways of raising money. Expenditure for 2015 is estimated at £123,259 and income at £99,336 which shows a significant shortfall. It was pointed out the actual position ten years ago was expenditure of £112,935 and income of £104,965. Income has decreased over the ten years while most areas of expenditure have gradually increased. The parish share which pays for ministry costs across the Diocese, has increased from £42,000 ten years ago to £52,000 this year.

Discussion drew out the following points:

- Fundraising from online shopping should definitely be promoted – Give as you live scheme.
- The token system for people who give by standing orders does not really work. People could be encouraged to put extra change in gift aid envelopes as every bit helps and thus apparent lack of giving would not be noticeable to visitors.
- The treasurer pointed out that general gift aid is able to be claimed for loose plate collections up to £5,000 per year.

Judy Nightingale thanked Michael Holden, Sue Ellis (treasurer) and finance committee members. Joan Smith proposed acceptance of the budget, seconded by Derek Lockstone and agreed by the meeting.

The stewardship group had met and had circulated a paper with initial suggestions. It was agreed that giving takes on many forms; time and talents should not be underestimated but an increase in monetary giving is needed to resolve the financial crisis. The following points emerged:

- Sue Ellis had an example of a token from Fulbourn Church with an appropriate form of words to replace our green spot. Andrew Gore recommended putting extra money in gift aid envelopes, even if the token system was revitalised.
- Update the activities leaflet and promote the leaflet to new people.
- Update the website to make it more modern.

- Run a church Facebook page – both these items need someone able to design and manage them.
- There were concerns expressed about using all four weeks throughout February to appeal for money. Conversely, it cannot happen at only one service as the service pattern has resulted in different congregations developing. However, it could be counterproductive if people's spiritual needs were not met during worship.
- Members of the stewardship group are mindful of the need to embrace all aspects of stewardship and to celebrate the good practice which already exists and helps St Mary's to function each week – as well as encouraging people to think how else they might contribute towards Christ's work in the community.
- Sue Ellis appealed for additional PCC members to join the group and give their views. The next meeting of the group is Thursday 8th January.

Judy Nightingale recorded thanks from the PCC to Sue Filby for promoting the monthly mini markets. Nanette Blackmore announced that she plans to organise a raffle for two hampers during the weeks before Christmas.

#### 7. Fabric Committee Report

A report had been circulated. Andrew Gore said that the QI works had started and would take longer than expected - around eight weeks. It has been agreed that the painted downpipes are in good condition and can be removed from the contracted work.

North porch access work – awaiting quote from the local builder who had done work for Castle Camps church.

John Thorne is working on the Remembrance Garden plan along with guidelines for maintenance of memorials and plots.

Andrew pointed out that the peace garden and the pavilion garden, immediately behind the building, are two separate areas.

In addition to the report, Andrew questioned whether the children's corner and the area near the south door, currently occupied by the notice boards and stacks of orange chairs, could be switched. The notice boards would then be in a more prominent position and be more easily read. The fabric committee was asked to check measurements and feasibility, aided by Nanette Blackmore and Nicola Collard.

#### 8. Deanery Synod Report

The report had been circulated.

#### 9. Flower Festival Outcome

Nanette Blackmore had circulated a summary report. The weekend ran very smoothly and was enjoyed both by visitors and those helping. Refreshments were served in the pavilion all weekend, which helped boost the eventual profit of £2,503. Judy Nightingale thanked Nanette for organising the festival. The proposed date for 2015 is 3rd – 5th July, with a theme of children's story books.

#### 10. Appointment of two PCC reps for Parish Council Churchyard Management Group

Andrew Gore explained that the committee is composed of three Parish Councillors and two PCC members. There are occasional meetings at Brian Cox's house. Andrew Gore and John Organ agreed to be put forward as the PCC reps.

#### 11. Vacancy

##### 11.1. Section 12 meeting on 10th December

The Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge, had called the meeting for the five PCCs of the Linton Team Ministry and also The Rural Dean of Granta, the Revd Dr Julie Norris and the Lay Chair of Granta, Mr Andrew Walker. It was agreed that the meeting should be held in the church rather than the pavilion (7.30 for 7.45) and refreshments would be served beforehand. The meeting is the next stage in the process to find a new Rector.

##### 11.2. Services and dates

The Christmas services have all been arranged, as reported previously. However, there has been some disappointment that there is not a service on Christmas Eve. This had proved popular with families in other years, but various people have been approached and there is no one available to lead it. The Christmas morning Communion service will be led by Alan Clarkson with Duncan Keys preaching. Molly Warrington said that she has asked for the service to make children feel included but obviously it must cater for older people too.

Pam Richardson had offered to lead the carol service on the 21st December. It is being planned with Nicola Collard and Gill Powell and will include a pop-up nativity. Nicola Collard said that she is concerned about people taking on too much, especially with the organisation required for the Messy Christingle on 7th December. Joan Smith suggested that Chris Kemshell could be approached to see whether he could offer an ecumenical service. Gill Powell was due to meet Chris and it was agreed that she should ask him.

Molly Warrington said that she was working on finding priests for January – April services. It was agreed to hold a service on Maundy Thursday instead of a Seder meal.

Peter Wood, Diocesan Director of Mission, is booked for the second Sunday in January. He specifically requested to do a service of the Word.

In view of Graham Ridgewell's retirement as Team Vicar, it is likely that members of the other churches may come to Linton for two services per month.

#### 12. Any other business

##### 12.1. Christians in Syria

Joan Smith felt that the Barnabas Fund appeal to provide a tented village for Syrian Christians was very worthwhile and she wondered if a general church collection could be made. The tents are

former army ones and there was some concern expressed over viability. Joan agreed to find out more information.

#### 12.2. News reel, announcements

Andrew Gore said that he would prefer a series of reflective images before a service. He felt that the news reel and subsequent announcements interrupted people's personal preparation. He suggested that the news reel could be shown at the end. It was commented that so many people come in at the very last moment or even late, that they currently missed the news reel and therefore more might see it at the end. Molly Warrington said that she felt that it is important to welcome visiting priests at the beginning of a service, but that she would discuss the options with Sue Filby.

#### 13. Date of future meetings

Tuesday 13th January and Tuesday 24th March, at 7.45 p.m.

Judy Nightingale thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked those who are putting together the Christmas services.

The meeting closed with The Grace.