

St Mary the Virgin Linton



Annual Parish Vestry Meeting
followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 19th April 2018 at 7.30pm
in the Church

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Contents

1. Agenda	3
2. Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting, Thursday 27 th April 2017	4
3. Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Thursday 27 th April 2017	4
4. Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2017 - 2018	9
5. Financial Review to 31 st December 2017	12
6. Electoral Roll Report	22
7. Fabric Report	22
8. Deanery Synod Report	24
9. Reports from Organisations and Activities	25
9.1. Beacon Youth Trust Report	25
9.2. Bell Ringers	25
9.3. Events Committee Report	26
9.4. Linton C E Infant School	27
9.5. Church Links with the Infant and Junior Schools	29
9.6. Messy Church	30
9.7. Children and Families activities	31
9.8. Tots in Tow	32
9.9. Mothers' Union	32
9.10. Music Ministry	33
9.11. The Friends of St Mary's	33
9.12. The Monday Gang	34

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

1. AGENDA

Part A - Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting held on 27th April 2017
3. Election of Churchwardens

Part B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 27th April 2017
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report 2017 - 2018
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. Reports from Committees and Organisations
12. Rector's Report
13. Questions from the floor
14. Closing Prayers

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISHIONERS' VESTRY MEETING,
THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2017**

The meeting, held in the Church, began at 19.45 with prayers. Thirty parishioners were present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of 24th April 2016 were accepted as a correct record, subject to the correction of the day from *Thursday* 24th April to *Sunday* 24th April.

Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for Churchwarden: Molly Warrington for her sixth year of office and David Watts, replacing John Thorne. They were unanimously elected. Molly Warrington thanked John Thorne for his six years of service. Molly felt that their skills complemented each other and that John brought a steadying influence to the role, while being calm, non-judgmental, warm and caring. The Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite, Rector, thanked Molly and John for their dedication and contribution to the life of the Church and Parish. She also extended thanks to the Parish for welcoming her and her family as they approach two years of living in Linton.

It was noted that at the March 2017 PCC meeting, members had agreed that the normal term of office for a churchwarden at St Mary's should revert to being 3 years, with the option of extending to a maximum of 6 years if wished; and still to be elected annually in line with the guidelines in the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

**3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING,
THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2017**

Apologies

N Blackmore, J Burge, J Button, C Cassells, M Cox, S King, T Lewis, J Nightingale, K Nightingale, G Powell, L Powell, M Smith, S Thorne.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 24th April 2016 were accepted and signed subject to the same amendment as above; of the day from Thursday to Sunday.

Matters arising

There were none.

Parochial Church Council Report 2016 - 2017

The PCC had six scheduled meetings during the year. There was also an away-day in November to explore ideas for the Mission Action Plan (MAP) and an additional session in February to agree a draft MAP. The Diocesan Strategy 'People Fully Alive' had been the basis for discussion. The congregations had been asked in the autumn for their feedback on proposals. The MAP was to be presented after the Annual Meeting. It has seven main objectives and is intended to be a working document for the next five years. Although created by the PCC and Ministry Team, its success will depend upon everyone making some

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

contribution to help St Mary's move forwards and engage with the community in order to grow and be an enriching, transforming Christian presence in Linton.

The financial year runs from January to December and the income and expenditure is reviewed each quarter. It was evident after March 2016 that income was below budget since the value of gift aided standing orders had fallen. A gift day was held in September and people were encouraged to review their planned giving. This action reversed the trend and covered the predicted shortfall. Expenditure was less than anticipated which resulted in a small surplus at the end of the year; some of which will be directed to funding aspects of the MAP. The PCC thanked Michael Younger (stewardship officer), Sue Ellis (treasurer) and members of the church for the positive outcome.

Although there had been no major expenditure on church fabric, the PCC thanked The Friends of St Mary's who raise funds to pay for fabric repairs and Andrew Gore for leading the Fabric Committee.

The Events Committee continued to enrich the social aspect of church life and attracted additional friends from the community. All events broke even and surplus funds were donated to the church.

The Revd Dr Nicola Bown was welcomed as Curate in July 2016 and in January 2017 the Revd Dr Ian Fisher was licensed as Team Vicar. These two additions to the Team Ministry were greatly welcomed by the Rector and gave opportunities for widening the range of services and activities across the Team. The re-structured Beacon Youth Trust was set up during the summer of 2016 and Lee Nash was appointed Youth Worker in September 2016. Lee's role covers secular and Christian activities and is funded from the local churches and the Parish Council and has also received some one-off grants from The Anderson Trust. In addition to a timetable of regular activities, Lee spends time in the Village College and Linton Heights Junior School chatting to students informally. He performs a similar role walking around the village during school holidays and increasing the number of sessions at the Drop-in Centre on the recreation ground.

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 2016 the PCC was pleased to support the reappointment of Gill Powell.

Eight of the fourteen Infant School governors are appointed by either the Diocesan Board of Education or directly by the PCC. In November Moire Jarritt and Will Bowes (Bartlow) were appointed Foundation Governors.

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 – to 31st December 2016

Sue Ellis, treasurer, highlighted the fact that the total income for 2016 was £121,350 set against expenditure of £90,567. A proportion of the surplus of £30,783 resulted from the proceeds of the gift day and increased planned giving. Tax was able to be recovered on much of this, showing how important it is to complete gift-aid forms when possible.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

The Parish Share accounted for 61% 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. However, the Linton Team currently benefits as the Parish Share goes towards clergy salaries, housing and pensions.

The income and expenditure was presented in the form of pie charts supported by detailed accounts. Sue Ellis thanked Molly Warrington and Michael Younger, respectively, for producing the pie charts and the text in the report. Sue said that although the figures had improved, there was little room for complacency. Sue commented that the gas and electricity costs had reduced due to becoming part of the Parish buying scheme which could negotiate lower prices for buying in bulk. In answer to questions, Sue said that the profits from the Sterling Bond were reinvested and secondly Linton had no investments which were administered by the Diocese.

Sue briefly explained about the Diocesan Parish Giving Scheme which the PCC had recently endorsed. Parishioners are encouraged to give by direct debit instead of standing order. This has the benefit of increasing with inflation if the donor agrees and also the gift aid is returned by the Inland Revenue monthly rather than quarterly. It would also incur less work from the treasurer which the PCC felt was particularly important. Further information about the scheme will be available over the summer.

The meeting unanimously accepted the reappointment of Mr Andrew Cohen as the Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2017.

Electoral Roll Report

There were 146 names on the Electoral Roll after adding 8 new members and removing 4 who had died and 12 who had moved away. It was noted that the number had decreased slightly from the previous year and it is important to explain the system to new people and encourage them to join the roll.

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 number 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.

Fabric Report

No significant work to the fabric of the church had been carried out. The faculty for the 2015 QI repairs was awaited. The heating system has had some problems. Advice about the long term viability of the system was sought and it was advised that the pipework and radiators are appropriate whereas the boilers may require replacement in 2 – 4 years. Some work has been done to improve the sound system in the church and investigations continue.

Further voluntary work was done to prepare the Peace Garden and the PCC agreed to proceed with employing a professional company to do the hard landscaping. Some grants were obtained and the PCC would cover the balance.

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

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Deanery Synod Report

Andrew Gore and Derek Lockstone represented Linton on the Deanery Synod. The term of office runs from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2017 and there are three meetings per year. Interesting presentations included contemporary approaches to baptism, the church in Tanzania twinned with St Andrew's Stapleford, the work of The Children's Society and there was continued discussion about funding a Christian youth worker for the smaller parishes.

