

Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2015

St Mary the Virgin Linton

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Present:

Mrs J Nightingale (Chair), Mrs N Collard, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mr A Gore, Mr M Holden, Mr D Keys, Mr D Lockstone, Mrs L Mordue, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Dr D Parry-Smith, Mrs J Smith, Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden), Mr M Younger.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

Mrs N Blackmore, Mrs H Foote, Mrs G Powell, Mrs R Read.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meetings on 24th March 2015 and following the APCM on 16th April 2015 were accepted and signed. Judy Nightingale thanked the secretary for efficient and concise minutes.

4. Matters Arising

July 2014 – item 5. Online shopping – Molly Warrington has individually registered for the Give As You Live scheme, whereby a percentage of online spending with various retailers is paid to the church. See <https://workwithus.giveasyoulive.com> for information. The link for registration needs to be circulated as widely as possible via the pew sheet and website. There are a large number of St Mary's schools and churches and our specific name is The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Mary The Virgin, Linton, Diocese Of Ely.

March 2015 – item 11. Review of Guidance for Garden of Remembrance leaflet. Molly Warrington had emailed an updated leaflet. This was approved, subject to a couple of minor amendments. Andrew Gore offered to produce a number of photocopies in colour.

March 2015 – item 13.1. Chancel Repair Liability – Joan Smith said that she would like to know precisely what information was still required and asked for authorisation to write to the Diocesan Secretary. Judy Nightingale asked Joan to liaise with John Thorne as he indicated at the last meeting that he would be in contact with the Diocesan Secretary.

March 2015 – item 15. Fees for funerals – Sue Mudge had written to H J Paintin and had received a reply asking what fee was proposed to cover heating. It had been £17 for a number of years. It tends to need 1.5 days heating to warm the church sufficiently for a funeral and a rough calculation of the cost indicated that £20 would be more appropriate. Sue will reply accordingly.

5. Committee membership

5.1. Standing Committee

The Standing Committee last year consisted of the two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Lay-Chair and Hannah Foote. The Incumbent would also be a member. These members were proposed by Andrew Gore and seconded by Lucie Mordue.

5.2. Finance Committee (Finance and Stewardship Committee)

Michael Holden proposed that the Finance Committee and the Stewardship Committee should be combined as their subject matter was irrevocably linked and if left as two committees, time would be wasted by liaising and checking what the other was doing. Michael further proposed that the membership should be the Incumbent, the two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, Michael Holden, Michael Younger and Sue Mudge. This was seconded by Joan Smith and agreed by those present.

5.3. Fabric Committee

This has comprised Andrew Gore, John Thorne and John Organ. Andrew said that Keith Nightingale had offered and would be an asset. Andrew also commented that any other members of the

congregation with an interest in old buildings would be welcome.

5.4. Events Committee

Molly Warrington said that she felt that there had been a need for an events or social committee for some time and this was emphasised by comments at the APCM. It would have outreach benefits as well as bringing together different groups within the church. Molly recommended that an invitation to participate should be issued to the wider congregation and that Pam Richardson would be an ideal person to chair the committee.

Action Molly Warrington

6. Appointments

6.1. PCC representatives to The Anderson Trust

John Organ and Linda Read are the current representatives and are willing to continue, although both have finished their term of office on the PCC. The PCC endorsed the appointments, subject to checking the terms of the Trust. Gill Powell is the Chair of The Trust and also on the PCC. Members of The Trust meet once per year in February to allocate grants. The PCC missed applying last time, partly because there was no obvious specific project for which to request money. It was suggested that it should be on the September agenda so that an application can be considered and submitted in time.

6.2. PCC representatives to the Parish Council Joint Churchyard Maintenance Committee

Andrew Gore said that he and John Organ are both willing to continue and the PCC resolved to make the appointments.

6.3. Infant School Governor

Claire Revans' term of office as a DBE Foundation Governor ends in May. Sue Mudge reported that she had met with Claire to discuss her re-appointment. Claire is a TA at the school and her third child is currently a pupil there. Lawrence Powell, Chair of Governors, had told Sue that Claire was a valued and enthusiastic governor and he recommended her re-appointment. The PCC agreed to nominate Claire Revans to the Diocesan Board of Education for a further four year term.

