

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, LINTON
MINUTES OF PCC MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION
ON THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2023

PRESENT

Dr M Warrington (Chair), Mrs J Burge, Miss C Ellis (Churchwarden), Mrs S Ellis (Treasurer), Mr A Gore, Mrs S King, Mrs S Mudge (Secretary), Dr S Nickolls, Mr J Organ, Mrs P Schofield, Mrs S Thorne (LLM), Mr R Tonry, Mrs C Watts (LLM and Safeguarding Officer), Mr D Watts (Churchwarden) and Revd. M Wilcockson.

1. OPENING PRAYER

Revd Michael Wilcockson opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr A Cornell-Webb, Mrs H Evans, Dr D Parry-Smith and Mr M Younger.

3. MINUTES OF 14TH NOVEMBER 2022

Richard Tonry asked for the minutes to be amended. He wished for his apologies to be noted as he had sent a message to that effect. Furthermore the final sentence of Item 9, Fabric report, noted that a faculty would be sought for the lighting work. Richard pointed out that this was incorrect as the proposal to apply for a Faculty had been approved in January 2022 and duly acted upon. The minutes were approved, subject to these two amendments.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 8 Finance

- Sue Ellis distributed an updated budget sheet for 2023 incorporating adjustments made at the November meeting. The actual deficit at the end of December 2022 was £22,400; a better outcome than the anticipated £35,000 deficit approved in the 2022 budget. The projected deficit for 2023 is now £19,800, slightly lower than in the document presented in November, but still a cause for concern.
- Sue E requested that the charitable giving for 2022 be noted (agreed at 10% of donated income): USPG £500; Haverhill food bank £500, Youthinc £300; Beacon Youth Trust £6,500.
- Molly Warrington and Sue E had updated the finance notice in the pewsheet to inform the church family of the financial position. Molly has offered to work with Sue E to provide explanatory text for the finance section in the Annual Report.

5. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Cathy Watts reported that:

- APCS now send reminders for DBS renewals. Two PCC members have recently renewed their certificates; one person is still to do so. All pastoral visitors have been checked and Sue Filby has an up to date list of dates when training was done.
- Safeguarding Sunday on 20th November was acknowledged and received good feedback. The date for 2023 will be 19th November.
- Cathy has started the annual review of our Parish Safeguarding Dashboard.
- A new Confidential Declaration Form is to be sent to all church members holding an Enhanced DBS. Please complete and return by Feb 1st 2023.
- The first Safeguarding Newsletter for 2023 is available.
- Cathy is booked onto the PSO Network meeting on 26.1.23
- Michael Wilcockson added that he had been notified that some Diocesan officers had received unpleasant malicious phone calls.

6. CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Charlotte Ellis began by saying that Sue Filby had offered to support Cathy Watts and Lindi Kent with the 4th Sunday 'Together With God' services.

Charlotte appealed for empty jam jars to use with battery lights during the forthcoming lighting work in the church, e.g. for the Institution of the new Rector.

David Watts spoke to the following points.

6.1. LINTON FREE CHURCH USE OF THE PAVILION

The building work at Linton Free Church was taking longer than expected. Free Church members had asked to continue to use St Mary's pavilion for their Junior Church meetings twice a month, until the end of March 2023. This has no adverse impact upon St Mary's and in fact, serving coffee in church after services has proved a success in terms of number of people staying to chat to each other.

6.2. WARM HUBS

David W reported that the Free Church Hub on Tuesdays had not been well attended. The Thursday one in the pavilion fared better but numbers were boosted by members of the 10am congregation staying for coffee. There had been maybe 6 people who were not from that congregation. David had talked to Ian Burns from the Free Church about organising more publicity; e.g. post card flyers for health workers, Library staff, mobile warden to distribute.

Action DW

David W expressed thanks to Liz Hunt who had organised a rota of helpers through to the end of March.

6.3. CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

Most PCC members now had a church email address but some were not working successfully. It was suggested that maybe there could be a guidance sheet for setting up Gmail on different devices. David W said that it is sometimes easier to sit with someone and do it in person.

Action DW

6.4. TEAM MINISTERS

The Team Ministers had held a Zoom meeting with Revd Paul Seaton-Burn, the new Rector due to be installed in February. Services had been planned up to Easter. There will be a 7.30pm service on Maundy Thursday but not one at 10am.

6.5. PCC AND OFFICER PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs for some people are still required in order to update the board in the north porch. It had been decided to wait for the new Rector to arrive before planning another photo session. Charlotte Ellis said that she has the old photos which were taken down, should anyone want theirs.

6.6. ZOOM FOR SERVICES

The technical side of the Zoom provision is working well but John Thorne is not able to loan the necessary equipment for much longer. The outlay of £9,000 was not included in the 2023 budget. Given the disruption due to work in the church, it was decided by the meeting that offering Zoom services would be discontinued at some point. In response to a question, Sarah Thorne said that there was only one person who relied on participating via Zoom. Sarah asked that it be noted that there were pastoral concerns for existing users.

Molly Warrington said that as this would be the last PCC meeting before Revd Paul Seaton-Burn arrives, after a long Interregnum, she wished to thank both David W and Charlotte as churchwardens and also Revd Michael Wilcockson for his extensive input into services. Michael's contribution meant that churchwardens were not having to book priests from elsewhere to cover every Sunday.

7. FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Richard Tonry had circulated a report of ongoing projects plus a document from Andrew Gore relating to the provenance of the pews.

