

St Mary the Virgin Linton
Minutes of PCC Meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2016

Present:

The Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite (Chair), Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mr M Holden, Mrs G Fraser Lee, Dr C Morse, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Mrs J Nightingale, Mr J Organ, Dr D Parry-Smith, Mrs G Powell, Mrs R Read, Mrs L Richardson, Miss R Richardson, Mr J Thorne (Churchwarden), Dr M Warrington (Churchwarden), Mr M Younger.

1. Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs N Blackmore, Mr A Gore, Mr D Lockstone and Mrs P Richardson. Maggie Guite welcomed members who were newly elected at the APCM.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of 3rd March 2016 and the brief post-APCM meeting on 24th April 2016 was proposed by David Parry-Smith, seconded by Gill Powell and agreed by the meeting.

4. Matters Arising, including APCM

Item 12 – David Parry-Smith commented that he had sent a list of fees to Sue Ellis prior to the F&S committee meeting.

APCM – the PCC had been asked to consider reinstating the welcoming group before the Sunday 10.00 service. Due to the long agenda, this was deferred to the next meeting.

It was noted that Lawrence Powell, Chair of the Infant School Governing Body, had asked the PCC to consider which specific skills were desirable when appointing future governors.

5. PCC elections and committees

5.1. Election of Lay Chair

Judy Nightingale was proposed by Molly Warrington, seconded by Michael Younger and agreed by those present.

5.2. Co-option of additional PCC member

Following the APCM, a space had been saved for someone who later decided that they could not take up the position. Molly Warrington therefore proposed that Sue Mudge, Secretary, should be co-opted. This was seconded by Gill Powell and agreed.

5.3. Standing Committee

The Church Representation Rules stipulate that a Standing Committee should consist of not less than five persons and include the minister and churchwardens. ‘The Standing Committee shall have power to transact the business of the council between meetings thereof subject to any directions given by the minister.’ Other members of the committee last year were the Lay Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Hannah Foote. Hannah’s term of office had ended. Linda Richardson was proposed by John Organ and seconded by Judy Nightingale. Linda and the other members of the committee listed above were elected.

5.4. Fabric Committee

The committee composed of Andrew Gore, John Thorne, John Organ and Keith Nightingale was re-elected en bloc – proposed by David Parry-Smith, seconded by Michael Holden.

Chris Morse also offered his services – proposed by Judy Nightingale, seconded by Michael Younger and elected.

5.5. Finance and Stewardship committee

The committee composed of Sue Ellis (Treasurer), the Rector, the Churchwardens, Hannah Foote, Sue Mudge and Michael Younger (Stewardship Officer) were re-elected en bloc – proposed by Rebecca Richardson and seconded by John Organ.

5.6. Events Committee

The terms of reference state that the chair shall be elected by the PCC and other members of the committee shall be invited or volunteer themselves. Pam Richardson was willing to continue as Chair – proposed by Gill Powell, seconded by Sue Mudge and duly elected.

6. Appointments

6.1. PCC representatives to The Anderson Trust

Two representatives are required to be PCC members. David Parry-Smith was willing to continue. Rosemary Read was proposed by Chris Morse, seconded by Linda Richardson and appointed in place of Nicola Collard.

6.2. PCC representatives to Parish Council Joint Churchyard Maintenance committee

Andrew Gore and John Organ were willing to continue and were proposed by Gill Fraser Lee, seconded by Sue Mudge and appointed for a further year.

7. People Fully Alive – Diocesan strategy discussion feedback

Maggie Guite gave a resume of the strategy for the benefit of new members. The five levers for change are:

1. Nurture a confident people of God
2. Develop healthy churches and leaders
3. Serve the community
4. Re-imagine our buildings
5. Target support to key areas.

Two discussion groups were formed at the last meeting, led by David Parry-Smith (levers 1 and 2) and Molly Warrington (levers 3 and 4). The groups were advertised in the pew sheet as open to anyone and both groups have met once.

David Parry-Smith presented his paper relating to lever 1 and explained that further meetings were planned as the topic could not be neatly resolved in a single session. Molly Warrington had also circulated a paper from the initial discussion of lever 3. Some common themes emerged, e.g. doing an audit of existing groups and activities; suggesting what might happen in the future; identifying skills and gifts within the church family. A skills audit should not be the end result but merely a step in the process of deciding how to use people's skills and hence identify where further training and help would be required. A skills register would need updating at regular intervals which would also provide an opportunity to add new people.

A potential timeline was discussed, which resulted in the following proposals.

Consult Sunday (8 a.m. and 10 a.m.) and Thursday congregations with concrete suggestions, starting Sunday 16th October.

Have a PCC and Ministry Team away-day to focus on specific proposals and form the Mission Action Plan – Saturday 12th November. Sue Mudge was asked to investigate possible venues. Gill Fraser Lee offered her skills in facilitating training.

Agenda items 8 and 10 – The Deanery Synod plus Ministry share Allocation and the Fabric report were moved to the end of the agenda to allow Andrew Gore to be present.

