

# St Mary the Virgin Linton



Annual Parish Vestry Meeting  
followed by  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.45pm  
in the Church

# St Mary the Virgin, Linton

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# **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

## **1. AGENDA**

### **Part A-Vestry Meeting**

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016
3. Election of Churchwardens

### **Part B- Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report 2016 - 2017
5. Financial report, followed by appointment of Independent Examiner
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Election of PCC Members
10. Appointment of Sideswomen and Sidesmen
11. Appointment of Deanery Synod Representatives
12. Reports from Committees and Organisations
13. Rector's Report
14. Questions from the floor
15. Closing Prayers

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### **2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISHIONERS' VESTRY MEETING, THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

The meeting, held in the Church, began at 11.15 with prayers. Forty-five parishioners were present.

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were accepted as a correct record.

#### **Election of Churchwardens**

There were two nominations for Churchwarden: John Thorne and Molly Warrington. Both were willing to continue serving as Churchwardens and they were unanimously re-elected. The Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite, Rector, thanked them for their dedication and contribution to the life of the Church and Parish.

The meeting, held in the Church, began at 7.30pm with prayers. Forty parishioners were present.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

#### **Apologies**

A Foote, H Foote, L Mordue, C Morse, D Morse and D Thurston.

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were accepted and signed with no amendments.

#### **Matters arising**

Comments relating to the lack of social activities had been discussed at the first meeting of the new PCC in May 2015 and resulted in the formation of the Events Committee. Led by Pam Richardson, the committee had been very active and had organised an extensive programme of events. A report of activities was presented to each PCC meeting.

The suggestion of re-forming the welcoming group for Sunday 10.00 services had been discussed by the PCC but it had been agreed that sidespeople performed this role and that no action should be taken. Sarah Thorne said that she felt that there was an additional need for such a group and asked that the PCC should reconsider. This was supported by Gill Powell - and would be put on a PCC agenda.

#### **Parochial Church Council Report 2015 - 2016**

The PCC met six times during the year. One of the first actions was to form a new events committee, following comments at the 2015 annual meeting. The committee was very proactive and organised a wide range of social occasions throughout the year and also provided refreshments after a number of special services.

Michael Younger had been appointed stewardship officer and had worked with the treasurer to hold a gift day and also encouraged church members to review their regular giving. The PCC was extremely pleased with the positive response, which reversed a downward trend and turned a potential deficit into a small surplus by the end of the financial year.

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The Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite was welcomed as Team Rector in Linton at the start of July with a very well attended service of institution and induction, followed by a reception in the infant school hall. It was the start of the flower festival weekend, which was successful in social terms as well as raising more than £4,700.

The PCC was sad to learn that Barry Easton, youth worker, was leaving his post in July after spending three years in Linton. The Beacon Community Trust took the opportunity to review the provision of youth work in the village and the operation of the Trust. The PCC invited one of the original Trustees to speak at the January meeting to explain the plans for the future.

The Diocesan strategy 'People Fully Alive' was launched in September 2015, following a consultation period of almost a year. Parishes were encouraged to use the proposals to shape their own worship and activities and to review the role of the church in the community. Discussion on how to proceed was the main topic at the March meeting and resulted in two working groups being set up, composed of some PCC members and open to anyone in the congregation.

The Diocese of Ely offers training courses in specific areas of vocation for parish-based people to become Authorised Lay Ministers (ALM). Appointments are renewed every four years. In 2015 the PCC was pleased to support the reappointment of Sue Filby, Pam Richardson, John Thorne and Sarah Thorne.

The PCC received regular reports from the committees – Finance and Stewardship, Fabric, Events – and also from the Deanery Synod representatives. The reports inform members of progress, generate discussion and request approval for action where appropriate.

### **Financial Review**

Sue Ellis, treasurer, highlighted the fact that the total income for 2015 was £141,582 – an increase of 76% from the previous year. However, of this total, £39,370 came from donations from The Friends of St Mary's and the Parish Council. Excluding that figure, regular income rose by 27% which was still a substantial achievement and reflected the stewardship effort to reverse the downward trend of the previous year. A gift day had raised £7927 and regular giving increased by almost £8000 with additional funds recovered through Gift Aid.

Expenditure was £147,624, an increase of £52,032 from 2014, but the cost of church repairs was £46,274. This was offset by the funding from The Friends of St Mary's as above. The parish share accounted for 52% of regular outgoings. The PCC is committed to paying this sum in full but it presents a major challenge as the Diocese increases the figure each year.

In budgeting beyond the parish share, the PCC prioritised expenditure on:

- providing a welcoming, warm and well-maintained space for services;
- supporting the valuable work undertaken with Linton's young people, through the Beacon Trust;
- providing administrative support, important to free up time for the incumbent to spend on pastoral activities or, during the vacancy, to ensure communication channels between church and community remain open;

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- ensuring worship is meaningful and accessible to a diversity of people through, for example, the provision of music to accompany services, printing new service sheets where appropriate, or photocopying materials;
- maintaining the Pavilion as both a meeting space and an asset;
- as a reflection of God's generous giving to us, giving back a proportion of income to those in need.

The income and expenditure was presented in the form of pie charts and also in detailed accounts. Sue Ellis thanked Molly Warrington and Michael Younger, respectively, for producing the pie charts and the text in the report.

Michael Younger had been appointed stewardship officer by the PCC during 2015 and his role had been invaluable in encouraging members of the church to review their regular giving and hence increasing income to allow the church to meet the ongoing regular expenditure. However, Michael spoke to the meeting and said that while the finances appeared to be in a much better position, there was no room for complacency as expenditure was already very restricted. Also if a few regular donors stopped for whatever reason, then the income would dip again. There was very little spare money to develop any new initiatives within the Church. Michael thanked Sue Ellis and the Finance and Stewardship committee.

The meeting unanimously accepted the reappointment of Mr Andrew Cohen as the Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2015.

### **Electoral Roll Report**

Pam Richardson had taken responsibility for the electoral roll after Lucie Mordue resigned. There were 142 on the roll. Some members had died or moved away, other names had been added giving a total of 144 when the figure was submitted for the APCM report. However, Pam informed the meeting that people had continued to complete the enrolment forms and there were now 153 names.

The next full review is due in 2019 - these are carried out every six years. It should be noted that support for St Mary's cannot be solely based on the people included on the electoral roll. There are many who regularly attend services and other events at St Mary's who do not wish to be included on the roll. Further, there are many people in the parish who consider St Mary's to be 'their church' but may not regularly attend and who are also not on the roll. You can be added to the electoral roll if you have been baptised and are over 16 and either: 'live in the parish', 'live outside the parish and have attended St Mary's for 6 months' or 'are a member of good standing at another church and have attended St Mary's for 6 months'.

### **Fabric Report**

The written report focussed on the Church fabric and furnishings, the pavilion and the churchyard. The 2015 QI report had identified mostly external work. It had been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the architect was preparing a specification to invite tenders, after which the faculty can be sought.

The area behind the pavilion had been laid to lawn with some paving and a boundary hedge planted. Volunteer work in the Peace Garden had continued and there was still more to do before sowing grass would be possible.

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Responsibility for the churchyard was transferred to the Parish Council some years ago and they have already spent in excess of £40,000 on maintenance. The southern part of the west wall was still to be repaired. It had been accepted that roots from the laurel bushes were damaging the lime mortar in the wall and therefore the laurels should be removed. A replacement planting scheme was not yet identified.

Andrew Gore, Chair of the Fabric Committee, thanked members of the committee and also the volunteer helpers.

### **Deanery Synod Report**

Andrew Gore and Derek Lockstone represent Linton on the Deanery Synod. The term of office runs from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2017. Anne Parry-Smith had offered to be Deanery Secretary and took up the role in June. The three meetings each had a different focus: a discussion of The Pilling report on the Church's approach to human sexuality; the finances of the Deanery and the seemingly opaque way of calculating the Parish share; a presentation from Archdeacon Alex Hughes on the Diocesan strategy 'People Fully Alive' prior to it being presented to parishes for their consideration.

Andrew Gore spoke to members at the APCM about the way in which parish shares were calculated and the various inequalities across the Diocese. Different options were being considered. Members suggested that the PCC should express concern to the Diocese but then it was accepted that the Deanery Synod was the correct channel. The PCC was asked to consider the matter and take it further if necessary.

### **Election of Parochial Church Council members**

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

*Elected in 2014:* Mrs N Blackmore, Mr M Holden, Mrs J Nightingale, Mrs G Powell, Mrs R Read.

*Elected in 2015:* Mrs L Mordue, Dr D Parry-Smith, Mr M Younger

Treasurer (co-opted): Mrs S Ellis

Churchwardens (ex-officio): Mr J Thorne, Dr M Warrington

Mrs H Foote, Mrs S Mudge and Mrs J Smith stood down, having completed their three year term of office. Mrs L Mordue also stood down, having moved out of Linton. Mr D Keys and Mrs N Collard (Lay Readers) had resigned during the year.

Maggie Guite extended thanks to those people for their service.

The electoral roll number allows for up to 12 elected members.

Six nominations had been received for five places: Mrs G Fraser Lee, Dr C Morse, Mr J Organ, Mrs L Richardson, Mrs P Richardson and Miss R Richardson, (two of whom were unable to be present). It was suggested that one person could be co-opted for one year and the other five people could be elected for a standard three year term. Mrs P Richardson generously offered to stand aside and be the co-opted person. Maggie Guite proposed that the election be held as above, seconded by Andrew Gore – and agreed by those present. Michael Younger voted against and wished to record that he felt the election of new members should have aimed for diversity and he felt that this had not been achieved.