A dominant theme however, had been finance and discussions about a different model for calculating parish shares. It was agreed that each parish should pay its own direct ministry costs as well as contributing towards the wider costs, including training and investing in the future. All PCCs had the chance to discuss the changes which would be introduced over a five year period.

Election of Parochial Church Council members

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

Elected in 2015: Dr David Parry-Smith, Mr Michael Younger;

Elected in 2016: Mrs Gill Fraser Lee, Dr Chris Morse, Mr John Organ, Mrs Linda Richardson and Miss Rebecca Richardson;

Churchwardens (ex-officio): Dr Molly Warrington, Mr David Watts (replacing Mr John Thorne).

Mrs Nanette Blackmore, Mr Michael Holden, Mrs Judy Nightingale, Mrs Gill Powell, Mrs Rosemary Read (elected in 2014) stood down, having completed their three year term of office. Maggie Guite extended thanks to those people for their service.

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

Five nominations had been received for five places and the following people were elected en bloc: Ms Yannick Auckland, Mrs Sue Ellis, Mrs Colleen Lockstone, Mrs Sue Mudge and Mr John Thorne.

Appointment of Sideswomen and Sidesmen

The names of those already appointed were read out. Glynis Younger wished to resign. Catherine Richardson and Helene Evans volunteered to join the rota for 10.00 services. These two additions were proposed and agreed by the meeting.

Appointment of Deanery Synod Representative

The three year term of office would end for Andrew Gore and Derek Lockstone on 31st May. Derek Lockstone wished to stand down and Andrew Gore was willing to stand again. David Parry-Smith volunteered to be the second representative. Andrew and David were appointed for a three year term until 31st May 2020.

Reports from Committees and Organisations

Reports were included in the 2017 APCM booklet in paper form and also posted on the web site. They were received from the following groups.

Bell ringers, Beacon Youth Trust, Events committee, Junior Church and crèche, Linton C E Infant School, Messy Church, Mothers Union, Mums Link, Music Ministry, School Links and Assemblies, The Friends of St. Mary's, The Monday Gang and Tots in Tow.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Maggie Guite thanked everyone who contributed in so many ways by using their time, skills and talents for the benefit of the church activities and groups. She suggested a round of applause for each other. Maggie also thanked Nanette Blackmore who, as verger, quietly and efficiently does a number of tasks to enable everything to run smoothly, assisted by Linda Read. Maggie said that other things happened not already listed, such as the rejuvenation of the children's corner by Moire and Peter Jarritt. Linda Read wished to thank those people on the cleaning rota and the ten people who helped to spring clean the church.

Rector's report

Maggie Guite read her report and began by saying that she felt settled in Linton as she approached two years of ministry in the village. It had been a year of consolidation giving a firm base for development. It was wonderful to have a full clergy team with a Team Vicar, Curate, Lesley Gore and Lee Nash as youth worker. Cathy Watts was due to be licensed to this Diocese and Lindi Kent in Castle Camps was training as a Licensed Lay Minister.

David Parry-Smith presented the **Mission Action Plan**.

There are four aims:

1. To share the experience of Christian faith and community with others.
2. To grow our community and Christian faith together, through worship, learning, prayer and fellowship.
3. To help the community of St Mary's to be an active and serving presence in the wider communities in which we are set.
4. To identify people's gifts, encouraging one another, and equipping members of the community to share, grow and serve the good news of the kingdom.

Seven objectives are identified to help realise the aims:

1. To train people in discernment of skills, gifts and ministry.
2. To de-clutter the church building and improve the music area.
3. To facilitate spiritual growth.
4. To raise the profile of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.
5. To improve communication within congregations and across the wider community.
6. To develop ministries with children, young people and families.
7. To enhance hospitality.

Achievement of these objectives would be spread over the next five years. Some items could begin fairly soon; others were longer term. It was noted that success would depend very much upon people being prepared to give their time and gifts and work with each other to make a difference.

Joan Smith thanked Maggie Guite for her report. In turn, Maggie said that she had offered thanks to a number of people and she hoped that she had not forgotten any individuals.

John Thorne thanked Maggie for leading the PCC through the development of the MAP, showing commitment to the community and being committed in prayer life and leadership.

John wished God's blessing on Maggie's ministry.

The meeting closed in prayer.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2017 - 2018

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 2017 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>	Dr M Warrington Mr David Watts	
<i>Representatives to the Deanery Synod</i>	Mr A Gore Dr D Parry-Smith	
<i>Elected members</i>	Ms Y Auckland	from APCM 2017
	Mrs S Ellis	from APCM 2017 - Treasurer
	Mrs G Fraser Lee	from APCM 2016
	Mrs C Lockstone	from APCM 2017
	Dr C Morse	from APCM 2016
	Mrs S Mudge	from APCM 2017 - Secretary
	Mr J Organ	from APCM 2016
	Mrs L Richardson	from APCM 2016
	Miss R Richardson	from APCM 2016
	Mr J Thorne	from APCM 2017
	Mr M Younger	from APCM 2015

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 2017

Attendances at each service are recorded and annual returns made to the Diocese of Ely. The average Sunday attendance, counted during October 2017, was 63 adults and 15 children, showing a reduction in the average number of adults from the previous year, but a small increase in the number of children. On Easter Day 2017 173 people attended a service, with 430 people attending a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. While attendance at Easter services showed a decline from the previous year, more people attended Christmas services.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

As in previous years, attendance at weekday services was dominated by the service held weekly in term time for the church infant school, with an average of 47 adults and 156 children present. 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. Aspects of the Mission Action Plan (MAP) appeared on every agenda. The introduction of 'This time tomorrow' in the intercessions slot on a first Sunday, where a member of the congregation is interviewed about their challenges and prayer requests, is linked to the first objective about discernment of gifts and ministry. Some of the easier parts of de-cluttering the church and improving the music area have been done. A number of people have helped to sort and tidy leaflets, books, the flower vestry, the entrance area and rearrange items on the blue notice boards. The challenge is to continue to keep things tidy and to store items which are useful but not needed regularly. A sample music desk was built and has been in use. A number of modifications are required to improve stability and be appropriate for singing while people are standing and seated.

Maggie Guite met with representatives of existing house groups as part of the spiritual growth objective. Two new groups were offered in December; looking at Advent through visual art. There have recently been several discussion groups meeting at various times and following the Diocesan course 'Journeying through Lent with John's Gospel'. A new 'Space for the Spirit' service is offered every 4th Tuesday.

The Peace Garden has been transformed. Contractors were employed for the hard landscaping and the PCC is very grateful to the volunteers who did the planting and nurtured the new turf. Volunteers to weed and maintain the garden are required. Many of the plants were bought from donations pledged several years ago when the idea was first proposed.

A sub-group has been developing a logo to use on headed paper, notice boards, web site etc. A challenge has been to define what St Mary's means to the community within the church and within the village.

A number of initiatives have been developed by Maggie Guite and Nicola Bown, in consultation with families, as part of the children and families ministry. Wild Church started in September and takes place each 1st Sunday afternoon, complementing the successful Messy Church on 3rd Sunday afternoons. There is no separate Junior Church but a number of activity bags have been prepared for children to use in the 10.00 service. Relevant activities are added each week to link to the theme of the service. Nicola Bown and Nicola Collard led a popular weekly art club in the pavilion during the school summer holidays.

It should be remembered that the MAP is a five-year working document. Some initiatives are easier to complete than others. All aspects require commitment, time and skills from church members as there are insufficient funds to pay for everything that we would like to do; so that we may grow and be an enriching, transforming Christian presence in Linton.

