

St Mary the Virgin
Linton

Annual Parish Vestry Meeting
followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 20th April 2010 at 7.30pm in the
Pavilion

**Church of St Mary-the –Virgin
Linton Cambridgeshire**

**Annual Parish Vestry Meeting followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 20th April 2010
at 7.30p.m.**

AGENDA

Part A- Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Vestry Meeting held on 26th April 2009
3. Election of Churchwardens

Part B-Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 26th April 2009
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report
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. Questions from the floor
13. Rector's Report
14. Closing Prayers

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting, Sunday 26th April, 2009

The meeting, held in the Church Pavilion, began with prayers led by the Revd Dr David Moore, Assistant Honorary Priest. Dr Molly Warrington, Lay Chair, took the Chair. 40 parishioners were present.

Election of Churchwardens: Mrs Gillian Powell and Mr Michael Younger were duly elected as Churchwardens.

Mr Younger thanked Pam Richardson, the outgoing Churchwarden, for her commitment, enthusiasm and hard work during her three year term of office.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 26th April, 2009

Apologies: Mrs Hilary Angetter, Ven Alan Clarkson, Mrs M Clarkson, Revd Canon Alan Cole, Mrs B Cole, Mrs J Connochie, Mrs S Filby, Mr R Read, Mrs J Smith, Mr M Smith, Mr S Toussnel.

Minutes of Previous Meeting, 6th April 2008: The Minutes were accepted with no amendments. There were no matters arising.

Parochial Church Council Report

Dr Warrington highlighted aspects of the work of the PCC over the past year. She drew attention to the Mission Action Plan (MAP), which had been prepared by the PCC over a course of meetings in the autumn of 2008. Four objectives had been identified: to consolidate and develop further the work of the previous incumbent, particularly outreach activities, growing children's and youth work, building a more integrated and coherent community within St Mary's and developing a strategy for ministry amongst the elderly. Dr Warrington stressed that these would involve a commitment of time, talent and money from all members of the congregation.

The PCC had also considered ways of developing more diversity in Music and in types of service provision, and it was reported that considerable progress had been achieved in these areas over the past year. Youth and Children's work had been a major focus of discussion, and the PCC had agreed to appoint a new Youth Worker to succeed Hannah Burton as from September 2009. In this context, an application had been submitted to Ridley Hall for a new student placement, and Dr Warrington asked those at the meeting to remember this matter in their prayers.

Dr Warrington reported on the process of seeking a new incumbent to succeed Revd Mark Mills-Powell, and it was noted that Pam Richardson would continue as one of the two parish representatives, with Michael Younger. A number of formal meetings had been held with the Archdeacon, and informal visits arranged for three candidates for the post; it was reported that the subsequent formal interviews had not led to an appointment, but that the search process was continuing.

There had been much correspondence with the Diocese's Houses Committee regarding the Rectory, and after much intensive discussion, the Diocese had agreed that the present Rectory would be demolished and a new Rectory built, at a higher level, on the current site.

During the year, the PCC had exercised its responsibilities for fabric, finance and child protection, and had received reports from a number of sub-committees. Dr Warrington concluded by thanking PCC members for their support over the past year, particularly

thanking those who had completed their term of office (Dr R Petter, Mr B Simmonds and Mr C Webb) and those who had stood down during the year (Dr T Prevost, Mr T Smith).

In response to a question from Dr Parry-Smith, Dr Warrington reported that the MAP would be reviewed annually, in the autumn of each year.

Financial Report and Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mr Tim Richardson, Treasurer, presenting the financial report, highlighted the fact that income had increased by around 17% during the year but this had mainly been as a result of legacies and donations; it was noted that weekly giving from the congregation had remained virtually static. Outgoings had risen by 25% over the same period, which meant that the financial accounts for the year showed a deficit of £4573, despite the fact that the Parish had paid only 85% of the Parish Share (a shortfall of around £6500). In response to a question, the Treasurer agreed that the financial shortfall for 2008 was in the region of £11k. The main increase in expenditure had been the cost of the path to the Pavilion (£7208).

The Treasurer reported that the PCC were indebted to the Friends of St Mary's for their invaluable contributions to ongoing work on the fabric of the church.

Reporting on assets and liabilities, Mr Richardson drew the meeting's attention to the fact that although assets stood at £145k, real financial assets accounted for only around £57k, since £11k of assets were in restricted funds and a further £77k represented the value of the Pavilion. He emphasised that, whilst a deficit budget could be sustained in the short-term, this was highly undesirable.

It was noted that restricted funds were mostly vested in Music, Youth Work and the 'Chairs account'. It was noted that the funds in the Youth Work account would support a new worker during the forthcoming academic year. In response to a question, it was agreed that more chairs might be needed to be purchased, but otherwise it might be possible – through discussion with the original donors – to release this surplus for other uses.

The Treasurer thanked Maurice Smith, Nanette Blackmore, Ruth Franks and Jackie Burge for their support in various ways during the year.

A number of questions were raised about the use of legacies, the wisdom (or otherwise) of setting deficit budgets, and whether the PCC was considering medium term planning to reverse this situation. Dr Warrington emphasised that the PCC felt an increased responsibility to meet the full Parish Share and that this needed to be acknowledged in budget setting. The Revd Dr David Moore suggested that it might be helpful to inform the congregation about the actual cost of the Parish Share per head (of numbers on the Electoral Roll). The meeting agreed with Mr Simmonds' point that the PCC needed to budget more tightly and only to spend against anticipated income.

Dr Warrington thanked Mr Richardson (who had expressed the wish to stand down as Treasurer) for all his work in this demanding role over several years.

The meeting unanimously accepted the nomination of Mr Andrew Cohen (proposed: Dr Parry-Smith, seconded: Pam Richardson) as the Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2009.

Fabric Report

Dr Connochie spoke to the pre-circulated report of the Fabric Committee and pointed out that the main items of the previous year had been the painting of church roof lead with SmartWater, and the fitting of a roof alarm. He noted that work was about to commence on the south Clerestory Windows. He expressed his thanks to the committee for its ongoing work, and – in response to a question from the floor – agreed that it was important steps were

taken to minimise the dust from the current building work, and particularly to protect the organ.

Deanery Synod Report

Dr Warrington spoke to the pre-circulated report from Richard Read, Deanery Synod representative, and highlighted that St Mary's was now part of the new Granta Deanery. It was emphasised that the new deanery was more active and placed greater importance on meeting the Parish Share. Mrs Pam Richardson was duly elected to serve with Richard Read as Deanery Synod representatives.