### **Appointment of Sideswomen and Sidesmen**

The names of those already appointed were read out. Linda Richardson volunteered to join the rota to help at 8.00 and Hilary Angetter for 10.00. These two additions were proposed by Linda Read, seconded by Molly Warrington and were agreed by the meeting.

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### **Appointment of Deanery Synod Representative**

No appointments were needed as Andrew Gore and Derek Lockstone were appointed in 2014 for a three year term.

### **Reports from Committees and Organisations**

Reports were posted on the website as well as included in the 2016 APCM booklet and were received from the following groups.

Bell ringers

Beacon Trust Youth Work – The resignation of Barry Easton, youth worker, had allowed the Beacon Community Trust to review its scope and method of operation. The original Trust had been closed and a new Beacon Youth Trust with limited liability was in the process of being set up. A new set of Trustees include Maggie Guite and Hannah Foote from St Mary's. The secular youth work had been able to continue by employing two experienced youth workers part time. The new Trustees hope to appoint a full-time youth worker or two part time people from September to cover both Christian and secular youth activities.

Junior Church and crèche – Nicola Collard's report explained that Junior Church was ceasing to run after April due to lack of helpers. Gill Powell spoke and said that she really hoped that Junior Church would be able to start again and she urged everyone to consider whether they might be able to help.

Linton C E Infant School – Lawrence Powell added to his report and said that two candidates had recently been interviewed for the post of headteacher. Lawrence also asked that when appointing Foundation Governors, the PCC might consider what specific skills were needed by the Governing Body.

Messy Church

Mothers Union

Mums Link

Music Ministry

School Links and Assemblies

The Friends of St. Mary's – Maggie Guite thanked The Friends for their fundraising efforts.

The Monday Gang

Tots in Tow

The Events Committee had circulated a sheet detailing their programme of activities over the past year.

Maggie Guite thanked everyone who contributes in so many ways by using their time, skills and talents for the benefit of the church activities and groups.



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### **Rector's report**

Maggie Guite read her report and copies were available later. Maggie began by expressing her thanks for making her and the family so welcome since she took up the post in July 2015. She has been immensely grateful to other clergy members and everyone who helps the ministry in various ways. She also thanked the congregation for voting at the previous APCM to address and reverse the decline in income in order to further mission and worship within the church and community.

Maggie was disappointed that a Team Vicar had not yet been appointed but she was still hopeful that the right person would be found. A Curate was expected in July and Maggie was optimistic that this would help to revive the children's ministry. In addition two licensed lay ministers from other areas would be spending more time in Linton and would be able to enhance the ministry in general.

Maggie spoke about the Diocesan Strategy, adopted by the PCC, and encouraged people to take part in the groups led by Molly Warrington and David Parry-Smith. The ideas for development will form the basis of a new mission action plan for 2017 and beyond.

### **Comments from the floor:**

David Parry-Smith said that he would also like to pass on thanks and appreciation for Malcolm Guite's ministry.

Linda Read appealed for more volunteers to help with cleaning the church and also, on behalf of Lian Watkin, for more people to join the rota to arrange flowers.

Maggie Guite added that a confirmation service was planned for 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Molly Warrington said that she had been so relieved when Maggie was appointed and the interregnum came to an end. She appreciated that the first nine months had not been easy for Maggie with no Team Vicar, other people had moved on and the restructuring of the Beacon Trust had created yet more work and meetings. Molly thanked Maggie on behalf of everyone and hoped that such issues would soon be resolved so that Maggie would have more time to devote to her priorities and longer term vision.

The meeting closed in prayer.

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### 4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2016 - 2017

#### Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Linton. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The Correspondence address is 4 Bakers Lane, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4NF. The registered charity number is 1138508.

PCC members who have served from the APCM 2016 until this report was approved are:

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite The Revd Dr N Bown, from July 2016	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mr John Thorne Dr M Warrington	
<i>Representatives to the Deanery Synod</i>	Mr A Gore Mr D Lockstone	
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs N Blackmore from APCM 2014 Mrs G Fraser Lee from APCM 2016 Mr M Holden from APCM 2014 Dr C Morse from APCM 2016 Mrs J Nightingale from APCM 2014, Lay Chair from May 2014 Mr J Organ from APCM 2016 Dr D Parry-Smith from APCM 2015 Mrs G Powell from APCM 2014 Mrs R Read from APCM 2014 Mrs L Richardson from APCM 2016 Miss R Richardson from APCM 2016 Mr M Younger from APCM 2015	
<i>Co-opted members for 1 year</i>	Mrs S Mudge from APCM 2016, Secretary from May 2014 Mrs P Richardson from APCM 2016	
<i>Ex-officio</i>	Mrs S Ellis Treasurer	

#### Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

#### Objectives and activities

St Mary the Virgin's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and for the Pavilion adjacent to the church.

#### Numerical performance in 2016

Attendances at each service are recorded and annual returns made to the Diocese of Ely. The average Sunday attendance, counted during October 2016, was 98 adults and 15 children. Average weekday service attendances in the same month comprised 79 adults and 198

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children. At Easter 2016, 231 people attended a service, while 419 people attended a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

In comparison with the previous year, there was an increase of nine in the number of adults and two more children attending a Sunday service, though these numbers include those attending a baptism, whereas there were no baptisms in October in 2015. Fewer people attended an Easter Day service than in 2015, though numbers attending a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day increased from 384 to 419 – an increase of 84% since 2014.

Attendance at weekday services was dominated by the service held weekly in term time for the church infant school and now monthly at the Junior School. The Thursday service of Holy Communion, together with regular services held in Symonds House and Nichols Court, continued to draw small congregations.

### **Review of the year**

The PCC had six scheduled meetings during the year. There was also an away-day in November and an additional meeting in February to continue developing a Mission Action Plan (MAP) for St Mary's. The Diocesan Strategy 'People Fully Alive' had been a constant agenda item during the previous year. Two working groups had been set up, formed from PCC members and other interested people, to discuss the four levers for change identified in the strategy. The two groups proposed a number of initiatives, both short term and longer term, which could develop the worship, social aspects and mission of St Mary's, both within the church family and extending into the wider community. In October the congregations were asked for their feedback on the proposals to give PCC members some idea of feasibility and support. The away-day was held at St Mark's College, Audley End, and allowed PCC and Ministry team members space to reflect on aims and objectives, timescale and potential resources – people's time, skills and financial implications. The final MAP which will be presented after the annual meeting consists of seven main objectives. It is a working document for the next five years and will be updated each year. Although created by the PCC and Ministry team, its success very much depends on everyone playing whatever part is appropriate and helping St Mary's to move forwards and engage with the community in order to grow and be an enriching, transforming Christian presence in Linton.

The financial situation is reviewed each quarter. The financial year runs from January to December. It became evident after the first quarter that the income was below budget as the value of gift aided standing orders had decreased. It was decided to hold a gift day in September and also to encourage people to undertake regular reviews of their planned giving. This action proved beneficial in covering the shortfall. Expenditure had also been closely monitored and was less than expected which resulted in a surplus at the end of the year. See the Financial Review, section 5. The PCC wish to thank Michael Younger (stewardship officer), Sue Ellis (treasurer) and members of the church for the positive outcome. The PCC agreed that some of the surplus will be directed to funding aspects of the MAP.

There has been no major expenditure on church fabric during the year but the PCC wish to thank The Friends of St Mary's who organise events in order to raise funds to contribute to the ongoing costs of maintaining the church building. See section 7 for the fabric report – and thanks are also due to Andrew Gore for leading the Fabric Committee.

The sound system in church is still being monitored. Some changes and improvements have been made. Installing a mixing desk is under consideration. It would however, need a rota of people prepared to operate it during services. The PCC is grateful to Dr Simon Roper for offering his time and expertise to advise on the various issues.

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One of the agenda items in the July meeting was a paper from the Deanery Synod outlining different ways of calculating the Deanery Share for each parish. Inevitably when a system changes, some parishes gain while others see it as a disadvantage. More details in section 8.

The Events committee continue to fulfil their brief by offering a varied range of social activities and also organising refreshments for a number of specific services and occasions – see Section 9.3. Creating the Events committee has proved a very successful initiative and thanks are due to Pam Richardson (Chair) and other committee members for enhancing church life in this way.

We were pleased to welcome The Revd Dr Nicola Bown as curate in July. Nicola has already become involved with Junior Church, Tots in Tow and regularly preaches at Sunday services. Lee Nash was appointed youth worker and began work under The Beacon Youth Trust in September, both in secular and Christian roles. At the end of January, the Revd Dr Ian Fisher was licensed as Team Vicar. That came as a great relief, not least for the smaller parishes in the team, as the post had been vacant for two years. We hope to see greater Team collaboration as well as having better support for the Rector, with a strengthened Ministry Team.

In November Moire Jarritt and Will Bowes (Bartlow) were appointed as Foundation Governors for the Infant School. The PCC also approved the renewal of Gill Powell's ALM role.