- **QI works and lighting scheme:** Most of the minor external repairs at roof level were completed before Christmas. Scaffolding has been erected in church this week for the start of the lighting project, to be followed by other minor repairs and decorating - scheduled for completion by the end of March. Several damaged pammments in the floor have been replaced and an area of sunken flooring levelled in the south aisle; the cost of which can be covered by savings elsewhere in the scheme. A further area of tiles can be seen to be lower by the children's area. Richard said the quote for correcting this would be about £2,000. Andrew Gore proposed that this portion of floor should be levelled, seconded by Jacqui Burge and agreed by the meeting.

Friends' lectern - a moveable lectern funded by a donation in memory of Enid Bald. The Friends have requested that a separate Faculty is sought for this to speed up the process. Richard Tonry proposed that an application for a Faculty be started, seconded by Molly Warrington. Members agreed with one vote against. Sarah Thorne said that she feels that the church is still too cluttered and that we should not have more furniture. Michael Wilcockson suggested that the portable lectern should be acquired and then consider whether the eagle can be moved. Sarah King pointed out that Patricia Schofield has taken on the task of cleaning the eagle regularly.

- **Spare pews:** Andrew Gore had compiled a detailed document with descriptions and photographs of the pews and extracts from PCC minutes from 1945 - 1989, showing that the pews with carved edges and the two carved frontals came from Great St Mary's, not Michaelhouse. The frontals were designed by Gilbert Scott Junior and may attract a good price if we were able to sell them. Andrew said that it would be worth retaining the two long pews as they can seat 6 people. The two pews divided into three seats take a lot of space and only have plywood backs, so are less desirable. The Fabric committee favoured applying for a Faculty to dispose of all the pews, but had been advised by DAC members at a meeting in August 2022, that there would be opposition to disposing of the more ornate ones, and the committee therefore suggested that the pew problem should be reviewed when the new Rector arrives.

Molly Warrington commented that the issue of church furniture was going round in circles and had been discussed by the De-cluttering Group prior to 2020, when it was proposed getting a shed to help with storage, which created a different set of obstacles.

Michael Wilcockson proposed that the spare pews should be moved from the Resurrection Chapel into the side aisles to allow the chapel to be used again, seconded by Jacqui Burge. Obviously this cannot happen until the scaffolding goes and there is room in the church to move furniture.

- **Effect on church services from internal work:** David Watts explained how the scaffolding will impact on the space available and also that the church will be closed to visitors during the week and only open at other times for services and organised events. The scaffolding encloses the pillars and has three working levels to allow the contractors to access the full height of the nave. It should be possible to have a central block of chairs; eight rows and six chairs wide. Accommodating funerals will be difficult with no central aisle for the coffin bearers. The work will begin in the chancel with electrical work followed by decorating and progress down the church. Scaffolding will be removed as each stage is complete.

It was discussed whether the **Institution service** should be moved to Horseheath or Bartlow, if the capacity at Linton was greatly reduced. David W said that he would review the position over the next couple of days when the scaffolding was completed and, if necessary, ask for clarification from the Bishop's office. Sue

Mudge said that she had been sent the Form 17 notice of Patronage Measure 1986 – the Notice of Intention to Institute The Revd Paul Simon Seaton-Burn as Team Rector of the Linton Benefice, which was supposed to be displayed four weeks in advance of the Institution date of 14th February. Sue said that she would wait for a decision on venue.

8. REPORTS TO PCC

8.1. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TEAM

Sarah Thorne had circulated a written report. Sarah added that the team was due to meet the next day. Discussions are underway with Linton Free Church members about a joint activity for families at Easter. Molly Warrington thanked Sarah and her team as the list of activities and initiatives grows ever longer.

8.2. DEANERY SYNOD UPDATE

Andrew Gore said that the Deanery Development Planning process was continuing. Anne Parry-Smith had circulated notes from the Reach Ely review meeting in November, in which St Mary's was an early participant. The 40 case studies may be viewed on the Reach Ely page of the Diocesan website, along with other information for churches such as pointers to achieve 'Net Zero'. Geoffrey Hunter, DAC Secretary and Head of the Church Buildings and Pastoral Department led the day.

8.3. EVENTS COMMITTEE

Charlotte Ellis's report summarised recent activities and gave notice of two Vintage Teas planned for February 4th and March 11th. The film Waterlight, about a chalk stream, will be shown at the first one and Tim Breitmeyer will speak in March about his role with the Royal Household. Refreshments will be provided for the Institution service on Feb 14th.

9. PROVISIONAL DATE OF APCM

Sunday 14th May was suggested; to avoid the Bartlow 3 Counties Charity Walk on 30th April and the 7th May in the Coronation weekend.

10. APPROVAL OF REVISED LETTINGS POLICY

Anne Parry-Smith had suggested some minor amendments to the Lettings Policy for Church and Pavilion; the need for clarification had become apparent when using the policy. Sue Mudge proposed the amendments, seconded by Richard Tonry, and they were duly approved by the meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sue Mudge recorded the receipt of the letter in November from Jon Green, Diocesan Board of Finance, concerning the possible disposal of Linton Glebe – the strip of land by the river behind Church Cottage. No further information.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.50pm.

Dates of future PCC meetings: Monday 13th March 2023.

Deanery Synod dates 2023: Tuesday 21st March at Great Shelford, Wednesday 12th July at West Wrattling and Tuesday 7th November at Sawston.