Electoral Roll

It was reported that the Electoral Roll stood at 188 members (previous total 207), and it was noted that this affected the size of the PCC, reducing elected members from 12 to 9.

Election of PCC

It was noted that there were 4 vacancies on the PCC. Nominations had been received for:

Linda Fisher; Stephane Toussanel; Margaret Cox; Phil Kirkman.

As no other nominations were received, these four persons were duly elected.

Appointment of Sidewomen / Sidesmen:

All persons on the current list of sidespeople were re-appointed, with the addition of Mrs Rosemary Read and Mrs Glynis Younger.

Reports from Committees and Organisations

Reports had been previously circulated and were received (with discussion) from the following:

- Linton CE Infant School: Sue Mudge was thanked for her invaluable work as Chair of Governors and the meeting recorded its gratitude for the time and commitment she gave to this work on behalf of St Mary's; the meeting welcomed the appointment of the new head teacher, and looked forward to a close and constructive working relationship with her into the future.
- Baptism Group: it was noted that the group intended to work closely in the future with the Curate, the Revd Lesley Gore, and with the Team Vicar-elect, Revd Dr Julie Norris.
- St Mary's Junior Church Report: Natalie Whitton-Spriggs spoke briefly on her work with the Infant School, and the meeting applauded the range of work sustained by long-serving members.
- Youth Work Report: the meeting noted the extensive and exciting range of activities.
- Musical Leadership: the meeting expressed its enormous appreciation of David Parry-Smith's musical leadership, and thanked him for his extensive and enthusiastic quality commitment to this role. It was noted that it was hoped to start a Children's Choir but that more work and support was needed to realise this aim.
- Social Committee: Bob Simmonds reported that the Social Committee were hoping to organise a September Barbeque as an Ely 900 celebration event.

Reports were also received from:

- Churchyard Group
- Bellringers
- Monday House group
- Friday House Group

- Julian Meetings
- Children Society activity
- Christian Aid
- Verger
- Women World Day of Prayer
- Friends of St Mary's
- Lay Pastoral Care Group

Revd Dr David Moore spoke of the activities of the St Mary's Guild, which met monthly and had at present had 16 senior members.

Dr Warrington thanked all those who had presented a report and commented on the extensive range of activities being sustained across different age-ranges within the parish.

Questions / issues from the floor

- Sue Mudge drew attention to the forthcoming Flower Festival and the need to promote this as widely as possible, to maximise the impact of the Festival on the community and on St Mary's finances.
- Michael Younger reiterated that the first round of interviews had not been successful in identifying a new incumbent, but reported that the Archdeacon and those on the Appointments Panel were currently informally contacting possible candidates from surrounding dioceses, to see if a suitable candidate could be attracted as Team Rector. If not, the post would be readvertised. It was noted that the process appeared to be proceeding well, such that a new incumbent might be in place by October 2009.
- Nanette Blackmore reported an increasing number of visits to the church, including regular visits from the new Granta Special School, and from groups interested in historic churches.
- Catherine Nancekivell mentioned the continuing success of the Tots-in-Tow group, and the number of parents from the group bringing forward their children to baptism.

Comments from Lay Chair

Dr Warrington reflected on the interregnum which was offering a positive experience to the parish, with consolidation and growth in several areas. She expressed thanks to all the retired and assistant clergy who were sustaining the pattern of services and prayer within the parish. She thanked the churchwardens, members of the PCC and sub-committees, junior church leaders and all those who helped to sustain the life and worship of the church.

She identified the challenges involved in sustaining and promoting the work as defined in the Mission Action Plan, and suggested that this would need collaborative involvement from a greater number of people, willing to contribute their time and talents to these activities. Dr Warrington stressed that the PCC had taken a leap of faith to build on the youth work which was a legacy of the previous Rector, and noted that there was a need for increased giving and to consider Gift Aid if this growth was to be sustained. She acknowledged the generosity of the Anderson Trust in helping to finance the youth work over a number of years.

Dr Warrington's final comments expressed confidence in the future, in the belief that God would show us the right way forward as we sought a new incumbent.

Mr Younger thanked Dr Warrington for her leadership of the PCC during the interregnum and for her extensive and invaluable work as Chair over the past year.

The meeting closed with prayer led by Revd Dr David Moore at 12.20 p.m.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton- Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for Year ended 31 December 2009

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 90 Balsham Road, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4LW.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2009 until the date this report was approved are:

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Revd. Dr. Steve Griffiths	Chair [from 6 October 2009]
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mr Michael Younger Mrs Gill Powell	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Mr Richard Read Mrs Pam Richardson	
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs Margaret Cox Mrs Hayley Donnan Mrs Sue Ellis Mrs Sue Filby Ms Linda Fisher Mr Phil Kirkman Mr John Organ Mrs Anne Parry-Smith Dr Roger Petter Mr Toby Prevost Mr Bob Simmonds Prof Chummy Sinnatamby Mr Antony Smith Mr Stephane Toussnel Mr John Thorne Dr Molly Warrington	[from APCM 26/04 /09] <i>Treasurer</i> [from APCM 26/04/09] [from APCM 26/04 /09] [from APCM 26/04 /09] [to APCM 26/04 /09] [to 03/09] [to APCM 26/04 /09] [to 11/09] [to 03/09] [from APCM 26/04 /09 to 11/09] <i>Vice-Chair</i>
<i>Co-opted member</i>	Mr Conrad Webb	
<i>Secretary (non-voting)</i>	Mrs Glynis Younger	

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, the Revd. Dr. Steve Griffiths, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the St Mary's Church and for the Pavilion adjacent to the church.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

There were 188 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll at the end of 2009, 14 of whom were not resident within the parish. The average Sunday attendance, counted during October, was 104 adults and 21 children and young people. These numbers increased at major festivals, with 233 people attending worship on Easter Day and 303 attending worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Review of the year

The PCC met six times during the year. Part of each meeting in the early part of the year was taken up with matters concerning the appointment of a new Team Rector, with preparations for advertisement and interviews, and feedback from the Parish Representatives on the progress being made. The PCC was delighted with the outcome of this lengthy process and welcomed the Revd Dr Steve Griffiths both as Team Rector and as its new Chair, following his induction on 6th October. The PCC formally approved Linton's incorporation into the new Granta Deanery in January, and several members of the PCC attended the induction of the Revd Dr Julie Norris at Gt Abingdon in February.