A great deal has been accomplished during the year. However, while a number of potential good ideas are discussed at meetings, it usually requires input from people to make things happen. In the absence of unlimited funds, it falls to all of us in the church family to be willing and able to give time and skills to achieve any change. The churchwardens and PCC members are all volunteers with many other demands on their time. Church does not just happen – everyone can contribute in some way! The reports from groups and activities show how much already takes place but we cannot afford to stand still. There is scope for further growth if more people are able to support and help in practical ways, by prayer, by offering hospitality and much more.

Sue Mudge  
PCC Secretary

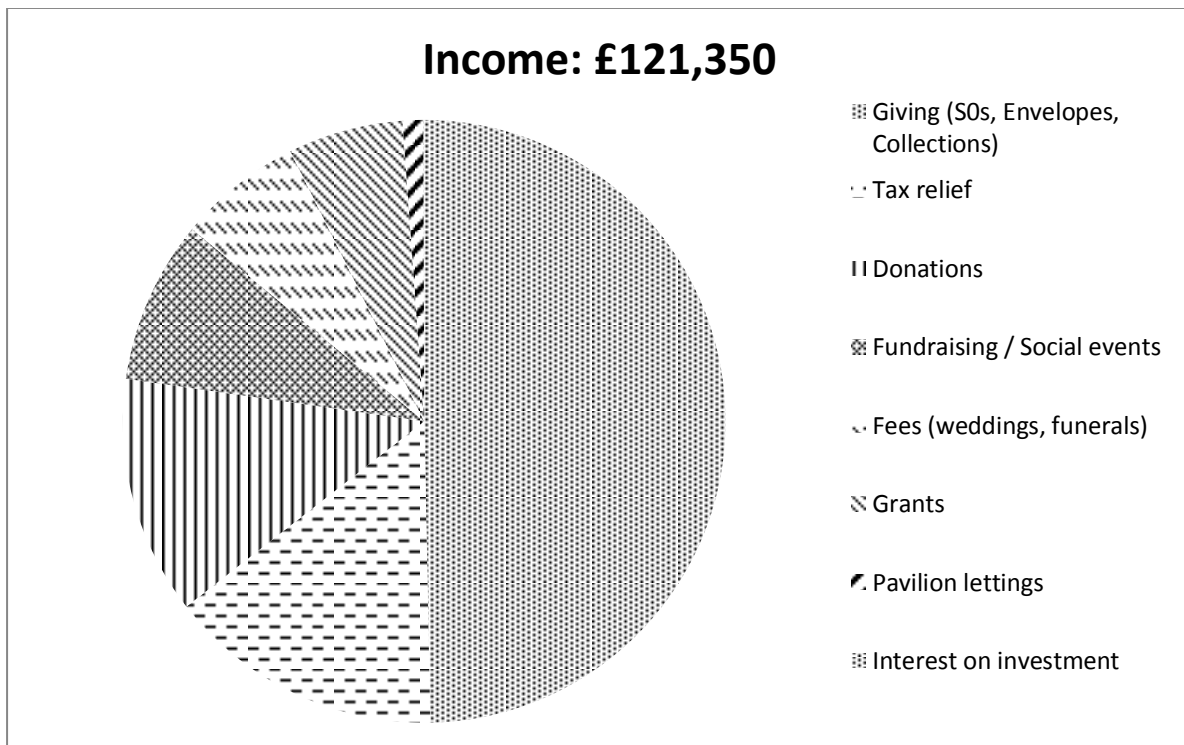
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### 5. FINANCIAL REVIEW TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2016

#### Where does the money come from?

In 2016 St Mary's received a total of £121,350 in income; of this total, £7,501 came from donations from the Friends of St Mary's, the Anderson Trust and the Parish Council and the PCC would like to express its gratitude to these organisations for their ongoing support.

The chart below shows the main sources of income and highlights the church's crucial dependence on regular giving. We have been very encouraged by the response to the Stewardship campaign; the June Gift Day raised £4,578, much of which was gift aided, and other donations brought in a further £10,587. Taken together, these donations represent an increase of 8.7% compared to 2015. In addition, regular giving (planned giving through standing orders and envelopes and collections made at services) totalled £60,277; gift aided standing orders increased by 11%, giving through envelopes by 22%, and loose plate collections by 11%. As a result, tax relief (the amount recouped on gift-aided giving) increased by £2,200 (21% compared to 2015) to almost £18,000, showing the vital importance of members of the congregation completing gift aid forms wherever possible. In addition, the £4,422 profit made by the Flower Festival was very significant amongst our fund-raising activities.



#### NOTES on Income

- Donations include all income from church boxes, gift days, general donations, some gift-aided and some of which are made in response to a special appeal (for example for the porch floor, through the Linton News).
- A set amount from each wedding and funeral is retained by the PCC.

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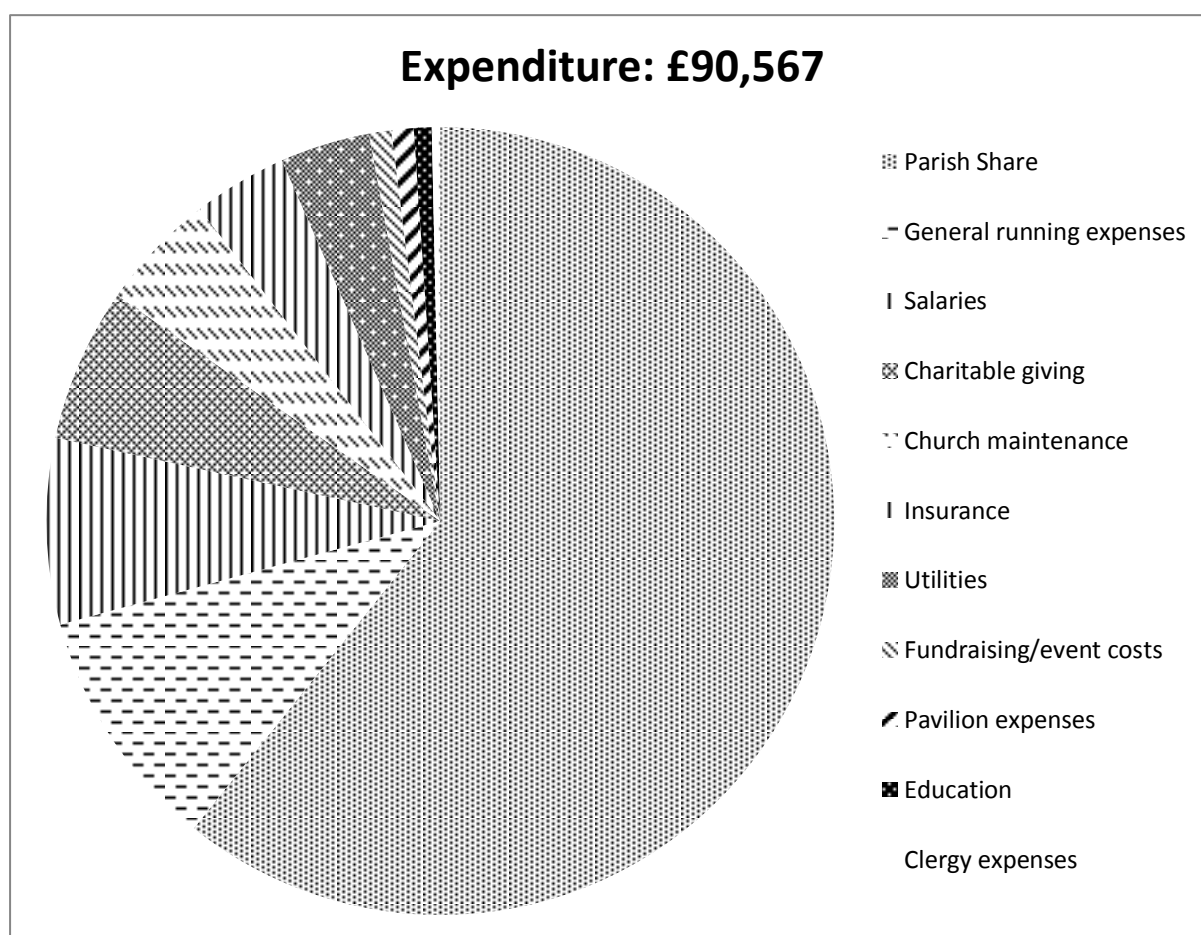
### Where does the money go?

Total expenditure during the year was £90,567, significantly less than the previous year because of reduction in expenditure on the fabric of the church, but when this is ignored, expenditure still fell by 5.6%.

As the chart below shows, the most significant part of expenditure goes on the Parish Share, which at £55,021 (a 4.3% increase on 2015), accounts for 61% of regular outgoings. The PCC is committed to paying the Share in full, principally because otherwise the Diocese would not provide us with a full-time Team Rector and House for Duty Team Vicar – but the amount requested by the Diocese continues to increase year on year and it is a major challenge to meet this commitment.

In budgeting beyond the Ministry Share, the PCC continues to prioritise expenditure on:

- providing a welcoming and well-maintained space for services;
- supporting the valuable work undertaken with Linton's young people, through the Beacon Youth Trust;
- providing administrative support, important to free up time for the incumbent to spend on pastoral activities;
- maintaining the Pavilion as both a meeting space and an asset;
- as a reflection of God's generous giving to us, giving back a proportion of income to those in need;
- developing initiatives related to the forthcoming Mission Action Plan.



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### **NOTES on Expenditure**

- General running expenses include day-to-day maintenance such as boiler and organ servicing, boiler repairs, wine, wafers and candles, photocopying and paper, reading leaflets, etc.
- Church maintenance includes major repairs and also expenditure on the churchyard and pavilion garden.