The financial year runs from January to December and the position is reviewed after each quarter. Regular giving has decreased which is a cause for concern, as it then becomes impossible to maintain the church adequately, quite apart from funding new developments. See the Financial Review, section 5. The PCC wish to thank Michael Younger (stewardship officer) and Sue Ellis (treasurer) for keeping tight control of the church funds.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

There has been no major expenditure on church fabric during the year but the PCC wish to thank The Friends of St Mary's committee (section 9.11) 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. Regular reports from the Fabric committee, the Deanery Synod and the Events Committee are discussed at PCC meetings.

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. Thanks are due to Pam Richardson (Chair) and other committee members for enriching church life in this way.

The Safeguarding Policy was updated in the summer. In November, PCC members from the Team and other interested people attended a safeguarding course in Linton, presented by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

More recently, the PCC has been preparing for the General Data Protection Regulations becoming law and working out how personal information collected for church use will be affected.

There have been a number of Infant School governor changes. Sue Filby was reappointed as a Foundation Governor in September. Cathy Watts replaced Joan Smith. Hannah Foote replaced Will Bowes from Bartlow. Maggie Guite had recently indicated that she wished to stand down as a governor due to time pressures. Nicola Collard moved into the ex-officio role as Foundation Governor Representative and Michael Younger took Nicola's position. Michael had been the Local Authority nominated governor until his term of office ended in March. The school had an Ofsted Inspection in the summer followed by a Diocesan inspection in the autumn; after which PCC members realised that they would like to know more about the school and in particular, the Christian distinctiveness which is expected in a church school. Moire Jarritt, another of the Foundation Governors, was invited to give a talk and answer questions, for which the PCC was grateful, and people should now feel more informed about the school and the challenges which it faces.

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! Thank you to those people who have given reports from groups and activities which 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

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW TO 31ST DECEMBER 2017

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 2017, 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 Owen
Littlegates Radwinter End Saffron Walden CB10 2UD
14th March 2018.

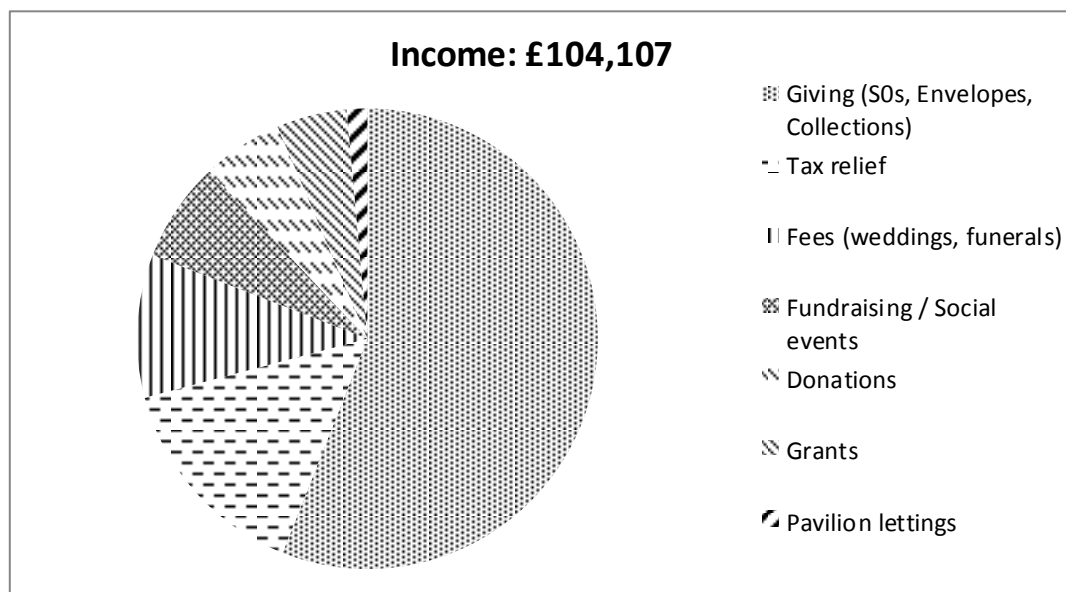
St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Where does the money come from?

In 2017 St Mary's received a total of £104,107 in income, a fall of £17,243 (14%) when compared with 2016; of this total, £3,030 came from grants from the Friends of St Mary's, the Anderson Trust, Linton Co-Op, the Parish Council and the District Council, and the PCC would like to express its gratitude to these organisations for their ongoing support. Although significant, this fall in income was partly due to the fact that no major church renovations were carried out during the year; these are usually generously funded by the Friends, who stand willing and able to meet future projects once they come on stream.

But income also fell because regular giving was not maintained at 2016 levels, as members of the congregation moved away or passed on. So after three years of successful stewardship, it was disappointing that regular giving (planned giving through standing orders and envelopes and collections made at services) fell by 3.3%, to £58,269, and as a consequence the tax recoverable on gift aid fell by 14%, to £15,472.

The chart below shows the main sources of income and highlights the church's crucial dependence on regular giving, and the vital importance of members of the congregation completing gift aid forms wherever possible. Whilst the take-up of the new Parish Giving Scheme has been encouraging, we are still struggling to raise the weekly sum of £2,100 which it takes to run the various aspects of St Mary's, and more sacrificial giving is needed.



NOTES on Income

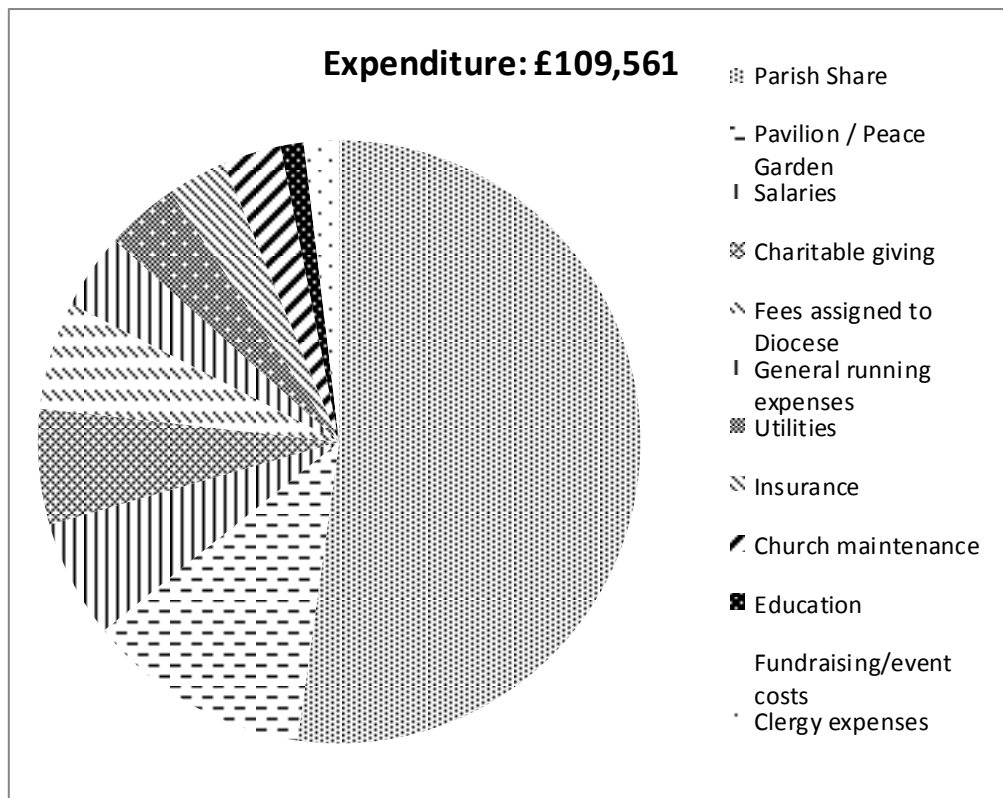
- Although the fees figure appears high, only a proportion of income from each wedding and funeral is retained by the PCC; the rest is sent to the Diocese.
- Interest is not shown on the graph as this accounts for less than 1% of income.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Where does the money go?