As in the previous year, a significant part of each meeting in the first six months of the year was devoted to discussion of Children's and Youth Work. A new Committee was set up in January 2009 with representatives of all aspects of children's and youth work within the church, and the PCC endorsed the recommendation of that committee that a new youth worker should be sought to carry on the excellent work undertaken by Ms Hannah Burton when Hannah came to the end of her placement in August. The committee was charged with putting together an application to Ridley Hall for a new youth worker; Mr Barry Easton came forward, was interviewed in August, and his appointment was confirmed by the PCC. Barry took up his post as youth worker in mid-September. Whilst the PCC would have liked to have been in a position to appoint a new children's worker to replace Ms Natalie Whitton-Spriggs, the financial position did not allow this. Nevertheless, the PCC wished to continue to develop links with the Junior Church and Linton Infants School, and so build on Natalie's hard work.

With a decision taken early in the year to hold a second Christmas Tree Festival in December 2009, time was spent at each subsequent meeting on plans for this. It was agreed that the Festival would be a PCC-organised event, with Mrs Hayley Donnan offering to act as coordinator and various members of the Committee taking on areas of responsibility for various aspects.

In July the PCC held a discussion on 'What kind of Church do we want to be?' focusing on the barriers that might stop people coming to church and what might be done to remove such barriers. Following small-group discussion, a number of issues were raised at the plenary session including the need to ensure a warm and open welcome, to ensure that liturgy was accessible and appropriate, and to recognise that many forms of 'Church' were developing in the community. In order to improve communications, a Communications Committee was subsequently established to explore further the potential of the website, the scope and quality of the parish magazine, articles for the Linton News, notice boards and generally to seek how we might promote ourselves more vibrantly in the community.

Besides these key items, PCC meetings also received and discussed regular reports from the Finance and Fabric Committees and from the Deanery Synod representatives, and responded to items of correspondence. It approved the list of Lay Administrators, approved Disciplinary and Grievance policies and carried out an annual review of the Child Protection Policy. New foundation governors for the Infants School were appointed: in September Mr Phil Kirkman replaced Mrs Sue Mudge, who had served as a governor for fifteen years and

Chair for eight, and in November the Revd Dr Julie Norris was appointed to replace Mrs Fiona Reimann. Repairs to the north clerestory windows and new spotlights in the nave were approved, and repairs to the pavilion and the refurbishment of the 'boiler room' were discussed. Liaison took place with Parish Council representatives on aspects relating to the churchyard and the leaflet on the Garden of Remembrance was revised. Following the AGM committee membership was reviewed and new terms of reference were agreed for the Fabric and Finance Committees. The remit of the Social Committee was also discussed, and the PCC charged that committee with what turned out to be a successful and well-supported event to celebrate Ely 900 in October.

After considerable discussion the PCC also lent its support in principle to a proposal from the Infants School to enclose the north side of the Camping Close to enable safe, clean, green space in which the children could play. It also received regular feedback from the small group concerned with Greening the Church, and took the decision to seek registration of St Mary's with the Diocese as a Fair Trade Church. In September the Committee gave its approval to the running of a 'Little Mocha House' in the Pavilion on Friday afternoons, and in November it agreed to lend its support to a new Alpha course to begin in the spring of 2010.

Financial Review

Total receipts during 2009 were £130,494 and are detailed in the financial statements. This figure includes donations from the Anderson Trust of £5,000, designated for children's and youth work, and a grant of £35,000 from the Friends of St Mary's towards the cost of the repair of the south clerestory windows. The PCC is very grateful for these contributions, without which they would have been unable to fund a new youth worker or to undertake major repairs.

Total expenditure during the year accounted to £129,644, which includes £39,680 on major repairs to the church. For the first time in recent years the Parish Share payable to the Diocese of Ely (£46,261) was paid in full, thus attracting a small rebate. Whilst next year's share will fall slightly, reflecting the previous year's interregnum, it is expected that thereafter the amount will continue to increase year on year. Nevertheless the PCC adopted a policy of continuing to pay each year's share in full. The Parish Share remains the PCC's largest expenditure, and represents the equivalent of £246 per year for every member of the electoral roll. **Including the Parish share, in 2009 it cost the equivalent of £450 per electoral roll member for the day-to-day running of St Mary's.**

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £850. This compares to a deficit of £-4,573 at the end of 2008.

The PCC reviewed its policy on charitable giving and agreed from 2010 to donate 10% of regular giving, rather than 10% of total income to charity. Allocations will be made at the beginning of each calendar year, based on the previous year's regular income. It was agreed that charitable giving should not be used to support youth work at St Mary's, as had been the case in the past.

Reserves Policy

Following recommendations from the Finance Committee, the PCC adopted a reserves policy based on the Church of England's Stewardship Network's Good Practice Guide. It was agreed to retain a sum of £15,000 for urgent repairs following the forthcoming quinquennial inspection, and to establish a contingency fund of £10,000 to minimise risk. It was further agreed to plan expenditure over the next five years to ensure good stewardship and to put in place a realistic mission plan. The reserves policy will be reviewed annually.

Approved by the PCC on 18th March 2010 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Doctor Steve Griffiths (PCC chair).

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Steve Griffiths', is written over a faint circular stamp. To the right of the signature, the date '18/3/10' is written in black ink.

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 reconciles all changes in its funds.
- A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds.
- Notes to the financial statements, expanding on information in the accounting statements.

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 will seek registration with the Charity Commission during 2010. With the requirement to prepare accounts for the first time on an accruals accounting basis (because incoming resources have exceeded £100,000), and the introduction of new software during the year, precise comparisons with the previous year's figures are not possible, although overall figures for 2008 are shown on the SOFA.