### **Summary**

The final accounts for 2016 show that income exceeded expenditure by £30,783. This is a remarkable achievement, and indicates a most successful year for which we must all be most thankful. The balance sheet includes £23,109 as a notional figure for depreciation of the Pavilion, and if this is ignored, church funds rest at £96,290, a significant increase on the final figure for 2015 (excluding the Pavilion: £61,810). This is an increase of £34,480 (56%); investments (the Sterling Bond) total £45,350 and cash in hand at the bank totals £65,823; meaning that our working capital is more than double that at the end of 2015.

### **Reserves Policy**

In 2016, the PCC, reviewing our reserves policy, agreed to retain a sum of £22,500 for urgent repairs and as contingency cover; these reserves are currently held in the sterling bond fund.

### **Financial Statements**

The financial statements which follow comprise:

- A statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year, showing all resources made available to the PCC and all expenditure incurred by it, and reconciling changes to funds.
- A return of Parish Finance which shows the same information but gives a breakdown of income and expenditure.
- A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds

### **Accounting Policies**

These accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (2005) and applicable standards. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Diocese of Ely, charity registration number 1138508.

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## St Mary's Linton Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	101,249	—	—	101,249	122,719
Activities for generating funds	10,628	—	—	10,628	8,592
Investment income	39	6	—	45	10
Incoming resources from charitable activities	9,427	—	—	9,427	10,260
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>121,344</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>121,350</b>	<b>141,582</b>
<b>Resources used</b>					
Cost of generating funds	258	—	—	258	379
Cost of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	570	—	—	570	799
Charitable activities	97,662	49	—	97,711	146,445
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total resources used</b>	<b>98,492</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>98,541</b>	<b>147,624</b>
<b>Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer</b>	<b>22,852</b>	<b>( 42)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>22,809</b>	<b>( 6,042)</b>
<b>Total resources used</b>	<b>98,492</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>98,541</b>	<b>147,624</b>
<b>Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer</b>	<b>22,852</b>	<b>( 42)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>22,809</b>	<b>( 6,042)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	8,043	5,094	—	13,138	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	( 12,926)	( 211)	—	( 13,138)	—
<b>Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses</b>	<b>17,969</b>	<b>4,840</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>22,809</b>	<b>( 6,042)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>					
Gains / losses on investment assets	3,967	—	—	3,967	( 22)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>21,936</b>	<b>4,840</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>26,776</b>	<b>( 6,064)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>90,218</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>92,622</b>	<b>98,687</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>112,155</b>	<b>7,244</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>119,399</b>	<b>92,622</b>



# St Mary the Virgin, Linton

## Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2016

Incoming Resources	2016 £	2015 £
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		
Tax efficient planned giving		
Gift Aid - Bank	43,804.00	39,453.00
Gift Aid - Envelopes	6,887.50	5,632.45
Total tax efficient planned giving	50,691.50	45,085.45
Other planned giving	3,362.00	3,041.10
Loose plate collections	6,224.92	5,583.08
Regular Gift Days	4,578.00	7,927.25
Giving through church boxes	353.59	407.59
One off Gift Aid gifts	4,133.17	3,251.20
Donations, appeals, etc (note 1)	6,454.50	2,779.00
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	17,950.35	14,875.28
Legacies		400.00
Non-recurring one off grants (note 2)	7,501.23	39,369.88
<b>Total for voluntary income</b>	<b>101,249.26</b>	<b>122,719.83</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>		
Other funds generated (note 3)	4,585.22	2,419.20
Flower Festival	4,422.32	5,144.18
Christmas Event		
Social Events (note 4)	1,620.78	1,028.69
<b>Total for Activities for Generating Funds</b>	<b>10,628.32</b>	<b>8,592.07</b>
Bank and building society interest	45.95	10.39
<b>Church Activities</b>		
Fees for weddings and funerals	8,077.00	8,943.00
Pavilion lettings	1,350.22	1,317.00
<b>Total for Church Activities</b>	<b>9,427.22</b>	<b>10,260.00</b>
<b>Total for Incoming Resources</b>	<b>121,350.75</b>	<b>141,582.29</b>

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Resources Expended	2016 £	2015 £
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>		
Flower Festival Costs	258.49	379.03
Christmas Event Costs		
Costs of Social Events	570.95	799.61
<b>Total for costs of Generating Funds</b>	<b>829.44</b>	<b>1,178.64</b>
<b>All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants &amp; Donations (note 5)</b>		
Giving to missionary societies	830.11	
Secular charities	500.00	
Home mission	4,391.20	7,384.90
<b>Total for All Mission Giving etc.</b>	<b>5,721.31</b>	<b>7,384.90</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>		
Parish Share	55,021.12	52,755.19
Salaries (note 6)	6,909.46	6,342.96
<b>Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)</b>		
Working expenses of Incumbent		
Rector's telephone	224.40	112.20
Education	636.22	400.15
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>860.62</b>	<b>515.35</b>
Mission action plan	25.00	
<b>Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)</b>		
Visiting speakers/ locums (note 6)	88.00	1,804.8
Church running - insurance	3,501.67	3,403.03
Organ / piano tuning	397.60	407.40
Church maintenance	1,404.13	3,212.89
Upkeep of services (note 7)	6,007.23	6,866.32
Upkeep of churchyard (note 8)	97.07	297.37
Administration	2,518.05	1,906.75
Flowers (note 9)	137.12	
<b>Total for Regular Church running expenses</b>	<b>£14,150.87</b>	<b>£17,898.56</b>

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

<b>Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Church running - electric	358.93	568.04
Church running - gas	2,986.40	3,139.70
Church running - water	10.00	20.35
<b>Total for Church utility bills</b>	<b>3,355.33</b>	<b>3,728.09</b>
 <b>Costs of trading (Pavilion)</b>		
Pavilion running - electricity	355.83	606.86
Pavilion running - maintenance	428.76	1,196.79
Pavilion running - water	41.44	22.08
<b>Total for Costs of trading</b>	<b>826.03</b>	<b>1,825.73</b>
<b>Total for Church Activities</b>	<b>81,148.43</b>	<b>83,062.88</b>
<b>Total for Resources Expended</b>	<b>87,699.18</b>	<b>91,628.42</b>
 <b>Major Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Church major repairs	2,877.93	46,274.78
Pavilion Depreciation	7,703.10	7,703.10
Peace Garden	261.16	2,020.00
<b>Total for Major Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>10,842.19</b>	<b>55,997.88</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>98,541.37</b>	<b>147,624.30</b>
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>121,350.75</b>	<b>141,582.29</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>90,838.27</b>	<b>139,921.20</b>
<b>Major Capital Expenditure Including Depreciation</b>	<b>7,703.10</b>	<b>7,703.10</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>98,541.37</b>	<b>147,624.30</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>22,809.38</b>	<b>(6,042.01)</b>

# St Mary the Virgin, Linton

## Balance sheet (Summary)

As of: 31 December 2015

	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Pavilion (see note 10)	23,109	30,812
Investments (see note 11)	45,350	41,383
	<b>68,460</b>	<b>72,196</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	50,939	20,426
	<b>50,939</b>	<b>20,426</b>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>20,426</b>	<b>18,765</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>119,399</b>	<b>92,622</b>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<b>119,399</b>	<b>92,622</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted-</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	65,823	28,684
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated – Contingency	22,500	30,000
Designated - Fabric Fund	0	0
Designated – Magazine	722	722
Designated – Pavilion (see note 12)	23,109	30,812
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted – Bells	900	895
Restricted - Churchyard (see note 13)	153	202
Restricted – Music	296	200
Restricted - Peace garden (see Note 14)	893	1,105
Restricted – Sound System	5,000	0
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<b>119,399</b>	<b>92,622</b>

# **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

## **Notes to Financial Statements**

### **Return of Parish Finance**

1. Donations include £80 from Chilford Hall from their fundraising activities and £5,000 which was given initially for improving the sound system.
2. Grants received this year are £4,132.96 from The Friends of St Mary's for the fabric of the Church, £900 from the Parish Council for general running expenses and £1,260 from the Anderson Trust for various items to support the ministry and mission of the Church including items for the Children's Corner and for Wedding and Funeral ministries.
3. The income from other funds generated relates to £167 from 'Give as you Live', £221 from the Historic Churches Trust, £314 from the mini market, £210 from the Christmas raffle, our team churches' contribution for the advertisement for a team Vicar and repayment of monies lent to The Beacon Trust.
4. Social events include coffee after both Friday and Sunday morning services as well events organised by the Events Committee.
5. Charitable giving paid this year includes £330.11 to Embrace from the 2015 Carol Service, £500 to US, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank. The PCC agreed to support the Beacon Trust with £15,000 over the next three academic years; to the end of 2016 this amounts to £1,666.64 after repayment of monies lent, see note 3.
6. Salaries relates to payments made to our organists and parish administrator.
7. Upkeep of services includes fees paid to Ely and Non Stipendiary priests for taking weddings and funerals. In 2015 this was £4,362. This means the cost of running our services in Church was £1,645.23.
8. Upkeep of Churchyard is money used from the Monday Gang fund.
9. This year the cost of the flowers has also been covered by separate collections at the end of some services and the generosity of the flower arrangers.