Total expenditure during the year was £109,561, 17% and £18,983 more than the previous year. Several factors contributed to this: an increase in the Parish Share, more funerals (and therefore a larger amount of fee income assigned to the Diocese) and the commitment to develop the Peace Garden (although around £5,000 was raised in donations – from individuals, the Anderson Trust, the District and Parish Councils and Linton Co-op – towards this enterprise).

As the chart below shows, the most significant part of expenditure goes on the Parish Share, which at £57,189 (a 3.94% increase on 2016), accounts for 52% of regular outgoings. As in previous years, the PCC – in line with virtually all other parishes in the Deanery – 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 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 Mission Action Plan.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

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 (but not the Peace / Pavilion Gardens, which are shown separately).

Summary

The final accounts for 2017 show that expenditure exceeds income by £6,250. Although this is disappointing, the PCC did earmark £5,000 from reserves for the development of the Peace Garden, so in real terms the budget deficit is around £1,250.

The balance sheet includes £15,406 as a notional figure for the Pavilion, and if this is ignored, church funds rest at £91,621, a slight decrease on the final figure for 2016 (excluding the Pavilion: £96,250). Investments (the Sterling Bond) total £46,776 (an increase of 3.14% compared to 2016) and cash in hand at the bank totals £44,845 (compared to £50,939 at the end of 2016).

Reserves Policy

In 2017, the PCC confirmed the reserves policy, agreeing 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.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

St Mary's Linton Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	80,210	4,559	—	84,770	101,249
Activities for generating funds	7,349	—	—	7,349	10,628
Investment income	55	2	—	58	45
Incoming resources from charitable activities	11,928	—	—	11,928	9,427
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—
Total incoming resources	99,544	4,562	—	104,107	121,350
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	93	—	—	93	258
Cost of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	1,063	—	—	1,063	570
Charitable activities	101,891	14,856	—	116,747	97,711
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
Total resources used	103,047	14,856	—	117,904	98,541
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	(3,502)	(10,293)	—	(13,796)	22,809
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	29,591	27,413	—	57,005	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(38,835)	(18,170)	—	(57,005)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	(12,746)	(1,049)	—	(13,796)	22,809
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	1,425	—	—	1,425	3,967
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(11,321)	(1,049)	—	(12,371)	26,776
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	112,155	7,244	—	119,399	92,622
Total funds carried forward	100,833	6,194	—	107,028	119,399

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2017	2017 £	2016 £
Incoming Resources		
Voluntary Income		
Tax efficient planned giving		
Gift Aid - Bank	43,337.00	43,804.00
Gift Aid - Envelopes	6,626.00	6,887.50
Total tax efficient planned giving	49,963.00	50,691.50
Other planned giving	3,661.50	3,362.00
Loose plate collections	4,645.80	6,224.92
Regular Gift Days	0.00	4,578.00
Giving through church boxes	281.29	353.59
One off Gift Aid gifts	2,567.35	4,133.17
Donations, appeals, etc (note 1)	3,030.00	6,454.50
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	15,472.24	17,950.35
Legacies		
Non-recurring one off grants (note 2)	5,148.99	7,501.23
Total for voluntary income	84,770.17	101,249.26
Activities for Generating Funds		
Other funds generated (note 3)	1,054.63	4,585.22
Flower Festival	3,650.51	4,422.32
Christmas Event		
Social Events (note 4)	2,644.81	1,620.78
Total for Activities for Generating Funds	7,349.95	10,628.32
Bank and building society interest	58.83	45.95
Church Activities		
Fees for weddings and funerals	10,438.00	8,077.00
Pavilion lettings	1,490.40	1,350.22
Total for Church Activities	11,928.40	9,427.22
Total for Incoming Resources	104,107.35	121,350.75

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2017	2017 £	2016 £
Resources Expended		
Costs of Generating Funds		
Flower Festival Costs	93.22	258.49
Costs of Social Events	1,063.19	570.95
Total for costs of Generating Funds	1,156.41	829.44
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations (note 5)		
Giving to missionary societies	1,140.00	830.11
Secular Charities	886.00	500.00
Home mission	4,999.92	4,391.20
Total for All Mission Giving etc	7,025.92	5,721.31
Church Activities		
Parish Share	57,189.47	55,021.12
Salaries (note 6)	6,931.96	6,909.46
Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)		
Working expenses of Incumbent	681.64	
Rector's telephone	224.40	224.40
Education	1,351.80	636.22
Total for Expenses	2,257.84	860.62
Mission action plan		25.00
Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)		
Visiting speakers/ locums	0	88.00
Church running - insurance	3,519.27	3,501.67
Organ / piano tuning	356.80	397.60
Church maintenance	2,217.59	1,404.13
Upkeep of services (note 7)	8,600.63	6,007.23
Upkeep of churchyard (note 8)	478.36	97.07
Administration	2,034.46	2,518.05
Flowers (note 9)	187.81	137.12
Total for Regular Church running expenses	17,394.92	14,150.87

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2017	2017 £	2016 £
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)		
Church running - electric	602.38	358.93
Church running - gas	3,628.11	2,986.40
Church running - water	37.76	10.00
Total for Church utility bills	4,268.25	3,355.33
Costs of trading Pavilion		
Pavilion running - electricity	544.48	355.83
Pavilion running - maintenance	1,042.96	428.76
Pavilion running - water	25.50	41.44
Total for Costs of trading	1,612.94	826.03
Total for Church Activities	89,655.38	81,148.43
Total for Resources Expended	97,837.71	87,699.18
Major Capital Expenditure		
Church major repairs	1,204.00	2,877.93
Pavilion Depreciation	7,703.10	7,703.10
Peace Garden	11,159.20	261.16
Total for Major Capital Expenditure	20,066.30	10,842.19
Total Expenditure	117,904.01	98,541.37
Total Income	104,107.35	121,350.75
Resources Expended	110,200.91	90,838.27
Depreciation	7,703.10	7,703.10
Total Expenditure	117,904.01	98,541.37
Balance	-13,796.66	22,809.38

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

St Mary's Linton

Balance sheet (Summary)

As of: 31 December 2017

	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Fixed assets		
Pavilion (see note10)	15,406	23,109
Investments (see note 11)	46,776	45,350
	62,182	68,460
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	44,845	50,939
	44,845	50,939
Net current assets less current liabilities	44,845	50,939
Total assets less current liabilities	107,028	119,399
Total net assets less liabilities	107,028	119,399
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	48,190	65,823
Designated		
Designated - Contingency	22,500	22,500
Designated - Fabric Fund	4,013	—
Designated - Mission Action Plan	10,722	722
Designated - Pavilion (see note12)	15,406	23,109
Restricted		
Restricted - Anderson Trust	1,092	—
Restricted - Bells	902	900
Restricted - Churchyard (see note 13)	175	153
Restricted - Contingency	—	—
Restricted - Music	296	296
Restricted - Peace garden (see note 14)	0	893
Restricted - Sound System	3,727	5,000
Funds of the church	107,028	119,399

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Notes to Financial Statements

Return of Parish Finance

1. Donations include specific donations from individuals for the Peace Garden.
2. Grants received this year are £2,358.40 from The Anderson Trust of which £1,158.40 was to develop Godly Play and £1,200 towards the Peace Garden. Further grants towards The Peace Garden were received from the Co-Op £1,354.71, South Cambridgeshire District Council £805.88 and Parish Council £500. It also includes £130 received from Ecclesiastical Insurance.
3. The income from other funds generated relates to £69 from 'Give as you Live', £220.38 from the mini market, £100 from Linton Music Society, £287.25 from Pot Pourri Concert and £238 from Herts Historic Churches visit.
4. Social events include coffee after both Friday and Sunday morning services as well as events organized by the Events Committee.
5. Charitable donations this year include £386 to Save the Children from the 2016 Carol Service, £400 to Friends of the Holy Land, £500 to USPG, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank and £240 to Christian Aid. A sum of £416.66 per month is given to The Beacon Trust to support youth work in Linton.
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 2017 this was £6,358.79. This means the cost of running our services in Church was £2,241.84.
8. Upkeep of Churchyard is from money held for the Monday Gang
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 £15,406.
11. Investments £46,776 is the value of the Sterling Bond Fund held at Barclays. Over the year this has seen a growth of just over 3%.
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.