St Mary's Linton
Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2009 to 31 December 2009

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	£107,659.11	£5,750.00	—	£113,409.11	£82,567
Activities for generating funds	£8,463.96	—	—	£8,463.96	£7,217
Investment income	£383.78	£82.68	—	£466.46	£1,195
Incoming resources from church activities	£5,611.20	—	—	£5,611.20	£3,419
Other incoming resources	£2,543.21	—	—	£2,543.21	—
Total incoming resources	£124,661.26	£5,832.68	—	£130,493.94	£94,398
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds [see Note 1]	£538.85	—	—	£538.85	—
Cost of generating voluntary income	£63.53	—	—	£63.53	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold & other costs	£91.69	—	—	£91.69	—
Church activities [Note 2]	£121,503.24	£7,446.64	—	£128,949.88	—
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
Total resources used	£122,197.31	£7,446.64	—	£129,643.95	£98,971
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	£2,463.95	(£1,613.96)	—	£849.99	-£4573
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	£11,283.61	£721.58	—	£12,005.19	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£11,283.61)	(£721.58)	—	(£12,005.19)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	£2,463.95	(£1,613.96)	—	£849.99	—
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	£3,287.34	—	—	£3,287.34	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	£5,751.29	(£1,613.96)	—	£4,137.33	—
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	£152,808.20	£6,755.59	—	£159,563.79	£159,563.79
Total funds carried forward	£158,559.49	£5,141.63	—	£163,701.12	£159,563.79

St Mary's Linton
Balance sheet (Summary)
As of: 31 December 2009

	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets (Pavilion)	£77,031.00	£77,031.00
Investments [See Note 3]	£30,237.34	—
	£107,268.34	£77,031.00
Current assets		
Investments	—	£26,950.00
Cash at bank and in hand	£56,432.78	£55,582.79
	£56,432.78	£82,532.79
Net current assets less current liabilities	£56,432.78	£82,532.79
Total assets less current liabilities	£163,701.12	£159,563.79
Total net assets less liabilities	£163,701.12	£159,563.79
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	£70,228.45	£49,318.03
Designated		
Designated - Fabric Fund	£10,819.77	£15,311.97
Designated - Insurance fund 2001 flood [Note 4]	—	£11,147.20
Designated – Pavilion (at cost)	£77,031.00	£77,031.00
- Pavilion	£480.27	—
Restricted		
Restricted - Bells	£866.31	£855.83
Restricted - Chairs	£2,089.46	£2,064.20
Restricted – Children’s Fund [Note 5]	—	£1,077.46
Restricted - Junior Church	—	—
Restricted - Loop	£205.57	£203.09
Restricted - Music	£1,157.64	£1,520.67
Restricted - Youth & Children	£822.65	£1,034.34
Funds of the church	£163,701.12	£159,563.79

St Mary's Linton

St Mary's Linton for the period from 01 January 2009 to 31 December 2009

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Return of Parish Finance			
Incoming Resources			
Voluntary income			
01 - Tax efficient planned giving			
0101: Gift Aid - Bank	0.00	36,267.00	36,267.00
0110: Gift Aid - Envelopes	0.00	1,853.96	1,853.96
Total for 01 - Tax efficient planned giving (net of tax recovered by the PCC)	0.00	38,120.96	38,120.96
02 - Other planned giving			
0201: Other planned giving (envelopes – non Gift Aid)	0.00	4,526.27	4,526.27
03 - Collection of loose cash at services			
0301: Loose plate collections	0.00	11,449.73	11,449.73
04 - All other RECURRING giving / donations			
0410: Giving through church boxes (wall safe, votive candles)	0.00	272.82	272.82
05 - All NON-RECURRING giving / donations			
0501: One-off Gift Aid gifts	0.00	1,200.75	1,200.75
0550: Donations appeals etc [see Note 6]	0.00	4,516.14	4,516.14
Total for 05 - All NON-RECURRING giving / donations (inc Special Appeals)	0.00	5,716.89	5,716.89
06 - All tax recovered through Gift Aid			
0601: Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	0.00	11,796.84	11,796.84
08 - RECURRING grants (paid in more than one financial year)			
0801: Recurring grants (Friends of St Mary's) [Note 7]	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
08A - NON-RECURRING or one-off grants			
08A1: Non-recurring one-off grants (including £5000 from Anderson Trust)	0.00	6,525.60	6,525.60
Total for Voluntary income	0.00	113,409.11	113,409.11
Activities for Generating Funds			
09 - Fund raising (gross amount)			
0902: Flower Festival	0.00	5,915.93	5,915.93
0903: Christmas Tree Festival	0.00	2,446.30	2,446.30
0904: Social Events (Ely 900)	0.00	101.73	101.73
Total for 09 - Fund raising (gross amount)	0.00	8,463.96	8,463.96
Total for Activities for Generating Funds	0.00	8,463.96	8,463.96
Income from Investments			
10 - Dividends, interest, income from property etc			
1020: Bank and building society interest	0.00	406.46	406.46
1030: Hire of church	0.00	60.00	60.00
		466.46	
Total for Income from Investments	0.00	466.46	466.46
Church Activities			
11 - Statutory fees retained by the PCC			
1101: Fees for weddings and funerals	0.00	3,416.00	3,416.00
12 - Bookstall, hall lettings, magazine advertising & sales etc			
1230: Pavilion lettings	0.00	2,195.20	2,195.20
Total for Church Activities	0.00	5,611.20	5,611.20
Other incoming resources			
13 - Other incoming resources			
1321: Sale of Lawn Mower	0.00	100.00	100.00
1322: Other Income [Note 8]	0.00	2,443.21	2,443.21
Total for 13 - Other incoming resources	0.00	2,543.21	2,543.21
Total for Other incoming resources	0.00	2,543.21	2,543.21