### **Balance Sheet**

10. Pavilion at cost £77,031 less depreciation at £7,703.10 per year brings the figure down to £23,109.
11. Investments £45,350 is the value of the Sterling Bond Fund held at Barclays. Over the year this has seen a growth of just over 9.5% which compares favorably to last year when a small loss was recorded at the end of 2015.
12. The Pavilion fund has been amended to reflect the written down value of the cost of building. Income and expenditure for the Pavilion are entered in the general fund.
13. The Churchyard fund represents monies held for the Monday Gang.
14. The peace garden fund represents the donations received. Expenditure has also been made against this for work undertaken to the land behind the Pavilion.

# St Mary the Virgin, Linton

## Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Linton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2016, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### Basis of this report


My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, SORP 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and – to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)



Andrew Ghen AFPS.  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

### **6. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

The Electoral Roll is the Parish Church's register of electors. It is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for membership of the Parochial Church Council and for representation on the Deanery Synod. Your membership therefore has an influence on the work of your church and helps make our voice heard at Deanery and Diocesan level.

There are currently 146 names on the Electoral Roll. Eight new members have been added since the last APCM, 4 members have died and 12 have moved away.

As has been said in previous reports, it should also be noted that support for St Mary's cannot be solely based on the people included on the electoral roll. There are many who regularly attend services and other events at St Mary's who do not wish to be included on the roll. Further, there are many people in the parish who consider St Mary's to be 'their church' but may not regularly attend and who are also not on the roll. However, it is seen by the Diocese as a measure of the "health" of the Parish when considering whether the Parish warrants a curate or another clergy member.

You can be added to the electoral roll if you have been baptised and are over 16 and either: 'live in the parish', 'live outside the parish and have attended St Mary's for 6 months' or 'are a member in of good standing at another church and have attended St Mary's for 6 months'. If you would like to be added to the electoral roll or have any questions concerning the electoral roll, please feel free to contact me on [justpam1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:justpam1@hotmail.co.uk)

Pam Richardson

### **7. FABRIC REPORT**

The Fabric Committee has met formally on four occasions during the year.

#### **Works to the fabric of the church**

No significant work to the fabric of the church has been carried out during the past year. The rear part of the floor was cleaned and protected.

It is anticipated the faculty for the 2015 QI repairs will be received by June, enabling the works to proceed later this year. There is no significant work to the interior of the church. It is hoped the necessary permission for the new external noticeboard will be granted at the same time.

The Mission Action Plan provides for work to be done to make the entrance to the church - the north porch, the area inside the north doors and the rear of the nave - more welcoming and informative. The scale of the work is as yet undecided.

#### **Fixed installations and services**

The electrical system has functioned satisfactorily during the year and all necessary certificates are in place.

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

We have had problems with the heating system, mainly caused by the failure of our longstanding contractor to provide a satisfactory service. We intend to appoint a different contractor. The controller, a significant element of the system, requires replacement. The system pump is likely to require replacement fairly soon, but we have been advised to wait until it fails. The heating system, other than the boilers, will then have been substantially replaced. A small part has been fitted to a boiler and two other smaller parts are required, but the boilers are generally working satisfactorily.

I had a meeting recently with the Diocesan heating consultant and the church architect about the long-term state of the heating system. The consultant's advice, with which our architect agrees, is that the radiator and pipework remain the best form of heating for our church and have many years of life remaining, although some limited sections of pipework near the doors may warrant replacement when the boilers are replaced. He advises that it will be appropriate to replace the boilers when they develop a pattern of major faults. The best estimate is that will probably be within a 2-4 year time scale. We will obtain an indicative estimate from a contractor to enable forward financial planning.

The security system was found to be in good order during its regular service.

Some work has been carried out on the sound system, and further work is anticipated. We have obtained quotations for improved lighting in the choir/music group area and music stands for the singers. The PCC has asked for further design information regarding the music stands.

### **Church furnishings**

No articles or goods have been permanently removed from the church during the year, and no such items acquired.

### **The pavilion**

Quotations are being obtained for external redecoration of the building this summer. The ramp was substantially replaced last autumn and work to the area outside the entrance doors and the supporting structure will be carried out this summer. We are investigating the cost of replacing the present structure with a metal structure in the longer term.

Some further voluntary work was carried out to the Peace Garden area. The PCC has agreed to proceed with employing professional landscapers to lay out the Peace Garden in accordance with plans kindly prepared by Rebecca Rix from the congregation, who has a landscape design practice. Grants have been obtained and the balance of the cost will be met from PCC funds. Anne Parry-Smith has volunteered to get a regular group together to plant up and maintain the Garden.

### **The churchyard**

The fabric and vegetation of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Parish Council was unable to rebuild the southern part of the western wall last year, but a contract has been let for its rebuilding this year. This will complete the major wall repair project.

The future of the vegetation between the wall and the Garden of Remembrance remains unclear.



## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

The Parish Council has precepted £4,000 towards repairs to the churchyard paths and quotations are being obtained, to include re-laying the path from the main entrance to the bell tower and possible cycle stand area to the right of the north porch. Once obtained the PCC will decide how much of its own funds should be applied to these works. A faculty will be required for the possible cycle stand.

The Committee would like to express its thanks to the volunteers who have put a lot of time and energy into voluntary activities during the course of the year.

Andrew Gore

Chair, Fabric Committee, on behalf of the Churchwardens

### **8. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

The Synod met for its three regular meetings during the year, with an additional meeting to consider parish shares.

In the course of the year the Synod received a number of interesting presentations. One was on contemporary approaches to baptism by Rev Ally Barrett. Another was from members of St Andrew's Stapleford about its long term connection with its twinned church in Tanzania. A third was by Rob Needle, also from Stapleford, about the work of The Children's Society, both within the Diocese and more widely. We have also had continuing presentations about the establishment of a Christian youth work project for smaller parishes, initially centred on the Duxford group of parishes but with the potential to spread more widely.

The dominant business, however, has been finance. At the meeting on 27 April the Deanery Treasurer reported that all parishes in the Deanery had paid their parish shares in full, so that the Deanery had earned a rebate on payments for the coming year, and that the Deanery accounts were in good order. He also expected annual increases of about 3% in parish shares in 2017 and 2018, reflecting the demands arising from the increasing population of the Diocese and the creation of new communities. In the course of the meeting on 7 July, it was agreed that Great Shelford would continue to pay 80% of its incumbent's costs and the Deanery the remaining 20%, reflecting the incumbent's duties to provide local ministerial training, guidance, and assistance to House for Duty priests.

However, the core of the debate, reflected by the need for the additional meeting on 28 September, has been parish shares. I outlined in my report last year that the Deanery had agreed to follow the Diocesan model of each parish meeting its own clergy costs and some of the issues to which this might lead.

At the meeting on 7 July, it was agreed in essence that in addition to each parish paying its own direct ministry costs (i.e. the cost of its share in the services of a stipendiary or house for duty priest), each parish should also contribute towards wider ministry costs - e.g. clergy training, and investing in future costs (longer term development at Diocesan and national level) - on the same basis, rather than on a membership basis. This has the effect of favouring the larger churches at the expense of the smaller. It was also agreed that the transition to the new system would be over a five year period from 2016-21.

Following this meeting, the matter was discussed by the PCC (and other PCCs in our benefice and Deanery). In effect, in order to ensure the benefice continued to enjoy the benefits of a team vicar, once appointed, and enable "the three parishes" to continue to form viable

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

communities, the total amount due from our benefice under the new arrangements was recalibrated. In effect, Linton and Bartlow agreed to pay more than the sums calculated being due from those parishes on the “Deanery calculation” basis, so that within the benefice we operate an internal model which contains features of both the old and new Diocesan methods of calculating parish shares.

All churches in the Deanery, bar one, confirmed at the September meeting that, whatever their earlier views, they would comply with the decisions of the July Synod. However, All Saints Little Shelford (the only gathered church in the Deanery) did not accept the Synod’s July decision to adopt a five year transitional period from 2016-21 but intends to apply a three year period starting from 2014. There have been various discussions, both before and after the last Synod meeting on 24 November, with Little Shelford, including meetings with the Archdeacon. At the time of writing the situation remains unresolved. Greater clarity may be available at the next Synod on 25 April. If Little Shelford maintains its position, the Deanery will either have to look to all the parishes to pay a slightly greater share, or the Deanery will lose its rebate, which in practical terms amounts to about the same result.

In the course of the last year, Revd Caroline Wilson has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of Whittlesford and Pampisford. Canon Jessica Martin has moved from the Duxford group to become residentiary canon at Ely; Revd Petra Shakespeare will be licensed to the group in September.

Last summer Revd Julie Norris resigned as Team Rector of the Balsham-Abington Group and Rural Dean. Revd Simon Talbott from Great Shelford, who was an area dean before moving to this Diocese, is the new Rural Dean. Following Julie’s departure, and in the light of Revd John Fellowes’ earlier retirement as house for duty priest in the Group, the needs of the Group have been reassessed, and it has been agreed the new rector will be based in Balsham. The post will be advertised after Easter. After the appointment of rector, a house for duty priest based in the Abingtons will be appointed.

The meeting on 25 April is the last meeting of the current Deanery Synod. The Synod’s time has been dominated by financial affairs latterly. With those now substantially decided, I hope the new Synod’s energies will be predominantly devoted to more important matters. The newly elected Synod assumes office on 1 June, with the first meeting of the new Synod on 19 July.

