

Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2015

St Mary the Virgin Linton

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Present:

Mrs J Nightingale (Chair), Mrs N Blackmore, Mrs N Collard, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mrs S Filby, Mrs H Foote, Mr A Gore, Mr M Holden, Mrs S King, Mr D Lockstone, Mrs L Mordue, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Mr J Organ, Mrs G Powell, Mrs L Read, Mrs R Read, Mrs P Richardson, Mr J Thorne (Churchwarden), Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden).

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

Mrs J Smith.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 27th November 2014 were accepted and signed.

4. Matters Arising

5.2. (May 2014) Chancel repair liability – It was reported that Jon Green (Diocesan Glebe and Investments Officer) intended to write to the PCC regarding the chancel repair liability process and also the Glebe field (item 3 at the November meeting).

5. (July 2014) Online shopping – It was agreed that Molly Warrington would register St Mary's for the Give As You Live scheme, whereby a percentage of people's online spending with a huge number of retailers is paid to the church. There is no extra cost to the person placing an order. See <https://workwithus.giveasyoulive.com> for information.

Action Molly Warrington

6. (July 2014) Access to water meter – Andrew Gore has contacted both Jon Green at the Diocese and David Donnan. David apparently did not notice the access to the water meter when he undertook planting and he agreed to investigate the area. Andrew also liaised with the Diocese and David about the fence between the end of the pavilion and David's garden. It is unclear who paid for it to be erected. David Donnan believes it to be his fence in terms of future maintenance, although he did not pay for it.

12.2. (July 2014) Word and Worship services – John Thorne is due to meet Chris Kemshell, Linton Free Church Minister, this week.

11.2 Christmas Eve service – Following the discussion at the last meeting various options were explored and the PCC were pleased to note that a service had been offered at 4.00 on Christmas Eve. It was led by Jane Darlington, Sue Ellis's sister, with Pam Richardson and it was well attended. Judy Nightingale thanked those involved.

12.1 Barnabas Fund – Joan Smith had reported that the Barnabas Fund had raised enough money to move the tents to help Syrian Christians.

12.2 News reel – Sue Filby asked for clarification over what was suggested about timing of the news reel i.e. before or after services. Sue said that she had noted that two weeks ago there were only two people watching it because the screen had not been in use during the service, whereas one week ago there had been more people seated and watching after the service. Some PCC members would like total quiet before a service (no music either) but this would be hard to achieve while other people are still entering the church. It was agreed to ask the Ministry team for their comments. Action Nicola Collard

Sue Filby also asked that more people could be trained to use the computer and audio-visual system for a service, endorsed by Pam Richardson.

5. Finance Report

The Treasurer reported that the year ending 31st December showed a loss of just over £7000 due to the reduction in standing orders and subsequent reduced gift aid tax refunds. The stewardship group has deferred action until after the open Deanery meetings; see item 7.

6. Fabric Committee Report

A report had been circulated. Andrew Gore commented on the following items.

Boiler – Awaiting a Kershaw engineer to deal with the heating timer.

Children's corner – Following initial conversations, the PCC were in agreement to investigate the viability of swapping location with the free standing notice boards.

Sound system – John Thorne explained that currently the installer charges for an annual maintenance visit and for any adjustments. The company had offered to train local people to do updates and adjustments, for a fee. It was decided to ask via the pew sheet whether there are any volunteers.

Rectory garden – It is the Diocese expectation that during a vacancy, the local church will look after the garden when there are no tenants in the house. Neighbours have reported that bushes are pushing their fence over and a tree is too large for the space. Andrew Gore is planning to prune the bushes at the weekend and will assess the state of the tree and options for trimming it. John Thorne proposed that volunteers for a working party are sought via the pew sheet, to tidy the garden before interviews are held for a Rector. It is also the Diocesan expectation that the Rectory will be spring-cleaned by the parish before anyone moves in.