8. Rector's report

Maggie Guite said that there had been no response to the Team Vicar advertisement. Maggie had met with the Archdeacon to consider options. It may be possible to put lay ministers into house for duty positions. Maggie is concerned about the lack of pastoral care for the team villages. Readers may be able to offer a service of the word every two months. Michael Younger suggested that the Diocese could let the house in Castle Camps and use the income to fund pastoral work. Or could Lesley Gore spread her time more widely as the current position focussing only on Bartlow seemed rather inequitable? Michael also wondered whether the Bishop would licence communion by extension to cover the particular circumstances of no appointment being possible. Maggie agreed to ask the Archdeacon to investigate.

Nicola Bown is due to be ordained Curate on 3rd July. A Team Evensong in Bartlow is planned for 31st July, led by Maggie with Nicola preaching.

9. Finance and Stewardship report

Details of the income, expenditure and balance sheet for the first quarter of the year had been circulated. Michael Younger pointed out that the gift-aided income is still heavily dependent on a few substantial donors. Three standing orders had ceased which amounted to around £400 per month. There had been increases from other people which meant that the loss was reduced to £150. The amount from the envelope scheme had increased and it was hoped that some people may be persuaded to move to a standing order as it is easier administratively for the treasurer. The financial overview is broadly positive but with a few warning signs.

Chris Morse queried whether a designated contingency for fabric of £15,000 was necessary since The Friends hold a much larger sum which could be made available in an emergency. Sue Ellis commented that there may be an opportunity to move some of the money on deposit into ethical investments.

10. Events committee report

Pam Richardson had circulated the recent committee meeting minutes to inform the PCC of future plans. Following a query, Molly Warrington offered to circulate the terms of reference for this committee and also the F&S and Fabric committees.

Andrew Gore joined the meeting

11. Deanery Synod report and Ministry Share Allocation discussion

Papers had been circulated from Anne Parry-Smith, Deanery Secretary, asking parishes to consider two methods of calculating ministry share and vote on certain resolutions before the next Deanery Synod in early July. Michael Younger had circulated some questions which arose from the Deanery papers and he was particularly concerned about the lack of transparency between the Diocese and Deaneries. Andrew Gore presented some notes which attempted to simplify the issues.

Andrew explained that direct clergy costs accounted for 5/8ths of the Diocesan funds and this is funded by Deaneries. The wider ministry costs include training and legal fees. Parishes pay 2/3rds of the cost and the Diocese 1/3rd. 'Investing for the future' is 100% funded by the

Diocese and includes provision for new churches and mission. It is expected that the new model for parish calculations will be implemented in 5 or 6 years.

After some discussion, the PCC moved to vote on the resolutions, in spite of some members feeling that they did not have a good grasp of the background and the issues.

Resolution 1: *That 40% of the cost of the Sawston/Babraham post and 20% of the cost of the Great Shelford post should be funded as a shared responsibility by all Parishes in the Deanery.*

In favour – 0, Against – 7, Abstentions – 7, Not voting – 2.

Resolution 2: *That ‘Target Shares’ will be calculated for each Parish and updated each year with Shared Costs allocated by a) number of clergy posts or b) number of church members.*

In favour of a) clergy posts – 0

In favour of b) number of church members – 11, Against – 0, Abstentions – 3, Not voting – 2.

Resolution 3: *That each year the Ministry Share will be calculated for each Parish using a) stepped increases to bring the Parish to its Target Share in Year 5 or b) the same capped increase for all Parishes currently below their Target Share.*

In favour of a) stepped increases – 4, Against – 0, Abstentions – 9, Not voting – 2.

In favour of b) capped increases – 1.

12. Fabric Committee Report and sound system

No written report from Andrew Gore, following his eye operation.

The Parish Council had said that they have no responsibility for the churchyard paths. Andrew had asked the clerk to check previous minutes to explain this.

Trees – The Parish Council had rejected the suggestion of a survey by Hayden’s Arboricultural Consultants for possible planting programmes for the area alongside the church wall and near to the memorial garden. The council thought that the quote of £540.50 was too high and that perhaps more local contractors could be invited to quote – letter to the Secretary 31st March 2016.

The Monday Gang had subsequently offered to recommend shrubs to replace the spotted laurels and also suggested that trellis panels were erected near the Garden of Remembrance to provide screening until the shrubs had grown – email to the Secretary 24th March 2016. The PCC agreed.

Sound system – a progress report from Simon Roper had been circulated but consideration was deferred to the next PCC meeting as earlier items had already made the meeting too long.

13. Correspondence

Sue Mudge reported that David and Anne Parry-Smith had kindly offered to co-ordinate the annual Ride, Drive and Stride day on Saturday 10th September organised by Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. People should be encouraged to enter as part of the money raised comes back to the individual’s church.

14. Any Other Business

14.1. Fair Trade

David Parry-Smith reminded the PCC that St Mary’s is a Fair Trade Church and requested that Fair Trade coffee be used at church events.

14.2. Barry Wallman

It was announced that Barry Wallman had died suddenly the previous day. He was a loyal supporter of the 8.00 a.m. Sunday service and acted as Deacon two or three times a month. It was recommended that Keith Nightingale be authorised as deacon and chalice assistant – proposed by David Parry-Smith, seconded by Michael Younger and agreed by the meeting.

15. Meeting dates for 2016 - 2017

The following dates have been set:

Tuesday 12th July,
Thursday 8th September,
Tuesday 15th November,
Thursday 10th January,
Tuesday 14th March.

The meeting closed with The Grace.