

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Linton

held on 13th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion

Chair – David Parry-Smith

Present – Mr A Cornell-Webb (Secretary), Mrs C Dodd (Churchwarden), Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mrs S Thorne (LLM), Mr D Watts (Churchwarden), Mrs J Burge, Mr A Gore, Revd P Seaton-Burn (Team Rector and Chair), Mrs C Watts (LLM and Safeguarding Officer), Mrs S King, Revd M Wilcockson (Associate Priest), Dr D Parry-Smith (Lay Chair), Dr S Nickolls, Mr J Organ, Mr J Thorne

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies

- Ann Slaymaker

Ministry and outreach

3. Rector's report

- Thank you for a good Christmas, with hundreds of people through the door, well-attended school visits from pupils and parents from Linton Infants and Linton Heights Junior schools. Overall, attendance was greater than 2023 - with no spare seats in the carol service - and feedback on the door and in the wider community had been positive.
- Thanks were expressed for the hard work from choir, bellringers and all helpers over the Christmas period, including visits to Symonds House.
- It has been a busy pastoral time for the church since November with a number of large funerals.
- A pilot of a Service of Healing on 24th November had received positive feedback and will continue as a regular service, probably in alternate months. Cathy Watts and Sue Filby were part of the team who lead these services, alongside Paul.
- The Café Church team continue to settle in and we are learning what works well. Holy Communion had been part of the service for the first time on 22nd December, and would be included again intermittently.
- Thankful for Michael Wilcockson, Lesley Gore and Sue Filby for their pastoral work.
- All PCC members had been invited to a half-day vision setting meeting on Saturday 8th of February re: the next chapter of our welcome and care for children, young people and their families. Attendance was strongly encouraged.
- Ash Wednesday will be 5th March, with a reflective Eucharist at 7.30pm.

4. Updates for the PCC:

Children and Families Team

- Sarah's report had been distributed prior to the meeting and was noted.
- Thanks were expressed for Sarah and the team of volunteers who help with this ministry.
- Charlotte and her son Theo enjoyed Baby Steps

Deanery Synod update

- The Archdeacon is coming to visit, when Synod meets at St Mary's on 1st April 2025.

Events Committee

- Report distributed prior to the meeting
- Lots of events coming up to help with fundraising, including the forthcoming Ceilidh and Supper to mark Burns Night.

Pastoral visitors' group report

- Sue Filby's report had been distributed prior to the meeting, and was noted.
- Sue's work as co-ordinator of the Pastoral Group was appreciated. Her LLM training was going well.
- New referrals are coming in from conversations between Paul, Sue and the local well-being co-ordinators at Granta Medical Practice and the area team for the charity Mind.

Beacon Youth Trust

- Internally moving to quarterly report, 20th January is the next meeting.
- Reports very healthy and work very much appreciated.
- Thanks to Gareth Williamson for speaking in church.

5. Deanery and Diocesan Matters

- No Updates.

Management and maintenance:

6. Minutes of the PCC Meeting of 20th November 2024

- Item 3 - Healing service change the wording there from alternative months.
- Item 3 - Andrew change to Andrew Gore
- Item 3 - 'Used prayers' changed to 'rota of prayer topics'
- Item 4.3 - Saturday change to actual date of coffee morning
- Item 10.1 – Exact percentages of distribution needed.
- Items 10. 2 – Architect correctly specified as Henry Freeland Architects
- Item 11 - Proposed at the meeting to fill vacancy. Mr Lake
- Item 12 – Minor typological clarifications were agreed.

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Michael Wilcockson, seconded Paul S-B, and approved unanimously.

7. Matters arising

- David reported that Anne Parry-Smith thanks people for affirming our Fairtrade commitment. (Communion wine had recently been changed to a Fairtrade supplier).
- Fairtrade Fortnight – let people know about Fairtrade, suggestion of event for coffee morning.
- February Coffee morning will be used to raise for funds for a new defibrillator.
- Cathy reported that a hamper for staff at the Infant School - with Fairtrade products - had been delivered before Christmas to express our gratitude. (This was in addition to hampers for staff at Nichols Court and Symonds House delivered in the Autumn).

8. Safeguarding report (Cathy Watts)

- Mental First Aiders and Normal First Aiders Posters Completed.
- Checking bell ringers and pastoral visitors for DBS.
- Rebecca Boswell, safeguarding at Ely is leaving, the PCC thanks her for all the work she has done in her role.
- Sophie Jelly LLM Bishop will be leaving to move to Coventry diocese.

9. Churchwardens' report

- Nothing to report that wasn't already covered by the Agenda.

10. Other reports

Finance & Stewardship

- Sue was preparing the end of year accounts
- End of last year saving had reduced by 10k, current account 3k down, 13k more spent in 2024 then got in.
- There had been a positive response to the Harvest Thanksgiving weekend; 9 new sign-ups to parish giving scheme, amounting to £445 a month, plus gift aid.
- January currently has £4,200 a month of giving
- December's gas bill, was £1,117
- Anderson Applications need to be done by 8th of February

Fabric committee

- At David Parry-Smith's suggestion, it was agreed that Barry Roberts, Chair of the Fabric committee, would be welcome to attend PCC meetings as an observer.
- The access ramp to the Resurrection Chapel is being discussed with the Friends and the Diocese. Of the quotes provide for the floor and ramp, the cheapest was £30k plus VAT.
- If we only do the ramp, then this be either £8k or £10k plus VAT.
- The QI report was due.
- PCC approved proposed work in principle, to be included in faculty application.
- The issues raised regarding pews on keeping a few, the PCC has already given views regarding this in previous meetings.

- Andrew Gore wants to explore where its practical to look at some sort of covering between the south porch and the pavilion.
- Item 8b, minor electrical work - this would include visitor lighting (c£1k plus VAT), on a timer. The Rector emphasised the need for this, especially during the darker months of the year, when the church appeared uninviting. Targeted lighting would highlight the noticeboard at the main door and the altar/reredos. The Friends supported this work. Subject to friends funding, the Rector proposed the work be carried out - it is not necessary to obtain a Faculty for this - and it was seconded by Sarah King. Unanimous approval.
- Item 4, Welcome Desk proposal: the Friends had agreed to cover the cost, and the desk would replace the unsatisfactory table and cloth currently in situ. A drawing would to be sent to PCC and then will be subject to approval by the standing committee.
- PCC would like to feedback to chair of fabric committee if they could produce full report with listed proposals instead of just minutes from previous meeting.

11. Any other business (to the Rector, David Parry-Smith (Lay Chair) and Andrew Cornell-Webb (PCC Secretary) before the meeting)

- No AOB

Dates of future meetings for 2024- 2025: March 10th, 2025

Deanery Synod dates 2024 - 2025: Tuesday 1st April 2025

Closing prayer