

St Mary the Virgin Linton
Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2016

Present:

Mrs J Nightingale (Chair), The Revd. Dr Maggie Guite, Mrs N Blackmore, Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mrs H Foote, Mr A Gore, Mr M Holden, Mr D Lockstone, Mrs L Mordue, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Dr D Parry-Smith, Mrs G Powell, Mrs R Read, Mrs J Smith, Mr J Thorne (Churchwarden), Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden), Mr M Younger.

Also present for item 3: Mr R Silk.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs N Collard.

3. Beacon Trust Presentation

Mr Richard Silk (Trustee) had kindly agreed to talk to the PCC about the history of the Trust and youth work in Linton. The Beacon Trust was formed in 2008 to manage Christian youth work in a co-ordinated way across the three churches and to raise funds for the activities. The original Trustees were Richard Silk, Will Crowhurst, Sharon Whittle, Sue Filby and Ivor Morgan-Jones. Louise Woolcock was appointed as youth worker. Additional funding was found to employ Adrian Rose part time. Louise and Adrian married and later, when they moved from Linton, Nicole Tweed was employed and then Barry Easton succeeded her. People were unwilling to become Trustees and a management group was formed in 2011 in order to involve more church people. A number of volunteers also helped and supported the youth work activities. The funding was primarily from the churches, some individuals and The Anderson Trust. Around £30,000 per year was required. Funding for secular youth work was withdrawn by the County Council and this element was added to Barry's workload, funded by the Parish Council. The secular work was centred on the Village College, the drop-in centre on the recreation ground and the streets of Linton. When Barry left in July 2015, the Parish Council funding enabled Malcolm Coxall to be employed to cover the secular element until April 2016. There have been changes in Trustees and the current three remaining are Richard, Sharon and Will. Richard said that it was now a good time to review the work and composition of the Trust. Trustees intend to wind up the current Trust and hand over to a new group of people from April 2016. Stephen Munday and Al Woods are keen to set up an incorporated Trust in a similar manner to those operating for youth work in other areas of South Cambridgeshire.

Richard was thanked for explaining the situation and he then left the meeting.

4. Minutes of last meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of December 1st 2015 was proposed by Gill Powell, seconded by John Thorne and agreed by the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

December 2015 – item 6. Beacon Trust – discussion following Richard Silk's presentation showed that there was concern that St Mary's should be represented on the Trust while the existing one is dissolved and the new arrangements implemented. The PCC agreed to nominate Maggie Guite as a Trustee to replace Ed Clark, with immediate effect. The secretary was asked to communicate this to Richard Silk and also to request a copy of the current Trust Deed. It was also desirable that St Mary's and the Free Church should nominate the same number of Trustees in future.

Action SM

December 2015 – item 10. All-age Eucharist – it was noted that the first of these services on the second Sunday in January had been well attended. Feedback after the service had been very positive.

6. Finance and Stewardship report

Sue Ellis said that the committee had not met since the last PCC but preparation of the end of year accounts indicated that income exceeded expenditure by around £1,600 which is an impressive result. The Sterling Bond had not performed well but that was in line with stock market trends. It should be noted that a balanced budget had been set for 2016 so the PCC must still monitor expenditure carefully. Judy Nightingale formally thanked Sue Ellis, Michael Younger and the F&S committee for managing the finances in a difficult year and producing such a satisfactory outcome.

7. Fabric Committee Report

Discussion was based on the report previously circulated from Andrew Gore.

South roof – option B was agreed, subject to additional checks being acceptable.

North roof – the PCC accepted the recommendation that no further work is undertaken.

Boiler room sink – the fabric committee was asked to look at the wider issue of hot and cold water supply in the church.

Footpath – the Parish Council had agreed that the repair work would be done within the next two weeks.

Trees – a meeting had taken place on 12th January with the SCDC tree officer, the chair of the PC, the PC tree warden, John Thorne and Andrew Gore. Andrew reported verbally that the SCDC tree officer proposed drawing up a planting scheme for the area south of the gate, to be implemented after the wall has been repaired. There is still some debate about whether the laurel roots damaged the wall near the garden of remembrance. The informal reports from the contractor who mended the wall were contradictory. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the PC to reiterate that the laurels should only be removed if they were causing damage and that if removed, replacement bushes should be planted immediately as it was important to the PCC that the garden afforded some degree of privacy for parishioners. The garden has an important pastoral role and decisions should not be based solely relating to the aesthetic view of the church. It should also be requested that the PCC approves the planting scheme.

Action SM / JN

Pavilion – the PCC authorised Andrew Gore and Brian Cox to liaise over the final position of the Monday Gang shed.

Choir / music group area – a report had been submitted from Alan Clarkson and Bruce Conochie covering lighting, sound and visibility. It was agreed that the area needed better lighting but opinions differed as to what type. It was suggested that the Diocese should be approached for the names of two companies who would quote for appropriate lighting schemes.

Action AG

The lectern obstructed the view from the choir to the priest at the nave altar. Judy Nightingale said that discussion about the eagle should be deferred to another meeting as it was listed by NADFAS in the church Inventory and could not easily be re-positioned.

It was agreed to try Andrew's suggestion of rubber mats under the pews in order to minimise the uneven floor and also to acquire a quotation to replace the rather shabby radiator shelves.

Action AG

Sound system – Simon Roper's report had been circulated and was discussed in some detail. It was agreed to implement the no-cost options immediately and assess the results to see if other aspects were required in order to improve the quality of the sound for the congregation.

It is essential that some way is found to open the locked equipment cabinet. Smart Audio, the company which installed the system, cannot do a review until February due to other commitments.

8. Events committee report

Pam Richardson had circulated the recent committee meeting minutes. The PCC approved the idea of a barn dance in church. There were reservations about having a bar but it was agreed that wine, beer and cider could be offered along with free soft drinks. It was proposed that the event should be on a Friday not Saturday (for ease of preparing the church for Sunday) but this was defeated by 12 votes for Saturday, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Flower festival – the committee asked the PCC to reconsider the proposed weekend of 8-10th July as several people will be away. It was suggested that the festival could fit around the wedding scheduled for 2nd July. However, Maggie Guite explained that the earlier weekend also clashed with the ordination of our new curate, Nicola Bown, and a potential welcome lunch and the same would happen in 2017. It was therefore agreed that the flower festival would be 8-10th July 2016 and also set for 7-9th July 2017. Nanette Blackmore asked for ideas for the theme. Maggie Guite suggested ‘journeys’.

9. Rector’s report

Easter services – Maggie said that she was planning a Maundy Thursday service which would include washing of the feet, Stations of the Cross on Good Friday (not Palm Sunday), Easter vigil on Holy Saturday, possibly early prayers on Rivey Hill at around 8.00 (joint event with URC as per events report) as well as 8.00 and 10.00 services on Easter Day. The Rivey Hill prayers would be followed by a bacon butty breakfast in the URC hall, to which Maggie hoped that members of St Mary’s 8.00 congregation would be invited. Note that the clocks go forward to summer time on 27th March, Easter Sunday.

Maggie is also planning a Lent course, to run both in the daytime and evening.

10. People Fully Alive – Diocesan Strategy

Discussion was deferred until the March meeting

11. Correspondence

There was none.

12. Any other business

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was set for Sunday 24th April 2016 following the 10.00 service.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 3rd March 2016.

The meeting closed with The Grace.