St Mary's Linton

St Mary's Linton for the period from 01 January 2009 to 31 December 2009

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Total for Incoming Resources	0.00	130,493.94	130,493.94
Resources Used / Expenditure			
Costs of Generating Funds (Fundraising costs etc.)			
17 - Costs of generating Funds (Fundraising costs etc)			
1730: Costs of fetes & other events [Note 9]	63.53	0.00	(63.53)
1731: Flower Festival Costs	31.63	0.00	(31.63)
1732: Christmas Tree Festival Costs	507.22	0.00	(507.22)
1733: Costs Social events [Note 10]	91.69	0.00	(91.69)
Total for 17 - Costs of generating Funds (Fundraising costs etc)	694.07	0.00	(694.07)
Total for Costs of Generating Funds (Fundraising costs etc.)	694.07	0.00	(694.07)
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations			
18 - All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations [Note 11]			
1801: Giving to missionary societies	2,000.00	0.00	(2,000.00)
1850: Home mission	1,649.20	0.00	(1,649.20)
1870: Secular charities	1,000.00	0.00	(1,000.00)
Total for 18 - All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations	4,649.20	0.00	(4,649.20)
Total for All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations	4,649.20	0.00	(4,649.20)
Church Activities			
19 - Parish share paid to diocese			
1910: Ministry parish share	46,261.28	0.00	(46,261.28)
20 - Salaries / honoraria (youth worker, organist, administrator)	12,674.83	0.00	(12,674.83)
21 - Expenses (of clergy, pastoral staff, youth workers etc)			
2130: Parsonage house expenses	7.43	0.00	(7.43)
2150: Vicar's telephone (includes redirection of phone line)	414.97	0.00	(414.97)
2170: Education [Note 12]	3,975.61	0.00	(3,975.61)
2102: Expenses Youth Worker	301.57	0.00	(301.57)
Total for 21 - Expenses (of clergy, pastoral staff, youth workers etc)	4,699.58	0.00	(4,699.58)
23 - Regular church running expenses			
2370: Visiting speakers / locums (during interregnum)	3,585.60	0.00	(3,585.60)
2301: Church running - insurance	4,221.94	0.00	(4,221.94)
2320: Organ / piano tuning	196.19	0.00	(196.19)
2330: Church maintenance (includes boiler repairs)	1,435.11	0.00	(1,435.11)
2340: Upkeep of services (includes candles, wine, reading leaflets, etc)	1,323.25	0.00	(1,323.25)
2350: Upkeep of churchyard	540.68	0.00	(540.68)
2360: Administration (includes photocopying, software)	3,536.76	0.00	(3,536.76)
Total for 23 - Regular church running expenses	14,839.53	0.00	(14,839.53)
24 - Church utility bills			
2401: Church running - electric	460.14	0.00	(460.14)
2410: Church running - gas	4,805.66	0.00	(4,805.66)
2420: Church running - water	96.74	0.00	(96.74)
Total for 24 - Church utility bills	5,362.54	0.00	(5,362.54)
25 - Costs of trading (magazine, hall and bookstall costs etc)			
2530: Pavilion running - electricity	665.73	0.00	(665.73)
2560: Pavilion running - maintenance	96.90	0.00	(96.90)
2580: Pavilion running - water	20.72	0.00	(20.72)
Total for 25 - Costs of trading	783.35	0.00	(783.35)
Total for Church Activities	84,621.11	0.00	(84,621.11)

St Mary's Linton

**St Mary's Linton
for the period from 01 January 2009 to 31 December 2009**

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Total for Resources Expended	89,964.38	0.00	(89,964.38)
Major Capital Expenditure			
<i>Major Capital Expenditure</i>			
27 - Major repairs to the church building including redecoration			
2701: Church major repairs - structure	39,679.57	0.00	(39,679.57)
Total for Major Capital Expenditure	39,679.57	0.00	(39,679.57)
Total for Return of Parish Finance	129,643.95	130,493.94	849.99

Notes to financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES [notes 1-2]

1. Cost of generating funds: the figure of £538.85 combines the costs of Flower Festival and Christmas Tree Festival [see Items 1731 and 1732 on the Return of Parish Finance].
2. The total of £121,503.24 for Church activities is made up of all the other items details on pp.2-3 of the RPF under the headings Mission Giving and Charitable Grants and Donations, Church Activities and Major Capital Expenditure.

BALANCE SHEET [notes 3-5]

3. **Fixed assets:** Investments (£30,237.34) is the value of the sterling bond held in a Barclays offshore account.
4. **Designated funds:** the PCC agreed to move money from the insurance fund relating to the 2001 flood to the General Fund.
5. **Restricted funds:** the PCC agreed to the amalgamation of money from the Children's and Junior Church Funds to a fund restricted to expenditure on Youth and Children.

RETURN OF PARISH FINANCE [notes 6-11]

This provides a fuller explanation of the totals shown on the SOFA.

Incoming resources (see p.7)

6. Item 0550 Donations – includes payments from the Diocese for services during the interregnum
7. Item 0801 Recurring grants – The Friends of St Mary's regularly give grants towards the upkeep of the fabric of the church, though the amounts vary from year to year.
8. Item 1322 Other income – includes payments made by parents for the youth weekend away and money from the previously external magazine account (£1,742, to be moved to designated accounts).

Resources used (See pp.8-9)

9. Item 1730 Cost of fetes & other events is expenditure on raffle tickets and the cost of providing teas for a visit by members of the Historic Churches Trust.
10. Item 1733 Costs of social events relates to expenditure on drinks after the Team Rector's induction.
11. Item 18 All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants and Donations: donations were made as follows:
1801 Giving to Missionary Societies: USPG (£500); Saints Project Trust (£500); Christ for All in Andhra Pradesh (£500); Christian Blind Mission (£500)
1850 Home Mission: Beacon Community Trust (£1,000); Youth work at St Mary's (£649.20)
1870 Secular charities: Jimmy's Night Shelter, Cambridge (£1,000)
12. Item 2170 Education: this figure includes Youth Worker Placement fees payable to Ridley Hall, Cambridge, salary paid to Children's Worker and expenditure on the Youth Weekend Away.

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 2009, 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) 9th March 2010

Andrew Cohen, Chartered Financial Planner

Littlegates, Radwinter End, Saffron Walden. CB10 2UD

Electoral Roll Report 2010

The Electoral Roll is your 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 PCC 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.

At the end of 2009, the Electoral Roll totalled 188 people. The last complete review of membership took place in 2008 and the next review is not due until 2013. Current membership stands at 193 and a number of new members are about to sign up. We had expected to reach the magic 200 figure by this date, but some of our number has passed away whilst others have left the parish and it is only when a full review is carried out that the true membership becomes apparent.

Approaches are still to be made to a number of newer members of the congregation to ask if they would like to come onto the roll and it is expected that by the end of 2010 the total roll will have reached 200.

It is however difficult to assess the true support for our Church purely on the basis of the Electoral Roll, since there are some who for various reasons feel that they do not wish to be included on the official Roll or who think that they do not comply with the basic requirements for membership. If you would like to become an enrolled member, or have any reservations about membership please contact Maurice Smith the Electoral Roll Secretary who will do his best to help resolve any difficulties.

Current copies of the Electoral Roll are with the Church Wardens, but if you have any questions or comments to make, or would like to assist in dealing with the membership lists, please contact Maurice Smith who is presently responsible for maintaining the roll.

Maurice Smith

Fabric Committee

Only one major work has been completed during the year, the repairs to the South Clerestory windows and the surrounding stonework.

The next major project is that of similar repairs to the North Clerestory windows and surrounding area. This work has been put in hand and should commence in April/May of this year.