The peace garden fund is now at nil as all monies received have been used in full to complete the Peace Garden.

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 167 names on the Electoral Roll. Of these, 6 members have died and 14 have moved away. Three new members have been added since the last APCM. The total is therefore 147 current names. A complete revision will be necessary in 2019.

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

Pam Richardson

7. FABRIC REPORT

The Fabric Committee has met formally on three 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.

It is anticipated the QI repairs will be carried out in the summer and the noticeboard should be ready at last by about June, after various planning issues.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) inspected the nave floor and recommended the worn floor panments be replaced by new panments in the absence of reclaimed examples and approved a sample together with investigation into the lifting and relaying of uneven areas. A meeting was arranged with a conservation specialist recommended by the church architect, Henry Freeland, and his advice is awaited.

The DAC also approved the proposal to build a walk-in store cupboard at the rear of the north aisle, matching that in south aisle. Quotations are being obtained with a view to seeking a faculty.

The DAC in the course of its visit expressed the view that we needed to take a more holistic view of works in the nave. We are looking to pull together the ideas from the MAP exercise with a view to taking this forward, though it must be appreciated that competing demands on the church in terms of varying activities, as well as spatial and financial considerations, limit what might be done.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Fixed installations and services

The heating system controller was replaced during the year. Minor repairs were carried out to one of the boilers but have not been satisfactory. The contractor's supervising engineer is coming out to address the issue.

Following the advice of the Diocesan heating consultant, a quotation was obtained from a firm of heating engineers recommended by Henry Freeland. They have provided an indicative quotation, to replace the two boilers with one boiler and a plate heat exchanger, which avoids water in the radiators passing through the boiler, but retaining the rest of the heating system such as the pump and control mechanism. They agreed with the consultant that boiler replacement should be left until necessary.

The security system was found to be in good order during its regular service. We have been keeping our neighbours alert to the possibility of lead theft and request all members of the congregation to maintain a watchful eye and report anything at all suspicious to me or the churchwardens.

The sound system is generally working better, though some further work is anticipated.

Church furnishings

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

A sample music stand was the subject of trial and experimentation. It will shortly be rebuilt to reflect the feedback received and, subject to final approval, it is hoped an order for the balance can be placed in the summer. The DAC were not willing to approve a lighting scheme until the new music stands are in place and lighting needs can be assessed.

As requested by the DAC, we are to consult the village about the possible disposal of the eagle lectern, which came from a much grander church in Liverpool. Views from members of the congregation are requested.

The pavilion

There has been further voluntary maintenance work to the pavilion during the year and more work days are planned for the summer. The quotation for external redecoration was not actioned because of other calls on funds but it should proceed this year. Chris Morse met Merrie Mannassi of Crofton Engineering, who agreed to provide an indicative quotation for a new wood and metal ramp. The major repairs carried out last year and the continuing voluntary work should keep the ramp in reasonable order for several years, but the quotation should allow us to plan for long term replacement. The pavilion itself remains in good order, though internal redecoration will be needed at some stage.

The church should express its gratitude to the PCC for contributing the balance of funds required for the Peace Garden project to proceed, and especially to Glynis Younger who took the lead with external fundraising and organising the planting up of the garden. The Committee hopes that it will prove possible to organise a group of volunteers on a more formal basis for the future.

The churchyard

The fabric and vegetation of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Parish Council let the contract for the last section of major works to the walls and the work should be largely completed by the time of the APCM. This has been a major exercise over

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

several years on the Parish Council's part, and we are grateful to the Council for incurring such significant expenditure.

The resurfacing of the path from Church Lane to the north porch and bell tower should take place this summer, again funded by the Parish Council.

In conclusion, the Committee would like to express its thanks to the volunteers during the course of the year. However, it will be seen that some projects have not proceeded as we would have hoped, largely because of competing demands on the members of the Fabric Committee. We would welcome more people as members of the Committee and particularly more helping hands at our working parties.

Andrew Gore

Chair, Fabric Committee, on behalf of the Churchwardens

8. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

There have been 4 meetings of the Granta Deanery Synod since April 2017. The meetings take place in churches in the Deanery which occupies the south eastern corner of the Ely Diocese and stretches from Ickleton to Harston and Weston Colville to Shudy Camps. Linton will be hosting the meeting in November 2018.

Deanery Synod representatives (there are 2 in Linton – Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith) are invited from the 24 parishes which make up Granta Deanery, as well as the clergy in the Deanery. PCC Treasurers are invited to the July Synod meeting when there is usually a talk about the Diocesan Budget.

In September, Bishop David arranged a Roadshow on the Parish Giving Scheme and Giving for Life to which all interested parties were invited.

The usual business of the meetings deals with Deanery finance (mainly concerning the apportionment of parish share), updates on Deanery matters including vacancies, but also tries to include a talk on a subject of general interest. In the past year, there have been presentations on Safeguarding and on the Diocesan Strategy and an update on General Synod.

Each Deanery Synod lasts for 3 years. The current Synod began in July 2017. Andrew Gore who was one of our representatives in the previous Synod agreed to continue and has also taken on the role of Lay Chair. The meetings are chaired jointly by Simon Talbott (Rural Dean) and Andrew. Simon is also a member of General Synod. Our own Michael Younger took up the post of Deanery Treasurer in July 2017.

The main event during the year has been the setting up of the Youthinc project (spearheaded by Jenny Duke of Ickleton) to provide Christian faith-based youth work ministry to 9-13 year olds and especially in parishes where there is none currently. Following a pilot project, the Diocese has granted funding which is being matched by parishes and individuals. The funding is enabling a youth worker to be appointed for 2 days a week for 3 years and an appointment has recently been made. Linton PCC generously agreed unanimously at its meeting in September 2017 to grant £300 per annum for the 3 years of the project.

David Parry-Smith

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

9. REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

9.1. BEACON YOUTH TRUST REPORT

Over the past year we have run our 4 weekly activities which include Astro Football, the Red Zone Youth Club, the Drop in Club and the Friday Youth Group. Towards the end of 2017 we added a Girls group to the list of weekly activities. Through these activities we have encouraged and explored healthy eating, generosity, team building and mutual respect among our young people. We have done this by providing free fruit, donating items to the local foodbank, conducting group challenges and forming club values through consultation with young people. We have continued visiting the residents at Nichols Court with some of the Youth each month whilst providing refreshments and games to enjoy together.

In addition to this we have spent time with children & young people at Linton Heights and the Village College by coming in and speaking to them during lunchtimes. We have continued with our 1-1 mentoring in the community and in the Village College - mentoring 8 young people in total, with signs of improvement in each case. We have delivered assemblies at both Linton Heights and the Village College which involved advertising our youth clubs and leading the Junior Leavers assembly.