Andrew Gore  
Deanery Synod representative

### **9. REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **9.1. BELL RINGERS**

The last year was eventful for the Linton bell ringers, both in the tower and the wider ringing community.

In January I was very proud to be elected as President of the Cambridge District of Church Bell Ringers, a post which in general involves being a cheerleader for ringing and ringers in Cambridgeshire. My first year was both exciting – I had to give a speech at our first formal dinner – and sad – I gave a eulogy at the funeral of a very good bell ringing friend and former secretary of the district, who died much too young in December.

July brought the wedding of our very own ringers, Stephen and Katherine Croxall, and in ringing terms it really was a 'royal' wedding. Thirty seven ringers from as far afield as

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Mumbai, Sydney and the Netherlands took part in the open ringing for an hour before the service began. The Linton band had rung a quarter peal the evening before to celebrate the wedding and an all-female band rang a quarter peal for Katherine's hen weekend in June.

In July we were delighted to welcome two new learners – ten year old Miles, and Helene, who isn't ten! They have both persevered and are making excellent progress.

Also in July our other young ringer Jason took part for the second time in the National Young Ringers competition as part of the Ely Diocesan team, the Fen Tigers. Out of twenty teams who entered, they were placed joint second in the Call Changes Category so very well done to Jason. Who knows, we may have two ringers in the team next year.....

In October we had a very exciting outing to London with the Lt Shelford ringers. We rang at St James Garlickhythe, the tower that now houses the ring of bells which were installed on the leading barge at the Silver Jubilee pageant on the Thames. We also visited the Whitechapel bell foundry, a very timely visit given the sad news in December that it is to close in 2017.

We took part again in the Gipson Trophy striking competition and unprecedentedly, all five teams won four and lost four matches, resulting in a 'ring-off' at our AGM in January where Lt Shelford triumphed.

Anyone interested in learning to ring is welcome to come up to the tower any Wednesday evening - we practice from 7.30 to 9.00, and as always, we look forward to continuing to welcome worshippers to St Mary's for another year.

Jackie Latham

### **9.2. BEACON YOUTH TRUST REPORT**

The new Beacon *Youth* Trust was registered a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commissioners in the summer of 2016, and the Trustees formally took over responsibility from September with a legal transfer of Assets from the former Beacon *Community* Trust signed in November.

The new Trustees – Steve Munday (Chair) and Al Wood from the Free Church, and Maggie Guite (as Rector) and Hannah Foote from St Mary's, were joined by Hugh Paton, who had kindly agreed to act as Treasurer. He now is also officially a Trustee, for ease of communication with the Charity Commission, etc, but the management of the Trust's youth activities rests with the four original trustees, who had done quite a lot of work prior to officially taking over, including appointing Lee Nash as a new Full-Time Youth worker. Lee started work from the end of August 2016, and contracts were renewed with the p/t assistant youth workers Jenny Hannon and Jacob Watts, who had previously worked for the Beacon Community Trust in its 'secular' youth work (particularly with reference to the Tuesday night youth club in the Red Zone, Thursday evening drop-in in the Portacabin on the Rec.).

Lee was employed to continue these activities, along with weekly football sessions, plus running a Christian- based Youth Club, on behalf of the churches, on Friday evenings, which is held in the Free Church, but may sometimes use the Pavilion at St Mary's. He is also following in Barry's steps by providing a presence in Linton Village College, and has also taken on weekly walk-about at Linton Heights Junior School, and some individual mentoring.

## **St Mary the Virgin, Linton**

Lee's regular line-management is undertaken by Maggie and Chris Kemshell from the Free Church, in acknowledgement of the Churches' key role in sustaining and guiding the trust and its work. Maggie is the Safeguarding Officer, though Sue Filby has done a lot to help, particularly in processing several DBS applications through the Diocese.

### **Progress of Activities**

The Trustees consider themselves very blessed in having been able to appoint Lee, who is a person of real presence and much relevant experience. All the promised activities are being carried out, together with some detached youth work in the holidays, and prayer-walks around the village in the evenings. Lee has also built up a good supportive prayer network. The Red Zone Youth Club and the Friday Night Church-based youth club have attracted good numbers of young people, football on Tuesday afternoons has seen steady participation, and the drop-in work has gradually grown. He has appealed for, and found volunteers from both the churches to help him, though probably with more from the Free Church, on balance, but with some good participation (especially on Friday nights) from St Mary's. Sue Mudge and Matthew Organ's regular help with football should get a special mention, enabling this activity to continue.

A go-karting trip has been held, and a trip to the Soul Survivor youth Festival in the Summer of 2017 is being advertised, but more volunteer help is needed to make it possible. One young person from St Marys' community has taken a regular part in Beacon activities.

### **Finances**

When the Youth Trust started operations in September 2016 we were aided by St Mary's Church with great support from Sue Ellis who helped us to pay the salaries and other bills until 7th November when the lengthy business of opening our new account with Lloyds Bank was completed. These advances were set against the annual grant of £5,000 voted to us by the PCC.

Once the new bank account for the Trust was opened, we were able to bank the £5,000 given to us by the URC and £1,735 given to us by The Charles & Mary Anderson benefaction in August 2016 in respect of moneys as yet unpaid from their previous year's grant.

Finally, we received £20,412.90 from the previous Community Trust in December 2016 as a result of the Transfer of Assets, followed by £6,416 from Linton Parish Council in respect of work done by the previous Trust which the PC had not yet paid for, with various promises to follow this with funds for our work on a regular basis in the future, although to date we have not heard officially what they intend to give us per year. We are expecting it to be £15K+ once the PC has determined what kind of agreement we need to sign with them.

We have also received £1,000 from the County Council's Community Outreach fund, specifically for the purchase of equipment for our 'secular' work, and items have now been purchased. At the end of March 2017, we received a further £5,000 from The Charles & Mary Anderson Benefaction, although we have been told that they cannot guarantee to match that figure each year.

In our Budget, the figures paid by the two churches and the Anderson Trust together with the Parish Council, should cover the salaries and other on-costs of staffing the project for the coming year. However, to provide additional activities and equipment, and to bank against possible reduction in support from the Anderson Trust in future years, we will need to keep

## St Mary the Virgin, Linton

our funding up by seeking donations from individual supporters in the community, as did the previous Trust, and plans for making this appeal are in hand.

Hugh Paton is also making recommendations as to the investment of a lump sum from the £20k we received in the Transfer of Assets from the Community Trust.

Maggie Guite

### 9.3. EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

A reminder of the terms of reference which we aim to keep in mind when planning a programme of events:

"The Church in the Community and the Community in the Church"

#### Purpose and function

- The Events Committee exists to coordinate and plan practical approaches to the PCC's vision to develop community aspects of church. 'Community' in this context refers both to the community of St Mary's congregation and the wider community of Linton.
- Events organised by the Committee shall always have a community aspect, but in some instances may be planned for the primary purpose of fund-raising.
- Events may be planned by the Committee itself or proposed by individuals not part of the Committee, but willing to take responsibility for a particular event and join the Committee on a temporary basis for that purpose.
- The Committee shall take overall responsibility for all events of St Mary's that have a social or community aspect as a key part of their rationale, devolving arrangements for particular events to individuals or groups as deemed appropriate by the Committee.

#### Membership

- The Chair of the Committee is appointed by the PCC.
- Membership is open to volunteers and others invited by the Chair, with the proviso that at least two members of the Committee are also members of the PCC.
- The PCC members shall provide regular updates for the PCC and liaise between the PCC and the Committee.

There are currently 8 members and we would be happy to welcome new members, maybe even some men! The frequency of meetings is generally dictated by the forthcoming events.

We have tried to strike a balance between primarily social events and fundraising events and to come up with a varied programme incorporating suggestions from committee members and congregation. Pam Richardson who chairs the group reports back to PCC meetings.

Events arranged 2016-17 have included Carol Singing on Christmas Eve outside the Dog & Duck with funds raised for Save the Children; a Murder Mystery evening held in church. With performers, a hot meal was provided for over 60 people and the drama "Murder at the Youth Club" proved very tricky to solve! £794 was raised from the evening.

Refreshments have been provided by Events' Committee members as requested, for e.g. Candlemas service & Licensing of Ian Fisher: concert by St Mary's Choir and friends;

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Farmers' Market in March plus a Fairtrade Stall (during Fairtrade fortnight); tea for over 40 singers at Come & Sing Stainer's "Crucifixion".

From April 2016 to March 2017 the income from events was £1,815.30. After expenses of £604.22, £1,211.08 has been raised for St Mary's plus £210 from Nanette Blackmore's Christmas raffle.

We thank everyone who has supported the events over the past year and encouraged us. Please continue to do so and let us know if you have any suggestions for future events.

Members of the Committee: Pam Richardson (Chair), Rebecca Richardson, Jacqui Burge, Nanette Blackmore, Hilary Angetter, Ann King, Sue Ellis and Anne Parry-Smith.

Anne Parry-Smith, for Events Committee

### **9.4. JUNIOR CHURCH AND CRÈCHE**

Just before the last APCM the decision was taken to suspend Junior Church because there were not enough people willing to run it. This unfortunately meant that there was no Junior Church in the summer term.

When I arrived in July, Maggie asked me to re-start Junior Church (JC), and at a meeting of all those involved in children's ministry it was decided to explore Godly Play as a resource for JC. I attended a day's initial training in July and organised an evening session for JC leaders and helpers at the end of August.