When this has been completed most of the work recommended in the Quinquennial Inspection of 2005 will have been done, the next inspection being due in July this year. This is a very satisfactory situation, and has only been possible thanks to the benefaction of the late Richard Godel. It will be pleasing to start the next Quinquennium with a more or less clean sheet.

There is a small amount of work needing to be done on the Pavilion, for which an estimate has been received but not yet put in hand, and some consideration has been given to clearing and landscaping the area around it.

Boiler room refitting. A great deal of thought has been put in to the best, and cheapest, way of doing this. One estimate from Bakers for refitting as per the architect's plan was much too expensive. Alternatives are being considered, and further estimates will then be obtained.

B.C.Conochie

Granta Deanery Synod

The two key issues for the year were finance and green issues.

Greening of the Church

After a stimulating set of lectures on this subject we were asked to return to our parishes and spread the word. We were also reminded to look after God's earth.

Finance

It is an immediate aim to see that all parishes pay in full their part of the ministry share. The Linton Deanery paid 71.8% by September 2009. Moving on from 62% 17 months ago, we are now in sight of 100%.

Talk on Cursillo

This was introduced to us by Helen Randall on behalf of Ely Cursillo. It is said to deepen our faith and is run by lay people and clergy. They could run a one-day example on a Saturday as a taster say, in January or February.

Deanery Fair – 6th March 2010

This was our 2nd year of participating at this event and the Bric-a-Brac stall took £110.00. This Fair helps to boost churches who are struggling to meet their target.

Richard Read

Junior Church

Our schedule for Junior Church (ages 3 – 11) is to meet in the Infant School at 9.35 and to join the congregation during the offertory hymn (ideally) for the rest of the service. On the 2nd Sunday of the month we have a longer session which allows us to explore topics in more depth or do something creative which benefits from more time. In addition, the children have participated in the life of the Church in the following ways.

Flower festival

We created a collage for the robing vestry wall, depicting Jesus as a boy in the temple, in line with the theme of the Life and Works of Jesus. We organised the balloon race again along with some games for all ages, made by John Organ.

July 12th celebration service

During the year we had made the 'And it was Awesome' banner showing the stages of the Creation, masterminded and guided by Sue Filby. It was presented at our celebration service. The children enacted the story of the creation, read by Frances Simmonds and demonstrated visually by a variety of hand-made props.

September 'Hear Now' event

We started the new school year with a 9.35 – 11am session of stories, craft and music based on the verse 'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me' John 10, v 27. We invited all infant and junior school children. We had a good attendance from our regular families but it was not as well supported by new people as previous similar events.

Ely 900

The children took part in the weekend in October and marked the anniversary with a creative and performing arts workshop organised by Beth and Phil Kirkman, followed by the bbq lunch and then a short presentation in the church.

Gifts

The children continued our tradition of making a small gift for elderly people in the village who live on their own. We created some 170 star-shaped salt dough magnets. The dough was rolled out, star shapes cut and were dried and baked before being painted and decorated with glitter. Thanks to John Organ for making the dough and baking the stars. Fifteen families helped to deliver the stars and cards to Linton residents.

Christmas tree festival

We made extra salt dough stars to decorate a tree in the church and also offered biscuits to decorate as part of the Saturday activities in the school hall.

Nativity

Our play was devised by Sarah Thorne and Phil Kirkman and was presented in the December 11.15 service. It was an organised, but yet impromptu, performance which cleverly allowed everyone present to take part without the need for rehearsals.

Mothering Sunday

John, Frank and Phil ran a 'secret workshop' for children to create the posies which were handed to all the ladies at the end of the 9.45 service.

Changes within the team of adults

Sue Filby left to concentrate her time and skills with the 18 – 25 age group. We miss her creative abilities. Also we were sad to lose Esther Cox and Tim Richardson during the year and thank them for their contribution. Following an appeal for more help, Sarah Thorne has been able to increase her input and we were pleased to welcome Phil Kirkman to join us. Both are able to offer valuable musical skills.

Thanks to Frances Simmonds, John Organ, Frank Reimann and Gill Powell for their continued support, enthusiasm and ideas.

I do feel that we are struggling to find enough teachers and helpers to spread the commitment and allow each of us to have personal time for worship. The number of children varies and has recently been as low as 2 and then 17 another week. We are looking forward to trying out the new service structure after Easter.

Sue Mudge

Youth Work

Since starting my placement in September 2009, we have honoured Hannah's vision of the youth work by continuing with the Mocha Coffee House on Mondays and Tuesdays after school and the Sunday youth church of Xplore. In addition to this, I now run an alternate Tuesday evening bible study. Using Hannah's work as a frame I have, with the help of the Rev Steve, been able to re-interpret them using my own individual style, which has proved popular among the youth, with very good attendance to all events.

Although I am still getting to know the many faces of Linton's youth, I am keen to expand further, their knowledge and understanding of, and their relationship with God. I am energised and excited by my continual work alongside the Beacon trust and look forward to this relationship flourishing further.

Looking to the future, I hope to instigate some of my own new ideas, whatever they may be, on how the youth can encounter God and how the community as a whole can be a part of the youth work. A tall order? "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."(Matt 19; 26)

Barry Easton

Beacon Trust

The Beacon Community Trust thanks St Mary's for both the financial and volunteer support. The work continues to deliver and manage the ecumenical youth work, an objective that has been, and continues to be, successful.

The youth work continues to be delivered by the full-time Youth Leader, Louise Rose, together with Adrian Rose, who works part-time specialising in music. Working alongside Louise and Adrian is a dedicated team of over fifteen volunteers, many of whom have been involved since the work began. Barry Easton, who's on placement at St. Mary's, joined the volunteers in September 2009. In these few months Barry has built relationships with the adults and young people, providing valued support at Monday night's group when the year 7 – 9s meet.

The program has included regular weekly meetings during term-time that provided friendship, fun and Christian teaching in a safe environment in which the young people were able to gain a sense of identity and belonging. The Trust also provided further opportunities to attend Soul Survivor, and take part in challenging outdoor activities through an adventure weekend and a day trip. We currently work with some 50-60 young people each week.

The group residential at the end of February was attended by 18 of the Sunday group, year 10+. It was a privilege to spend time with them; their activities included a night walk, low ropes course, raft building, climbing, abseiling and swimming. Steve joined us for the weekend, getting involved with the team challenges and also led the group in a time of reflection and Holy Communion.

Steve also regularly meets with Louise Rose, Adrian Rose and Sharon Whittle to discuss the youth work. Steve has also been in conversation with the Trustees of The Beacon Community Trust about strengthening the ecumenical links.