We have opened the Drop In out of term time so that children, youth and young adults have a space to play and socialise together. We have taken young people on trips and events including the Jump Street Trampoline Park, the Go Ape High Ropes and the Higher Launch.

We have worked in partnership with the Parish Council through conducting a consultation with local young people and providing a temporary Skate ramp in response. We've maintained regular contact and communication through social media, text messages, phone calls, home visits and detached work around the village.

We are also very thankful to all our volunteers who help to make these activities run well. A special mention must go to Matt Organ (Astro Football), Sue Mudge (Astro Football), Yannick Auckland (Red Zone Youth Club), Sue Filby (Girls Group), Gillian Powell (The Drop In), Helene Evans (Friday Youth Group), Joan Smith (Friday Youth Group) and Nicola Bown (Friday Youth Group). Whether it's handing out refreshments, taking part in games or talking to our Youth about the Christian faith, all of these members of St Mary's have been an integral part of our team.

Lee Nash – Youth Worker

9.2. BELL RINGERS

Another year and a great triumph for us - for the first time we won the Gipson Trophy, the year-long Cambridge District six bell striking competition. We had to ring eight fixtures each requiring a band of six ringers, but pleasingly, eleven of our ringers took part in at least one fixture this year. This is the first time we have won the trophy in fourteen years of competing, and is a testament to how hard the band has worked to improve their ringing.

Jason was again a member of the 'Fen Tigers' team which qualified for the Ringing World National Youth Contest final in Birmingham. The team did exceptionally well again, coming 2nd out of around a dozen teams in the call-changes category.

Linton hosted the District six bell striking competition this year with a record eleven teams entering. Linton came a close fourth behind Trumpington, Lt Shelford and Great St Mary's, and Jason rang both for us and the Fen Tigers who were very close behind us in fifth place. Our youngest ringer Miles also rang for the Tigers.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

In July we rang a quarter peal to celebrate the ordination as priest at Ely Cathedral of our curate, Revd Dr Nicola Bown.

In the autumn I felt it was time I handed over the running of practices, so Stephen Croxall took over as Ringing Master and has brought a very welcome blast of skill and enthusiasm to our ringing. Also in the autumn we arranged and paid for the re-painting of the ringing chamber, which was looking very dingy and depressing. It now looks exactly the same but a great deal brighter!

As usual, we rang half muffled for Remembrance Sunday. The band loves this ringing as it sounds so haunting and plaintive. If anyone is interested in a particularly wonderful example of this, the following link will take you to a YouTube clip of the bells at Worcester Cathedral ringing for Remembrance in 2017. And for those of you who have never seen bells actually being rung, this is how it is. By the way, we have way more female ringers at Linton!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_mrklSwsI

Despite all this excitement, we never forget our primary mission - to welcome worshippers to St Mary's for another year.

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.

Jackie Latham

9.3. EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

I am both pleased and proud to outline what the Events Committee has achieved over the last twelve months. The aim has always been to build community and support church events and raising money has been a secondary function. I will outline the events which have taken place and make some comments to close.

APCM – Thursday 27th April – Cheese and wine provided before the meeting
Thursday 4th May – Pre-Christian Aid Week meeting – refreshments provided. 43 collectors took part and £3,111 was raised.
Saturday 1st July – Nicola Bown's ordination. Bring and share lunch on the 2nd
7/8/9 July – Flower Festival
Saturday 15th July – Bartlow Open Farm event
2nd September – Pudding Evening, savoury sausage starter with puddings to follow
Harvest – Bring and Share lunch
21st October – Jumble Sale
Thursday 2nd November – refreshments following All Souls Service
Saturday 16th November – Trip to Craft Fair at Ely Cathedral
Sunday 3rd December – Christingle Service
16th December – Carol Singing in the Grand Arcade for Christian Aid
24th December – Carol Singing outside the Dog and Duck for Christian Aid
31st December – Bring and Share New Year's Eve Party with food and games
Saturday 24th February – Come and Sing Messiah; tea provided for 50 singers
Saturday 3rd March – Farmers Market refreshments
Saturday 17th March – An Audience with Jonathan Veira, interval refreshments provided
Over this time we have raised £1,184.44 for St Mary's Church, £579 for The Children's Society and an extra £276 for Christian Aid.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Now we are looking to the future. Two events feature: Christian Aid Week (more collectors and ideas please) and The Linton Scarecrow Festival. We have been planning this event since last October and envisage it as a whole village event. As many clubs, groups, schools and businesses as we could contact have been invited to take part; either by contributing a scarecrow for the Trail, holding a stall, giving a talk or donating in some way. The Parish Council has been very supportive and is producing the Scarecrow Trail and meeting the printing costs of the programme.

Many groups have signed up including:

- Linton Infants (scarecrows/use of kitchen)
- Linton Heights (4 scarecrows)
- Dalehead Foods (320 sausages donated)
- Antwerp House Dentist
- The Co-op
- Mr Urwin (Dog Show)
- Linton Jazz
- Haverhill Junior Silver Band
- Linton Knitting Circle
- Gardening Club

Quite soon we'll have a full idea of just how much involvement we'll have. Cathy Watts and her team of volunteers are producing miles of beautiful bunting to decorate the High Street and the Linton Heights students are involved in a competition to design a logo. We are trying to encourage as many people from the village to become involved as possible to celebrate our Linton community and raise funds together.

Aside from the two musical groups mentioned above, there will be a (free) concert by the Grove Singers of London on Saturday 30th June and the whole event will end with a festival service of praise on Sunday 1st July at 5pm.

All the well-loved and familiar elements will still feature: restaurant, stalls, raffle, teddy jumps and duck race. We are hoping that as many people as possible will be able to take part in the running of stalls, production of food and care of the church. This is very much a community event – it will need all of us to do our bit to ensure success. Over the coming months, please keep an eye out for requests, on the church notices and in the Linton News.

Here's a first request – it would be lovely to have a really glamorous first prize for the raffle with so many potential raffle ticket buyers. Does anyone have a holiday home and could donate its use for a week? Please be in touch.

I would like to end by thanking all those on the Events Committee which has swollen to cope with the weight of the summer event. They are always cheerful and willing – very long-suffering and nothing would happen without them.

Pam Richardson

9.4. LINTON C E INFANT SCHOOL

School governors are appointed to provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools and Foundation School Governors are appointed through the local church to ensure the distinctive foundation character of Christian ethos is upheld.

The Foundation Governors are Stewart Adcock, Nicola Collard, Sue Filby, Hannah Foote, Moire Jarritt, Clare Revans, Cathy Watts and Michael Younger.

The Governors at Linton Infant School therefore are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

- Holding executive leaders to account for educational performance, organisation of pupils and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing financial performance and making sure money is well spent.

In addition, the Foundation Governors are committed to ensuring the distinctive foundation character of Christian ethos is upheld, by:

- Recognising the historic ethos and ensuring the development of the school's Christian ethos
- Preserving and developing its religious character in accordance with the principles of Church of England (its Anglican ethos)
- Providing high quality education within the context of Christian belief and practice
- Encouraging understanding of meaning and significance of faith
- Promoting Christian values through experience offered to all pupils.

Since the appointment of Mrs Kelly Harries as Head Teacher from September 2016, she and her senior leadership team have worked hard to introduce consistent good quality teaching across the curriculum and to ensure that behaviour is managed appropriately and positively.

Visitors to the school all comment positively regarding the atmosphere of calm and enjoyment and are impressed with the level of articulation of the children. Every child is regularly monitored to make sure they are achieving the appropriate level of progress and strategies are put in place quickly and effectively to assist where necessary.

Being a governor involves knowing what is being taught, how it is being taught and whether it is being taught effectively as well as making sure the budget allocated is being used efficiently and effectively.