In addition, Nanette Blackmore reported that the restraining clip for the gate from Church Lane into the churchyard is broken. Andrew Gore said that it falls under the responsibility of the Parish Council and that he would email the Parish Clerk. Action Andrew Gore

7. Diocesan Strategy consultation

Documents had been circulated from the Diocese and Molly Warrington urged members to attend any of the open Deanery meetings. The Granta Deanery meeting date is Wednesday 11th February at St Mary's Church, Sawston. The two Archdeacons, Alex Hughes and Hugh McCurdy will present the draft strategy document 'People Fully Alive' which builds on the Ely mission statement 'We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ'. The strategy for the Diocese should help inform discussions on the Mission Action Plan for St Mary's. The existing MAP is in need of some revision and updating. Molly Warrington had circulated the 'Giving for Life' leaflet which is specifically aimed at PCCs. It should help the PCC to identify priorities and feed into the MAP. Priorities should be for a mission shaped church and then consider how to finance the actions.

The Deanery meetings are open to any congregation members and should be offered via the pew sheet. The PCC agreed to schedule an additional meeting on Tuesday 24th February to discuss the response to the Diocesan consultation and consider the MAP and hence stewardship proposals. Other members of the congregation attending the Deanery meeting will be invited to give their feedback to a PCC member.

8. Mission Action Plan

This was discussed under item 7 above. The PCC agreed to Molly Warrington's proposal that the MAP should remain on the St Mary's website, as written by Rev Dr Steve Griffiths in January 2012, but should include a sentence to say that it is currently being reviewed and updated.

9. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer

Lucie Mordue offered to take on this role, following Beth Kirkman's resignation. Beth and Sue Mudge will pass on relevant information. Judy Nightingale thanked Lucie.

10. Vacancy

The Section 12 meeting on 10th December was very helpful in advancing the recruitment process. The Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge, suggested a few minor changes to the Linton Team Profile and he outlined the next stage of placing an advert. The advert for a Team Rector was placed in The Church Times for two weeks in early January and the information pack is now on the Diocesan website. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 4th March. There are ten designated delegates from the parishes and potentially five more people involved which is obviously too many for an interview panel. It was agreed at the Section 12 meeting that one person from each parish, plus the Archdeacon (the Bishop's representative), patrons for the other parishes and the rural Dean will comprise a formal interview panel. The other five parish reps will form a reception party to show candidates round the five churches and to meet a few parishioners at each church. The two church school head teachers will also have chance to meet the candidates. The whole group of thirteen or so will meet at the end of the day to discuss the outcome. It is not a majority vote. Any one of the voting members can veto an appointment. The Bishop will meet a recommended candidate (if one is selected) on Friday 6th March.

11. Any other business

11.1. Safeguarding

Sue Filby reported that she had sent 10 completed forms to Ely, out of the 16 issued. The Diocese has now enabled online DBS checking and Sue asked if the PCC would endorse her as the person responsible for checking documentation. Sue also said that she now felt that the safeguarding policy could be displayed in church as good progress had been made. The PCC agreed both issues.

11.2. Mini market

Sue Mudge queried whether the mini markets were going to continue. Sue Filby said that they were scheduled to be reviewed now. Around £200 had been raised from five markets although the August one had been very poorly supported with only one item to buy. Others were much more successful, especially November when mulled wine was offered. It was agreed that they would continue in a similar format on 4th Sundays. Running a stall after the Friday morning service was not thought to be feasible, although Hannah Foote said that she would be willing to sell jams or similar, if left from the previous Sunday. The next mini market will therefore be 25th January.

11.3. Christian Aid

Pam Richardson said that she had asked Imogen Tate to come to speak at a meeting on Monday 26th January, probably in the pavilion at 7.30. Pam intends to invite all the village collectors and people from the other churches in an effort to counter some negative views about the charity.

11.4. Beacon Trust

John Thorne had attended a Beacon Trust management committee and had been asked to find two new volunteers from St Mary's. Gill and Lawrence Powell had previously met with Chris Kemshell and indicated their willingness. One person will stand down if the new Rector wishes to be on the committee. It later transpired that a Trustee was also needed. Neither Gill nor Lawrence wishes to do this role. Duncan Keys has been approached and is considering the role. The PCC ratified Gill and Lawrence Powell to join the Beacon Trust Management Committee.

12. Date of future meetings

Additional meeting on Tuesday 24th February at 7.45.

Scheduled meeting on Tuesday 24th March at 7.45.

The Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) was set for Thursday 16th April at 7.30 in the church.

Judy Nightingale thanked everyone who had helped with the range of Christmas services and thanked people for their attendance at this meeting.
The meeting closed at 9.20 with The Grace.