Our aim for the youth work is to encourage personal, social and spiritual development in young people to help them to fulfil their potential. The program actively promotes development of healthy self-esteem, integrity, social skills, leadership skills, teamwork, musical creativity and skill, and increased awareness about social justice issues.

Sue Filby.

Music

A large number of people are involved very actively in supporting and making music to complement our worship at St Mary's. The choir and two music groups have been joined since September by the Junior Choir – currently a group of eight young people who meet on Tuesday evening from 6pm to sing and learn to become a choir. They are learning the fun and discipline of singing together, as well as experiencing a number of different services, including choral evensong and carol services. The junior choristers would be pleased to welcome more singers (boys and girls) to swell the ranks!

We always need more people of all ages to sing or play instruments. We have a lot of services requiring music at St Mary's and it is easier if there are more folk to share the load. If you would like to join in any of our choirs or music groups please speak to one of the leaders (David Parry-Smith or John Thorne). But do more than that – spread the word outside the congregation. Music is a great way of getting people in through the doors to experience what St Mary's has to offer.

We are so grateful to Pat Turner for her continuing work raising funds for the church music. The cake stall on the second Sunday helps to provide music for special services at various times of the year.

This year the choir has been supported by soloists and organists from outside Linton, especially for the Charles Wood setting of the Passion According to St Mark, which we are singing again on Passion Sunday 2010.

The Friends of St Mary's provided a new organ stool, which can be adjusted to suit the legs of any organist, in memory of Richard Godel. This is a very welcome and much needed improvement to the organ console arrangements.

David Parry-Smith

Greening the Church

At the Lambeth conference in 1988 a model was formulated, titled the five marks of mission to help churches to identify their strengths and weaknesses. The fifth mark is “to strive to save the integrity of creation; to sustain and renew the life of the earth”.

In March 2009, the PCC after discussion on what our Christian response to God’s call should be as responsible trustees of his creation, a proposal was put forward and agreed that a small group would begin to explore what as a church we were already doing and what more we could do.

A useful website, Eco-Congregation offers very valuable resources to help with this project and in addition gives the opportunity to work towards an award which marks steps that have been taken to move towards a more holistic mission of caring for God’s creation. The first step has been to carry out an audit to demonstrate to what extent we already take environmental concerns and care for creation into account in our mission, worship, teaching and use of resources. The next step has been to begin the process of drafting an environmental policy, which we hope will involve individuals from other areas of our church and community life. We are also about to begin applying for the Eco-Congregation award, which will involve gathering evidence of changes we as church have made.

We are very grateful to Yasmin Marsh, a member of the group who has organised the monthly Fairtrade stall in the pavilion after the 9.45 Sunday service which has been well supported.

Glynis Younger

St Mary’s Guild

On the third Wednesday of every month (except August), 15 or so over-60’s men and women have gathered in the Pavilion as St Mary’s Guild for friendship and Christian fellowship. After half an hour’s chat over refreshments, we have spent the rest of the hour hearing a speaker, enjoying a quiz, sharing memories, books and favourite poems, being led in a Passiontide or Advent meditation and generally trying to help each other to “keep right on to the end of the road” (as Harry Lauder used to sing). One of our men has died this past year and some other members really struggle with the infirmities of old age. All the more reason why St Mary’s Guild seeks to be a source of spiritual strength and happy interaction for those who gather. A warm welcome awaits others who might like to join us from church or village.

Sheila Moore

Linton Mothers’ Union

The Mothers’ Union meets on the third Monday of the month, at 8pm in the Church Pavilion.

The 2009 programme was informative (the history of our church), special (Lent Meditation), sociable (our picnic at Wandlebury) and fun (wine tasting and line dancing). Topics covered in 2009 were as follows-

January – Dancing with Nanette Blackmore.

February – History of St Mary’s The Virgin Linton.

March – Lent Meditation with Canon Alan Cole

April – The Rural Dean entertains

May – Joan Cameron, the Diocesan President, spoke on her trip to Kampala, Uganda; for a world council meeting.

June – Members Evening (DIY)

July - Picnic at Wandlebury

September – Deanery End of Triennial Service in the Church

October – Wine making with Sue Fliby

November – Annual General Meeting and programme planning

Second hand children's toy sale which was very well supported

December – Christmas Social

For 2010 we will be having talks on Talking Newspapers and Eco-congregation. We are looking forward to such activities as a Lent Meditation, a bbq and talks (for example on Julian of Norwich).

If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union (we are a very friendly group) please don't hesitate to contact any of the Committee members, their names are at the back of the church.

Sarah King

Lay Pastoral Care

“In as much as you do it for one of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.”

Caring for our neighbours has been an important part of our Christian commitment as church at St Mary's over the years. The Lay Pastoral Group was formally set up specifically to help carry out this commitment during an interregnum and has continued as a support to our priests. The group meets regularly throughout the year to co-ordinate visiting to those known to be in need, to pray for those visited and to pray for and support each other.

Glynis Younger

The Churchyard

During the past year the activities of the Monday Gang have been severely hampered by the vagaries of the English weather. As our much heralded 'barbecue summer' turned out to be wetter than usual, regular mowing became impossible and the grass not only grew very long on many occasions but also became very tough. Then came the warmer than usual autumn, resulting in us having to carry on mowing into November. After that the winter arrived with such ferocity that the biannual pollarding of the limes was nearly delayed until too late. However, they are now done and the aconites and snowdrops are creating a beautiful and much admired display.

Many of the collapsing lilacs around the Garden of Remembrance have been removed, opening out space for more ashes to be interred.

The Parish Council organised the felling of the lime trees near the Pavilion. These were suckers, which had grown up in the foundations of the collapsed flint wall and needed to be removed in order that the wall can be rebuilt.

The Monday Gang are looking forward to spring and hoping for a drier and sunnier summer to help them keep the churchyard as attractive as possible.

Margaret Cox on behalf of the Monday Gang.

Bellringers

It's been a busy year for the ringers. We have had regular Wednesday practices here at Linton and extra learner's practices at West Wrating, which gives our learners more ringing time, and helps to support their learners.

We rang in October to mark Rev'd Steve's inauguration and for the Confirmation service and we rang for lots of services at Christmas.

Our two learners have made excellent progress over the year and Catherine is now ringing regularly on Sunday mornings and attending district meetings.