Godly Play is a method of Christian education based on Montessori principles which was developed in the US and has been used for many years by a wide variety of churches. It is especially suitable for mixed age groups of children. Godly Play uses a meditative and reflective method of story-telling which both familiarises children with the key stories of our faith but also gives them access to language to talk about it. It is very much aimed at developing their own spirituality and their relationship with God. The elements of a Godly Play session include storytelling, 'wondering' – non-directed discussion of the story, and free response time. Children respond to the story by creating art work, playing, writing, or simply thinking, and the job of the adults is to create a space where they can do this freely and without being told what to do.

Over the two terms that we have been using Godly Play in Junior Church we have covered the following stories: the Holy Family, Creation, the Flood and the Ark, the Great Family, the Exodus, the Ten Commandments; and the following parables: the Good Shepherd, the Good Samaritan, the Great Pearl, the Leaven, the Sower, and the Mustard Seed.

We have money from the Anderson Trust to fund three-day training for two leaders, and to buy some more resources. I have also used Godly Play story-telling at Messy Church, with the Mothers' Union and at Castle Camps Primary School (where I visit once a week for a Godly Play session) and at Linton Infants School.

Junior Church runs twice a month on the first and fourth Sundays, with an extra week on the fifth Sunday once a term. We have a fluctuating number of children attending, usually at least two and sometimes up to ten. I send an email newsletter to all families who attend to let them know when Junior Church will be running and what we'll be doing, but it is difficult for families with busy lives to attend.

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We have a great team of leaders and helpers now. Thanks are due to Cathy Watts, Sally Coxon and Linda Richardson who are all leading sessions regularly, and to Nicola Collard, Lynne Dando, Gill Powell, Glynis Younger, Sarah Nickolls, Rebecca Rix, Yannick Auckland, Sarah Thorne, Jennifer Thackstone and Holly Cox, our helpers. Very special thanks go to Cathy Watts and especially Linda Richardson for making the resources for telling the stories. We are really hopeful that Junior Church is now running on a sustainable basis and that it will be a space where the children who attend can explore and develop their faith.

Nicola Bown

### **9.5. LINTON CE INFANT SCHOOL**

Since September there have been major changes in the staffing structure at the Infant School and as well as a change in the members of the Governing Body.

Following the departure of Louise Clark (former Headteacher), Claire Sleaman (Assistant Headteacher), Tiffany Martin and Suzy Baber, (both NQTs), the governing body successfully appointed Kelly Harries (Headteacher), Louise Cooper (Assistant Headteacher and SEN lead) and David Waite (member of the Senior Leadership Team). Emma Stinton was promoted to Assistant Headteacher.

The governing body said goodbye to a few members including our chair Lawrence Powell who served for ten years. We thank him for his dedicated commitment and hard work as Chair and wish him all the very best for the future. Chris Komodromos has taken over as Chair and we also welcomed some new members to the Board. Previous worries about the governing body not being well balanced are no longer a concern. We have a very healthy board of governors, a good spread of age, skills and gender, staff and non-staff. Our Foundation Governors are; Maggie Guite, Sue Filby, Claire Revans, Joan Smith, Stewart Adcock, Moire Jarritt, William Bowes and me. We have two Parent Governors, one 'Staff' Governor, one Associate Governor, one Co-opted Governor and one Local Authority Governor. Including the Headteacher, we have a well-balanced split of governors who are staff, (6) and those who are not, (9).

The headteacher, Kelly Harries, (as with any change in management), has brought with her a fresh and individual approach in leading the Infant School and her arrival here has been very warmly received. Relationships between Kelly and staff and relationships within the team itself have been extremely positive which has had a significant effect, with a school of happy motivated children and staff.

Conversations about Academy status have been put on the back burner for the immediate future; this has enabled the Headteacher to concentrate on what has been deemed as more pressing priorities for the school. These priorities have included purposeful and detailed strategies on improving standards, putting new systems in place, improving the communication relationship between staff and parents along with working closely with the Senior Leadership team on areas such as resources, performance and Special Educational Needs. Training is ongoing and being monitored carefully and there has been a good relationship between the Governing Body and Kelly Harries as 'critical friends'.

Kelly Harries initiated a Governor day on the 13th March. This was an extremely successful exercise. It was helpful in a number of ways; it gave an opportunity for the Governors to

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become more 'visible' to the parent community and pupils, in turn encouraging conversation and support. It gave the Governors a chance to get a 'feet on the ground' experience of school life through observing teaching, talking to staff and having lunch with the pupils. Each group of Governors was given particular foci and were able to learn about teaching practice and structure and had the opportunity to ask questions. Notes taken and minuted feedback will ensure that we can move forward very positively. Huge thanks go to Kelly Harries and all the staff, including the catering team for providing such a satisfying and delicious lunch and of course the pupils, for allowing us to move around the school so freely and to have the privilege of being part of their day.

Linton Infant School is a very popular choice for parents in our community and our aim for the future is to continue providing a safe and happy learning environment, ensuring that we implement good teaching practice and standards of learning and that the Governors through all their extremely kind commitment can be a very real support.

Nicola Collard

Foundation Governor and Chair of Personnel Committee

### 9.6. MESSY CHURCH

The Messy journey continues to reach out to those for whom “normal” church is an alien place. For those who haven’t yet heard - Messy Church is a way of being church for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. It is church primarily for those who wouldn’t normally ‘go to church’ and on the 3rd Sunday of the month you will find a seemingly chaotic scene with lots of chat and activity. There is a welcome activity which often involves collecting things around the church, followed by the story and activity time when everyone can choose from the 5-6 activities offered. This ends with a celebration where we make a connection between the Bible story, activities we have been doing and consider the impact this could have on our daily lives.



This year our themes have ranged from celebration of Palm Sunday with our own Messy donkey parade, to realising we are part of a world-wide church family at Pentecost, covering familiar Bible stories like the story Jesus told about a farmer who wanted to build a bigger barn, God calling the boy Samuel or Joshua demolishing the walls of Jericho. But we also looked at less familiar stories like hearing how sad the people of God were, far from their homes, in Babylon (Psalm 137). Recent themes have been exploring Listening to God, Trusting God and Thanking God. Highlights of the year were a Messy Eucharist, our very first Messy Baptism and the Nativity Sheep Trail.

Our team has grown in the past 12 months and we are thankful to everyone who has helped with food, resources and time. Some of us attended a very helpful and thought-provoking seminar last month on Connecting Children with God. We plan to explore the possibility of using puppets by attending a puppet workshop, and also develop our Messy Science activities following the Ely Science Festival in May, when there will be a special Messy Church science event. The Messy Facebook page has gathered momentum (please like Linton Messy Church!) reaching families with photos and relevant links following the theme and extending the learning into daily family life.

Please may I ask you to support and encourage the team in three ways?



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1. Pray. For the team, as we prepare each month and also for the families who come along. We always pray at 2.15, before families start to arrive, but also need prayer cover while we are busy with activities. It would be such a blessing if there were pray-ers who we could count on to regularly intercede for the Messy ministry.
2. Help. We are of course grateful for help following the 10am service with moving furniture but we also need more team members of all generations, donations for the tea we share after Messy Church and offers of “junk” as requested through the pewsheets.
3. Come along! We meet at 2.30pm on the third Sunday of the month.

Here are a few photos from recent sessions to give you a taster. Please speak to Sarah Thorne for more info or to offer prayer or other help.

Sarah Thorne



### 9.7. MOTHERS' UNION

The Linton Branch of the Mothers' Union usually meets on the third Monday of the month, at 8pm in the Church Pavilion. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The 2016 programme was varied, and included sessions on being a Vet, becoming Ordained, and an alternative pilgrimage to Palestine. Our Toy Sale in November was again successful, and the Deanery Carol Service provided an opportunity to meet with Mothers' Union members from nearby villages.

So far in 2017 we have enjoyed John Marshall talking about “Send a cow!” at Nichols Court; and benefited from a Lent Meditation in church. In April we will be exploring poetry inspired painting with Linda Richardson, and then in May we will be attending the Deanery meeting in Stapleford, to hear Jean Thompson. Other meetings for the year include a talk about travelling with the Powells, a session with a Muslim Imam, and a Christmas Social. In November we will hold the annual nearly new Toy Sale at Linton Village Hall.

As well as the regular meetings, we offer each other practical support and prayer at difficult times in our lives, and aim to uphold the world wide Mothers' Union purpose and values of Christian family life. If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union (we are a small, friendly group) please don't hesitate to contact Margaret Smith or Ann King, or check out [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

Ann King

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### 9.8. MUMS' LINK

It will be the 6th Anniversary of Mums Link on the 4th May!

Despite the fact that we have experienced a drop in the number of meetings we have had this year, I am very proud and pleased that we are still going and naturally maintain those strong personal links with one another.

Mums Link continues to take the format of a bible study, recently following the Pilgrim booklets. These have been particularly good as it provides a helpful structure, with suggested video clips to get you started and enough material and questions to provide pointers for discussion, without having to follow it word for word or necessarily do any preparation. Essentially the idea of meeting is to provide a place, (one of our homes), where mums of young children, can openly debate and chat about any concerns in a supportive and loving environment. Much to my delight, we welcomed two ladies who attend the URC church in the village to the group this year; we always welcomed mums from other churches and I see this as a real positive move forward.