6.4. Sidesperson

Judy Nightingale reported that Derek Moss had volunteered to help with sidesperson duties at the 8.00 service. The PCC agreed to add his name to the list approved at the APCM.

7. Flower Festival update

Nanette was absent due to illness. She had requested that PCC members volunteered to supply an item for a luxury hamper for the raffle and her list of suggested items was passed round.

8. Finance and Stewardship report

Financial figures for the first quarter of the year had been circulated. Michael Holden said that the figures were more dire than had been expected. The decline in income which was identified a year ago had not been reversed. The PCC had discussed having a stewardship Sunday or series of days but had not agreed on the best approach. Some members had felt that spiritual needs would not be met if sermons were devoted to talking about money.

Molly Warrington responded with a set of notes detailing the budgeted expenditure. She had grouped together areas of spending and related them to the PCC's agreed priorities – a very helpful way of presenting the figures – together with comments regarding the potential impact if expenditure is cut.

Michael Younger said that he agreed that stewardship is part of a wider vision including time and talents as well as money but he suggested that we must prioritise money for the next six months otherwise we will not be able to address the deficit. Michael presented a paper giving initial thoughts about stewardship and suggested points for action. Michael asked the PCC to agree the proposals. He will prepare a letter for each member on the electoral roll, presenting the information

in a positive way and asking for help so that we can support the new Incumbent in mission to the community. There was general assent and relief that Michael is addressing the issues, though he stressed that he needed the full support and backing of all PCC members if the deficit was to be tackled. David Parry-Smith proposed that we organise a gift day as soon as possible to redress the immediate problem. Judy Nightingale recommended that the PCC should accept, adopt and embrace Michael's report and she asked the Finance and Stewardship Committee to set a date for the gift day.

9. Fabric Committee Report

A report had been circulated. Andrew Gore asked people to notify him of any matters which may require discussion with the architect for the forthcoming QI inspection.

The work in the north porch is now finished. PCC members commented favourably on the improved step-free access and good appearance. The secretary was asked to write to Bakers of Danbury thanking them for their work and complimenting Terry Sawyer on his pleasant and patient manner when dealing with questions from interested passers-by.

Andrew circulated a picture of a possible design for cycle stands which could be sited adjacent to the tower. Andrew intends to investigate funding from the Parish Council.

10. Pavilion and Peace Garden

Issues surrounding responsibilities for the area had been resolved by email.

11. Deanery Synod report

Andrew Gore had circulated a report from the 21st April meeting. The PCC was pleased to note that Anne Parry-Smith had offered to be Deanery Secretary from the 15th June. All parishes in the Deanery have paid their 2014/15 Parish Share in full, generating a rebate to be offset against the 2015/16 Share.

The main discussion at the meeting concerned the Pilling Report on the Church's approach to human sexuality and the concept of 'generous disagreement'.

Attention was drawn to the Deanery services on 14th May at Harston for Ascension Day, 8th June at Abington for confirmation and a celebration of Keith Johnson's 50th anniversary on 31st May at Balsham.

12. Arrangements concerning incoming Rector

Molly Warrington reported that arrangements for the Induction Service on Thursday 2nd July were proceeding. There is a set service for the occasion. The Rural Dean is on holiday. Molly has provisionally booked the Infant School hall for a reception after the service. The churchwardens are due to meet Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite at the end of May. Maggie has moved her intended holiday from July to September to facilitate her move to Linton.

Molly has booked clergy to take services until the end of June.

13. Any Other Business

13.1. Meet and Greet – Sunday 10 a.m.

Judy Nightingale said that there had been a suggestion to re-introduce people to meet and greet at the church door or in the porch. However, the feeling from the PCC was that the sidespeople giving out books already fulfil this role.

13.2. Coach trip

Sue Mudge raised an item from Pam Richardson. Pam would like to run a coach trip to the seaside and requested that the PCC might underwrite the cost. Although it would be a lovely social occasion, in view of the earlier finance discussion, members felt that underwriting the cost would not be appropriate. Sue offered to talk to Pam to explore cost, dates, potential numbers, whether groups could share cars etc.

14. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 21st July was shown to be the date suitable for most people and also for Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite.

The meeting closed with The Grace at 10.10.