Our Gipson Trophy performance this year was much improved. We won five out of ten matches and came third out of the six teams that entered. We all feel that our ringing has improved markedly this year and we look forward to this year's trophy, beginning in April.

In a cold February we fitted the new bell simulator although it has proved a little more difficult to get to grips with than we had anticipated. We are hoping to make more use of it next year, both with learners and to measure our own ringing accuracy.

As always we are keen to welcome new learners, so please come and visit us in the tower on Wednesdays at 7.30 if you are interested in giving it a try.

Jackie Latham, Tower Captain

Friends of St Mary's Linton

Last year we celebrated our 21st birthday and enjoyed a varied programme of events, including a Safari Supper and a concert by the augmented church choir in the summer, a second concert in October which was a joint event with the Friends of St Botolph's held in Hadstock, and a winter lunch at Chalklands in January. We have again provided our souvenirs stall at the Flower Festival and the Christmas Tree Festival, and our ever gallant Teddies keep on jumping from the church tower! We have also produced "Friendly Food", a cookbook of recipes from friends far and wide, which was launched appropriately on "Stir-up Sunday" in November and proved to be very popular. We are most grateful to everyone who has contributed to and supported these events throughout the year.

After donating £45000 in 2008 for repairs on the south side of the church, we were able to contribute 50%, i.e. £15000, towards the repairs to the clerestory windows and wall on the north side. It is hoped the work will begin later this year.

We have also presented a new organ stool to the church in memory of Richard Godel, a former organist and music director, who left his estate to the Friends. We were delighted that the stool could be dedicated by the Bishop of Ely in November at the service of installation for Steve Griffiths.

As ever, thanks are due to a very hard working and dedicated committee, without whom our activities couldn't happen. We are especially glad to welcome three new members on the committee this year, resulting in a significant reduction in our average age!

Judy Nightingale, Chair

Rector's Report

This Rector's Report is necessarily short, given the fact that it only covers my first three months in post.

I very much enjoyed my first months in post. I had the opportunity to visit a great many people and organisations and began to get a feel for the Benefice. I was aware that, having been around for 15 months previous to my appointment, some people assumed that I knew more than I actually did! Most, however, were patient and understanding as I got my head round the complexities of the Benefice.

A hectic start

My first months were particularly busy, not least because of the various Festivals and major Services that took place. My Installation, a Confirmation Service, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday – any one of these would have been taxing enough but all 4 within a month of starting were been full on! Hot on the heels of these, of course, were the Tree Festival and Christmas Services.

I was particularly pleased with the way Remembrance Day went. Clearly, there is a lot of work for me to do with the Uniformed Organisations through 2010 and beyond but there was considerable appreciation shown about the way the Service went. Our time at the War Memorial was particularly moving and I am grateful to Phil Kirkman for playing the trumpet so beautifully on that occasion.

I was absolutely thrilled at how Christmas was celebrated at St. Mary's. There were so many activities – Tree Festival, meals, assemblies and services – that it truly felt as if St. Mary's was at the heart of community celebrations. Each service had its own integrity and I believe we provided a range of experiences that catered for the needs of all.

The Epiphany 'King's Day' was a huge success and I am grateful to Bishop David for having honoured his commitment to come even when there were no camels! Again, it was a beautiful community occasion and I am sure it will be even more successful next year when we have real camels at last!

The Children in Need event was a wonderful opportunity to do something in the wider community. As such, Jo and I became part of the Linton Uke Element and played our repertoire in the Infant School Playground. By all accounts, it was very well received and we managed to raise a considerable sum of money too.

Schools

I had the opportunity to begin building relationships with the Primary School, the Heights and LVC. I am on the Governing Body of all but the Heights and have taken Assemblies at the Primary School and LVC. I regularly attend the Christian Union at LVC. I have met with the Heads of Primary and LVC and plan to have regular meetings with them.

I am convinced that building and maintaining good relations with the Schools must be a key priority as I plan longevity of ministry in the Benefice. I shall seek to do all I can to achieve this.

Benefice

I am aware of my commitments to the wider Benefice as well as acting as Vicar of Linton. For that reason, I spent as much time as possible getting to know the wider Team. This has, of course, been fairly limited – but I am grateful for the talented and gifted clergy team that supports me in my ministry.

In my first quarter, I focussed especially on Bartlow and Great and Little Abington. I took services at Bartlow and Great Abington as well as one at Hildersham. In addition, I had two meetings with the Wardens of the Abingtons and Hildersham (one with the Archdeacon) in order to consider the new Benefice proposals. I also attended a PCC meeting at Bartlow.

Clergy Staff Team

I set up a weekly meeting for the clergy staff team. This is an extremely important moment in the week and we are fast building a cohesive team, mutual understanding, fellowship and trust. I am convinced that this regular space will be foundational to the development of mission and ministry at St. Mary's.

Personal Health

December was quite a difficult time for me with regards to personal health. I underwent blood tests for a bone marrow condition that, thankfully, proved negative. Thereafter, I have developed a food intolerance, which is currently undergoing some investigation. Finally, I broke my elbow during Christmas week, which has proved inconvenient. Thus far, 2010 has proven to be a healthier year for me!

Initial Observations

My initial thinking about the parish of Linton is that many wonderful things are happening; the church is full of gifted individuals, absolutely committed to the service of God, the Gospel and the wider community. The laity of the church, alongside the clergy, is actively involved in very worthwhile ministry. There is a 'buzz' about St. Mary's and I feel immensely privileged to be invited into this.

However, I would counsel that there is a lack of 'joined-up thinking' with regard to the mission and ministry of the church. This, I believe, will need to be addressed for us to see real growth in effectiveness, numbers and the deepening of our fellowship life.

I have spent my initial months purely listening. Whoever I visit, I am asking the same question: "What would you like St. Mary's to look like in 5 years time?" Even though the language of the replies differs considerably, there is a remarkable consistency in vision. Whilst it is too early for me to comment on this in detail, I want us all to be encouraged that, fundamentally, we are all pulling in the same direction. Once we become more 'joined up' in our thinking and approach that will become very apparent, very quickly...

Conclusion

All in all, I am feeling very encouraged. There are challenges that need to be addressed, as in any parish. However, I am confident in the goodwill and support of the laity as I develop my ministry. Please be assured of my good intentions to develop a collegial ministry with you all. Of course, there will be times when tough decisions will need to be made – but at all times, I will seek to listen, weigh up opinions, pastoral consequences and, of course, soak these decisions in prayer.

Rev. Dr Steve Griffiths