The school has had an Ofsted Inspection and a Diocesan inspection in the last year and the full reports are available on the school website which has been significantly redeveloped and was launched at the end of autumn term. There is a little more work to do to have it completely up to date but it is a great improvement on showcasing the school and will be easier to manage and update.

The Ofsted report assessed the school as providing 'good quality of education' and 'having significant strengths' particularly in the determination of the Head Teacher, the support of a strong senior leadership team and of a fully committed and well informed governing body. The report commented that the parents are positive and enthusiastic about the school and the children proud of attending it. The report expects that by the time of the next visit the school is likely to have reached outstanding if it continues along the current trajectory.

The report did recognise that the outdoor area for the foundation stage children was in need of refurbishment and the plans are now well underway to redevelop the area. Funding from various sources has been secured and changes will be starting as soon as the better weather comes.

The Diocesan inspection took place early autumn term 2017. The summary reports that the school meets all learners' needs and those of the wider community through a sensitive and Christian ethos producing confident learners flourishing as children of God. It commends the school's strong links with St Mary's church, especially the Friday assembly, and the wider community and notes that the strong leadership team is ably supported by effective governors who ensure that the school roots all decisions in Christian values.

The report had 3 areas for improvement building on firm foundations:

- **Review of values** which has been completed by the Foundation governors with the school staff and is being launched very soon. The values are the Fruits of the Spirit

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

based on Galatians Chapter 5 – Love, Joy, Peace, Kindness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-control, Patience and Generosity

- **Build an effective monitoring system of assemblies** which has been reviewed and the assembly file is now being monitored regularly.
- **Implementing the Understanding Christianity project.** This is now in place and has been welcomed enthusiastically by the staff. (Please have a look on the diocesan website for further information as it is a very good explanation of Christianity).

I have been a Foundation Governor for just over a year and it has been a real joy to be involved with the staff and children and see the enthusiasm throughout the school and people committed to working together to ensure that the children don't only know all they should from the curriculum but are becoming confident, caring and aware individuals.

Moire Jarritt

9.5. CHURCH LINKS WITH THE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

I have a dual role at the infants, one as Governor and one as my role as LLM... no longer as a parent, as both of my boys have moved up to the heights now!

I was up until recently, a governor at both the Heights and the Infants. I got to the point when I thought it would be wise to drop one of these Governorships, due to the commitment of workload and time. After much thought and discussion with both of the head teachers, I decided to stay in my post at the Infants. My reasons were various with the general feeling that I wanted to stay in a role where I thought I would be of greater use. My role at the Infant School as governor include sitting in on monitoring of Head Teacher Assessments, involvement in recruitment, Chair of the Personnel Committee, Year one Link Governor and Foundation Governor Representative. My role as Foundation Governor Representative gives me both a broad and focused insight into the role of Church in school and links nicely to the involvement I have leading the church assemblies and other church lead activities.

Friday Church is still supported by Maggie, Nicola Bown, Chris Kemshell and me. We plan the services for the term and we take it in turns to lead. Most of us are present every Friday to support one another and I always lead the first song. I am delighted to say that we now have others from the church who support us as a team; talking to parents, welcoming the children etc. namely, Moire and Sarah. This goes a long way to rounding our link with the school with our church members, building a sense of what we do is important for all involved. The children really look forward to attending the service. There is always a strong sense of joyful anticipation, we have lots of fun worshipping and the children always enjoy helping us to play a role on the stage and relish answering random questions on the spot. It is such a joy and a privilege to have the opportunity to teach children stories from the bible making them interesting, fun and relevant. They are very comfortable to respond and ask questions, they even discuss topics raised back in the classroom. This is a well-attended service by not just the school accompanied by the head teacher but parents, grandparents and siblings, people who would normally never come to church, so it is such a wonderful opportunity to share Christian teaching in a relaxed and enjoyable way. It also acts as an opportunity to communicate what else we offer at church regularly inviting parents and children to other St Mary's events. After having been involved in this capacity for time now, relationships between the children and staff have been broadened and strengthened and it continues to be a very satisfying and positive experience.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

I continue to do assemblies at Linton Heights with the support of Chris Kemshell once a month on a Monday morning. I also like to support visits by GenR8 if I can. The assemblies continue to be very much appreciated and encouraged by the Head Teacher and the children have given a lot of positive feedback and look forward to our visits. Again, we try and keep the tone of the assemblies modern, fun and relevant. I am also involved in welcoming at services which the Heights hold at St Mary's with Maggie. Every year they have Christmas, Easter and Harvest festival services. The relationship with the Heights continues to be an extremely positive one and we are very much embedded as familiar and friendly faces at the school.

It is such an honour and a wonderful opportunity to be involved with the schools. The children are a joy; open, honest and genuinely interested, we are very lucky! The work is interesting, challenging and surprising, and I personally get a great deal out of talking to the children, they are often the ones teaching me and challenging my Christian thinking!

Nicola Collard

9.6. MESSY CHURCH

The Messy Church Team thank you for all the prayer and practical support you give as we continue on the Messy journey with Messy disciples of all ages.

Our sessions since the last APCM have included:

Going Up! - When we launched water-fuelled rockets in the churchyard as we discovered more about Jesus' ascension.

Hidden Treasure - When we searched for pearls among seaweed and accepted the ping-pong pearl challenge!

Exploring the stories of Ruth and Esther - When we baked bread and Hamentashen cookies.

The Messy Nativity Trail was a big hit with children as they hunted for characters from the nativity story in the windows of homes and businesses along the High Street. We then gathered on Christmas Eve for the Journey to Bethlehem crib service when our Linton shepherd got us all joining in a pop-up nativity drama.

We attended the launch of 'Messy Church does Science' at Ely Cathedral in June and our April Messy Church session will be our 'Linton Messy Science Convention'. Who says faith and science don't mix? We'll be having a lot of fun as we prove them wrong!

We launched a Messy puppet team in February and hope we will be able to use their skills to share the good news with people of all generations. Many thanks to the Anderson Trust for making this possible.

I am sure that others in the team will have their own personal highlights. Please ask any of us and we'll gladly share our enthusiasm for all things Messy.

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

1. Pray. All we do in Messy Church begins and ends with prayer. Knowing others are praying for us while we plan, prepare and run MC is a great encouragement. We have seen others and ourselves grow in faith and constantly thank God that he allows us to join with Him in this Messy ministry. Please pray for our ongoing journey.

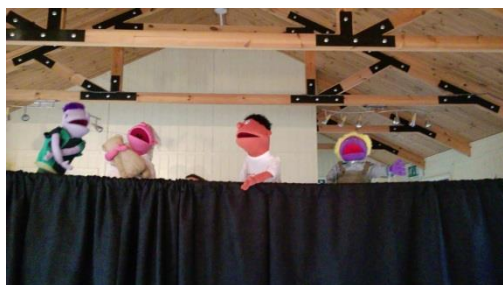
2. Help. We are of course grateful for help following the 10am service with moving furniture but we also need more team members of all generations, donations for the tea we share after Messy Church and offers of "junk" as requested through the pewsheets. If you have a special gift we would be really pleased to know!

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 information or to offer prayer or other help.



St Mary the Virgin, Linton



Sarah Thorne

9.7. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACTIVITIES

This year saw the formation of a Children and Families Group to oversee our diverse work in this area. When we drew up a list of children and families activities these encompassed:

Wild Church	Messy Church	Tots in Tow	Activity bags
Youth club	School service	All age service	School assemblies
Holiday activities	Baptisms	Children's area in church	

This is an impressive range of activities and reflects the considerable amount of effort we have put into developing our work in this area. There are separate reports for Messy Church, School service/assemblies and Tots in Tow, so this report will concentrate on the other activities.