It is the nature of mums with young children and jobs etc. which means that regular evening meetings will peak and trough, but my hope is that the meetings become more regular again and that invitations will be extended to new mums to the village and one or two who have built stronger links with the church in recent times. Our aim is to continue to keep the invitation open to other churches in the village and to continue to deepen our very special relationships.

Nicola Collard

### 9.9. MUSIC MINISTRY

Herewith the highlights of the year April 2016-March 2017 in the musical calendar of St Mary's:

May 2016	Deanery Eucharist – Linton including singers from the Deanery
Oct	Taizé Service - Castle Camps
Oct	Team Evensong – Shudy Camps
Nov	Fauré Requiem
Nov	Remembrance Service
Nov	Advent Service
December	Carol Service
January 2017	Candlemas & Licensing of Revd Ian Fisher – Linton (with Stapleford Choir)
February	Concert "Pot Pourri" St Mary's Choir & friends
March	Come & Sing Stainer's Crucifixion – Linton (Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society). Singers from choirs in the area

This gives a flavour of some of music making at St Mary's in addition to the regular pattern of music at the 10am Sunday Eucharist.

The choir continues to sing at the 10am Eucharist on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays; on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, the Music Group (led alternately by Jacqui Burge and Russell Taylor) provides the music and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday is organ only.

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We are keen to add to the choir's repertoire and tackle music of different styles and from different periods. This keeps everybody on their toes and maintains interest and fulfilment in worship. On Passion Sunday, this year we sang the anthem "Ride on, ride on in majesty" by Grayston Ives, a contemporary composer and only a week before sang the Victorian "The Crucifixion" by Stainer.

We are pleased that there are more services now across the Linton Team and want to encourage singers from the other parishes to take part in these services. For several midweek services, e.g. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, we have "open choir" in which we welcome singers to a rehearsal before the service with no further commitment expected.

There are also opportunities for choir members and other singers to join in events organised by e.g. the Royal School of Church Music (Choirs' Festival in Ely Cathedral in May) and the Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society (King's Festival in September) and we have established a good link with the choir of St Andrew's Stapleford which we hope to build on during the coming year.

We thank all who help to support the musical worship that we offer in this church.

David Parry-Smith  
Director of Music  
894715

### **9.10. SCHOOL LINKS TO THE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL**

#### **Friday Church**

This is one of the most important services in the church week. Not only are we teaching and leading the whole of the Infant school on engaging and learning about God in a way they will find fun and relevant, we are a witness to the adults in the building too, the teachers and parents. It is a wonderful service for the people in our community who may never walk into a church building otherwise.

It is well supported and there is a team of four who take it in turns to lead, namely Nicola Bown, Chris Kemshell, (Pastor for the URC), Maggie Guite and me. We each have our own particular style, which I think, keeps it particularly both familiar and refreshingly different. We always provide coffee, biscuits and crèche toys for pre-school siblings in the pavilion after the service which provides another important channel of building relationships with the parents.

This service welcomes anyone. Why don't you come along and see what we do and support our team?!

#### **Within Infant school**

The library has recently been refurbished and decorated and among other school plans there has been a suggestion that I might run a Christian quiet lunchtime activity at the start of the new academic year. I have been liaising with David Waite, (member of the SLT) and Kelly Harries, (Headteacher).

#### **Linton Heights Junior School**

Chris Kemshell and I continue to do a whole school assembly once a month. We usually follow the school value of that particular week. These services have been warmly welcomed and commented upon positively, both by parents and children.

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I do a 'walkabout' every Thursday lunchtime. This is under the pastoral remit. I basically 'linger'!..in the school lunch hall and playground in the main, sometimes classroom and staff room. I engage in general conversation with staff and pupils, I certainly don't 'preach' but simply offer another ear to listen. Sometimes it is helpful to have someone to talk to other than a member of staff. This has been a truly rewarding role. Building trust and relationships with lots of staff and pupils has been a good thing and I'm sure will continue to develop.

Linton Heights continues to have school services which are open to parents and carers three times a year, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Maggie and I help to welcome and close at these services.

It has been hugely encouraging that the Headteachers at both the Infant and Junior Schools have been so enthusiastic and encouraging in a desire to have a church presence and involvement in the schools. It has been a pleasure to work with both schools in this capacity, long may it continue!

Nicola Collard

### **9.11. THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S**

The Friends of St Mary's Linton was formed over 20 years ago to provide funding for items that are covered by our constitution namely "the restoration, preservation and repair, maintenance, improvement and beautification of St Mary's Church in Linton, Cambridgeshire ("the church") and of any ornaments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in the church and of the churchyard belonging to the church".

This year we have not provided any actual money to St Mary's but have allocated funds to cover the cost of the Quinquennial work identified in 2015. This work will be carried out as soon as the necessary permissions have been obtained from the Diocese.

The Friends have also allocated funds for the improvement of the church heating system as well as to improve lighting for the choir.

A number of social/fund raising events have been held during the year including Afternoon Teas in the summer, a BBQ, a Quiz Evening in November, a Christmas Tea in December and our traditional New Year Coffee morning in January. We had a stall at the local ACE Garden Party and one at the St Mary's Flower Festival where we also arranged a Teddy Bear jump from the church tower. We also had a stall at an event organised by the Linton Music Society.

The committee reviewed our merchandise early in the year and, as a result, purchased notebooks and pens, which have been selling well at various events where we have had a stall. We sold a number of Calendars and Cards in the run-up to Christmas. They contained photographs taken by Molly Warrington – thank you Molly.

At the AGM in May 2016 Bruce Conochie stood down as President after many years' service. We were pleased to announce that Margaret Clark had agreed to become our President and we would like to thank her for her help over this last year.

We were all sad to hear of Bruce's death later in the summer. He contributed so much to The Friends as a member, committee member, Chairman and then President. He will be missed.

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We are still looking for new members of The Friends (we currently have 109 members). We also need people to serve on the Committee where we have a number of vacancies. Further details on membership can be found on the notice board at the back of the church – please be in contact if you wish to join or feel that you can contribute as a member of the committee.

Chris Morse

Chairman – The Friends of St Mary's, Linton

### **9.12. THE MONDAY GANG**

The Monday Gang is just finishing the lime trees along the wall of Church Lane. This gets done every other year. These trees are all hollow now and it is interesting to see, when we climb up ladders, what is growing in the accumulated soil in the nooks and crannies at the top - nettles, dandelions and ivy to mention a few. There are old nests as well.

Fortunately there was very little storm damage from Doris - just one large branch and various dead bits and pieces.

During the winter the Monday Gang tackled the ivy which had grown up over the years in the trees bordering Camping Close. Unfortunately, it was found that at least one of the trees underneath the mountain of ivy was dead and will have to be removed. We will need to keep a closer eye on ivy growing up trees. It is very useful ground cover under evergreen trees where nothing else will grow but is a menace when it starts climbing.

The aconites and snowdrops have produced a splendid show, as ever, this year and, now attention will be focused on mowing, maintaining the little flower beds around the old graves and keeping the Garden of Remembrance tidy. This is an increasing task year by year with more interments.

Last year we welcomed a new member to the Monday Gang, Mark Hays, who was busy with his mower in the summer.

We are always encouraged and heartened by the many kind and appreciative comments made by people walking through the churchyard.

Margaret Cox

### **9.13. TOTS IN TOW**

Tots in Tow is a real Linton institution: I recently met someone about to become a grandmother who was reminiscing about taking her own children to Tots in Tow and what a source of friendship and support it was.

For many years Nicola Collard has run Tots in Tow and she has built it up into a wonderful group, friendly but not cliquey, fun but not frantic, supportive and nurturing for parents/carers and children alike. However, her other commitments meant that in January she decided to step down from this role. Huge thanks are due to her for all that she has given to Tots in Tow over the years and the commitment of running it week in week out over such a long time. She is very much missed!

In the meantime Maggie and I are running the group on alternate weeks with invaluable help from Philippa Jordan, Tots in Tow treasurer, and Mel Symonds who is a sterling supporter of Tots and comes every week, helping to set up and put everything away at the end of the session, together with several of the other parents and carers who attend. Thanks are also due to Sarah Thorne who organises the kitchen rota and Cynthia Paton, Colleen Lockstone, Kate France, Judy Nightingale, Glynis Younger, Mary Penfold and Gill Powell who staff the kitchen.

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In January, in addition to the change of personnel, we decided to make a few changes to the running of Tots in Tow. The time was brought forward to 9.30-11.00, so that parents dropping off at the Infant School could come straight to Tots; we decided to introduce a story-time to go with the snacks; and we decided to introduce some parachute games to make the singing at the end more of a feature. We changed the admission to £1 per child over one, as the group is used by several nannies and child-minders who bring several children, but it doesn't penalise families who bring babies. In February half term there was a toy audit and clear out, and we have bought some new books and toys to refresh out stocks.

Tots in Tow continues to be popular but not so large that it is overwhelming for adults or children. We continue to see new faces and have a number of regulars who come most weeks. It's a real source of friendship and support for parents and carers and many of them comment how friendly and welcoming the group is. Maggie and I, as well as the kitchen helpers, are building relationships with both parents/carers and children, and we are there to give pastoral support as well as to publicise church activities for children and families. We gave each family attending a Christmas story book at Christmas and will do the same for Easter at the beginning of next term, we are planning to introduce reading Bible stories at storytime and every session ends with singing 'Two little eyes to look to God' and/or the Blessing song.

Nicola Bown