This year has seen several new initiatives. In September we decided to suspend Junior Church in favour of a range of activities for families. Cathy Watts has pioneered the provision of activity bags for children to use during the main service and these have been really popular with families. It's a lot of work keeping these up to date – they have seasonal activities in – and big thanks are due to Cathy for this. In September we started Wild Church, which takes place on Sunday afternoon once a month. The idea was to draw on ideas developed by Forest Schools and Forest Churches elsewhere and to develop an innovative form of worship using the resources of the churchyard and the natural environment in Linton. So far we have met 7 times, with varying numbers of families attending. It's difficult to sustain outdoor activities over the colder months and we will see how this activity develops over the summer. During the last summer holiday we held a weekly art club in the pavilion, and this was a huge success with large numbers of families attending, quite a few of whom had not attended a church event before. We have also run smaller activities during school holidays and half terms. It is clear that these are greatly appreciated by families, and may pave the way for us to put on a more explicitly Christian holiday club in future.

We have developed a mailing list, which is regularly updated, and send out a monthly email with details of all our activities. They are also publicised at the weekly school service and Tots in Tow. In the coming months we are planning to put on Baby Steps, a spiritual nurture course for babies under one (and their parents!), and our baptism ministry continues to develop with Gill Powell taking a lead in this. At the other end of the age spectrum we also

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

have a presence at the Beacon Trust youth club run at the Free Church, and provide input into the teaching and discussion part of that activity.

Huge thanks are due to all who are involved in our children and families work, among whom are Sarah Thorne, Gill Powell, Moire Jarrett, Nicola Collard, Cathy Watts, Colleen Lockstone and many others who have made all our many activities possible.

Nicola Bown

9.8. TOTS IN TOW

Tots in Tow toddler group has been a central part of our work with children and families for many years. It's one of the few activities we do somewhere other than the church or the pavilion and is a very important contact with young families in the village. This year we have had anywhere between 15 (just enough to break even) and 32 (too many for safety) children and their carers at the sessions. We provide toys and play equipment, a sit-down snack and storytime, and songs and parachute games to finish off with. Thanks to the great work of the team of kitchen helpers we can offer parents and carers tea and coffee as well as snacks for the children, and these are greatly appreciated. Maggie and I run the group between us, and Sarah Thorne (who also does the kitchen rota) and Cathy Watts also help out. From the point of view of mission one of the most important things about Tots in Tow is that it is a place where relationships can be built: chatting with and listening to the parents and carers and getting to know the children is a vital part of running the group. We have recently baptised someone who came through Tots, which shows how important this kind of relationship-building is. Thanks are due to all the kitchen helpers, Cynthia, Mary, Kate, Judy, Charlotte and most of all to Sarah, as well as to Philippa who is the treasurer and makes sure the rent and insurance are up to date. Parents and carers often comment on how welcoming and friendly Tots is, and it is unusually socially diverse for a toddler group. One mum said recently, "When I came to Linton I didn't know anyone and Tots has really helped me to make friends. It's helped my child too. When we first came she was really shy and clingy, and now she has gained so much confidence – she runs straight into the room to play."

Nicola Bown

9.9. MOTHERS' UNION

The Linton Branch of the Mothers' Union usually meets on the third Monday of the month, at 7.30 pm in the Church Pavilion. Everyone is welcome to attend. The recent programme included a 'Who do you think you are?' style talk from Jean Thomson, a long term MU member and Bishop's wife; a Muslim Imam sharing his faith; learning about the impact and breadth of Christian Aid work; the success of the local Children's Society shops and how the funds are used in national projects. The Deanery Advent Service in Stapleford provided an opportunity to meet with Mothers' Union members from nearby villages. We have a summer bring and share meal outdoors if the weather is good and a Christmas social. A speaker was unable to come for one of the meetings and we enjoyed an impromptu session talking about our earlier lives and jobs and discovered many interesting things about each other.

The nearly new Toy Sale in November was very disappointing and we decided at the AGM that it would be the last sale. People came to buy but too few people offered things to sell and takings were very low. The sale has been going for more than 30 years and was a good way of recycling toys and books around the village. The popularity of social media buying and selling groups may have contributed to the lack of interest.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

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 please don't hesitate to contact Margaret Smith, Ann King or me, or check out www.mothersunion.org.

Sue Mudge

9.10. MUSIC MINISTRY

The choir at St Mary's provides regular support for the congregational singing at the 10am Sung Eucharist on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. We have choir practice on the preceding Friday evening to go through the hymns/congregational psalm for the Sunday service and to rehearse an anthem to sing at Communion. The Friday rehearsal may also be used to practice music for a forthcoming special service or festival and thereby often to add to the choir's repertoire.

We always enjoy joining with other singers e.g. at the Deanery Ascension Day Service which took place at St Andrew's Stapleford in 2017. Also, the Team Evensong which last year was at Castle Camps. Occasional singers are always welcome to take part in e.g. the Midnight Eucharist and the Ash Wednesday service.

In May 2017 members of the choir sang at the Royal School of Church Music annual festival in Ely Cathedral and in September 2017 in the Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society biennial festival in King's College Chapel. The service was entitled 'One Church, One Faith, One Lord' and was conducted by David Parry-Smith.

Last month, we held another "Come & Sing". This time – Handel's "Messiah" part 2. Following afternoon rehearsals, there was an informal performance as a meditation. Around 40 singers from the area took part and as well as being a thoroughly enjoyable and uplifting occasion, it raised over £300 for St Mary's. We hope to have a similar event on Saturday, 15th September 2018 for Brahms' "Requiem".

While it is stimulating and fulfilling to sing for special services and for festivals, we have an urgent need for more singers to join the choir to lead the music for the Sunday 10am Sung Eucharist on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. The Music Group (led alternately by Jacqui Burge and Russell Taylor) provides the music for the All Age Service on the 2nd Sunday and Sue Arden (organist) plays on the 4th Sunday.

Anne Parry-Smith

I would like to thank all involved in making music, playing, singing, administering and librarianship over the past year – whether for choir, music group or organ only services.

David Parry-Smith
Director of Music

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".

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

This year we have not provided any significant amounts of 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. We are also discussing the possible funding of work to support the Mission Action Plan.

A number of social/fund raising events have been held during the year including Afternoon Teas in the summer, a Quiz Evening in November, a Christmas Tea in December, a Safari Supper and our traditional New Year Coffee morning in January. We had a stall at The Flower Festival and arranged a Teddy Bear jump from the church tower. We also had a very enjoyable concert from The Granta Chorale.

Early in the year we were able to publish a "History of St Mary's" booklet. This was mostly written by Alan Clarkson and has proved to be very popular. Copies are available at the back of the church. Our thanks go to Alan for his work and to Judy Nightingale for acting as the producer and making sure that the booklet was printed in time for The Flower Festival.

We are still looking for new members of The Friends (we currently have over 100 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, 01223-891616

9.12. THE MONDAY GANG

The Monday Gang, comprising up to 8 people - although not many of them can be there every Monday - continue to work to keep the church yard in good trim. This past winter, being variably so wet, cold and windy, has posed a challenge. But we were lucky in that no major damage to the trees or shrubs was sustained. Spring is always a particularly lovely time in the churchyard with the aconites and snowdrops and now the daffodils and wood anemones.

The increasing number of burials in the Garden of Remembrance makes that the hardest area to keep mown and tidy, but we do our best. Any offers of help in the churchyard are always very welcome. The (mostly) white cat seen frequently in the churchyard is, contrary to belief, not a stray but belongs to the Guildhall. So please do not feed it or give it milk, or if you see someone else doing so, ask them not to.

Margaret Cox